

Al-Quds Day actions protest war on Iran

By Martha Grevatt

Since the Iranian Revolution in 1979, mass rallies in defense of Palestinian resistance and against U.S. imperialism have been held internationally on the last Friday of Ramadan, which the new revolutionary government declared as Al-Quds (Jerusalem) Day. This year people responded in the millions in defense of Palestinian and Iranian resistance to imperialism.

Pro-Palestinian and antiwar activists in major cities across the U.S. held anti-imperialist actions on March 13 and during the following weekend.

Many hundreds of people filled the center of Times Square at 42nd Street and Broadway in **New York City**. After the more than two-hour rally, there was a march to Herald Square.

About 150 people of all ages, including babies in carriages, amassed on the sidewalk of a very busy multilaned road in front of Avalon Mall in **Alpharetta, Georgia**, a suburb of Atlanta, to mark Al-Quds Day. Their multiple signs and banners denounced the wars against Palestine, Iran and Lebanon. The demand "Free Palestine!" dominated their chants and speeches, as well as condemnations of the genocide in Gaza

and Israel's continued bombing of Lebanon and land seizures in both Lebanon and Syria.

Speeches highlighted the consistent solidarity of Iran with the revolutionary forces opposing imperialism. A solidarity message from Workers World Party, a longtime ally in past Al-Quds Day demonstrations, opened the program, which had a number of speakers. The overall response from those in the hundreds of vehicles that passed by the loud crowd was positive, with honking horns, thumbs up and friendly smiles and waves that outnumbered the occasional boo.

In **Seattle**, 100 militant demonstrators defied an all-day snowstorm on March 13. Protesters carried flags and demanded an end to the U.S.-Israeli war against Iran and Palestine. They called for money for schools and health care — not for genocide against the oppressed working classes of West Asia. The Al-Quds Day action was inspired by the great anti-imperialist resistance to the U.S. war against Iran and Palestine.

Sara Flounders, Dianne Mathiowetz and Jim McMahan contributed to this article.



PHOTO: ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY

Iran's Foreign Minister, Abbas Araghchi (front center), walks in Tehran's Al Quds Day demonstration, during bombing.

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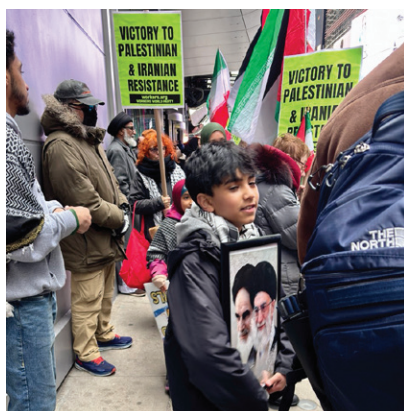
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WW PHOTO: JENNIFER GREEN

Times Square rally, New York City,
March 13, 2026



WW PHOTO: JIM MCMAHAN

Seattle, March 13, 2026.

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Vol. 68, No. 11 • March 19, 2026

Closing date: March 18, 2026

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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.

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Workers World Party is a revolutionary
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tional, multigenerational and multigen-
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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 auster-
ity, racism and repression, attacks on
im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQIA2S+
oppression and mistreatment of people
with disabilities. It means joblessness,
increasing homelessness and impover-
ishment 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, edu-
cation or anything else — unless they can
pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and
youth are saddled with seemingly insur-
mountable 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, mul-
tigender and multigenerational working
class. It is time to point the blame at —
and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the
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ety, and this wealth should remain in their
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talist profits. The wealth workers create
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WORKERS WORLD ★
editorial

War in West Asia: Who's guilty?

It's hard to believe that there are still U.S. analysts and journalists who have the arrogance to blame the leaders of the Islamic Republic of Iran for spreading the regional war that the U.S. and Israel launched. Perhaps they're just afraid the MAGA regime will take away their access to the Pentagon, if it hasn't already.

Since this debate about blame will likely be repeated every day, it's good for Workers World to establish a framework for our readers. As Marxist-Leninists when evaluating who is the guilty party starting violence, we consider who is the exploiter, who is the exploited, who is the oppressor, and who is the oppressed.

Thus when Haiti's enslaved population in the late 1700s rose up and committed violent acts against the French nobility which had been enslaving them, we know it was the enslavers who were the aggressors, the enslaved people who were defending and liberating themselves — no matter who struck first. And with the victory for the enslaved people in 1804, we call it a victory for humanity.

In West Asia, U.S. imperialism, the main oppressor force in the world, has dozens of terrorist military bases and CIA cells controlling its monarchical client states. The U.S. ally Israel is a settler state, a colonizer that not only exploits labor but seizes land and resources from the Palestinian population, killing and expelling them. The U.S.-Israeli venture in the region is based on joint pillage, occupation and plunder.

Iran has 5,000 years of civilization behind it. From the 1800s until 1979, Iran was part of the colonial world, despite nominal independence. Sovereign since 1979, Iran has been supporting others in the Global South fighting for liberation in Palestine, Yemen and Lebanon.

As a representative of the oppressed, Iran has the right to defend itself, including the right to strike first.

But Iran didn't strike first. Iran was negotiating. The war's opening moments left no doubt worldwide who launched it and who were the war criminals.

While allegedly holding negotiations with Iran, the Pentagon ordered two aircraft carrier war battle fleets to the seas off Iran to supplement the dozens of U.S. air bases in the region. On the morning of Feb. 28, the U.S.-Israeli terrorists hit Iran with a sneak attack.

Israeli warplanes or rockets hit a gathering of Iranian officials, murdering Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, members of his family and 40 political and military leaders. At the same time, U.S. rockets hit an elementary girls' school in the city of Minab on the Persian Gulf, killing 18 teachers and 168 girls between the ages of 6 and 11.

So within hours of the sneak attack, Iranians knew the U.S.-Israeli war criminals aimed to decapitate their government and murder their children. The whole world quickly learned this.

The Iranian government refused to surrender, as the MAGA White House apparently hoped they would. Instead, the Iranians quickly rebuilt their government structure, mobilized the



WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

Vigil in New York City March 8, 2026, for the children murdered by U.S. rockets in a girls school in Minab, Iran. The U.S. and Israel are the criminals.

population against the air invasion and opened a stunning resistance to both Israel and all U.S. assets in West Asia.

By international law, the Iranian government had every right to defend itself.

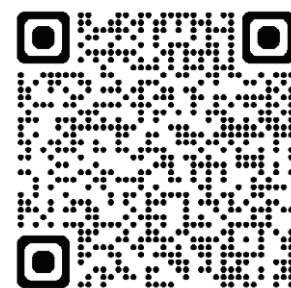
If U.S. troops and sailors' lives are at risk, it's the U.S.-Israeli attack that puts them at risk.

If oil prices and gas prices skyrocket, it's the U.S.-Israeli rockets and bombs that forced Iran to close the Strait of Hormuz.

If the imperialist world economy plunges into depression, blame the war criminals in Washington and Tel Aviv. And anyone who supports their "war of choice."

The imperialists are the guilty ones. They are the enemies of the Global South and of all working people. The MAGA criminals running the U.S. state at this moment have made this obvious. □

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Who pays the price for Trump's Iran war?

By Martha Grevatt
Cleveland

March 16 — The people of Iran and West Asia are, obviously, suffering the most from the latest U.S. war. Thousands of them have been killed and injured. There is heavy destruction of infrastructure and hundreds of thousands of people have been displaced, especially in Lebanon.

Nevertheless, working class and oppressed people inside the U.S. are being negatively impacted by the war in a multitude of ways. For one, the price of gasoline has skyrocketed, from below \$3 a gallon before the U.S. war against Iran began to about \$3.50 a gallon now. In fact, multiple things cost more — food, home heating oil, fertilizers and much more. Household debt is up.

The war is costing anywhere from \$1 billion to \$2 billion per day. On March 12, the conservative American Enterprise Institute estimated the costs at between \$11.2 billion and \$14.5 billion as of that date. (politico.com, March 12) NPR put the price tag at \$16.5 billion for the first 12 days. (npr.org, March 14) The Iran Cost Ticker website said the cost was over \$20 billion and increasing by over \$11,000 per second. (Iran-cost-ticker.com, March 14)

President Donald Trump reportedly wants Congress to authorize an initial installment of \$50 billion just for this war **on top of** the \$1.5 trillion Pentagon budget.

What could that money be spent on instead?

Just \$1 billion could cover child care costs for over 72,000 parents with infants. Or that same \$1 billion could pay the tuition for 90,000 students attending public colleges and universities. A little under half of that \$1 billion would allow the Cleveland Municipal School District to update 40 of its older buildings, installing air conditioning, repairing heating systems or replacing old roofs.

Think what \$50 billion could do. That's about half of what the federal government has been spending annually on the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, or food stamps). But with the passage of Trump's Big Ugly Bill, some people will lose SNAP benefits due to new work requirements or the shifting of 25% of funding costs to state governments. That \$50 billion could reverse those cuts! Or \$30 billion would be enough to extend enhanced premium tax credits under the Affordable Care Act for one year.

A coalition of 250 organizations called on Congress to vote against any more spending on the war, saying: "The \$50 billion that the administration reportedly seeks for a new Pentagon supplemental would be enough to restore food assistance for four million Americans that was taken away in the tax and budget reconciliation bill, establish universal pre-K education, and pay for the annual construction of more than 100,000 units of housing, among other possible priorities." (democracynow.com, March 13)

In other words, money that could be spent on housing, health care, food and education is instead being dumped into a genocidal war against Iran.



Mississippi for a Just World protests the U.S. war against Iran, March 5, 2026.

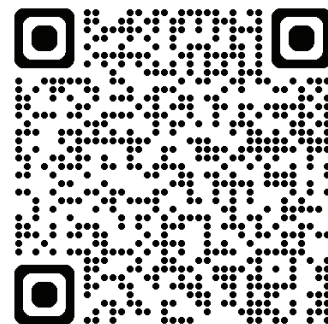
PHOTO: MISSISSIPPI TODAY

Trump could end these destructive spending priorities right now. But Congress could also put a stop to endless war spending. All members of Congress have to do is say "no" when the war-mongers have their hands out.

Neither the Democrats nor the Republicans will end this brutal and costly war. It will take an independent working-class movement to accomplish that task.

Money for jobs, housing, education and health care — not for war! □

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Epstein, los depredadores sexuales capitalistas, y Trump

No cabe duda de que el presidente Donald Trump personifica la depravación capitalista. Ahora hay aún más pruebas en los archivos de Epstein, con una mujer que acusa a Trump de haber abusado sexualmente de ella cuando era adolescente — un abuso que, según se alega, fue organizado por Epstein.

La información contenida en la última entrega de archivos — que está fuertemente censurada de manera que protege a los abusadores pero no a las víctimas de abuso — incluye, no obstante, los nombres de numerosas figuras de la clase dirigente. Entre los socios del difunto Jeffrey Epstein y su red de tráfico sexual se encuentran ejecutivos de empresas, banqueros de Wall Street, multimillonarios y millonarios — entre ellos Elon Musk y Les Wexner —, políticos y miembros de familias reales, como el ex príncipe Andrés de Gran Bretaña. Epstein captaba a mujeres, niñas y personas oprimidas por su género y las ponía a disposición para su explotación sexual.

En ocasiones, estas actividades se combinaban con todo tipo de irregularidades financieras. Así es como el difunto Epstein, cuya herencia se estima en 600 millones de dólares, amasó su fortuna.

No es de extrañar que ahora se denomine a los capitalistas multimillonarios «la clase de Epstein» o «la camarilla de Epstein». La gente reconoce el vínculo entre la riqueza y el poder — adquiridos mediante la explotación de la clase trabajadora y de las personas oprimidas — y la explotación sexual. La clase capitalista tiene una predisposición a cometer los horribles abusos que las supervivientes de Epstein han denunciado de forma gráfica. Los expedientes, incluso con todas las censuras y a pesar de que aún se ocultan millones de pruebas, dejan ese hecho patente.

Ahora puede parecer, incluso a algunos activistas contra la guerra, que Trump ha iniciado una guerra contra Irán como distracción de las pruebas condenatorias que figuran en los expedientes de Epstein. Esa no es una valoración acertada. Esta guerra imperialista, como todas las guerras imperialistas, está impulsada por la necesidad de expansión del sistema de beneficios, en este periodo mediante la recolonización de sus antiguas zonas de control en el Sur Global.

En cualquier caso, si Trump pensó que habría alguna distracción que desviara la atención de su relación con Epstein, se equivocó. Las encuestas muestran que la gran mayoría de la población de EE. UU. y de otros lugares se opone a la guerra contra Irán, y otras encuestas indican que los índices de desaprobación de Trump superan el 50%.

De hecho, la masacre de más de 165 colegialas iraníes a manos del ejército estadounidense el 28 de febrero es otro



Las víctimas de los abusos de Epstein y sus familiares exigen la publicación de los archivos sin censura del rancho de Epstein en Nuevo México, el 8 de marzo de 2026.

ejemplo de la depravación misógina de Trump.

Los revolucionarios deben ser lo opuesto a la clase patriarcal multimillonaria y actuar en solidaridad con las mujeres, las niñas, las personas oprimidas por su género, las comunidades LGBTQIA2S+ y los supervivientes de traumas. Debemos utilizar los ejemplos negativos de Epstein, Trump, el ex príncipe y tantos otros de la clase dominante mundial para explicar cómo la misoginia está arraigada en la sociedad de clases.

¡Abajo el patriarcado! ¡Abajo el capitalismo! □

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