

# MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD



WORKERS.ORG

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite! workers.org Vol. 66, No. 25 June 20, 2024 \$1



People's Pride Coalition demands:

## Cut ties to pro-Israel weapons maker!

By Arjae Red  
Buffalo, New York

Thousands of people turned out on June 2 for the annual Pride festival and parade in Buffalo. While the parade is sponsored primarily by Evergreen Health and M&T Bank, many people joined the People's Pride Coalition, an anti-capitalist contingent in the Pride parade. The Coalition raised the cause of Palestinian liberation, and demanded the expulsion of cops and bank contingents from Pride, as well as an end to union busting, for the fifth year in a row.

Although Palestinian liberation has been a focal point of the contingent every year, the demand takes on a special urgency with the ongoing genocide in Gaza perpetrated by the United States



People's Pride Coalition marches in the Buffalo Pride festival, June 2, 2024. VVV PHOTO: ARJAE RED

and Israel. This is amplified by the fact that Moog Inc., a weapons manufacturer that produces components for fighter jets and missiles, was a sponsor of the Buffalo

Pride festival. Moog — which maintains offices in Israel — is currently arming the Israeli Occupation Forces and profiteering off the genocide in Gaza. Moog also maintains direct ties with Evergreen Health through its sales of medical components.

The People's Pride Coalition's main slogan this year was for Evergreen Health to cut ties with Moog and to disclose its relationships with all companies from which its products are sourced. Evergreen Health provides the majority of health-care services for LGBTQIA2S+ people in Buffalo. The Pride festival's ties to Moog and its blood money angers many people in the queer and trans communities, who see their liberation tied intimately with the national liberation of Palestine

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Protest the NATO WAR Summit  
Washington, D.C.  
July 6-7

No to 75 years of imperialist NATO wars!  
Free Palestine!



On July 6 - 7, meet the war criminals with protests and people's summits.

Join us in Washington, DC!

Saturday, July 6, 2024 - People's Summits

No to NATO - Alternative Summit, 9:30 am - 5:30 PM  
@ St. Mark's Church, Capitol Hill 3rd St & A St, SE

Resist NATO - People's Summit, 5 PM - 9 PM

@ New York Ave Presbyterian Church, 13th St, H St., NY Ave. NW

Sunday, July 7, 2024 - March and Rallies

Resist NATO Coalition, 12 PM, McPherson Sq.

@ 15th St & K St. NW,

1:00 PM March to White House @ Lafayette Sq. with No to NATO

Read recent UNAC statement: [NATO, Zionism and Imperialism](#)

For more information: [UNACpeace@gmail.com](mailto:UNACpeace@gmail.com)

[ResistUSledWarMovement.com](http://ResistUSledWarMovement.com)

## Palestinian Resistance breaks morale of Israel's military

By Monica Moorehead

Eleven members of the Israel Occupation Forces died June 15 in a blast of a Namer armored combat engineering vehicle (CEV) in Rafah, part of occupied Gaza. They were members of the "elite" Combat Engineering Corps' 601st Battalion. This is one of the highest numbers of IOF troops eliminated in just one day since October 7 by the Palestinian Resistance, which must rely on guerrilla tactics and mainly small, handheld weapons to fight the military might of the U.S.-backed oppressors of their people.

While the Israeli press reports that over 330 IOF soldiers have died at the hands of the resistance in Gaza since October 7, the Zionist government has been known to deflate the real numbers of their dead and wounded.

Of course, the deaths of IOF troops come nowhere close to the over 37,000 Palestinian civilians massacred — including over 16,000 children — and over 85,000 wounded since October 7 by the Zionist state, according to the Gaza Ministry of Health's recent numbers.

These numbers alone refute the false narrative in the corporate media that the genocide and ethnic cleansing in Gaza is an Israeli war with Hamas. Despite these horrendous numbers, the support for the resistance amongst the resilient Palestinian people remains strong.


The truth is that for over eight months a united Palestinian resistance made up of Islamic and secular forces has been able to challenge the so-called superiority of the well-oiled Israeli military machine. The determination of the resistance has brought about a growing meltdown and demoralization of the IOF, never seen before since the apartheid Zionist state was established in 1948, with the support of U.S. and British imperialism.

Many of these soldiers — cannon fodder for a settler-colonial regime — have developed a growing mistrust and disillusionment with the Israeli government, including the main war criminal Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

IOF members who have survived battles with the

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# Stop the war in Gaza! Support Workers World

“Stop the war on Gaza! Free Palestine!” demand the peoples of the world who are looking on in horror and decrying Israel’s genocidal campaign against Gaza’s people. Hundreds of millions of allies are demonstrating in solidarity with the Palestinian people, opposing the Zionist state’s murderous siege and denouncing U.S. collusion.

Workers World newspaper has given prominent coverage to the catastrophic Israeli bombing of Gaza, resulting in the horrific deaths of over 37,000 Palestinians and the deliberate destruction of cities and towns, infrastructure, health and sanitation systems, universities, hospitals, housing and encampments. Our articles deplore U.S. imperialism’s historic political and financial support for the Zionist state and the provision of 2,000-pound bombs used to commit genocide. Our articles expose Washington’s lock-step support for Israel’s siege, no matter the double-talk about a ceasefire and “peace” coming from the Biden administration.

A major difference between our newspaper and the big business media: WW is partisan — wholly on the side of the Palestinian people and has been since the paper’s beginnings. Our pages have exposed the corporate media’s “Big Lie” about the Zionist state’s founding, when U.S.-British-backed Zionist gangs violently expelled 750,000 Indigenous Palestinians from their homeland.

Our articles highlight the role of Palestinian Resistance forces and their militant regional allies, and we quickly post at workers.org their statements and bulletins and those of other anti-Zionist organizations,



New York City, May 6, 2024.

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

especially since October 7.

WW applauds the massive pro-Palestinian solidarity demonstrations worldwide. Our articles strongly support the student encampments and other protests in the U.S. and condemn repression, attacks and arrests of these activists. Our staff and writers are joining and reporting on national and local demonstrations.

Stop U.S.-backed wars! Free Palestine!

### WW needs your support!

This pro-worker newspaper depends on our readers’ backing. The WW Supporter Program was launched 47 years ago to help print this socialist newspaper and later support workers.org, where new articles are posted daily, and the weekly

paper’s PDF is displayed.

Workers.org contains news and analyses of global and U.S. struggles, bulletins from national liberation movements and articles translated by our staff. Our writer-organizers report on anti-capitalist struggles and people’s movements against racism and war — and for the rights of Black, Latiné and Indigenous people, women, workers, migrants, LGBTQIA2S+ and disabled individuals. The website is a resource for political activists.

While WW’s staff is voluntary, the 12 printed (and mailed) issues each year and the website incur expenses. Although many online publications require payments to read their articles, WW does not. **Our articles are free to all readers.**

### Join the WW Supporter Program

Can you donate \$50, \$100 or \$200 a year? Contributing \$50 or more will entitle you to receive 12 print issues a year, email links to online articles and, upon request, the book “What road to socialism?”

Your donations help get class truth to more readers — and are appreciated. Write monthly or annual checks to Workers World. Mail them with your name, address and email address to Workers World, 121 West 27th St., Rm. 404, New York, NY 10001. □

worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

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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 austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment 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, education 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, multigender 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 guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and

## Feds vs. UAW

## Workers' control, not government control!

By Martha Grevatt

The United Auto Workers, which led a successful, militant strike against General Motors, Ford and Stellantis (a global auto company that includes Chrysler) last year, is facing an attack by the federal government.

Neil Barofsky, the monitor, appointed by a federal judge in 2021 to oversee the union, is investigating UAW President Shawn Fain. The monitorship was created after a government investigation uncovered multiple corruption scandals in the UAW involving theft of member dues, taking kickbacks from vendors, and accepting bribes from Chrysler bosses in exchange for inferior union contracts.

Workers might jump to the conclusion that this investigation, prompted by allegations that Fain is retaliating against other members of the International Executive Board (IEB), is being conducted with UAW members' best interests in mind. On the surface that might appear to be the case, after the federal investigation led to corrupt union officials and staff being barred from UAW membership and sentenced to prison in 2021.

Yet nothing could be further from the truth. The real retaliation that concerns UAW members is coming from the capitalist state, directed against the revival of class struggle unionism under Fain's leadership.

Besides the big strike last fall,

the UAW has conducted many smaller strikes in a range of industries and won union recognition at Volkswagen, making the Chattanooga, Tennessee, plant the first unionized U.S. auto plant outside of the Big Three.

Graduate students at a number of colleges and universities have unionized with the UAW. A strike threat, combined with pre-strike rallies and "practice pickets," forced Daimler Truck to agree to major contract improvements.

Moreover, the UAW was one of the first major U.S. unions to call for a ceasefire in Gaza. It's true that Fain's position on Palestine is inadequate and contradictory — he has given President Joe Biden, "Genocide Joe," a glowing endorsement and did not vote for a resolution in the IEB for the union to fully divest its funds from Israel Bonds. Nevertheless, it's a step in the right direction and enough to earn the ire of the imperialist ruling class.

**The danger of state 'oversight'**

The corruption scandals were an obscene and embarrassing chapter in the history of the UAW, a union associated with the heroic sit-down strikes of the 1930s. They led to the 2021 consent decree between the U.S. government and the union that created the monitor position and mandated a referendum vote by UAW members on how to elect IEB members in the future.

Thanks to a massive, grass roots campaign by the

rank-and-file caucus, United All Workers for Democracy, the membership voted for direct IEB elections — "one member, one vote." This ended the corrupt practice of choosing IEB members through a controlled convention delegate system.

Eight candidates ran in opposition to the class collaborationist Administration Caucus, which has dominated the UAW for decades, and all of them won positions on the board.

However, the binding consent decree gave the monitor significant control over the functioning of the union. He can attend and speak at all meetings of the IEB and has access to all, with a few exceptions, UAW internal documents. Barofsky can initiate disciplinary procedures, a right not normally granted to outside parties, and can issue subpoenas mandating witness testimony.

The monitor has "the right and authority of the UAW International President and IEB to bring charges seeking to discipline, remove, suspend, expel, fine or forfeit the benefits ... of any UAW International officer, representative, agent, member, employee or person holding a position of trust in the UAW, its constituent entities, or any employee benefit plan, labor management cooperation committee or voluntary employee beneficiary association in which such person acts on behalf of the UAW or its constituent entities, as well as officers of local



UAW strike hits Stellantis, Sept. 19, 2023.

unions who are also members of the UAW" when they allegedly violate the law or terms of the consent decree. He can block the union from hiring people he believes are guilty of the above.

The UAW must pay the costs associated with the monitor, as well as the "adjudications officer," who has broad disciplinary powers and whose decisions are binding. The terms of the two officers do not end until 2027.

An example of how government oversight has been used to weaken the labor movement is the case of former Teamsters union President Ron Carey. In 1997, Carey led a powerful strike against UPS, making gains in a period where setbacks and concession bargaining were the norm.

Carey was permanently removed from office after being accused of laundering money to fund his reelection campaign. He was subsequently acquitted of all charges but could no longer be a leader of the union.

Karl Marx wrote in 1848, in

"The Communist Manifesto," that, for unions, "The real fruit of their battles lies, not in the immediate result, but in the ever expanding union of the workers." It is this unity that the capitalist class still finds threatening. That's why the capitalist state goes after unions, taking advantage of genuine corruption to further its anti-worker agenda.

No good can come from this government investigation of President Fain. UAW members have processes, spelled out in the union constitution, to deal with problems they have with their leadership.

The union movement must oppose all attempts by the capitalist state to weaken the UAW or force a change in the new, militant direction it has taken.

U.S. government: Hands off our unions!

*Martha Grevatt is a retired member of UAW Local 869, which represents Stellantis's Warren Stamping Plant.*

## High court backs Starbucks, undermines workers' rights

By Martha Grevatt

The Supreme Court of the United States once again attacked the labor movement on June 14, ruling 8-1 in favor of union-busting tactics in the case of Starbucks Corp. v. McKinney. SCOTUS overturned the decisions of two lower courts which upheld an injunction by the National Labor Relations Board ordering Starbucks to reinstate the Memphis 7. The seven workers, mostly Black and Brown, were fired by Starbucks in 2022. They alleged the firings were retaliation for attempting to unionize their store in Memphis.

The high court sent the case back to the lower court to revisit. While the ruling



Memphis 7 leader Beto Sanchez speaks outside union-busting Starbucks boss Howard Schultz's Manhattan apartment on May Day 2022.

does not mean the Memphis 7 will be fired again, it makes it easier for companies like Starbucks to fire and otherwise retaliate against workers trying to organize.

On April 26, the company and Starbucks Workers United (SBWU), in a joint statement, said both "remain committed to building a positive, productive relationship." The two parties began bargaining for a first contract to cover all nearly 450 unionized stores in February.

The fact that Starbucks took the case of the Memphis 7 all the way to the Supreme Court, months after bargaining began, exposes its absolute hypocrisy.

Rarely do capitalists sincerely want a "positive, productive relationship" with a union fighting to improve wages, benefits and working conditions for the workers they exploit. When the workers get more, it cuts into the profits of the bosses.

It is actually fairly uncommon for the NLRB to order workers to be reinstated before their cases are resolved in a drawn-out court process. With the latest SCOTUS ruling, the Board will be even less likely to

issue a pro-union injunction.

It should come as no surprise that this viciously right-wing court took the side of Starbucks. Nor should anyone be shocked that two of the three "liberal" justices sided with the "conservative" majority. The court was established by Congress in 1789, with justices appointed for life, when enslavement was legal. Its purpose was never to uphold the rights of the exploited.

In an opinion piece published in The New York Times on June 15, SBWU co-founder Jaz Brisack wrote: "The outcome is predictable: the most conservative Supreme Court in decades eroded another legal protection of workers' right to organize. In response, the labor movement must re-evaluate the source of our power; the law will not save us."

It will take independent, militant action by the working class to defend the basic right to organize unions. □

## New York City

## Citibank hit for funding genocide

Protesters rallied outside the world headquarters of Citibank in New York City on June 13 as part of a global week of action against the bank for its support of Israel's genocide against the people of Gaza. Citibank and its parent Citigroup are the financial backbone of the Israeli apartheid system and the funders of multi-billion-dollar weapons transfers between the U.S. Department of Defense and the Israeli Occupation Forces.

The protest was organized by the Palestinian Assembly for Liberation-Awda NY/NJ. Throughout the week, the

group urged people to close their accounts at Citibank and cancel their Citi credit cards.

PAL-Awda noted that in 2021, Citi loaned the Israeli occupation regime \$2.5 billion to buy 25 new F35 fighter jets — and that the U.S. government is currently repaying that loan. The group's organizers said: "Those planes now rain death on families living in tents in Gaza. They destroy homes, hospitals, schools, mosques and churches."

— Report and photo by Brenda Ryan



# PFLP calls for international investigation of crimes against Palestinian detainees



*The following statement on Zionist crimes and horrific violations in the "Sde Teman" detention camp against Palestinian prisoners was released by the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine Office of Martyrs, Prisoners and Wounded on June 14, 2024, and issued by Resistance News Network:*

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine is following with extreme anger the shocking and painful reports and horrifying testimonies regarding the severe violations and unprecedented crimes committed against Palestinian prisoners in the "Sde Teman" camp in the Naqab Desert.

This camp has turned into an extermina-

tion camp under the direct supervision of the occupying army and by a decision from the government of the Zionist killers, with U.S. backing and international silence.

The Front confirms that the testimonies from released prisoners, revealing systematic killings and brutal torture by the Zionist jailers, are shocking and horrifying practices only carried out by a group of killers, fascists and sadists thirsty for killing and torture.

Released prisoners reveal beatings of detainees to death, leaving the wounded without treatment until their wounds rot, in addition to severe violations against detained women, including stripping and beating them. These

unprecedented crimes cannot be ignored or go unpunished.

In light of these horrific crimes and painful testimonies, the Front demands the formation of an urgent international committee to investigate the Zionist crimes committed against detained prisoners, especially those whose detention in the "Sde Teman" camp or other Zionist detention and extermination camps has been concealed.

The Front demands that the Zionists responsible for these crimes be brought to the International Criminal Court, foremost among them the criminal, fascist and racist Ben-Gvir, so they pay for committing these horrifying crimes.

The Front calls on the free people of the world, all supporters and relevant institutions to urgently mobilize in public, media, legal and diplomatic arenas to pressure for firm and serious stances against these Zionist atrocities against the prisoners, and to reveal the fate of hundreds of prisoners held in inhumane and terrifying conditions.

The Front calls on all national and Islamic forces to unite and combine efforts to defend prisoners' rights, leading to their liberation, and to continue working to expose the unprecedented practices of the occupation against the prisoners.

*This statement was lightly edited.*

## A Pan-Abolitionist prayer for Leonard Peltier

*"The only accounts we owe are to our children, the ancestors and those not yet born."*

Amílcar Cabral, whom I was honored to meet in Accra

just as we carry  
our African roots  
deep in the soil  
of our ancestral memory  
we live  
and breathe  
Pan Africanism  
part of our praxis  
and history

we pour libation to Kwame Nkrumah  
and George Padmore  
and T.R. Makonnen  
and the freedom fighters  
of the liberation movements  
that trained  
in Accra  
to wrest independence  
from the imperial vampire

we pour libation  
to those who taught us  
that the independence  
of one African State  
is nothing  
unless it is connected  
to the independence  
of them all

and today  
we vow we will not rest  
till Leonard Peltier's life  
is wrested from the carceral empire –  
we vow he will walk free  
because his liberation  
is connected  
to the freedom  
of them all

to the freedom of all political prisoners –  
our own independence warriors  
resisting  
death by incarceration

to the freedom  
of us all

tonight  
we will light candles  
till night's end  
and  
at dawn  
Pan Abolitionism –  
the dream  
in the gleam  
of the eyes of our children  
the ancestors  
and those not yet born –  
will begin to manifest  
after our slavery-old quest

(c) Julia Wright. June 9, 2024.

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## Leonard Peltier parole hearing update

*The Leonard Peltier Official Ad Hoc Committee posted this statement from Peltier's attorneys on June 12.*

We began this year with a triumphant motto, coined by Brother Dhoruba bin Wahad: "We will not give up the fight." Fight we will for Leonard's freedom. The struggle for Leonard's freedom is not over — until it is over. We will use every available legal mechanism to secure his release, but we know the law and justice are not the same thing, and so the law alone is not sufficient to access meaningful justice. As such, we encourage continued legal support but also social and political support for Leonard.

Leonard had his parole hearing on Monday, June 10, 2024, and we feel that he was as supported as possible. We are aware that the parole process itself, like every part of the criminal penal system, is both a political and legal process, and the flaws in this process specifically concerning Leonard have been meticulously documented by the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. The appropriate inquiry for the commission is to assess the person who stands before them, not the alleged offense.

Leonard's parole hearing lasted more than seven hours. There was nothing unexpected about the hearing itself. The surviving loved ones of the agents killed on June 26, 1975, gave impact statements, as did representatives from the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of North Dakota.

Dr. Joel Rene Morrissey and organizer Nick Tilsen, the only two witnesses permitted to testify, spoke compellingly regarding Leonard's seriously deteriorating medical condition and the plans made to care for Leonard upon his release. Dr. Joel Morrissey, particularly, gave thorough testimony highlighting the ongoing long-term medical neglect to which Mr. Peltier is subjected.

Lead attorney Jenipher Jones, who was present at the parole hearing, devises the overall legal strategy and framing regarding Leonard's post-conviction relief, civil, and human rights. For the past year, Attorney Jones has been working to ensure Leonard's medical care is both constitutionally sufficient and in accordance with

human rights provisions. Attorney Jones also develops the constitutional analysis with respect to all aspects of Mr. Peltier's case.

Ms. Jones' esteemed co-counsel, Attorney Moira Meltzer-Cohen, brilliantly developed and delivered the arguments to support Leonard's release. Attorney Meltzer-Cohen also, in part, developed the legal framework for Leonard's parole. Unfortunately, Kevin Sharp was not permitted to deliver arguments to the Hearing Examiner nor present evidence during the hearing.

### Leonard's pride and personality shine through

Leonard was asked about the underlying offenses, but he also had the opportunity to speak about his grandchildren, and his personality and pride really shone through. A massive amount of material was presented, and we hope the hearing examiner has been convinced of the obvious fact that, if released, Leonard is not in danger of violating the law and that, after 50 years, his release will not be seen as promoting disrespect for the law.

Attorneys Jones and Meltzer-Cohen expect a decision within 21 days and are responsible for spearheading any necessary appeals and subsequent litigation, though they hope such action will not be necessary.

We thank everyone who contributed to this process, including families, our mentors, shout out to Attorney Meltzer-Cohen's students at CUNY School of Law, the National Conference of Black Lawyers (NCBL) and the National Lawyers Guild (NLG), both organizations to which Attorney Jones is a board member. We also express sincere gratitude to the members of the NLG Mass Incarceration Committee Old Law Prisoner Project, Professor Chuck Weisselberg, Attorney Brad Thompson, Professor Audrey Bomse, Dr. Joel Morrissey, Dr. Giselle Dias, Kalonji Jama Changa, Silja Talvi, the Leonard Peltier Official Ad Hoc Committee and the Jericho Movement and all those who have supported their work and advocacy.

This work is part of the long tradition of liberation work for Indigenous peoples everywhere: When we fight, we win. □

## Italian anti-fascist freed after international backlash

By **Teddie Kelly**

Ilaria Salis, a 39-year-old elementary school teacher from northern Italy, went from political prisoner to elected official in just over a year.

The anti-fascist activist was arrested in Budapest, Hungary, last year for allegedly assaulting two neo-Nazis — charges which Salis denies. In addition, Hungarian authorities accused Salis of being "a member of an extreme left-wing organization" which they identified as "ANTIFA."

The imprisonment of Salis by the far-right government of Viktor Orban came at a time of escalating repression of anti-fascists in the United States. Last month, 11 San Diego activists, who prosecutors argued were part of an "ANTIFA conspiracy," were convicted on similar grounds for alleged assaults on white supremacist demonstrators. One of the San Diego 11 was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Salis faced 11 years if convicted.

In a jail cell in Hungary, Salis experienced conditions that would

also be familiar to anyone ever incarcerated in U.S. prisons. In October of last year, she wrote: "For a total of one month, I have been with another inmate in cells that measure less than seven square meters, excluding the bathroom. You spend twenty three hours out of twenty four in a completely closed cell. Besides the bedbugs, the cells and corridors are full of cockroaches and mice. I found myself without toilet paper, soap and sanitary pads."

*Continued on page 5*

# The legacy of Juneteenth

By Monica Moorehead

The following article was originally posted at workers.org on June 20, 2022. Juneteenth was implemented as a federal holiday for public sector workers in 2021. Juneteenth is now a holiday for some workers in the private sector. For instance, the United Auto Workers won Juneteenth as a paid holiday in its contracts with Ford, General Motors and Stellantis after striking the auto companies last year.

This year marks the first anniversary of Juneteenth as an official federal holiday since it was signed into law June 17, 2021, by President Joe Biden.

The day is a recognition that on June 19, 1865, enslaved Black people were liberated in Galveston, Texas — two and a half years following the enactment of the Emancipation Proclamation made by President Abraham Lincoln. Many Black people were either kidnapped to countries like Cuba or Brazil where slavery still existed until the late 1880s, or even murdered by Texas enslavers.

Many Black people view Juneteenth as the “second day of independence” following the U.S. “independence”



from Britain in 1776. Even before Juneteenth — also known as “Freedom Day” — was made a legal holiday, Black people celebrated this anniversary of their emancipation all over the U.S. with marches, rallies, along with an array of social and cultural events. But the bourgeois media paid little to no attention to these celebrations.

The federal holiday will no doubt help to raise consciousness of the significance of the day for millions of people who have very limited knowledge of the heinous crimes of slavery and the heroic struggle to overturn it — with rebellions led by enslaved people like Denmark Vesey, Gabriel Prosser and Nat Turner and white allies like John Brown.

It took a bloody Civil War, where the Confederacy was defeated on the battleground in 1865, to eventually end chattel slavery, granting legal freedom but also opening the path to semi-slavery for Black people. These are important historic and political events that in one degree or another are absent from the mainstream history books.

What led to this federal holiday — similar to the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. holiday enacted in 1986 — was the present-day mass struggle against racist police brutality and other forms of white supremacy under the banner of Black Lives Matter. This struggle

reached its peak following the public police lynching of George Floyd in May 2020, when millions of people took to the streets that summer with the main demand: “Defund the police!”

Of course, the liberation of Black people did not begin nor will it end with Juneteenth. The suppression of Black Reconstruction in the aftermath of the Civil War meant the goal of granting Black people full bourgeois democratic rights was abruptly cut short.

The white-supremacist counterrevolution laid the basis for today’s reality of Black people in disproportionate numbers being relegated to a second-class status, with some of the worst housing, education, health care and nutrition in the country, along with being subjected to mass incarceration and police terror.

And now with Juneteenth being elevated on a national level, the ruling class and its media mouthpieces will attempt to co-opt this holiday by finding ways to make profits and by putting their own spin on “looking back at the past,” as a diversion from granting full equality.

Instead, Juneteenth should be a clarion call for reparations for the descendants of once-enslaved people, whose unpaid labor was superexploited by white plantation owners. The inspiration of Juneteenth can inject a heavy dose of anti-racist solidarity to help move the classwide struggle forward by workers of all nationalities, ages and genders, uniting to organize for a liveable wage and more humane working conditions. □

## No to criminalization of sex work!

By Princess Harmony

The Women and Gender Oppressed Caucus of Workers World Party is proud to announce that we have voted to sign the Open Letter of the Sex Worker Organizing Group of the National Survivors Union against the Anti-Equity Model of Sex Work Criminalization.

The National Survivors Union is an organization by and for drug users, with the Sex Worker Organizing Group being oriented towards former and current sex workers who use drugs. The Union, seeing the spread of the so-called “Nordic

Model” (also called the Anti-Equity Model), has decided to fight back against the repression of sex workers by the state that uses this model to attack sex work and further marginalize sex workers.

After intense discussion, the Caucus recognized the need to sign onto this historic letter. Workers World Party has previously aligned with sex workers and people likely to become sex workers, such as trans people. We acknowledge that sex workers are workers and members of the working class. We recognize the need for revolutionaries of our class to extend solidarity with the most oppressed among

us, and those often brutally repressed, beaten by police and imprisoned, while they are trying to survive.

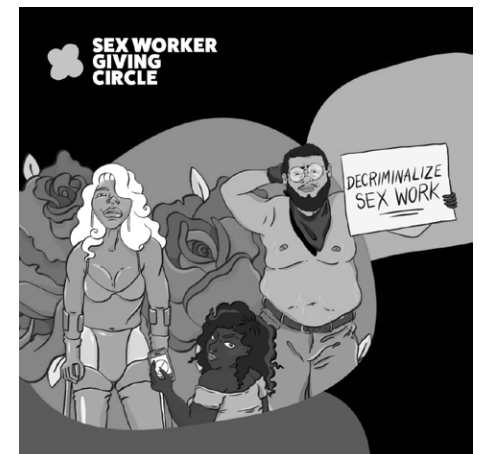
The letter the caucus signed onto can be found here: [tinyurl.com/ycym9yjj2](https://tinyurl.com/ycym9yjj2)

Here is the form to sign the letter: [tinyurl.com/5yu96hbn](https://tinyurl.com/5yu96hbn)

More about the Anti-Equity Model can be found here:

[workers.org/2024/05/78440](https://workers.org/2024/05/78440)

More articles about sex work will be written for Workers World, so stay tuned! □



## Italian anti-fascist freed after international backlash

Continued from page 4

Salis also reported that after discovering a lump in her breast prior to her arrest, she was denied a mammogram and ultrasound for months. “I have not received any written report, which has instead been delivered to the prison doctor, who refuses to hand it over to my lawyer,” she wrote. (Guardian, Jan. 2)

It was this kind of treatment that shocked the conscience of Italians across the political spectrum. In January, Salis was brought before a Hungarian judge bound and shackled by her ankles and wrists. Describing the incident, an attorney for Salis said, “It was shocking; she was dragged like a dog. It was crazy, the Italian state must do something.” (Ansa English, March 28)

Even as the Italian state seeks to forge closer ties with Orbán’s Hungary, Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said in a radio interview, “This time it seems to me it has gone too far.” He later summoned the Hungarian diplomatic delegation to the foreign ministry and negotiated for Salis to be placed under house arrest in Budapest rather than in one of its prison cells. (Ansa English, Jan. 30)

**From prisoner to parliamentarian**

If this gesture was meant to placate Salis’s supporters, it failed. Rather, Italian anti-fascists rejected the diplomatic compromise between the two far-right governments. Ahead of her trial which was scheduled for May, the Greens and Left Alliance — an electoral coalition of progressive and democratic socialist organizations that formed in 2022 — offered Salis their nomination for the upcoming European Parliamentary elections.

Her subsequent victory this June meant that as an elected European Union parliamentarian, she must be granted diplomatic immunity, a longstanding agreement

of international law which prevents foreign governments from prosecuting other country’s diplomatic representatives.

This electoral gambit paid off, and Salis was released from house arrest in Hungary. But egregious violations of centuries-old diplomatic mores have been committed in recent history. In 2020, the U.S. arranged for the illegal arrest and rendition of Venezuelan diplomat Alex Saab who was held until his release last December. In April, Israel murdered 14 members of the Iranian diplomatic delegation in an airstrike targeting that country’s embassy in Damascus, Syria.

In this case, it was not just a legal loophole that won her freedom.

It was the mass pressure of the radical Italian working class that made Salis’s case an international cause celebre, then elected her to office and then kept up the momentum until she walked free.

**‘The spirit of anti-fascism today’**

The Associazione Nazionale Partigiani d’Italia (National Association of Italian Partisans) was founded in 1944 by Italian resistance fighters as they fought Nazi occupation and the fascist regime under the then-deposed Benito Mussolini. Eighty years later, ANPI still claims over 100,000 members.

Salis, in a letter to demonstrators delivered by her father, wrote, “In my homeland, we honor the end of World War II and the expulsion of Nazi fascists, a testament to the valorous efforts of partisan men and women. From my confines, I earnestly hope that my nation upholds its storied legacy. May it continue to confront global injustices and

remain steadfast on the right side of history. Happy 25th of April!” (Hungary Today, April 26)

“Ilaria epitomizes the spirit of anti-fascism today,” Roberto Salis said of his daughter.

Following the demonstration, activists accused Meloni’s government of censoring the broadcast of another speaker’s remarks, which detailed the history of Italian complicity in the Holocaust and other Nazi war crimes.

After the elections, in which the Greens and Left Alliance won 6.8% of the seats for Italy’s European Parliamentary delegation, the coalition released a joint statement saying, “Ilaria Salis can now return to Italy and fulfill her new role as indicated by hundreds of thousands of voters.

“Our thanks go to all those who, like us, have been outraged and have not accepted the terrible condition in which she was held in Orbán’s prisons over these months. Now she can defend civil and social rights of the most vulnerable together with us.” (Houston Chronicle, June 14) □



Rome, May 2024

# No progress without struggle!

COMMENTARY

By Daphne Barroeta

This talk, which has been edited, was presented on June 11 at a joint meeting of the Marxist Youth League and the Buffalo branch of Workers World Party.

In 1972, Sam Marcy, founding member and late chairperson of Workers World Party, wrote in a Party document: “The oppression of national minorities is not the only oppression meted out by a divisive ruling class. There is also the extra oppression of women, of youth and of gay [now LGBTQIA2S+] people. The degeneration of monopoly capitalism into state monopoly capitalism carries to an extreme all the forms of oppression which the capitalist system, in the previous epoch, had engendered and developed.

“As the crisis of the social system becomes more and more apparent, the need of the ruling class to unload its burden on the most oppressed sections of the society becomes more evident. Only by dividing, fragmenting and continually pitting different elements of the oppressed masses against each other can the capitalist establishment maintain its sway over all society and hope to survive.” (tinyurl.com/58b9dx2f)

Indeed, liberation of any type or of any oppressed grouping does not exist in a vacuum. It exists in the space of solidarity, of struggle co-joined with struggle in the revolutionary aim of overthrowing our shared oppressors and stripping away the machinery of oppression.

Perhaps one of the biggest problems for our shared struggle today is liberalism. Liberalism exists in many forms and in many contexts. The specific context I am referring to is the ideology that the working class has inherited from the ruling class. This trend exists as a defective tendency within the progressive sections of our class camp, currently mobilized in the anti-war

and anti-imperialist movement, but also lives on in other co-current struggles.

## Peace is not liberation

Liberalism as an ideology holds onto appendages of capital and seeks to moderate the struggle against the ruling class. Two popular and contemporary examples are as follows: First is the idea that queer liberation can come from supporting queer-owned businesses and by assimilating queer-coded commodities into the market. In this case, so-called “resistance” against violence exists as a commodity to be bought or an experience to be consumed.

The second example is the idea that peaceful action is an absolute standard for resisting the violence enacted by the ruling class. Currently, this is most often expressed within the context of the Palestinian genocide and sounds something like “violence is wrong on both sides.”

This is not to say that peaceful action cannot be effective, but rather that peaceful action is not universalizable — especially within the context of combating settler-colonial violence. This erroneous view is starkly apparent when it comes from media personalities but can hide itself within the revolutionary movement.

While it is important for revolutionaries to seek alliances with others in the fight against imperialism, we must not allow ourselves to become lost, unable to distinguish between peace and liberation or between commodities coded to match our oppressions and the products of a truly liberated people. We cannot buy our liberation. We cannot peacefully coexist with the ruling class — or their traitorous pigs.

Comrade Kwame Ture refuted this notion of peace when he said in 1968 in Peter Brooks’ documentary “Tell Me Lies”: “There’s a difference between peace and liberation, is there not? You can have injustice and have peace. You can have

peace and be enslaved, so peace isn’t the answer — liberation is the answer.”

The youth on the front lines of the struggle for liberation understand comrade Ture’s concept of peace all too well. For many children in Palestine, it means wholesale death, destruction and disease at the hands of settler colonialism and white supremacy.

For many queer youth, both inside and outside the imperial core, it looks like homelessness, domestic violence, drug addiction and a struggle to access basic medical care.

## Changes won through decades of struggle — not voting

Speaking personally, I have lost years of my life to anti-transgender bigotry. I have lost contact with much of my family both in the United States and in México. What has allowed for much of my transition needs has not been rainbow streamers or fellow queers on TV. It is the decades of struggle against the state and their pigs that forced the bourgeoisie to give us concessions, such as including trans health care in Medicaid coverage.

And this fight is not over. Concessions to the movement are not enough for me and should not be enough for you. As our siblings on the forefront of the battle against fascism in this country are discovering, these reforms can disappear at the blink of an eye. Those who think we can buy trans rights, economic justice or peace in the Middle East through “voting blue” are wrong. Voting against a fascist is not enough. We must combat the whole capitalist class that profits from and coddles fascism.

We must move members of our class from theoretical opposition to capitalism and its varying forms of systemic violence to active resistance against capital. Liberalism within the anti-war movement has blunted the edge of the revolutionary movement, especially the student/youth movement, in a manner which manifests in conciliatory attitudes towards the university establishment and university police for the purpose of careerism.

We cannot allow ourselves to assimilate

into petite bourgeois society and have our activism become a “wild and fun period in our past.” We cannot allow bumper stickers, vague social media posts and progressive slogans on our coffee mugs to become the end horizon of our struggle. Those with a measure of privilege in our society must become involved in the fight against our class enemy.

## Mao on liberalism

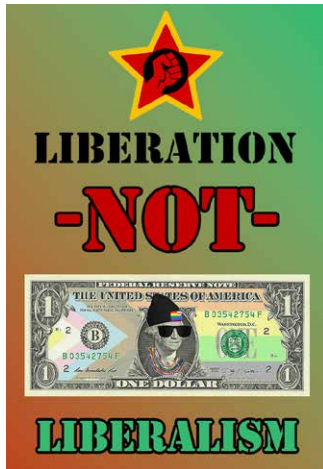
Especially for those of us who align in some manner or another with revolutionary organizations, we cannot give up our militancy. While comrade Mao Zedong was writing on Sept. 7, 1937 — within a different context — the text entitled “Combat Liberalism” does an excellent job of discussing the fight against this ideological enemy in concrete terms: “Liberalism stems from petite bourgeois selfishness. It places personal interests first and the interests of the revolution second, and this gives rise to ideological, political and organizational liberalism.

“People who are liberals look upon the principles of Marxism as abstract dogma. They approve of Marxism but are not prepared to practice it or to practice it in full; they are not prepared to replace their liberalism with Marxism. These people have their Marxism, but they have their liberalism as well — they talk Marxism but practice liberalism. They apply Marxism to others but liberalism to themselves. They keep both kinds of goods in stock and find a use for each.” (marxists.org)

While being a revolutionary is hard work, it is necessary work. Dedication to advocacy must include a shift to a revolutionary paradigm in order to attain true and total liberation for all working-class and oppressed peoples.

Let us remember who our enemies and our allies are. Our enemy is the ruling class and the ideologies that stem from capital, which poison the working class of our world. We must fight this enemy on all fronts — whether it be in the streets, in cultural work and institutions, in our places of work, in the home or online.

And we must fight this enemy in solidarity with our comrades abroad. □



WW GRAPHIC: DAPHNE BARROETA

# Cut ties to pro-Israel weapons maker!

Continued from page 1

and the broader struggles against capitalism-imperialism.

Despite the People’s Pride Coalition being placed dead last in the parade lineup, the contingent grew to at least three times its original size by the end of the march. Onlookers cheered for a free Palestine and joined in the march as the contingent passed by. During the parade, the coalition announced an upcoming action outside Evergreen Health.

## People’s Pride Coalition’s demands to Evergreen Health

Protesters gathered for a rally on June 13 outside Evergreen Health’s main office. The People’s Pride Coalition presented a letter to the healthcare provider demanding a meeting with company executives. The pressure is on Evergreen Health to disclose and cut its ties with Moog. The following is a lightly edited version of the letter to Evergreen executives:

“As members of the LGBTQ community in Buffalo, the community Evergreen claims to serve, we stand with Evergreen’s stated values of authentic down to earth harm reduction. We were, therefore, appalled to see MOOG Inc. among the sponsors of the 2024 Buffalo pride festival.

“MOOG is an arms dealer which supplies components for the manufacture and maintenance of the M-346, F-15, F-16, and F-35, all aircraft used by the Israeli military in their genocide of Gaza, and their stock price has sharply increased since the invasion began.

“For a healthcare nonprofit supposedly focused on harm reduction to have any relationship with an arms dealer profiting from genocide is unacceptable, but to put their name on a celebration of queer joy and liberation is insulting.

“We are also deeply concerned over the retaliation against workers who are doing real care for our community when those workers voted to unionize.

“Evergreen is supported by queer people, but the goodwill of our community has limits, and we will not be complicit.

“Therefore we, as Evergreen patients and as representatives of the LGBTQ community in Buffalo demand that Evergreen Health Services and all its related organizations immediately:

1. Disclose each company that supplies medical equipment to its facilities
2. Terminate all relationships

with MOOG Inc, including but not limited to:

- Purchasing of medical equipment supplied by MOOG Inc
- Purchasing of medical equipment manufactured using components supplied by MOOG Inc
- Any sponsorships accepted from MOOG Inc
- Attendance at or involvement in any event sponsored or attended by MOOG Inc

3. Cease any and all retaliatory actions against employees of WNY [Western New York] Pride Center

“We will not rest until these demands are met. Genocide has no place in our community, our celebrations, or our healthcare.”

It is also important to note that the workers at both Evergreen Health and the Pride Center of WNY (an affiliate of Evergreen Health) have recently formed unions and have been battling Evergreen’s union busting. Pride Workers United also went on strike the day of the Pride festival, marching in the parade against the Pride Center’s unfair labor practices committed in retaliation to the workers’ unanimous decision to unionize.

The People’s Pride Coalition consists of the following organizations: Green Party of Erie County, Marxist Youth League, Queen City Workers’ Center, State University of New York Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement (SUNY BDS), University at Buffalo Queers (UBQ), UB Young Democratic Socialists of America, and Workers World Party – Buffalo Branch. □



Pride Workers United marches against union busting in the Buffalo Pride parade.

PHOTO: PRIDE WORKERS UNITED

# Leslie Feinberg to Aswat: 'I am at your side'

By Leslie Feinberg

*Leslie Feinberg, a lesbian transgender and Jewish communist and a managing editor of Workers World, delivered the following solidarity statement to the first public conference of Aswat — Palestinian Gay Women — in Haifa on March 28, 2007. Bracketed words, phrases and sentences were delivered in Arabic. The 10th anniversary of comrade Leslie's death will be marked on Nov. 15.*

[I know where I stand: in historic Palestine. So my first words must be in Arabic. Thank you for inviting me here. It is the largest honor in my life. I salute Aswat.]

My first words in English must be why I am here, within the 1948 borders of the Israeli settler state. Why am I here when the colonial occupier set up an apartheid state in the name of Jewish people and co-opts the symbol of Judaism, stitching it into every uniform, flying it from every tank turret?

Why am I here when I remember, every day of my adult life, what happened to the people of Deir Yassin?

Why am I here, when the right of return belongs to those who, for thousands of years, planted the olive trees? Why am I here, since I am one of many Jewish activists in the U.S. who struggle to dismantle the Israeli settler state?

And most precisely, why am I here when I am one of many activists around the world who are working to build and strengthen the divestment campaign and economic and cultural boycott of Israel — as well as Caterpillar, Starbucks and Estee Lauder — while we demand at the same time that the U.S.-led economic embargo of the Palestinian Authority end immediately?

I say to you here, to all Palestinian and Arab people of the Middle East and the forced Diaspora and to oppressed peoples everywhere, that I am here for only one reason: I am here because Palestinian Aswat asked me to come.

I have long stated publicly that I would only travel here if the Israeli state had already been dismantled or if I were invited by Palestinians to travel here to support your struggle. What an honor to be able to be side-by-side with you today at your invitation. I thank Aswat for giving me this great honor to be here with you, to celebrate this publication in Arabic about [lesbians and male homosexuals].

Sometimes people say something is an honor, but they don't mean it. I really do mean it. History has woven our destinies. I was born into a Jewish family of factory workers one year after al-Nakba. I am with Palestinian liberation with every breath in my body; every muscle and every sinew.

History will recall what an important development took place here as you have raised your [voices in Arabic]. From the Crusades to the 1948 Zionist occupation of Palestine, colonialism and imperialism have brutally imposed economic, military and cultural domination.

## Britain imposed bigoted laws

The British Mandate brought anti-sodomy laws to Palestine, a legacy the Israeli occupation kept. The French Mandate brought anti-sodomy laws to Lebanon; that's what Helem is fighting.

Now, today, here, with its first publication, this important anthology, Aswat is opening up a dialogue [in Arabic] with your own people in your own language about your own culture within your own history — a part of the struggle of the Palestinian people towards the liberation they so richly deserve. You are developing a language of persuasion.



The discussion may not be an easy one — profound and lasting transformation rarely is — but those of us who defend your right to self-determination, your sovereignty, will defend the right of the Palestinian people to carry out their internal dialogue without Israeli or U.S. interference or political manipulation.

Today there are some who will try to separate Aswat from the Palestinian struggle and only relate to you on the basis of a universal sexual identity. But those who support your self-determination will not forget that you

*"Sometimes people say something is an honor, but they don't mean it. I really do mean it. History has woven our destinies. I was born into a Jewish family of factory workers one year after al-Nakba. I am with Palestinian liberation with every breath in my body; every muscle and every sinew."*

are linguistically translating your culture, your lives and your self-identities and your struggle to make it easier for those of us who are not fluent in Arabic to understand. But that does not mean that identities like lesbian, gay, bi, transgender, transsexual, intersexual have one universal meaning in all places, for all peoples, for all cultures or in all historical periods.

Colonialism and imperialism have always tried to foment conflicts in order to divide and conquer. In the case of Palestinians, as [the Lebanese LGBTQIA+ group] Helem concluded, "[T]he rights of gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgenders should not be placed in competition with the long struggle of the Palestinian people, including Palestinian LGBT people, for self-determination, for the right to return to their homes, and the struggle against apartheid and the occupation of their lands."

Today we see how the imperialists — the U.S. to Israeli — use the experiences of women, of gays, of transgenders as pretexts for imperialist war. The white supremacist ideology replaces the colonial claim of "bringing civilization" into imperialist claims that they are "bringing democracy." But Washington and Tel Aviv have brought ruthless reac-

tionary occupations to the Middle East.

Today the U.S. has made anti-gay, anti-trans, anti-woman rape and humiliation part of its science of torture and repression from the U.S. torture camp in imperialist-occupied Guantánamo, Cuba, to Abu Ghraib.

## What solidarity looks like

So when people in Cuba and around the world hear that Aswat was translating into Arabic the call for Rainbow Solidarity with the Cuban Five — five political prisoners held in the U.S. for the so-called crime of trying to halt right-wing commando terrorist attacks on Cuba from U.S. soil — they understand that Aswat is speaking the language of solidarity.

Helem also inspired millions with its eloquent support for the global movement to boycott Jerusalem Pride 2006 "as part of the international boycott of, and divestment from Israel." And people in Lebanon and around the world saw Helem provide shelter, food and other supplies to many refugees who escaped the war zone in the south and the southern suburbs of Beirut. I send my solidarity to Helem and to all the Lebanese people. I salute the victory of your people over the Israeli military, armed and backed by the Pentagon.

I raise my voice here in solidarity with the Iraqi and Iranian people of all sexualities and genders who are fiercely resisting imperialism. We are working hard to defend you.

The anti-war movement worldwide, particularly in the imperialist countries, needs to hear your Aswat. So my work here is to help to amplify the Palestinian Aswat, the Arab Aswat. I will listen carefully, closely and respectfully to your Aswat.

My actions also demonstrate my support for the growing world economic boycott of Israel. I did not buy a plane ticket to travel here. Minnie Bruce Pratt — a poet warrior, comrade and my partner in life and love — sends her solidarity to Aswat by contributing 140,000 of her frequent flier miles for my airline ticket. Within the Israeli economy, I will not buy a single souvenir, not a postcard. I will only spend money for food.

In support of the cultural boycott of Israel, I turned down a request to speak at Tel Aviv University. I will not speak a word of Hebrew or Yiddish while I am here. I will not sign the Hebrew language translation of Stone Butch Blues. I already send every penny of income I receive from the Hebrew edition to Aswat.

I come here knowing that Tel Aviv and Washington may try to detain me, because my life does not fit into the either/or boxes of the U.S. passport. But I come here to stand with Aswat.

It may seem that the colonial occupation of Palestine could last forever, but it will not. With the Intifada and world support it will end, as surely as apartheid in South Africa was ended by the long struggle of the Black people of South Africa — who took up arms for liberation — and those of us who fought alongside in solidarity, including for divestment. I am with you in your struggle.

I respect and defend your right to self-determination. I will fight alongside you for every right — for full civil rights within the 1948 borders, for transportation between the villages of the triangle, for an immediate end to the economic embargo against the Palestinian people as collective punishment for electing their own government representative, for an end to the siege of the West Bank and Gaza — at your side.

And I will be with you on the day that we tear down the colonial garrison state of Israel, and Palestine is free from this racist, theocratic, apartheid, imperialist occupation — the day when all those who planted the olive trees will taste the fruit of freedom.

From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free! Long live Palestinian Aswat! □



## Cleveland queers for Palestine

Thousands of people marched in Cleveland's annual "Pride in the CLE" parade on June 1. While a majority of the march contingents were corporate-based or church-based, several groups marched under the banner of "Queer solidarity with Palestine."

—Report and photo by Martha Grevatt

# Workers World congratulates Nicaraguans on 45th anniversary of Sandinista Revolution

Long before the Sandinista National Liberation Front liberated Nicaragua from the Somoza dictatorship and Yankee rule in July 1979, the name Sandino had become a beacon of struggle for national liberation throughout the world, especially for small nations fighting for liberation from vast empires.

Augusto Cesar Sandino had led a six-year guerrilla campaign against the U.S. military occupation of his country, fighting the occupiers to a standstill, until he was betrayed and executed on the orders of the vile National Guard General Anastasia Somoza Garcia in 1934, opening the door to a long dictatorship of the Somoza family.

In 1979 the world's people watched with joyful anticipation as, 18 years after its founding in 1961, the FSLN guerrilla fighters overturned that Somoza family dictatorship. On July 19 that year, the Sandinista movement seized power and took on running the country



Celebration of 40th anniversary of Sandinista Revolution, Managua, Nicaragua, July 19, 2019.

while facing economic sabotage and a vicious counter-revolutionary (Contra) war financed by U.S. imperialism. Though the situation appeared bleak when a

pro-Yankee puppet, taking advantage of war weariness, won the February 1990 election, the Sandinista revolutionaries never gave up. They kept their influence in the army and police, which were closely tied to the people.

The pro-Yankee regimes accomplished nothing worthwhile in 16 years, and the FSLN was able to win the 2006 vote and each major election since. Meanwhile, the revolutionary government developed the infrastructure of Nicaragua — despite the continued hostility of the Yankee empire.

Part of the struggle to defend a revolution is building international solidarity. It's a solidarity that always goes both ways, and the Sandinistas' successes encourage our struggle in the United States. As we join the celebrations of the July 19 Revolution in Nicaragua, we pledge to mobilize

support for and solidarity with the Sandinista Revolution and the ongoing struggle of the Nicaraguan people to remain free from U.S. imperialism. □

## Lawsuit reveals Chiquita's role in funding Colombian death squads

By **Teddie Kelly**

A jury in South Florida has found Chiquita Brands International complicit in the murders of eight Colombians through its proxy militia, the Autodefensas Unidas de Colombia (United Self-Defenders of Colombia). Chiquita has been ordered to pay over \$38 million to families of the death squad's victims. Of the hundreds of claims filed against the corporation, theirs were among just a handful which advanced to U.S. courts.

For nearly 30 years, Chiquita has armed and funded the AUC to break strikes, intimidate rural peasant and working-class communities and assassinate union organizers. In just seven years, between 1997 and 2004, the U.S.-based corporation sent \$1.7 million to continue the massacre of untold numbers of workers and organizers. In just the first 10 months of 2000, the AUC conducted more than 800 assassinations and committed massacres of at least 500 more workers.

According to the current Colombian attorney general, Margarita Cabello Blanco, Chiquita has used its vessels to ship thousands of guns and millions of rounds of ammunition to the death squads since the mid-1990s.

### 'A revolution might be brewing'

The majority of incidents of recent violence has been directed at Indigenous populations, continuing a long pattern of widespread ethnic cleansing and displacement of Native South Americans that stretches back centuries.

Colombia's rural countryside was the battleground in a subsequent class conflict from the late 1940s to 1950s known as La Violencia. The 10-year armed struggle broke out after the assassination of progressive presidential candidate Jorge Eliécer Gaitán. As mayor of Bogotá, he promoted social reforms that drew support from labor unionists, poor workers and peasants and young people from the public schools — as well as prisoners, for whom Gaitán advocated education and vocational programs.

Meanwhile Che Guevara, traveling through Bogotá while writing "The Motorcycle Diaries," said of Colombia: "There is more repression of individual freedom here than in any country we've been to, the police patrol the streets carrying rifles and demand your papers every few minutes. A revolution might be brewing."

Gaitán was expected to be elected on a

wave of popular and working-class support during the 1948 presidential elections. Instead, he was shot to death by an assassin with alleged ties to the CIA through its anti-communist and anti-union campaign known as Operation Pantomime.

Prior to his electoral run, Gaitán had campaigned for the prosecution of all those involved in the 1928 Banana Massacre, in which as many as 2,000 workers on a United Fruit Company plantation were killed by the military to break an almost month-long strike. In 1984, United Fruit rebranded itself as Chiquita.

### 'We kill trade unionists'

In response to La Violencia, rural militants formed the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia). FARC is a Marxist-Leninist guerrilla movement that seeks to protect the rural poor and oppressed from state repression while struggling for socialist revolution. In the decades that followed, a class war raged between these social justice fighters on one side, and U.S. imperialism and its profit-generating corporations like Chiquita on the other.

Over a quarter of a million people were killed between 1958 and 2013. For much of this period it was illegal in Colombia to operate privately-owned armies. But in 1994, the Ministry of Defense announced Decree 356, loosening restrictions for plantation owners and corporations to protect their profit-generating capital by allowing them to hire and arm paramilitary groups.

Shortly thereafter, a number of these right-wing paramilitary groups that operated more covertly in the 1980s re-organized as the AUC. It was headed by Carlos Castaño, the son of right-wing banana plantation owner Jesús Castaño, who was kidnapped by FARC and died in captivity in 1981.

The younger Castaño, himself eliminated by FARC in 2004, had a blunt description of the AUC's mission: "We kill trade unionists because they interfere with people working." At its height, it became the largest right-wing paramilitary organization in the Western hemisphere. (Al Jazeera, June 5, 2003)

### Genocide from Gaza to Bogotá

The AUC didn't just receive funding and weaponry from the U.S. and Chiquita. Israeli settlers traveled to Colombia to train AUC gunmen. Fifty of the AUC's most effective assassins were sent to



GRAPHIC: EARTHRIGHTS.ORG

Israel on "scholarship" to train with the Israeli military. In May 2002, an Israeli defense contractor based in Guatemala bought 3,000 assault rifles and millions more rounds of ammunition for the AUC.

Carlos Castaño was personally trained by the Israeli military. "I learned an infinite amount of things in Israel, and to that country I owe part of my essence, my human and military achievements." (The New Arab, May 21)

From the equipment, the funding, down to the very tactics, the footprint of U.S. imperialism can be found everywhere from Gaza to Bogotá, operating if not directly then through its proxies in the Colombian and Israeli militaries and privately-leased death squads.

"I copied the concept of paramilitary forces from the Israelis," Castaño once

bragged," in his ghostwritten autobiography, "Mi Confesion."

Chiquita, for its part, responded to the \$38 million settlement by claiming the victims' families have "no legal basis" for demanding reparations. The corporation announced its plan to appeal the jury's verdict.

While the Colombian military and police remain the persistent threat to worker organizing, the current government of Gustavo Petro has a progressive focus and has already succeeded in raising the average wages of banana workers to over \$400 a month. Petro's government has also launched an embargo on coal to Israel and severed diplomatic relations with the genocide regime occupying Palestine.

"If Palestine dies, humanity dies, and we are not going to let it die," the 64-year old economist and former guerrilla fighter said at a May Day rally in Bogotá, Colombia. (The Guardian, May 1) "The genocide in Palestine continues because it is inconvenient for the world power to end it."

Petro warned those at the U.N. COP28 climate summit in Dubai: "Genocide and barbaric acts unleashed against the Palestinian people is what awaits those who are fleeing the south because of the climate crisis. What we see in Gaza is the rehearsal of the future." (aa.com.tr, Dec. 2, 2023) □

## California activists plant smuggled Palestinian watermelon seeds

Community activists at Quail Springs in Cuyama Valley, California, planted 12 watermelon plants cultivated from seeds smuggled out of Palestine. The planting ceremony on June 8 was made possible by the Palestine Heirloom Seed Library, founded by Vivien Sansour, Palestinian agriculturalist.

"The way our traditional agriculture practices developed is that they really did co-evolve with their different micro-climate. So we have a collection of seeds ... that our ancestors, our great grandmothers, selected varieties that were kind to the micro-climate," Sansour said in an interview with Sasha Rabin.

This particular type of watermelon orig-



inated in Jenin. An article entitled, "The Lost Watermelon of Jenin," states that "Jenin is a city located in the northern West Bank where Palestinian farmers used to grow the ba'al succulent watermelon known as Jadu'I. Under the occupation, the Jadu'I was nearly lost. But today, a new generation of agriculturalists are trying to revive it." (Oakland Institute)

— Report and photo by **Teddie Kelly**



# Ban Israel from the 2024 Olympic Games!

The following call was issued by Nkosi Zwelivelile Royal House of Mandela Mvezo Komkhulu based in the Eastern Cape Province, South Africa. The statement was read at a June 12, 2024, solidarity rally in Lausanne, Switzerland.

In solidarity with the athletes and the Palestinian people and in response to the call from over 300 Palestinian sports teams demanding the exclusion of Israel from the Olympics due to its genocide against the Palestinians in Gaza and its apartheid regime, we must not remain passive.

We call on sectors of society, sports federations, arts and culture formations, labor unions and all worker formations, faith-based movements, student and academic bodies, NGOs and CBOs (community-based organizations) and ordinary people from all walks of life to support this call. We can't play with genocide, and apartheid Israel has no place at the Olympic Games.

We demand the exclusion of Israel from the 2024 Olympics! We remind the Executive Committee of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) that by allowing Israel to participate in the Olympics, they are enabling Israel to use the games

to whitewash its genocide in Gaza and its apartheid regime against Palestinians worldwide.

The President of the IOC, Mr. Thomas Bach, stated during the preparation session for the 2024 Olympics: "These will be younger, more urban, more inclusive, more responsible games."

However, is it truly responsible not to take sanctions against Israel? Only by banning Israel from the games will the Olympic spirit and values be respected. There can be no normal sport in an abnormal society.

The Olympic Charter clearly obliges the IOC to respect "internationally recognized human rights and the fundamental universal ethical principles within the framework of the Olympic Movement."

However, we have not seen the IOC take any responsibility to end or sanction the severe human rights violations perpetrated by Israel against Palestinian athletes and sports infrastructure. In contrast, the IOC has excluded Russia and Belarus from this international competition. We do not accept this "double standard."

Israel has deliberately targeted Palestinian sports and flagrantly violated the rights of Palestinians to practice

sports. Israeli occupation forces have shot Palestinian athletes to kill or mutilate them deliberately. In Gaza, Israel killed the Palestinian Olympic football coach, Hani Al Masdar, and destroyed the office of the Palestinian Olympic Committee.

The IOC must follow its own precedent in expelling apartheid South Africa from the Olympic Games for its brutality, oppression and discrimination. Apartheid Israel is infinitely worse than South Africa. Apartheid Israel is guilty of war crimes, crimes against humanity and systematic genocide.

## Palestinian athletes targeted

We cannot allow them to get away with murder. They must be isolated from the family of nations and not be allowed to participate in the Olympics. Israeli settlement clubs and sports stadiums are built on stolen Palestinian land in the West Bank, in violation of international law.

Israel has bombed Palestinian stadiums, raided sports clubs, disrupted matches, confiscated sports equipment and denied Palestinian Olympic athletes their right to freedom of movement. For all these reasons, let us ban the genocidal Israeli entity from the Olympic Games!



We must stand in solidarity with the athletes and the Palestinian people! We stand with the just struggle of the Palestinian people just as we stand for human rights, justice and dignity for all humankind. As long as there is a single human being suffering anywhere in the world, our struggle is far from over. We make a special appeal to students all over the world. Your voices have been the most powerful over the past few months.

Let us continue this mass mobilization of students even when campuses close for holidays. We want to hear your voices calling on the IOC to ban apartheid Israel from Olympics 2024.

*This statement has been lightly edited.*

# Veterans for Peace march to Washington, D.C.

By Workers World Philadelphia bureau

Veterans taking part in an anti-war walk from Maine to Washington, D.C., stopped in Philadelphia on June 14-15.

The Peace Walk 2024 began May 7 in Ogunquit, Maine, and will conclude around July 4 or 5 at the NATO summit in Washington, D.C. Under the general theme "Silence the Drums of War," participants are calling for an end to the threat of nuclear war and all wars.



Peace March protests purchase of Israel Bonds, Philadelphia, June 15, 2024.

After crossing the Benjamin Franklin Bridge from New Jersey on June 14, walkers held a press conference at Independence Park near the Liberty Bell. The next day, in their first "direct actions event," they rallied outside Day & Zimmermann, makers of bombs, shells and missiles, including many used by the Israeli Occupation Forces against Palestinians in Gaza.

The veterans were joined by local anti-war activists, including Tina Sheldenm, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Betsey Piette, Workers World Party; and Joe Piette, who read a statement from Puerto Rican activist Fermin Morales, a member of IBEW (electricians) Local 98 who previously did work for Day & Zimmermann.

Morales said: "Day & Zimmermann is a partner in crime with the settler-colonial state of Israel in perpetration of genocide against the

Palestinian people, because it is providing ammunition to the Israel Defense Forces. Day & Zimmermann needs to divest itself from the apartheid state of Israel and the military-industrial complex."

Following the rally at Day & Zimmermann, marchers gathered outside Israel Bonds seller Development Corporation for Israel where they protested the purchase of these bonds by state and municipal governments.

Their flier noted: "State and local treasuries across the U.S. invest hundreds of millions in the state of Israel. A record-setting \$2 billion in sales was made in 2023 with \$1 billion raised since Oct. 7 while Israel bombed hospitals and laid waste to infrastructure in Gaza. Under Stacy Garrity, the Pennsylvania Treasury Department invested \$20 million in 2023. We will encourage Pennsylvania to divest until Israel agrees to end the occupation of Palestine."

The day ended with a "Merchants of Death Tour" where walkers delivered



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Veterans Peace March outside Day & Zimmermann, Philadelphia, June 15, 2024.

"Cease and Desist" orders to 10 U.S. weapons profiteers with offices at the Philadelphia Naval Shipyard. These companies included Advanced Integrated Technologies, American Systems Corporation, AMSEC/HII, Continental Tide Defense Systems, Inc., GBS Group, Naval Surface Warfare Center, NOBLIS MSD, Northrop Grumman Corporation, Paramount Enterprises International and Peraton. □

# Far right makes gains in E.U. vote – what next?

By John Catalinotto

The June 9 vote for members of the European Union Parliament demonstrated a consistent shift to the right in public opinion. Far-right parties made the biggest gains, in some cases — France, for example — coming in first.

The vote showed widespread disenchantment with the establishment pro-capitalist parties of the center right and the nominally social democratic parties of the center left. All these establishment parties in the major EU countries have promoted more spending for armaments and strengthening NATO, and have lined up behind U.S. imperialism against Russia. These parties have also supported Israel's genocide against Gaza, while cutting funds for social programs, and they joined the ultraright's attempt to scapegoat migrants for the ills of capitalist society.

This vote, in which only about half the eligible voters participated, is an early

warning of a threat from the far right, rather than a signal of immediate change in EU policies or in that of the individual countries. That's because the executive and main legislative body in the EU is the European Commission and not the EU Parliament, which can only either support or veto the EC's proposals. The European Commission remains in the service of the big West European and U.S. banks.

It's expected that Ursula von der Leyen, the current president of the EC, will remain in office. Though not considered of the far right, Von der Leyen has been actively promoting NATO's war charge against Russia.

The far-right parties base their support on a racist and xenophobic appeal, which is strongly anti-migrant. Some analysts have expressed worries about the danger of fascism from the far-right parties. They observe that the changes shaking society — U.S. loss of its former overwhelming power, danger of economic crisis, threat of major wars against Russia, in West Asia, and in

the South China Sea — may encourage the imperialist ruling class into promoting a fascist-style party to save its domination.

In France, President Emmanuel Macron reacted to his party's defeat in the EU vote by calling new parliamentary elections in early July. There is a strong possibility that a representative of the far-right National Rally (formerly National Front), which came in first in the EU elections with more than 31% of the vote, will wind up being the new premier. (Macron's party got less than 15%.)

## Stop war, build solidarity

A working-class party with revolutionary goals would not only defend workers in their countries against the imperialist ruling class, it would clearly oppose NATO's war against Russia, would be in solidarity with Palestine and would do everything it could to build working-class solidarity with the migrants.

The drop in support for the

establishment capitalist parties and the social democrats brought no significant gains by left parties. There were a few exceptions: To the nearest percent, the Workers Party of Belgium (PTB/PvdA) increased its support from 8% to 11%, the Communist Party of Austria (KPÖ) grew from 1% to 3% and the Communist Party of Greece (KPE) grew from 5% to 9%.

Meanwhile, the ultraright parties made large advances. Alternative for Germany (AfD) came in second in Germany with 16%. The extreme right-wing Freedom Party in Austria (FPÖ) and Vlaams Belang of Belgium both came in first in their countries, with 26% and 14% of the vote respectively. And in Italy, Prime Minister Giorgia Meloni's government bloc, considered the most reactionary since Benito Mussolini, got nearly half the votes.

The U.S. corporate media sometimes presents the Western European far-right parties as anti-NATO or pro-Russia, or as

*Continued on page 11*

# Migrant crisis? Build working-class solidarity!

Regarding his immigration program, President Joe Biden — candidate Joe Biden — is attacking the interests of all working people. His latest policies harm workers who have rights to remain and work in the U.S. and threaten the very existence of workers and their families who are migrating.

Biden's steps mimic his predecessor's program — without the gratuitous xenophobic and racist comments. It's Donald Trump lite.

For the working class and all oppressed peoples, the key issue regarding how the state power treats migrants is solidarity, at home and abroad. The working class and its organizations should strive to win policies that will build solidarity between migrant workers and workers who already have legal rights to remain and work within the country's borders.

Building solidarity must be the primary goal. It is no easy task. What makes it difficult is that the U.S. imperialist ruling class — and the organizations and media that serve that wealthy class — have targeted migrant workers, especially those from the Global South, making them the scapegoat of every ill of U.S. capitalist society. Like every "Big Lie," it is repetition that

convinces many people to believe it.

In reality, bosses do everything to lower wages. See how they howl with pleasure when a union loses an election for recognition. But the dominant propaganda they pay for blames low wages on migrants, not on union busting, not on outsourcing.

It's capitalism and its crises that make jobs precarious. The propaganda blames the danger of job loss on migrants.

Migrant workers pay full taxes, yet they are most often unable to enjoy benefits paid for with these taxes. The propaganda blames lack of funds for social services on migrants.

The ultraright and all Republicans scapegoat migrants, and most Democrats join the slander and buttress the Big Lie. They even try to blame migrants for crime. And now Biden, with his administration and his presidential campaign team, instead of fighting to smash that Big Lie, is introducing policies that harm the lives of migrants and destroy working-class solidarity.

Biden has set a limit on asylum applications for migrants at the southern border at 2,500 daily. Migrants will be issued deportation orders even if the authorities deny them a chance to seek asylum without a legal reason. That will expose



Protest against Texas anti-migrant law SB4, Houston, March 30, 2024.

WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

them to criminal prosecution if they try again and ban them for several years from legally entering the country.

Organizations that defend the rights of migrants have challenged Biden's new rules. Already, however, the reactionary Supreme Court upheld federal government policy and shot down a challenge by three migrants regarding the refusal of the immigration officials to provide notice of date and time of deportation hearings to migrants.

Workers' organizations, to build solidarity, must join any challenge made by migrants to Biden's reactionary rules. Working-class solidarity must have no boundaries, even if workers' organizations and parties have to deal with the reality that capitalist states have imposed borders on human movement where no natural obstacle exists.

Fight to expose anti-migrant lies! Build working-class solidarity! The struggle knows no borders! □

# Palestinian Resistance breaks morale of Israel's military

Continued from page 1

resistance have stated in public hearings that they are suffering from post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), along with having to adjust to amputated limbs. According to the Israeli organization Nifgashim, over 10,000 Israeli reserve soldiers are now in some kind of mental therapy after their stint in Gaza. A growing number of them have attempted or actually have committed suicide when they returned home, causing a crisis of disillusionment within the IOF.

## 'A crisis of anger and frustration'

After speaking to IOF officers in Rafah, Israeli journalist Hallel Biton Rosen wrote: "Eight months and eight days I have been covering the damned war. More than once I have heard from senior officers, some very senior, criticism of the conduct of decision-makers in the political and security echelons — what I heard tonight is completely different. It is a major crisis of



Hamas supporters in Rafah attend a gathering to express solidarity with Jenin, and to oppose the Israeli raid on the West Bank city, July 7, 2023.

PHOTO: SAID KHATIB

trust, real anger and frustration. It is time to bring the truth to light. Whoever thinks there is an operation in Rafah is wrong. As for those who know that there is not and briefs that there is, they are lying.

"We have no more children left for

intermediate situations. The cost of indecision is too high for us. The lack of leadership hurts us too much.

"The bluff of conquering Rafah is not working. On the other hand, there aren't enough munitions and not enough engineering tools. It's really unclear what the forces on the ground are doing right now.

"They are deceiving the public when statements are released saying that we have advanced in another neighborhood and another area, these few more meters are a joke — the Rafah Brigade [of Al-Qassam] is still standing on its feet." (Suppressed News, June 15)

Regarding the lack of humanitarian aid entering Gaza, an IOF officer made a startling comment about the people of Gaza: "They are not breaking and we are dying!" (Resistance Network News, June 15)

## Growing schism between Israeli military, government

Benny Gantz, a member of Netanyahu's war cabinet, along with another Israeli minister, Gadi Eisenkot, resigned from their posts on June 9 over strategic differences on how to achieve a military victory in Gaza against Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, and also on how the release of the remaining Israeli hostages should be resolved.

The resignation of Gantz is a major

political blow to the right-wing dominated Israeli government, because Gantz was the main centrist spokesperson within the Israeli cabinet. Gantz was also calling for early elections in order to remove Netanyahu from his powerful position. These two resignations ignited the dissolution of the Zionist war cabinet on June 17. These war criminals can be likened to rats jumping off a sinking ship.

An 11-hour "tactical pause" has been instituted in southern Gaza by the IOF's Southern Command to allow the flow of some humanitarian aid. This military decision was disputed by Netanyahu and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, according to reports in Haaretz. This dispute clearly reflects a schism regarding tactics between the government and the military due to the strength of the resistance.

Mass protests have also erupted across Israel in the tens of thousands, especially in the capital, Tel Aviv, demanding Netanyahu's resignation. Another main protest demand is an exchange of the Israeli hostages, dead or alive, for the release of thousands of Palestinian prisoners. These latter have been kidnapped and illegally detained for months and even years in torture chambers. These protests have been led by the families of the hostages, some of whom were killed on or after October 7 due to fire from the IOF.

An IOF spokesman stated, "It must be said frankly: we cannot return all the captives through military operational means." (Suppressed News, June 15)

Coupled with the deepening global isolation of Israel on many fronts in both the Global South and Global North, it is the Palestinian Resistance that has played the decisive role in the inevitable crumbling of the Israeli state, along with the growing political isolation of its allies, especially the U.S., Germany and France.

But it took the launching of the heroic Al-Qsa Flood on October 7 to help bring to light that this spiraling crisis is not only impacting the IOF but the entire Israeli society built on mass displacement, theft of land and resources and fascist genocide for the past 76 years. □

# U.S. floating dock used for Nusseirat massacre

The following statement is from the Media Office for the Popular Resistance Committees in Palestine, issued by the Resistance News Network on June 15, 2024.

The dismantling of the U.S. floating dock in Gaza, despite the widespread famine, reveals that this dock was a malicious charade to distract and deceive global public opinion, diverting attention from the war of starvation, thirst and siege being perpetrated by the Zionist Nazi entity with the participation, support and cover of the criminal U.S. administration.

The dismantling of the U.S. floating dock in Gaza a week after the massacre committed by the Zionist-U.S. enemy in Nusseirat reveals the malicious security and intelligence role of this dock.

It was nothing but a security and intelligence base for the U.S. enemy to aid the Zionist entity in committing the Nusseirat massacre. □



PHOTO: THE NEW ARAB

Nusseirat massacre survivors

# U.S.-NATO threats ignore 'red lines' in Ukraine

By Sara Flounders

Front lines are collapsing for the Ukrainian army, with whole units surrendering. Top commanders are fired. Faced with complete disarray of the U.S.-NATO instigated war in Ukraine, U.S. militarists are doubling down.

According to the Ukrainian Constitution, President Volodymyr Zelensky's term in office is over. But he remains in power by martial law. This has led Ukrainian workers to hold strikes and work stoppages, events ignored in the Western media.

A national truckers' work slowdown inside Ukraine moved traffic to a 5-mile-per-hour crawl and halted grain exports based on national anger at the expanded draft mobilization made by Zelensky, now an unelected president. (yahoonews.com, May 18)

Ukraine's combat units are so severely understaffed that the government would have to triple its mobilization to continue the current level of fighting, according to Eric Ciaramella, former U.S. National Intelligence Council official. Neither the draft nor kidnapping men off the streets can fill the current gap.

## U.S. failure on two fronts

U.S. efforts to dismember Russia appear to have utterly failed. Economic sanctions, oil price caps, the protracted war on Russia's border and tens of billions of dollars, along with hundreds of U.S. and other NATO member troops sent as trainers, plus mercenary contractors can't hold the corrupt Ukrainian military machine together.

At the same time, on the world stage, the one strategic ally of the U.S. in Western Asia, Israel, has utterly failed in its genocidal war on Gaza. Both setbacks mean that U.S. political dominance is being challenged in fundamental ways.

U.S. strategy toward Russia aimed to partition and dismember the country, destabilize the border and block China's Belt and Road development plans in Central Asia.

U.S. strategists considered all these steps crucial in preventing People's China from surpassing the U.S. economically. The opposite has happened. What imperialist strategists have warned about for decades and sought to prevent is now the reality.

China and Russia's relations of intense cooperation and a merge of common

interests is unfolding steadily. This was further cemented during the very warm state meeting between China's President Xi Jin-Ping and Russia's President Vladimir Putin on May 16.

That means U.S.-NATO plans are in total disarray. Rather than reconsider their strategy, which has brought setbacks and defeats in Ukraine and for Israel in Gaza, this has led to an ominous escalation in U.S. military threats.

The threat to dangerously escalate the war in Ukraine arises from U.S. plans to give Ukraine high-speed missiles and allow the Kyiv regime to use the weapons to strike inside Russia. This threat is not just from a single statement or one delivery of weapons.

The statements urging escalation are being made directly by President Joe Biden and Secretary of State Antony Blinken, U.S. Speaker of the House Mike Johnson and NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg.

## Ukraine at center of 75th Anniversary NATO Summit

NATO officials are frantic that Ukrainian defense lines of Kharkiv, the second-largest city in Ukraine, located in the northeast of the country, are about to fall.

Kharkiv is a majority Russian-speaking city. It is the industrial, energy, science, rail and transport hub on the Donetsk-Donbass Canal. Kharkiv is the key industrial center still under Ukrainian control east of the Dnieper River.

According to a May 16 New York Times article, fear of Kharkiv's imminent collapse is what is driving U.S. threats. This loss is decisive in any control of Ukraine's east, including the entire Donbass industrial region.

Adding to the urgency is that at the 75th Anniversary NATO Summit, July 9-11 in Washington, D.C., NATO plans to unveil a "Security Package" involving 32 countries' bilateral agreements with Ukraine. These bilateral agreements would serve as a bridge for Ukraine's entry into NATO, which would allow Kyiv to invoke the alliance's collective defense clause, potentially triggering a broader regional conflict with Russia. During an April visit to Kyiv, NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg vowed that "Ukraine will become a member of NATO." (defensenews.com, June 3)

All these elaborate plans, along with ominous U.S. plans to expand NATO into the Asia Pacific, would be dashed if

Ukrainian defense lines crumbled before the 75th anniversary NATO summit in Washington, D.C. This summit is a grand plan to showcase U.S. and Western imperialist dominance.

## NATO's long-range missiles target Russia

NATO's dangerous escalation is galloping forward on several fronts.

Stoltenberg was explicit: "We are giving weapons to Kyiv and consider them Ukrainian from this moment, so Ukraine can do whatever it wants with these arms, in part, strike at Russian territory where it deems necessary." (bne IntelliNews, May 31)

Previously, the United States, Germany and other NATO members had forbidden the Ukrainian military from using the weapons delivered to them to strike targets inside Russia.

In the past, the Ukrainian military command had violated NATO's official statements and used U.S. Stinger air defense missiles, M142 HIMARS, MLRS and other multiple launch rockets to strike the Belgorod region of Russia. The Russian Army displayed the U.S.-stamped shells.

Weeks ago, the British government allowed Ukraine to use its long-range Storm Shadow cruise missile systems with a range of over 180 miles for attacks reaching Russia. This is triple the range of the missiles Ukraine has previously used. France and Germany have now taken the same position as Britain.

French President Emmanuel Macron further escalated the threat by stating the West must not exclude sending NATO ground troops to Ukraine.

On May 27, Col. Gen. Oleksandr Syrskiy, the commander-in-chief of Ukraine's armed forces, announced that he signed an agreement to allow French military instructors into the country. He urged other Western countries to join the French initiative.

On June 4, Russian Foreign Minister Lavrov warned that French military forces in Ukraine would be a "legitimate target for Russian forces." (AP news, June 4)

The threats and the actual attacks are escalating. On May 26, Ukrainian drones targeted a second long-range military radar site deep inside Russia, over 900 miles from the Ukrainian forces. This is an early warning radar site designed to detect hypersonic ballistic missiles and aircraft up to 6,200 miles away. Its destruction would compromise and could trigger Russia's defenses against a nuclear attack. (Reuters, May 27)

Internationally, many voices are sounding the alarm. Such attacks are of the most extreme danger, because the slightest targeting slip up, a misinterpretation of instructions, or a rogue operator on the ground could lead to a global conflagration.

These attacks require a satellite-based military network that Ukraine does not have. Only U.S. and NATO forces under U.S. command are capable of conducting such attacks against Russia.

## Divisions appear inside NATO

Divisions within the U.S.-commanded and dominated NATO military alliance are appearing. Frustration and failure are intensifying the infighting even among members of the G7 and major NATO participants.

Many NATO countries' leaders, reacting to mass pressure from below, have already sharply expressed opposition to



U.S. total support of Israel's genocidal campaign against Palestine.

Italy's Deputy Prime Minister Matteo Salvini objected to Stoltenberg's call for allies to lift restrictions on Western-supplied weapons against targets in Russia. "It is out of the question to lift the ban on Kyiv to strike military targets in Russia. ... We want peace, not the antechamber of World War III." (Ukrainian Pravda, May 27)

On May 28, Belgian Prime Minister Alexander De Croo told Biden during talks in Washington, D.C., that he rules out the use of Belgium's weapons, including F-16 fighter jets, outside Ukraine. De Croo reminded the reporters that although Belgium will become the biggest supplier of fighter aircraft for the Ukrainian air force, the aircraft must be used by the Ukrainians on Ukrainian territory." (belganewsagency.eu, May 31)

## RAND Corporation: 'Pour it on'

The Rand Corporation, a powerful think tank for the major military industries, confirms the cynical calculations that justify war profits, regardless of the danger.

U.S. escalation will push the Europeans to ante up, the Rand article said. Even more ominous: "From a narrow U.S. perspective, greater U.S. involvement is an opportunity to test new capabilities and gain experience helping a partner facing a numerically superior foe. Such experience could be very relevant for helping Taiwan resist Chinese aggression." (Rand, May 22, defenseone.com, "How to win in Ukraine: pour it on, and don't worry about escalation.")

President Putin delivered Russia's strongest warning to date against the NATO escalation: "Long-range precision weapons cannot be used without space-based reconnaissance. It can happen without the participation of the Ukrainian military.

"Launching other systems, such as ATACMS, for example," Putin continued, "also relies on space reconnaissance data. The mission is put together by representatives of NATO countries, not the Ukrainian military. This unending escalation can lead to serious consequences. If Europe were to face those serious consequences, what will the United States do, considering our strategic arms parity? It is hard to tell."

Putin added: "[The] presidential election is coming soon, and the current authorities want to confirm their status as an empire. Many in the United States do not like this, do not want to be an empire and bear the imperial burden." (For the entire news conference, see en.kremlin.ru/events/president/news/74132.)

General Ivan Timofeev, Director of the Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC), warned: "NATO is spending ten times as much as Russia — if not more — on defense. It's certainly a dangerous scenario." (Tass, May 30)

This enormous expenditure is not sufficient to save the Ukrainian government, built on a U.S.-orchestrated coup in 2014, from total collapse.

Rather than reassess their deteriorating global position, U.S. strategists seem determined to put the fate of the world at risk. □

# Far right gains in E.U. vote

Continued from page 9

defenders of national sovereignty against the European Union. This is false. Where these parties have grown closer to winning office through votes, they have accepted pro-EU and pro-NATO positions, acceptable to EU and U.S. bankers, while blaming migrants for everything.

Italy's Premier Giorgia Meloni and Marine Le Pen, head of the National Rally in France, have supported the EU and increased funds for weapons and been sharply anti-Russia. The AfD has backed all the moves by the German government to arm Ukraine and to allow Kiev to use the weapons against targets inside Russia.

With few exceptions, the far-right parties are on the same page with nearly all the center-right and nominally social democratic parties regarding

preparations for war, support for West European imperialism in alliance with the U.S. and support for Israel.

The next battle with the far right is shaping up in France with the impending parliamentary elections. Macron, who won two elections for president by presenting himself as the only alternative to Le Pen, now appears to be ready to share authority with the National Rally.

Other left parties in France — La France Insoumise (led by Jean-Luc Mélançon), the Communist Party, Greens and the humbled Socialists, have made an electoral alliance to provide an alternative to both the National Rally and Macron's party. Hundreds of thousands of people demonstrated in the streets of French cities on June 15 to oppose the far right and Macron's pro-war center right. □



Madrid, mayo 2024.

## Los manifestantes dicen a Biden:

# 'Somos su línea roja'

Por Betsey Piette

Más de 75.000 manifestantes propalestinos rodearon la Casa Blanca en Washington, D.C., el 8 de junio, creando una "línea roja" simbólica de tres kilómetros de largo para denunciar la retórica hipócrita del presidente Joe Biden en mayo, cuando dijo que retendría las armas a Israel si lanzaban un asalto a Rafah en Gaza. Muchas personas iban vestidas de rojo y portaban largas pancartas rojas de papel con los nombres de los más de 36.000 palestinos muertos en la guerra hasta la fecha.

Pidiendo el fin de la guerra en Gaza, los manifestantes dijeron en voz alta a Biden: "¡Nosotros somos su línea roja!".

Nas Issa, del Movimiento Juvenil Palestino, dijo: "Se supone que una línea roja significa que hay

consecuencias para las acciones de Estados canallas como Israel. Y estamos aquí como movimiento para decir que si Biden no traza la línea roja, lo haremos nosotros como pueblo". (WTOP, 9 de junio)

Los manifestantes corearon lemas populares: "¡Globalicemos la Intifada!", "¡Sólo hay una solución, la revolución de la Intifada!" y "¡Desde el río hasta el mar, Palestina libre será!".

Las Fuerzas de Ocupación israelíes llevan realizando operaciones militares en Rafah desde el 27 de mayo, cuando un ataque aéreo mató a 45 personas que vivían en tiendas de campaña, utilizando bombas fabricadas en EE.UU. Otros ataques aéreos más recientes tuvieron como objetivo una escuela de las Naciones Unidas en el norte de Gaza el 7 de junio, matando a tres personas, un día después de que Israel atacara otra escuela de las Naciones Unidas en el centro de Gaza, matando al menos a 33 personas, entre ellas mujeres y niños, de nuevo con armas fabricadas en EE.UU.

La última masacre de Nuseirat, en el centro de Gaza, causó la muerte innecesaria de casi 300 palestinos para que las fuerzas israelíes pudieran rescatar a cuatro rehenes israelíes. Ese ataque se llevó a cabo



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Manifestantes con el muñeco ensangrentado de Antony Blinken.



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Manifestantes con una pancarta roja para rodear la Casa Blanca, 8 de junio.

## Biden distorsiona el Día D

El 80 aniversario del desembarco del Día D en Normandía, Francia, reelaboró un escenario que los funcionarios imperialistas han utilizado antes para reforzar su prestigio, aumentar su capacidad electoral o movilizarse para la batalla contra el enemigo extranjero de su preferencia.

Los centros poderosos de la propaganda imperialista -pensemos en Hollywood- presentan la Segunda Guerra Mundial y especialmente el desembarco de Normandía como la contribución de las potencias imperialistas occidentales a una heroica victoria de la democracia occidental sobre el totalitarismo, es decir, sobre Adolf Hitler y el nazismo.

El presidente Joe Biden -llamado "Joe genocida" por su apoyo a Israel en Gaza- eligió el Día D para instar a los miembros de la OTAN a ser "luchadores por la libertad" y a intensificar la actual ofensiva de la OTAN contra Rusia. Este objetivo es el uso indebido más peligroso del desembarco de Normandía y debe ser contrarrestado.

Antes del 6 de junio de 1944, muy poca de la propaganda antinazi de los Aliados se había convertido en una participación efectiva en la guerra contra Alemania. Hasta entonces, la mayor parte de la acción militar estadounidense se dirigía contra Japón, mientras estas dos potencias imperialistas luchaban por el control del Pacífico.

El propio Día D fue la primera gran intervención aliada, que abrió un frente occidental contra Alemania. Unos 150.000 soldados estadounidenses, británicos y canadienses realizaron el mayor desembarco anfíbio jamás realizado en las playas de Normandía. Las tropas aerotransportadas saltaron tras las líneas alemanas la noche anterior.

Sólo en el Día D murieron unos 6.000 soldados alemanes y 4.400 aliados. A principios de 1945, las tropas aliadas, junto con los partisanos franceses dirigidos por

los comunistas, habían liberado a Francia de la ocupación alemana. En mayo de 1945, Alemania se rindió.

Sin embargo, distorsiona la historia llamar al Día D la batalla decisiva en la guerra contra la Alemania nazi. Fue pequeña en comparación con las batallas en el Frente Oriental, donde la Unión Soviética hizo contribuciones mucho mayores a la derrota del imperialismo alemán.

### Impacto de la guerra en el Frente Oriental

Hasta la batalla de Stalingrado, en Rusia, el ejército alemán parecía omnipotente. La victoria de la Unión Soviética socialista allí el 22 de febrero de 1943 marcó un punto de inflexión en la guerra en Europa. El combate de Stalingrado dejó aproximadamente un millón de muertos en ambos bandos. Con esta derrota que puso de manifiesto la debilidad de Alemania, la moral del bando aliado subió en toda Europa, mientras que la de las tropas del Eje cayó.

A pesar de las numerosas bajas sufridas en Stalingrado, el Ejército Rojo soviético continuó la ofensiva. Pronto se enfrentó a dos millones de soldados alemanes en la batalla de Kursk, considerada la mayor batalla de tanques de la historia. Unos 7.500 tanques soviéticos se enfrentaron a más de 3.000 tanques alemanes. Más de 2.000 aviones alemanes se enfrentaron a 3.400 aviones soviéticos.

Durante los meses de lucha en torno a Kursk, hubo medio millón de soldados muertos en cada bando, y muchos más heridos o capturados. El ejército alemán volvió a perder esta batalla decisiva.

Por muy significativo que fuera el desembarco de Normandía para las tropas que lucharon, fue pequeño en comparación con las batallas del Frente Este. Sólo puede calificarse de grotesco que durante una ceremonia conmemorativa de Normandía, los imperialistas occidentales minimizaran la contribución soviética, incluida

la de la república rusa. Considérese que la Unión de Repúblicas Socialistas Soviéticas perdió 27 millones de personas, la mitad de ellas civiles.

Los dirigentes imperialistas, sobre todo el "genocida Joe" Biden, tuvieron la desfachatez de utilizar la ceremonia para tratar de movilizar a la OTAN para la guerra contra Rusia. Hace sólo 10 años, en el 70 aniversario del desembarco de Normandía, con la presencia de Vladimir Putin, el entonces presidente francés François Hollande se había asegurado de elogiar la contribución soviética a la victoria sobre la Alemania de Adolf Hitler.

Este año, tras la ceremonia, el actual presidente francés Emmanuel Macron -que recientemente llamó a 3.000 soldados franceses para detener una rebelión justiciera en Kanaky- dio un giro de 180 grados respecto a los comentarios de Hollande en 2014.

Macron dijo que Francia proporcionaría a Ucrania aviones de combate Mirage 2000-5 y entrenaría a pilotos ucranianos para pilotarlos contra las fuerzas rusas. Dijo que pilotos franceses entrenarían a pilotos ucranianos para volar los jets y añadió que Francia equiparía y entrenaría a toda una brigada de 4.500 soldados ucranianos.

Con su distorsión del desembarco de Normandía en una guerra contra la Alemania nazi, los dirigentes imperialistas presentes en las ceremonias ocultaron su alineamiento con los fascistas ucranianos en su actual ofensiva antirrusa y dieron un paso más hacia una conflagración en Europa. Es evidente que lo que se necesita en todo el mundo para detener esa conflagración -y especialmente en los países de la OTAN- es una movilización popular contra la guerra y contra la OTAN.

(Para más detalles sobre la amenaza de una gran guerra, véase [workers.org/2024/06/79079](https://workers.org/2024/06/79079))