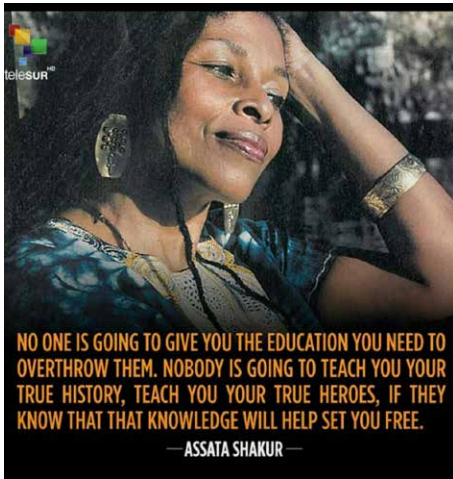


Workers force Europe's capitalists to act on Palestine



Assata Shakur, 1947-2025, a lifetime of struggle for liberation. See page 4.



'We block everything,' say pro-Palestine demonstrators in Rome during the Sept. 22, 2025, general strike in Italy. See editorial, page 3.



Colombia's President Gustavo Petro addresses a pro-Palestine rally outside the U.N. in New York Sept. 25. Calls on U.S. troops to 'disobey Trump, obey humanity.' See page 5.

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WW PHOTO: JENNIFER GREEN

Meeting at Riverside Church, New York City, Sept. 25, builds solidarity with Venezuela, Cuba and Palestine. Read article at workers.org/2025/09/88125

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

Vol. 67, No. 40 • October 2, 2025

Closing date: October 1, 2025

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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Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is pub-
lished monthly by WW Publishers, 121 W.
27th St., Suite 404, New York, NY 10001.
Phone: 212.627.2994.

Subscriptions: One year: \$36; institutions:
\$50. Letters to the editor may be con-
densed and edited. Articles can be freely
reprinted, with credit to Workers World,
121 W. 27th St., Suite 404, New York, NY
10001. Back issues and individual articles
are available on microfilm and/or photo-
copy from NA Publishing, Inc, P.O. Box
998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998.

A searchable archive is available on the
Web at www.workers.org.

A headline digest is available via e-mail
subscription. Subscription information is
at workers.org.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
Workers World, 121 W. 27th St., Suite 404,
New York, NY 10001.

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

PO Box 18123
Atlanta, GA 30316
404.627.0185
atlanta@workers.org

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

Workers force Europe's capitalists to act on Palestine

Generally the capitalist class and its state apparatus conduct themselves in a manner detrimental to workers and oppressed people. Yet sometimes there's a deviation from this pattern. When that happens, it's important to examine how the pressure from the working class pushed the bourgeoisie to take even minimal progressive action.

For example, governments of Italy and the Spanish state have sent warships to the Mediterranean Sea to act

in the event of an attack on the Global Sumud Flotilla. This latest solidarity flotilla consists of over 50 boats from multiple countries, bound for Gaza to break through Israel's blockade and deliver material aid.

This military action is unusual, especially for Italy's right-wing government led by Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni. But something remarkable happened in Italy on Sept. 22: The workers and their unions, with support from students and youth, shut the country down! Port activity and transportation ground to a halt — not over economic conditions facing workers in Italy — but to demand an end to shipments of weapons to Israel.

This one-day general strike represents a qualitative change for the Palestine solidarity movement. A solidarity action at the point of production is the kind of development that makes capitalists afraid — very afraid. It means the working class is cutting into the bosses' profit margin by waging a political strike.

So the Italian and Spanish governments have sent a total of three ships to accompany the flotilla. However, this is a limited gesture to offer rescue assistance if the boats are attacked and crew members are harmed.



Genoa dockworkers, September 2025.

Now the Italian government has attempted to pressure flotilla organizers to make a compromise. They are being asked to abandon their mission before reaching Gaza, turning the aid over to the Catholic Church for delivery to Palestine. This “means admitting that you let a government operate illegally without being able to do anything,” a flotilla spokesperson told Italian media. (jns.org, Sept. 28)

Meanwhile, a number of European countries (Italy is not among them) have agreed just this month to recognize a Palestinian state. This includes the British government, which in July “proscribed” Palestine Action, making it illegal not only to belong to that group but to defend its right to free speech or donate to it. Almost 1,000 people have been arrested since the organization was banned; more have signed forms that they are willing to risk arrest at the next protest. Recently, a judge ruled in favor of Palestine Action co-founder Huda Ammori's request for judicial review of the proscription, but the British government is challenging that decision.

With the recent shifts from Britain and France, four of five “permanent” members of the United Nations Security Council have said they would recognize a Palestinian state.

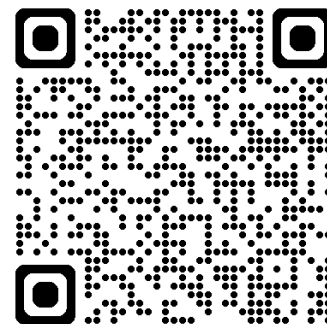
However, given the Palestinian Authority's animosity to the Palestinian Resistance and the fact that the Resistance rejects a “two-state” scenario that leaves the Zionist state in place, this is not such a huge step forward. The countries that have only recently recognized Palestine are reacting to pressure coming from a truly massive movement against the genocide in Gaza. Plus, any action the Security Council

takes on Palestine can be vetoed by the United States.

The real news is that dockworkers from Italy, Spain, France, Greece, Cyprus, Morocco and Germany met in Genoa, Italy, on Sept. 27-28 to map out future worker actions in solidarity with Gaza.

Regardless of how the European capitalist states vacillate on Palestine, the working class is right to stay in the streets, acting independently of any government on this critical issue. □

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Assata Shakur: A legacy of resistance

By Monica Moorehead

Workers World Party mourns the passing of the Black liberation fighter Assata Shakur, who died at the age of 78 on Sept. 25, 2025, in Havana. To honor her memory, Workers World is reprinting an article originally entitled “Assata Shakur is a modern-day Harriet Tubman” that first appeared March 31, 2022, on workers.org.

I had the distinct honor of meeting Assata Shakur in person at the 1997 World Youth Festival in Havana, Cuba. I was all the more surprised when she recognized me as the 1996 presidential candidate for Workers World Party. A year later, in 1998, during a New York City memorial for Workers World Party Chairperson Sam Marcy, Assata sent a moving message of condolence to our organization. Assata has been living in political exile in Cuba since 1979.

So when the FBI posted a \$2 million bounty on May 2, 2013, for the return of Assata to the U.S., not only did it anger me and countless others, but it also reminded me of another bounty put on the head of another freedom fighter over 170 years ago — Harriet Tubman.

Both of these courageous women sacrificed much in their lives, including any kind of a normal family life, to join important movements to free humanity from oppression.

Harriet was born into enslavement, only to escape to join the Underground Railroad, where, as a conductor, she brought hundreds of enslaved people of African descent to freedom in the North, including to Canada.

During Tubman’s era, the slavocracy had at its disposal the federal government, with the Supreme Court refusing to recognize escaped, formerly enslaved people as citizens based on the 1857 Dred Scott decision. The Constitution counted Black people as “three-fifths of a human being,” and the Dred Scott decision encouraged armed white vigilantes, who were paid to recapture those trying to escape the slave masters. This kind of terrorist atmosphere did not impede Harriet Tubman from her political activism until she died in 1913.

Assata’s political journey

Born in New York City in the late 1940s, Assata moved to Wilmington, North Carolina, to live with her grandmother when she was three years old until her teenage years. She

eventually joined both the Black Panther Party and the Black Liberation Army.

The Panthers were beloved and respected within numerous poor Black urban communities where they provided free breakfast programs, health clinics and other vital services, while at the same time promoting the right to armed self-defense against police terror and state repression. The Panthers were forerunners with their call for community control of the police.



Assata Shakur and Monica Moorehead in Havana, Cuba, Aug. 1997

COINTELPRO, or Counter-Intelligence Program, was created by the FBI, then led by the notorious J. Edgar Hoover, in the early 1950s. The aim of COINTELPRO was to use every dirty tactic, including demonization in the media, to discredit and eventually destroy national liberation movements like the Panthers and their leaders. Assata, for instance, was harassed, arrested and falsely accused of several bank robberies beginning in the late 1960s. She was acquitted each time of the bogus charges.

Then on May 2, 1973, Assata and two other Panther members, Sundiata Acoli and Zayd Malik Shakur [not related], were stopped by white state troopers on the New Jersey Turnpike. Shots were fired, which resulted in the death of Shakur and Assata being shot multiple times. One of the troopers died. Assata and Acoli were charged with murder and convicted by all-white juries.

Both were railroaded to prison based on their political beliefs and convictions. Assata spent more than six brutal years in men’s and women’s prisons before she was able to escape to Cuba, where she was welcomed with open arms. Acoli has been imprisoned for almost 50 years.

There are now posters in post offices and

even a huge billboard in New Jersey calling for the arrest of Assata as a “terrorist.” The CIA has falsely accused Cuba of “exporting terrorism” since soon after its revolutionary leadership defeated the U.S.-backed invasion at the Bay of Pigs in 1961 and declared the country to be socialist.

It is important for the progressive movement here and worldwide to expose the U.S. as being the biggest exporter of terrorism. Its deadly weapons, including drones, maim and kill to protect the profits of the bosses and bankers.

The bounty on Assata will boomerang and eventually help to introduce her inspirational story to a whole new generation of younger activists, who are already disenchanted with capitalism and all its ills. And it will bring about a deeper solidarity with Cuba.

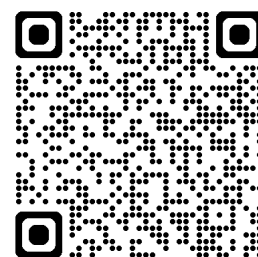
Black activists pay homage to Assata at many movement events with her own words: “It is our duty to fight for our freedom. It is our duty to win. We must love and protect each other. We have nothing to lose but our chains.”

End the U.S. blockade of Cuba!
Assata Shakur ipresente!

In June 2000, when Moorehead was part of a U.S. delegation that met with Fidel Castro on the cases of political prisoners Mumia Abu-Jamal and the martyred Shaka Sankofa, she met Assata again. The delegation also participated in a Cuban TV panel on the growth of the U.S. prison-industrial complex.

The following link is to a two-hour meeting Assata Shakur held with activists during the World Youth Festival in Havana in 1997, taped by People’s Video Network founding member, the late Key Martin: youtu.be/WJU4b_5LyUY

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Colombian President Petro calls for 'powerful army' to liberate Gaza

By Betsey Piette

In his fourth speech in as many years before the United Nations General Assembly on Sept. 23, Colombia's President Gustavo Petro Urrego called out the United States and NATO for "killing democracy and helping revive tyranny and totalitarianism on a global scale." (Colombiareports.com, Sept. 24) Petro noted that he had called for a peace conference to prevent the war in Ukraine, "but those of us without bombs or big budgets are not listened to here."

Declaring that "diplomacy has ended its role," Petro made Gaza the focus of this address, calling for a "Uniting for Peace" resolution to bypass the U.N. Security Council. He also called for the establishment of an international armed force to liberate Palestine, echoing a call by the Indonesian President Prabowo Subianto, who said his country was willing to provide 20,000 soldiers for an armed force to be deployed in Gaza.

Petro directed his remarks at President Donald Trump, accusing him of complicity in the genocide in Gaza and of exporting violence into Latin America. He raised that U.S. warships fired missiles targeting and killing 17 young, unarmed people on vessels in the Caribbean.

Explaining all the steps Colombia was taking to mitigate the drug crisis, Petro noted that Trump's anti-drug policies were not about stopping cocaine but about dominating the people of South America and the Caribbean.

Petro said: "Millions of migrants are persecuted, imprisoned, chained and expelled. Missiles rain down on 70,000 people in Gaza, killing them.



Colombian President Gustavo Petro addresses rally for Palestine outside the U.N. in New York City on Sept. 25, 2025.

The climate crisis remains unaddressed, its words erased by Trump. All of this is connected, all part of the same cause." Petro called the U.S. "a society for the rich, white and racist."

While the U.S. delegation responded by walking out during Petro's remarks, Petro helped lead a massive walkout of Assembly delegates when Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu began to speak.

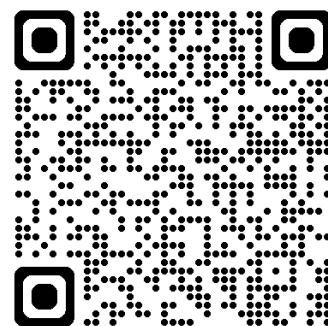
On Sept. 25, Petro joined tens of thousands of demonstrators outside the U.N. who were protesting the U.S./Israeli genocide in Palestine and spoke during the event, repeating his call for a global armed force with the priority to liberate Palestinians.

When the State Department posted on X that it would revoke Petro's visa "due to his reckless and incendiary actions," his response was, "I don't need a visa, because I'm not only a Colombian citizen but a European citizen." Petro accused the U.S. of violating international law over his criticism of Israel's war in Gaza.

"Revoking it for denouncing genocide shows the U.S. no longer respects international law," Petro posted on X. (The Guardian, Sept. 27)

Citing the visa revocation, Colombia's foreign affairs ministry said, "The U.N. should find a completely neutral host country." □

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