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Smash white supremacy! Legacy of 1974 Boston march against racism



WW PHOTO: DICK CUSHING

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Panel participants (from left) Nick Juravich, Steve Gillis, Monica Moorehead, and Steve Kirshbaum, Boston, Nov. 23, 2024. See pages 5-6.



Cleveland, Nov. 24, 2024. See page 4.

WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

Poster on streets of Birmingham, England. See editorial on ICC warrants, page 4.

MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

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Join us in the fight for socialism!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Since 1959, Workers World Party has
been out in the streets defending the
workers and oppressed here and world-
wide. If you're interested in Marxism,
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HR 9495: Kill this bill!

WW EDITORIAL

The House of Representatives passed House Resolution 9495, characterized as the “non-profit killer,” on Nov. 21. The vote was 219-184 with 30 representatives not voting. One Republican voted against the resolution, and 15 Democrats voted in favor.

There was mass opposition to the bill, which allows the U.S. Treasury Secretary to designate a group as a “terrorist supporting organization” and strip it of its tax-exempt status. This will create financial burdens for many activist groups.

After the first vote of 256-145, which was less than the two-thirds needed to move the bill along “expeditiously,” representatives were flooded with hundreds of thousands of calls, emails and letters urging them to vote against HR 9495. A coalition of 354 groups — representing

immigrants, people of color, women, LGBTQIA2S+ people, people with disabilities, union workers, youth, environmentalists and more — sent a letter to Congress opposing the bill.

The American Civil Liberties Union, which was part of the coalition that sent the letter, explained: “The diverse group expressed deep concerns about the bill’s potential to grant the executive branch extraordinary power to investigate, harass and effectively dismantle any nonprofit organization — including news outlets, universities and civil liberties organizations like ours — by stripping them of their tax-exempt status based on a unilateral accusation of wrongdoing.” (aclu.org)

A few dozen representatives who voted for HR 9495 the first time flipped their vote under public pressure, but with the

second vote only a simple majority was needed for it to pass. HR 9495 must still be approved by the Senate and signed by President Joe Biden before it becomes law.

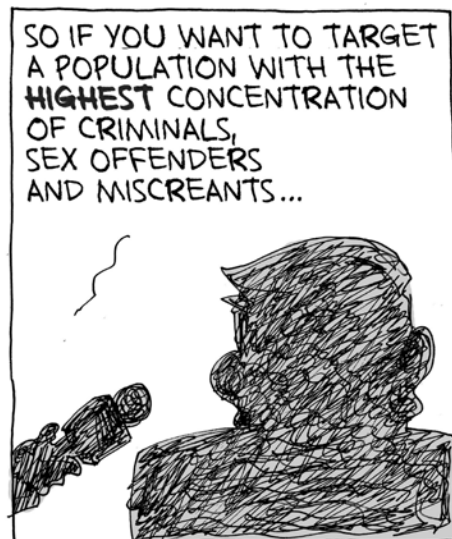
Many groups have blasted the bill for how it will be used against the progressive movement. Specifically, the bill could be used against the movement in the U.S. in solidarity with Palestine. To cite the Council on American-Islamic Relations: “This bill was designed to silence and financially drain organizations that oppose Israel’s genocide of Palestinians, the slaughter of Lebanese and the broader erosion of human rights in the region. It is an attack on free speech and advocacy, but let us be clear: Advocates for justice will not be silenced.” (cair.com, Nov. 21)

A group does not have to be a 501(c)(3) non-profit agency to be targeted under this new law. It can affect any group with full or partial tax-exempt status.

This should concern unions with 501(c)(5) status, which means their income is tax-exempt, but donations to them cannot be claimed on a tax return as charitable contributions. Unions that have called for an arms embargo on Israel might, in the eyes of the Treasury Secretary, slanderously be deemed “terrorist supporting.” President-elect Donald Trump has nominated an arch conservative, Scott Bessent, for the position.

This bill is an attack on the whole working class. It does nothing but strengthen the repressive state apparatus.

We say it loudly: **Kill this bill!** □



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What ICC warrants against Israel really mean

The International Criminal Court issued arrest warrants Nov. 21 for Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defense minister, Yoav Gallant, for war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Gaza. The charges address crimes that began on Oct. 8, 2023, the day after the heroic Al-Aqsa Flood initiated by Hamas. The war crimes in question continued up until late May 20, 2024, when the ICC's prosecutor first made the requests for the warrants based on overwhelming evidence produced by South African officials during hearings at The Hague in the Netherlands.

The warrants state that the ICC found "reasonable grounds" against these two war criminals who authorized the Israel Occupation Forces to carry out non-stop airstrikes and bombings against a defenseless Palestinian civilian population resulting in the deaths and maiming of hundreds of thousands of people, a large percentage of them children. Civilian infrastructure, especially hospitals, schools and historic cultural sites along with whole residential areas have been decimated for over a year

now, with no end in sight.

The warrants also accuse Netanyahu and Gallant of the slow and painful deaths of Palestinians from forced starvation and the famine that has gripped northern Gaza and other parts of occupied Palestine. Both the IOF and fascist Zionist settlers have destroyed and blocked the vast majority of humanitarian aid from reaching the besieged population for months.

It comes as no surprise that both the Israeli and U.S. governments have falsely denounced the warrants as being "antisemitic," a charge meant to create a smoke-screen for the ongoing genocide the war criminals continue to carry out.

What the warrants signal is that the 125 countries which signed onto the ICC have the option to arrest Netanyahu and Gallant if these two war criminals set foot in any of these countries. The ICC does not have a police force that can carry out this task. Along with several other countries, the U.S. and Israel are not signers to the ICC. While symbolic at best, these warrants are an embarrassment to the apartheid state of

Israel and its biggest ally, the U.S. "Genocide Joe" administration and will no doubt lead to the further isolation of Netanyahu's heinous, fragile regime, unprecedented in the history of the existence of the Zionist state.

Mayor Abdullah Hammoud of Dearborn, Michigan, has stated that Netanyahu and Gallant will be arrested if they come to his city. "Other cities should declare the same," the mayor posted on X. Dearborn has the largest percentage of Arab residents of any city in the U.S.

In the meantime, the global movement must continue to vehemently demand, with all forms of mass protests and direct actions, an end to this racist ethnic cleansing by demanding that the U.S. and its imperialist allies, including Germany, cease sending weapons to Israel. At the same time, the movement must also show solidarity with the heroic Palestinian Resistance, which is not slowing down one iota to wait for any arrest warrants to be implemented.

The next big day to express this global support will be Nov. 29 — the International Day of Solidarity with Palestine. □

Clevelanders tell county executive to divest from Israel Bonds

By **Martha Grevatt**
Cleveland

Members of Cleveland's Palestinian community and Palestine supporters marched on the home of Cuyahoga County Executive Chris Ronayne on Nov. 24 to demand the county divest from Israel Bonds. The county's investment in genocide is worth \$16 million. Ronayne has adamantly refused to divest.

Chanting "Shame, shame, Chris Ronayne," and other militant slogans, demonstrators marched in the street and stayed in the street when they arrived at Ronayne's home.

Police presence was heavy for a peaceful march of 150 people. A helicopter flew overhead during the entire march. Cleveland Police Chief Dorothy "Annie"

Todd herself was present near Ronayne's house to make sure he was well-protected.

Cops arrested a protester who was giving a speech on a bullhorn and then arrested others carrying bullhorns, along with a protester who had a drum.

Demonstrators proceeded without amplification, listening carefully as an activist read a people's arrest warrant for Ronayne. Police blocked her from

delivering the letter to Ronayne's house.

About a half dozen people were given citations for noise violations. Demonstrators remained at the site until everyone arrested was released. As they marched back to the park where they had gathered, even without amplification the chanting could be heard from blocks away. □



Cleveland, Nov. 24, 2024.

WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

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Smash white supremacy!

Legacy of 1974 Boston march against racism

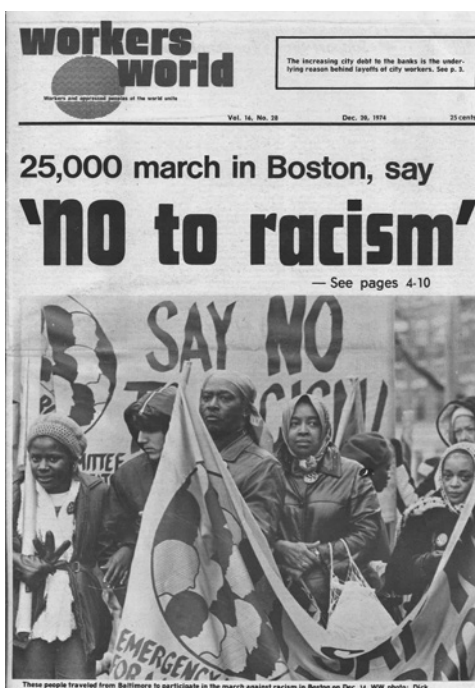
By Will Hodgkinson and Steve Gillis
Boston

Dozens of students and longtime labor activists gathered at Boston's Democracy Brewery Nov. 23 to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the historic Boston national "Freedom March Against Racism."

On Dec. 14, 1974, over 25,000 demonstrators turned out — from as far away as Birmingham, Alabama, Baltimore and St. Louis — in a massive show of anti-racist solidarity with Boston's Black community that was resisting a violent, racist mass movement in Boston hell-bent on denying equal, quality education in what was then known as the segregationist Selma, Alabama, of the North. (www.workers.org/2024/11/82098)

Sponsored by UMass Boston's Labor Resource Center's annual James Green Memorial Lecture series and chaired by UMass history professor Nick Juravich, this event opened with a slideshow compiled by Workers World organizer and former 40-year Boston school bus drivers union leader Steve Gillis that featured pictures, fliers and newspaper articles documenting the December 14 action and the united front organizing of labor and tenant unions, civil rights leaders, LGBTQIA2S+ activists, socialists and communists that made it possible.

As Gillis noted, bourgeois historians continue to ignore the rally in favor of a sanitized narrative about "forced busing." This "tragedy"-mongering historiography — such as the 2023 PBS documentary "The Busing Battleground" which leaves the



Front page Workers World, Dec. 20, 1974.

historic Dec. 14, 1974, march on the cutting room floor — is intended to mollify reactionaries and whitewash the roles of politicians, corporations, police forces, criminals and the Catholic church in organizing and funding the fascist movement that had roots in the widespread support in Boston of Adolph Hitler, Francisco Franco and Benito Mussolini by the Christian Front during the 1930s and 1940s. ("Nazis of Copley Square," 2021)

Censoring the 1974 march from mainstream history is also meant to erase the march's lasting impact, leading to decades of victories and forward progress made possible by the successes of Boston's Black community's decades-long struggles for self-determination, described by historian Zebulon Vance Miletsky as Boston's

Panelists (from left) Nick Juravich, Steve Gillis, Monica Moorehead, Steve Kirshbaum, and Ed Childs.

Reconstruction. ("Before Busing: A History of Boston's Long Black Freedom Struggle," 2022)

As the racists were unable to organize another mass mobilization after the massive and militant Dec. 14 action, the march paved the way for the future gains of the school bus drivers union and broader anti-racist and working-class struggles in Boston. Its lessons need to be known today more than ever as fascist-minded forces prepare to take the White House again.

From Reconstruction to Boston: struggle for democratic rights

Monica Moorehead, a decades-long Workers World Party leader and a managing editor of Workers World newspaper, told of organizing two buses to the March Against Racism as a 22-year-old teacher then living in Norfolk, Virginia. She told of scenes she witnessed of racist violence and vile discrimination in Boston comparable to life in the segregated Jim Crow South of her Alabama and Texas childhood.

In her presentation, Moorehead put the 1974 march in the context of an ongoing, centuries-long struggle of Black people for self-determination, bourgeois democratic rights, reparations and liberation from the racist system of capitalist wage slavery and superexploitation. She acknowledged that the entire U.S. was land stolen from Indigenous nations.

The struggles for both desegregation and community control of public education in Boston "did not happen in a vacuum," she explained. Rather they were a continuance of the Black resistance to the white reactionary forces like the KKK which mobilized to roll back the revolutionary gains won during the Civil War and Reconstruction. Ultimately, "these democratic rights can no longer be won under capitalism. It's going to take a socialist revolution," she concluded to applause.

Boston's unfinished revolution

Ed Childs, a 50-year WWP organizer and decades-long UNITE HERE! Local 26 leader, described his experience infiltrating Boston's fascist organization in 1974,

Continued on next page



WW PHOTO: MAIREAD SKEHAN GILLIS

Smash white supremacy!

Continued from previous page

ROAR (Restore Our Alienated Rights), a white supremacist terror group led by reactionary politician Louise Day Hicks, cops and other assorted bigots of the national John Birch Society, which met in city council chambers at City Hall.

ROAR's logo was a lion smashing a school bus, and it organized weekly segregationist demonstrations of thousands in Boston's neighborhoods during the summer and fall of 1974, as well as firebombings, snipings and daily stonings of school buses transporting Black children.

Listening in on meetings Hicks had with other ROAR ringleaders like police brass and priests, Childs gathered intelligence that allowed anti-racist organizers to outmaneuver ROAR and, ultimately, vastly outnumber their fascist cohorts on December 14 and thereafter.

Stevan Kirschbaum, an organizer with Youth Against War and Fascism (Workers World Party's youth arm at the time) and a school bus driver from 1974 to 2024, detailed the apartheid-like regime that structured life in 1974 Boston. "If you lived in Boston, you knew this was about racism," Kirschbaum said. "You know that what we are talking about is a struggle against racism — not about buses or federal troops or anything else."

Kirschbaum told of first meeting Bill Owens, when Owens was in prison, through the work of WWP's mass group

the Prisoners Solidarity Committee and of Owens' revolutionary leadership as Massachusetts' first Black state senator in 1974. His first act was going on the offensive against the bigots as chair of the Emergency Committee for a National Mobilization Against Racism in Boston.

Owens' bold and militant leadership brought Civil Rights Movement icons like comedian Dick Gregory, Southern Christian Leadership Conference President Dr. Ralph Abernathy and Bill Lucy, a founder of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, to Boston on Dec. 14, fighting off a police assault and arrest of their aides during the battle on Boylston Street that day.

As Kirschbaum emphasized, it was the city's racist police and "liberal" Brahmin class elite who enabled the racist pogroms orchestrated by ROAR. Boston segregationists may have been cosplaying as "anti-establishment" insurgents, "[getting] up in front of City Hall and the federal building," Kirschbaum recalled, "but when you looked at the cops, they were all wearing ROAR buttons." As Kirschbaum and other speakers stressed, the fight against the overt fascism then embodied by ROAR continues — and after Trump's victory, has taken on new urgency.

"These MAGA forces are the ROAR of today," Kirschbaum said. "Right now it is time to get active and organize! ... We will fight and we will win. History is on our side!"

After the program, participants went on a walking tour led by UMass Boston graduate



State Senator Bill Owens — chair of the Emergency Committee for a National Mobilization Against Racism — on top of a cop car leading marchers downtown Boston during the police attack on the march, Dec. 14, 1974.

historian Maci Mark, who revisited some downtown sites of the anti-racist and labor struggles of the local teachers' and school bus drivers' unions, which continue to inspire today's resistance to resurgent fascist forces. □



WW PHOTO: MAIREAD SKEHAN GILLIS
Steve Gillis next to historic poster, Nov. 23, 2024.



The "Solidarity Bus" from Birmingham traveled 31 hours to Boston. It departed from the 16th Street Baptist Church where, in 1963, three Black children were killed in a KKK-style terror bombing.

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Disfunción del gabinete

MUNDO OBRERO editorial

El presidente electo Donald Trump ha nombrado rápidamente a la mayor parte de su gabinete y del personal de la Casa Blanca. En lugar de los gestores supuestamente cualificados que los demócratas afirman que habrían elegido para dirigir los gigantescos departamentos que componen la burocracia gubernamental y estatal del imperio, Trump ha elegido a una desagradable e incompetente colección de monstruos inanes.

Su característica común es que atienden a Trump, o al menos lo han hecho recientemente. Los que le criticaron tras el intento de golpe de estado del 6 de enero de 2021 se han adaptado a la nueva realidad. Todos ellos son enemigos de la clase obrera multinacional. Juntos aportan tantas contradicciones a la nueva administración que los cómicos nocturnos bromean sobre a quién despedirá Trump primero.

En lugar de detenerse en las pesadillas que se esconden tras los chistes, Mundo Obrero sugiere que el movimiento anti-imperialista estudie los puntos débiles de cada uno de los designados. Especialmente lo que sus personalidades revelan sobre la debilidad actual del imperialismo estadounidense. Y que actuemos sobre cada apertura que nos permita movilizar la resistencia.

Pueden abrirse batallas si se aprueban estos nombramientos, batallas dentro de sus departamentos y batallas con el nuevo presidente. Consideremos dos de los nombramientos más notorios de Trump: Pete Hegseth para dirigir el Departamento de Defensa y Robert F. Kennedy Jr para dirigir el Departamento de Salud y Servicios Humanos.

Hegseth es un antiguo capitán de la Guardia Nacional del Ejército que ha sido presentador de fin de semana en «FOX and Friends». En una ocasión instó a Trump a perdonar a tres soldados estadounidenses que cometieron crímenes de guerra al asesinar a civiles iraquíes. Ataca a algunos de los más altos generales estadounidenses por ser demasiado «woke» y dijo que el general Charles Q. Brown Jr.

consiguió su puesto como presidente del Estado Mayor Conjunto sólo porque es negro.

Puede que a los generales no les guste recibir órdenes de un director general de la industria; odian recibir órdenes de un capitán. Preste mucha atención a cualquier brote de conflicto entre este capitán y sus oficiales superiores en el Estado Mayor Conjunto. Y prepárese para movilizarse contra ambos bandos.

La mayor fama de Kennedy, además de su historia familiar, es la de negacionista de las vacunas, escéptico de la ciencia y una amenaza para el ya débil sistema de salud pública estadounidense. Kennedy también se opone a la práctica de la industria alimentaria de producir aperitivos superprocesados.

Si RFK Jr intenta realmente llevar a cabo sus ideas, esto le pondrá en conflicto con la industria farmacéutica. Durante la crisis del Covid-19, la primera administración Trump subsidió la investigación de las farmacéuticas, y éstas florecieron. Kennedy también se enfrentará a los productores de alimentos y sus aperitivos procesados. Esto también podría llevar a una apertura de lucha — o Trump podría simplemente despedir a Kennedy.

Luego está Elon Musk, que compró su camino dentro del círculo íntimo de Trump. Trump ha creado un puesto en el recién creado «Departamento de Eficiencia Gubernamental» para Musk, actualmente la persona más rica del mundo.

Al parecer, Musk ha estado pasando el rato en el refugio de Trump en Mar-a-Lago con el presidente electo. Junto con el capitalista farmacéutico Vivek Ramaswamy, él mismo multimillonario, Musk recomendará recortar los programas gubernamentales que consideren innecesarios; es fácil imaginar cuáles.

Uno se pregunta, sin embargo, cuánto



Primera baja en el gabinete MAGA es Matt Gaetz.

puede durar una sociedad de admiración mutua entre individuos que se creen cada uno el más grande. Ya lo veremos.

Por desgracia, no podemos hacer planes para que esta colección de canallas se autodestruya. Tenemos que estar preparados para movilizarnos allí donde podamos para desenmascarar sus políticas y las de la nueva administración.

Pero si la nueva administración desata una oleada de luchas internas en la clase dominante, también debemos estar preparados para encontrar la forma de utilizar sus ataques mutuos para construir una lucha de masas contra ambos bandos. Y debemos movilizar esta lucha manteniendo la independencia política y organizativa de las dos facciones de la clase dominante — MAGA o establecimiento neoconservador, republicano o demócrata. No será fácil, pero es posible. □

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