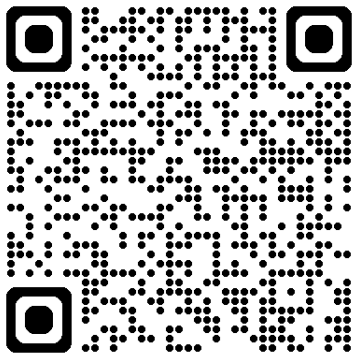




Union in Italy demands

More \$ for wages, not for war!

By John Catalinotto

A countrywide general strike took place in Italy on May 18 with demonstrations in many cities, including the capital Rome, demanding higher wages and a lower military budget. It was the Union Sindacale di Base (USB — Rank-and-File Union) and other popular organizations that organized the actions under the slogan “We block everything!”

Those taking part in the strike and demonstrations showed their active opposition to rising living costs, increased military spending and the Italian government’s decision to increase spending for militarization while decreasing spending for education and healthcare.

They also opposed Israel’s attacks on the Palestinian people in Gaza and supported the Global Sumud Flotilla, which is a people’s organization that has been attempting to reach Gaza by sea to bring humanitarian aid. Flotilla ships have been illegally boarded at sea and seized by the Israeli navy, with some of the Flotilla volunteers arrested and tortured.

This action is especially significant for working people in the Global North in that it sets an example for how workers’ unions can build alliances with other popular organizations to strike and demonstrate.

Such an action can make economic demands and also political demands, like to stop Italy’s (or the U.S.’s) military support for the Israeli state against the Palestinian people. The USB held similar strikes and protests in October 2025 and last February.

In Italy on May 18 many demonstrators displayed Palestinian flags and demanded that the Italian government reduce or end complicity with Israel. Slogans calling for a free Palestine were repeatedly heard during the protests.

According to a report on the USB site: “Transport disruptions were reported across Italy. In Rome, one metro line was suspended, while in Naples, service on a metro line was halted. In Milan, some suburban rail services were also affected, and port workers in Livorno carried out an industrial action.”

A Palestinian-origin Spanish activist, Saif Abukeshek, one of the 100 Sumud Flotilla activists previously detained by Israeli forces, attended the Rome rally.

Abukeshek described the recent interceptions of flotilla vessels in international waters as violations of international law.

A national protest demonstration with the same issues was set for Rome on May 18. □

WW STATEMENT

Stonewall still means RESIST!

May 17 — Two anniversaries are fast approaching. One is the anniversary of the historic Stonewall Rebellion. In June of 1969, gay, lesbian and transgender warriors fought back against the New York City police who routinely raided bars in the community, including the Stonewall Inn in the Greenwich Village neighborhood. Trans women of color, like Marsha P. Johnson and Sylvia Rivera, were in the leadership.

Every year LGBTQIA2S+ Pride events take place throughout the month of June to honor the legacy of Stonewall.

The other anniversary is the 250th anniversary of the United States’ founding on July 4, 1776. It doesn’t just represent 250 years since the so-called “founding fathers” declared themselves independent of the British monarchy. It represents 250 years of capitalist exploitation, including almost 90 years of literal enslavement of people of African descent. And enslavement long predates the Declaration of Independence, as does the ongoing genocidal efforts to exterminate Indigenous people.

White supremacy and genocide continue today.

The 250 years of the U.S.’s existence represents 250 years of oppression of LGBTQIA2S+ people, especially the trans community. Attacks on trans people have multiplied since President Donald Trump took office and instigated a campaign of forced erasure. According to Trans Legislation Tracker, there are currently 773 anti-trans bills under consideration by state legislatures in 43 states. (translegislation.com)

The rights of lesbians and gay men are also threatened. In March the Supreme Court of the U.S. ruled against Colorado’s ban on “conversion therapy,” a psychologically harmful practice that tries to forcibly change someone’s sexual orientation or gender identity. What could come next? A reversal of the SCOTUS decision to allow same-sex marriage? A return of

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Boston Dyke March, June 13, 2025.

WW PHOTO: MAUREEN SKEHAN

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Workers World states on LGBTQIA2S+ Pride Month: End oppression and war!

For over half a century, Workers World newspaper has covered the global struggle to end all forms of discrimination, persecution and violence against Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersexual, Asexual and Two-Spirit communities.

WW has consistently backed up our activist coverage with analysis. In the early 1970s, WW ran a series of articles that led to publication of “The Gay Question: A Marxist Appraisal” in 1976. In 1993, WW republished it as “The Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View,” with a new preface and afterword.

In 2004, Leslie Feinberg, WW managing editor and globally recognized transgender leader, began the “Lavender & Red” series, which ran until 2008 in WW. Twenty-five of these articles were published in the book “Rainbow Solidarity in Defense of Cuba.” (Download these books at workers.org/books)

Feinberg was an ardent supporter of Palestinian resistance to U.S.-backed Zionist repression. Feinberg stated in a 2007 speech given at an ASWAT — Palestinian Gay Women — conference in Haifa: “Today we see how the imperialists — the U.S. to Israelis — use the experiences of women, of gays, of transgenders as pretexts for imperialist war. The white supremacist ideology replaces the colonial claim of ‘bringing civilization’ into imperialist claims that they are ‘bringing democracy.’”

Many LGBTQIA2S+ groups and individuals are today supporting Palestinian, Lebanese and Iranian people against U.S.-Israeli bombings and destruction and are demonstrating in solidarity. They recognize that the same system that wages these wars is oppressing their communities right here.

WW has consistently covered important events such as Trans Day of Remembrance in honor of those who have lost their lives to bigotry, as well as annual country-wide Pride events. Our newspaper will continue to voice

solidarity with the LGBTQIA2S+ communities, particularly the trans community, now under vicious attack by the Trump administration. WW strongly declares: “End all oppression and U.S. wars!”

Be a WW Supporter!

This pro-worker newspaper depends on our readers’ backing. The WW Supporter Program was launched 49 years ago to help publish this socialist newspaper and, 35 years ago, to support workers.org where new articles are posted daily, and the weekly paper’s PDF is displayed and archived.



A contingent from Youth Against War and Fascism (YAWF), a youth affiliate of Workers World Party, at the 1974 New York City Pride march.

uals. Prisoners receive all print issues for free. **The website is a resource for political activists.**

While WW’s staff is voluntary, the 12 annually printed and mailed issues and workers.org incur expenses. Although many online publications require payment to read their articles, WW does not. **Our articles are free to all readers.**

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Your donations help get class truth to more readers — and are appreciated. Write monthly or yearly checks to Workers World. Mail them with your name, address and email to Workers World, 121 West 27th St., Rm. 404, New York, NY 10001. □

Workers.org contains news and analyses of global and U.S. struggles, bulletins from Palestinian and other national liberation movements and articles translated by our staff. Our writer-organizers report on anti-capitalist struggles and people’s movements against racism and war and for the rights of Black, Latine, Arab, Asian and Indigenous people, women, workers, immigrants, prisoners, LGBTQIA2S+, low-income, elderly and disabled individ-

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



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

Web Editors: ABear, Harvey Markowitz, Janet Mayes

Tear Down the Walls! Editor: Teddie Kelly

Production & Design Editors: Gery Armsby, Sasha Mazumder

Copyediting and Proofreading: Paddy Colligan, Steve Gillis

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

Mundo Obrero: Deborah Rodriguez, Carlos Vargas

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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, LGBTQIA2S+ 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, class solidarity, and joining us in the fight for a socialist future, please sign up at www.workers.org/join-form and an organizer will get back to you. Or contact a WWP branch near you. □

If you are interested in joining Workers World Party contact:

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

Atlanta
404.622-7517
atlanta@workers.org
Workers World Party - Atlanta
on Facebook

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

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

Cleveland
cleveland@workers.org

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

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

Minnesota
minnesota@workers.org

Philadelphia
P.O. Box 5634
Philadelphia, PA 19129
610.931.2615
phila@workers.org

Portland, Ore.
portland@workers.org

San Antonio
sanantonio@workers.org

Seattle
206-218-4417
seattle@workers.org

West Virginia
WestVirginia@workers.org

LIRR strike halts largest commuter railroad in the U.S.

By Mary Owen
New York City

Bulletin May 19: A historic 3-day LIRR strike won gains for the workers. They will vote on a contract that includes wage increases, retroactive pay, a \$3,000 lump sum payment, and more – all with no increase in taxes or fares for riders.

Some 3,500 Long Island Railroad workers in several unions went out on strike on May 17 at 12:01 a.m. after enduring three-and-a-half years with no pay increase during fruitless contract talks. Their mid-night walkout, the first in 32 years, shut down the largest commuter railroad in the U.S., on which workers move up to 300,000 commuters daily.

Picket lines sprang up at New York City's Penn Station and more than 20 other locations in the city and on Long Island. Chants of "Who's got the power? We've got the power!" sent a strong message to the Metropolitan Transit Authority (MTA) bosses.

MTA management was left scrambling to set up limited bus-to-subway service for the May 18 rush hour, which at best can only move about 13,000 commuters each way at a cost of up to \$550,000 daily. (Gothamist, May 16) Meanwhile, New York City's capitalist class could face an estimated \$61 million in lost economic activity for every day of the strike, according to New York State Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli. (osc.ny.gov, May 15)

At stake in the strike is the same affordability crisis facing the entire multinational working class. Costs for food, housing, healthcare, utilities, fuel and so much more are rising exponentially, and wages are not keeping up. One picket sign said it all: "3% raise in their economy? Hell no!" and LIRR workers outside Penn Station backed it up.

"This is serious work we do, transporting so many people safely," a young Caribbean train operator, who still lives in his parents' home, told Workers World. "Even if we get 5% in the last year of the contract, that will barely keep up with

inflation."

A young African American woman, also a train operator, said there are more women and people of color coming up through the ranks now. "There was a big learning curve. It took a lot to get here, and my costs are up," she said, as passing vehicles honked in solidarity with strikers.

MTA bosses pulled out their usual playbook to blame the workers for the strike, claiming they were "nearly there" in contract talks when the workers walked out over the inadequate pay increase for the last contract year. The bosses are threatening to raise fares if the strike goes forward.

What they failed to mention is how crucial the last 5% raise is to future wage negotiations, particularly as prices keep rising. Also, MTA management tried to sneak in changes to healthcare benefits at the last minute, proposing that new LIRR



WW PHOTO: MARY OWEN

Long Island Railroad workers picket outside New York City's Penn Station on May 16, 2026, the first day of their strike.

workers pay a higher portion of healthcare costs than current workers. (Gothamist, May 16)

That's when the unions drew the line.

"On Friday [May 15], I thought we were finally getting closer. The MTA was finally starting to move, we were willing to move, we told them that," said James Louis, national vice president of the Locomotive Engineers union. "And then at the last minute, at the 11th hour, putting health and welfare changes on the table, something that was never discussed during all the three years ... that's what got us to say we could not accept that contract." (NY1, May 17) □

A Marxist view

Environmental impact of AI data centers

By Otis Grotewohl

Billionaire tech bosses are facing opposition to unchecked data centers associated with job-killing artificial intelligence (AI) operations. Workers and oppressed people throughout the U.S. are pushing back against the development of data centers in their communities. A data center is a secure building filled with rows of servers that store, process and move information across the internet.

Recent studies show that most people in the U.S. have an unfavorable view of data centers. A new Gallup survey just revealed that 70% of the U.S. population oppose data centers near their homes, which is a massive jump from only 47% in late 2025. (tomshardware.com, May 14) Another study from the Marquette University Law School shows that 62% of the U.S. population "believes the cost of data centers outweighs the benefits." (Washington Post, April 15)

Working people oppose job-killing AI and big tech pollution

Workers object to the growth of data centers for a variety of reasons. There is growing concern about impacts on the environment, utility costs, water consumption and climate change. Many people fear they will pay the price for something that will only materially benefit capitalist investors.

New data centers for AI use more energy and water than ones presently operating. Currently, 90% of existing data centers use less than 50 megawatts, whereas the new AI data centers require massive complexes that would use 1,000 to 4,000 megawatts (1-to-4 gigawatts) of electricity. (4.5 gigawatts can supply Utah with a year's electricity.)

Data centers cause noise pollution in addition to dirtying the water and air. Recent facilities reportedly emit various loud sounds that can be heard miles away, caused by the humming of cooling systems. Noise and light pollution can interfere with people's ability to sleep.



Protest of AI center in Tremonton, Utah, May 4, 2026.

AI data centers require as much as one to five million gallons of water per day for cooling. This usage raises concern about the water supply in places where clean water is scarce. Scientific reports also indicate that data centers create "heat islands" on the ground, warming the land around them by up to 16 degrees Fahrenheit. This affects farming and can diminish agricultural output.

Data centers are not providing new jobs in the local community, despite what some proponents claim. Most of the jobs data centers provide are temporary positions that last only during construction of the facility.

AI-driven data centers give the Trump administration an excuse to promote the formation of new, expensive methane gas plants. Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas causing climate change.

Developers in Homer City, Pennsylvania, are hoping to build a 4.5 gigawatt (GW) facility to serve data centers, which would make it the largest methane gas plant in the country. Meta recently built a data center in Louisiana that was first proposed to be powered by three methane gas power plants producing 2 GW of electricity but has now been expanded to 10 plants. (techcrunch.com, April 1)

Workers worry about increased utility rates. AI-driven tech companies often use non-disclosure agreements (NDAs) and confidential contracts to hide information about contracts and rates from the public. Last year, the West Virginia legislature (controlled by ultra-right politicians) passed the "Power Generation and Consumption Act" (HB 2014), which gives data centers independent authority and removes local government autonomy

and oversight.

Data center developers are targeting Indigenous lands specifically. Oglala Lakota and Northern Cheyenne activist Krystal Two Bulls, the executive director of Honor the Earth, an Indigenous-led eco-justice organization, describes data centers as a "modern-day iteration" of "settler colonialism." This description is in reference to noise pollution, cancers and respiratory illnesses, water depletion, energy grid overload and "ecological collapse." (Democracy Now!, April 22)

Workers mobilize fightbacks against capitalist data centers

Residents in rural Utah recently organized against a proposal for one of the largest data centers in the world known as the "Stratos Project." On May 4, Box Elder County commissioners voted to approve the development of a 40,000-acre hyper-scale complex that is expected to consume 9 GW of power. The energy consumption is projected to be double the current rate of the entire state of Utah, and the campus size itself is almost as big as the entire city of Toledo, Ohio. "Stratos Project" is being promoted by MAGA supporter and "Shark Tank" investor Kevin O'Leary.

Box Elder County commissioners were confronted by angry community members who shouted, "Shame! Shame!" and "People over profit!" Reports indicate three of the county commissioners collected their things and quickly made their way toward the exit as the police moved toward the crowd. (peoplesdispatch.org, May 9) The next day, several Box Elder voters applied to add a referendum to the local ballot to overturn the county commission's vote and disapprove the project.

Workers have been successful in imposing temporary moratoriums on some locations. Voters in Port Washington, Wisconsin, approved a referendum requiring voter approval for future tax incentives for data centers. This was in response to a major Microsoft-linked project. Township officials in Saline, Michigan, were forced to reject a rezoning

request for a massive Oracle AI data center in December 2025.

Virginia is considered the "data center hub" of the world. There are tax incentives for AI developers, and it currently operates over 600 data facilities. At the same time, Virginia residents have organized throughout the state and have put a halt on various operations. Workers in West Virginia are also fighting back against data centers despite hostile legislation.

Socialism is the only solution

Data centers are unsustainable under capitalism, because the latter is a system driven by profit. Karl Marx described the unplanned nature of capitalist market economies as an "anarchy of production." The exorbitant energy consumption that is required to run each individual data facility in the U.S. epitomizes that description.

Socialist economies, on the other hand, plan production to meet human needs as opposed to expanding and maximizing profits. As a socialist country with central planning, China can operate data centers that are more energy efficient and environmentally friendly than any country in the capitalist West.

China recently completed the construction of the world's first underwater data centers (UDCs) off the coasts of Hainan and Shanghai. The process helps with both cooling and energy costs. More than 95% of UDCs electricity will come from offshore wind turbines, making them the most ecologically sound of such projects. UDCs designers estimate that wind power will reduce energy consumption by 22.8%. Built under water, the usage of land is estimated to be reduced by more than 90%. (wired.com, Oct 28, 2025)

There is less apprehension about UDCs, because they are designed to use less energy. Only a socialist system can guarantee technology that does not hurt the environment or harm humanity. People's China once again leads the way in providing services that meet the needs of the proletariat, while the capitalist U.S. in contrast displaces working families with poisonous data centers. □

Behind the SCOTUS attack on the Voting Rights Act

WW COMMENTARY

By Monica Moorehead

April 29 –As the daughter of parents who were denied the right to vote while growing up in segregated Alabama, I both personally and politically deeply understand the significance of the Voting Rights Act (VRA) to address the long denied aspirations of Black people, especially in the Deep South. I was 13 years old when the VRA was signed into law on Aug. 6, 1965, by then President Lyndon B. Johnson with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. standing next to him in the Oval Office.

The Act did not come out of the goodness of the Johnson administration, but was forced by the decades-long struggle of the Civil Rights Movement led by oppressed Black masses.

The VRA was signed five months after “Bloody Sunday,” when on March 7, Civil Rights activists were brutally attacked by state troopers on the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Alabama, as they began a 55-mile march to Montgomery, the state capital, to demand the right to vote. This event—televised for the whole country to witness—was one among many campaigns that resulted in Black people and their white supporters being beaten, attacked by vicious police dogs, jailed and murdered in the struggle to win full equality.

The fact that an act like the VRA was necessary at all speaks to the long entrenched white supremacy upon which the U.S. Empire was built, coupled with the genocidal theft of Indigenous lands.

Almost 60 years after the passage of this historic bill on April 29, the Supreme Court of the United States (SCOTUS), in a 6-3 vote, made a ruling that severely limits the consideration of race in drawing voting maps, an important component of the VRA. This legal attack underscores that any redistricting of these maps that bolsters electoral victories for Black, Latine or Indigenous candidates to gain greater political representation for marginalized communities on school boards, city councils or congressional delegations is now deemed “unconstitutional.”

This devastating decision was initiated by the case of Louisiana v. Callais that resulted in a second Black-majority congressional district in Louisiana being viewed as an unconstitutional racial gerrymandering (the changing of an electoral constituency's boundaries so as to favor one candidate, party or class). The six most reactionary SCOTUS judges agreed that white voters, based on their race, were being discriminated against if they were outnumbered by people of color due to gerrymandering. Louisiana is the state with the second highest percentage of African American residents.

This decision gives the green light to MAGA-type Republicans to manipulate Black-majority districts so white majority districts can gain more congressional seats, starting with the midterm elections this fall. Some Republican governors are even attempting to postpone these elections if they legally cannot carry out their redistricting plans before voting takes place.

This latest SCOTUS ruling exposes a major weakness of the VRA with its vague use of the word “race.” It blatantly takes out of context the historical and political significance of the VRA, giving the false notion that all races or nationalities are equal in social status to begin with.

Historic struggle for democratic rights

The VRA is an extension of the 15th Amendment passed in 1870, five years after the U.S. Civil War that militarily brought an end to enslavement for four million people of African descent, which started in the early 1600s. The era of Black Reconstruction followed, where from 1865 until 1877 the newly freed Black population fought and won long-denied democratic rights that propertied white men already enjoyed, including the right to vote along with



“Bloody Sunday” attack on voting rights march, Selma, Alabama, March 7, 1965.

access to education, wealth and land.

During Reconstruction, due to the vote, for the first time state legislatures in the Deep South were either all or predominately Black men. Women in general were not granted the federal right to vote until 1920, and they were mainly white.

Louisiana was one of the states that greatly benefited from installing majority Black political representation.

Reconstruction was brought to an abrupt halt once the Compromise of 1877 was passed. This federal law, supported by Republicans and Democratic representatives, ushered in Republican candidate Rutherford B. Hayes as president. As part of the deal, Union troops, sent to the South to protect the political gains of Black people being threatened with terror by the remnants of the Confederate army, were withdrawn, leaving Black people defenseless and driving them back into semi-enslavement conditions.

With the decimation of political gains, Black people were left to the mercy of extra-legal fascism, including lynchings, burnings of schools and churches and repossession of lands carried out by the newly formed Ku Klux Klan.

Hundreds of thousands of Black people were forced into what was called the Great Migration to the North for a better life. Instead of facing extra-legal terrorism in the South with the KKK, Black people faced state terrorism in Northern cities in the form of police brutality.

SCOTUS founding rooted in enslavement

SCOTUS has always played a pivotal role in upholding white supremacy in the U.S.

The U.S. presidency, Congress and Supreme Court were established in 1789 within the framework of the U.S. Constitution. These three entities developed into the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the capitalist government. The Constitution was written by rich, white, male property owners, enslavers and proponents of the genocide of Indigenous nations. Under the guise of being “one nation with liberty and justice for all,” in reality the U.S. government upholds bourgeois class rule—to protect the private property of the billionaire class of corporate bosses and bankers.

Out of the three branches of the capitalist government, only SCOTUS is not elected. Once potential SCOTUS judges are nominated by the president, only the Senate, one house of the Congress, will determine who occupies each of their nine seats for lifetime terms—until death or retirement.

Six years before the Emancipation Proclamation went into effect in 1863, SCOTUS upheld the Dred Scott decision, which declared that Black people had no rights due to enslavement, including Scott’s attempt to sue his “owner” for his freedom.

Scott never had a chance of winning, considering that out of the nine justices, seven—including five from slaveholding families—were appointed by pro-slavery presidents from the South.

Chief Justice Roger B. Taney—a staunch supporter of slavery—wrote the ‘majority opinion’ for the court against Scott’s petition, stating that because Scott was Black, he was not a citizen and therefore had no right to sue. Therefore, Scott and his family remained enslaved. Under Reconstruction, Scott would have been granted the right to sue.

Almost 20 years after the demise of Reconstruction, SCOTUS made a ruling—Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)—that established segregation as the law of the entire U.S. Plessy, a person of mixed heritage, had been arrested, prompting him to challenge Louisiana’s “white only” Separate Car Act.

SCOTUS’s “separate but equal” edict declared that sep-

arate facilities along racial lines were constitutional if they were equal in quality—which in reality they never were. This white supremacist law was overturned by the Brown v. Board of Education ruling in 1954, which stated that separate is not equal in the areas of schools and other public facilities for people of color and white people. In 1955, the year-long historic Montgomery bus boycott of Black people began to desegregate the buses which helped to ignite the Civil Rights Movement.

One SCOTUS judge from 1937 to 1971, Hugo Black, was a onetime card-carrying member of the KKK.

Undemocratic nature of SCOTUS

The late chairperson of Workers World Party, Sam Marcy, stated at a 1989 party conference: “Alongside this bourgeois democratization of the political process [expansion of the right to vote], there has been a simultaneous social and economic process which is superior in strength. That is the process of the concentration of power in undemocratic bodies.

“It comes from the concentration of the means of production in the hands of a ruling class which holds the power and distributes it in areas most conducive to them. So it’s not an accident that power should ultimately be exercised by the Supreme Court. That’s most reliable to them, most conservative, responsive only to those who have appointed them.

“So much talk goes on about democracy, about the rights of the people to vote and to elect, but when it gets down to the really critical issues, political power is concentrated in undemocratic bodies that are removed from the control of the masses.” (“Two contradictory trends in U.S. politics,” July 20, 1989)

Why revolutionaries must defend the right to vote

Until the 2008 election of Barack Obama, the first Black president, presidents were all white males, whether Democrats or Republicans. Despite having different social bases, leaders of both parties have been pro-war, pro-rich and pro-capitalist who uphold bourgeois rule, including Obama.

Without access to billions of dollars, it is virtually impossible for any progressive, independent candidate to get on the ballot much less to become president. Even Senator Bernie Sanders, a self-described democratic socialist—whose platform called for capitalist reforms—was defeated by his richer, more mainstream Democratic opponent, Senator Hillary Clinton, during the 2016 primaries.

Unless there are viable choices for workers and the oppressed to vote for in the current environment, it will understandably make it very difficult for revolutionaries to promote any candidates who support capitalist exploitation and imperialist war. One should not ignore that for the past 200 years, the workers have been propagandized to vote for the “lesser evil” candidate, especially for president. In their eyes, elections help to fill a temporary vacuum until real, pro-worker, radical change happens to fully meet their needs.

The VRA should be viewed by anti-capitalist revolutionaries as a legal form of affirmative action to help restore basic democratic rights that have been denied to Black people as a whole since the late 1870s. This denial is referred to as disenfranchisement that deepens white supremacy and aims to weaken and destroy the potential unity of the multinational, multigendered working class.

Despite the increase in deportations by the Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Border Patrol, the ruling class and its politician puppets, be they Republican or Democrat, feel threatened that the U.S. is becoming more Black and Brown. This is why the SCOTUS ruling on the VRA is another appeal to white supremacy.

No matter how corrupt, undemocratic and distasteful elections are, revolutionaries who seek to build class unity have a duty to defend the right to vote for every worker and oppressed person who has historically been denied that right. In the long term, unfulfilled rights will not be won by undemocratic elections or biased rulings by judges but by a socialist revolution with a united working class that will fully guarantee everyone the right to education, healthcare, housing, childcare and social equality.

In the meantime, any protests organized to reverse any attacks on the VRA by the working class must be understood and supported.

The writer was Workers World Party’s presidential candidate in 1996, 2000 and 2016.

Marxism, Reparations & the Black Freedom Struggle

Edited by Monica Moorehead

An anthology of writings from Workers World newspaper.

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Why activists must support the Black struggle in Memphis

By Benny Schaft

On May 7, we witnessed reactionary politicians in the state of Tennessee enthusiastically back and support the U.S. Supreme Court’s April 29 decision gutting the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The court’s ruling opened the door to racist attacks against voters of color through gerrymandering and the systematic dismantling of what little political power Black people in this country have been allowed to hold.

The Republican-dominated Tennessee General Assembly promptly redrew the Congressional District map to create three white majority, Republican-leaning districts in Memphis, a city where two-thirds of the population is African American.

This institutional racism was made even clearer by the Black community and members of the Tennessee legislature, who held protests inside and outside the Tennessee State Capitol in Nashville against the outright racist attacks on Black people in the state.

Republicans in state legislatures have moved to gerrymander and strip away the small gains of political power that they claim to have granted Black people, not only in Tennessee but across this decadent country. This is part of a broader assault which continues its terroristic actions not only against the Black community but against other communities of color as well.

Most especially, we have observed this against the Latine community through the ongoing kidnapping of migrants and the establishment of concentration camps, all funded and carried out by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), an apparatus that also targets Black immigrants.

Historic roots of white supremacy

Many will think that what is happening to Memphis is something new, a product of this particular political moment. But what is happening to Memphis and to the Black community there is part of a long and unbroken story of repression in Tennessee, one that stretches all the way back to the Reconstruction era.

In the aftermath of the Civil War, formerly enslaved people began making major political gains, most especially in Memphis, with the assistance of organizations such as the Freedmen’s Bureau and through the power of community organizing. What made that period truly



Tennessee House Minority Leader Karen Camper speaks at a protest against racist redistricting outside the State Capitol in Nashville, May 9, 2026.

revolutionary was the coalition being built between Black people and working-class white people, a coalition that proved threatening to the old order in ways that could not be ignored.

The historic alliance frightened the plantation-owning class, who feared the progress and political gains being made by Black people and the growing alliance between the formerly enslaved people and working-class white people. It angered the capitalist class as well, which was desperate to repair its relationship with former slave-owning colleagues and saw the revolutionary movement of Black people during this period as a direct threat to the project of establishing capitalism in the U.S. South. And so, as is always the case when the ruling class feels threatened, the response was violence.

That tension exploded into the Memphis Massacre of 1866, where white supremacist goons, acting on behalf of the ruling class, committed atrocity after atrocity against the Black community, murdering Black people at random, forcing women and children at gunpoint back into burning buildings and burning down the schools that had been established by the Freedmen’s Bureau. It was a campaign of terror, systematic and deliberate, to destroy what Black Memphis had begun to build. And it was endorsed at the highest levels of government.

President Andrew Johnson, who had been warned by officials in the city and in the House and Senate that tensions in Memphis were reaching a breaking point,

refused to intervene to defend the Black community. Johnson was a dedicated and sympathetic servant of the ruling class who had no interest in protecting African Americans. In the aftermath of the Massacre, he downplayed the murders and went so far as to blame Black people themselves, even claiming that the violence had been fabricated by the Black community.

It is worth holding onto that image, because this week Republican State Rep. Todd Warner walked through the Tennessee State Capitol draped in a MAGA flag as a cape, taunting the protesters gathered against the gerrymandering of Memphis. Todd did so beneath a portrait of Andrew Johnson himself. Some ironies do not need commentary. They simply need to be named.

Racism fortified after Reconstruction

Violence and repression did not end with Reconstruction, which had officially ended two years earlier with the Great Compromise of 1877. In 1879, racist, white political misleaders, responding directly to six Black representatives having been elected to the state legislature five years earlier, restricted Memphis to a taxing district. They installed a white power structure over the city’s large Black population and introduced tools such as the poll tax to roll back and suppress Black political power.

Thirteen years later, in 1892 Memphis experienced violence again when, on March 9, Thomas Moss, Calvin McDowell

and Will Stewart were lynched — murdered for the crime of owning a grocery store and having the revolutionary nerve to defend themselves against a lynch mob. Their murders were intended as a warning from the ruling class and their foot soldiers in an attempt to intimidate and terrorize the Black community into submission.

It had the complete opposite effect. Those lynchings, along with other acts of state sanctioned racist terror, gave birth to the anti-lynching movement, organized by revolutionaries including Ida B. Wells. She not only documented and exposed the brutality of the lynch mob but urged armed self-defense for the Black community as a necessary and righteous response to violence.

That revolutionary spirit did not die with Wells. It carried forward into 1968, with the sanitation workers strike in Memphis — where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated — and the rising Black Power Movement, proving once again that no matter how many times the ruling class attempts to crush Black resistance in Memphis, it does not stay crushed.

Solidarity with Black Memphis!

Communists must support the Black struggle in Memphis, not only because it is revolutionary, but because solidarity with Black people is what separates those who are genuinely committed to liberation from those who are merely opportunists. The struggle in Memphis is inseparable from the struggle for Black liberation.

It is true that the vote will never on its own lead to the liberation of Black people, and that true liberation requires the abolition of the capitalist system, the white supremacist structure and the patriarchy. But it is important to recognize that Black people have the right to determine their own destiny, and if exercising the right to vote is part of that, then defending that right is part of the struggle as well.

This is why it is necessary to support the struggle in Memphis, because what is happening there is not only about Memphis. It is about what will happen to every predominantly Black city in the South and across this country if this assault on the ongoing struggle for Black political power is allowed to go unchallenged.

The ruling class is counting on the movement’s silence. We cannot give it to them. □

Protest against attack on voting rights

By Michael Kramer
Newark, N.J.

The People’s Organization for Progress (POP), a longtime ally in struggles against racism, white supremacy and imperialist wars, organized a spirited two-hour picket line and rally in front of the federal courthouse in downtown Newark, New Jersey, on May 13, 2026. The rally protested the recent racist U.S. Supreme Court decision limiting Black voting rights in Louisiana by allowing new voting maps favoring majority white redistricting. This decision has emboldened racist-dominated state legislatures in Mississippi,

Virginia, Georgia, Tennessee and other Southern states to follow in Louisiana’s footsteps.

POP Chairperson Lawrence Hamm compared this recent SCOTUS ruling, which targeted

the Voting Rights Act of 1965, to the Dred Scott v. Sandford decision of 1857, which denied

citizenship to Black people and held that enslaved people were property under the Fifth Amendment..

Many community groups and unions attended the action, including NAACP Newark, American Federation of Government Employees Local 93, AFSCME District 1199J, Sophia Inclusive Community, Muslim League of Voters of New Jersey, Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair, New Jersey, Communities for Accountable Policing, New Jersey Institute for Social Justice and Veterans For Peace.

All power to the people! □



Newark protest, May 13, 2026.

PHOTO: STEPHANIE CHASI ASQUI

Nakba Day actions say: S

By Martha Grevatt

Actions across the U.S. and around the world were called to observe the 78th anniversary of the Nakba (Catastrophe). Nakba Day — May 15 — commemorates the period in 1948 that the Zionist State of Israel declared its formation amidst its opening genocide campaign, when Zionist militias demolished 500 villages, massacred over 15,000 Palestinians and drove 750,000 others from their homes.

Protestors rallied outside the Israeli Consulate in **Boston** on May 15 to demand the City of Boston end its ongoing complicity with the genocidal state.



Boston, May 15, 2026.



WW PHOTOS: STEVAN KIRSCHBAUM

The Palestinian lands stolen during the Nakba form the core territory claimed by the Zionist settler state. David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first prime minister, sneered then that dispossessed Palestinians would "forget" the atrocities they experienced.

As Zakaria Kawa, a Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM) organizer and the action's emcee observed, the hundreds of thousands who turn out worldwide to honor the martyrs of al-Nakba prove Ben-Gurion was wrong and show up the ultimate failure of the settler project he helped establish. "Our children are here in Boston and throughout the world, and they have not forgotten!" Kawa declared.

Farah, another organizer from PYM, denounced Boston's partnership with Sheba Medical Center, the largest hospital network in the Zionist state, which is opening the Sheba ARC Landing, an artificial intelligence (AI) startup "accelerator," with the support of Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey and Boston Mayor Michelle Wu, both Democrats.

Sheba works hand-in-hand with the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) to maintain genocidal apartheid by recruiting and training medical staff.

Will Hodgkinson, a WWP Boston member, urged support for the campaign, originally called for by the Black Alliance For Peace and the Anti-Fascist Football Coalition, to demand that FIFA move the World Cup from Boston and the U.S. in June.

Other speakers demanded the release of the thousands of Palestinian and Lebanese hostages, imprisoned, malnourished, tortured and sexually abused by Zionist authorities; called for solidarity to

defend Iran from U.S.-Zionist aggression; and linked the struggle for Palestinian liberation to the Indigenous peoples' fights for LandBack and self-determination on Turtle Island.

From the consulate, demonstrators marched to the building on State Street which houses the Sheba "accelerator," along with other companies complicit in the Zionist genocide, including Bank of America, chanting "Evict Israeli war



Philadelphia, May 15, 2026.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE



New York City, May 15, 2026.

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

criminals!"

Hundreds of protesters gathered at Washington Square Park in **New York City** on May 15.

Nerdeen Kiswani, chair of Within Our Lifetime, which organized the protest, told the crowd that the Nakba has never ended. She declared: "The Nakba lives in every bombing campaign, every demolished home, every checkpoint, every prison cell, every refugee camp, every child buried beneath the rubble funded by the United States, carried out by Israeli supporters, by the Gulf countries and every single disgusting, complicit actor in the international community."

"But the struggle also continues to live with every resistance fighter, with every Palestinian mother who continues to bear children, with every political prisoner who continues to educate and resist behind the

prison walls and wage the Palestinian revolution," she continued.

Kiswani was the target of an alleged assassination plot by a member of the Zionist JDL (Jewish Defense League)-613 Brotherhood. Kiswani and her family learned about it from the FBI in March after police arrested a man for planning to firebomb her home.

The protesters chanted for an hour and then marched through the streets of Manhattan. The Rude Mechanical Orchestra played several Palestinian songs, including "Ya Tir at-Tayer" (Oh, Flying Bird). Kiswani explained that the singer asks the bird to fly over Palestine and carry his love and greetings to the land and its people. "The bird represents freedom and the ability to cross borders. Palestinians are prevented from crossing ourselves. So many Palestinians are not



No Celebration without Palestinian Liberation protest, Hoboken, New Jersey, May 10, 2026.

WW PHOTO: MARSHA GOLDBERG

Hamas condemns Western media lies, fabrications

The following press statement was published on May 14, 2026, at the Hamas Online English Mirror.

The Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) strongly condemns the organized media campaign led by groups and platforms supporting the Zionist occupation in the United States and some Western capitals, which is re-promoting fabricated and false allegations against our Palestinian people and their resistance, in an exposed attempt to cover up the unprecedented crimes committed by the occupation against our Palestinian people.

The timing of this campaign and the manner in which it is circulated to Western media outlets and to members of the U.S.



Congress reveal that it is part of a propaganda war led by the occupation and its media arms, especially after the exposure of the scale of the genocide, starvation and ethnic cleansing crimes it has committed against civilians in the Gaza Strip that were documented by international and U.N. groups, as well as by global media outlets.

We affirm that the occupation relies in its campaign on fabricated lies and propaganda materials, some of which are manufactured or manipulated using artificial intelligence technologies and digital misinformation, along with "confessions" extracted under brutal torture, coercion and threats inside its detention centers.

This is an attempt to mislead global public opinion and whitewash its record, which is full of war crimes and violations against our Palestinian people.

The testimonies of released prisoners, as well as numerous rights reports, have documented the scale of the crimes inflicted upon Palestinian prisoners, particularly those from the Gaza Strip, including physical and psychological torture, sexual assault and systematic brutal violations inside the occupation's prisons and detention centers.

The world witnessed, through television screens, how the Zionist captives held by the Resistance were released in good health and showed signs of humane treatment despite the harsh conditions imposed under the circumstances of the aggression and the siege. In contrast, our prisoners were released from the occupation's prisons with

frail bodies and deteriorating health conditions as a result of torture, starvation and deliberate medical neglect, which resulted in the martyrdom of dozens of them inside the occupation's prisons.

We call upon Western media outlets and international rights groups to seek the truth, refrain from being misled by the Zionist propaganda and conduct serious investigations into the documented crimes and violations committed by the occupation against Palestinian prisoners and innocent civilians.

We also call on media outlets and agencies that have long adopted the occupation's false narrative and covered up its horrific crimes against humanity to backtrack on this course, uphold humanitarian and professional values and stop their misleading campaigns against our people and their resistance. □

Solidarity with Palestine

able to even go back and visit Palestine let alone return to their original hometowns and villages that they were exiled out of,” Kiswani said.

Nakba Day was observed in **Philadelphia** on May 15 with banner drops and displays around the city and an early evening rally and march through Center City.

Starting early in the morning, banners were displayed around the city that proclaimed that the Nakba, which began with the expulsion of over 750,000 Palestinians from their homes in 1948, continues to this day. A banner stating that all hospitals in Gaza were destroyed in the most recent genocide was hung near the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. Another banner mentioning Israel’s intentional murder of at least 260 journalists hung from an overpass above the I-676 expressway.

Other banners were held in highly visible locations. One hung above the I-76 expressway pointed out that over \$300 billion in U.S. tax dollars have

funded Israeli genocide and land theft in Palestine since 1948. Another boldly stated: “NAKBA Never Ended — Don’t Look Away!”

During the day, activists held a banner outside Philadelphia School District headquarters that read “From Philly to Uhm Al-Khair, Stop Shuttering Schools.” Outside Philadelphia City Hall, a banner sponsored by Mobilization4Mumia drew attention to the Nakba.

Over 100 activists rallied in Rittenhouse Square at 6:00 p.m., then marched through Center City. Activists carried several banners critical of the Zionist U.S.-Israeli Nakba that continues to this day.

The demonstration targeted the genocide-supporting restaurant Goldies on Sansom Street and weapons manufacturer Day & Zimmermann on Market Street. The demonstration drew the attention and support of many shoppers and diners and ended with a final rally at City Hall.

Hundreds of demonstrators marched

in **Seattle** on May 17 in memory of the Nakba. But instead of mourning, Nakba Day is always proclaimed as a day of struggle. The march, from Seattle Center to the Pike Place Market, with chants in Arabic and English, certainly projected the great liberation struggle, undeterred by the genocidal violence of the U.S. war against them.

A speaker praised the “beautiful people” of the Global Sumud Flotilla as they are about to depart with solidarity aid from across the Mediterranean and worldwide for Palestine. The Flotilla expresses the necessity to escalate and

fight injustice, speakers said.

The march also strongly condemned the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran.

Protesters condemning the Nakba on the 78th anniversary took to an overpass at **Houston**’s busiest freeway on May 15. With signs and flags, protesters wearing keffiyahs cheered for hours as passing cars honked, waved and hung out of car windows with raised fists during 5 p.m. rush-hour traffic.

Will Hodgkinson, Jim McMahan, Betsey Piette, Gloria Rubac and Brenda Ryan contributed to this article.



Seattle, May 15 2026.

WW PHOTO: JIM MCMAHAN



Houston, May 15, 2026.

WW PHOTOS: GLORIA RUBAC

On Nakba Day, a call in Boston to ‘Boycott the U.S.!’

By Workers World Boston bureau

Will Hodgkinson gave the following remarks on behalf of Workers World Party in front of the Zionist consulate in Boston’s City Hall Plaza as part of the Boston Coalition for Palestine’s commemoration of Nakba Day, May 15, 2026.

We are here to honor the martyrs of al-Nakba — the Catastrophe — that began 78 years ago and to raise a fist in absolute solidarity with the ongoing Palestinian Resistance!

We are also here to honor and support Palestine’s allies in the global struggle — the people of Iran, Lebanon, Yemen, Cuba, Venezuela, the Sahel — all the countries and peoples resisting the decades of terror-bombing, deadly sanctions and starvation inflicted by the Zionist and U.S. regimes.

So what can we do here, in the heart of the U.S. Empire, in the belly of the beast, which is responsible for the global carnage? What can we do in Boston, where Democratic Mayor Michelle Wu and Massachusetts Governor Maura Healey have already made clear their complicity in Zionist genocide by harboring Israel’s criminal consulate and its corporate arms, such as Elbit Systems and Sheba Medical Center? [The crowd chants, “Shame!”]

One way is to target FIFA, the World Cup corporation, which is scheduled to

take over City Hall Plaza in June. Not only has FIFA refused the world’s righteous demand to ban Israel from its “beautiful games,” it has joined the Trump real estate cabal in its illegitimate “Gaza Board of Peace,” outrageously creating a fake “FIFA Peace Prize” for the fascist, war-mongering Donald Trump.

That is why the Boston Coalition for Palestine has taken up the call of the Black Alliance for Peace and the growing Anti-Fascist Football Coalition to say: “FIFA: Move the Games out of the U.S. now!” and “Boycott the U.S.!” [The crowd chants, “Boycott the U.S.!”]

We have to bring the global Boycott, Divest and Sanctions [BDS] Movement that has targeted the Zionist state back to the source, to the U.S. itself. The U.S. is what Martin Luther King Jr. so courageously called “the greatest purveyor of violence in the world today.” What was true then during the U.S. occupation and genocide in Vietnam is true now during the ongoing occupation and genocide in Palestine. Every day the U.S. and the Zionist regime find new ways to show their depravity.

But in doing so they show their weaknesses. Over the past three months we have seen the U.S. regime and its Zionist vassal fail and the resistance in Iran, in Lebanon and in Palestine persist and persevere. And this Nakba Day we are in solidarity with the resistance to U.S. imperialism that has

laid bare its rot and its weaknesses and has shown us the way towards liberation. We have to keep up the pressure here.

Just as the U.S. Empire continues to support genocide overseas, its thugs at ICE [U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement] are rounding up thousands of immigrant workers. This is not a country that people from around the world can safely visit. Football is “the beautiful game” that has brought together billions of people around the world. It deserves better than becoming a spectacle put on by the gangsters who run FIFA for the enrichment of billionaire MAGA Zionists, such as Patriot’s owner Robert Kraft.

Ajamu Baraka of the Black Alliance for Peace, who has raised the call to organize this boycott campaign, said: “It would have been obscene for the white supremacist South Africa settler-colonial state to host the World Cup. Why is it acceptable for the white supremacist, settler-colonial U.S. state — a state supporting a racist genocide, illegal wars and carrying out domestic terrorism against residents and citizens — to host the games?”

So let’s demand an end to Boston’s complicity in genocide. Let’s promise on this Nakba Day in the center of empire to lead the way in demanding: “FIFA: Move the World Cup out of the U.S. now!” and “Boycott the U.S.!”

We also say: “U.S. hands off the Iranian national football team!”



WW PHOTOS: STEVAN KIRSCHBAUM

Will Hodgkinson of Workers World Party speaking in front of Boston’s Israeli Consulate on Nakba Day, May 15, 2026.

And let’s use and expand this boycott to keep up the momentum of resistance here in the U.S. imperial core to do whatever it takes to support the Resistance and fight for a Free Palestine, from the river to the sea! □

Workers World salutes 20th anniversary of Rue Mumia Abu-Jamal

The following statement is in solidarity with newly elected Saint-Denis Mayor Bally Bagayoko.

Workers World Party salutes the City of Saint-Denis on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the naming of Rue Mumia Abu-Jamal on April 29, 2026. We applaud the proposal this year by newly elected Saint-Denis Mayor Bally Bagayoko to award Abu-Jamal the title of honorary citizen.

Having fought for Mumia’s release for decades, Workers World recognizes that Rue Mumia Abu-Jamal continues to be an international symbol of solidarity with struggles against injustice and discrimination. We further applaud the municipality of Saint-Denis for remaining strong and maintaining the street’s name despite repeated attacks by U.S. politicians and police over the last two decades.

A Black Panther Party activist and award-winning journalist, Mumia Abu-Jamal has become an international symbol of resistance against oppression and the fight for human rights. Abu-Jamal contin-

ues to challenge his controversial conviction in U.S. courts at the same time that courts are demonstrating a strong right-wing and racist tenor. This is evidenced by the 6-3 ruling of the U.S. Supreme Court on April 29 that effectively gutted the 1965 Voting Rights Act (VRA) that addressed long denied aspirations of Black people, especially in the Deep South.

The SCOTUS ruling states that any electoral district map that bolsters the voting strength of Black, Latine or Indigenous communities giving greater political representation to oppressed people on school boards, city councils or congressional delegations is “unconstitutional.”

Rue Mumia Abu-Jamal embodies the strong political choice to keep alive the memory of the struggles against injustice and discrimination. The history of the Civil Rights Movement in the U.S. must be uplifted, even as that legacy is under attack, so no one will forget that it was forged in battles — often bloody — in the streets. The decades-long struggle of the Civil Rights Movement led by oppressed Black masses in the U.S. forced then

Trump proposes firing squads for federal executions

By Gloria Rubac

Just when the people think they have heard the worst from President Trump, he outdoes himself — once again. On April 24, the Department of Justice (DOJ) Office of Legal Policy released a report entitled “Restoring and Strengthening the Federal Death Penalty.” The report was ironically released on the 72nd birthday of political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal, who spent almost 30 years on Pennsylvania’s death row awaiting state execution. He is now serving a life sentence.

Alongside the release of the report, the DOJ announced that at Trump’s request it has directed the Federal Bureau of Prisons (FBOP) to expand execution protocol to include the use of a firing squad.

Why is this wrong and unjust?

Federal executions are carried out in the state where the crime took place, but only five states even allow executions by firing squad.

Like every other execution method, a firing squad is cruel. On April 11, Mikal Mahdi was executed by a three-person firing squad. An autopsy revealed two wounds on his chest, not three, and not a single bullet hit his heart! He suffered tremendously as his liver and other internal organs were damaged.

There are only three defendants on federal death row now since President Joe Biden converted 37 sentences to life in prison before he left office. Only one of the three on federal death row lives in a state that allows a firing squad execution.

According to National Public Radio, those currently on death row are Dylann Roof, who carried out the 2015 racist slayings of nine Black members of Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church in Charleston, South Carolina; 2013 Boston Marathon convicted bomber Dzhokhar Tsarnaev; and Robert Bowers, who fatally shot 11 congregants at Pittsburgh’s Tree of Life synagogue in 2018, the deadliest antisemitic attack in U.S history. (April 24)

There are usually “buts” following a

Trump pronouncement. This time the “buts” include him seeking the death penalty for 44 additional people. He wants to prevent anyone on federal death row from being able to seek clemency. Trump also wants the FBOP to examine relocating or expanding the federal death row or constructing an additional execution facility to permit additional manners of execution.

Trump wants to streamline the process for seeking death sentences and cut down the number of years between a conviction and an execution. What Trump probably does not realize or is in denial about is that support for the death penalty, just like support for him, is decreasing every year. Why?

- Over 200 people have been exonerated off death rows in the U.S.
- It has been publicized that innocent people are in fact executed.
- Alternate punishments are much less costly.
- Prosecutors lie or hide exculpatory evidence.
- Police chiefs rank the death penalty last in their priorities for effective crime reduction.

The truth about U.S. executions is that no method is safe from torture and no method is quick. Also the U.S. death penalty mainly targets people of color and workers in disproportionate numbers.

From guillotines to hangings, to electrocutions, to lethal injections, to gas chambers, to nitrogen gas, to firing squads — there is no humane way for a state or the federal government to legally murder a person.

If you want information on botched executions, go to deathpenaltyinfo.org.

The real solution? Abolish ALL legal lynchings aka executions in the U.S.

Texas says death row — We say hell no!

The writer is a founding member of the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement.



PHOTO: COMMUNIQUE DE PRESSE

Celebration of 20th anniversary of the naming of Rue Mumia Abu-Jamal in Saint-Denis, France, April 29, 2026. Mayor Bagayoko stands below the Free Mumia sign.

President Lyndon B. Johnson to sign the VRA into law.

In Philadelphia, we are witnessing the ongoing effort by the Trump administration to whitewash U.S. history. On April 8 the National Park Service uploaded renderings of 11 proposed revisionist new panels for the President’s House exhibit near the Liberty Bell. The proposed new panels seek to sanitize George Washington’s role as the enslaver of nine individuals at the first “White House” in

Philadelphia by putting the first U.S. president in a more sympathetic light.

From Saint-Denis to Philadelphia, where Mumia was born, we are witnessing increased attacks on workers and oppressed people. Yet, we know from history that people will organize and fight back against these attacks. We applaud Mayor Bally Bagayoko for stressing the need to remain mobilized in the face of persistent inequalities, particularly regarding social and racial injustice. □

Samidoun’s media campaign for Lebanese prisoners in Zionist jails

Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network posted the following statement on May 7, 2026.

In support of Lebanese prisoners held captive in Zionist prisons and in solidarity with their steadfastness and confrontation of the jailers, Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network, in collaboration with the International Campaign to Free Lebanese Prisoners, launched a media campaign to highlight the prisoners and their stories with large billboards on the Old Airport Road (Imam Khomeini Boulevard) in Beirut, Lebanon.

This initiative is part of a number of popular efforts aimed at highlighting the situation of Lebanese prisoners in "israeli" prisons and exposing the ongoing violations against them, amidst continued international silence regarding their suffering.

The Zionist entity has refused to acknowledge it is holding these abducted Lebanese in multiple cases, continues to deny them access to lawyers and even the International Committee of the Red Cross and has imprisoned many of the at least 29 Lebanese captives in the infamous underground "Rakevet" wing of Ayalon prison.

They are held alongside over 9,600 Palestinian prisoners in Zionist jails — subject to torture, abuse, medical neglect and

mistreatment and starvation at the hands of an illegitimate occupying entity.

The imprisonment of these Lebanese prisoners is part and parcel of the ongoing Zionist attacks and overt violations of the "ceasefire" in Lebanon, accompanied by ongoing bombings, assassinations and attempts to occupy and erase the villages and population of South Lebanon. Over 1 million Lebanese have already been displaced.

Hezbollah, the Lebanese Resistance, continues its battle to defend Lebanon, its people and the South from these genocidal Zionist forces. It continues this resistance as the United States is attempting to coerce Lebanon into "direct negotiations" with the same Zionist enemy daily murdering and imprisoning Lebanese citizens and occupying Lebanese land, while the U.S. provides intelligence information, military aid and support and direct weaponry for the Zionist war against Lebanon and its people.

The Resistance has clearly enumerated five points for a real ceasefire, including the liberation of the prisoners from Zionist jails, as well as a permanent end to the aggression in all of Lebanon, by air, land and sea; withdrawal of the "israeli" enemy from the occupied territories up to the border; the return of all displaced people and families to their villages and towns up to the border; and reconstruction with international and Arab support and national responsibility.

This media campaign aims to express an ongoing and intensified public commitment to the prisoners' cause and the steadfastness of their honorable and patient families, as a matter of liberation and human dignity. The revolutionary struggle for their freedom will remain present in the field, on the streets and at all levels until their liberation.

The media initiative is part of a broader campaign of popular and media activities at both the national and international levels, aimed at keeping the issue of the Lebanese and Palestinian prisoners alive in the public consciousness and strengthening popular solidarity with their steadfastness inside the occupation's prisons. □



Beirut, Lebanon.

PHOTO:SAMIDOUN

CEOs order mass firings across capitalist economy, blame AI

By Steve Gillis

April 26 — Late April has been corporate profit reporting season for the first quarter of 2026 starting as usual with some of the biggest banks. Many ruling-class analysts publicly worried that the quarter's paroxysm of warfare in the Persian Gulf, spiraling global inflation and shutdown of oil-dependent supply chains would lead to negative profit results.

Speaking to Wall Street investors with the New York Times listening in, Bank of America's (BoA) chief executive Brian T. Moynihan allayed Wall Street's worries, reporting \$8.6 billion in profit for the quarter, up \$1.6 billion from the first quarter last year. (New York Times, April 21)

How did Moynihan explain the fact that the nation's second largest bank, with over \$2.5 trillion in assets, made such eye-popping profit? Did the bank issue more loans for commercial properties or small businesses? Sell more mortgages? Make winning deals or investments or buy some other bank? No. In fact all those usual measures were down for the period.

Moynihan sounded like a scientist, saying he made such gains by "eliminating work and applying technology." Specifically, he explained he ordered the elimination of over 1,000 jobs at BoA — firing hundreds of relatively well-paid front and back office workers. He repeatedly claimed to have replaced humans by employing artificial intelligence (AI) technology in work areas as varied as filling out regulatory paperwork, customer service, economic analysis and investment management. Moynihan promised more cuts to payroll were coming.

For a moment the bankers' banker could have been a NASA spokesperson describing the recent moonshot. "AI gives us places to go we haven't gone," Moynihan waxed poetic.

In all, BoA, JPMorgan Chase, Citi, Goldman Sachs, Morgan Stanley and Wells Fargo declared \$47 billion in collective profits, up 18% from first quarter 2025 while terminating 15,000 employees during the opening three months of 2026. The mass terminations made little news while the world was focused on the genocidal U.S.-Israeli bombing of Iranian, Lebanese and Palestinian schools, hospitals, railroads and homes.

Fire away!

While the Pentagon was positioned to blow up by some estimates nearly \$100 billion in missiles and bombs in the Trump administration's attempt to regain control of Iran's oil, the word went out on Wall Street to also "fire away!" On Feb. 26, one of the richest men in the world announced the firing of nearly half of his company's 10,000 workers. Billionaire Jack Dorsey, a founder of Twitter, announced the termination of over 4,000 high-paid, high-tech workers at Block, Inc., which runs the financial payment systems of Square, CashApp and Tidal.

Dorsey called on his fellow capitalists to "act decisively" in using AI to replace workers. Turns out, this was just an opening shot. The February Bureau of Labor Statistics jobs report showed over 100,000 job losses that month — initiated by orders from the bankers. (workers.org/2026/03/91416)

Manufacturers with debt to Wall Street

swiftly followed bankers' orders. Nike issued the corporate death penalty to over 2,500 workers during the first quarter in two rounds of terminations, largely in its own technology departments. Nike's COO Venkatesh Alagirisamy called using AI technology to increase worker productivity and offset years of slumping global sales of high-end sneakers his "Win Now" strategy. (cnbc.com, April 23)

On April 23, another CNBC headline spelled out the plans of billionaire Mark Zuckerberg's Facebook/Instagram/WhatsApp social media monopoly: "Meta will cut 10% of workforce as company pushes deeper into AI." Gone in just the first three months of 2026 are 14,000 META workers as well as the short-lived public relations deception that AI under capitalist control would somehow lead to better working conditions.

paper by the elimination of labor through utilizing AI for production? This is being debated among capitalists and anti-capitalists alike. Many workers inside these corporations are arguing on public chats that "AI" is simply the bosses' current excuse for speeding up work for those left in the cubicles and on the shop floors.

What can no longer be misunderstood is that capitalists have now gone wholehog in claiming that AI is causing them to eliminate jobs in a massive and rapid way.

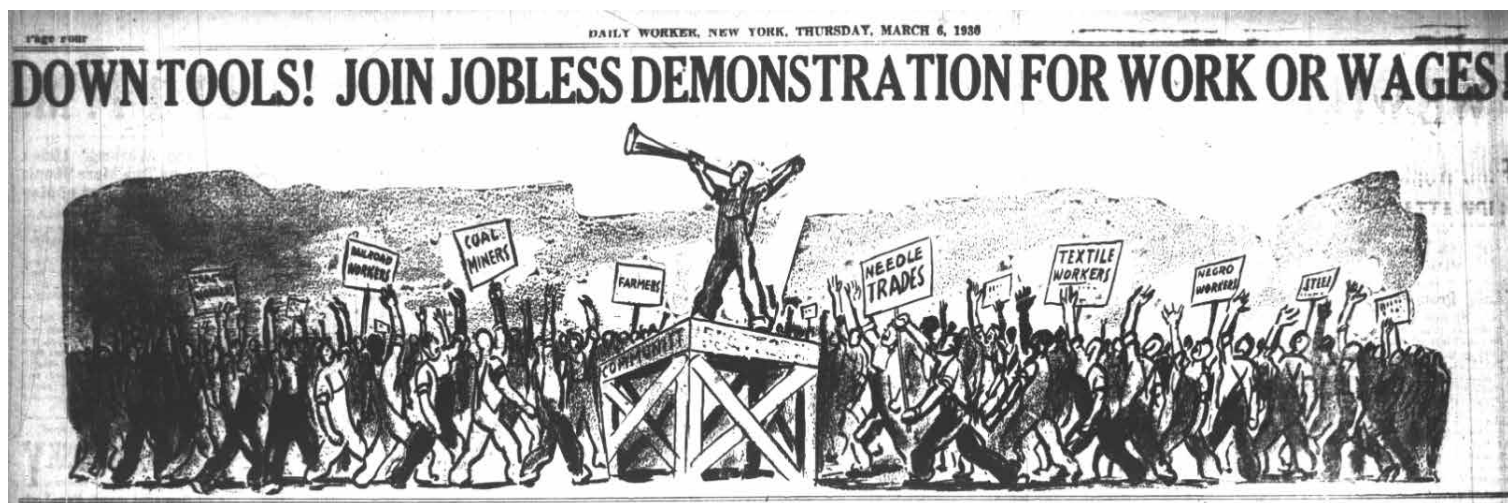
BoA and nearly every other player in finance capital have pumped hundreds of billions (by some estimates trillions) of dollars into "round-tripping" or "circular" AI deals — the largest capitalist investments in world history. These massive data centers, global cloud services and chip manufacturing consume vast amounts of energy, while pliant politi-

workers to buy back what they produce due to the wage-lowering and job-killing effects of the very newly implemented labor-saving technology. Economic crises of recession, depression and now stagflation (high inflation with economic contraction) inevitably result.

This provokes resistance from the workers!

How the workers respond is key

One thing that is new with the developing invention and introduction of AI — besides the previously-unimaginable swiftness from implementation to mass job cuts currently affecting largely highly paid "white collar" and majority white workers — is the openness of the capitalists about what they are doing. This openness is encouraged by the political turn toward fascism of the MAGA governing



In January, Amazon announced plans to fire about 16,000 corporate office workers, its second round of mass job cuts since last October. Following up on multiple rounds of layoffs in 2025, tech behemoth Microsoft announced on April 23 that it will "offer buyouts" — corporate speak for "quit now with some chump change before you're fired with nothing" — to over 9,000 of its 125,000 U.S. workers. (Boston Globe, April 23)

In March, Oracle initiated massive job cuts to affect up to 30,000 positions globally. Dell slashed its workforce by 11,000 in January. Salesforce fired nearly 1,000. Pinterest jettisoned 15% of its workers while Autodesk kicked roughly 1,000 out the door. Morgan Stanley, Citigroup, Capital One and BlackRock ordered thousands more to clear out their desks, while at UPS, Target, Dow and Home Depot over 40,000 mostly office workers were "let go," as they like to put it so politely.

Many Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification (WARN) notices were filed with the U.S. Department of Labor from nearly every sector of the U.S. economy — with the noticeable exception of corporations primarily in the business of manufacturing weapons of mass destruction — warning of many more job losses to come. (intellizence.com, April 21) Clearwater Paper in Arkansas plans to lay off 20% of its workers; Walt Disney, 1,000 terminations; General Motors announced 1,300 layoffs; Ikea, 800; the list of first quarter "warnings" goes on and on at intellizence.com. The 1988 WARN Act requires that employers with 100 or more workers give at least 60 days notice of workplace closures or mass layoffs.

'High Tech, Low Pay'

Is AI the sole or even the primary cause of this current surge of layoffs and job cuts? And to what degree is it even possible to continue to produce profit on

capitalists are bought off. But in essence, the capitalists are doing the same thing that capitalists have done since investing in mechanical looms and cotton gins in the early 19th century and primitive robotics in the 1980s — "eliminating work and applying technology," as BoA's CEO explained last week.

On April 23, Tufts University published what the Boston Globe called a "startling study" predicting that in the next five years, AI will be responsible for the elimination of 207,000 Boston-area jobs, with 260,000 more gone statewide and 9.3 million fewer jobs countrywide.

In his groundbreaking book "High Tech, Low Pay" (1986), Sam Marcy — a founding leader of Workers World Party and chairperson until his death in 1998 — pointed out that this process of investment in technology to decrease the amount of labor needed while increasing profits is as old as capitalism itself. The capitalist is motivated to increase competitiveness and outsell and buy up rivals. But the high-tech revolution epitomized by computerization and robotization of manufacturing and so-called "information technology" in the 1970s and 1980s rapidly accelerated this process.

In addition, as Marcy explained, the high-tech revolution produces a change in the character of the working class within a more service-oriented economy, with Black, Latine, Arab, Asian, Indigenous, women and gender-oppressed, immigrant, LGBTQIA2S+ and disabled workers making up the vast majority.

However, as Marcy emphasized in Chapter 2, "Capitalism never fully carries through any of its economic tendencies to the very end" due to the contradictions inherent in its labor-eliminating tactics. Time and time again in capitalism's historical development, the introduction of technology to increase productivity leads to overproduction, i.e., the inability of the

section of the U.S. ruling class.

Moynihan's headline-grabbing pronouncement last week that he had ordered mass firings simply because AI made it possible, and that he is planning many more, was prepared by the year-long shock-and-awe program and propaganda of the billionaire cabal at the White House.

This time last year Elon Musk's Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) fired over 300,000 federal workers while busting their union contracts — all without any job actions or strikes thus far from the affected unions. Nor has the bureaucracy of the AFL-CIO, currently hog-tied politically and financially to the Democratic Party, launched any real fightback around these massive job cuts.

With growing calls from a new generation of leaders from labor's rank and file for a general strike — picked up and amplified by growing ranks of socialist and communist-minded young workers who matured during the global Black Lives Matter, Free Palestine and now Abolish ICE and antiwar movements — the call to make May Day 2026 a day of "no work, no school, no shopping" is right on time for combatting the bankers' orders.

Only the collective, organized power of the workers and the oppressed to withhold their labor can stop the capitalists' AI dreams of worker-free profits. May Day's embryonic vision of a general strike has many capitalist enterprises to target going forward. Strikes and other militant, concerted actions must be aimed at ending the capitalists' regime of imperialist war and forced unemployment forever and for all.

Gillis is a 37-year Boston school bus driver and former elected president of the drivers' union, United Steelworkers Local 8751, now retired.

Iran and the decline of U.S. imperialism: Which way forward?

By Larry Holmes

The writer is Workers World Party's First Secretary.

Workers World Party's position on the Iran war is straightforward and premised on the theoretical tradition of Vladimir Lenin and Sam Marcy, the late chairperson of WWP. The Party unconditionally supports the Islamic Republic of Iran in this war. The political and strategic premise of our position is basic and revolutionary. It is to do what is required to aid the struggle and victory of the oppressed people, while forging solidarity between the working-class movement and the oppressed in a way that strengthens the class struggle and helps pave the road to socialist revolution.

This strategy flows from our understanding of the relationship of the working class and revolutionary vanguard forces in the workers movement to the struggle against colonial oppression and for the right to self-determination.

Without this orientation in both theory and practice, there can be no revolutionary core in the working-class movement that is genuinely fighting for that which is essential to victories for our class — that is the highest level of solidarity between the workers and the oppressed. Because of what is at stake for the class struggle, revolutionary forces are obliged to distinguish their position from others in the mass movement who hold views influenced by the imperialists and to fight for the revolutionary position within the movement.

Regarding the class and religious character of the Iranian government, we communists have vastly different politics and goals. We would prefer that the revolutionary, working-class organizations or countries and communists be in the leadership of the anti-colonial and anti-imperialism struggle worldwide. Our preference is a prospect in the making, whose development may be further along than we realize.

However, we are revolutionaries whose actions are not based on what we would prefer, but on the present realities of the struggle. To act otherwise would render us useless to the real life struggle.

Left forces that feel they must make a big public deal out of their differences

with or their criticisms of the Iranian government, and use such criticisms as an excuse not to support Iran defending itself against an imperialist, colonial war, are in effect providing a “left” cover for the war.

Our approach to the struggle against the war on Iran is political and practical. We will work most closely with forces that share our view. Our priority is building a strong, anti-imperialist front that is in solidarity with resistance forces around the world. We will work with other antiwar forces who do not have our politics, but we refuse to conceal our politics as a price for working with other forces.

It is also our critical task to continue

impossible task of finding a way out of the war that conceals its defeat and its responsibility for the global economic catastrophe that it's caused.

The weakening of U.S. empire

Something remarkable has happened. Something that has irreversibly altered the world situation. No matter what happens in the coming days, weeks and months, Iran has defeated and weakened the U.S. imperialist empire and Israel. The people of the world, especially the Global South, are rejoicing. Not only Iran, but all of the forces of resistance and liberation everywhere are stronger.



Nakba Day protest, May 15, 2026.

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

developing and perfecting how we explain Iran to the working class, as well as our strategies for bringing workers into the anti-imperialist struggle.

This is a very short and basic interpretation of a Leninist and Marcyist view on these questions.

Still, party positions can't be taken for granted. They must be reviewed and clarified in relation to new events even if that requires the airing of differences and some internal political struggle. Ultimately, that's one of the only ways that the party gets politically stronger.

There is no need to comment at this moment on all the back and forth between Iran, the U.S. and other countries or the tortured machinations that the Trump regime is engaged in to achieve the

This impacts everything in the entire world, not only later but immediately. What is the contemporary historical context of this war that was not only against Iran, the Palestinians and resistance forces throughout West Asia but also China, Russia and any and all of those anywhere opposed to U.S. imperialist hegemony? First there is the decline of the U.S. imperialist empire, which is at its weakest point in its entire history. Add to that the decline of the rest of the crisis-ridden, western imperialist powers. Then there is the rise of China and the significance of that for the momentum of the Global South's prevailing rebellion against U.S. imperialist hegemony.

And top it all off with the interrelated advanced descent of end stage capitalism and the onset of the devastating world

economic crisis, which is undeniable and inescapable. It is a safe bet that the U.S. and its junior partner Israel's war against Iran will be viewed by the imperialists, the workers and the oppressed and every country as a major downward turning point for U.S. imperialism.

What's occurring right before everyone is incredible. Whether we reference the devastating defeat of U.S. imperialism with the combined significance of all previous anti-colonial struggles and victories of the former Soviet Union and socialist camp, all of that which occurred in the past did not pose an immediate and existential threat to the survival of the U.S. empire, because then, the empire was much stronger. Today's events pose precisely such an existential threat to a far weaker and crumbling empire. Iran has proved that even the empire's lethal war machine cannot save it.

The party's priority should be thinking about and strategizing in preparation for the next phase of the world class struggle that the war is ushering in. An even bigger, world-defining struggle is coming. How will it impact the working class and the movement here? Is the struggle to defeat the U.S. empire the beginning of a complex and uneven, transformational period in the world struggle and here, one that revives on a wholly different level the struggle not merely to oppose but to end capitalism?

World events are provoking or forcing social and political forces everywhere on opposite sides of the class barricades to wonder what comes after the demise of the U.S. empire and the old world order. It is as if the entire conscious world is either wondering what the world order will be or planning a fight for what they want the world to be.

Will the world situation bring about new geopolitical alliances and struggles? Will class struggle become a decisive factor? When you consider ever rapid, shocking and often violent social, economic, technological and political changes in the context of an updated theory of Marx's historical materialism, what would it reveal? Given all of this, conditions create, almost beg for, a rebirth and reformation of forces dedicated to world socialist revolution who are prepared to open a new struggle informed by the new world situation. □

Capitalists in frenzy over AI

By G. Dunkel

The Big Six — so big that everyone knows Meta, Amazon, Alphabet/Google, Oracle, Microsoft and Apple — are planning to spend \$650 billion on artificial intelligence (AI) infrastructure in 2026 after spending \$150 billion in 2022 and \$360 billion in 2025. (Bloomberg, Feb. 6)

The business press in the United States call these plans frenzied, especially since the revenue from these investments only amounted to \$35 billion in 2023 to 2025. That's money coming in, not profits.

A study done at MIT found that the return on investment in AI was zero for 95% of the firms making such investments. (Axios, Aug. 21, 2025)

The capitalists who own and control the Big Six, the top U.S. firms measured by stock market value, have created this “gold rush fever” around transformative AI technology, because they sense that it will allow them to replace billions of dollars of high-priced labor (engineers, designers, programmers and many more) with low-cost computer cycles.

AI has more power than just creating fake images, such as Donald Trump as Jesus Christ or Jesus Christ

in the body of a shrimp. It can control complex processes to improve their yields and make jobs easier.

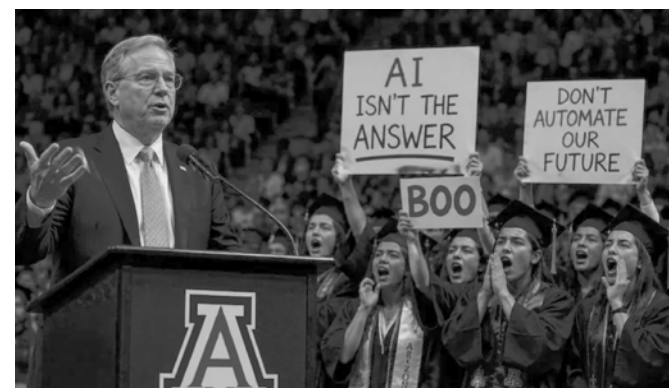
For example, at a Bristol Myers Squibb facility in Devens, Mass., workers use machines and an AI process to help make cancer drugs. The AI process lets them monitor important variables in the fermentation of these drugs — such as temperature and oxygen levels — and alert the workers if there are problems, which can be fixed. Before AI, the workers had to wait until the end of the cycle.

AI has boosted productivity at the Devens facility by 40%. (New York Times, May 6)

China's use of AI

China makes increasing use of AI to improve efficiency in manufacturing. In contrast, U.S.-based AI companies are investing billions to replace workers and concentrate economic power in fewer and fewer companies, whose AI code is proprietary. The World Economic Forum acknowledged innovative uses of AI worldwide: “Of the 223 factories that have made the World Economic Forum's Global Lighthouse Network list since 2018, 14 have been in the United States, while 99 are in China.”

China's planners aim to advance its use of technology



Former Google CEO Eric Schmidt booed at Arizona State University every time he mentions AI. May 17, 2026.

and have promoted heavy investment in developing AI and its applications. China's DeepSeek AI is basically open source and just as powerful, according to some specialists, as the large language AI models produced in the U. S.

In the U.S., “deep fakes” which present a false version of reality — such as Donald Trump as Jesus Christ or a doctor — are certainly allowed. In China, “deep fakes” must be identified as such and a “people-centered” approach to AI is enforced. China is developing AI to make jobs easier and work more productive. □



Niños palestinos reclaman su derecho a la educación, 20 de abril, Cisjordania.

La resistencia palestina comienza con los jóvenes

El próximo 7 de octubre se cumplirá el tercer aniversario de la histórica «Inundación de Al-Aqsa», iniciada por el Movimiento de Resistencia Islámica Hamás y sus organizaciones aliadas contra el régimen sionista de Israel, respaldado por Estados Unidos. Desde entonces, la población de Gaza ha vivido un auténtico infierno en la tierra a causa del genocidio perpetrado por las Fuerzas de Ocupación Israelíes (FOI). Las FOI han masacrado a decenas de miles de palestinos y son responsables de la destrucción de al menos el 80 % de las infraestructuras de Palestina, incluyendo viviendas, hospitales, escuelas y campos de cultivo.

La población de Gaza sigue padeciendo hambre debido al bloqueo israelí de la ayuda humanitaria. Hamás informó el 21 de abril de que «más de 2,25 millones de habitantes de Gaza carecen de las necesidades más básicas para vivir» (Hamás Online English Mirror).

Cerca de 10.000 presos palestinos, incluidos jóvenes, están siendo maltratados y torturados. Muchos de ellos se ven ahora amenazados por el Estado israelí con un



Cisjordania ocupada, 20 de abril de 2026.

MUNDO OBRERO editoriales

linchamiento «legal» mediante ahorcamiento sin cargos formales.

Los niños palestinos no son inmunes a este genocidio. De hecho, son un objetivo específico, ya que el objetivo de los sionistas es la eliminación de las futuras generaciones de combatientes de la resistencia que luchan por liberar su tierra robada. Esta aniquilación era el objetivo a largo plazo de los terroristas sionistas años antes de que se estableciera oficialmente el Estado de Israel en mayo de 1948.

Los médicos que han viajado a Gaza han sido testigos de cómo muchos niños palestinos han sido asesinados de horribles disparos en la cabeza. Y estos asesinatos no fueron accidentales, sino más bien parte de una política deliberada del ejército israelí de carácter fascista.

Una tradición juvenil de resistencia

Bajo la ocupación israelí, los niños siempre han desempeñado un papel en la resistencia, un papel que permaneció oculto para la mayor parte del mundo hasta el 29 de octubre de 2000. Ese fue el día en que se fotografió a Faris Odeh, de 11 años, lanzando una sola piedra contra un gigantesco tanque israelí en Gaza. Este acto heroico contribuyó a revelar ante millones de personas en todo el mundo las terribles condiciones que existen bajo el apartheid y que el espíritu de resistencia no conoce límites de edad. Diez días después de que se tomara la fotografía, Odeh fue asesinado de un disparo en el cuello.

Desde entonces, innumerables niños han manifestado diversas formas de resistencia.

Avancemos hasta el 20 de abril de este año, cuando las FOI lanzaron gases lacrimógenos contra unos niños palestinos que intentaban recorrer un determinado camino para asistir a la escuela en la zona ocupada de Um il-Khair,

en la Cisjordania ocupada. Ese mismo día, los soldados colocaron alambre de púas con la esperanza de ahuyentar a los niños. Pero este acto cobarde tuvo el efecto contrario en los niños, decididos a ir a la escuela a pesar de que su querida profesora, Awdan Hathaleen, fuera asesinada por un colono sionista el pasado mes de julio.

Los valientes niños llevaron carteles para colocarlos dentro de la alambrada, en los que se leían lemas como «Protejan a nuestros niños», «Nos encanta la escuela» y «Protejan nuestro derecho a la educación». Los niños decidieron con valentía abrir su propia escuela improvisada justo junto a la valla de alambre de púas, frente a estos hombres armados y enmascarados matones. El nombre de la escuela es Um il-Khair Freedom School.

Los niños afirmaron que seguirán asistiendo a clase todos los días hasta que se retire la alambrada. Durante la primera Intifada [levantamiento] de 1987, las escuelas palestinas fueron clausuradas por orden de la ocupación.

Estos niños arriesgan sus vidas cada día para reclamar su derecho a la educación y, lo que es más importante, su derecho a existir como seres humanos. Y aunque el ejército israelí ofrece un espectáculo amenazador, en realidad se trata de una fachada para ocultar su temor ante la profundidad de la resistencia palestina —empezando por los niños.

Estos niños y muchos otros como ellos han encontrado su inspiración en la resiliencia y el heroísmo de la resistencia, pasada y presente, que arde como un fuego feroz en su interior.

Mundo Obrero rinde homenaje al mensaje de estos estudiantes, que afirman: «No nos iremos», reflejando el sentimiento de todo el pueblo palestino asediado, que ha dicho a los sionistas y al imperialismo estadounidense: No nos obligarán a abandonar nuestra patria. ¡Desde el río hasta el mar, Palestina será libre! □

Primera ronda, Irán. ¿Y ahora qué?

Durante el frágil alto el fuego que aún se mantiene el 12 de mayo en la guerra de EE. UU. e Israel contra Irán, analistas de los medios de comunicación imperialistas y de fuentes antiimperialistas se han estado planteando la pregunta: ¿Qué bando está ganando?

Ambos han llegado a una respuesta similar: Estados Unidos e Israel están perdiendo. O, para ser precisos, la alianza entre la superpotencia imperialista y su pitbull local ha perdido al menos la primera ronda de la guerra que estos dos Estados agresivos iniciaron el 28 de febrero.

El New York Times publicó este titular en un editorial del 30 de abril: «El ejército estadounidense estaba perdiendo su ventaja. Después de Irán, todo el mundo lo sabe». La conclusión del artículo era que el Pentágono se consideraba la máquina de destrucción definitiva, de alta tecnología y alto coste, pero que la «guerra asimétrica» de Irán ha puesto de manifiesto sus debilidades.

Aunque la República Islámica de Irán no pudo impedir que Estados Unidos e Israel atacaran objetivos industriales, educativos, sanitarios y otros objetivos civiles (todos ellos crímenes de guerra), Irán pudo contraatacar a los Estados clientes de EE. UU. en el Golfo y hacerlo con armas mucho menos costosas. También pudo controlar el estrecho de Ormuz, obstaculizando la economía mundial. Pudo atacar bases y equipos estadounidenses.

El Times no fue el único observador imperialista en darse cuenta y expresar esta opinión. El Washington Post («Trump está perdiendo la guerra en Irán», 30 de marzo), oficiales militares retirados, analistas militares, líderes electos de los miembros de la OTAN en Europa que se niegan a unirse a la guerra de EE. UU., y monarcas no electos de los emiratos clientes de EE. UU. en el Golfo Pérsico que niegan a Washington el uso de su espacio aéreo para atacar Irán han rechazado a los líderes estadounidenses.

En cuanto a qué versión se acerca más a la realidad, The Times publicó un artículo titulado «Propaganda iraní frente a argumentos de EE. UU.: cómo determinamos el

daño real a las bases militares estadounidenses». Seis periodistas y analistas examinaron los informes contradictorios del ejército iraní y del Pentágono sobre los cientos de objetivos alcanzados en las docenas de bases militares estadounidenses del Golfo Pérsico por los ataques con drones y misiles iraníes en respuesta a la agresión estadounidense e israelí.

El informe del Pentágono minimizó las pérdidas estadounidenses. El informe iraní se centró en los daños a los intereses estadounidenses. El artículo concluyó que el Pentágono había ocultado o no había informado de la mayor parte de los daños, que se produjeron en todas las bases.

Por otra parte, los informes iraníes se acercaban mucho más a lo que descubrieron los analistas de The Times. Todas las bases estadounidenses de la zona fueron alcanzadas. Se destruyeron equipos de radar extremadamente costosos, junto con algunos aviones. El único error de los iraníes (según The Times) fue su informe de que los cohetes iraníes alcanzaron unos barracones en lugar de un almacén en una de las bases.

Gran parte de las críticas procedentes de EE. UU. y de otros países imperialistas se han centrado en la subestimación por parte de la administración MAGA del potencial de Irán y de la voluntad de lucha de sus dirigentes. Consideraron que el daño a la reputación de EE. UU. y a su capacidad para librar una guerra era un acontecimiento negativo y culparon principalmente al grupo MAGA, especialmente al presidente.

La derrota del imperialismo es una victoria para los trabajadores y los oprimidos

Mundo Obrero (WW) felicita al pueblo iraní y a su Gobierno por el valor, la planificación, la determinación y la solidaridad necesarios para resistir el intento imperialista de aplastarlos. WW considera este revés para el imperialismo estadounidense un avance positivo para el futuro de la humanidad.

WW también considera que el revés de EE. UU. es



Los logotipos de los aviones indican las bases aéreas estadounidenses en la región del Golfo Pérsico. Esta expansión del poder aéreo estadounidense también supuso situar el equipamiento y las tropas estadounidenses al alcance de los drones y cohetes iraníes.

una ganancia para la clase trabajadora dentro de Estados Unidos. Supone, en particular, un obstáculo para cualquier plan de la clase dominante estadounidense de ampliar la guerra a un ataque contra la China Popular y Rusia.

Para WW, no solo la tendencia MAGA —racista, inepto, beligerante y corrupta— es responsable de la agresión, sino también los republicanos del establecimiento y la mayor parte de la dirección del Partido Demócrata. Estos grupos, que representan a la clase dominante multimillonaria de EE. UU., comparten los objetivos estratégicos (si no las tácticas) del grupo MAGA.

WW desea incluir una advertencia y un llamamiento: el imperialismo estadounidense no es menos peligroso ni vengativo, especialmente hacia la población civil de Palestina, el Líbano e Irán, por haber perdido esta importante primera ronda. Más importante que creer que EE. UU. está perdiendo es seguir movilizando al 70 % de la población que ahora solo se opone pasivamente a la guerra y construir un movimiento eficaz y activo para impedir nuevas agresiones y nuevas guerras, utilizando cualquier medio que pueda funcionar. □