

MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite! workers.org Vol. 66, No. 31 August 1, 2024

VENEZUELA WINS!

WWP STATEMENT

Workers World Party congratulates President Nicolás Maduro and the Venezuelan people on their successful election!

The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela organized, in painstaking detail, a successful and fair election. President Maduro's reelection, with a majority of the vote, is a victory for the Bolivarian revolution.

Approximately 1,000 international solidarity delegates and election observers witnessed the July 28 presidential election. The election was orderly and well-run. Millions of people participated with great enthusiasm, despite weeks of dire predictions of violence and disruptions in the capitalist media.

U.S. imperialists remain determined to overturn the gains of the Venezuelan people. They invested heavily in creating and funding opposition parties and opposition media. Daily announcements of fraudulent polls were part of the effort. Right-wing forces in Venezuela and throughout Latin America were mobilized to declare, in advance, that they would not accept the reelection of President



Maduro, representing the Socialist Unity Party of Venezuela. U.S. coup efforts have intensified following the orderly election with international imperialist denunciations and violent right-wing protests.

More than ten years of increasingly torturous U.S. economic sanctions have attempted to push back every gain of the Venezuelan working class and sow dissension and demoralization. Venezuela's bank accounts and gold were seized, and its ability to sell oil in international markets was blocked. Attempted assassinations were constant. Hyperinflation and shortages were artificially created.

As this electoral victory again confirms, the people of Venezuela remain determined to defend their sovereignty and build toward a brighter socialist future. □

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Our new format

To our readers: Beginning in July, we changed our PDFs for non-print editions. The new size is a standard letter-sized paper for convenient reprints. Feel free to print and distribute the articles that start on page 3.

We will still be producing a monthly print issue in the tabloid-sized layouts you are familiar with.

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Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it's the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and auster-
ity, racism and repression, attacks on
im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2S+
oppression and mistreatment of people
with disabilities. It means joblessness,
increasing homelessness and impover-
ishment and lack of hope for the future.
No social problems can be solved under
capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the
world, yet no one has a guaranteed right
to shelter, food, water, health care, edu-
cation or anything else — unless they can
pay for it. Wages are lower than ever,
and youth are saddled with seemingly
insurmountable student debt, if they

even make it to college. Black, Brown
and Indigenous youth and trans people
are gunned down by cops and bigots on
a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks
to wipe out decades of gains and benefits
won by hard-fought struggles by people's
movements. The super-rich and their
political representatives have intensified
their attacks on the multinational, mul-
tigender and multigenerational working
class. It is time to point the blame at —
and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because
the working class produces all wealth in
society, and this wealth should remain
in their hands, not be stolen in the form
of capitalist profits. The wealth workers
create should be socially owned and its
distribution planned to satisfy and guar-
antee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has
been out in the streets defending the
workers and oppressed here and world-
wide. If you're interested in Marxism,
socialism and fighting for a socialist
future, please contact a WWP branch
near you. □

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In D.C. and countrywide

Protests demand Netanyahu's arrest

By Martha Grevatt

When one of the bloodiest Zionists in history speaks in the U.S. Congress, in front of the politicians who provided the war criminal with the arms he has used to commit the outright murder of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian people in Gaza, protests are more than necessary. They are required.

Tens of thousands of people came to **Washington, D.C.**, on July 24, to protest Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu at the Watergate Hotel where he stayed and inside the Capitol rotunda. They rallied and marched along Constitution Avenue and even withstood some pepper spray deployed by police at times to justifiably demand Netanyahu's immediate arrest for crimes against humanity.

Netanyahu is the Israeli leader responsible for the bombing and starvation of the Palestinians in Gaza, facilitated by tens of billions of dollars in military aid from the U.S. government. Congress passed and President Joe Biden signed a foreign funding bill on April 24 that included \$17 billion for Israel. (Al Jazeera, April 24)

Lee Siu Hin, National Coordinator of the China-U.S. Solidarity Network, who marched in Washington, stated: "The energy of the activists from across the country is enormous! Despite our protests, the attack on Gaza has been nonstop for the past 10 months.

"We are very angry to see that 'Genocide Joe' and the U.S. war machine are determined to continue to support the Israel Occupation Forces and protect Netanyahu, the war criminal, by



Washington, D.C., July 24, 2024.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

sending tens of thousands of militarized police, from as far as from New York City, against activists. [They were kept inside] miles of large area fencing to block us out, far away from the Capitol.

"They are just cowards, with pepper spray or bombs, hiding behind their fences from the voices of people across the world."

The day before Netanyahu's speech, there were numerous small creative actions. Maggots and mealworms were spread across the already-set dinner tables at the Watergate Hotel, site of a banquet for Netanyahu. Piles of crickets and numerous crawling and flying insects were spread throughout the Watergate. Fire alarms were triggered throughout the huge hotel complex all night.

Demonstrators in the hundreds, with Palestinian flags, drums, pans and noise-makers gathered most of the night in front of the Watergate. Videos were projected onto the hotel and other buildings demanding Netanyahu's arrest as a "war criminal." Multiple fountains near the Capitol were dyed blood red. There were numerous banner drops on buildings.

A participant in the July 23 action by Jewish Voice for Peace told Workers World: "Probably between 400-500 JVP activists, not all but most of them Jewish, converged on the rotunda at once wearing shirts that read 'Not In Our Name' on the front and 'Jews Say Stop Arming Israel' on the back. Non-Jews had slightly different shirts that also called to stop arming Israel.

"We sat down, some of us holding banners above our heads, and rabbis led us in a series of chants and songs, some incorporating Hebrew prayers. Capital police arrived on the scene rapidly. They started to aggressively rip the banners out of our hands right away, then started arresting us. Over 300 of us were arrested and taken to a warehouse in



Salt Lake City, July 24, 2024.

WW PHOTO: JOANNA STRAUGHN

Continued on next page

In D.C. and countrywide

Protests demand Netanyahu's arrest

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D.C., where some comrades waited over 12 hours, sitting on chairs with their hands zip-tied behind their backs, before being cut loose.”

Solidarity actions in other cities call for Netanyahu's arrest

Many events were held on July 24 in solidarity with the mass demonstrations against Netanyahu's appearance in Washington.

In **Denver**, 500 protesters from many local organizations that support the liberation struggle of the Palestinian people held an action. Angry at the invitation for Netanyahu to speak to the U.S. Congress, they gathered at the local office of Colorado Senator Michael Bennet. The group then marched through downtown during rush hour, demanding an end to U.S. arms to Israel, a halt to the genocide, immediate entry of food and medical supplies to Gaza and freedom for the 10,000 Palestinian prisoners.

In **Salt Lake City**, protesters gathered at the Wallace F. Bennett Federal Building in downtown and held signs visible to pedestrian and vehicle traffic along the busy State Street corridor. The signs called for the arrest of Netanyahu, who is at the helm of the genocide in Palestine.

The demonstration was held on a state holiday, “Pioneer Day,” that brought hundreds of visitors to the capital from all over Utah to view the nearby parade. This gave broader exposure to the small, but highly visible, protest.

The **Portland, Oregon**, chapter of Workers World Party demonstrated in solidarity with local Palestinian groups, health care workers, veterans, Indigenous activists and other members of the community in an action against the Zionist entity.

After listening to speakers and staging a symbolic die-in, the crowd took to the streets to march against the apartheid state of Israel. Marchers with flags, signs and banners made their way through downtown Portland, chanting slogans in support of Palestine, the Yemeni Armed Forces and all resistance against



Denver, July 24, 2024.

PHOTO: VIVIAN WEINSTEIN

the Zionist government, its U.S. backers and the ongoing genocide in occupied Palestine.

As the Zionist entity escalates its campaign of genocide against the Palestinian people with the full support of the U.S. government, it is more important than ever to continue to resist through all available means.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine issued a July 24 statement that reads in part: “The established reality on the ground, the legendary steadfastness of our Palestinian people, the painful and qualitative strikes by the resistance and the global rallying around the Palestinian cause confirm beyond any doubt that the inevitable and decisive victory for our people and the imminent defeat of the Zionists is near.”

End the occupation! Stop the bombing! Free, Free Palestine!

Sara Flounders, Joe Piette, Evan Reif, Joanna Straughn and Vivian Weinstein contributed to this article.



Portland WWP marching with local activists, July 24, 2024.

WW PHOTO: MADDI JOHNSON

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Boston protest

'Netanyahu is not welcome anywhere!'

By Maureen Skehan and Seth Ward
Boston

Hundreds of pro-Palestine activists rallied on Jan. 20 at Parkman Bandstand on the Boston Common, chanting, drumming and collecting aid for families in Gaza. They listened to leaders of the Boston Coalition for Palestine, including the Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM), Palestinian House of New England, North American Indian Center of Boston (NAICOB) and Jewish Voice for Peace,

All speakers made it crystal clear: "Netanyahu is not welcome here, in D.C., on July 24 or anywhere!" Additional demands of the protest were to end U.S. complicity in genocide and call for no more tax dollars for occupation.

Jean-Luc Pierite, a beloved Indigenous leader of NAICOB and the movement shared with the crowd: "We are on lands that are sacred to the Wampanoag, the Nipmuc, the Abenaki and the Massachusetts; this is also home to many Indigenous peoples that have come here to live far away from their own homelands. As we continue in the urban Indian community, we affirm one truth: All Indigenous peoples have a right to return back to their original homelands!"

"In acknowledging the land, we make a promise to all our host tribes to be good guests. We make a promise to support every effort by the tribes to repatriate land, natural resources and ancestral resources back to the original peoples! In being good guests, sometimes we have to keep the bad guests out. We need to unroll that unwelcome mat for a war criminal who is not welcome. Nor will we commit another nickel or dime for Netanyahu's war crimes!"

'From Turtle Island to Palestine: Resistance is justified!'

Pierite explained: "Indigenous peoples' genocide has always been present within our lives. We are talking about stolen generations of youth lost to residential and boarding schools, our stolen sisters and two-spirit relatives lost to the epidemic of missing and murdered Indigenous peoples and the ecological destruction and poisoning of our air, water and land. The state of our world is so fragile it comes down to the whims and egos of aging oligarchs, settler colonists and so-called leaders leading this nation in bad faith. No more! We need to shut it down! From Turtle Island to Palestine, resistance is justified! When people are occupied, resistance is justified!"

Ahmad Kawash, a decades-long leader of the Palestinian House of New England urged everyone to keep organizing and resisting: "In Gaza people wake up hungry, thirsty and scared. It's the same in the villages of south Lebanon; people wake up with destruction from the Zionist regime. We have to keep



Boston protest, July 20, 2024.

WW PHOTO: MAUREEN SKEHAN

going and never, ever stop until all these atrocities and massacres end. These massacres have been happening since 1948 with unlimited U.S. support. Since October 7, there have been more than 128,000 martyrs and injured, most of them children and women."

Kawash stressed: "Netanyahu continues these crimes ignoring the Security Council and so-called 'court of justice.' None of these crimes could have occurred without the blessing of the U.S., Britain and the so-called free world. I call them the 'hypocritical world.' Netanyahu chose the path of bloodshed just like Hitler did during World War II. It's time to end this war and bring humanitarian aid to Gazans."

'Gazans did not live silent'

At the end of his speech, Kawash told a moving story about "the way Gazans are. Tell them we did not live silent. We lit up the skies. We laughed and took care of each other. Tell them, we were broken, but we did not live silent. We reached the impossible, and it was impossible. If I die, tell them we did not live silent. We sang, we talked, we learned and we danced.

"We prayed for each other, we cried and held each other. We resisted and resisted. But tell them we did not live silent. We told stories at night. We woke at dawn and we ran for our lives and swam for our lives. We leaned on each other and fed each

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'Netanyahu is not welcome anywhere!'

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other. We bled and we stitched each other up. We risked it all and never gave up. "Til the last breath, we did not live silent, and we died free."

A PYM youth leader gave a rousing salute to the heroic resistance forces supported worldwide by the workers and oppressed: "Glory to our martyrs, glory to our prisoners in the Zionist prisons, and long live the Palestinian resistance! We stand here to affirm that as the resistance in Gaza, in Palestine and the Axis of Resistance is freeing us and freeing our lands, we are accountable to the people and communities in Gaza to fight Zionism in the imperial core through direct action, rallies, disruptions and other tactics. We are also accountable to support their survival under bombs that are made by the U.S."

Information was shared about how to send urgent donations to agencies and families on the ground in Gaza.

'No more U.S. bombs!'

Chants of "No more bombs," "USA: What do you say, how many bombs did you drop today?" and "Israel: What do you say, how many kids did you kill today?" echoed across buildings in the downtown shopping area as protesters crowded into the streets. They were carrying banners, Palestinian flags and megaphones to amplify the chants' messages of revolutionary determination to shut down the illegal, genocidal Israeli settler state — permanently!

Their signs read: "Free Palestine," "Palestinian Lives Matter," "Boycott Israeli Apartheid BDS" and "Do You Condemn the IDF?" Also, "Satanyahu Burn in Hell," "Global Solidarity," "From the River to the Sea," "Let Gaza Live," "Stop Arming Israel" and "Victory to Palestine! U.S. Out of Palestine!"



Boston protest, July 20, 2024.

WW PHOTO: MAUREEN SKEHAN



Palestinian activist, Ahmad Kawash, speaks on July 20, 2024.

WW PHOTO: MAUREEN SKEHAN

Many families joined the march, pushing their children in strollers while bystanders took leaflets and nodded support for the marchers' messages of: "We charge genocide!" and "Free, free Palestine!"

Build the struggle to 'Free Palestine!'

A closing rally of fiery and strategy-focused speeches took place in the tourist district at 'Change the Name' Hall. (It was named for Peter Faneuil, a colonial-era merchant enslaver, but there is an ongoing struggle to rename it for a historical leader chosen by Black, Indigenous and nationally oppressed communities.)

At the rally, ideas were shared on how to keep uniting movement forces and shut down the bloody weapons industry. Also, discussions took place on how to strengthen the global anti-apartheid struggle to Free Palestine from here — in the imperialist epicenter on stolen Indigenous land.

Lea, a PYM leader, affirmed this with the chant: "What do we want? Land back!" When do we want it? Now!" A youth activist from the Party for Socialism and Liberation urged the crowd to purchase tickets and "Get on the Bus to D.C." for the July 24 demonstration that will surround the Capitol and demand: "Arrest Netanyahu!" □

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Congress welcomes Israeli war criminal to Washington

Just days after the International Court of Justice (ICJ) told United Nation members to stop aiding Israel's illegal occupation of Palestine, members of the U.S. Congress — Republicans and Democrats — welcomed Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to address Congress on July 24, giving him at least 50 standing ovations during his hate-laden hour-long talk.

In issuing the invitation to Netanyahu to speak, congressional leaders also ignored the May 20 arrest warrant issued by the International Criminal Court against Netanyahu for war crimes in Gaza. While Israel and the U.S., which are not signatories to the ICC, have disregarded the warrant, on July 26, U.S. imperialist ally Britain, an ICC signator, issued a notice stating that the government would drop its objection to the ruling — and would restrict arms sales to Israel.

As usual, Congress ignored the voices of the U.S. workers who support an immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza by a two-thirds majority. The Washington warmakers, who are eager to give more tax payers' hard-earned dollars to weapons manufacturers, ignored objections of other lawmakers and disregarded masses of pro-Palestine protesters who gathered in Washington.

Tens of thousands of demonstrators came to Washington, D.C., even before Netanyahu's scheduled speech. Members and supporters of Jewish Voice for Peace occupied the Rotunda of the Capitol building on July 23, with many of them arrested. Despite being confronted by multiple police agencies, some from as far away as New York City, protesters surrounded Congress on July 24 as Netanyahu delivered his address.

With applause from members of both capitalist parties, Netanyahu unleashed



Washington, D.C., July 24, 2024.

WWW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

his venom against these protesters during his rant to Congress. The lone opposition came from Palestinian Rep. Rashida Tlaib of Michigan, who sat silently while holding a small sign with “War Criminal” on one side and “Guilty of Genocide” on the other, as Netanyahu spoke.

But where were the rest of the members of Congress, some who claim to oppose U.S. support for Israel's genocidal war?

Some “progressive” legislators, including “Squad” members Ilhan Omar and Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez boycotted the talk, leaving scores of empty seats. But imagine what a difference it could have made if they had occupied their seats and joined Tlaib in protest — whether silently or, even better, vocally.

What if, instead of just boycotting Netanyahu's talk, they had joined with the tens of thousands of protesters and had the courage to address the protest rallies? They could have joined Brandon Mancilla, representing the United Auto Workers Union, to tell the audience that the genocide in Gaza is a workers' issue, because “our very own government is coming after labor unions for standing with the people of Palestine.”

Also on the protest stage was Mark Dimondstein, president of the American Postal Workers Union, whose convention just passed a resolution calling for a

permanent ceasefire in Gaza and an end to the U.S. arming of Israel. Dimondstein said, “Our members reflect most of the people in the country and most of the people in the world.”

And what of newly appointed Democratic presidential candidate Kamala Harris? Harris, who as president of the Senate, would normally have overseen this joint congressional meeting, also skipped the event but made her position clear when she denounced the anti-Ne-

tanyahu protesters, calling their demonstrations “despicable acts by unpatriotic protesters and hate-fueled rhetoric.” Harris later met in private with Netanyahu.

With the Democratic Party's national convention just weeks away, the whole world is watching to see whether Harris will maintain the heinous support that “Genocide Joe” Biden has given to Israel's occupation of Palestine and war in Gaza that has already claimed nearly 200,000 lives — or if she has the courage to break from the party's imperialist history. The odds for a break are highly unlikely.

All the more reason to fill the streets of Chicago in August to say that the Democrats and Republicans are one and the same pro-war party of the ruling class. □

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