

MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite! workers.org Vol. 66, No. 32 August 8, 2024



The world responds to Israel's assassinations

3-5

In this issue

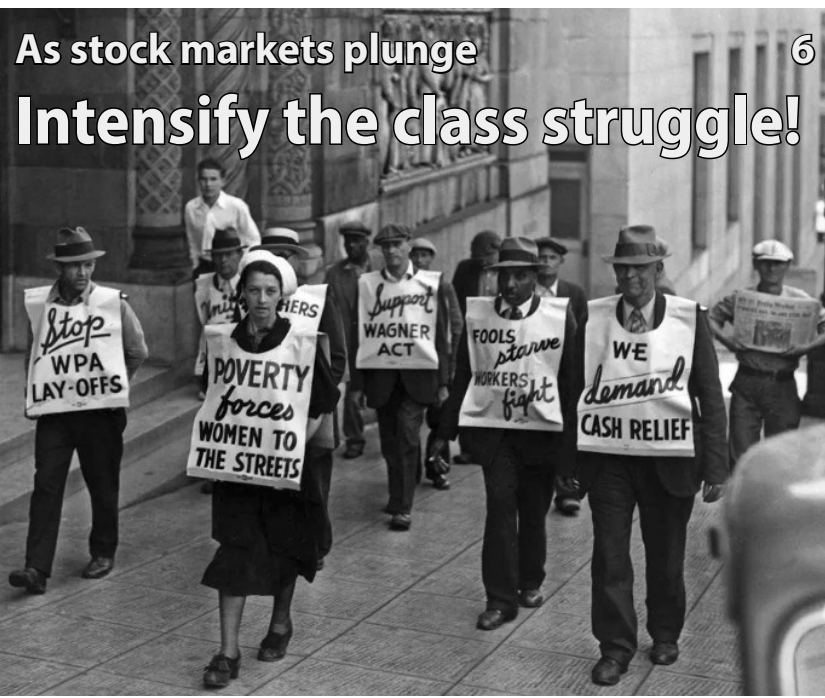
- ◆ **Around the World**
- Iran plans response..... 3
- ◆ **The U.S.**
- WWP Tribute to Dr. Ismail Haniyeh 4
- Protests blast Israel's assassination attacks..... 5
- Intensify the class struggle! 6

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.

Articles at workers.org

- ◆ **The U.S.**
- Philadelphia tribute to activist photographer.....LINK
- Houston's 1st Annual Tejas Xicana/o Moratorium ..LINK
- Unions demand arms embargo of Israel.....LINK
- Say Her Name: Sonya Massey.....LINK
- A continuing episode of the Trump Show.....LINK
- ◆ **Around the World**
- Hamas's replacement for martyr Ismail Haniyeh...LINK
- Lessons from the Sandinista Revolution.....LINK
- Hezbollah leader on the loss of martyrs.....LINK
- Media lies and the prisoner exchange.....LINK
- Stop WW3 coalition statement on assassination...LINK
- Cuba denounces attempted coup in Venezuela....LINK
- Congratulations to Venezuela.....LINK
- Remembering Vietnam's Nguyễn Phú Trọng.....LINK
- ◆ **Tear Down the Walls**
- Compiling facts for prisons' Grey Owls.....LINK
- ◆ **Mundo Obrero**
- Defender Maduro es oponerse al fascismo.....LINK
- Venezuela: Bitácora de una nueva victoria.....LINK



As stock markets plunge
Intensify the class struggle!

6

Unemployed workers march during the 1930s Great Depression.

MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

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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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Iran plans strikes on Israel in response to assassination of Hamas leader

By Monica Moorehead

On July 24, the U.S. Congress welcomed the criminal prime minister of apartheid Israel, Benjamin Netanyahu, to give a pro-war talk where he received over 30 standing ovations. Netanyahu also held private talks with President Joe Biden, Vice-President Kamala Harris and former President Donald Trump.

In less than a week after his visit, two cowardly assassinations of prominent leaders of the Axis of Resistance took place carried out by the U.S.-backed terrorist Israeli regime. A senior leader of Hezbollah, Fouad Shukr, was killed by an Israeli airstrike in Dahiye on July 30, in the southern section of Beirut, along with dozens of civilians. Dahiye is the most densely populated area in Beirut.

The head of the political bureau of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, was assassinated by a short-range projectile fired from outside his residence in Tehran, Iran, on July 31, according to Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. Even though Israel did not publicly take responsibility for this attack, U.S. officials privately confirmed that Israel was behind this cowardly assassination. Haniyeh was the chief negotiator for Hamas in ongoing talks with Israel to come to a ceasefire agreement to stop the 10-month old genocide in Gaza.

Massive protests took place throughout the region, including in the occupied territories, where millions of people expressed their outrage at the Haniyeh killing. A three-day general strike of Palestinian workers was called in the West Bank.

Hezbollah, Yemen's armed forces, the Iraqi resistance and the Iranian government make up the Axis of Resistance (AofR) in solidarity with the Palestinian resistance. While the AofR has been carrying out military actions to pressure Israel to stop its genocide in Gaza, these assassinations have now exponentially increased the possibility for a wider war against U.S. imperialist hegemony throughout West Asia.

Israel has been unable to militarily defeat Hamas in Gaza and now could seriously unleash a four-prong war with Iran, Lebanon, Iraq and Yemen. Israel's occupying forces have suffered an estimated 10,000 casualties of combined deaths and wounded at the hands of the resistance.



Massive funeral procession for Hamas leader, Ismail Haniyeh, in Tehran on Aug. 1, 2024.

During an emergency United Nations Security Council meeting on Aug. 1, Iran's envoy stated that the government is preparing to carry out self-defense military actions against Israel in accordance with Article 51 of the U.N. charter. This article states that any country has the "inherent right to self-defense" against violations of its national security and territorial integrity. Iran is the most powerful country in the region militarily.

The Egyptian government, a long-time ally of Israel, has announced that it will not participate in a U.S.-backed regional coalition to defend Israel against an Iranian attack, according to Globe Eye News and other sources. This is a diplomatic blow to imperialism.

Impact of Iran's inevitable response

While the Iranians have stated that they will strike without warning, just the anticipation of their actions has caused an unprecedented upheaval on a global economic scale. According to the Iran Observer, this panic has caused the global stock market to plummet with losses totalling \$2.9 trillion. This astounding figure includes close to \$2 trillion wiped out alone on the U.S. stock market as the NASDAQ dropped over 500 points on Aug. 5.

A majority of U.S. and international airlines have indefinitely canceled their flights in and out of Israel, which is creating even more chaos for the already unstable Israeli economy and for the tens of thousands of Israelis attempting to leave.

Suppressed News on X reports that Israeli

hospital parking lots in Tel Aviv are being converted into emergency departments in preparation of Iran's response. Israelis, including Netanyahu and members of his war cabinet, are seeking protection in bunkers in anticipation of Tehran's reaction.

The Pentagon has moved more warships nearer to Israel and Lebanon, along with additional squadrons of fighter jets. Also 4,000 U.S. Marines will be deployed. All of this military support once again reinforces the fact that Israel could not survive for one day if it weren't for U.S. backing.

Since October. 7, the U.S. has supplied Israel with an estimated \$18 billion in military aid to carry out the horrific genocide in Gaza,

which has slaughtered and wounded over 200,000 Palestinians and left over 1 million people homeless.

Despite all of these reinforcements, the U.S. continues to make behind-the-scenes appeals to Iran not to attack Israel. According to Resistance Monitor, the U.S. is willing to lift sanctions on Iran if they do not attack Israel. (Aug. 5)

The U.S. will still have to deal with Yemen targeting U.S. ships in the Mediterranean and Red seas. Just a few days ago, Yemen shot down a U.S. MQ9 drone worth \$32 million. Hezbollah has also stepped up its attacks on illegal Zionist settlements and military installations on its borders.

Whenever Iran does carry out its strikes, it will put Israel and the U.S. in an even more vulnerable position that will lead to further isolation on a global scale due to their racist ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people. □

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A tribute to Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh

By Sara Flounders

Workers World Party sends our great respect for the Hamas leader and martyr Ismail Haniyeh and his decades of unbending resistance to Zionist occupation.

WWP denounces the latest Israeli-U.S. attacks in Lebanon, Iran and on Palestine. These criminal acts are a major escalation of the genocidal war on Palestine.

The martyrdom of Dr. Haniyeh, the head of the Political Bureau of Hamas and the chief Palestinian negotiator, is an egregious war crime. It will have broad consequences.

Haniyeh was in Tehran, Iran, to attend the swearing-in ceremony of Iran's new President Masoud Pezeshkin. The targeted assassination of Haniyeh on July 31 flows directly from the U.S. public embrace of Israeli war criminal Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu just days before, by President Joe Biden, Vice-President Kamala Harris, former President Donald Trump and both Houses of the U.S. Congress which gave him over 30 standing ovations.

This outrageous act is intended to launch a far more deadly U.S. involvement in an effort to save the Israeli state from its pending collapse.

Haniyeh devoted his life to the fight for the decolonization of Palestine and died for his homeland. He was born into struggle in 1963. He was a refugee child in the Al Shati Refugee Beach Camp in northern Gaza. His parents had fled from Al-Jura, part of the Palestinian city of Majdal Asqalan, renamed Ashkelon by the Zionist occupiers, during the Nakba in 1948.

Haniyeh graduated in 1987, as the first Palestinian Uprising, the First Intifada, began. He was arrested numerous times during the uprising and exiled to Lebanon, along with hundreds of other Palestinian leaders and activists. He returned to Gaza in 1993 after the Oslo Accords and became Dean of the Islamic University in Gaza. Haniyeh was a scholar in Arabic literature.

Haniyeh was the head of the Hamas slate that won the Palestinian elections in 2006. Hamas was the largest political party and resistance force in Gaza. Haniyeh campaigned for the right to armed resistance against Israeli occupation and won overwhelming support. He became the first and only prime minister of the State of Palestine and the Palestinian National Authority.

A heroic life of sacrifice

Based on the Hamas electoral victory, Israel, the U.S. and the European Union boycotted the results of the election that they had called for and initially supported. They cut funding to Gaza, then blockaded and sanctioned Gaza to punish the entire population for their support of Haniyeh and of Hamas.

Based on Israeli and U.S. demands, President Mahmoud Abbas dissolved the elected Palestinian government in 2007. Haniyeh continued as prime minister in Gaza until 2014. In 2017, Haniyeh left Gaza to head the Hamas Political Bureau. He was responsible for international relations and the "negotiations" with the colonialists.

During the months of negotiations, Haniyeh always stressed the role of U.S. imperialism. In remembering him, media across the



world raise this orientation: The United States is the "main axis" of the Israeli war on Gaza. The White House has given the green light to the Zionist regime to press ahead with its atrocities. The U.S.-backed Zionist project will fail as the path of resistance will continue.

Before murdering him, Israel had killed three of his children, four of his grandchildren, two siblings and dozens of members of his extended family. A point that Haniyeh made continually in the face of countless Israeli assassinations of Palestinian and other resistance leaders is: The assassinations of leaders will boost the strength of the resistance.

Attacks strengthen the resolve of the resistance

Other well-known quotes from Haniyeh on Israeli assassinations include:

"A movement that offers its leaders and founders as martyrs for the dignity of our people and nation will never be defeated."

"These attacks only strengthen the resolve, resilience and unwavering determination [of the resistance]. This is the history of the resistance and the movement: following the assassination of its leaders, it became even stronger and more determined."

Haniyeh's assassination on Iranian soil was fully intended to provoke a response from the country that has stood firm in facing Western imperialism for decades. Iran has consistently helped the resistance of all peoples in the region. This targeted assassination is the ultimate rejection – by Israel and its U.S. and NATO sponsors – of any form of negotiations or a lasting peace in the region.

The day of his martyrdom, Ismail Haniyeh had released three points that are a realistic evaluation and prophetic description of this juncture of the class struggle in Asia:

"The Palestinian people and resistance fighters must establish their heroism and victory against Israel as the regime's genocidal war on Gaza has reached a critical and historical stage after 300 days."

"Palestinian resistance today stands on the front line against Western hegemony. The enemy seeks to dismantle this front line to impose its policies and dominate the region, aiming to bring the resistance to its knees."

"This underscores the critical strategy of the Islamic Republic of Iran in supporting resistance and countering the influence of regional representations of arrogance, notably the Zionist regime."

All quotes listed above can be found at: Press TV, posted Aug. 1. (tinyurl.com/mudvpt5v)

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Boston demands 'Hands off Gaza and Lebanon'

By Will Hodgkinson
Boston

Hundreds of people answered the call of martyred Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh on Aug. 3 by taking over Copley Square in Boston for an emergency rally to commemorate the 300th day of Palestinian resistance to the genocidal Israeli occupying force campaign in Gaza.

The Palestinian Youth Movement, Palestinian House of New England and other members of the Boston Coalition for Palestine organized this action in the aftermath of the Zionist regime's latest killing spree, which threatens to provoke a regional war.

Less than a week after the U.S Congress gave multiple standing ovations on July 24 to the Zionist Israeli Occupation Force criminal, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a missile strike in Beirut murdered Hezbollah Commander Fuad Shukur on July 30, along with three women and two children.

The following day in Tehran, Iran, Zionist operatives assassinated Ismail Haniyeh, the head of Hamas' political bureau. The U.S has escalated the crisis by sending two aircraft carriers to back up Israel, its main ally in the region.

As speakers at Saturday's rally emphasized, the Zionist regime's murderous rampage only



Boston, Aug. 3, 2024.

WW PHOTO: STEVAN KIRSCHBAUM

reflects the success of the Palestinian resistance and its allies worldwide.

Ahmad Kawash, Palestinian House of New England co-leader, read a message in honor of Haniyeh's martyrdom, which he stressed will only galvanize the Axis of Resistance against the Zionist settler state. "Our only hope is the resistance," Kawash declared as the crowd cheered. "From Gaza to Lebanon to Yemen to Iraq to Iran, long live the resistance! Mercy to the martyrs! Healing to the prisoners!"

The crowd chanted "Hands

off Lebanon! Hands off Palestine!" and "Long live the Intifada!" Their militancy overwhelmed the huddle of Zionist counterprotesters who, having ignominiously failed to disrupt the rally, later slunk away.

Organizers urged the crowd to support full divestment from the Zionist state and escalate resistance in the U.S imperial core. Mass actions in solidarity with the resistance, they stressed, would continue until Palestine is totally free.

From Copley Square, the demonstrators marched to Newbury Street, where they shut down traffic. Addressing the onlookers who crowded the boutique-lined sidewalks, they chanted: "Why are you shopping while bombs are dropping?" □

Cleveland protest blasts Israel's latest attacks

Members of Cleveland's Palestinian community and their allies rallied and marched on Aug. 2 in response to Israel's assassinations of Hamas and Hezbollah leaders in Iran and Lebanon. The Cleveland Palestine Advocacy Community organized this emergency protest, which drew close to 200 people on very little notice. Demands included: "Hands off the Middle East!" "No war with Iran!" "No war with Lebanon!" and "No bombs for Israel!"

— Report and photo by Martha Grevatt



Philadelphians protest Israel's assassinations

By Betsey Piette
Philadelphia

Hundreds of people demonstrated on Aug. 3 in Center City Philadelphia in solidarity with Palestine and Lebanon in the aftermath of brutal Israeli assassinations of resistance

leaders. Among the protesters were families with young children who frequently helped lead chants.

Called by the Philadelphia Palestine Coalition, the demonstration gathered in Rittenhouse Square for a short rally before proceeding on a march that zig-zagged through the streets of downtown. Many chants included solidarity messages with resistance groups throughout West Asia whose support for the people of Gaza has been essential to their ability to withstand 300 days of genocidal war and occupation.

The march ended at Logan Circle on the Benjamin Franklin Parkway just as a heavy thunderstorm hit the area. □



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

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Intensify the class struggle!

By James Foster

The Dow Jones Industrial Average experienced a significant downturn following the latest employment report, released Aug. 2, which revealed a modest addition of 114,000 jobs and an uptick in the unemployment rate to 4.3%. The news on the U.S. economy prompted similar drops in stock market indexes across Asia and Europe.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics July jobs report was a shock to many, as bourgeois economists had anticipated a much stronger performance. Predictions had ranged from between 150,000 and 200,000 new jobs, but the actual figure fell short, suggesting a deceleration in job creation. Adding to the unease was the increase in the unemployment rate from 4.1% to 4.3%, the first noticeable rise in several months.

The “broader” S&P 500 (1.8%), as well as the tech-heavy NASDAQ composite (2.4%) – all benchmarks for U.S. stock market performance – reacted swiftly to the news with steep declines on Aug. 2 and even steeper again on Aug. 5. Amazon, Tesla and Intel all had meager earnings this quarter. The drop reflects a broad apprehension among capitalists concerned about the potential implications of slower job growth combined with a rising unemployment rate. It underscores their growing worries about the health of the U.S. economy.

The creation of only 114,000 jobs, far below the projected number, indicates a failure of the capitalist economy to generate sufficient employment opportunities to keep pace with growth in the labor force. The increase in unemployment to 4.3%, combined with the persistent problem of underemployment, underscores the fact that there is a surplus labor force that capitalism cannot absorb.

The Dow’s decline is not merely a “market reaction,” but a reflection of the underlying contradictions of capitalist production. The stock market, driven by the profit motives of capitalists, reacts to perceived threats to profitability. As job creation slows and unemployment rises,



Unemployed workers march during the 1930s Great Depression.

it signals to investment capitalists that the economy might not be able to sustain high profit margins, prompting a sell-off in stocks.

The stock market reaction makes crystal clear the dependency of capitalist markets on continuous growth and the precariousness of an economic system that cannot effectively address labor surplus and economic inequality.

What should the working class do?

The rise in unemployment and stagnation in job creation highlights the broader issue of capitalist production being oriented towards private profit rather than meeting social needs. While the capitalist class benefits from economic growth and stock market gains, the working class bears the brunt of job insecurity and economic instability. The capitalist system inherently prioritizes private capital accumulation over collective welfare, leading to periodic crises that manifest as unemployment and underemployment.

As Marxists, we hold that neither presidential candidate, from either capitalist party, is able to fix the problem. This is because the crisis is a result of the functioning of capitalism itself and not of the politicians that the capitalists choose to support. Workers are experiencing this current crisis under a Democratic administration and have seen the same under previous Republican administrations.

A real threat posed currently is that the most far-right candidates represent the most reactionary and chauvinist elements of finance capital, who are dead-set on breaking unions and possibly even overturning bourgeois democracy entirely.

The answer for the masses lies in their ability to wage an independent political struggle based on the unity of all working-class formations. Unions such as the United Auto Workers and the American Federation of Teachers have lined up the expiration dates of their collective agreements for May Day 2028, and they are calling on all unions to do the same.

This strategy could lead to a united front of labor organizations and offers the potential for mass strikes. But what is truly needed to counter rising unemployment, inflation, stagnant wages, racism, xenophobia, misogyny, anti-LGBTQIA2S+ bigotry, ableism and all the suffering caused by capitalism? It is the global classwide unity of all workers, organized and unorganized, from the U.S. to Latin America to Palestine.

We mustn’t succumb to the vile fascist propaganda that seeks to fragment the working class. Whether in the workplaces or in the streets, workers and oppressed people can bring about the greatest amount of change by intensifying the class struggle. □

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