

# MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite! workers.org Vol. 66, No. 29 July 18, 2024



March against NATO summit in Washington, D.C., July 7. [Read online](#)



Protest against the illegal sale of stolen Palestinian land, Queens, New York, July 14, 2024. [Read online](#)

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Philadelphia Healthcare Workers for Palestine demonstration, July 14, 2024. [Read online](#)

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## Our new format

To our readers: Beginning with this issue, we are changing 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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# 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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# Numbers prove Israel's stated goals are an epic lie

By Susan Abulhawa

*This article first appeared on The Electronic Intifada at [tinyurl.com/2a736esa](https://tinyurl.com/2a736esa), on June 27 and has been lightly edited.*

When you're in Gaza and see the destruction firsthand, the clearest conclusion is that Israel's stated goals are an epic lie, on a par with "a people without a land for a land without a people," packaged and sold to the world.

The Israelis are not targeting Hamas, nor are they interested in returning their captives, who pose a tremendous liability upon their release, as they often have good things to say about their captors.

Math is useful to prove what I'm saying, so here are some numbers to start.

## Destroyed buildings

As of April 2024, approximately 360,000 buildings have been destroyed, of which 405 are schools and universities, 700 hospitals and health facilities, 290 mosques and three churches. Given the estimation by the United Nations monitoring group OCHA [Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs] that 12 buildings are destroyed every hour in Gaza, the adjusted number to account for May and June is 377,280 buildings.

## Direct fire causes death and injuries

The reported number of martyrs on Wednesday [June 26] this week was 37,718. It's important to note that this number only includes martyrs who have been identified by name and civil ID number through the beleaguered health ministry in Gaza.

Given the breakdown of reporting systems due to heavy destruction of infrastructure and personnel, this number, even with its limited parameters, is a gross underestimation.

Based on more accurate figures of approximately 370 people killed daily, multiplied by 264 days of genocide, the actual number is closer to 97,680 martyred. (Per OCHA estimate of 15 martyrs per hour: Over the course of 264 days, which amounts to 6,336 hours, this number would roughly be 95,040).

The adjusted estimate of martyrs is 260% more than the stagnant reported number. It is reasonable to adjust the number of injured (currently 86,377) by the same percentage, bringing that value to 224,580. (Per OCHA estimate of 35 injured per hour, this number comes to 221,760.)

## Death from lack of medications and chronic conditions

Importantly, the number above does not include the thousands of unidentified martyrs, some of whom were uncovered from mass graves; those who arrived headless or in impossible pieces; those who were buried by their loved ones without going through the hospital system; those who have died of starvation; those who have died from lack of access to critical medications; those who



Palestinians in Khuza'a, east of Khan Younis, inspect destruction to their homes.

have died from infections or communicable diseases.

Taking into account 1,100 dialysis patients, 2,000 cancer patients and 341,000 individuals who depend on medication to manage chronic illnesses (45,000 people with cardiovascular disease, 71,000 diabetes, 225,000 hypertension), the extreme shortage of life-saving medication has and will continue to lead to deaths from Israel's withholding of supplies. If a very conservative estimate of 5% of these patients die as a result (if they have not already), that's an additional 17,050 people.

However, a more accurate all-cause mortality rate for unmanaged diabetes is 13.6% (putting mortality at 9,869 people); 37% for uncontrolled hypertension (translating to 83,250 people). Untreated dialysis and cancer patients will have a high mortality rate. A conservative estimate for this group is 30% or 930 patients.

Taken together, this is 94,049 people. (I didn't consider cardiovascular disease alone, since patients tend to have co-morbidities and there would be natural overlap in these numbers.)

## Dead or dying from starvation

According to a recent U.N.-backed Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) report, approximately 495,000 Palestinians in Gaza are facing "catastrophic" hunger, which means they suffer extreme lack of food leading to acute malnutrition in young children, and imminent risk of starvation and death. If we make a conservative 5% estimate of death from starvation among this population, that's 24,750 people dead or dying from starvation.

Data-driven mortality for acute malnutrition is approximately 20%. However, the current classification has not yet reached full-blown famine levels, making the current estimate reasonable.

## Missing, presumed dead or kidnapped

Approximately 21,000 children are missing and unaccounted for. Some are trapped under the rubble, some have been kidnapped by Israeli soldiers, while others are simply lost in the chaos. Given

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# Numbers prove Israel's stated goals are an epic lie

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the relative equal ratio of adults to children in Gaza, it is safe to assume the same number of adults are likewise unaccounted for, doubling this number to 42,000 people missing overall.

## Death from disease

Due to the destruction of water and sanitation infrastructure, coupled with restrictions on aid entering Gaza, Israel's assault has led to the spread of communicable and water-borne diseases such as acute jaundice (due mostly to hepatitis A), acute diarrhea (with bloody stool), scabies and lice, skin rashes, chicken pox and acute respiratory infections, which totaled over 1.44 million cases as of June 10. If only 1% of these patients succumb to these serious conditions, that's 14,408 people likewise killed indirectly by Israel's bombing and siege of Gaza.

Mortality for acute jaundice or hepatitis A is low (2.5% in adults and less than 1% in children; thus a 1% percent mortality estimate is appropriate for this category, or 817 people); mortality for diarrhea ranges from 4.27% to 12% (20,722-58,238 people); smallpox mortality is 1% to 30%, depending on strain (854-2,561 people); mortality rates for acute respiratory disease range from 27% to 45% depending on severity (or 233,592-389,320 people). Taken together, adjusted for scientific data, the range for this category of martyrs is 255,985-450,936 people.

## Estimate summaries

Based on these estimates, both conservative and data-driven, respectively, the actual figures are likely as follows:

- 377,280 buildings destroyed completely or partially
- 95,040 – 97,680 martyred
- 221,760 injured
- 24,750 dead or dying from starvation
- 42,000 missing (presumed dead, kidnapped by Israel's occupying forces or possibly trafficked).

The following ranges represent conservative estimate or lower range of data-driven population estimates:

- 17,050 – 94,049 with chronic illnesses dead from lack of medication
- 14,408 – 255,985 dead from epidemics resulting from Israel's assault

This means the actual number of dead is closer to 194,768 – 511,824 people, with 221,760 injured. And counting.

This does not include the thousands who have been kidnapped and are being tortured in Israel's prisons, at least three dozen of whom have been tortured to death or died from harsh conditions.

## Some lives matter

The estimates here are reasonable, but on-the-ground studies must be conducted immediately. International institutions must urgently assess the actual all-cause mortality resulting directly



Twelve buildings are destroyed every hour in Gaza.

and indirectly from Israel's assault on Gaza.

Thus far, of the 240 Israeli captives in Gaza, Israel has allegedly killed 50 of their own, both directly (shooting them) and indirectly (bombing the buildings they are in) and secured the release of 112 captives, 105 through negotiated agreements with Hamas, and seven via "rescue" missions.

The most recent direct "rescue" mission resulted in the release of four captives in Nuseirat refugee camp, central Gaza. A total of 274 Palestinians and several Israeli captives were killed in the same operation! At least one U.S. lawmaker believes sacrificing hundreds of Palestinians for four Israelis is worth it, because, it seems, only some lives matter.

I'll leave it to readers to do the math to see the level of death and destruction inflicted on Gaza per captive or per Hamas fighter.

There can be only one of two conclusions. Either the Israeli military is the most incompetent force to ever walk this planet — and has no reliable intelligence gathering capability — or Israel is a sadistic nation intent on genocide of the Indigenous population, much as all settler colonial projects have been throughout history.

*Susan Abulhawa is a Palestinian writer and activist. Her most recent novel is "Against the Loveless World." (Washington Square Press, 2021).*

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# Working class needs an independent struggle

By Monica Moorehead

The attempted assassination of presidential candidate Donald Trump during a July 13 campaign rally in Butler, Pennsylvania, has taken center stage regarding the 2024 elections, altering the political narrative. In the coming days and weeks, there will be much speculation about whether the Secret Service was derelict in its duty for allowing this shooting to take place.

Even before Trump was fired at, he tried to portray himself as a victim of the 34 criminal charges against him. Once he was convicted, the U.S. Supreme Court, in a 6-3 ruling, granted him immunity from prosecution for any “official acts” he carried out as president.

In light of the shooting, Trump is trying to portray himself as a martyr, saying, “I should be dead,” in order to swing the elections even more in his favor. A certain sector of the U.S. ruling class, through the corporate media it owns, is not only promoting sympathy toward him but also placing the shooting within the broader context of the ongoing gun violence debate.

During his July 13 press conference in reaction to the shooting of Trump, President Joe Biden stated: “There is no place in America for this kind of violence or any violence ever, period. No exceptions. We can’t allow this violence to be normalized.” (The Hollywood Reporter, July 15)

Who is Biden trying to kid with false rhetoric? An estimated 43,000 people died in the U.S. in 2023 from guns, whether by murder, suicide or other motives. (independent.co.uk, July 15)

As the old saying goes, “Violence is as American as apple pie.” And for Biden, also called “Genocide Joe,” to decry gun violence is the height of utter hypocrisy.

He has justified since October 7 supplying the most terrifying weapons to apartheid Israel, especially a multitude of tons of bombs, to commit daily massacres of Palestinians in Gaza, including tens of thousands of children.

Trump, who excoriated Biden during their first presidential debate last month for not “finishing the job” to exterminate the

Palestinians, is just as violently pro-Israel.

At least 120 Palestinians were killed by U.S. bombs with hundreds more wounded on the day of the Trump shooting. Where was the outrage by the corporate mainstream media for this ongoing targeting of civilians? Utter silence.

## What does this mean for the working class?

No matter how many millions of workers hate Trump, which is certainly justified, individual actions like the one taken by the gunman who targeted Trump, regardless of the motivation, are never a substitute for the workers mounting an independent class resistance to the program of all sectors of the ruling class.

Any nuanced differences between Trump and Biden do not disguise the fact that both are pro-ruling class and anti-working class, no matter their political affiliations.

If workers want to stop fascism, which Trump symbolizes, they have to look beyond the electoral arena. The decay of U.S. imperialism at home and abroad is the root cause of mass violence — whether it’s state-sanctioned violence by the police or the Pentagon or random violence. Gun violence is a class issue, not a moral issue, and will not go away after the November election.

Workers may feel powerless right now to stop Trump, but the working class has the most power of any class — that is the power to stop production and to bring the capitalist system to a halt. □



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editorial

# El apoyo al sionismo se derrumba en todos los frentes

La admisión del ministro de Defensa israelí, Yoav Gallant, el 1 de julio –que el ejército de su país necesitaba 10.000 soldados más de forma inmediata– podría haber conmocionado al mundo incluso hace un año. Pero desde que Hamás lanzó la operación Inundación de Al-Aqsa el 7 de octubre, el Estado sionista del apartheid se ha visto acosado por multitud de crisis. En los últimos nueve meses, unos 900 oficiales del ejército israelí “han solicitado revisar la liberación de sus contratos”. (PalestineChronicle.com, 1 de julio)

Puede que no todos estos 900 oficiales estén motivados por la conciencia. Pero sea cual sea el motivo, estas cifras apuntan al hecho de que la moral militar israelí está bajo mínimos.

Para hacer frente a la necesidad de soldados, el Tribunal Supremo de Israel falló unánimemente en contra de la exención del reclutamiento de los judíos haredíes ultraortodoxos. Esta comunidad ultraortodoxa comprende alrededor del 13% de la población. Ha sido una base de apoyo para el Primer Ministro Benjamin Netanyahu. Y quiere mantener su largo privilegio de estar libre del servicio militar obligatorio.

El régimen de Netanyahu ha reprimido toda expresión de disidencia, incluidas las protestas de los haredíes contra el servicio militar obligatorio. Incluye las manifestaciones de las familias de los rehenes del 7 de octubre exigiendo al primer ministro que acepte un alto el fuego y un acuerdo de intercambio de prisioneros con Hamás. Incluye fuerzas dentro de Israel que expresan públicamente su oposición a la guerra.

Eso es lo que ocurre durante una guerra ilegal e imposible de ganar.

Por supuesto, la represión contra los ciudadanos israelíes palidece en comparación con el genocidio en curso en Gaza, que Netanyahu sigue insistiendo en que es necesario para “liberar” a los rehenes capturados por la Resistencia palestina el 7 de octubre. Al menos 38.000 palestinos han sido martirizados, pero el número real de personas masacradas por Israel podría ser muchas veces superior.

## Solidaridad mundial: una parte de la resistencia

El colapso del apoyo sionista se extiende más allá del ejército israelí. En los seis primeros meses posteriores al 7 de octubre, unos 550.000 ciudadanos israelíes emigraron del país. La emigración a Israel ha disminuido.

En todo el mundo, el apoyo a Israel ha caído en picado. Trabajadores de diversos países han obstruido la producción o bloqueado los envíos de armas destinadas al Estado del apartheid. La intifada estudiantil, iniciada con una acampada en la



Acciones obreras como este cierre de puerto en Génova, Italia, en noviembre de 2023, para bloquear los envíos de armas a Israel, demuestran el colapso del apoyo al Estado sionista.

FOTO: BDS

Universidad de Columbia, atrajo a estudiantes de todo Estados Unidos y de muchos otros países.

Incluso los sindicatos estadounidenses, algunos de los cuales han apoyado a Israel en el pasado, han pedido un alto el fuego en Gaza y están debatiendo la posibilidad de desinvertir en bonos israelíes. No es ni mucho menos lo que deberían estar haciendo, pero representa un cambio radical que amenaza claramente la hegemonía estadounidense e israelí en Asia Occidental.

Si Israel fue alguna vez una “democracia” estable en la región, esos días han pasado. No hay vuelta atrás.

Juventud contra la Guerra y el Fascismo, que en su día fue el grupo juvenil del Partido Mundo Obrero, formó el Comité de Apoyo a la Liberación de Oriente Medio hacia 1969. Sus carteles y botones decían: “¡EE.UU. fuera de Oriente Medio! Palestina vencerá”.

Hoy, no podríamos estar más orgullosos de la Resistencia Palestina por haber creado la posibilidad de que ese lema se haga realidad. □

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