

MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite! workers.org Vol. 66, No. 41 October 10, 2024



New York City, Oct. 7, 2024

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Millions globally mark October 7 anniversary for Palestine resistance

See slideshow at www.workers.org/?p=81279

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Berlin, Germany.

Outside U.S. Embassy, Johannesburg, South Africa.



Caracas, Venezuela.

MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

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Defense of Iran is a worker's issue

By Monica Moorehead

Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps carried out a spectacular military attack with 200 hypersonic ballistic missiles on three key Israeli bases in the Occupied Palestinian Territories on Oct. 1. The attack known as the "True Promise 2" operation caused severe damage to the Nevatim and Hatzerim air bases, along with Mossad intelligence headquarters.

This operation, which focused only on military targets, was in response to the assassination of the political leader of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, in Tehran, Iran, on July 31. Iran viewed this heinous crime as a violation of its sovereignty and rightfully so.

Citing its right under the United Nations Charter to punish Israel for this act of terrorism, Iran delayed carrying out the operation with the hope that a ceasefire would be imposed on Israel to stop the holocaust against Palestinian civilians. Once Israel refused to negotiate with Hamas, Iran carried out the Oct. 1, 2024 operation.

There were no reported civilian casualties by Iran, unlike the genocidal Israeli airstrikes, carried out with backing from the U.S. These strikes have killed and maimed hundreds of thousands of Palestinians since last Oct. 8, along with Lebanese civilians since Sept. 27.

Israel has pledged at any moment to retaliate against Iran, even threatening the use of nuclear weapons. While U.S. imperialism supports this impending attack, it stops short of supporting Israel using nuclear weapons and attacking Iran's oil refineries due to the potential of an increase in oil prices and the overall negative impact on the global economy.

History of hostility towards Iran

U.S. imperialism has demonized Iran since the Persian nation of over 90 million people carried out an earth-shattering Islamic revolution from 1979-81 against the hated U.S. puppet Shah of Iran to demand control of their own resources,

especially oil and gas resources. Then, U.S. hostages were taken for 444 days. Ever since this social uprising, Iran has been in the crosshairs of Western imperialism and demonized as a danger to the rest of West Asia (the Middle East) and even the U.S.

Besides defiantly thumbing its nose at imperialist military threats and economic sabotage with sanctions, Iran has found a way to develop into the most powerful country, militarily and economically, in the region.



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Anti-U.S./NATO protest, March 18, 2023, Washington, D.C.

Iran has also demonstrated unwavering solidarity, not only to the Palestinian liberation struggle but to other developing countries such as Lebanon, Syria, Yemen and Iraq that have also defied imperialist aggression and domination.

Iran is not the enemy

Whenever U.S. imperialism cannot coerce an independent country into its orbit, it will rely on disinformation and outright lies. This is to disarm the masses into believing that the biggest threat to their security is a country such as Iran that has no military bases remotely close to the number belonging to the U.S. Compare this to 19 U.S. military bases in West Asia located in 10 countries. This military occupation is an ominous threat that the Iranian people face on a daily basis.

Imperialism makes any excuse, claiming security concerns, to divert billions of taxpayer dollars into a gargantuan military budget to threaten independent

countries including Iran and China. They have the right to develop their own economies to serve their populations, not for profits for billionaire bosses.

That money should be used instead to meet human needs, such as housing, education, food, health care and emergency funds to assist victims of climate-related disasters such as Hurricane Helene.

It is not in the interest of any worker to support a war against other workers who share the same wants and needs on a global scale. Don't the workers here have their own domestic fight against low wages, police violence, gender oppression, migrant bashing, poverty, mass incarceration and houselessness? Why should they kill or be killed or become permanently disabled in a war for conquest of other people's lands for empire?

For those who consider themselves progressives and revolutionary socialists, defending Iran means opposing imperialist exploitation and expansion, the life's blood of the profit-hungry capitalist system.

For the masses, defending Iran means understanding that every issue is a worker's issue not only at home but abroad. And there is no more important political issue at this juncture than to oppose imperialist war in words and actions on countries from Iran to China to Russia.

Hands off Iran! □

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Al-Aqsa Flood anniversary

Year of historic resistance and solidarity

By Martha Grevatt

The Palestinian Factions (National and Islamic Forces) explained in an Oct. 5 statement that: “The blessed Battle of Al-Aqsa Flood on the glorious 7th of October brought about a strategic shift in the struggle with the Zionist occupation and revealed its true nature to the entire world. It came as a natural response to the crimes of the criminal occupation against our Palestinian people and to confront the projects and plans of the Zionist occupation and its supporters. Resistance continues as a legitimate right to achieve freedom and establish a free Palestinian state with Al-Quds [Jerusalem] as its capital.” (Resistance News Network, Oct. 5)

Actions across the U.S. and around the world demonstrated solidarity with Palestine and Lebanon on Monday, Oct. 7 and during the weekend preceding it.

Some 5,000 protesters turned out Oct. 6 on **Boston** Common in a massive show of support for Palestinian and Lebanese resistance to the genocidal Zionist state and its U.S. sponsor. The action was organized by the Boston Coalition for Palestine — whose 45 member organizations include Palestinian House of New

England, Palestinian Youth Movement, Jewish Voice for Peace and Workers World Party.

At the fancy Hilton Park Plaza Hotel, the march stopped to show solidarity with the hotel workers of UNITE HERE Local 26, striking to demand higher wages and expanded benefits that management has long denied them.

In **New York City** mass marches drew tens of thousands of people on Oct. 5, organized by Peoples Forum, and on Oct. 7, organized by Within Our Lifetime. The latter event, referred to as “Flood New York City for Palestine,” brought a huge mass of activists who first converged at Wall Street and then rallied and marched to various sites such as City Hall, Washington Square Park, Union Square and Grand Central and Amtrak stations. There were also several student walkouts on Oct. 7, including at Columbia University, where the first of hundreds of countrywide Gaza solidarity encampments were organized earlier this year.

Protests marking the one-year anniversary of the Al-Aqsa Flood took place in **Philadelphia** on Oct. 5 and Oct. 7. A vigil was held at Love Park on Oct. 5 organized by Families for Ceasefire Philly. Long, typed lists with thousands of names of those killed by the Israeli genocide were laid out on the ground.

On Oct. 7, newly formed Philadelphia Students for Justice in Palestine brought together hundreds of students and supporters from area colleges including Temple University, University of Pennsylvania, Swarthmore, Haverford, Bryn Mawr and Drexel.

After an opening rally that introduced the new formation, partici-



New York City, Oct. 5, 2024.

WW PHOTO: TONI ARENSTEIN

pants marched through the UPenn campus, past the UPenn health care complex and finally across the Grays Ferry bridge to the headquarters of Ghost Robotics, a creation of UPenn’s research labs.

Ghost Robotics produces robotic dogs, often armed with weapons and used by Israel in Gaza and by the U.S. at the Mexican border. Police, who maintained a militarized presence in helicopters and vans and on bicycles, arrested six participants.

Hundreds of Pennsylvania residents from Pittsburgh, Philadelphia and towns in between protested on Oct. 6 in **Harrisburg** against the state’s support for genocide in Palestine, condemning the Pennsylvania Treasury Department’s investment of \$56 million in Israel Bonds this year alone.

Starting at the Governor’s Mansion, participants marched to the State Capitol Building, along the way planting thousands of small Palestinian flags, many of them bearing the names of children who had been killed over the past year. Speakers, signs and banners called for an embargo on arms to Israel and an end to the state law outlawing contractors from supporting the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement.



Boston, Oct. 6, 2024.

WW PHOTO: MAUREEN SKEHAN

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Al-Aqsa Flood anniversary

Continued from previous page



Cleveland, Oct. 5, 2024

WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT

The “Little Arabia” neighborhood on **Cleveland’s** West Side was a sea of red, black, green and white flags on Oct. 5, as nearly 1,000 people marched and chanted for Palestine. Speakers pointed out that October 7 not only marks one year of genocide but one year of resistance.

On Oct. 5 in **Denver** the Palestine Coalition, along with Jewish Voice for Peace, Freedom Road Socialist Party, Denver Peace Action and over 700 supporters, gathered and marched through the Cherry Creek Shopping area. The march marked one year of Palestinian and Lebanese resistance, supported by people in the U.S. who are demanding the U.S. government — without which none of these wars could continue — stop sending money and arms to facilitate Israel’s genocide against the Palestinian people.

A Tashlich March, organized by Jewish Voice for Peace, took place earlier on Sept. 29. This is a traditional Jewish observance during the New Year to symbolically

cast off one’s sins. Hundreds of people, wearing white, cast pinecones into the river and spoke about casting out hatred, racism, Zionism and any weakness that might hold people back from supporting the Palestinians.

On Oct. 5 the **Houston** City Hall plaza was filled with chanting activists. Speakers reflected the anger of this city’s large Arab and Muslim population. Hundreds of young people from the Palestinian Youth Movement in Houston were joined by hundreds more supporters of Palestine to denounce the year-long escalating war on Palestine and now Lebanon.

From toddlers to elderly people with walkers, marchers gathered in 90 degree heat for over three hours to display their anger. Huge Palestinian and Lebanese flags flew high — as did emotions. As the crowd swelled to well over 1,000, the PYM led the march into the streets, taking them over. Despite a huge police presence, participants continued chanting and educating those shopping downtown.

Over 1,000 people marched in **Seattle** on Oct. 5 to protest the U.S.-Israeli war on Gaza, the West Bank and now Lebanon. The demonstration marched from the waterfront to the Space Needle, showing strength in taking over vital attractions.

Microsoft workers carried a banner reading “No Azure for apartheid.” Azure, developed by Microsoft, is a cloud computing platform used by the Israel Occupation Forces. The workers handed



WW PHOTO: JIM MCMAHAN

Microsoft workers protest company’s support for Israeli apartheid, Seattle, Oct. 5, 2024.

out a leaflet saying, “We, as Microsoft workers, refuse to remain silent while Microsoft is complicit in Israel’s genocide of the Palestinian people.”

Demands raised to Microsoft were: “1. IOF off Azure; 2. Disclose all ties; 3. Call for permanent ceasefire; 4. Protect Palestinian, Arab, Muslim and allied employees.” (@noazureforapartheid)

Huge marches all over the world, especially in West Asia, honored the anniversary of the Al-Aqsa Flood. The world is on the side of Palestine!

Will Hodgkinson, Jim McMahan, Monica Moorehead, Joe Piette, Gloria Rubac, Vivian Weinstein and Workers World Philadelphia bureau contributed to this article.



Philadelphia, Oct. 7, 2024.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

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Hurricane Helene

Catastrophic storm created by capitalists' priorities



WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

New York City, Oct. 7, 2024.

With a death toll over 230 and rising, Hurricane Helene is the worst regional catastrophe to hit the United States since Hurricane Katrina struck New Orleans, killing nearly 1,400 people and displacing tens of thousands more in 2005.

After making landfall as a Category 4 storm on Sept. 26, the hurricane unleashed devastation across Florida, Georgia, South and North Carolina, Virginia and Tennessee. North Carolina's Blue Ridge Mountains area was hardest hit, with entire towns wiped off the map. In these mountains what were once called "100-year floods" have lately become commonplace.

With many areas still impassable and with limited phone communication, confirmed death tolls are expected to climb.

Scientists and politicians will call Hurricane Helene a "natural disaster," but in many aspects it was human-made, fueled by deregulations of environmental protections, expansion of fossil fuels and coal extraction and reductions in funding for climate change concerns on state and federal levels. Climate-related projects under the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act won't take place until 2025.

Scientists point to extreme rain falls impacting communities across the U.S. in recent years. Warmer ocean temperatures, along with moisture from rain-saturated soil, created the 20 trillion gallons of rainfall that this hurricane dropped in its path.

Experts are already finding evidence that climate change fueled Hurricane Helene's destruction that included 30 to 35 inches of rain, falling in less than three days across steep mountainous terrain. The sudden rainfall caused rivers, creeks and streams to spill

over their banks and carved new watery paths that wiped out roads, bridges, homes and businesses.

North Carolina was once a national leader in renewable energy and climate change resiliency policies. But beginning in the early 2010s, pro-big business lawmakers and corporate interests in North Carolina fought climate control measures and sabotaged projects designed to cut heat-trapping emissions and help communities withstand hurricane-force winds and widespread flooding.

In 2010, the legislature slashed the operating budget for the state's Department of Environmental Quality responsible for protection standards. In 2012, Pat McCrory, a former executive at Duke Energy, North Carolina's largest public utility, was elected governor.

Lindsey Graham: Prioritize funding for Israel's wars

Climate-change deniers including McCrory bear much responsibility, but so too do politicians like Senator Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), who on Oct. 4 told Fox News host Chris Hannity: "I've been going all over South Carolina, and like most people haven't slept much. But look what's going on in Israel." Graham told Hannity he thought it was more important to provide weapons to Israel than fund the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to rescue workers in the U.S. ruined by the flood.

Graham is not alone among capitalist politicians from both major parties who seem to believe that reducing the annual budget of FEMA was necessary if it meant making more money available for Israel to carry out genocide against Palestinian people.

Voting for a government funding extension through December, bipartisan votes in Congress and the Senate, just before taking a six-week recess on Sept. 25, left out billions of dollars requested for supplemental disaster funding for FEMA and other federal disaster programs. FEMA already faced a nearly \$2 billion deficit due to damage from previous major storms and forest fires. The agency has obligations of around \$8 billion that it has been unable to reimburse states to cover damages from early August storms. (Politico, Sept. 26)

While people in many areas hard hit by past climate disasters, including New Orleans and Puerto Rico, have ample reasons for being critical of FEMA, cutting the agency's funding, as Congress did in September, just as Hurricane Helene was approaching

landfall, only made matters worse.

FEMA's annual budget for 2024 was around \$29.5 billion. AccuWeather on Sept. 30 estimated that total costs for rebuilding after Hurricane Helene could reach \$160 billion.

Congress quick to fund wars

Just as Israel was launching major military attacks on Lebanon and carrying out assassinations of leaders of Hezbollah on Sept. 27, President Joe Biden and the U.S. Congress approved \$8.9 billion more to support Israel's expanding wars in West Asia.

On Aug. 13, the Department of State announced that the U.S. had approved a \$20 billion weapons package to Israel that included fighter jets and advanced air-to-air missiles. Since 2022, the U.S. has provided Ukraine with almost \$60 billion for weapons, and Biden announced another \$2.4 billion assistance package on Sept. 26.

In contrast to U.S. imperialism's abandoning the environment, China has established long-term plans to reduce carbon emissions by funding the production of electric vehicles and low-energy rapid transit and designing "green cities" to absorb carbon pollution. And socialist Cuba's planned economy allows the island nation to maximize plans to deal with the ramifications of major hurricanes, with evacuation plans that minimize death tolls.

In the U.S., where capitalists' profits are always prioritized over people's needs, potential victims of major storm damage are left on their own to cope.

On Oct. 6, the National Hurricane Center announced that Category 1 Hurricane Milton is "rapidly intensifying." It is expected to make landfall on Florida's Gulf Coast Oct. 9. □

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MO/WW condena el asesinato del líder de Hezbollah por Israel

Mundo Obrero condena el asesinato por Israel del secretario general de Hezbollah, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, que tuvo lugar en Dahiyeh, un suburbio del sur de Beirut, el 27 de septiembre. Nasrallah había dirigido la organización de liberación libanesa durante 32 años. Su asesinato formaba parte de una masacre mayor, ya que los mismos ataques aéreos israelíes mataron e hirieron a cientos de libaneses, en su mayoría civiles, incluidos niños.

Mundo Obrero también condena la complicidad de la administración Biden en el asesinato de Sayyed Nasrallah y la masacre en curso de civiles en Líbano, Gaza y Cisjordania. Señalamos que la policía de Nueva York protegió al primer ministro israelí Benjamin Netanyahu mientras promovía los crímenes de guerra de su ejército en su discurso ante una reunión casi vacía de la Asamblea General de las Naciones Unidas en Nueva York y ordenaba los ataques contra Líbano.

El presidente de Irán, Masoud Pezeshkian, dijo el 27 de septiembre: «La comunidad internacional no olvidará que la orden de este ataque terrorista vino de Nueva York, y los estadounidenses no pueden eximirse de complicidad con el régimen sionista.»

El mismo ataque que acabó con la vida de Nasrallah mató al general de brigada Abbas Nilforooshan, subjefe de operaciones del Consejo de la Guardia Revolucionaria iraní. Tres meses antes, otro ataque aéreo israelí mató al líder político de Hamás, Ismail Haniyeh, en Teherán (Irán).

Según el OOPS (Organismo de Obras Públicas y Socorro de las Naciones Unidas para los Refugiados de Palestina en el Cercano Oriente), más de 50.000 libaneses y sirios que viven en Líbano han cruzado a Siria para escapar de los ataques aéreos israelíes que han tenido como objetivo viviendas, hospitales, escuelas y otras

instalaciones civiles desde los ciberataques israelíes del 17 de septiembre contra Líbano. Este patrón de masacres es muy similar a los ataques de Israel en Gaza desde el 7 de octubre de 2023.

El presidente Joe Biden y la vicepresidenta Kamala Harris se alinearon con el criminal de guerra Netanyahu calificando el



Mujeres iraníes sostienen fotos de Hassan Nasrallah y banderas palestinas en una protesta contra Israel en Teherán, 27 de septiembre de 2024.

asesinato de Nasrallah como «una medida de justicia». La postura de la administración no es ninguna sorpresa. Estados Unidos concedió recientemente otros 8.700 millones de dólares en armas a Israel para continuar su genocidio de casi un año en Gaza, Cisjordania y ahora Líbano.

Todas las facciones de la resistencia palestina han condenado la ejecución de Nasrallah en solidaridad con Hezbollah, miembro del Eje de la Resistencia, junto con las fuerzas de resistencia iraníes, iraquíes, sirias y yemeníes, que se solidarizan con la lucha armada antiapartheid y antiocupación en Palestina. No es ningún secreto que el Estado colono israelí ha considerado a Hezbollah una gran amenaza para su dominio continuado del territorio que le ha sido arrebatado desde que se creó el grupo de liberación a principios de la década de 1980.

Es de suma importancia que los activistas propalestinos de todo el mundo muestren su solidaridad con el pueblo libanés y con Hezbollah denunciando no sólo al régimen sionista, sino también a su principal

aliado, el imperialismo estadounidense y otros gobiernos occidentales. Este deber se aplica especialmente a los antiimperialistas de los países de la OTAN y sus aliados cercanos. Mundo Obrero se une a esta denuncia sin titubear.

Israel no podría existir ni un solo día sin el apoyo político y militar del imperialismo estadounidense, que es el principal enemigo de los pueblos oprimidos en todas partes de Asia Occidental (Oriente Medio), y en otras partes de Asia, África, América Latina y aquí mismo en Norteamérica, en las entrañas del monstruo.

Como han dicho las organizaciones de resistencia de la región de Asia Occidental, el asesinato de Nasrallah -al igual que el asesinato del líder de Hamás Haniyeh- no disminuirá la lucha por la liberación, sino que sólo servirá para intensificar la lucha contra el colonialismo, la ocupación y el imperialismo. Como Miriam Saleh, de Press TV, declaró el 28 de septiembre: «Puede que Israel haya matado a un Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, pero ha creado cientos de miles de Nasrallahs.»

¡Viva la resistencia en Palestina, Irak, Líbano, Siria y Yemen!

¡Abajo Israel y el imperialismo estadounidense! □

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