



BREAK THE SIEGE OF GAZA!

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Los Angeles

WW PHOTO: G. DUNKEL



New York

By Deirdre Griswold

Aug. 4 — The world movement in solidarity with Palestine must join hands in demanding the complete lifting of the brutal Israeli siege of Gaza and full reconstruction.

Whether the 72-hour ceasefire announced by Israel and Hamas holds or not, one thing is sure: The Palestinian people have heroically defended their right to exist as a nation and to choose their own representatives.

As so often with people living under harsh oppression, their courage and steadfastness have cost them dearly. But they have also earned respect and support around the world while Israel, a brutal colonial settler state intent on dispersing or annihilating the Indigenous people, has earned widespread outrage and condemnation for its crimes against the people of Gaza.

This is what the leaders of Israel — and their backers in the U.S. ruling class, government and military — cannot suppress, even as the corporate media try to equate their crimes with the justified resistance by the Palestinians.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu went for the world's record in the Big Lie when he told his troops, just before announcing the ceasefire, that Israel had "no intention of attacking the residents of Gaza — it is Hamas that is attacking them and denying them humanitarian aid." (Guardian [UK], Aug. 4)

But the facts speak for themselves. Over the last month, Israel has killed almost 1,900 people in Gaza, 80 percent of them civilians, according to U.N. estimates. In that period, Israel's casualties were 64 soldiers and three civilians.

Even with U.S. backing, Israel could not erase what the world already knew. Civilians, especially children, have been a deliberate target of the Israeli military: four little boys blown up on a beach by a guided missile from an Israeli ship; children blasted while playing on swings in a U.N. refugee shelter; and on Aug. 3, a U.N. school in Rafah, packed with refugees, hit by an Israeli missile strike.

Continued on page 6



Washington, D.C.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

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Brigade defies U.S. travel ban on Cuba

By Ellie Dorritie
Buffalo, N.Y.

Twenty-two courageous U.S. citizens, members of the 45th Venceremos Brigade, crossed the Peace Bridge from Erie, Ontario, Canada, into Buffalo, N.Y., on Aug. 3, proudly declaring that they had defied their own government's ban on travel to Cuba. Along with groups of supporters, they held demonstrations on both sides of the border, confronted U.S. customs officials and asserted the importance of challenging the decades-old U.S. blockade of Cuba.

The Venceremos Brigade is a U.S.-based anti-imperialist educational work project that organizes travel to Cuba annually, breaking the travel ban to stand in solidarity with Cuba and allowing thousands of U.S. citizens the opportunity to see Cuba for themselves.

The Brigade was welcomed to Cuba this year by Fernando González, who, along with Gerardo Hernández, Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero and René González, was arrested in 1998 in the U.S. All five were given harsh



WW PHOTO: GARRETT DICEMBRE

and unfair sentences for monitoring Miami-based terrorist groups operating against Cuba. They are known as the Cuban Five. René González and Fernando González are back in Cuba after serving their full prison sentences, and both of them are fighting for the return of their other three comrades to their families in Cuba.

As the brigadistas marched back into the U.S. with fists and voices raised, they chanted over and over, "It's time to end the damn travel ban!" The solidarity rally that greeted them picked up the chant, holding banners that demanded, "End the blockade against Cuba!" and "Free the Cuban 5!" □

An ironic name

By Chris Fry

In mid-July there was a vigil in a South Albany, N.Y., housing complex — named the Ezra P. Prentice Homes — for the victims of the 2013 Lac-Mégantic oil train disaster. This poor, African-American neighborhood is just a few yards away from a rail complex holding hundreds of dangerous oil train cars containing volatile crude oil.

In the July 6, 2013, catastrophic oil train-based explosion suffered by the Quebec, Canada, town of Lac-Mégantic, 42 people were confirmed to have died, five more were never found and presumed dead, and half of the town's center was reduced to ruins.

So this author decided to look up who Ezra P. Prentice was. Was he a local civil rights attorney or a prominent African-American professional, such as a teacher, doctor or civic leader?

This is what I found out:

Ezra P. Prentice was a prominent attorney, Republican legislator and head of the New York Republican Party from 1910 to 1911.

More noteworthy, however, is whom he married. Alta Rockefeller was the third child of John D. Rockefeller — founder and owner of the Standard Oil Trust, the first billionaire and determined by many to be the richest man in the world, even up to and including today.

J.D. Rockefeller amassed his wealth by monopolizing the oil shipping and refining industries.

The Prentices named their son John Rockefeller Prentice — no one can say that old Ezra didn't know where his bread was buttered.

It is ironic that the residents of the Ezra Prentice housing complex must now suffer a constant, looming threat of annihilation at the hands of the oil and chemical tycoon Koch brothers, the shipping magnate Warren Buffett and, of course, the Rockefeller family. □

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degrading people because of their nationality, sexual or gender identity or disabilities — all are tools the ruling class uses to keep us apart. They ruthlessly super-exploit some in order to better exploit us all. WWP builds unity among all workers while supporting the right of self-determination. Fighting oppression is a working-class issue, which is confirmed by the many labor struggles led today by people of color, immigrants and women.

WWP has a long history of militant opposition to imperialist wars. The billionaire rulers are bent on turning back the clock to the bad old days before socialist revolutions and national liberation struggles liberated territory from their grip. We've been in the streets to oppose every one of imperialism's wars and aggressions. □

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Struggle wins temporary water shutoff moratorium

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire
Detroit

New developments took place at the end of July around the struggle for water in Detroit.

A class-action lawsuit was filed on July 21 in federal bankruptcy court involving victims of the mass water shutoffs and four community organizations: Moratorium NOW! Coalition, Michigan Welfare Rights Organization, People's Water Board and the Michigan chapter of the National Action Network. The lawsuit demands a moratorium on shutoffs; that all those shut off be reconnected immediately; that an affordable plan be enacted where residents cannot be charged more than 2 percent of their income; and that money paid to the banks for usurious interest rate swaps be used to help pay off residents' arrears.

Also on July 21, Detroit Water and Sewerage Department Deputy Director Darryl Latimer announced in bankruptcy court a 15-day pause in the termination of services in order to "better inform" the public of programs available to assist consumers.

The city's state-appointed Emergency Manager Kevyn Orr announced July 29 that Mayor Mike Duggan would be placed in operational charge of the DWSD. Orr stated, "This [executive] order provides additional clarity to the powers already delegated to the Mayor. This order ensures a common focus on customer service and sound management practices that reflect the city's commitment to refocusing its efforts to help DWSD customers get and remain current on their water bills."

Orr has come under local, national and international criticism for authorizing the massive shutoffs of water services impacting 17,000 households throughout the city.

A statement from corporate-oriented Duggan indicates that the DWSD will continue to cut off water. There is no plan to turn back on water for people who have had their services terminated.

In a statement posted on Facebook, Duggan asserted: "There are funds available to support those who cannot afford their bills — we need to do a much better job in community outreach to tell our residents how to access those funds. We will be developing a plan that allows those who are truly needy to access financial help and allows those who want to make payment arrangements to do so with shorter wait times. As for those who can pay and choose not to, we won't force other Detroiters to pay their bills."

Such a statement does nothing to demonstrate that the DWSD policy of attacking Detroit's already-beleaguered neighborhoods through massive terminations of water services will qualitatively change.

Hundreds attend "water fair"

A "water affordability fair" was held Aug. 2. Early that morning hundreds lined up outside the eastside DWSD payment center. The police presence was heavy — officers sat in cars at every corner, mounted patrols on horses went through the streets and an armored vehicle was stationed in a vacant lot adjacent to the DWSD facility.

Several community groups were present as well, including the Moratorium NOW! Coalition, People's Water Board, Detroit Water Brigade and Michigan Wel-

fare Rights Organization. Moratorium NOW! activists leafleted the crowd and recruited people to join actions aimed at winning an indefinite halt to the termination of services.

Mixed responses came from many community residents who visited the DWSD offices seeking help. Some said that the new policy requesting a 10 percent down payment on outstanding bills was an improvement from previous demands for at least 30 percent.

Many people challenged the veracity of the bills they had received. Many who sought the much-talked-about assistance allegedly available from social service agencies found it was virtually nonexistent.

One woman had a bill of \$2,100 and was being threatened with shutoff. She was demanding a hearing before the Board of Water Commissioners before arranging payments.

A number of people said their water service had been shut off for weeks, even months. Some whose service had been shut off were able to arrange for it to be turned back on; others were not.

Moratorium extended; poverty not addressed

On Aug. 4, the DWSD announced that the expiring 15-day moratorium on shutoffs would be extended to Aug. 28.

The DWSD says it is attempting to collect \$89 million in past-due bills. Approximately half this amount is owed on residential accounts. Public statements indicating that there is anywhere between \$1 million to \$4 million available in assistance does not address the magnitude of the demand from consumers.

Detroit has a substantial portion of residents living in poverty. The overall decline in wages, unemployment and underemployment are rife throughout the city.

There are no plans on the part of the Emergency Manager or in the austerity "plan of adjustment" before the bank-



WW PHOTO ABAYOMI AZIKIWE

ruptcy court to develop any programs to create jobs and bring people out of poverty. Nonetheless, corporations are given huge tax breaks to acquire properties and build sports and entertainment districts that will not benefit the majority of working people and the poor.

National solidarity; more cutoffs

A delegation of coal miners from West Virginia delivered two tons of water to St. Peter's Episcopal Church on July 29. At the DWSD water fair on Aug. 2, a delegation from Salt Lake City also delivered water.

These noble efforts can in no way meet the demands for water needed in Detroit, but they represent acts of solidarity that further expose the failure of emergency management in the city.

Freedom Friday on Aug. 1 at the DWSD headquarters enjoyed support from local activists in solidarity with injured Colombian General Motors' workers as well as the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, which was having its national congress at Wayne State University over the weekend.

Despite the announcement of a moratorium on shutoffs, reports indicate that people are still being terminated because of alleged "illegal usage."

Palmer Park Apartments had its water services shut off under the notion that it represented a "commercial" structure and not residential, even though hundreds live in the building on the north side of the city.

Although Mayor Duggan has acknowl-

edged that the billing system of the DWSD is in disarray, he has not addressed the impact of the interest-rate swap terminations in the last two years which have taken \$537 million out of the city's financial resources for the enrichment of JPMorgan Chase, Bank of America, Morgan Stanley and Loop Financial.

The Moratorium NOW! Coalition opposes efforts to privatize DWSD. Duggan, who privatized the Detroit Medical Center when he was CEO of the nonprofit organization, will in all likelihood lead efforts to do the same with the DWSD. People in the city are opposing such efforts because there is no reason to privatize the system — other than profit.

By regulation the DWSD cannot run a deficit. It is a revenue-generating system that utilizes the publicly owned department which is surrounded by 20 percent of the world's fresh water supply.

The struggle for water is part and parcel of the overall movement against emergency management and city bankruptcy, which includes cancellation of health care programs for municipal retirees and deep pension cuts to over 32,000 working people and their families.

In addition to the massive termination of water resources, public transportation, lighting, public safety, street maintenance and other municipal services have deteriorated drastically.

Only a mass outpouring of dissent involving large sections of the working class can effectively push back the drive toward privatization, including the theft of pensions and mass water shutoffs. □

In Kansas

Tax cut means austerity

By G. Dunkel

The state of Kansas is running out of money in its rainy-day fund because it made huge cuts in income tax rates in 2012. It took in \$338 million less than expected in the 2014 fiscal year.

Governor Sam Brownback pushed for these cuts, claiming they would pay for themselves with increased economic growth. His plan eliminated taxes on small businesses, reduced the top tax rate by 25 percent and made lesser reductions for lower rates. He partly paid for these cuts by cutting the state budget, narrowing eligibility for welfare and Medicaid and ending guaranteed teacher tenure, which was instituted in Kansas in the 1950s.

The tenure changes let school districts lay off more experienced and higher-paid teachers and replace them with new, less experienced and lower-paid ones.

According to the June 10 Wall Street Journal, tax collection was down \$685 million for the first 11 months of the 2014 fiscal year.

Every state in the U.S. has a different tax system. Alaska, Florida, Nevada, South Dakota, Texas, Washington and Wyoming have no income tax. In some states like New York, even cities have income taxes.

Sales taxes are another wrinkle. Some states use them, some don't. Some states like Kansas let sales taxes be leveled at the city, county, school, transportation and special purpose district levels. Since sales taxes are almost always a fixed percentage of the price, and wealthy individuals often buy nontaxed items, sales taxes fall most heavily on workers and the poor.

National Public Radio, the New York Times, the Wall Street Journal and the Daily Beast have all analyzed the holes in Brownback's economic policy, debunking his positive claims and pointing out that the benefits almost totally went to the wealthy, while schools and other essential services suffered serious cuts. Their conclusion is that these cuts are creating an unnecessary budget crisis and not doing what Brownback claimed

they would do.

All these national media analyzed Kansas' financial crisis in the context of Brownback's re-election campaign this year, since he has promised to stay the course and strengthen the cuts and the ensuing austerity. What happens in Kansas, until now a reliably Republican state, has national implications.

What's missing from the national media is any major consideration of how Brownback's austerity is impacting workers and poor people. For example, his refusal to expand Medicaid coverage means that 78,000 low-income people in Kansas won't get health coverage. (thinkprogress.org, April 21)

While educational funding has gone up, the increase went to legally required pension payments. Spending per pupils in kindergarten through 12th grade is down 17 percent in 2014. (USAToday, Sept. 25) Brownback is vulnerable on the issue of education because the children in Kansas' school system are suffering.

Kansas is just one example of a state that has embraced austerity. □

BALTIMORE

Mayor chased off stage at curfew forum

By David Carroll
Baltimore

Following the City Hall protest by the Baltimore chapter of Fight Imperialism, Stand Together against a new repressive youth curfew law, the city government has been on the defensive. FIST has led the struggle against the curfew, uniting several community groups and generating significant media attention on the issue.

The new law will increase the number of hours that young people are forced to be inside. Previously, people under 18 years of age had to be indoors by midnight. Now it is 11 p.m., with those under the age of 14 forced to be indoors by 9 p.m. This, combined with a daytime curfew of 7:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., will permit young people only a few scarce hours to be in public spaces.

When children are found in violation of the curfew, they will be taken to one of nine detention centers being set up in the city, and parents will be fined up to

\$500 in order to retrieve their child. This is money that the predominantly working-class people of Baltimore do not have.

In the face of mounting opposition to the curfew law, the mayor, along with the police commissioner and several government officials, decided to hold two “community forums” about the newly enacted law. FIST seized the opportunity and called for a demonstration outside of the second forum on July 29.

On the sidewalk outside before the forum began, FIST members and community activists spoke out against the curfew while wearing handcuffs, zip ties and T-shirts imprinted with different things a young person could be doing when out after curfew. These included “Went to get medicine for mom,” “Home has no air conditioning” and even “I have no home.” This sent a powerful message to those passing by about the reality of what it means for the curfew to be enforced on young people.

The forums themselves, held at two local universities, were advertised as a way for

the Baltimore community to be involved with the law and have their thoughts and concerns heard. But from the way that they were conducted, this could not have been further from the truth.

From the very beginning, each forum was a public relations stunt for Mayor Stephanie Rawlings-Blake and her government. The city officials were given the majority of the time to speak, saying only positive things about the new law and promising that the police would behave in enforcing it. When the audience’s questions were finally heard, the vast majority of voices allowed to speak were those members of various city government offices in support of the curfew. These were not the voices of the masses of Baltimore.

The few community people who were allowed the opportunity to speak who were not in full support of the curfew were cut off early and had their concerns coldly dismissed. Any criticism at all of the necessity of a curfew on the youth of Baltimore was scoffed at with accusations of irresponsible parenting. When the issue

of police violence against noncompliant youth was raised, the mayor and police commissioner both asserted that being taken to the detention centers was mandatory, thus leaving open the ability for police to use violence against young people.

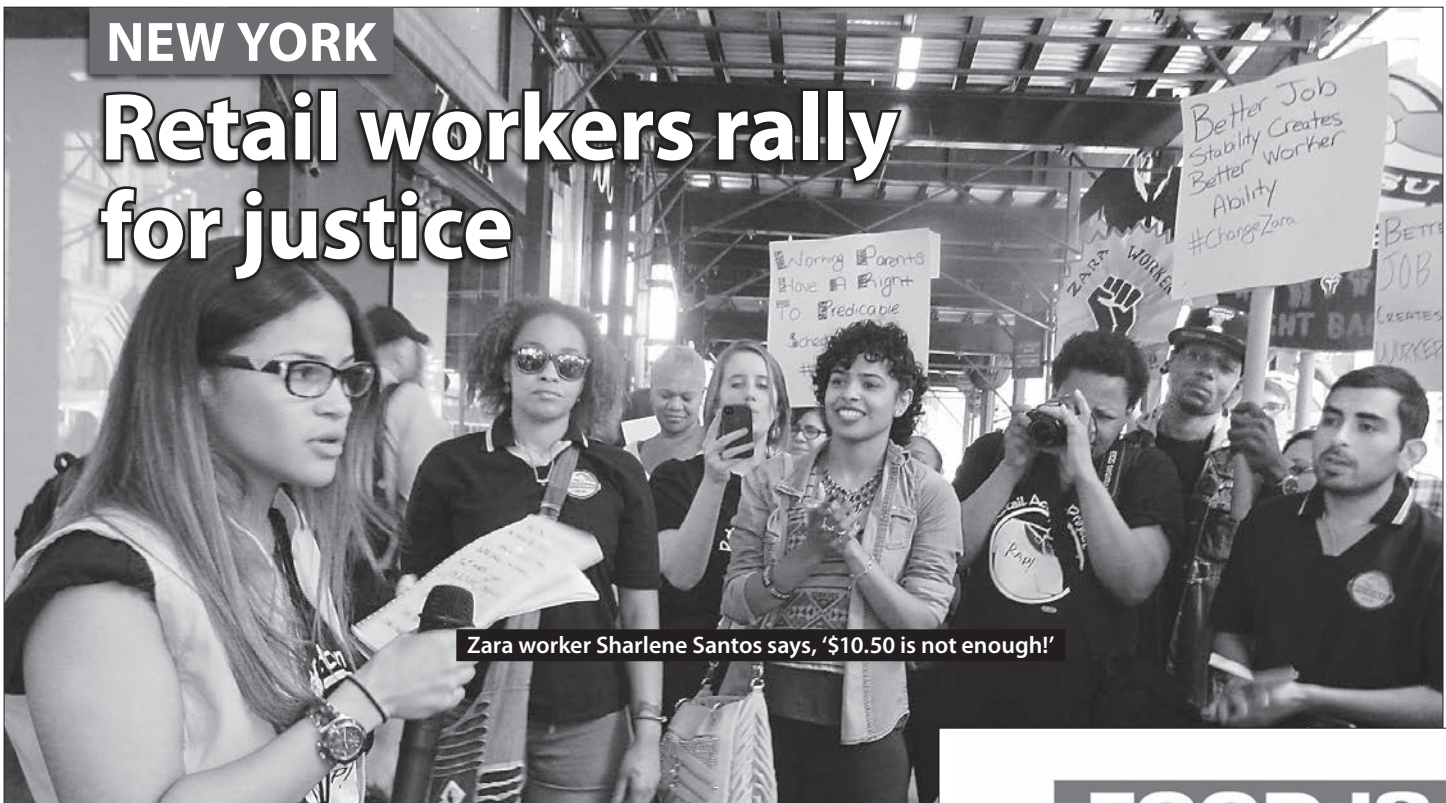
Tensions ran high as the forum came to an end without the concerns of average, working-class residents being heard. As the mayor was given the stage for closing remarks, sections of the crowd erupted into chaos and shouting. People were heard yelling things such as “You’ve spoken enough!” “We’re not finished!” and simply “No youth curfew!”

One angry person demanding answers approached the stage, where the city officials were seated. At this point the mayor and her ample bodyguards rushed out of the hall, clearly terrified of the anger that they themselves had provoked in the people in the room.

The events of that night show quite clearly that although the mayor would have us believe that the curfew is for the common good, the community is not buying it. This law is a thinly veiled version of the infamous “stop and frisk” policy, this time targeted towards the young people of Baltimore in particular. The law has also been compared to various “show your papers” laws, due to the requirement that youth have identification in order to prove their age and innocence.

The people of Baltimore, two-thirds of whom belong to working-class Black families, know what this law will bring to their communities: more police violence. This law will give police nearly unlimited authority to cause confrontations with any young person and will undoubtedly lead to violence and possibly even the death of young people.

Baltimore FIST stands with the parents and young people of Baltimore against this unjust law and will continue to fight back, demanding jobs and recreation centers, not curfews and detention centers! □



NEW YORK

Retail workers rally for justice

As New York City’s working class takes on more defense of working conditions for restaurant, grocery, airline, car wash, fast food and other low-wage workers — most of whom are people of color and/or immigrant workers — some of these workers came to a July 29 rally to cheer on workers at a Zara clothing store in Manhattan.

Pictured, Sharlene Santos speaks near one of Zara’s seven Manhattan stores. Santos, who has been employed at this store for years, led the protest about working conditions at the store. Called by the Retail Action Project, an initiative of the Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Union, this noon-time action drew 50 spirited supporters. “We deserve to feel respected and valued!” said Santos, who also insisted that her hourly pay of \$10.30 at Zara is not enough.

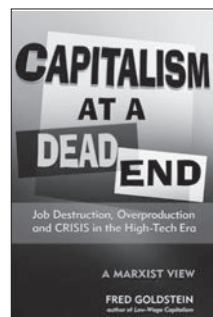
Higher wages are especially need-

ed since Zara leaves retail workers with only part-time and unpredictable hours. Working mothers have difficulty in arranging and paying for childcare. And these Zara workers, especially the women of color, complain of the bosses’ racism. Supporters chanted, “Zara, Zara you’re no good, treat your workers like you should!”

Santos exposed the Zara boss for being a billionaire, even as the local store refused 800 petitions for these workers! Owned by Inditex, Zara is the largest clothing retailer in the world. (Guardian, March 19)

Zara workers in Spain have won benefits after gaining union recognition there. Still, it was obvious that the fight for these determined workers’ rights is not over in New York. To sign a petition and build support, visit twitter.com/hashtag/changezara.

— Photo and story by Anne Pruden



Capitalism at a Dead End

Job destruction, overproduction and crisis in the high-tech era

For more information on these books and other writings by the author, Fred Goldstein, go to www.LowWageCapitalism.com Available at major online booksellers

FOOD IS A RIGHT!

Join us **AUGUST 16** at the **CHICAGO PEOPLE’S ASSEMBLY**

Free & Open to the Public

Help build the August 16 ‘Food is a Right’ People’s Assembly in Chicago this summer to demand money for food and jobs, not wars abroad. We will hold panels and plan actions to demand...

- ▶ Stop all cuts to government SNAP & food programs
- ▶ Healthy food affordable for all — end food deserts
- ▶ Economic justice for food, agricultural and all workers — including the right to unionize
- ▶ Hold the corporate food industry & agribusiness accountable for their environmental and health devastation in the U.S. and worldwide



Another wave of food stamp cuts are underway, on top of federal food stamp cuts that hit millions of poor and working people twice since November. States are reinstating work requirements and ending waivers to allow less people to qualify. But there are no jobs, especially at decent pay with benefits! And most people report they already run out of SNAP benefits after two weeks.

Let Your Voice Be Heard!

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2-5 pm

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Call 708-524-6904 peoplespowerassemblies.org

NLRB ruling: Workers 1, McDonald's 0

By Sue Davis

Labor organizing involves fighting injustice — on the picket lines, in the streets. When the bosses retaliate — and they always do — workers and unions need to use every resource to fight for their rights.

Thanks to the hard-fought labor struggles of the 1930s, the National Labor Relations Act was passed in 1935, setting up guidelines for basic employee rights. Ever since, when workers find their rights abused or ignored, they raise them with the National Labor Relations Board along with waging strikes, work actions and other forms of protest. Many times the NLRB hasn't led to justice, but sometimes it has.

But, given the strike of thousands of fast food workers in the U.S. and all over the world in May, labor is on the ascendency. That's what a recent NLRB ruling reflects.

On July 29 the NLRB flung open a new door of struggle for the \$15-and-a-union campaign and gave it a big boost. The NLRB ruled that McDonald's, the world's largest fast food corporation, which in 2012 earned \$27.5 billion and banked \$5.5 billion in profits, can be held jointly responsible for unfair labor practices and wage violations made by its franchise operators.

Mickey D's has been hiding behind its "golden arches" franchises, which account for 90 percent of its 14,000 stores in the U.S., ever since low-wage, fast food workers first dared to strike in this country in November 2012. But when the stores retaliated by firing workers,



The burgeoning struggle of low-paid workers workers for a livable wage has given new heft to the union movement.

Taken from a few photos of fast food workers' actions in recent months.

cutting their hours, arranging inconvenient schedules or otherwise punishing them, the workers took their cases to the NLRB.

Of the 181 cases filed since 2012, the NLRB dismissed 74 and found that 43 had merit under the NLRA; 64 are still pending investigation. What the cases revealed was that McDonald's franchisees must follow strict rules about food, cleanliness and employee practices, which, the NLRB ruled, make the parent corporation a joint employer.

The NLRB cited a 1982 federal appeals court ruling that "a company was to be considered a joint employer in situations where two or more employers exerted 'significant control' over the same employees." (nlrb.gov)

Unions immediately applauded the ruling, seeing an opening to help them organize workers at all fast food and retail franchises and in many job categories — like janitors, warehouse truck drivers, airport workers and those at

dry cleaners and car dealerships — that rely on subcontractors and temp agencies. The ruling is a boon to the Service Employees union, which has worked tirelessly for several years to organize the 4 million fast food workers in this country.

Far-reaching repercussions

Of course, industry groups like the National Retail Federation, International Franchise Association and the National Restaurant Association swiftly denounced the ruling as "outrageous." The NRA called it "an attack on small business." (restaurant.org)

McDonald's Senior Vice President Heather Smedstad blasted the ruling, asserting the corporation does not interfere with hiring, wages or other employment matters. But that was contradicted by specific cases. The company reportedly "told a franchise holder it was paying employees too much" and gives franchisees software with guidelines about how many employees to use per hour. (New

York Times, July 29)

Though McDonald's and the industry groups contend that the ruling "goes against three decades of law," they cannot intervene until the workers' claims are heard by administrative law judges. The Times speculated that if the judges rule against McDonald's, the company will appeal to the full five-member labor board, and if they lose there, the case could ultimately go to the Supreme Court. And we all know how the anti-labor, pro-corporate court is likely to rule on that.

The struggle to organize low-wage workers won't be a slam dunk. The corporations are going to marshal all their ruling-class powers — including the police and prisons, as they are doing in the current Boston school bus drivers' struggle — to protect what they see as their "right" to steal "golden arches" profits from workers' labor.

But the workers have shown their determination to continue fighting for justice. □

Detroit rallies for Rasmia Odeh, Palestine

By Abayomi Azikiwe
Editor, Pan-African News Wire
Detroit

Two public actions in solidarity with Palestinians were held on July 31 in the Detroit metropolitan area.

A hearing in federal court for Rasmia Odeh, a 67-year-old Palestinian-American woman who lives in Chicago, was held in downtown Detroit. Odeh is facing criminal charges for alleged immigration fraud.

This community activist, who has been living in the United States for two decades, is a former political prisoner of the state of Israel. Like thousands of others who have resisted the illegal occupation of her nation, Odeh was subjected to torture during her detention in Israeli prisons.

A brochure circulated by the Arab American Action Network states, "In the early morning of Tuesday, Oct. 22, 2013, Rasmia Yousef Odeh, the Associate Director of the Arab American Action Network (AAAN), was arrested at her home by agents from the Department of Homeland Security (DHS). She was indicted in federal court that same morning, charged with Unlawful Procurement of Naturalization, an allegation based on answers she gave on a 20-year-old immigration application."

Dozens of supporters from Chicago, Minneapolis and locally in Detroit gathered outside the federal courthouse beginning at 1 p.m. A spirited picket line was held calling for dropping the charges against Odeh.

Statements of solidarity were delivered by the Michigan Emergency Committee Against War & Injustice (MECAWI), the Council on American-Islamic Relations



WWW PHOTO: ABAYOMI AZIKIWE

Palestine solidarity demonstration in West Bloomfield faces off Zionists.

Michigan and the Committee to Stop FBI Repression.

A motion by Odeh's defense lawyers to recuse Judge Paul D. Borman from hearing the case due to his pro-Zionist sympathies was rejected. According to the Electronic Intifada, "Defense attorneys filed that motion on 14 July and on 30 July submitted additional evidence, including the fact that Borman has donated thousands of dollars to the Friends of the Israel Defense Forces as well as to Near East Report, a publication of the Israel lobby group AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee], through his philanthropic foundation The Borman Fund." (July 30)

Additional court papers were filed detailing the nature of the torture Odeh suffered during her incarceration in Israel beginning in 1969. AAAN Executive Director Hatem Abudayyeh told Electronic Intifada, "It would be prejudicial if the government was able to submit the conviction from Israel or evidence from the crime Rasmia is alleged to have partic-

ipated in. Rasmia and her attorneys are rejecting that conviction and calling it an unlawful one, as it was obtained through torture."

Another hearing has been set for Sept. 2 in Detroit.

Zionist conference draws protest

That same evening in West Bloomfield Township, one of the wealthiest suburbs in the U.S., a gathering of the Michigan Chapter of the Zionist Organization of America took place. Supporters of the Palestinian people announced they would protest outside the conference hall. Earlier, at the Rasmia Odeh demonstration, it was rumored that a large pro-Zionist group would be present to defend IDF actions.

A vigil in support of the people of Gaza began at 6 p.m. Across the street in front of the conference center, supporters of Israel shouted pro-Israel, anti-Hamas slogans. A heavy police presence kept the two sides apart.

The supporters of Palestine called for

an immediate halt to the IDF siege of Gaza and decried the large-scale U.S. government's financial, military and diplomatic support of Israel. They drew a direct connection between the subsidization of Israel and the deaths of more than 1,200 Palestinians killed by that time in what Tel Aviv called "Operation Protective Edge." The greater metropolitan Detroit area is reputed to have the largest concentration of Palestinian and Middle Eastern people in the U.S.

In addition to the more than 100 Palestinians who gathered outside the Zionist gathering in the face of hostile chants from the pro-Israel demonstrators, there were representatives of such Detroit-area organizations as MECAWI, the Detroit Light Brigade, Jewish Voice for Peace, the Al-Quds Committee and others.

Jerry Goldberg of MECAWI was on the side of those supporting the Palestinians' right to self-determination and nationhood. Goldberg talked to the Jewish News amid Palestinian signs with messages like "Occupation is a crime."

"I'm a Jewish person, and I'm just here to say that these Zionists don't represent Judaism," said Goldberg. "They represent a racist, fascist ideology that's based on occupation and murder of innocent Palestinian people. That's not the heritage of Judaism."

After Goldberg spoke at the rally, the mostly Palestinian crowd spontaneously began chanting, "Judaism yes, Zionism no!"

Meanwhile, the U.S. Senate unanimously voted on Aug. 1 to provide \$225 million in additional funding for "Iron Dome" missiles, which are supposedly used to minimize damage in Israel from rockets fired from Gaza. □

Rallies in U.S. grow stronger for Gaza

By Workers World Staff

Aug. 4 — Protests continued across the U.S. opposing the Israeli assault on the people of Gaza and in solidarity with the resistance in that territory. They included large protests in Austin, Texas, and New York and the first mass demonstration in front of the White House on this issue. A broad coalition issued a call for another major action Aug. 9 to march on the United Nations in New York.

The largest Texas demonstration in support of the people of Palestine, called “Texans for Gaza,” took place on Aug. 2 in Austin. More than 6,000 people from around the state came out to the Texas Capitol to rally and march to **Austin** City Hall. Condemnation of the war on Gaza was strong, militant and powerful.

Some 8,000 people rallied Aug. 1 at the CNN offices in the Time-Warner building in **New York** to condemn that media’s pro-Zionist propaganda and to support the struggle of the Palestinian people in Gaza. Speakers and signs in the crowd at this “Mass Rally to Stand Up with Gaza Against Israeli Crimes” also condemned the U.S. government for its support of Israel.

“Every shell, every missile raining down on the people of Gaza is provided free from the United States,” said Bill Dores of Al-Awda.

The Answer Coalition, which initiated the Aug. 2 demonstration in **Washington, D.C.**, reports that 50,000 people took part in the march and rally “to protest the ongoing massacre in Gaza and

the U.S. government’s support for Israeli war crimes. The massive demonstration received wide media coverage, and is further proof that the world is uniting for Palestine.” (press release, Aug. 3)

Students for Justice in Palestine, Al-Awda, immigration and anti-war organizations joined together in **Los Angeles** Aug. 2 to coincide with the national demonstration in Washington. The Southern California Immigration Coalition and International Action Center participated in a car caravan organized by Unión del Barrio from South Central Los Angeles to the demonstration in Westwood. The theme was “Stop the War on Children, from Gaza to the U.S./Mexican Border.”

The previous week, the Southern California Immigration Coalition protested at President Barack Obama’s appearance at the Los Angeles Trade Technical College, demanding Obama stop the war on children from Gaza to the U.S. border. More actions are being planned uniting the two struggles in Los Angeles.

About 200 people marched in **San Francisco’s** Mission District on Aug. 2 as part of the national day of action. The Movimiento Reunificación por la Familia demanded the government end the deportations of unaccompanied minors fleeing Central America and release the children held in detention centers to reunite them with their families now.

The protest also demanded an end to the bombardment and occupation of Gaza, and demonstrators carried signs showing the relation of the two struggles: “No to bombs and deportations! U.S./Israel, hands off our children!” and “Down with apartheid walls from Palestine to the Rio Grande!”

Hundreds of voices demanded “Israel Out of Gaza Now!” at a busy downtown **Atlanta** intersection where thousands were attending a concert in nearby Centennial Olympic Park on Aug. 2.

With red, green, black and white balloons aloft, scores of children led a march through the streets from the CNN Center



to the newly opened National Center for Civil and Human Rights. There organizers read the names of about 300 of the more than 1,400 Palestinians killed in Israel’s genocidal assault on Gaza.

Atlanta’s business and political leadership had promoted the creation of the Human Rights Center as a tourist attraction. Opponents of Israeli apartheid and war came to ask the obvious questions, “What about Palestinian civil and human rights?” and “When will the U.S. stop funding and supporting Israeli war crimes?”

As the crowd chanted “Free Palestine,” the balloons were released to soar into the bright sunshine. Protest organizers announced weekly demonstrations in front of the Israeli consulate starting Aug. 8.

A diverse crowd of **Philadelphia** activists and Palestine area residents rallied in Love Park on Aug. 1, followed that evening by a fundraising benefit for the people of Gaza. Ayman Nijim reported on his work helping traumatized children and families in Gaza, followed by musical performances by Al-Bustan Takht Ensemble, Farah Siraj and Farhad Afsharvand accompanied by Dr. Hasan Shahpari. Proceeds were donated to Kinder USA and Islamic Relief USA, which provide direct humanitarian relief to the people and children of Gaza.

Hundreds of people came to the Stop Gaza Genocide & Protest Media Coverage at the Federal Building in downtown **San**

Diego on Aug. 1. Protesters gathered at the Federal Building and marched to NBC headquarters to rally there. They held a long banner against the dark-tinted windows of the NBC building with some of names of men, women and children killed and their cities.

Protest participants posted coverage from ABC, NBC and FOX on the Facebook event page. One participant’s comment on NBC’s coverage was, “All they gave us was a 10-second bit and focused more on the Israeli right to defend itself. ... What a horrible controlled one-sided news station!!!”

San Diego’s fourth protest was called by Al-Awda, San Diego Palestine Right to Return Coalition and supported by many groups that plan to demonstrate every Friday from 4-7 p.m. at the Federal Building.

FightBack! News reports that 150 people gathered in **St. Paul, Minn.**, for Women Against Military Madness’ third weekly Friday Palestine vigil, Aug. 1. Chants of “Free Palestine” drew supportive honks from drivers.

Protesters heard from Sherine Mashni, who is a family member of both 16-year-old Muhammad Abu Khudair, who was killed by Israeli settlers, and of 15-year-old Tariq Khieder, who was beaten and arrested by Israeli police and then kept under house arrest before finally being allowed to return home to Tampa, Fla. Mashni thanked the crowd for protesting and continuing to demand an end to the attack on Gaza.

This week’s vigil also addressed the case of Palestinian activist Rasmia Odeh, who had a court date in Detroit the day before.

Demonstrations July 31 in **Tucson, Ariz.**, and Aug. 1 in **Tampa, Fla.**, raised the same points as the one in St. Paul, including “Justice for Rasmia, justice for Palestine.”

Along with sources cited in the text, contributing to this article were Gloria Rubac, G. Dunkel, John Parker, Dianne Mathiowetz, Joe Piette, Terri Kay and Gloria Verdieu, with editing by John Catalinotto.



Break the siege of Gaza!

Continued from page 1

The Guardian described the scene: “A hospital near the site of Sunday’s attack, in the southern town of Rafah, was overwhelmed with the dead and injured. Children’s bodies were stored in an ice-cream freezer as the morgue ran out of space.”

The overall destruction has been enormous: “The UN warned of a rapidly unfolding health disaster in Gaza, with hospital and other medical services, overwhelmed with injured people, on the verge of collapse. A third of hospitals, 14 primary healthcare clinics and 29 ambulances had been damaged in the fighting; at least five medical staff had been killed on duty; and more than 40 percent of medical staff were unable to get to places of work, it said.

“Critical supplies of medicines and other supplies were almost depleted, and damage and destruction of power supplies had left hospitals dependent on unreliable back-up generators.”

Remember all the boasting by Israel that it could “pinpoint” its targets with utmost precision? Now it wants to say that these attacks were “mistakes,” or even that the Palestinians were killing their own people. Again, the facts speak for themselves.

Almost half a million Gazans — out of 1.8 million total — have been displaced from their homes, many of which are now nothing but rubble. Israel targeted the

main power station, leaving the people without not only energy but water. This is nothing short of attempted genocide of the Palestinians as a people.

But the Palestinians’ will to resist and their political infrastructure have not been broken. After every cruel rain of death from the sky, the people pour into the streets to rush the survivors to hospitals and to bury and honor their dead. And, through their elected representatives from Hamas, they vow to struggle not just for a temporary truce but for an end to the blockade imposed on Gaza by Israel and for the right to live in their own country, Palestine.

Israeli apartheid not viable

The Israeli apartheid regime is not viable, just as its counterpart in South Africa could not last forever. But, just as with South Africa, the regime depends on U.S. support, both military and diplomatic, to buffer it from world criticism and supply it with the weapons to maintain its rule.

While world condemnation of Israel’s monstrous crimes against the Palestinians in Gaza was reaching a crescendo, Washington quietly delivered more arms to Israel.

“Even as the White House harshly criticized the Israeli strike on the school, the Pentagon confirmed that last Friday it had resupplied the Israeli military with

ammunition under a longstanding military aid agreement. [President Barack] Obama swiftly signed a bill Monday giving Israel \$225 million in emergency aid for its Iron Dome antimissile system.” (New York Times, Aug. 4)

A common theme in the U.S. commercial media has been that most Arab states support Israel against Hamas. Notice the word “states.” Not the people living in those states.

The Arab states that support Israel are mainly the Saudi monarchy, the repressive emirates and the coup regime in Egypt. Last year, in its grab for power, the Egyptian military gunned down in the streets hundreds of unarmed supporters of the elected government and has since stuffed the jails with journalists and political figures who criticize its rule.

It is Washington, particularly Secretary of State John Kerry, that has put Egyptian coup leader Gen. Abdel Fatah al-Sisi in the position of “mediating” between Israel and the elected Hamas leaders of Gaza.

Israel was already pulling out its ground forces when it announced the ceasefire on Aug. 4. While the casualties they had sustained were nothing like the carnage wreaked on the Palestinians, the death toll among Israeli soldiers was more than five times that of its last war against Gaza.

The Israeli pullout also came after anti-war demonstrations throughout the West Bank had been violently repressed, including a march of tens of thousands from Ramallah to East Jerusalem, with at least 10 Palestinian demonstrators

killed by police and soldiers, according to the Guardian. Some Israeli soldiers and reservists have refused to fight, and an Israeli soldier was shot in the stomach near the main campus of Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Thus, the rulers in Tel Aviv cannot keep their war against Gaza from coming home.

From Venezuela, President Nicolás Maduro offered to transport injured or orphaned children from Gaza and offer them medical and whatever other care is necessary. Bolivia’s President Evo Morales officially declared Israel “a terrorist state.” El Salvador, Chile, Peru, Brazil and Ecuador all recalled their ambassadors, while Brazil, Argentina, Venezuela, Uruguay and Paraguay suspended the Free Trade Agreement talks.

As sympathy for the Palestinians grows around the world, so must an understanding of why Israel is so important to the imperialist rulers of the U.S. Behind it all lies the role that the Israeli Zionist ruling class plays as protectors of Western imperialist economic interests in the Middle East. Keeping control over the vast oil riches of the region — especially the huge profits they bring to U.S. corporations and banks — underlies the strategic thinking that has made Israel one of the largest recipients of U.S. military aid in the world.

The Palestinian struggle, just like that of the Vietnamese, is unmasking U.S. hypocrisy about freedom and democracy. This can only serve to advance the struggle of workers and oppressed peoples everywhere. □

U.S. commits war crimes in Gaza

By Chris Fry

While spokespersons for the U.S. government cynically condemned the July 29 Israeli shelling of a United Nations school in Gaza that was being used to shelter 3,300 civilians, the Pentagon opened up the doors to a U.S. secret cache of weapons and ammunition to Israel to resupply its dwindling stock. The shelling killed at least 16 Palestinians, including many children.

The Israeli website Yedioth Ahronoth revealed that the U.S. keeps more than \$1 bil-

lion worth of weapons in Israel “intended for the use of the U.S. military in an emergency.” The weapons given to Israel to continue Operation Protective Edge, its murderous Gaza campaign, include 120 mm mortar launchers, 40 mm bomb launchers, and detonators, grenades and ammunition. (middleeastmonitor.com, July 31)

This is only a tiny fraction of the military aid given or sold to Israel by the U.S. government and the arms industry and used by the Israel Defense Forces in Gaza. In 2013, the U.S. sent at least \$196 mil-

lion in parts for airplanes and helicopters, including F-16 fighter jets and “Apache” helicopters used to bomb and strafe Gazan homes and offices. More than \$92 million has been supplied in 2014. (truth-out.org, July 23)

The U.S. has shipped \$39 million in armored fighting vehicles in 2014, including M109 Dohar Howitzers, which Israel is using to shell targets in Gaza. The U.S. has also shipped more than \$9 million in ammunition cartridges.

The U.S. State Department approved a \$544 million sale to Israel of AIM-9x Sidewinder missiles, which can be mounted on the F-16 fighter jets to hit ground targets.

Official U.S. military aid to Israel amounts to \$3 billion a year, not including \$504 million for missile defense. Unofficially, the aid is much more, and includes training, repairs, spare parts, research and development.

Israel is the only state allowed to use U.S. weapons designs to develop its own weapons industry. There are also many joint projects between Israel and the U.S. military. And Israel has “fast track” status, meaning that it can make deals directly with U.S. arms dealers without going through the Pentagon.

A truth-out.org reporter asked Richard Falk, a former U.N. special rapporteur on Palestinian human rights, what he thought about the U.S. military aid to Israel enabling this attack on Gaza. He pointed out that U.S. exports to Israel violate the Arms Control Act of 1976.

“There’s no legal, political or moral argument that would uphold the claim that Israel is acting in legitimate self-defense,” Falk said. “Gaza, from an international law point of view, is not a foreign state, but an occupied territory. It’s not clear that you can exercise self-defense in relation to a territory that you are responsible for administering in accordance with international humanitarian law.” (July 25)

Amnesty International has called on the U.S. to immediately stop arms shipments to Israel amid “growing evidence of war crimes in Gaza.” (amnesty.org, July 31)

The U.N. human rights high commissioner, Navi Pillay, also criticized the U.S.: “They have not only provided the heavy weaponry which is now being used by Israel in Gaza, but they’ve also provided almost \$1 billion in providing the Iron Domes to protect Israelis from the rocket attacks, but no such protection has been provided to Gazans against the shelling. So I am reminding United States that it’s a party to international humanitarian law and human rights law.” (democracy-now.org, Aug. 1)

By arming Israel to the teeth and stockpiling weapons in Israel for its own use, the Pentagon, the U.S. government and the entire imperialist establishment show that they care nothing about human rights. Their only concern is controlling the vast oil wealth of the Middle East. By backing every Israeli atrocity in Gaza, they intend to let nothing stand in their way of retaining an iron grip over the entire region. □

Washington, D.C.



WOMEN DECLARE:

‘Let Gaza live!’

The International Working Women’s Coalition, which for the past 10 years has commemorated International Working Women’s Day in New York City, stands with the world’s working and oppressed peoples in solidarity with the heroic people of Gaza who are resisting the heinous atrocities by the fascist, Zionist regime, especially the Israel Defense Forces.

What is happening in Gaza, known as the world’s largest open-air prison, is nothing short of a genocidal holocaust by a racist, apartheid settler state. The U.S. government provided \$3.4 billion in military aid to Israel last year. That amounts to over \$9.3 million a day. Israel could not exist for one day without this military aid and other economic assistance.

In the U.S., while schools, hospitals, women’s clinics and day care centers are being closed; while homes are being foreclosed; while people’s water and utilities are being shut off in Detroit and elsewhere; while wages and pensions are being slashed to the bone, causing deepening poverty, U.S. taxpayers’ money is being diverted to bomb and destroy the entire infrastructure in Gaza, including hospitals, schools, homes, sanitation, sewage and electricity. Just imagine how the \$3.4 billion — that goes to Israel’s defense budget alone — could be spent to help meet the human needs of people suffering in U.S. urban and rural areas.

Since Israel’s ground invasion began on July 17, following its missile attacks, over 1,800 people, close to 100 percent of them Palestinians, have been slaughtered, many of them women and children, from the very young to elders. What is happening in Gaza is a 66-year-old continuation of one of the greatest crimes against humanity in the 20th century: the brutal theft of Palestinian lands that led to the

creation of Israel in 1948, reminiscent of the theft of Native peoples’ land after Christopher Columbus first landed in the Americas in 1492. Just as the U.S. Cavalry was used as a terrorist occupying force to exterminate Native peoples to expand U.S. capitalism into the West, Israel was propped up as a military garrison state to protect and expand the lucrative profits of Big Oil corporations.

Our coalition also condemns the disgusting, biased coverage by the pro-Zionist big business media of what is in reality the lynching of Gaza in the form of collective punishment by Israel. The media like to portray Israel as the victim, while demonizing Hamas as the aggressor, ad nauseam.

Israel is a terrorist state rooted in anti-Arab, pro-white supremacy. Anti-Zionism is not the same as anti-Semitism, which triggered the Holocaust in the 1930s and 1940s and the forced mass exodus of Jewish people from Eastern Europe. Zionism is racism.

The International Working Women’s Coalition demands include: Stop the genocidal bombing of Gaza, which especially targets Palestinian women and children; end all U.S. aid to Israel — military, economic and cultural; unconditional release of all Palestinian prisoners of war detained in Israeli jails and prisons; tear down the apartheid wall and stop building settlements; support the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions Campaign against Israel; rebuild Gaza’s infrastructure; support Palestinians’ right to self-determination and self-defense, including their right to elect their leaders; and support the Palestinians’ right to return to their homeland.

Let Gaza live! From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free! U.S. out of the Middle East! □

Philadelphia



WWW PHOTOS: JOE PIETTE

Letter to the editor

From an IDF vet

I was a member of the Israeli military from 1972 to 1975 and took part in the illegal Zionist occupations of Palestine, Egypt and Syria as well as the 1973 Arab-Israeli War. I have witnessed firsthand the steadfastness and resistance of the Palestinian people along with their allies from other Arab communities.

While the mostly U.S.-financed and U.S.-supplied weapons systems have been updated over the years, and the Israeli military has withdrawn from Egypt, much remains the same. Palestine and Syria continue to be occupied by Israeli combat units and settlers. Egypt remains occupied — by the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the more than 690 U.S. troops that are part of the larger Multinational Force and Observers set up by the so-called 1981 Peace Treaty between Egypt and Israel.

The current Israeli assault on the people of Gaza is one more phase of the Zionist colonization and occupation of Palestine, whose roots go back to the 19th

century. And this occupation — with all its bloodshed now resulting in 21st century war crimes — could only be carried out by an Israeli military fueled by racism and the dehumanization of their Palestinian neighbors.

Veterans For Peace, in a statement approved at its just-concluded 2014 National Convention, “encourages all Israeli soldiers to avoid becoming party to war crimes against innocent Palestinian civilians, and to consider all their options for standing on the side of humanity.”

Israeli anti-war activists, military reservists who refuse call-up orders and conscientious objectors should get the full support and assistance of peace and justice activists in the U.S. And the civilian and military leaders of Israel who planned and carried out this genocidal campaign should be sent to The Hague and put on trial as war criminals.

Michael Kramer, chapter president
Veterans For Peace
Chapter 021 (Northern New Jersey)

Gaza slaughter exposes Democrats

By Tony Murphy

If your eyes weren't open to the true role of the Democratic Party, the Israeli military's slaughter of Palestinian civilians should have snapped them wide open.

As stunning photos and videos of the devastation of Gaza are being watched 24/7 by anyone with a laptop or iPhone, Democratic politicians can't voice their support for Israel strongly enough.

The first, most shocking move for liberals' leading lights was the July 18 unanimous Senate resolution backing Israel. It came two days after the New York Times' July 16 publication of a front-page photo and story about four Palestinian boys who were bombed and killed while playing on a beach.

The Times usually bends over backwards to defend the actions of Israel. This time, there was no hiding the murderous nature of this attack, since it happened near a hotel where journalists from all over the world were staying. The Times' Tyler Hicks, who won the 2014 Pulitzer Prize for photography, wrote his own account: "Children, maybe four feet tall, dressed in summer clothes, running from an explosion, don't fit the descrip-

tion of Hamas fighters."

Hicks' article ran on Wednesday, July 16. On Friday, Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.), Al Franken (D-Minn.), Elizabeth Warren (D-Mass.), Cory Booker (D-N.J.) and every other "liberal" Democrat in the U.S. Senate voted to back this slaughter.

Of course, that was just the first outrage. On July 29 — eleven days later, during which time the Israel Defense Forces killed children in their sleep at the Jabaliya school-turned-shelter, slaughtered civilians in Shujai'ya and increased the overall Palestinian death toll to more than 1,000 — the same body voted 100 to 0 to increase funding to Israel, which already gets \$3.5 billion a year from the U.S.

If you think politicians' morals are being held hostage by the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), think again. The backbone of bourgeois support for Israel's heartless genocide against Palestinians is not the Jewish lobby. It's the indispensable role Israel plays for U.S. imperialism in the Middle East.

Alexander Haig, Ronald Reagan's secretary of state in the 1980s, famously said, "Israel is the largest American aircraft carrier in the world that cannot be

sunk, does not carry even one American soldier, and is located in a critical region for American national security." In 1981, Israel bombed Iraq's Osirak nuclear power plant.

Then there's the latest revelation by journalist Glenn Greenwald, who uses newly disclosed top-secret National Security Agency documents to expose the cooperation between Israel and U.S. intelligence agencies.

An NSA document dated April 19, 2103, states, "The mutually agreed upon geographic [threats] include the countries of North Africa, the Middle East, the Persian Gulf, South Asia, and the Islamic republics of the former Soviet Union."

One of the "key priorities" of this cooperation is "the Iranian nuclear development program, followed by Syrian nuclear efforts, Lebanese Hizbullah plans and intentions, Palestinian terrorism [sic], and Global Jihad." The paper talks about "targeting and exploiting" these.

Greenwald concludes, "The new Snowden documents illustrate a crucial fact: Israeli aggression would be impossible without the constant, lavish support and protection of the U.S. government." (informationclearinghouse.info, Aug. 4)

"The relationship has, on at least one occasion, entailed the covert payment of a large amount of cash to Israeli operatives," Greenwald writes. This has the character of making sure that someone who is doing your bidding has enough resources to do it.

The Palestinian cause has the sympathy of the Arab masses, who are kept down in U.S.-backed dictatorships from Jordan to Egypt to Bahrain. U.S. imperialism will never allow Palestinians to do anything that would truly inspire the region. The consequences would be revolutionary and end the oil industrial complex's never-ending flow of profits.

It was easy and felt good to be anti-war and anti-George W. Bush. He was a dopey conservative who couldn't pronounce "nuclear" and lied about Iraq having weapons of mass destruction.

Yet while literate, liberal President Barack Obama says all the right things about some social liberal issues — and may even bemoan Palestinian casualties here and there — he is backing Israel's genocide to the hilt.

Put your faith in the mobilized working class. It is the only force on Earth that can stop war. □

How the corporate media profit from Israeli genocide

NBC 'witchhunts' reporters who don't give official line

By Joyce Chediak

An anonymous NBC producer described "a top-down intimidation campaign aimed at presenting an Israeli-centric view of the attack on the Gaza Strip," AlterNet journalist Max Blumenthal reported on July 22. "The NBC producer told me that MSNBC President Phil Griffin and NBC executives are micromanaging coverage of the crisis, closely monitoring contributors' social media accounts and engaging in a 'witch hunt' against anyone who strays from the official line."

This follows MSNBC's dropping its sole Palestinian contributor, Rula Jebreal, after she called the network's coverage "disgustingly biased" on MSNBC's "Ronan Farrow Daily" show July 21. She also hit CNN for interviewing "17 Israeli public officials versus one Palestinian."

NBC ordered veteran reporter Ayman Mohyeldin to leave Gaza after his July 17 story on the Israeli shelling deaths of four Palestinian children playing soccer on a beach, which "NBC Nightly News" did not air. Mohyeldin was reinstated after social media outrage.

NBC is not alone in making sure that all reports toe the line. The corporate media in the U.S. have downplayed or disregarded Israel's violations of human rights and international law and instead promoted Tel Aviv's and Washington's view that Israel is "defending itself" and that Hamas and Palestinian "terrorism" are the problem.

The real relationship of forces — repeated, unprovoked Israeli aggression versus Palestinian self-defense measures — if reported at all, is quickly dropped by all the corporate media for a revision of history favoring the Israeli regime and vilifying the Palestinians. This revision is repeated again and again, at all levels of the media.

NBC's owners sell arms to Israel

Why aren't the Palestinian people getting fair coverage?

Some say it is because Jewish people or the Israeli lobby "control" or "unduly influence" U.S. media outlets. But this is not the case.

The real force behind this biased reporting is the huge aggregate of U.S. corporations that pull in mind-boggling profits from exploiting Middle East resources, including the media monopolies themselves.

Take the powerful media conglomerate NBC, for example. Why would NBC be so biased? Because NBC is owned by arms manufacturer General Electric, which profits from the war on Gaza.

GE Aviation makes the propulsion systems in the U.S. aircraft sold to Israel, including the F-16 Fighting Falcon and F-4 Phantom, the "Apache" attack helicopter and the Black Hawk utility helicopter, as well as the Israeli-made Kfir fighter plane. GE also makes parts for Hellfire II laser-guided missiles as well as T-700 and 701C jet engines used by the Israeli military.

NBC executives don't mention that their salaries are paid by a company that makes a mint providing the very weapons that Israel uses. NBC doesn't make a cent from exposing the murder of four Palestinian children playing on a Gaza beach.

Media's 'job': fool the public

The major media are welded to a corporate network in what has become a military-industrial-media complex. The media's "job" is to keep the U.S. public from seeing that a few individuals and corporations reap billions of dollars by exploiting the people of the Middle East and bombing and blockading Gaza. These super-rich hate and fear the national liberation struggles, especially the Palestinian struggle, because the Israeli state, which ousted and replaced Palestine, serves U.S. finance capital so well.

The corporate media have a profit motive, too. They get ads and financial sponsorship from giant corporations. They have interlocking directorates with oil, arms and other companies that profit from Middle East occupations and wars. They use their vast conglomerates of newspapers, magazines, books, networks and entertainment companies to promote a political climate that favors profit-taking while censoring news that interferes with it. The big media eagerly self-censor if it furthers their burning cause: making more money.

In 2008, ExxonMobil made \$1,300 in profits every second. For the military-industrial-media complex, this trumps the truth about Palestine.

ABC: 'making money our only objective'

"We have no obligation to make history. We have no obligation to make art. We have no obligation to make a statement. To make money is our only objective."

When Michael Eisner wrote these candid words in what he thought would remain an internal memo, he was CEO of the Walt Disney Co. The quote appears

in the documentary "Mickey Mouse Monopoly: Disney, Childhood & Corporate Power." The Disney Co. is the second-largest media giant and owns ABC, but it brings in the largest revenue of any media conglomerate in the world.

Only five giant companies — Time Warner (CNN, AOL), Disney (ABC), Rupert Murdoch's News Corp (FOX), Bertelsmann of Germany (the world's biggest publisher of English-language books) and Viacom (formerly CBS) — control most of the television, radio, magazines, newspapers, books, movies, videos, music, photo agencies and wire services that people in this country rely on. GE's NBC is a close sixth. ("The New Media Monopoly" by Ben Bagdikian, Beacon Press, 2004)

The extent of this monopolization is well hidden. But, says Bagdikian, the truth is that "a shrinking number of large media corporations now regard monopoly, oligopoly and historic levels of profit as not only normal, but as their earned right."

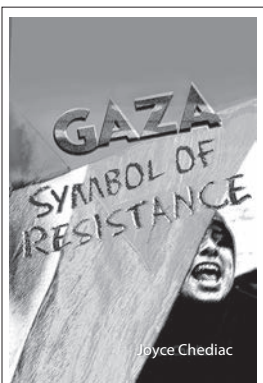
Interlocking directorates with big oil, military

The media monopolies have interlocking directors with Big Oil. GE (NBC) interlocks with Mobil, CNN with Chevron, the New York Times with Texaco (whose parent company is Chevron). And some "public" television news shows are connected to Big Oil through ad revenues. Chevron is a key funder of the most influential show on PBS, the nightly "News Hour with Jim Lehrer." (FAIR, Dec. 19, 2007)

This is why the corporate media are not merely reporting on the war against Gaza; they are part of it. Their job is to wage the propaganda war.

Next: The dirty truth behind the "free press" lie.

Some information in this article is excerpted from the book "Gaza; Symbol of Resistance," which can be ordered at gaza-resistancebook.com.



GAZA Symbol of Resistance

A book of articles from WW, edited by Joyce Chediak
Here is the story of the most heroic resistance since 1948 to unrelenting Israeli oppression and violence designed to drive Palestinians from their homeland.

— Ramsey Clark

gaza-resistancebook.com

Available from major online booksellers

A year after Egyptian massacre

Egypt complicit in Israeli siege on Gaza

By Sara Flounders

Some of the fiercest attacks on Gaza have been Israeli attacks on the Egyptian-Gaza border crossing at Rafah. More than 100 Palestinians were killed in Rafah between Aug. 1 and 3, including 10 children at a well-marked school.

Even U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon, who has been supportive of Israel's fraudulent claims of self-defense, was forced to denounce the latest Israeli attack on the school, which sheltered 3,000 civilians, as a "moral outrage" and a "criminal act." Calling on those responsible for the "gross violation of international humanitarian law" to be held accountable, he noted that the "Israel Defense Forces have been repeatedly informed of the location of these sites." (The Guardian, Aug. 3)

The military dictatorship of Gen. Abdel Fattah el-Sisi in Egypt is in every way complicit in the criminal Zionist war on Gaza and is heavily involved. Egypt's alliance with Israel was a major calculation in the Zionists' opening the war on Gaza. Israel assumed that because Hamas and all the resistance forces in Gaza had been politically isolated in the region, the elected Hamas government would collapse.

Egypt's cooperation with Zionism, especially the military operations on the border at Rafah, thoroughly exposes the dictatorship's unwillingness and inability to defend any form of Egyptian national sovereignty.

Egypt has aided Israel's military offensive on Gaza since Israel began the attack on July 8, claiming that Israel's military onslaught was to destroy tunnels. The Cairo coup government has poured troops into the Sinai Peninsula, and its security operation is openly involved in the destruction of the tunnels that are the lifeblood of Gaza. Through these tunnels food, essential supplies, fuel and weapons for the resistance are smuggled into the blockaded coastal enclave.

On July 27 AFP reported, "Egypt's army said [July 27] that it has destroyed 13 more tunnels connecting the Sinai Peninsula to the Gaza Strip, taking to 1,639 the overall number it has laid waste to."

The Palestinian Center for Human Rights said 520,000 people have been displaced by the fighting — more than

a quarter of Gaza's population. Yet the Egyptian-controlled Rafah border has remained closed throughout the military operation, leaving the population of Gaza with its back to the sea.

Egypt has stopped several convoys carrying medical aid from entering Gaza, where the U.N. has warned that a severe humanitarian crisis is growing. Hospitals are struggling with more than 9,450 people injured by Israel's assault. But Egypt has permitted only 11 injured Palestinians to exit Gaza for hospital treatment. (Middle East Eye, July 25)

Six Israeli warships crossed the Suez Canal from Aug. 1 to 3, an Egyptian official in the Suez Canal Authority revealed. The warships were loaded with 19 tons of military equipment. (occupiedpalestine.wordpress.com, Aug. 3)

Gaza means resistance

Through Egypt's dictatorship and the absolute monarchies in the Gulf, especially Saudi Arabia, the U.S. is working hand in hand with Israel because Gaza represents resistance. The survival of the heroic resistance in Gaza to national oppression, enormous poverty and outright theft of resources is considered a threat to the established order.

The lockdown in Egypt today is in sharp contrast to the mass mood after the revolutionary overthrow of the Mubarak dictatorship in February 2011, when millions of people were in the streets.

In September 2011, the Israeli ambassador to Cairo was forced out of Egypt after thousands of outraged Egyptian protesters attempted to storm the Israeli embassy headquarters following the killing of Egyptian soldiers at the border with Israel.

In November 2012, Egyptians held explosive mass rallies in cities across Egypt in the first days of another Israeli offensive in the Gaza Strip. Many activists were able to get into Gaza with emergency aid during the eight-day "Pillar of Defense" offensive. The offensive ended after Egyptian President Mohamed Morsi was able to broker a truce between Israel and Palestinians.

But now, under the Gen. Sisi military dictatorship, all demonstrations are

stopped with live ammunition and heavy prison sentences.

Coup crushed mass movement

On July 3, 2013, claiming that the Egyptian military was taking temporary action to restore order, Gen. Sisi overthrew the democratically elected Morsi government in a military coup and suspended the Egyptian constitution. The elected government, the cabinet, elected members of Parliament, and hundreds of officials and popular leaders were rounded up. Thousands were killed in the opening weeks of the crackdown.

Almost a year ago on Aug. 14, Egyptian security forces raided two encampments of thousands of protesters, primarily from the Muslim Brotherhood, who were opposed to the coup and were supporters of ousted President Morsi. In a surprise attack, the two encampments, one at al-Nahda Square and a larger one at Rabaa al-Adawiya Mosque, which had existed for six weeks, were raided and set on fire by the military.

Videos and photos from the encampments showed horrific scenes of tents and bodies in flames. The mosque was burned with hundreds trapped inside. More than 2,600 died in the heavy assault.

Many forces in Egypt who had their own grievances with the Morsi government initially applauded the coup. But the Egyptian military has been for decades since the Camp David Accords a thoroughly corrupt collaborator with U.S. imperialism and Israel. The military has no interest in any form of democracy.

The Sisi dictatorship shut down all opposition. Since the coup, over 40,000 people have been arrested. All forms of protest are violently suppressed. More than 1,200 people have since been sentenced to death in fraudulent, speedy, mass trials.

The U.S. government knew beforehand of Gen. Sisi's coup plans and approved of them. Afterward Washington continued military and economic aid, and the credits and loans since the coup are a signal of its approval and a way of strengthening the new regime. The absolute monarchies of the Gulf States, especially Saudi Arabia, have also committed new funds to the coup government.

The Morsi government had attempted at every juncture to stay within the narrow confines of the Egyptian state structure. It did not put forth a radical program. Why then were Washington and the Egyptian military so opposed to its very existence that they would take such a drastic step as a violent coup against the overwhelmingly popular elected government?

The Muslim Brotherhood had deep roots among the poorest in Egypt, based on decades of providing basic social programs such as schools, food and health programs. More than 80 percent of the population lives in dire poverty.

With the overthrow of the Mubarak dictatorship and the opportunity to elect a democratic government, the expectations of the masses of people were aroused. Wall Street, the reactionary Saudi monarchy and the Egyptian military remained fearful that the mass support of the Brotherhood as a movement would always be a form of mass pressure on the government, pushing it in a progressive direction and away from accommodation with Wall Street's demands for cuts in subsidies and improvements in social programs and away from accommodation with Israel and its war on the Palestinian people.

Corporate power in the U.S. is suspicious of and fears any and every democratically elected government, whether in Latin America, Asia or Africa. This is not a calculation based on ideology. Again and again, the U.S. has aligned with the most corrupt absolute monarchies, such as in the Gulf States, and with thinly veiled military rule in Egypt or Colombia.

Despite a much less favorable regional and international situation than in past Zionist offensives, the entire resistance movement in Gaza, although massively outgunned, remains confident of their ultimate victory.

Hamas' bloc in the Palestinian parliament said in a statement that any unilateral pullout by Israel would mean that "it has failed to achieve any of its goals and would be a clear defeat for the occupation army and for its leaders. Gaza resisted, endured and will achieve victory." (Mail & Guardian, Aug. 3)

Break the siege on Gaza! □

An assassination that announced World War I

By John Catalinotto

July 31 — One hundred years ago today a brutal assassination announced the outbreak of World War I.

No, it was not the killing in Sarajevo of Archduke Ferdinand, representative of the Austro-Hungarian Empire. The June 28, 1914, shooting of this inconsequential political figure, who was scorned by his own royal family and despised by the militarists in Vienna, was the pretext the empire used to declare war on Serbia and begin the great slaughter.

The French socialist and anti-militarist Jean Jaurès was the significant political figure killed on July 31, 1914, shot in the Croissant café in Paris by an ultra-right fanatic. Jaurès' death opened the door wide to war. The capitalist governments of all the European powers then leapt through that door to join the battle that Austria had begun against Serbia on July 28.

Jaurès was a principled opponent of the imperialist war, though not a representative of the far left of the socialist

Second International — as were Vladimir Lenin in Russia and Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht in Germany.

Of all the socialist leaders in France, perhaps in all the continent, he was the most effective and moving orator. He had proved his valor earlier by standing up alongside the great writer Émile Zola against right-wing public opinion in the infamous Alfred Dreyfus Affair. He fought for nonreligious schools and workers' rights and against the military draft.

Despite his reluctance to go beyond parliamentary activity in his struggle against capitalism, Jaurès' speeches were effective in mobilizing the masses. His reputation among the workers was impeccable.

At the last meetings of the Second International before the war, Jaurès agitated for organizing an international general strike to prevent the war's outbreak or stop it once it started.

Since he was cut down so early in the war, the world will never know if Jaurès would have hewed to these principles.

Aside from the minority left group around Lenin, Luxemburg and Liebknecht, most of the leaders from the imperialist countries in the Second International surrendered to national chauvinism and supported the war.

But there is no doubt that Jaurès' assassination wiped out the most effective voice opposing the war in France.

Capitalism means war

Jaurès did have a way with words, and one sentence he boomed out at meetings in July 100 years ago rings as true now as it did then: "Capitalism carries within itself war the way clouds carry a thunderstorm."

Here it is, 2014, and war clouds again threaten the world — a world that is all too capitalist, with an economy much more globalized than it was in 1914. The world is trapped in a prolonged capitalist crisis that shows no sign of relenting. The bosses, billionaires and bankers, frustrated in their search for profits, have only this strategy: Continually squeeze

the working class more each day and use the economic and military power of their national states to grab resources, markets and labor power by subjugating peoples.

Right now U.S. imperialism is leading the pack of predator states — including the big European powers, Japan, Canada, Australia and the Israeli state. That group wages local wars aimed at grabbing plunder, and these small wars can easily turn into regional if not continental battles.

Since 1999, U.S. aggression and subversion have ripped apart Yugoslavia, destroyed Iraq and Afghanistan, wrecked Libya, destabilized much of North and West Africa, and caused horrible damage and deaths to Syria. Now, in Ukraine, U.S./NATO intervention has placed pro-fascist elements in the Kiev regime and opened a conflict with Russia that carries the threat of a global conflagration.

In the Pacific, U.S.-led war exercises have brought together 25,000 troops from the imperialist states and some of its cli-

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WORKERS WORLD editorial

Remember the Tonkin Gulf lie!

Aug. 4 is the 50th anniversary of the infamous Gulf of Tonkin incident. On that day in 1964, officers of a destroyer, the USS Maddox, which had been gathering intelligence data in North Vietnamese waters, claimed that three North Vietnamese Coast Guard patrol boats fired at them without provocation. It was a bald-faced lie.

The Lyndon Johnson administration used the alleged shots from the patrol boats as a pretext to escalate U.S. intervention in Vietnam. The Pentagon immediately bombed North Vietnam's port city of Haiphong and the capital, Hanoi. And on Aug. 7 the U.S. Senate approved by a vote of 98-2 the Tonkin Gulf Resolution, which gave Johnson a free hand to intervene in Vietnam.

The war ended nearly 11 years later when the Vietnamese drove the U.S. and its puppet regime out of South Vietnam, liberating the entire country. But this war cost 3 million Vietnamese and 58,000 U.S. lives.

In August 1964, the vast majority of the U.S. population believed Johnson and all the media that parroted the government's claims. The lie fooled many people and browbeat others.

By 1971, the tide had turned. Most people opposed the war. With the publication of the Pentagon Papers, anyone following the news could read that the government had been lying through its teeth all along in order to get backing for the war and that the corporate media went in lockstep to repeat these lies. Like Iraq's "weapons of mass destruction," the Tonkin incident was proven to be a Big Lie.

The reason it's important to repeat this history — it won't be repeated too loudly in the corporate media, and they won't draw the correct conclusions — is that it arms the working class and anti-war movement against the Big Lies of the capitalist government and its monolithic media machine.

When you hear the rants of the government and media blaming Russia and the Ukrainian rebels for the crash of the

Malaysian plane, remember the Gulf of Tonkin.

When you hear the repetition in the imperialist and pro-Zionist media blaming Hamas for the fighting in Gaza, even though Israeli bombs, shells and rockets are killing mostly civilians and hundreds of children, remember the Gulf of Tonkin.

There's another reason to bring up this event. It is important to have a working-class party that has the determination to stand up to the Big Lie and face down ruling-class public opinion.

Following the first bombing raids in Vietnam in 1964, today's Workers World Editor-in-Chief Deirdre Griswold and Contributing Editor Fred Goldstein, then young leaders in Youth Against War & Fascism, stayed up all night to write a leaflet that nailed the alleged attack as a phony pretext for expanding the war. Others active in Workers World Party distributed that leaflet at an all-day protest at the United Nations the next day.

It is vital even for a small revolutionary group to swim against the tide. In the case of Vietnam, that act of protest led to the anti-war flood in the years to come.

When you think about why we need a revolutionary party that can hold its ground in a crisis, remember the Gulf of Tonkin incident. □

NATO's global offensive

This article by Manlio Dinucci is republished from his "Art of War" column in the Italian newspaper Il Manifesto of July 29. Translated by Workers World managing editor John Catalinotto.

There's no holiday this summer for NATO; it's working overtime. In preparation for the Summit of Heads of State and Government on Sept. 4-5 in Newport, Wales, NATO will set down its blueprint for "strategic adaptation" to move against Russia. As already announced by U.S. Gen. Philip Breedlove, the Supreme Allied Commander in Europe, it "will cost money, time and effort." The work has already begun.

tion — and the satisfaction of building a paper dedicated to the axiom "Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite!"

WWSP members are an indispensable resource, along with our dedicated volunteer staff. Both ensure that Workers World newspaper brings working-class truth to people who are sick and tired of endless wars, injustice, inequality, racism, austerity and all the other ills of dead-end capitalism. If you want another way to fight back, join the WW Supporter Program.

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Colombian GM workers continue fight



Encampment at U.S. Embassy in Colombia.

A group of injured workers set up a tent encampment outside the U.S. Embassy in Bogotá, Colombia, on Aug. 1, 2011. Formerly exemplary workers at General Motors' Colmotores plant, they were among hundreds who had been fired after sustaining work-related injuries that left them unable to do their jobs. The Association of Injured Workers and Ex-workers of Colmotores chose the U.S. Embassy because the U.S. government had bailed out GM during bankruptcy and was, at that time, a majority shareholder.

Three years later, after holding four hunger strikes with their lips sewn shut and two staged crucifixions, and, recently, burying themselves up to their necks, workers are still holding up the encamp-

ment while GM refuses to even meet with them. What they want is to be retrained by GM for jobs they can perform with their disabilities. GM continues to deny that they were hurt on the job and claims it offered the workers a "generous" settlement during a mediation two years ago.

The Asotrecol Solidarity Network has held many protests outside GM dealerships and, in Detroit, outside GM world headquarters — where they demonstrated again on the occasion of the encampment's third anniversary.

As shown by this recent photo from the encampment, the workers know that their struggle is part of the global struggle of all workers and oppressed people.

For more info, visit asotrecol.org.

— Martha Grevatt

Build this Marxist voice:
SUPPORT WW

Ever since July 1977, subscribers and friends of Workers World newspaper have been contributing to the WW Supporter Program to make sure the paper stays independent, self-sufficient and accessible. WWSP members understand the importance of being able to hand a Marxist-Leninist paper directly to working and oppressed people — during People's Assemblies for \$15 an hour and a union, Freedom Friday demonstrations in Detroit, Moral Monday actions in Raleigh, N.C., or police brutality protests in Oakland, Calif.

Thanks to this vital circle of support, WW has been able to keep pace with the latest technology while also providing a print edition, while many left publications can only be read online. In exchange, WWSP members receive a monthly letter about a topical issue, five free subscriptions, automatic renewal of their subscrip-

Libya in 2011, NATO signed an agreement last May in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, that increases military assistance provided to the African Union, in particular for the education and training of brigades of the African Standby Force, which also provides "planning and naval air transport." It thus has a determining voice in decisions on where and how to deploy them. Another tool is the Ocean Shield "anti-piracy" operation in the Indian Ocean and the strategically important Gulf of Aden.

Italian warships participated in this operation, conducted in concert with the U.S. Africa Command. The Italians' task was to forge relationships with the armed forces of the seacoast countries: For this purpose the guided missile destroyer Mimbelli made a stopover at Dar Es Salaam in Tanzania from July 13 to 17.

In Latin America, NATO signed a "Security Agreement" in 2013 with Colombia, which was already involved in military programs of the alliance; Colombia may soon become a partner. In this context, the U.S. Southern Command in Colombia is holding an exercise of South and North American Special Forces, with the participation of 700 commandos.

In the Pacific, Rimpac 2014 is now taking place. This is the world's largest maritime exercise, directed against China and Russia. Under U.S. command, 25,000 soldiers from 22 countries with 55 ships and 200 warplanes are participating. NATO is present through the naval forces of the U.S., Canada, Britain, France, the Netherlands and Norway, plus Italy, Germany and Denmark as observers. The "North Atlantic Treaty Organization" has been extended to the Pacific. □

Ukraine: Who will pay for the war?

By Sergei Kirichuk
Union Borotba (Struggle)

The militant nationalist sentiments of supporters of the “Anti-Terrorist Operation” (ATO) have always been combined with expectations that the most difficult work for the Kiev government will be done by the West. At first it was thought that the European Union and the International Monetary Fund would pay for European integration, offsetting economic losses from the introduction of new standards. Ukrainians were then told that the IMF would provide money to “stabilize” the economy.

However, we learned that in reality the international financial institution imposes a neoliberal reform plan that includes cannibalistic cutbacks in social spending, increases in utility tariffs, freezing of pensions and salaries, and large-scale privatization — this time with the requirement “to establish control over all the territory of the country.” Thus, the IMF played an important role in pushing the Kiev junta toward a bloody war in the east.

Then, after the tragic destruction of the Malaysian aircraft, predictions widely spread of an imminent invasion by NATO troops, who would quickly inflict a crushing defeat of the “separatists.” Significantly, in the first hours after the tragedy, the notion quickly spread in the Ukrainian segment of social networks that many U.S. citizens were aboard [Flight] MH-17 and a U.S. invasion was inevitable.

However, most Ukrainian citizens simply do not understand the structure of public opinion in the EU and the U.S. The majority of voters, both in the EU and the U.S., are very anti-militarist. Suffice it to say that the in-

vasion of Afghanistan required as a pretext the biggest terrorist attack in U.S. history: the destruction of the World Trade Center. While abstaining here from any assessment of those events, it should be emphasized that for an open military invasion, Western public opinion requires very serious and obvious reasons — especially after the exposure of the lies about weapons of mass destruction in Iraq.

Even the expansion of economic sanctions against Russia was extremely controversial in Europe, since the transition from sanctions on individuals to economic sectors will damage European businesses closely associated with Russian investment programs.

So far the Kiev government has been left to deal with its own military, political and financial problems. Meanwhile, the war has virtually emptied the Ukrainian treasury. The ATO, which consumes about 1.5 billion hryvnia [2.01 billion dollars] per month, has put on the agenda the question of finding sources of funding for the war.

The establishment of unlimited control over the government by Ukrainian oligarchs removes the country's richest people from the equation. Not only are they not going to lose money in this conflict; they also intend to increase their wealth at the cost of the largest privatization of the past 20 years, [Ukrainian Prime Minister] Arseniy Yatsenyuk announced, and through the supply of weapons, equipment, fuel and food to the Ukrainian army at vastly inflated prices.

The poorest sectors of the population are offered up to pay the costs, both indirectly (through frozen salaries and pensions and cuts in social spending) and directly (through higher utility rates).

Kiev has already officially announced new price increases in this most corrupt segment of the Ukrainian economy for Aug. 1. Well-known Ukrainian lawyer Tatyana Montyan has repeatedly pointed out the complete concealment of tariff-setting policy and lack of civilian control in this area. Meanwhile, this will be the second large-scale increase since the beginning of the conflict, causing confusion among the people: Will housing rates really rise every month? Given that in most areas of Kiev hot water is already shut off indefinitely, citizens will be left to solve the problem of heating this winter at their own expense.

Mass impoverishment, plunder of state property, robbing the population through exorbitant housing rates — these are the true results of the continuing ATO. More and more people understand this. However, the government is prepared to declare any disgruntled people as “agents of the FSB [Russian State Security],” as Yatsenyuk has already done. Protests will be suppressed by right-wing paramilitaries of the National Guard, and participants will be prosecuted for their “unpatriotic” attitude.

This raises the question of tactics of the left and democratic forces, who are already facing a new wave of repression. It is obvious that the time for picketing the government has already passed. Most likely, in the near future we will see new forms of struggle in the form of spontaneous civil disobedience. The massive evasion of conscription has become a much more important protest than any previous anti-war actions.

The organizer of this disobedience is the masses. And they are not in jail.

Translated by Greg Butterfield. tinyurl.com/kbom4pw.

Ukrainian Nazis and the ‘Commissar Order’

Victor Shapinov, of the Marxist organization Union Borotba (Struggle), makes the connection between the Nazi practice of extermination of communists and commissars in 1941 and the latest news about the “Anti-Terrorist Operation” that is currently targeting communists and leftist activists in Ukraine. The article originally appeared on the website Actual-Comment.ru and was translated by Workers World Contributing Editor Greg Butterfield.

By Victor Shapinov
Union Borotba (Struggle)

The “Commissar Order” (Richtlinien für die Behandlung politischer Kommissare) was issued by the Supreme Command of the Wehrmacht on June 6, 1941 — two weeks before Nazi Germany attacked the Soviet Union. The decree stated that “the commissars are not recognized as soldiers; they are not covered by the international legal protections for [prisoners of war]. After sorting them out, destroy them.”

In Operational Order Number 8 of July 17, 1941, Reinhard Heydrich, chief of the SS [armed wing of the Nazi Party's Schutzstaffel] and Security Police, set the task of teams operating in the occupied territories: “First of all, they should identify: all major public party workers, ... all former political commissars of the Red Army, ... senior economic officials, Soviet-Russian intellectuals, all Jews, all who are known as instigators or fanatical communists.” Such “dangerous persons,” even if they did not resist, should be shot on the spot or sent to death camps.

Remember the Nazi practice of extermination of communists and commissars when reading the latest news

from the “Anti-Terrorist Operation.”

On July 17, Sergey Dolgov, well-known journalist and editor in chief of the Mariupol newspaper “I Want the USSR,” was found dead near Dnepropetrovsk. On June 18, immediately after the occupation forces seized Mariupol, armed men in civilian clothes took him away from his office to an unknown location. Presumably, it could have been the “Dnepr-1” Battalion, which was funded by oligarch Igor Kolomoisky. The journalist's body showed signs of torture.

Other news: On the night of July 22, at a National Guard roadblock near the village of Luzhki, Donetsk region, the Secretary of the Communist Party in Glinka and Deputy Village Councilor Vyacheslav Kovshun, born in 1956, was killed.

More news: In the Donetsk region, First Secretary of the Volnovakha District Committee of the Communist Party Sergey Filindash was kidnapped. On July 30, Filindash's home in Volnovakha was raided by masked men. Before the eyes of his wife and children, they seized Filindash and took him to an unknown destination.

These killings of leftist activists are not coincidental. Militants of the “Anti-Terrorist Operation” write openly about the need to destroy people holding leftist and communist views.

For example, there's a memo by a spokesperson of the ATO, also head of the press service of the neo-Nazi National-Social Assembly, Igor Mosiychuk. This was posted on social media by another member of the punitive operation in Donbass, Sergei Vakula.

In this post, claiming to be “intelligence,” the Ukrainian Nazi calls for “mopping up these freaks.” Among the “freaks” and “degenerates,” according to

the enlightened opinion of this Maidan Democrat, are “commies,” “many leftists” and “anti-fascists.”

“After the victory of the revolution they were silent for a while, and then intensified their padded rallies. Subsequently, they unanimously supported the idea of creating a ‘New Russia.’ Their most active aggressive force became the Union Borotba,” writes the Nazi political analyst.

“In this regard I ask activists to draw attention to the activities of these degenerates who hold anti-Ukrainian views and do a sweep of these freaks,” concludes his “memo.”

I note that this is not just the writing of a teenage skinhead, but an officer of the “Azov” Battalion of the National Guard of Ukraine. He has military rank and police authority.

The law enforcement agencies of Ukraine speak unashamedly about the physical destruction of political opponents. They speak the same language, in the same terms, as the leaders of the Nazi Wehrmacht and the Gestapo.

After the Maidan's victory, Nazis such as Mosiychuk became staff of the Interior Ministry and security services. Now this is not just an “extremist view” — it is the most important and active part of the state apparatus of “democratic” Ukraine. And if the Maidan regime does nothing else, it gives guys like the Nazi Mosiychuk the opportunity to conduct purges of “unreliable” elements, not only in the ATO zone, embodying the popular slogan on Maidan of “communists to the gallows.”

We are often asked: Why do you, Borotba, support the AntiMaidan movement, because there are Orthodox and Russian nationalists, etc., etc.?

To answer this question, it is possible to carry out a social class analysis of the Maidan and AntiMaidan, to see which side the oligarchs and world imperialism support.

But there is a more simple and banal answer: The Maidan people want to kill me and my comrades. The AntiMaidan people do not want to kill us. □

WAR WITHOUT VICTORY

by Sara Flounders

“By revealing the underbelly of the empire, Flounders sheds insight on how to stand up to the imperialist war machine and, in so doing, save ourselves and humanity.”

— Miguel d'Escoto Brockmann,
President, U.N. General Assembly, 2008-2009;
Foreign Minister of Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

Available at major online booksellers.

PentagonAchillesHeel.com

An assassination that announced World War I

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ents that threaten north Korea, Russia and China, which Washington more and more treats as a mortal enemy.

In Palestine, with the full backing of Washington and the European powers, the Israeli militarized outpost of imperialism is waging a one-sided war against a heroic people in Gaza who refuse to submit.

Jaurès hit the bull's eye with his comment. Today's thunderheads have already brought storms to the Middle East, Central Asia, North Africa and Eastern Europe. As the capitalist crisis deepens, they threaten to spread even beyond the control of those who launched those wars.

The European leaders 100 years ago, who willingly led millions into war, all expected victory — and a quick one. They wound up with four years of slaughter and 20 million to 40 million deaths.

Those who want to fight against these wars, to stop the killing already underway, to keep the killing and destruction from spreading must also realize that the only way to stop them for good is to fight them at their roots. The struggle must be massive, in the factories and offices and in the streets, directed against the capitalist system that “carries within itself war the way clouds carry a thunderstorm.” □



WW PHOTO: GLORIA VERDIEU

De Eric Garner a la Palestina ocupada: enemigo y lucha común

Por Henry Hagins

Con la Decisión Dred Scott de 1857 como telón de fondo, existen inquietantes paralelos entre el asesinato racista y cobarde de Eric Garner por la policía de Nueva York y el continuo asalto genocida contra el heroico pueblo palestino por el estado militar sionista de Israel. Estos paralelos están fervientemente anclados en la ideología de excepcionalidad, expansión imperial y supremacía blanca. Van al corazón mismo de la manera en que Estados Unidos se convirtió en un imperio sin precedentes, junto a la creación de Israel como una extensión para ese fin.

En efecto, este estado colonial, intrusivamente plantado en el Medio Oriente, debe mucho de su existencia y comportamiento al modelo amenazante del mundo, cuidadosamente elaborado por Estados Unidos desde su sangriento inicio. Israel es una "mini-copia" de la codicia imperialista y dominación estadounidense.

La población indígena de lo que iba a ser conocido como América del Norte fue prácticamente eliminada y sustituida por esclavas/os africanos depositados por fuerza en sus orillas. Ni los pueblos indígenas ni las/os africanos, al contrario de lo que dicen los mitos, pasivamente aceptaron las prácticas de robo de tierras y mano de obra. El cacique Crazy Horse y Harriet Tubman inmediatamente llegan a la memoria como símbolos de resistencia. La rebelión sigue en las venas de sus hijas/os a pesar de los intentos de la clase dominante por pacificar y alzar cortinas de humo para ocultar sus hechos vergonzosos.

Como señalara proféticamente el Dr. Martin Luther King: "La verdad aplastada resucitará". Su monumento recientemente erigido en Washington, nunca podrá ocultar totalmente la guerra de Edgar Hoover y el FBI contra él y otras/os luchadores por la libertad. Muchas/os todavía recuerdan el discurso que King dio en abril 1967 en la Iglesia Riverside en Nueva York en la cual se opuso fuertemente a la criminal presencia militar de EUA en Vietnam.

La decisión Dred Scott de 1857, presidida por el juez del Tribunal Supremo Roger B. Taney, vilmente reafirmó la creencia legal y cultural de que las/os africanos en EUA, esclavos o libres, no tenían derechos que los blancos tuvieran que respetar. Al ver la muerte de Eric Garner por la Policía de Nueva York (NYPD) y el pretexto de Israel sobre la muerte de tres adolescentes israelíes como razón para reanudar sus ataques genocidas contra las/os palestinos por un estado altamente militarizado, las violaciones se hacen inevitables en el contexto de la Decisión de Dred Scott.

Privación de derechos y destrucción

El afroamericano Eric Garner vivía en la sección negra y latina de Staten Island que está ocupada por el NYPD. Las/os palestinos viven en Gaza y Cisjordania, controladas por Israel. Ambos pueblos están sujetos a los caprichos de los ejércitos de ocupación. En ambos casos sus derechos humanos y políticos han sido erosionados todos los días. La historia de desprecio y la evasión de la responsabilidad por haber causado tanto dolor están bien documentadas, pero hipócritamente negadas por los ocupantes.

Para colmo de males, las partes asediadas son descaradamente culpadas por ser autores de su propia miseria y/o muerte por estas mismas fuerzas fuertemente armadas y numéricamente superiores.

El video de la muerte de Eric Garner el 17 de julio muestra claramente lo que sucedió cuando la

nefasta policía le rodeó. Tenía las manos en alto cuando el estrangulamiento mortal fue aplicado como ataque sorpresa por la espalda. Mientras lo abatían en el suelo, sus últimas palabras fueron "No puedo respirar". Sus aseveraciones sobre no haber cometido delito alguno fueron ignoradas, expresando indignación por haber sido acosado por la policía. Según el video, ningún intento fue hecho para restaurar su respiración ni por la policía ni por el servicio médico de urgencia.

No sorprende que ninguno de los policías implicados en la muerte de Garner haya sido acusado de ningún delito, y mucho menos de su asesinato. De hecho, Daniel Pantaleo, el oficial que atacó y estranguló a Garner, ha sido puesto en trabajo de oficina a pesar de tener historial conocido de abuso policial.

Hay historias innumerables, indignantes y humillantes de palestinas/os que han sido abusados en los puestos de control, desde abusos sexuales hasta asesinatos a manos de los colonos y las fuerzas militares israelíes. El presidente israelí Ben Netanyahu, al igual que el jefe de policía de Nueva York Bill Bratton, dice una cosa mientras hace otra, defendiendo estas prácticas obscenas. ¡En 2012, la policía de Nueva York abrió una oficina en Israel!



Terrorismo de estado

Las/os negros y latinas/os en EUA, como sus hermanos y hermanas en Palestina, siguen siendo objetivo del terrorismo patrocinado por el estado. Está reforzado con las leyes declaradas y no declaradas de Jim Crow. Los resultados son prácticamente los mismos. ¡Los resultados son inaceptables!

Adolfo Hitler, en su libro "Mein Kampf", acredita al propio EUA en la fundación de la fórmula que utilizó para el robo de la tierra, la reducción de la población y la esclavización de los sujetos en su persecución demencial de la dominación del mundo.

Estados Unidos trata de dominar el mundo. Las justificaciones ofrecidas se encuentran en las nociones del destino manifiesto, el excepcionalísimo estadounidense, la expansión imperial, junto con porciones abiertas, crudas o ingeniosamente escondidas de racismo. Ese es el combustible que alimenta su sistema económico y político. Y eso no va a cambiar por su propia voluntad.

Israel, como una extensión de esta ideología, añadió el terrible y engañoso discurso de "Una tierra sin pueblo, para un pueblo sin tierra" para justificar, desde 1948, el desplazamiento despiadado del pueblo palestino.

Un socio menor en la lujuria de EUA por control del mundo y sus recursos, en particular el petróleo, el gas y el agua en la región, Israel ha sido respaldado con un sinnúmero de reservas de armas militares y políticas (por valor de miles de millones de dólares), como recompensa y obligación para llevar a cabo los planes insidiosos de su benefactor implacable, así como sus propios planes. No puede prevalecer.

Mientras rendimos homenaje a la memoria de Eric Garner, Anthony Báez, Amadou Diallo, Eleanor Bumpers, Ramarley Graham, Kimani Gray, Kyam Livingston y tantos en este momento de asalto de Israel inspirado por el imperialismo estadounidense, aquí en este país y en el exterior, recordemos la amonestación del camarada Joe Hill, ¡"No lloren, organicen"! La verdad es que "Todas/os somos Gaza".

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Editorial

¿Qué mantiene al pueblo palestino luchando?

Los gobernantes israelíes, con el Pentágono, Wall Street y Washington respaldándoles, están utilizando los actos más atroces para romper el espíritu de los palestinos con asesinatos masivos indiscriminados. Atacando a Gaza, principalmente desde el aire, sus bombas y cohetes han asesinado a más de 1.800 palestinas/os en esta guerra atroz. Sus blancos - pequeños niños en la playa, niñas/os en un patio de recreo, hospitales que tratan de salvar a las/os heridos, edificios de apartamentos llenos de gente - parecen ser objetivos deliberadamente escogidos para demostrar que no se detendrán ante nada para aplastar la resistencia.

Sin embargo, ahora Israel no se fía de enviar sus tropas al centro de la ciudad de Gaza, a sabiendas de que, aunque solo unos pocos soldados más sean asesinados, el efecto político se sentirá por toda la sociedad israelí y tornará a más personas en contra de este horror.

Los imperialistas y sus protegidos en Tel Aviv luchan para encontrar algo siniestro o irracional en la determinación de los palestinos a no ceder ante el terror israelí. Pero la creciente opinión mundial encuentra heroica esa resistencia y más despreciables los crímenes de Israel.

A pesar de toda la desinformación, dos cosas se vuelven más claras.

Las/os palestinos no dejarán de luchar por ser indígenas del lugar que ahora se llama "Israel" y pueden trazar su cultura y sus ancestros por incontables generaciones. Tienen sus raíces en la tierra y en el suelo. Conocen cada olivo que ha ido creciendo desde antes de que sus padres y abuelos nacieran. Lucharán sin final por la libertad y la autodeterminación de esta tierra que les ha sido robada.

La mayoría de las/os israelíes en cambio, son colonos o descendientes de colonos. La ola que llegó de Europa en 1948 temía un resurgimiento del terrible holocausto nazi que había acabado con tantos millones de judíos allí. Palestina no fue su primera opción, pero EUA había cerrado sus fronteras a la mayoría de estos posibles inmigrantes, mientras daba dinero y apoyo diplomático al proyecto sionista.

Una vez Israel se hizo más rico, una segunda ola de judíos emigró allí desde EUA y otros países por razones económicas e ideológicas. Su mentalidad colonial es similar a la de los colonos blancos en el sur de África que se beneficiaron de la dominación de los pueblos indígenas y sus tierras.

Es por esto que en todo el mundo quienes se oponen al colonialismo y al imperialismo claman por la autodeterminación para el pueblo palestino - apoyan el derecho a su propio Estado independiente, en su propia patria. El régimen israelí se niega a reconocer siquiera la existencia de las/os palestinos como pueblo. EUA durante años ha estado fingiendo ser un intermediario honesto al tratar de forzar condiciones sobre los palestinos que les harían renunciar a su derecho a la libre determinación.

El fundador del Partido Workers World/Mundo Obrero, Sam Marcy, escribió hace más de dos décadas cómo 50.000 judíos, muchos emigrantes de Europa con el apoyo del movimiento sionista, vivían junto a 1,25 millones de palestinas/os en la década de 1920.

"Si hubiese sido sólo una inmigración de judíos individuales que buscan un refugio por los actos antisemitas continuos en Europa", escribió Marcy, "podría ser considerado desde un punto de vista totalmente comprensivo. Pero fue mucho más que eso. Era parte de una concepción planificada y diseñada para hacerse cargo de Palestina y dispersar y expulsar a la población nativa. ...

"Viéndolo en términos abstractos desde el punto de vista de la mera lógica, sin buscar sus raíces materiales, podría parecer simplemente un plan fantástico. Pero esta fantasmagoría fue parte de lo que en el siglo 19 se había convertido en una práctica común.

"¿No es todo el hemisferio occidental el resultado de bárbaras invasiones que provocaron el desplazamiento y el exterminio de millones de nativos/os, un proceso que continúa hasta el día de hoy?

"No es correcto divorciar y aislar la invasión de Palestina de todo el curso de invasiones imperialistas y la subyugación de los pueblos oprimidos durante varios siglos". ("Palestina y el nuevo orden mundial", Mundo Obrero, 13 de febrero 1992)

Entonces, como ahora, el heroico pueblo palestino merece el apoyo total en su lucha por lograr el derecho a controlar su propio destino en su propia tierra. □