

MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite! workers.org Vol. 66, No. 40 October 3, 2024



Protests erupt as world condemns Israel/U.S. murder of Nasrallah

Hundreds of people, diverse and multigenerational, marched in Philadelphia on Sept. 25 to protest continued U.S./Israeli bombing and other acts of violence against the people of Palestine and Lebanon.

The march started at the posh Rittenhouse Square and ended near

Jefferson Hospital. As the Israeli Occupation Force has destroyed much of Gaza’s medical infrastructure, Jefferson profits from its close ties to Israel, including a collaborative agreement with Sheba Medical Center, Israel’s largest medical center.

— Story and top photo by Joe Piette



Palestinians protest Israel/U.S. bombing in Lebanon and murder of Nasrallah, leader of Hezbollah. Ramallah, West Bank, Sept. 28, 2024.



Iran announced five days of mourning for Nasrallah. Protesters in Palestine Square in Tehran, Iran, Sept. 28, 2024.

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Join us in the fight for socialism!

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Since 1959, Workers World Party has
been out in the streets defending the
workers and oppressed here and world-
wide. If you're interested in Marxism,
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future, please contact a WWP branch
near you. □

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WW condemns U.S.-backed Israeli murder of Hezbollah leader, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah

September 28, 2024

Workers World condemns Israel's assassination of the Secretary-General of Hezbollah, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, that took place in Dahiyeh, a southern suburb of Beirut, on Sept. 27. Nasrallah had led the Lebanon-based liberation organization for 32 years. His assassination was part of a larger massacre, as the same Israeli airstrikes killed and wounded hundreds of Lebanese people, mostly civilians, including children.

Workers World also condemns the Biden administration's complicity in the assassination of Nasrallah and the ongoing massacre of civilians in Lebanon, Gaza and the West Bank. We point out that New York City police protected Israeli

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as he promoted his military's war crimes in his speech to a nearly empty United Nations General Assembly meeting in New York and ordered the strikes on Lebanon.

The president of Iran, Masoud Pezeshkian, said on Sept. 27: "The international community will not forget that the order for this terrorist attack came from New York, and the Americans cannot absolve themselves of complicity with the Zionist regime."

The same attack that killed Nasrallah killed Brigadier General Abbas Nilforooshan, the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Council's deputy chief of operations. Three months earlier, another Israeli airstrike killed the political leader of Hamas, Ismail Haniyeh, in Tehran, Iran.

According to UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East), more than 50,000 Lebanese people and Syrians living in Lebanon have crossed into Syria to escape Israeli airstrikes that have

targeted homes, hospitals, schools and other civilian facilities since Israel's Sept. 17 cyberattacks on Lebanon. This pattern of massacres is very similar to Israel's attacks in Gaza since Oct. 7, 2023.

President Joe Biden and Vice President Kamala Harris lined up with the war crim-

governments. This duty applies especially to anti-imperialists in the NATO countries and their close allies. Workers World adds its name to this denunciation with no hesitation.

Israel could not exist for one day without the political and military support of U.S. imperialism, which is the main enemy of oppressed peoples everywhere in West Asia (the Middle East), and elsewhere in Asia, Africa, Latin America and right here in North America in the belly of the beast.

As the resistance organizations of the West Asian region have said, the killing of Nasrallah – just like the killing of Hamas leader Haniyeh – will not diminish the struggle for liberation, but will only serve to intensify the struggle

against colonialism, occupation and imperialism. As Miriam Saleh from Press TV stated on Sept. 28, "Israel may have killed one Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, but they created hundreds of thousands of Nasrallahs."

Long live the resistance in Palestine, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, and Yemen!

Down with Israel and U.S. imperialism!



Iranian women hold pictures of Hassan Nasrallah and Palestinian flags at anti-Israel protest in Tehran, Iran, Sept. 27, 2024.

inal Netanyahu by labeling Nasrallah's murder "a measure of justice." The administration's position is no surprise. The U.S. recently granted another \$8.7 billion in arms to Israel to continue its almost one-year genocide in Gaza, the West Bank and now Lebanon.

All of the Palestinian resistance factions have condemned the execution of Nasrallah in solidarity with Hezbollah, a member of the Axis of Resistance, along with Iranian, Iraqi, Syrian and Yemeni resistance forces – which are in solidarity with the anti-apartheid, anti-occupation armed struggle in Palestine. It's no secret that the Israeli settler state has considered Hezbollah a major threat to its continued domination of its seized territory since the liberation group was established in the early 1980s.

It is of utmost importance that pro-Palestine activists worldwide show solidarity with the Lebanese people and with Hezbollah by denouncing not only the Zionist regime, but its main ally, U.S. imperialism and other Western

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Workers strike at Eagles, 76ers and Phillies stadiums

By Joe Piette

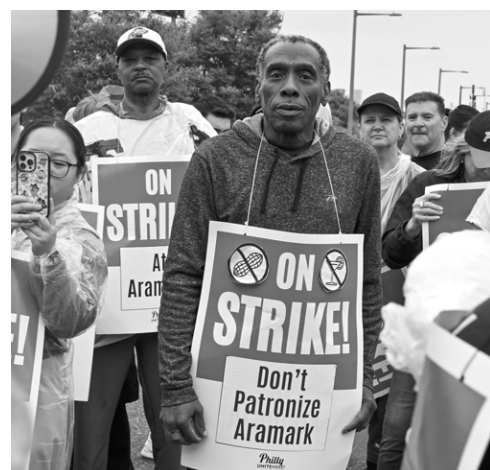
An unprecedented four-day strike by concession workers at Philadelphia's football, basketball and baseball stadiums ended on Sept. 27 with news that fresh proposals from their employer Aramark were forthcoming.

The union sent this statement to its supporters: "We made history! For the first time ever we struck all three buildings at once. The strength of our STRIKE was felt and showed our resolve. We will fight until we win!"

The strike of over 1,000 members of UNITE HERE Local 274 included concessions workers — cooks, servers, bartenders, cleaners, dishwashers and retail and warehouse workers — employed by Aramark at the Wells Fargo Center, Citizens Bank Park and Lincoln Financial Field, all located near each other in the sports district of South Philadelphia.

It's more than a coincidence that each sports facility's naming rights were bought by a financial institution. Sports is big business. According to Global Sports Insight, "Existing [annual] revenue estimates for the global sports industry range from \$471 billion to \$1.4 trillion."

Aramark, one of the largest food service companies in the world, is headquartered in Philadelphia. The company's reported revenue in 2023 was \$18.9 billion from providing food, cleaning, hospitality management, supply chain, operations, maintenance and other services to the education, health care, government, prisons, sports and leisure sectors. (aramark.gcs-web.com)



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

On the first day of the strike, workers listen to strike leaders and supporters call for workers' justice in Philadelphia, Sept. 23, 2024.

Aramark has separate contracts at each of the three stadiums — all of which have expired. Despite the fact that some union members work across all the venues logging 40 or more hours per week, they are treated as part-time workers and don't receive full-time health care coverage because the agreements are limited to time worked per stadium. UNITE HERE is fighting for a contract that aggregates workers' hours and standardizes pay at each location, so critical stadium staff can get the full-time benefits and fair compensation they need to raise a family.

The union members — very diverse with workers who are Black, Latine, Asian, white, of all genders — are also trying to secure a contract with better wages and health care benefits. While professional sports players are paid millions of dollars to play for the billionaires who own the Eagles, 76ers and Phillies, concession workers for the sports venues make as little as \$10 per hour selling beer at \$18 a pop. They often work multiple jobs just to afford health care.

Show of strong solidarity

The Major League Baseball Players Association stated on X (formerly Twitter) Sept. 23 it "stands in solidarity with @UNITEHEREPhilly workers at Citizens Bank Park as they take this courageous action to achieve a fair deal. Aramark workers are essential to the great fan experience at the ballpark and deserve the fair wages and benefits they are fighting for."

Local 274 asked sports fans, concert goers and other people going to stadium events to eat elsewhere beforehand, tailgate or carry in their own food and requested that fans not skip their events but rather to honor the strike by boycotting all of Aramark's operations at the stadiums. Many people could be seen carrying wrapped hoagies and other sandwiches and snacks in the required clear plastic bags as they walked through the entry gates.

The picket lines were also respected by members of Teamsters Joint Council No. 53, representing the truck drivers who normally deliver beer, food and other supplies to



WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

UNITE HERE members and supporters walk the picket line with Scabby the Rat outside the employees' entrance to Citizens Bank Park, Philadelphia, Sept. 23, 2024.

Aramark at the South Philadelphia Stadium Complex.

The strike began a week after Philadelphia Mayor Cherelle Parker endorsed plans to build a new 76ers arena in Center City despite fierce opposition from nearby residents of Chinatown, Washington Square West and the Gayborhood.

In a show of solidarity, the Save Chinatown Coalition sent an email to its members asking them to "Stand with Aramark workers who are taking on corporate greed to make our city a better place" and to join the picket lines.

"Before we even talk about building a new arena, we need to make sure that stadium food service jobs are good jobs," said Tiffani Davis, an Aramark concessions worker at Citizens Bank Park, Wells Fargo Center and Lincoln Financial Field. "Year-round work should come with year-round benefits like health care and family sustaining wages." (WHYY.org, Sept. 23) □

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U.N. diplomats walk out on Netanyahu's speech

By Sue Harris

Izzat al-Rishq, of the Hamas political bureau, suggested that diplomats at the United Nations General Assembly walk out on Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's speech on Sept. 26. He said: "It's the least that can be done. Would world leaders listen to Hitler giving a speech at the U.N. General Assembly? Netanyahu, the 'little Hitler,' is the direct perpetrator of the genocide war in Gaza, which has been ongoing for nearly a year."

The Hamas statement, posted on Resistance News Network on Sept. 27, added: "Netanyahu continues his Nazi crimes, disregarding and ignoring the U.N. Security Council's decision to stop them immediately and blatantly dismissing the orders of the International Court of Justice. He is reassured that any potential arrest warrant will have no effect due to the U.S., British and Western support for his crimes against humanity."

Indeed, most diplomats did walk out of the General Assembly when Netanyahu stepped to the podium. He spoke to mostly empty seats, except for a cheering squad seated in the gallery that Netanyahu himself had flown into New York for the event.

The diplomats' walkout was the only visible protest inside the U.N. The New York Police Department did not allow any protesters closer than four blocks away. Thousands of protesters were kept away from the immediate area near where Netanyahu was speaking while thousands of police — all on paid overtime, funded by New Yorkers' tax dollars — were



Netanyahu addresses nearly empty General Assembly hall at United Nations, Sept. 26, 2024.

deployed that day to control the demonstrators.

What the diplomats could have done, but did not do, was to surround Netanyahu and demand his arrest as a war criminal, responsible for tens of thousands of deaths of innocent civilians, including infants and children in Gaza, the West Bank and Lebanon.

In fact, the U.N. is a toothless organization that is unable or unwilling to follow even its own directives. The U.N.'s accommodation of Israel — including giving war criminal Netanyahu a podium to spout his venom — recalls the behavior of England when the government practiced "appeasement" in the 1930s toward Hitler's Germany.

U.S. imperialism perpetuates genocide, lies

It is important to point out the role of the United States and its Western allies. U.S. officials claimed they had been working towards a 21-day ceasefire, which the U.S. as well as France insisted was worked out in consultation with Israel. And then Netanyahu rejected it.

In fact, the U.S. had just sent \$8.7 billion worth of weapons to Israel. How is it possible for a government to be urging a ceasefire between Israel and the Palestinian Resistance while simultaneously sending billions of dollars' worth of weapons to Israel?

Netanyahu had a press conference after his speech, during which he paused for a phone call with Israeli officials, in which he very likely ordered the planned carpet bombing of the residential homes in Dahiyyeh, a suburb of Beirut, Lebanon, which started shortly after his speech ended.

The Biden administration claims it had no knowledge of this planned slaughter of thousands — using 2,000-pound bunker buster bombs, made in U.S. factories — which also resulted in the death of Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, secretary-general of Hezbollah. But the U.S. didn't waste time in cheering on the killing once it



Demonstrators rallied outside the Loews Regency New York Hotel where Netanyahu stayed. New York City, Sept. 26, 2024.

started. Israel boasted about the targeted murder of Nasrallah, and Biden lauded it, piling lie upon lie about the role of Hezbollah in the struggle in West Asia.

There is a pattern here. The U.S. urges a ceasefire, the Palestinian Resistance agrees to it, and then Israel launches an even more heinous attack on innocent people, prolonging and widening the war. Neither the U.S. nor Israel gives a damn about how many people die in Western Asia, as long as the U.S. can keep its control of the oil in the region and the military can maintain its position of control. As then-Sen. Joe Biden said in 1986, "If there were not an Israel, we'd have to invent one." (The Conversation, July 23)

For people in the United States and around the world who haven't figured it out yet, it's time to get an understanding of the U.S. role in Western Asia — and support the resistance to Zionism and imperialism. □

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The billionaire companies behind Israel's bombs

By Betsey Piette

On May 10, Secretary of State Antony Blinken addressed Congress and lied. He said: “We do not currently assess that the Israeli government is prohibiting or otherwise restricting the transport or delivery of U.S. humanitarian assistance.”

This is despite an explosive report given to Blinken in April 2024, from the State Department's Refugees and Migration Bureau, that Israel was intentionally blocking humanitarian aid to Palestinians in Gaza. Plus a strongly worded 17-page memo from the United States Agency for International Development that described Israel's interference with aid efforts, including killing aid workers, bombing ambulances and hospitals and routinely turning away trucks loaded with food and medicine.

Details of these warnings and Blinken's



PHOTO: AL JAZEERA

Destruction from 2,000-pound bomb in Gaza, 2024.

decision to ignore them were leaked by ProPublica on Sept. 25 in an article noting that while Israel has its own arms industry, it relies heavily on U.S. jets, bombs and other weapons for its genocidal war in Gaza. “Since October, the U.S. has shipped more than 50,000 tons of weaponry” that Israel calls “crucial for sustaining” the Israeli Occupation Forces’ “operational capabilities during the ongoing war.” (tinyurl.com/bdhas46y)

Congress and the executive branch claim to have imposed guidelines on how Israel uses money the U.S. sends, including prohibiting intentional attacks on civilian populations or blocking access to humanitarian aid. Clearly Israel has violated these limits again and again in Gaza and most recently with the dropping of U.S.-supplied 2,000-pound

bunker-buster bombs on a residential block in Beirut, Lebanon, killing an estimated 700 civilians and Hezbollah Secretary-General Hassan Nasrallah.

So why did Blinken cover up for Israel, and why do Congress and President Joe Biden continue with the charade?

As ProPublica points out, the Biden administration established the National Security Memorandum in February 2024 requiring the State Department to investigate Israel's claims it was not blocking aid. If Blinken reported that the Israelis were arbitrarily blocking civilian access to aid, by law Congress is required to halt military assistance.

Money to Israel buys U.S.-made weapons

One problem was that Israel, having already purchased and employed weapons from U.S. manufacturers, had yet to pay for them.

Of interest in the ProPublica article is that Israel uses the \$3.8 billion the U.S. gives it every year and the significantly increased billions of dollars since Oct. 7, 2023, to “buy American-made bombs and equipment.” ProPublica obtained copies of an email thread between a Department of Defense official on April 17 who contacted Mira Resnick, a deputy assistant secretary of the State Department known as the “driving force behind arms sales to Israel.”

The Defense Department official was worried that any withholding of additional millions of dollars in U.S. funds to Israel would keep them from paying its bills to U.S. weapons manufacturers. Adherence to the restrictions of the National Security Memorandum would mean that the billionaire military contractors wouldn't get their blood money. Resnick's email to the Counselor of the State Department said: “We need to be able to move the rest of the financing so that Israel could pay off bills for past weapons purchases.”

So just which U.S. arms manufacturers are profiting off the blood of well over 42,000 Palestinians and now nearly 1,000 Lebanese people?

The U.S. company Boeing Defense, Space and Security manufactures the bunker-buster bombs and the guidance systems Israel relies on. Lockheed Martin makes the Multiple Launch Rocket System used to strengthen the IOF ground forces. Ghost Robotics produces the robotic “dogs,” complete with weapons, that Israel uses to patrol areas of northern Gaza.

Northrop Grumman sells extensive amounts of weapons and military technologies to Israel. According to The Mapping Project: “Northrop Grumman is deeply complicit in Israel's ethnic cleansing of Palestinians from their homeland and theft of Palestinian resources. Northrop Grumman developed manned aircraft missile systems, which the Israeli Air Force uses in attacks on Palestinians.

“In collaborative ventures with Lockheed Martin (another major U.S. weapons manufacturer), Northrop Grumman provides Israel with the Longbow System used in Israel's fleet of Apache AH64D helicopters ... and in the production of the F-35 fighter jets. ... Northrop Grumman also produces parts used in F-16 fighter jets sold to Israel.” (mapliberation.org)

Israel has employed these and other weapons systems “containing Northrop Grumman component parts in its repeated attacks on densely populated areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, as well as in Lebanon. In these attacks, Israel has targeted civilian homes, civilian infrastructure and refugee camps.”

While Biden and Netanyahu are well-deserving of growing global outrage, so too are the millionaires like Boeing's President and CEO Ted Colbert, Lockheed Martin's President and CEO Jim Taiclet and Northrop Grumman Chair, CEO and President Kathy Warden, who oversee these killing corporations.

These multibillion-dollar weapons producers have everything to gain from Blinken and Biden's consistent refusals to put any restrictions on weapons sales to Israel.

The U.S. “money for weapons purchases” is by no means unique to its support of Israel. The billions of dollars that Biden and Congress give to Ukraine is usually in the form of weapons produced by the same U.S. companies profiting off the war in West Asia. □

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