



Yahya Al-Sinwar 1962-2024

His life will inspire many more to liberate Palestine



Protests erupted throughout West Asia after Sinwar's assassination. Sana'a, Yemen, Oct. 18, 2024.

WWP STATEMENT



Workers World Party salutes the heroic revolutionary leader Yahya Al-Sinwar, chair of the Political Bureau of the Hamas Islamic Resistance Movement and Commander of the Al-Aqsa Flood Battle, who died heroically in battle along with other Hamas combatants on Oct. 17 in Gaza. While the Israeli war criminals, led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, along with U.S. imperialist backers cheered his death, millions of people around the world, especially in West Asia, paid homage to the legendary fighter in words and deeds.

Yahya Al-Sinwar was in the forefront of the Palestinian Resistance, leading it to a new combative level. His final breaths before martyrdom, viewed globally on social media, will no doubt inspire a new generation of fighters for the national liberation of Palestine from over 76 years of white-supremacist, settler colonialism.

Al-Sinwar taught concrete skills to combatants in the making and use of the most creative weapons. He was pivotal in developing an incredible array of homemade weapons, from hang gliders to repurposed rockets built from Zionist bombs.

Al-Sinwar helped create the vast array of tunnels that enabled the totally blockaded Palestinians in besieged Gaza to challenge the most technically sophisticated military machine. But his most important contribution was in building a militant, resilient spirit among the fighters of Hamas' Al-Qassam Brigades.

In planning the incredibly complex military operation of the Al Aqsa Flood, Al-Sinwar took the time to engage politically with every resistance group, from small units to long-standing political parties to the Resistance organizations across West Asia. All of this was accomplished while keeping the actual plan totally secret from the all-pervasive Mossad security forces.

Al-Sinwar was sentenced to four life terms and imprisoned for 23 years in Zionist jails. He was 49 when he was released in 2011 in a deal where 1,027 Palestinian prisoners — 280 of them serving life sentences — were released in exchange for the Israeli soldier, Gilad Shalit.

Al-Sinwar's prison writings are collected in the book "The Thorn and the Carnation," a novel describing a journey from despair to defiance for a refugee family. The novel teaches across generations how to understand and survive the most horrific forms of forced mass displacement, land grabs, massacres, mass arrests, imprisonment and expropriation.

Resistance resurges after each martyr's death

Since the illegal establishment of Israel, repressive efforts rubber-stamped by the imperialist powers have attempted to derail the aspirations of the Palestinian people for sovereignty and self-determination.

To the great frustration of the Zionist war criminals, time and again after every wave of heinous repression the Palestinian Resistance has resurged, regrouped and burst forth at a higher level.

Yahya Al-Sinwar's martyrdom — preceded by the July 31 martyrdom of

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Hamas statement

Martyrdom of Al-Sinwar 'will only strengthen our resistance'

The statement below was posted on Resistance News Network on Oct. 18, 2024.

With all the pride, dignity and honor, the Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, mourns to our Palestinian people, to our entire nation and to the free people of the world, one of the noblest and bravest men, a man who dedicated his life for Palestine and gave his soul for the sake of Allah on the path to its liberation. He was true to Allah, and Allah was true to him, choosing him as a martyr alongside his fellow martyrs: We mourn the great national leader, the Mujahid Martyr Brother Yahya Al-Sinwar (Abu Ibrahim), Head of the Political Bureau of the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) and Commander of Al-Aqsa Flood Battle.


He rose as a heroic martyr, advancing and never retreating, wielding his weapon, engaging and confronting the occupation army at the frontlines. He moved between all combat positions, steadfast and stationed on the honored land of Gaza, defending the land of Palestine and its holy sites, inspiring the spirit of endurance, patience, steadfastness

and resistance.

Our great people, our Arab and Islamic nations and the free people of the world: The martyred leader Yahya Al-Sinwar lived as a mujahid, and from his youth, he carved his path within the ranks of Hamas, engaging in its resistance operations. During 23 years of imprisonment, he triumphed over the Zionist jailer. After his release in the Wafa al-Ahrar deal, he continued his contributions, planning and fighting until his eyes witnessed, on October 7, 2023, the day of the great flood that shook the depths of the entity, exposing the fragility of its supposed security.

The heroic epics of our people and the valor of our victorious resistance followed, until he attained the highest rank and the noblest medal, ascending as a witness and a martyr, content with the jihad and sacrifice he offered. The martyr leader Yahya Al-Sinwar followed in the footsteps of great martyred leaders, including the founding martyr Sheikh Ahmed Yassin, Dr. Abdelaziz Al-Rantisi, Al-Maqadmeh, Abu Shanab, Jamal Mansour, Jamal Saleem, the martyred

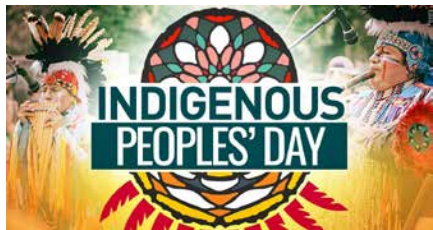
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Justice for Palestine! Support Workers World

The world has watched in horror for the last year as Israel has dropped thousands of U.S.-supplied 2,000-lb. bombs on Gaza, home to 2.3 million Palestinians. The media says over 42,000 Palestinians have been killed, including 16,000 children, medical and humanitarian aid workers and journalists. The July Lancet medical journal cited up to 186,000 fatalities, but thousands more have died since that report was issued.

Our newspaper has written the real news and in our editorials has railed against the racist Zionist state's military siege of Gaza and now the occupied West Bank and Lebanon in its expansionist goals in West Asia.

WW is partisan, siding with the besieged Palestinian people — those struggling to survive, those facing Israel Occupation Forces' violence and Zionist settler attacks and those imprisoned. We support the Palestinian Resistance, which is fighting for their people's rights, land and an end to occupation and repression. They seek their basic rights to freedom and self-determination.

WW articles expose and condemn the complicity of the U.S. government which staunchly backs the Israeli state, giving it billions of dollars for warfare while supplying the powerful weapons used to bomb Gaza, kill its people and destroy its infrastructure, even hospitals. President Joe Biden speaks of "peace" and an imminent "ceasefire," yet the bombs keep flowing.

Our newspaper refutes the corporate media's lies, distortions and bigotry. If you want to read the truth about

Israel's war and the U.S. role — and share our solidarity with the Palestinian people — Workers World is the newspaper for you.

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Our writer-organizers report on anti-capitalist, anti-war and anti-imperialist struggles and promote people's movements against racism — and for the rights of Black, Latine, Indigenous, Arab and Asian peoples and women, workers, migrants, disabled and LGBTQIA2S+ and gender-oppressed individuals. This website is a resource for political activists.

While WW's staff members are volunteers, the 12 issues printed and shipped 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.**

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New York City, Sept. 2, 2024.

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

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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

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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Boston rally demands: Indigenous Peoples Day Now!

By Will Hodgkinson
Boston

Nearly 200 Indigenous protesters and their allies gathered outside Park Street Station in Boston on Oct. 12 to demand that Massachusetts immediately designate the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples Day.

An Indigenous-led coalition of United American Indians of New England (UAIN), the North American Indian Center of Boston (NAICOB), Cultural Survival, the New Democracy Coalition, Workers World Party-Boston and Italian Americans for Indigenous Peoples Day organized the Oct. 12 action. This bolsters the longstanding effort to demolish the cult glorifying Christopher Columbus, whose lifework was characterized by conquest, slavery and genocide.

Columbus, a Genoese soldier of fortune sponsored by the late-feudal Spanish monarchy and its mercantile creditors, captained the 1492 voyage. After landing, he and his crew enslaved, tortured and slaughtered many of the Indigenous peoples of the Caribbean. Columbus' killing spree initiated slavery and prepared the way for the transatlantic slave trade and the genocidal system of capitalist extraction and settler colonialism that Indigenous nations continue to resist worldwide—from Turtle Island to Palestine.

Years of heroic Indigenous-led activism have forced the Massachusetts government to make incremental concessions. Last May 28, the Massachusetts Senate passed an amendment that appointed a commission to redesign the racist state flag and seal. The Commission will announce the redesign after one

year, during which time the old anti-Indigenous emblems will remain in place.

Other unfulfilled, longstanding demands of the Indigenous Legislative Agenda to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts include passing a bill to outlaw racist school mascots; incorporating Indigenous history into public school curricula; expanding educational opportunities for Indigenous students; and protecting Indigenous artifacts and funerary items. Massachusetts likewise still refuses to proclaim the second Monday in October Indigenous Peoples Day. (maindigenousagenda.org)

Jean-Luc Pierite (Tunica-Biloxi), president of the Board of Directors of NAICOB, said: "As long as there is a sun in the sky, our people will continue. We will continue to walk; we will continue to march; we will continue until all of us are free, all of our Indigenous people. ... We are demanding an end to Christopher Columbus Day. No more!"

Pierite continued; "We will not continue to uplift a rapist, a genocider. We will not continue to uphold the settler-colonist system that has terrorized our lands for centuries. We will continue to march, and we will continue to dismantle these systems that have held our people. No more!"

In her remarks, Rosalba Solis (Maya) highlighted the resilience and persistence of the thousands of Indigenous cultures that have existed for millennia on the continents now known as the Americas. She urged the crowd to learn from, honor and continue to show solidarity with Indigenous nations in their ongoing strug-



WW PHOTO: MAUREEN SKEHAN

March demanding Indigenous Peoples Day. Boston, Oct. 12, 2024.

gles for self-determination and sovereignty.

Reverend Kevin Peterson of the New Democracy Coalition demanded that Boston change the name of Faneuil Hall, which honors colonial-era Boston merchant Peter Faneuil, who trafficked enslaved human beings. Peterson went on to call for reparations for centuries of enslavement and racial oppression. The "incandescent" campaign for Indigenous Peoples Day, he said, "inclines our minds towards justice."

As demonstrators crossed Boston Common, they chanted: "Indigenous Peoples Day, now!"; "No justice on stolen lands!"; and "From Turtle Island to Palestine, occupation is a crime!"

Demonstrators back striking hotel workers

The march ended at the deluxe Hilton Boston Park Plaza hotel where UNITE HERE Local 26 workers are striking to demand living wages and expanded benefits. Ed Childs, a longtime Local 26 and WWP member, explained that major Hilton investors Blackrock and Fidelity profit from the weapons sold to the Zionist state and from the theft and exploitation of Indigenous lands around the world.

Childs said: "These are the

colonists around the world and here at home. So your struggle is our struggle, and our struggle is your struggle!"

Roused by Childs' words, the demonstrators joined the Local 26 picket line en masse. Chanting "make them pay!" they circled the block, on which is also located the Israeli consulate, alarming police and Hilton rent-a-cops.

Back in front of the hotel, organizers honored the struggle for Palestinian liberation. Last year's Indigenous Peoples Day rally took place Oct. 7, the day of the Al-Aqsa Flood, when Hamas fighters attacked Israeli garrisons in a world-historic rebuke of the oppressive violence of the Zionist state, the complicity of the U.S. empire that supports it and the entire global order of settler colonialism and imperialism.

After 370 days of Palestinian resistance to the genocidal Zionist terror campaign, Palestinian organizers continued to emphasize the need for solidarity and actions to support the liberation of Palestine. Ahmad Kawash, co-founder of the Palestinian House of New England, noted that Indigenous peoples of Turtle Island have

experienced, and continue to fight against, the same strategies of genocidal dispossession and displacement. Palestinians are resisting in Gaza.

'We demand land back!'

Lea Kayali, a Palestinian Youth Movement organizer said: "I come to you all in a state of mourning, but not in a state of despair. Because to be Indigenous is to embody the word 'sumud,' a word in Arabic that means steadfastness. To be sumud is to insist with our bodies and our spirits that we will resist colonialism with every moment of our lives. ... It is the strength of this movement of five centuries of anticolonial struggle that is a promise of liberation. ... From Turtle Island to Palestine, we demand Land Back and nothing less!"

To close the rally, demonstrators joined hands to participate in a traditional round dance to commemorate Indigenous Peoples Day and give expression to the ongoing resistance and resilience of Indigenous peoples around the world.

Jean-Luc Pierite said, in his closing remarks on the strike line: "We are here for all our [Indigenous] relations. We are here for our workers. We are here! Make them pay! Land back!" □

From Lenapehoking to Palestine, genocide is a crime!

By Joe Piette
Philadelphia

Students, faculty and community activists came out for a Palestine Solidarity Vigil, with signs, banners, chants, speakers and musical instruments, on Indigenous Peoples Day, Oct. 14. The vigil took place at the University of Pennsylvania campus, which sits on occupied Lenape territory, known as Lenapehoking.

Highlights included a speech by a Lenapehoking activist and a talk condemning one of the Pentagon's and Israeli Occupation Forces' newest weapons invented by UPenn students and produced at Ghost Robotics. Demonstrators unfurled a long scroll containing the names of 7,000 Palestinians killed by Israel, reading aloud hundreds of their names. (tinyurl.com/2t8cc39m; tinyurl.com/3cv28ber)

Organized by Faculty for Justice in Palestine, the march emphasized the similarities between the struggles of Indigenous peoples, from Turtle Island to Palestine.

Both the U.S. and Israel were founded as European settler-colonial outposts. Both employed systematic dispossession, forced relocation and massacres, resulting in the ethnic cleansing of Indigenous peoples in order to gain control of maximum land and resources for a

white supremacist ruling class.

To this day, U.S. imperialists and genocidal Zionists use surveillance, military checkpoints, police brutality, mass incarceration, theft of water and other natural resources, environmental destruction, desecration of burial sites, and cultural erasure and appropriation, and the most extreme violence to deny Native populations the right to live in peace on their own lands.

No to settler colonial projects, from Lenapehoking to Palestine! □



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Indigenous Peoples Day, Philadelphia, Oct. 14, 2024.

Since 1970, Indigenous people & their allies have gathered at noon on Cole's Hill in Plymouth to commemorate a National Day of Mourning on the US Thanksgiving holiday. Many Native people do not celebrate the arrival of the Pilgrims & other European settlers. Thanksgiving Day is a reminder of the genocide of millions of Native people, the theft of Native lands and the erasure of Native cultures. Participants in National Day of Mourning honor Indigenous ancestors and Native resilience. It is a day of remembrance and spiritual connection, as well as a protest against the racism and oppression that Indigenous people continue to experience worldwide.



NATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING
Thursday, November 28, 2024
12 Noon - Cole's Hill (above Plymouth Rock)
Plymouth, Massachusetts

Join us as we continue to create a true awareness of Native peoples and history. Help shatter the untrue image of the Pilgrims, and the unjust system based on racism, settler colonialism, sexism, homophobia and the profit-driven destruction of the Earth that they and other European settlers introduced to these shores.

Solidarity with Indigenous struggles throughout the world
From Turtle Island to Palestine, Colonialism is a Crime!
While many supporters will attend in person, we will also [livestream](#) the event from Plymouth.

Masks are required.
No sit-down social, but box lunches will be available.

#NDOM2024 #NoThanksNoGiving

United American Indians of New England (decolonizing since 1970)
www.uaine.org facebook.com/groups/UAIN info@uaine.org
Bus info and more at Facebook event: <https://bit.ly/NDOM2024>



Seattle commemoration

By Jim McMahan
Seattle

Hundreds of Indigenous people and their supporters marched in downtown Seattle on Oct. 14 in the 10th annual Indigenous Peoples Day march in the city.

Indigenous Peoples Day takes the place of Columbus Day, the U.S. federal holiday that recognized the 1492 racist, murderous invader. The day honors the resilience and resistance of Native peoples to

colonialism and genocide as the First People of the Americas.

The Seattle commemoration included a rally and round dance for world peace. The march was led by the Sacred Water Canoe Family and the Owaste Lakota Singers/Drummers. Speakers at the city center included representatives of Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and the Palestinian Youth Movement. Other Indigenous Peoples Day activities continued around the city into the evening. □

Say their names

Texas death row families speak out



By Gloria Rubac
Houston

“Beto is my only child,” said Lydia Garza from McAllen in far south Texas. She was one of 12 family members of people on death row speaking, and the pain in her voice was palpable. Her son, Humberto Garza, was sent to death row under Texas’ Law Of Parties. This repressive law convicts people who have not killed anyone.

Every fall since 2000, Texas abolitionists, death row families and their allies have gathered to march, rally and demonstrate their opposition to state-sanctioned murder.

On the 25th anniversary this year, the often-overlooked impact of capital punishment on families was highlighted, and they were the only speakers at this year’s rally organized by a coalition of groups on Oct. 19.

Before the rally a spirited march took everyone to a nearby overpass of a busy freeway where a banner drop was held. Traffic honked approval, and three large banners and dozens of signs were well-received.

Speaking and chanting on bull horns as they went through the historic Third Ward African American neighborhood, words echoed off the homes and buildings with chants like “Death penalty? Shut it down!” and “Texas says death row! We say hell no!”

The rally at Our Park, adjacent to the S.H.A.P.E. Community Center, was led off by the mother of Erica Sheppard, who was sent to death row in 1993 at age 19, and said she was angry and tired.

Madelyn Johnson has raised Sheppard’s three children and numerous grandchildren and said, “I am ready for Erica to come home.” Johnson talked about the expense, both financial and emotional, of visiting her daughter.

She drives over three hours to visit her daughter, paying for overpriced food and

drinks from the vending machines. She regularly puts money into her daughter’s commissary account for essentials like toothpaste, deodorant and extra food, plus she buys minutes so Erica can regularly call home.

‘One injustice after another’

A poem for death row victims, written



PHOTO: YANCY BALDERAS

Family members of people incarcerated on death row gather after 25th annual anti-death penalty march. Houston, October 19, 2024.

by the activist Catholic nun Sister Helen Prejean, was read by Delia Perez-Meyer before she spoke about her brother Louis Perez. He died on death row last May after he had a heart attack and was left on the concrete floor of his cell for two days before he received any treatment. The Innocence Project had investigated his case and was about to announce his innocence when he died.

Yancy Balderas’ husband Juan Balderas was wrongfully convicted by a district attorney who lied and “lost” whole cases of files that would have proven his innocence. Tears fell as she described how Juan spent almost nine years in solitary confinement at the county jail before he was even taken to trial.

Yancy stated: “It’s been one injustice after another, and we were not prepared for that. I will be forever grateful to activists, because they took us under their wings, and we learned how to fight for

his life.”

Yancy Balderas’ mother brought her famous home-made Salvadoran chicken sandwiches and gave them to everyone participating at the rally.

Juan Balderas’ mother also spoke through tears. Speaking in Spanish, Vicky Reyes told of the pain her family has endured for so many years and thanked

Witness To Innocence. In 1995 he went to Philadelphia to help stop the execution of political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal.

His brother, the Rev. Ozell Brandley, spoke emotionally about the injustice of his brother’s case. He held up a newly released book written by John Grisham and Jim McCloskey called “Framed: Astonishing True Stories of Wrongful Convictions.” One of the 10 stories in the book is about his brother Clarence. The book looks closely at what leads to wrongful convictions and the racism, misconduct, flawed testimony and corruption in the court system that can make these unjust convictions so hard to reverse.

The final speaker of the day was too shy to talk so a friend read his statement about his mother, Pam Perillo Tise. Joseph Tise was just a baby when his mom was sentenced to die, and a woman offered to raise him.

He took her last name when she legally adopted him. Pam spent 20 years old death row and after she got a commutation did another 20 years before she was finally paroled. During those 40 years she kept in touch with her son, and he wrote and visited thanks to the woman who adopted him.

His moving words explained that he would rather have had his mother raise him, but he loved her all the same, and today he said, “She can hold me and visit me and love me and my own children.”

At the end of the day, families and supporters left inspired, supported and ready to continue the fight. Now it is time for justice for Robert Roberson, whose execution was temporarily blocked.

Texas has legally lynched 591 people since the death penalty was reinstated in 1976. Now Texas already has three executions and counting set for 2025, and everyone claimed they were up for the fight!

The writer is a founding member of the Texas Death Penalty Abolition Movement.

Texas execution halted

Robert Roberson alive for now!

By Gloria Rubac
Huntsville, Texas

A tumultuous week of incredible twists and turns preceding the scheduled execution date of Texan Robert Roberson on Oct. 17 ended with Roberson still alive.

A collective gasp of relief was heard around the state at 4:00 p.m. on Oct 17, when an Austin, Texas judge issued an order blocking the execution from taking place. This came after an outrageously negative court hearing, a unanimous denial by the Texas Board of Pardons and thousands of petitions turned in by exonerees with the Texas Innocence Network. Also there were multiple press conferences and an eight-hour hearing by the Texas House of Representatives Criminal Jurisprudence Committee on Texas’ junk science law that ended with their passing a resolution to subpoena Roberson to testify on Oct. 21.

But the fight didn’t stop there. Texas Attorney General Ken Paxton immediately appealed the CJC’s resolution to the Texas Court of Criminal Appeals which overturned the ruling that had blocked the execution. Then, legislators from the CJC appealed the CCA ruling to the Texas Supreme Court which ultimately stopped the 6:00 p.m. execution at 10:00 p.m. that night.

During all this maneuvering, Roberson was in a cell in the death house next to the execution chamber for seven or eight hours not knowing what was happening.

The people who Roberson had asked to witness his execution included his spouse Manuela Roberson,

his friends Linda Snyder and David Snyder and Brian Wharton. Wharton was the police detective who investigated his case and helped convict him in Palestine, Texas, in 2002. Wharton later realized his error and campaigned to stop the execution, because he came to believe Roberson was an innocent man.

Executions more widely challenged

This case, coupled with that of a likely innocent Marcellus Williams executed in Missouri on Sept. 24, has generated widespread publicity regarding the shaky grounds that the death penalty sits on in the U.S. After Williams’ execution, the NAACP said in a post on X, “Missouri lynched another innocent Black man.”

Roberson was convicted in 2002 of murdering his 2-year-old daughter Nikki, who had fallen out of bed and was turning blue because she could not breathe. At the hospital, the child, who had been sickly her entire short life, was pronounced dead.

Because Roberson did not appear to be grieving, the hospital staff became suspicious, and he was ultimately charged and convicted due to their diagnosis of “shaken baby syndrome.” However, an autopsy later revealed Nikki’s death was caused by pneumonia and sepsis.

Roberson has autism; his actions were quite typical for a person on the autism spectrum. But in 2002, no one at the police department or hospital in Palestine, Texas, knew about his disability, which caused him to not display the emotions expected of a grieving father.

For more than two decades Roberson proclaimed his

everyone fighting for her son and to end the death penalty.

Terri Been’s large family and their friends arrived with banners and signs proclaiming Jeff Wood’s innocence. Her brother Jeff was also convicted under the Law Of Parties. Years ago Wood’s young nieces and nephews formed Kids Against the Death Penalty and have creatively fought for Wood for decades.

Now that they are adults, they are still dedicated activists. They marched with their snare drum and loud bull horns.

Brandley case highlighted in new book

One of the most well-known cases of Texas’ injustice is that of the late Clarence Brandley, the victim of a racist frame-up who served 10 years on death row before his family, attorneys and activists finally freed him in 1990. Brandley then became an activist himself, working with local activists and organizations as well as



WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC

Demonstration to stop the execution of Robert Roberson. Holding signs are Jennifer Martin and Thomas Roberson, sister-in-law and brother of Roberson. Huntsville, Texas, Oct. 17, 2024.

innocence, saying his little girl died from being sick. Finally, when he was able to get good attorneys, the facts started coming out.

Attorney Gretchen Sween presented the facts about Roberson, his autism and Nikki’s serious health issues, which had caused her father to take her to the doctor many times before she died. Scientists and doctors with impeccable credentials testified in an evidentiary hearing in 2021, yet despite the clear and detailed facts that shaken baby syndrome is no longer considered a viable cause of death, the judge sided with the prosecution and denied relief. Texas’ highest criminal court agreed.

Challenging junk science laws

At the time of Roberson’s trial, shaken baby syndrome — now referred to as abusive head trauma — was a common misdiagnosis.

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Hands off Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network!

Workers World Party condemns the designation by the U.S. Department of the Treasury's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) of Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network as "a sham charity." OFAC has listed the long-time Palestinian-Canadian activist Khaled Barakat "as associated with terrorism."

Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network is an international coalition of activists dedicated to supporting Palestinian prisoners in their fight for freedom, stemming from the 2011 hunger strike of prisoners in Israeli jails. (samidoun.net)

This attack is part of a continuing U.S. government and Zionist effort to criminalize, defame and expel from social media those forces who have supported Palestine over many years.

The United States government is desperately seeking to shut down every form of support and solidarity for the Palestinian struggle. Not only is the supply of U.S. weapons exceeding all previous weapons shipments by almost tenfold, but every department of the U.S. empire is being used.

The Department of Education guidelines are aggressively forcing university administrations to shut down Palestine solidarity organizations by threatening funds to schools such as science grants. U.S. funding to United Nations agencies is impacted.

Every police agency from the local to state and national levels is involved in shutting down Palestinian actions and encampments. Now the Department of the Treasury, used against targeted countries, has focused on a small activist group which

has focused international attention on the thousands of Palestinian prisoners.

This recent publicized action is the latest government effort, done in coordination with the government of Canada, to block the tidal wave of solidarity with the Palestinian struggle.

The flimsy, unsubstantiated U.S. government claim is that Samidoun serves as an international fundraiser for the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). In fact, Samidoun does not do fundraising. Samidoun only carries out educational work about the torturous conditions of over 10,000 Palestinian political prisoners.

For years Samidoun has provided concrete examples of how prisoners in Israeli jails learned how to survive and develop resistance to a new level. Its consistent

support and campaigns for Palestinian political prisoners, in the very countries funding and equipping Israeli genocide, has drawn imperialist outrage.

The imperialist effort to defeat the Palestinian resistance and the Axis of Resistance has utterly failed to crush the drive for liberation. Every Palestinian prisoner, while in prison, learns new levels of resistance. Efforts to shut down this resistance are doomed to failure.

The PFLP, a Palestinian resistance organization, has already been designated as a "terrorist organization" by the very forces guilty of genocide in Palestine.

The latest attack on Samidoun only exposes the enormous fear U.S. imperialism has of solidarity, the most dangerous weapon. □

Bronx Anti-War Coalition statement

Solidarity with Samidoun



The Bronx Anti-War Coalition posted the following statement on Oct. 16, 2024.

The Bronx Anti-War Coalition stands in unwavering solidarity with the Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network and recognizes that the U.S. and Canadian governments' designation of the organization as a terrorist entity is baseless and politically motivated.

By targeting Samidoun with government sanctions, the U.S. and Canadian governments are escalating their Zionist counterinsurgency, weaponizing terrorist designations against the Palestinian liberation movement. The sanctions aim to silence the most influential group that exposes the illegal abduction and torture of Palestinians by Israeli prison authorities in concentration camps.

We demand the immediate removal of all sanctions against Samidoun and urge all anti-imperialist organizations to defend Samidoun and their just cause.

Samidoun, an activist organization founded in 2011, raises consciousness about Palestinian prisoners, the majority of whom Israel Occupation Forces kidnapped and have held without charge, trial or explanation in Zionist dungeons. Samidoun works to build solidarity with over 10,000 Palestinian prisoners, including children, who are suffering heinous physical, sexual and psychological torture at the hands of Israeli soldiers.

Before being abducted, imprisoned and tortured, many Palestinians were leaders in their communities working toward the liberation of their people and land. Among them are teachers, students, doctors, nurses, organizers and family

members of resistance leaders. Prisons are a tool of the Zionist colonizer used to punish and retaliate against the steadfast resistance to occupation.

Samidoun was one of the first organizations to offer Western audiences historical context and analysis of the Al-Aqsa Flood operation. While Western mainstream media deliberately framed the October 7, 2023, operation as a senseless and unprovoked act of terrorism, leaning on Islamophobia and Anti-Arab racism to propagate this narrative, Samidoun has held teach-ins to help people in Western countries like the U.S. understand the resistance and its objectives.

Through Samidoun's political education and street demonstrations, people in the West understood that the Al-Aqsa Flood operation was a heroic act of liberation. Palestinians in Gaza broke through the open-air prison in which they've been held hostage in an operation that aimed to liberate Palestinian prisoners from Zionist torture camps through prisoner exchanges. Political prisoner Khalida Jarrar describes it as "the revolution of prisoners who long for their freedom and to break through the bars of their prison cells."

Samidoun = 'steadfast people'

Samidoun has kept the struggle to liberate Palestinian prisoners at the forefront of people's hearts and minds around the world. As their name suggests — Samidoun, meaning "steadfast people" in Arabic — this new designation will not frighten nor deter the prisoner solidarity movement from continuing this critical work.

These sanctions are an effort by imperialists and Zionists to silence Samidoun

and to suppress stories of Israeli torture and abuse against Palestinians from reaching the public, which they believe will curb criticism of Israel and shield it from accountability. Defending Samidoun is crucial as the U.S. State Department rhetorically demands Israel improve humanitarian conditions in Gaza — a testament to the impact of their work. By sanctioning a major organization that reports on these horrific conditions, U.S. officials are attempting to engineer the appearance of improvement. This political persecution by reactionary governments shows their desperation as they lose the public narrative on the U.S./Israeli genocide against Palestinians.

The contradictions and hypocrisy of the U.S. and Canada are stark. While labeling Samidoun as financiers of terrorism, they actively finance and arm Israeli terrorism in Iran, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine, Syria, Yemen and beyond. This hypocrisy is glaring when the U.S. invites [Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu to address Congress, where he received standing ovations as he executes genocide, and Canada invites a literal Nazi to address its parliament.

Labeling exposes imperialist hypocrisy

Western liberal democracies have rendered the "terrorist" and "terrorism" labels as meaningless as "antisemitic" and "antisemitism." Classifying Samidoun as a terrorist entity while supporting a state that terrorizes and massacres civilians throughout West Asia is hypocritical. It highlights the West's weaponization of "terrorism" as a racializing category meant to justify the settler

state's monopoly on violence.

As Ansarallah's leader, Abdul Malik al-Houthi, said, "American classifications have no significance and only defend Israel's crimes." People in the imperial core see through and oppose these fraudulent classifications, chanting in the streets: "U.S. imperialists, number one terrorists!"

This is yet another reminder of the fascist repression against activists opposing the U.S./Israeli genocide occurring under the Biden-Harris administration. From the Uhuru 3 and student encampments to "Stop Cop City" organizers and now Samidoun, designating anti-imperialists as "terrorists" demonstrates the historical refuge liberalism provides for fascism. The danger of fascism is not solely tied to any particular individual or political party, but rather it is foundational to the systems created by the settler colonies of Israel, the U.S. and Canada.

We reiterate our solidarity with Samidoun, Khaled Barakat and the just cause of the Palestinian people. We are proud to have collaborated with them on a teach-in on defending Palestinian resistance. We denounce all sanctions penalizing activists fighting for liberation and sovereign nations resisting U.S. hegemony.

Samidoun is a leader of Palestinian solidarity work worldwide, standing unabashedly with the heroic Palestinian prisoners and resistance. The time is now to stand in solidarity with Samidoun against these attacks by the state. Now is the time to mobilize fully in defense of Palestinian resistance. □

Robert Roberson alive for now!

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In 2013 the Texas Legislature passed what is now called the junk science law, or statute 11.073. The law allows a person convicted of a crime to seek relief if the evidence used against them is no longer credible.

However, according to a report by the Texas Defender Service, "of the 25 applications filed by people sentenced to death, 64% were dismissed or denied. Applications from death-sentenced people constituted 34% of all

applications filed. The deadly consequences of this pattern are clear: People may be executed following convictions that rest on faulty science, because they are unable to obtain relief under 11.073." (tinyurl.com/4jyw36s3)

When an execution date was ordered this past summer, action went into high gear. A bi-partisan majority of the Texas House of Representatives urged the state to grant clemency. Famed writer and retired attorney John Grisham penned op-ed pieces in the Wall Street Journal

and the Washington Post. Almost all Texas media was reporting on the case as were national press from the New York Times to CNN to Time Magazine.

A group of legislators spent several hours at the prison housing death row visiting Roberson and praying with him. Even the coach of the San Antonio Spurs basketball team urged Texans to contact the governor and ask for the execution to be stopped.

No one knows what will happen after Roberson testifies before the House

Committee. Another execution date could be immediately set by either the Anderson County District Attorney or Attorney General Paxton, although it would have to be at least 90 days away. This would then necessitate a new round of appeals and hopefully some court or judge or body would find a way to listen to the facts of the case and either drop the charges or order a new trial.

When Roberson was asked what he wanted, he simply said he wanted to go home. □

Al-Aqsa Flood anniversary:

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. □



Denver, Oct. 5, 2024.

PHOTO: VIVIAN WEINSTEIN



Boston, Oct. 6, 2024.

WW PHOTO: MAUREEN SKEHAN



Houston, Oct. 5, 2024.

WW PHOTO: GLORIA RUBAC



Cleveland, Oct. 5, 2024.

WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT



New York City, Oct. 5, 2024.

WW PHOTO: TONI ARENSTEIN



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

WW PHOTO: JIM MCMAHAN



Cleveland, Oct. 5, 2024.

WW PHOTO: MARTHA GREVATT



New York City, Oct. 7, 2024.

WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN



Philadelphia, Oct. 7, 2024.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE



Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Oct. 6, 2024.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Year of historic resistance and solidarity



Ankara, Türkiye



Ramallah, West Bank, Palestine



Sana'a, Yemen



Berlin, Germany



Caracas, Venezuela



Dublin, Ireland



Rome, Italy



Manila, Philippines



New Delhi, India



Jakarta, Indonesia



Paris, France



London, England



Toronto, Canada



Lahore, Pakistan



Johannesburg, South Africa



Amsterdam, Netherlands



Stockholm, Sweden



Tokyo, Japan

Defense of China is solidarity with Palestine

By Larry Holmes

From a talk by Larry Holmes, first secretary of Workers World Party, given Sept. 29 in New York at a meeting to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

First, on behalf of the Central Committee of Workers World Party, we would like to extend our fraternal greetings to the Communist Party of China on this historic occasion.

I think it's relevant, even though our event is about China, to ask ourselves what we should make out of the assassination of the leader of Hezbollah two days ago.

This was so important to them — I'm not forgetting the genocide of Gaza — but this event, coming at this time — they dropped eight bombs on a neighborhood in Beirut. 2,000-pound bombs. One of these military analysts said the only thing bigger they could have dropped would have been a tactical nuclear weapon. These 2,000-pound bombs were given to Israel by who? The U.S. gave them thousands of them. I forget the exact number, but thousands of them.

I do not buy for a second this idea that, well we didn't know about this, and they didn't tell the secretary of war here. That's BS. If they weren't down with it, they could have stopped it. The message was just not from Netanyahu. It was from Washington, D.C. It was from the Pentagon.

And I'll tell you why it's relevant to China and the whole world. Everything in the world's struggle is connected. Everything is dots all together. They wanted to let the world know that you don't have to speculate about a wider war. You don't have to lie to us about “why we don't want one, and we have all this diplomacy trying to stop it.” That's not what's really going on.

The wider war is already here, and it's not just against the Palestinians, although they are the main target, just as are the Lebanese, you know, the resistance forces of West Asia and, of course, Iran. It's against People's Korea, Cuba, Venezuela, the struggling people of West Africa, who, as you might notice recently, have been throwing the colonialists and the imperialists out.

And it's against Russia through Ukraine, and ultimately, it's against China.

It's against China. Wow. Why is this? Is it because China supports the Palestinians? That's part of it. But that's a small reason. China has, on a number of occasions, brought the Palestinian people together to try to help them forge unity. Very, very important.

But the bigger reason, the bigger reason, is because China is so powerful now. It's so powerful and so developed as people are rising up, and this has changed the balance of forces in the world. But we need to be very clear about something.

China does not want war. China wants peace. It wants to continue its development in peace. It wants to help the world develop in peace, especially the people of the Global South who have been the big victims of imperialism and colonialism. It wants to help them, but U.S. imperialism does not want peace. It doesn't want China to develop in peace. It doesn't want the world that it does not control to develop, and this is the problem.

And what this murder in Beirut tells us — and there have been almost 1,000 people who have been murdered in Lebanon over the past couple of weeks — and the genocide in Gaza, what it tells us is that U.S. imperialism is willing to go to almost any length, unimaginable lengths of violence and terror to maintain its empire, which is crumbling.

They are willing to flirt with World War Three, which could mean the end of all life on the planet Earth. And you know, when an empire is crumbling, that's when it's most desperate and dangerous. That's when it's most likely to resort to violence. And this is what we are witnessing, comrades.

The wider war is already here, and it's not just against the Palestinians, although they are the main target, just as are the Lebanese, you know, the resistance forces of West Asia and, of course, Iran. It's against People's Korea, Cuba, Venezuela, the struggling people of West Africa, who, as you might notice recently, have been throwing the colonialists and the imperialists out. And it's against Russia through Ukraine, and ultimately, it's against China.



Larry Holmes

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

There are some in the ruling class here who are afraid of war, a wider war, a world war. They don't think the U.S. will win. As a matter of fact they think it would hasten the demise of U.S. imperialism. And we think that they are right about that, and they'd like to maintain U.S. hegemony by other means. But whatever that is for the ruling class,

they are losing. They're not in the driver's seat.

It's the warmongers who are in the driver's seat. So we see the people rising up all over the world against the empire. We see the people demonstrating in the streets over the murder of the leader of Hezbollah. Actually, as I was leaving home, I saw on social media that there was a demonstration of thousands of people in Baghdad. They had entered the Green Zone and were trying to get into the U.S. Embassy.

There are people demonstrating everywhere, around the world and particularly in West Asia. It shows you that — this is a hunch — they're not going to take it by lying down. As a matter of fact, it's going to wave off the mere resistance and, of course, the countries that are under attack, in particular China, that are in the crosshairs of U.S. imperialism, are going to fight back to defend themselves. They can defend themselves.

But we have to ask ourselves this. Are we going to just leave it up to people in other places, to China, they're willing to do it, they'll do what they have to do, but are we just going to leave it up to them? Especially those of us who happen to be at the center of world imperialism, particularly here in the U.S. which they used to call the belly of the beast. We can't do that. That's not right.

We have to seriously consider what our responsibilities as anti-imperialist revolutionaries are, and we have to show them those responsibilities, and then we gotta, we gotta do whatever it takes. You see, the people of the world, they're demanding this of us. History is demanding us. Save this planet if it could talk, is demanding this of us, that we do whatever is necessary, however we need to do it. However long it takes, and it doesn't have to take too long for the anti-war and anti-imperialist forces to get so big and so strong that we can shut the world down to stop war. What real choice do we have?

We've got to get away from complacency if that's an issue. I know that there are those of us who do whatever we are doing on a day-to-day basis, whenever we can. We've got to get away from our routine — what they call routinism. It's almost like a semi-conscious feeling that, yes, that needs to be done, but somebody else can do it.

Sometimes, I think we have a partial kind of disconnect, a partial, you know, denial of what's happening. Perhaps we can feel somewhat powerless, but all things we've got to push aside now, we got to push them aside, and we got to figure out what we are going to do.

I think, I'm not sure, that comrade Maduro in Venezuela, a couple of months ago, called for an international united front against imperialism. Not sure if it's just something that he floated, or whether it's real and how he's following up on that. But I'll tell you comrades, if there was ever a time for that, and I'm not talking about just a name — he seems to have a name — I'm talking about something flesh and blood and strength and power that's real. If there was ever a time for that, it's now.

I'm thinking about our own plan. The BRICS countries are meeting in Russia in the last week of October. And that's good. People have talked about ... and we can talk about that. But again we can't just leave it up to the BRICS to push imperialism back, to marginalize it, to diminish its hegemony. We've got to do something! The masses have to do something. The working class has to do something decisive. And a lot of us are convinced that they can. And those who are not convinced, better get with it.

**Long live the People's Republic of China!
Long live the struggle for socialism! Defend China!** □

China at 75: Videos available for historic event

“China at 75, Changes Unseen in a Century,” was a day-long program organized in both London and New York, held on Sept. 28 and 29, respectively. The event celebrated the achievements of the People's Republic of China and countered the hybrid war propaganda about China put out by Western corporate media.

It was organized by Friends of Socialist China and hosted in the United States by Workers World Party, bringing together several organizations on the left, who, despite many differences, united on their support for China. The New York program was held at the Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center.

Talks from the New York event are now available on



YouTube. There are five videos, one for each panel of speakers. Here is a link to each panel:

- Panel 1: Opening Session: messages and greetings www.youtube.com/watch?v=YrUrShO89Io
- Panel 2: Exposing Imperialist Propaganda www.youtube.com/watch?v=8y8GpZloHjE
- Panel 3: Impact of the New Cold War www.youtube.com/watch?v=CtIw_rkgcoc
- Panel 4: China and the Global South: www.youtube.com/watch?v=HyrCtWpcPus
- Panel 5: The Hybrid War on China: www.youtube.com/watch?v=Au1FtPNaJog □

Ohio 1924 How workers beat back the Ku Klux Klan

By Otis Grotewohl

While growing up in Niles, Ohio — a suburb of Youngstown — my stepgrandmother and other elders told me stories of the anti-Ku Klux Klan rebellions and the dramatic culminating battle on Nov. 1, 1924. It was a story she had heard throughout her childhood in her working-class, Catholic family.

I dedicate this article to her and to nurse Frances Dostal and steelworker Ted Dostal, who were founders of the Youngstown branch of Workers World Party in 1959.

This election's attacks on migrants and especially the Republican candidates' lies about Haitian migrants in the Ohio community of Springfield make this 100-year-old story of the 1924 rebellion in Niles that much more important.

On one side of the battle then was the working class of the Mahoning Valley of Ohio, which includes Niles. Most workers were newly settled Italian and Irish immigrants, and many were Catholic.

On the other side was the Ku Klux Klan, whose first growth had occurred in the South following the Civil War as a racist and terrorist weapon against Black Reconstruction and freedom. While its core remained anti-Black, the KKK's second resurgence in the early 1900s also targeted European immigrant workers, especially those from countries that were predominantly Catholic. The KKK recruited U.S.-born white Protestants. Like the far right today, the Klan commonly used the chauvinist slogan, "America first!"

Workers World spoke with an anti-racist activist from the Mahoning Valley whose Irish ancestors fought the Klan in Niles in 1924. She said, "The big lesson of the Niles Klan riots is that at any time, white supremacists can declare you to be part of the out group. No matter how white you think you are."

That is, while today Irish and Italian-Americans may no longer see themselves as likely targets of the KKK the way they were 100 years ago, it's in their interest as workers to build solidarity with communities targeted by racists.

Background of a major anti-fascist battle

The Klan made three public appearances in Niles in 1924, and each time workers met the KKK with fierce resistance.

Niles, the Youngstown area and the Mahoning Valley had attracted Italian, Irish and some Polish and Hungarian immigrants from the late 1800s through the early 1920s. Many worked in the local brickyard plants, steel mills and glass factories.

Youngstown State University professor William Jenkins tells the story in his book, "Steel Valley Klan: The Ku Klux Klan in Ohio's Mahoning Valley." By 1924, "More than half of the Niles population was Irish and Italian, and they believed that the Klan threatened their way of life." (SVK, page 117) Despite this majority, Niles' mayor at the time, Harvey Kistler, was a supporter of the Klan.

The Klan's anti-Catholic bigotry coincided with its racist beliefs designed to divide the working class. As quintessential fascists, the Klan embraced the most reactionary elements of finance capital — with a membership of many local and state police, company supervisors and small business owners, as well as some backward laborers.

The Klan routinely opposed workers' unionizing, and its members often volunteered as strikebreakers (scabs) during labor disputes, including those in the

Mahoning Valley. Klan leaders notoriously spread racist propaganda using local newspapers. Xenophobic Protestant churches provided platforms for its slanders.

Knights of the Flaming Circle

Prior to the November 1924 confrontation in Niles, there were many reported skirmishes between Klan bigots on one side and immigrant workers and their supporters on the other. These happened throughout the tri-state area of northeast Ohio, western Pennsylvania and northern West Virginia.



As early as August 1923, workers fought back against the KKK.

Among the anti-Klan rebellions during 1923 and 1924 was one major clash in the Ohio River community of Steubenville, Ohio, in August 1923. When the Klan gathered at a hotel, a crowd confronted them, and cars belonging to racist KKK members were flipped over. The Steubenville battle helped initiate an anti-Klan organization known as the "Knights of the Flaming Circle."

Workers created the KOTFC as a response to Klan terrorism in the tri-state area. KOTFC mocked the Klan's name and turned some of the KKK's own tactics against them.

Klan members were notorious for burning crosses in the front yards of Black, Jewish and Catholic families. In response, KOTFC members would burn round tires in front of the homes of known Klan members — the flaming circle.

The KOTFC played a role in most anti-Klan battles in Pennsylvania too. A major rebellion rocked the Klan in the Pittsburgh suburb of Carnegie in 1923, and union coal miners fought the Klan in Lilly in 1924.

An Oct. 23, 2018, Boston Review article describes how in those early 1920s in the Youngstown suburb of Canfield, Ohio, "The Knights of the Flaming Circle scattered roofing tacks on the road to flatten the Klansmen's tires on the way to a parade."

KOTFC members also referred to themselves as "Red Knights," and newspapers called them "Circlers." While most of their members worked in heavy industry such as steel and coal mining, they offered membership to anyone who was "not a Protestant." (New York Times, Sept. 7, 1923). While Protestant workers were barred from membership from the KOTFC, there were progressive Protestant workers who opposed the Klan.

Anti-Klan actions in Niles, Ohio

The first 1924 collision between the Klan and Italian and Irish workers in Niles happened on May 9 when the Klan marchers provoked them. Jenkins writes: "The Klan had lit a cross in front of the [high] school, which some of the observers charged and knocked down. As the Klan members sought to recover the cross, bystanders pelted them with stones and bricks; several shots were fired." (SVK, page 119)

Unfortunately, two of the anti-Klan demonstrators were kidnapped by the Klan, taken to a field, beaten and forced

to kiss a U.S. flag.

Klan sympathizer Kistler blamed Italian youth for the commotion and publicly made disparaging remarks about Italian residents. With approval from the mayor and the police, the Klan announced another march, scheduled for June 21, 1924.

Tensions were high. The first Klan march on May 9 had been spontaneous, catching workers by surprise. This time, the workers had an opportunity to organize ahead.

That June 19 this happened: "On Thursday a bomb thrown at a burn-

ing cross erected across the McKinley Memorial blew the cross apart.

Their willingness to die while resisting the Klan. By mid-morning Circlers had positioned themselves at the blockade points." (SVK, page 130).

With KOTFC help, the anti-Klan fighters stopped every car that tried to attend the march that day. Various reports indicate that a train carrying over 1,000 Klan terrorists was turned away due to one of the KOTFC blockades.

Jenkins provides details: "On Robbins Avenue, Circlers armed with guns and knives had begun to stop all automobiles. If Klan robes were found, they were seized and sometimes torn apart, sometimes mounted on a nearby pole or tree and sometimes taken to a nearby house. Beatings usually accompanied the search; the stronger the resistance, the more violent the beating. Klan members were told to turn their cars around and leave." (SVK, page 130)

Working-class resistance beat back the Klan locally. Using the National Guard, local and state governments declared "martial law" for 10 days afterward, and the KKK terrorists were ultimately defeated. The Klan recognized their downfall, and Kistler was unseated not long after.

Lessons for today

Springfield, Ohio, has received attention following the 2024 U.S. Presidential debates where former U.S. President Donald Trump spread racist lies regarding Haitian migrants. Media reports indicate that Trump's big lie about Haitian migrants "eating cats and dogs" was based on debunked allegations for which a neo-Nazi group, Blood Tribe, has taken credit on social media.

Far-right organizations, such as Blood Tribe and the KKK itself, are attempting to recruit in Springfield using the same hate-fueled rhetoric the Klan used 100 years ago. Trump and his vice-presidential pick, Ohio Senator JD Vance, have knowingly spread lies about the Haitian community.

Material conditions are different today than they were in 1924. The Klan no longer bars Catholics from being members. Right-wing Catholics — particularly antisemitic supporters of "Opus Dei" — have a home within the New Right. Vance, MAGA strategist Steve Bannon and Heritage Foundation President Kevin Roberts are all leading figures of the New Right who support Opus Dei.

Anti-racist activists can learn much from the battle in Niles, Ohio, a century ago. KOTFC was successful in its tactics, but it would have been even more effective had it organized along working-class

lines. Black Protestant churches in nearby Youngstown and Warren, Ohio, also faced Klan terror. The KOTFC erred by excluding sympathetic anti-Klan Protestants.

With community support and solidarity from workers and oppressed people in neighboring towns, the KOTFC was able to squash the Klan. The successful battles against the white-hooded terrorists are inspiring events that should be examined by anyone interested in combating bigotry and xenophobia today. □

ing cross erected across the McKinley Memorial blew the cross apart. "The day before the parade [June 20], a crowd estimated to be 150 strong tore down a banner hung across Main Street to welcome the Klan. As an estimated ten thousand Klan members poured into Niles the next day, roving crowds assaulted them with an assortment of bricks, glass, rocks and pipes hurled at suspected cars. Windshields were broken and American flags torn from their perches on Klan cars. One young man was dragged from his car and beaten unconscious." (SVK, page 120).

According to a 2017 Tribune Chronicle article, Italian and Irish residents in Niles and the Black community in Youngstown in 1924 forged a new relationship because of their common interest in fighting the Klan. (Tribune Chronicle, Aug. 28, 2017). Various anti-Klan forces in Niles started organizing with the KOTFC following the second confrontation.

The final battle in Niles on Nov. 1

Things calmed down in Niles from July to mid-October 1924, when Mayor Kistler once again granted the Klan a permit to march through town for Nov. 1. The permit angered and united community members of different faiths and national backgrounds. In the middle of the night toward the end of October, Kistler's front porch blew up.



When Mayor Harvey Kistler approved the KKK march in Niles, 1924, someone chose to take action.

On Nov. 1, 1924, KOTFC activists and anti-Klan residents met up early in the morning. Wielding weapons, they formed barricades around Niles' entrances. Rumors the Klan was planning on harming nuns at the Catholic churches pushed KOTFC members to provide security.

One Catholic church built solidarity: "Our Lady of Mount Carmel held a crowded 6:30 mass for 1,700 members of the Italian community. They were united in their support for one another and in

Elections 2024: A lose-lose situation for the working class

As November 5 and the 2024 U.S. presidential election draw closer, one thing is crystal clear. Regardless of which capitalist, imperialist party's candidates win — Republican Donald Trump or Democrat Kamala Harris — workers and oppressed people have nothing to gain from this electoral fraud or from the capitalist empire perpetuating it.

Both parties represent big business, militarism and the drive to maintain U.S. imperialist worldwide hegemony. These parties spend billions of dollars in a presidential election year to promote their candidates. Most advertising is not a discussion of political programs but lies, repeated over and over again.

No social democratic parties, let alone communist parties, can spend even 1% of what the Democrats and Republicans spend to be elected president or even to Congress.

The nonpartisan, nonprofit OpenSecrets estimates that the 2024 election will be the most expensive in U.S. history, with the total cost for the federal election — presidential and Congressional races — expected to top \$15.9 billion.

Much of the spending is done by super PACs (Political Action Committees) allowed to raise and spend unlimited amounts of money so long as they don't coordinate with candidates. There is no



Outside the Democratic National Convention, protesters denounce both parties, Aug. 19, 2024.

PHOTO: XINHUA NEWS

ceiling on how much super PACs and their billionaire backers can spend in hopes of influencing the election outcome.

Ads based on fabrications

Much of this year's campaign money pays for the design and promotion of some of the most racist, anti-LGBTQIA2S+, misogynist, xenophobic and anti-working-class propaganda ever seen in a major election. Ad after ad contains vicious lies about immigrants with totally false claims linking them to alleged rapes and crime sprees. Both major bourgeois parties are

doubling down on xenophobia and prioritizing building up the police state.

Other ads and campaign assertions attempt to place the blame for the economy and social problems on people of color, on the lack of sufficient policing, etc. These are reminiscent of the plethora of pro-cop ads that flooded the media during the 2020 campaign — in the aftermath of massive anti-racist protests over the police murder of George Floyd and demands to defund the police.

With the super PACs, politicians have ensured that campaign ads are protected from scrutiny as to who funds them. Television, radio stations and social media platforms that profit greatly from running the advertising are not required to fact check their content.

While independent research has completely debunked the assertions made by pro-Trump ads, the Harris campaign has failed to run even a single ad countering the lies. Competing to see which is tougher on immigration resembles similar campaigns by fascist parties in Europe whose lines parallel Trump's.

There is no denying that Donald Trump is horribly vile, sexist, xenophobic, racist and dangerous. The fascist forces his campaign is mobilizing will be a danger whether he wins or loses.

Yet by not demonstrating any capacity to counter Trump's vicious propaganda, Vice President Kamala Harris and the Democrats are effectively complicit and just as dangerous — but with a false cover of diplomacy.

Election solves nothing for workers

By repeatedly refusing to disassociate herself from President Joe Biden's policies, Harris offers no viable alternative. Harris has made it clear her administration would continue to arm and finance Israel's genocidal occupation of Palestine and widening war in West Asia, just as Trump would, while expanding NATO's war threats in Europe and against China, even risking a nuclear war.

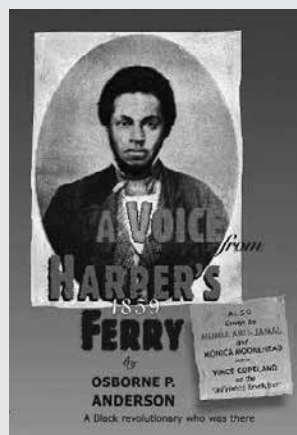
Harris makes promises for social programs for the "middle class" but has yet to explain how the programs could be financed when the Biden/Harris administration has prioritized unprecedented military spending — tens of billions of dollars — while existing social programs have had to fight for every dime they need.

The Biden/Harris "promise" of forcing Israel to establish a plan to allow humanitarian aid in Gaza within 30 days — or lose U.S. funding — is all a ploy to delay until after the election. Right now thousands of Gazans are dying from hunger.

The Democrats warn of the danger of Trump jailing opponents should he be reelected. Yet over the last year under the Biden/Harris administration, opponents of U.S./NATO war against Russia face imprisonment, and thousands of students and faculty have been jailed, fired or suspended for opposing the U.S./Israel's genocide in Gaza. Just this week, Samidoun, which supports Palestinian prisoners, was put on the U.S. "terrorist" list.

Neither the Biden/Harris administration nor Trump has ever kept promises made to alleviate the lives of the workers. This election will solve none of the problems that bring widespread pain for working people nor will it lessen the danger of widening global war. □

A Voice From Harpers Ferry



Osborne P. Anderson's account of the raid on Harper's Ferry appeared in pamphlet form in 1861 right after the start of the Civil War. However, it was not set in print again until 1974. That year Vince Copeland, whose introduction "The Unfinished Revolution" is included in this book, rescued it from oblivion. Also includes contributions from Mumia Abu-Jamal and Monica Moorehead.

Free PDF available online at www.workers.org/books

WWP statement

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another Hamas leader, previous Chair of the Political Bureau Ismail Haniyeh — will fail to prevent the ultimate defeat of Israel, a terrorist state so isolated and repugnant to the vast majority of the world. Israel is today a besieged, colonial outpost, totally dependent on a decaying U.S. empire.

Despite the more than one-year-long ongoing Israeli genocide that has slaughtered, maimed and displaced hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, like the current horrendous ethnic cleansing campaigns targeting the Beit Lahia and Jabalia refugee camps in northern Gaza, the resistance continues to cause daily, demoralizing casualties amongst occupying soldiers.

This includes the elimination of Colonel Ihsan Daqsa, the highest-ranking Israeli officer killed since October 7, 2023. The Palestinian Resistance has just put out a call for the masses in West Asia to besiege the Israeli and Western embassies in their countries in protest of the ongoing atrocities.

Two days after Al-Sinwar's death, the Lebanon-based Hezbollah liberation group fired a drone close to Netanyahu's home on Oct. 19. Hezbollah's persistent

air strikes against illegal Zionist settlements and inside Tel Aviv, as well as ground attacks against occupying forces along its border, are causing deepening dissension and anxiety within the terrorist occupation forces. This has reached the point that growing numbers of the Israeli military are reportedly quietly refusing to return to Lebanon and Gaza.

The Iraqi masses destroyed a Saudi TV station that defamed resistance fighters as "terrorists." Greek dockworkers successfully blocked an Israeli container full of weapons from leaving the port of Piraeus on Oct. 18.

Throughout his life Yahya Al-Sinwar focused on turning pain and grief into the rage of resistance — which does not die with the martyrdom of leaders. Resistance and steadfastness live on, as long as the yearning for liberation lasts. This will be an enduring legacy of this self-sacrificing freedom fighter who epitomizes the fact that when one resistance fighter is martyred, thousands more will rise up until final victory.

Long live the fighting spirit of Yahya Al-Sinwar, Ismail Haniyeh and Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah!

Victory to the Axis of Resistance! □

Hamas statement

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leader Ismail Haniyeh and his deputy Sheikh Saleh Al-Aroui, along with the caravan of martyrs from all our leaders and people.

Martyrdom 'making us more determined and steadfast'

We affirm that these sacrifices will continue to illuminate our path and drive us to more resilience and steadfastness. Hamas remains committed to the promise of its founding leaders and martyrs until the aspirations of our people are fully realized: the complete liberation and return, and the establishment of the Palestinian state on the entire national soil with Al-Quds [Jerusalem] as its capital, by Allah's will. This will become a curse upon the invading occupiers who are strangers to this land.

Our great people, our Arab and Islamic nations and the free people of the world: The martyrdom of Brother Leader Yahya Al-Sinwar, along with all the leaders and icons of the movement who preceded him on the path of honor, martyrdom and the project of liberation and return, will only strengthen Hamas and our resistance, making us more determined and steadfast in following their path, honoring

their blood and sacrifices. A movement that offers its leaders and members as martyrs in defense of the rights of its people is a noble, genuine movement deeply rooted in its people.

To those lamenting the captured occupiers held by the resistance, we say: They will not return except with the cessation of aggression on Gaza, its withdrawal and the release of our heroic prisoners from the occupation's jails. We continue in the path of Hamas, and the spirit of Al-Aqsa Flood will remain a living flame in the hearts of our people. We remain faithful to your pledge, Abu Ibrahim, and your banner will never fall but will remain high and proudly raised.

Peace be upon you, Abu Ibrahim, the humble, devout and pious man. Peace be upon you, the prisoner. Peace be upon you, the fighter. Peace be upon you, the martyr. Peace be upon you, for history will record that you wrote the first line in the war of liberation and the end of the occupation. May Allah have mercy on you and grant you the highest place in paradise with the prophets, the truthful ones, the martyrs and the righteous, and what excellent companions they are. And it is a jihad of victory or martyrdom.

This statement has been lightly edited.

Students at FIT hang tough for Palestine

By John Catalinotto
New York City

Students at the Fashion Institute of Technology picked up their well-painted banners, placards and flags on Oct. 10 and demonstrated for hours before the main Feldman Center on the campus in Manhattan's Chelsea neighborhood. Last spring FIT students held one of the longest-duration encampments in solidarity with the people of Gaza.

The FIT administration called in police against the legal protest. Cops arrested six of the students who had defied the police attempt to intimidate the activists. The students were released after being held for three hours.

Unlike the Ivy League Columbia, whose "elite" reputation as well as its history of struggle from 1968, or the massive City University, where students had suffered vicious attacks from the New York Police Department, the actions at FIT last spring got relatively little publicity or attention. At the time, the administration delayed calling in police and even negotiated with



Fashion Institute of Technology, New York. Oct. 10, 2024.

WW PHOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

the students.

This fall, any sign of friendly behavior disappeared, the administration reneged on its agreements and attempted to repress the student struggle. This hardening of repression fits the pattern on campuses around the country. What's significant is that the FIT student organization resisted intimidation.

One of the organizers, Jonas, speak-

ing to the demonstrators and the media, explained that the administration had refused one of the meetings they had promised last spring. In another broken promise, it refused to release information about new investments. The administration held only one of the three meetings they promised. And it maintained university punishments of some of the students, including Jonas.

The students demanded that the

administration hold to the agreement it made with them last spring. This included providing details about all new investments so students could screen them.

Now the students demand FIT set up a screen for further investments so they invest no new money in military corporations supplying arms to Israel; all charges against students dropped, no suspensions or arrests; a referendum on divestment from companies engaged with Israeli apartheid; and divestment from companies that used forced prison labor at "slave" wages. Students demand that FIT President Joyce Brown make a statement condemning the genocide Israel is carrying out in Gaza.

Showing the development of students' politics, chants were not only to "stop the genocide!" but "long live the Intifada!" and "liberation for Palestine!"

If FIT students give a fair measure of the mood on campuses in general, student solidarity with Palestine is refusing to diminish and attitudes are sharpening while the U.S.-funded genocidal war expands in West Asia. □

WW COMMENTARY

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.

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! □



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

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Una tormenta catastrófica creada por las prioridades de los capitalistas

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para ser críticos con la FEMA, el recorte de la financiación de la agencia, como hizo el Congreso en septiembre, justo cuando el huracán Helene se acercaba a tierra, no hizo sino empeorar las cosas.

El presupuesto anual de la FEMA para 2024 rondaba los 29.500 millones de dólares. AccuWeather estimó el 30 de septiembre que los costes totales de reconstrucción tras el huracán Helene podrían alcanzar los 160.000 millones de dólares.

El Congreso se apresura a financiar guerras

Justo cuando Israel lanzaba importantes ataques militares contra Líbano y llevaba a cabo asesinatos de líderes de Hezbollah el 27 de septiembre, el presidente

Joe Biden y el Congreso de Estados Unidos aprobaron 8.900 millones de dólares más para apoyar las guerras en expansión de Israel en Asia Occidental.

El 13 de agosto, el Departamento de Estado anunció que Estados Unidos había aprobado un paquete de armas a Israel por valor de 20.000 millones de dólares que incluía aviones de combate y misiles aire-aire avanzados. Desde 2022, Estados Unidos ha proporcionado a Ucrania casi 60.000 millones de dólares para armamento, y Biden anunció otro paquete de ayuda de 2.400 millones de dólares el 26 de septiembre.

En contraste con el abandono del medio ambiente por parte del imperialismo estadounidense, China ha establecido planes a largo plazo para reducir las emisiones de carbono financiando la producción de vehículos eléctricos y el tránsito rápido de bajo consumo energético

y diseñando ciudades verdes para absorber la contaminación por carbono. Y la economía planificada de la socialista Cuba permite a la nación insular maximizar los planes para hacer frente a las ramificaciones de los grandes huracanes, con planes de evacuación que minimizan el número de víctimas mortales.

En Estados Unidos, donde los beneficios de los capitalistas siempre tienen prioridad sobre las necesidades de las personas, las víctimas potenciales de los daños de las grandes tormentas tienen que arreglárselas solas.

El 6 de octubre, el Centro Nacional de Huracanes anunció que el huracán Milton, de categoría 1, se está «intensificando rápidamente» y se espera que se convierta en un huracán de categoría 5 antes de tocar tierra en la costa del Golfo de Florida el 9 de octubre. □



Marcha de solidaridad con Palestina, La Habana, 14 de octubre.

¡Apoyen a los estudiantes que apoyan a Palestina!

Cuando han transcurrido unas ocho semanas del nuevo semestre en las universidades de Estados Unidos, se ha puesto de manifiesto lo siguiente:

Los estudiantes que iniciaron la actividad política y la lucha el año pasado oponiéndose al genocidio financiado y armado por Estados Unidos contra el pueblo de Gaza tuvieron un enorme impacto político. Sus acciones desencadenaron luchas similares en los países de la Unión Europea y en todo el mundo. Los campamentos, en particular, dieron esperanzas a la población asediada de Asia Occidental, que se había unido en una resistencia común contra la embestida estadounidense-UE-israelí.

La primera respuesta de la clase dominante imperialista el año pasado fue irregular. Algunas administraciones llamaron inmediatamente a la policía, que efectuó detenciones con su habitual brutalidad. Algunas negociaron con los estudiantes. Unas pocas incluso prometieron concesiones.

Las fuerzas de derechas del Congreso y las organizaciones proisraelitas consiguieron intimidar a algunos de los principales administradores -que a su vez no eran en absoluto propalestinos- para que renunciaran de algunas de las universidades más prestigiosas, como Columbia, Harvard y la Universidad de Pensilvania. Miles de estudiantes fueron detenidos y muchos suspendidos de sus estudios. A pesar de la represión, los estudiantes siguieron luchando.

Las vacaciones de verano dieron tiempo a las administraciones universitarias para prepararse. Los políticos estadounidenses aclararon que querían aplastar la lucha. Los jefes de las universidades que dependían del gobierno y especialmente de la financiación del Pentágono sintieron la presión, con toda la financiación empresarial en peligro. Las administraciones se



MO FOTO: JOHN CATALINOTTO

Se reanudan las luchas en las universidades, con consignas que van desde detener el genocidio hasta liberar a Palestina. Nueva York, 10 de octubre de 2024.

reunieron para coordinar la represión de los estudiantes. Los medios de comunicación desempeñaron su papel habitual defendiendo al imperialismo estadounidense e Israel contra la lucha estudiantil y Palestina.

Las universidades que habían hecho algunas concesiones a los estudiantes en primavera, entre ellas Brown y el Fashion Institute of Technology, han renegado y ahora están bloqueando el movimiento. Cuando la clase dominante tenga tiempo de movilizarse, cerrará filas y aumentará la represión.

Durante el verano, las dos grandes convenciones nacionales dejaron claro que tanto los candidatos republicanos como los demócratas apoyan las acciones genocidas de Israel. Esta posición conjunta indica que las masacres terroristas no son un espasmo de un Estado

canalla sino parte de la estrategia global de los imperialistas. Mientras tanto, el genocidio de Israel en Gaza continúa y ahora se ha extendido al Líbano.

Hay muchas razones para que los estudiantes activistas de todas las universidades refuercen su actividad. En Estados Unidos, los indicios apuntan a que la lucha continúa, con los estudiantes variando sus tácticas. La fuerte reacción en el primer aniversario del levantamiento del 7 de octubre dio prueba de ello.

Algunos medios corporativos han argumentado que el movimiento en Estados Unidos se está volviendo más militante, más favorable a la resistencia, lo que presentan como un peligro. Esgrimen el falso argumento de que se trata de un creciente «antisemitismo». Esta mentira siempre ha formado parte de la falsa defensa de las acciones más criminales de Israel, y es un mérito del movimiento universitario -ya sea Estudiantes por la Justicia en Palestina, Within Our Lifetime, Jewish Voice for Peace o Not in Our Name- que haya rechazado esta mentira.

De los portavoces interrogados ahora por los medios de comunicación, con exigencias de que condenen a Hamás o el diluvio de Al-Aqsa -o de que se les llame «proterroristas»- muchos están dando una respuesta más o menos así: «Todas nuestras demandas, todo el tiempo, para detener el genocidio, para detener la masacre de niños y la hambruna de un pueblo, ustedes las llamaron proterroristas. Así que da igual lo que digamos o lo razonables que seamos. Si estamos del lado de los oprimidos, ustedes nos llamarán terroristas. Y nosotros estamos del lado de los oprimidos».

Mundo Obrero apoya ahora y apoyará las reivindicaciones y acciones de los estudiantes antiimperialistas y propalestinos en las universidades y en las calles. □

M.O. EDITORIAL Huracán Helene

Una tormenta catastrófica creada por las prioridades de los capitalistas

El huracán Helene, con más de 230 muertos y un número que va en aumento, es la peor catástrofe regional que ha asolado Estados Unidos desde que el huracán Katrina azotó Nueva Orleans, matando a casi 1.400 personas y desplazando a decenas de miles más en 2005.

Tras tocar tierra como tormenta de categoría 4 el 26 de septiembre, el huracán desató la devastación en Florida, Georgia, Carolina del Sur y del Norte, Virginia y Tennessee. La zona de las Montañas Blue Ridge de Carolina del Norte fue la más afectada, con pueblos enteros borrados del mapa. En estas montañas lo que antes se llamaban «inundaciones de 100 años» se han convertido últimamente en algo habitual.

Con muchas zonas todavía intransitables y con las comunicaciones telefónicas limitadas, se espera que aumente el número de muertos confirmados.

Los científicos y los políticos calificarán el huracán Helene de «desastre natural», pero en muchos aspectos fue provocado por el factor humano, alimentado por la desregulación de las protecciones medioambientales, la expansión de los combustibles fósiles y la extracción de carbón y la reducción de la financiación destinada a los problemas del cambio climático a escala estatal y federal. Los proyectos relacionados con el clima de la Ley



Harrisburg, Pensilvania, 6 de octubre de 2024.

de Reducción de la Inflación de 2022 no se llevarán a cabo hasta 2025.

Los científicos señalan las lluvias extremas que han afectado a comunidades de todo EE.UU. en los últimos años. Las temperaturas más cálidas del océano, junto con la humedad del suelo saturado de lluvia, crearon los 20 billones de galones de precipitaciones que este huracán dejó caer a su paso.

Los expertos ya están encontrando pruebas de que el cambio climático alimentó la destrucción del huracán Helene, que incluyó de 30 a 35 pulgadas de lluvia, caídas en menos de tres días en un terreno montañoso escarpado. Las precipitaciones repentinas provocaron el desbordamiento de ríos, arroyos y riachuelos y abrieron nuevas vías de agua que arrasaron carreteras, puentes, viviendas y empresas.

Carolina del Norte fue en su día líder nacional en energías renovables y políticas de resistencia al cambio climático. Pero a principios de la década de 2010, los legisladores favorables a las grandes empresas y los intereses corporativos de Carolina del Norte lucharon contra las medidas de control climático y sabotearon proyectos diseñados para reducir las emisiones que atrapan el calor y ayudar a las comunidades a resistir vientos huracanados e inundaciones generalizadas.

En 2010, la legislatura recortó drásticamente el presupuesto operativo del Departamento de Calidad Medioambiental del estado, responsable de las normas de protección. En 2012, Pat McCrory, antiguo ejecutivo de Duke Energy, la mayor empresa de servicios públicos de Carolina del Norte, fue elegido gobernador.

Lindsey Graham: Priorizar la financiación de las guerras de Israel

Los negacionistas del cambio climático, como McCrory, tienen mucha responsabilidad, pero también la tienen políticos como el senador republicano Lindsey Graham, que el 4 de octubre declaró al presentador de Fox News Chris Hannity: «He estado recorriendo Carolina del Sur y, como la mayoría de la gente, no he dormido mucho. Pero mira lo que está pasando en Israel». Graham dijo a Hannity que pensaba que era más importante proporcionar armas a Israel

que financiar a la Agencia Federal para la Gestión de Emergencias (FEMA) para rescatar a los trabajadores de EE.UU. arruinados por la inundación.

Graham no es el único entre los políticos capitalistas de los dos grandes partidos que parecen creer que reducir el presupuesto anual de la FEMA era necesario si eso significaba poner más dinero a disposición de Israel para llevar a cabo el genocidio contra el pueblo palestino.

Al votar a favor de una extensión de la financiación del gobierno hasta diciembre, los votos bipartidistas en el Congreso y el Senado, justo antes de tomar un receso de seis semanas el 25 de septiembre, dejaron fuera miles de millones de dólares solicitados para la financiación suplementaria de desastres para FEMA y otros programas federales de desastres.

La FEMA ya se enfrentaba a un déficit de casi 2.000 millones de dólares debido a los daños causados por anteriores grandes tormentas e incendios forestales. La agencia tiene obligaciones por valor de unos 8.000 millones de dólares que no ha podido reembolsar a los estados para cubrir los daños de las tormentas de principios de agosto. (Político, 26 de septiembre)

Aunque los habitantes de muchas zonas duramente golpeadas por catástrofes climáticas anteriores, como Nueva Orleans y Puerto Rico, tienen sobradas razones

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