

MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

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WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

Palestinian activist Neerden Kiswani, standing above the banner, speaks at Union Square before the march, Sept. 2, 2024.

Thousands flood NYC streets for Palestine

By Brenda Ryan
New York City

On Labor Day, Sept. 2, day 331 of Israel's genocide, thousands of people gathered at Union Square in New York City in an outpouring of rage against the U.S.-backed massacres of Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank.

Chanting "Resistance is justified when people are occupied", "There is only one solution! Intifada revolution!" and "From the River to the Sea, Palestine is almost Free!" they expressed support for the Palestinian people as the U.S. government, police, social media sites and university administrations are taking actions to suppress protests against the genocide.

Neerden Kiswani, a Palestinian activist and founder of Within Our Lifetime (WOL), one of the main organizers of the event, described Israel's horrific brutality: "They systematically kill babies and leave them

to decompose on hospital beds. They have institutionalized torture and sexual violence against Palestinian prisoners."

She added, "They deprive people of food, medical supplies, electricity and fuel, and enable famine and sickness as part of their genocidal agenda."

Kiswani noted that more than 10,000 Palestinian women and children are illegally detained in Israeli prisons right now and that just a few days ago, occupation forces launched a ground invasion against a refugee camp in the West Bank, killing and injuring hundreds of people. "This has been our reality for over 76 years," Kiswani said. "It is our responsibility to put an end to the genocidal state."

People flooded the New York streets with a march of more than 50 blocks that ended in Washington Square Park. Following the protest, WOL and Healthcare Workers for Palestine held a fundraiser for Palestine to help raise funds for Doctors Against Genocide.

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MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

Workers World

121 W. 27th St., Suite 404

New York, NY 10001

Phone: 212.627.2994

E-mail: wwp@workers.org

Web: www.workers.org

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Editors: John Catalinotto, Martha Grevatt,
Deirdre Griswold, Monica Moorehead,
Betsey Piette

Web Editors: ABear, Harvey Markowitz,
Janet Mayes

Tear Down the Walls! Editors: Mirinda
Crissman, Ted Kelly

Production & Design Editors: Gery
Armsby, Sasha Mazumder

Copyediting and Proofreading: Paddy
Colligan, Steve Gillis and K. James

Contributing Editors: G. Dunkel,
K. Durkin, Sara Flounders, Otis Grotewohl,
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Mundo Obrero: Deborah Rodriguez, Carlos
Vargas

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world, yet no one has a guaranteed right
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even make it to college. Black, Brown
and Indigenous youth and trans people
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to wipe out decades of gains and benefits
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If you are interested in joining Workers World Party contact:

National Office

121 W. 27th St., Suite 404
New York, NY 10001
212.627.2994
wwp@workers.org

Atlanta

PO Box 18123
Atlanta, GA 30316
404.627.0185
atlanta@workers.org

Bay Area

P.O. Box 22947
Oakland, CA 94609
510.394.2207
bayarea@workers.org

Boston

284 Amory St.
Boston, MA 02130
boston@workers.org
instagram: @wwpboston

Buffalo, N.Y.

335 Richmond Ave.
Buffalo, NY 14222
716.883.2534
buffalo@workers.org

Cleveland

cleveland@workers.org

Durham, N.C.

919.322.9970
durham@workers.org

Houston

P.O. Box 3454
Houston, TX 77253-3454
713.503.2633
houston@workers.org

Minnesota

minnesota@workers.org

Philadelphia

P.O. Box 5634
Philadelphia, PA 19129
610.931.2615
phila@workers.org

Portland, Ore.

portland@workers.org

Salt Lake City

801.750.0248
slc@workers.org

San Antonio

sanantonio@workers.org

Seattle

seattle@workers.org

West Virginia

WestVirginia@workers.org

Beijing Declaration: A key step to resolve the Palestinian question

By Cao Xiaolin
China's ambassador to Qatar

The following guest article was published on the Al Jazeera website on Aug. 29, 2024. It addresses the dialogue by representatives of 14 Palestinian factions held in Beijing in July, at China's invitation. This important development, along with many others, will be discussed at a "China at 75" forum on Sept. 29, 2024, to mark the 75th anniversary of the Chinese socialist revolution and its historical impact on today's global struggles against imperialism.

Guests can attend the forum virtually or in person at the Malcolm X/Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center located at 165th Street and Broadway in Harlem, New York. Seating is limited at the Center.

Registration is required for online and in-person participation via Eventbrite: bit.ly/PRC75

Palestinian unity is key to the realization of Palestinian statehood, and China is committed to facilitating it. The Palestinian question is at the core of the Middle East issue. Over the past years, China has put forward proposals and taken action to address the Palestinian question with Chinese wisdom and solutions.

At China's invitation, senior representatives of 14 Palestinian factions engaged in dialogue in Beijing in July and signed the Beijing Declaration on Ending Division and Strengthening Palestinian National Unity. The Beijing Dialogue was the most inclusive and in-depth reconciliation talks of 14 political factions to date.

The important consensus from the Beijing talks is to achieve reconciliation and unity among the 14 factions. The core outcome is the affirmation of the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) as the sole legitimate representative of all Palestinian people.

The biggest highlight is the agreement on establishing an interim government of national reconciliation focusing on the post-conflict reconstruction of Gaza. The strongest call is for establishing an independent State of Palestine in accordance with relevant United Nations resolutions.

Mousa Abu Marzouk, head of the Hamas delegation to the Beijing Dialogue, declared Hamas' readiness to implement the Beijing Declaration, strengthen unity among factions and advance the reconciliation process to achieve Palestinian national unity.

Mahmoud al-Aloul, deputy chief of the Fatah movement, said China is a light, and its efforts to promote reconciliation among Palestinian

factions are rare on the international stage.

European Union Special Representative for the Middle East Peace Process Sven Koopmans stressed it is a remarkable achievement and fully demonstrates China's positive and constructive role in the Middle East peace process.



Mahmoud al-Aloul of Fatah, China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi, and Mousa Abu Marzouk of Hamas attend an event in Beijing on July 23, 2024.

The key to the Palestinian reconciliation process is to bolster confidence, keep in the right direction and make incremental progress. Only by making continuous efforts to build consensus and put it into practice can the reconciliation process yield more and more substantive progress and greater unity. On the path towards reconciliation, China shares the same direction and destination with Arab and Islamic countries.

At present, the Gaza conflict is dragging on and its spillovers continue to spread, as multiple regional conflicts are interconnected. To help get out of the current conflict and predicament, China proposes a three-step initiative.

The first step is to achieve a comprehensive, lasting and sustainable ceasefire in the Gaza Strip as soon as possible and ensure access to humanitarian aid and rescue on the ground. The international community should build more synergy for ending the hostilities and establishing a ceasefire.

The second step is to make joint efforts towards post-conflict governance of Gaza under the principle of "Palestinians governing Palestine." Gaza is an inseparable, integral part of Palestine. Restarting post-conflict reconstruction as soon as possible is an urgent priority.

The international community needs to support Palestinian factions in establishing an interim national consensus government and realizing the effective management of Gaza and the West Bank.

The third step is to help Palestine become a full member state of the United Nations, and get down to implementing the two-state solution. It is important to support the convening of a broad-based, more authoritative and

more effective international peace conference to work out a timetable and road map for the two-state solution.

The three-step initiative lays out a detailed and feasible plan for peacefully resolving the Palestinian question, contributing to building consensus among all stakeholders and guiding the Palestinian question back on the right track of a political solution.

China and many of the Middle Eastern countries are bound by similar memories of the devastation wrought by imperialism and colonialism and share a kindred pursuit of national liberation, independence and self-reliance.

China has never engaged in geopolitical confrontation or sought proxies in the Middle East, nor does it intend to draw spheres of influence to fill the so-called power vacuum in the region.

China has no selfish interests in the Palestinian question. It was among the first countries to recognize the PLO and the State of Palestine and all along has firmly supported the Palestinian people in restoring their legitimate national rights.

There is no simple solution to the Palestinian question, and peace cannot be achieved overnight. The intra-Palestinian reconciliation will bring hope and a future to the Palestinian people. It is an important step towards resolving the Palestinian question and achieving stability in the Middle East.

China firmly supports the Palestinian people in restoring their legitimate national rights and supports the people of Middle Eastern countries in holding their future in their own hands. China looks forward to the day when Palestinian factions achieve internal reconciliation and, on that basis, realize national unity and independent statehood as early as possible.

China will continue to work relentlessly to this end, making more contributions to promoting peace and prosperity in the region. □

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Polio vaccination in Gaza proceeds despite war

By Sue Harris

According to the Government Media Office of Hamas in Gaza, quoted in Resistance News Network: “The polio vaccination campaign in the Gaza Strip began on Sept. 1, 2024, amid the ongoing environmental, health, and humanitarian disaster caused by the ‘Israeli’ occupation, which has persisted for 330 days without interruption. The vaccination campaign will be supervised by the Palestinian Ministry of Health in the Gaza Strip, in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF, and United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine (UNRWA).

“The campaign targets children from 1 day to 10 years old and involves administering two drops of the vaccine orally.” Vaccinated children are marked on their hands with a pen, and there must be another vaccination two weeks later. “This vaccine is approved by the World Health Organization, and over 1.2 billion doses have been produced worldwide so far.”

Hamas states: “640,000 Palestinian children in the Gaza Strip are expected to receive this vaccination, representing over 95% of children aged 1 day to 10 years. A comprehensive plan has been finalized to ensure the success of this campaign in all governorates and neighborhoods of the Gaza Strip. ... Dozens of field teams will participate in the vaccination campaign, covering all neighborhoods, alleys and centers in the Gaza Strip, as well as displacement and shelter camps and all locations where children are present in the Gaza Strip.”

According to the Gaza Ministry of Health: “The vaccination campaign is crucial and requires a ceasefire so that these health teams can perform their duties effectively. It is also essential to ensure that children and their families are not endangered while traveling from their homes to the vaccination centers and to protect these teams from the constant threat of bombardment by the ‘Israeli’ occupation, which continues its genocidal war against our Palestinian people without pause.”



Polio vaccinations administered to children in Gaza, Sept. 2, 2024.

An article in Reuters entitled, “U.N. begins polio vaccination in Gaza as fighting rages,” written by Nidal Al-Mughrabi and Hussam Al-Masri, states, “Rolling, partial ceasefires have been agreed on to allow that to happen.” However, fighting continues in the West Bank and in Gaza. (Sept. 1)

Despite repeated requests for a ceasefire from all Palestinian resistance groups, Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu won’t end the attacks by the Israeli Occupation Forces. “The latest round of mediated negotiations in Qatar and Egypt in recent weeks have stalled again ... as voices inside and outside Israel accuse Netanyahu of blocking an agreement by presenting outlandish demands to serve his political interests.” (Al Jazeera, Sept. 2)

Key sticking points continue to include Netanyahu’s insistence on not withdrawing from the Philadelphia Corridor, which constitutes Gaza’s southern border with Egypt, and the so-called Netzarim Corridor, the Israeli military route that has cut Gaza in half.

Netanyahu’s insistence on continuing this increasingly unpopular genocidal war with the support of the United States is reminiscent of the 1917 refusal by imperialist countries to end World War I. Ending this war would alienate the ruling class, to which the governments of the U.S. and Israel are beholden. In 1917, it took a revolution in Russia to end the war.

Israel is U.S. imperialism’s main ally in West Asia. The Zionist state has expansionist designs on Gaza, the occupied West Bank and Jerusalem; it is engaging in “ethnic cleansing” – by direct warfare with U.S.-supplied bombs and by ferocious attacks by Zionist settlers, who force Palestinians off their land, backed by the Israeli Occupation Forces.

According to Helena Cobban, of Just World Ed: “PM Netanyahu and his far-right cronies in Israel’s government have seen that the United States and its allies have done nothing significant to rein in the cruelty

and extremism of their actions in Gaza. So now, they’re extending the same approach to the occupied West Bank.

“In the northern West Bank, Israeli forces have laid siege to entire neighborhoods, cutting off supplies of water, food and electricity and tearing up roads; and they’ve launched air raids against some built-up areas – all while claiming (as in Gaza) that they are merely targeting ‘militants.’ The governments of France and the UK (among others) have condemned Israel’s latest lethal actions in the West Bank. But Washington?? Nothing.”

Nevertheless, on Sept. 1, the Palestinian Ministry of Health stated that medical teams in the Central Governorate were able to vaccinate 72,611 children on the first day of the emergency vaccination campaign against polio in Gaza. □

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EDITORIAL

From 'Genocide Joe' to 'Killer Kamala'

Just how many Palestinian deaths are acceptable to the Democratic Party ticket of Vice President Kamala Harris and Minnesota Gov. Tim Walz? From Harris's speech at the Democratic National Convention on Aug. 23 and her interview with CNN on Aug. 29, it appears that there is no limit.

While Harris has replaced President Joe Biden as the Democratic Party presidential candidate, it is crystal clear that she has not changed one iota of his foreign policies, especially when it comes to the U.S. support and funding of Israel's genocidal war in Gaza. "Genocide Joe" has simply been replaced by "Killer Kamala."

The Democratic Party and Harris are caught in a contradiction they are unable to resolve. They can't at the same time defend U.S. imperialism and Israel and take a position against Israel's occupation of Palestine. When claiming to be concerned about the loss of lives in Gaza, Harris speaks out of both sides of her mouth.

In her convention remarks, Harris said: "And let me be clear. I will always stand up for Israel's right to defend itself, and I will always ensure Israel has the ability to defend itself."

Making it clear that she supports Israel's "right to exist," she went on to condemn the Palestinian resistance, most notably Hamas. She essentially pledged to continue to arm Israel to the teeth, enabling it to carry out genocide.

However, as vice president of the U.S., Harris should know that the provisions of the United Nations Charter give Palestinians the right to defend themselves against Israel's occupation of their land in Gaza and the West Bank. The very existence of Israel and its actions in the expansion of illegal settlements violates several historic provisions of international law as well as the recent rulings of the United Nations International Court of Justice.

On July 19, the ICJ stated that Israel should stop settlement activity in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem and end its "illegal" occupation of those areas and the Gaza Strip as soon as possible. In a landmark opinion, the U.N.'s top court has said Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories violates international law.

If Harris chooses to ignore the international courts, as vice president she is obligated to uphold U.S. federal law that clearly states that countries receiving U.S. military support must meet



Union Square rally, New York City, Sept. 2, 2024.

WWW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN

human rights standards or risk losing their funding.

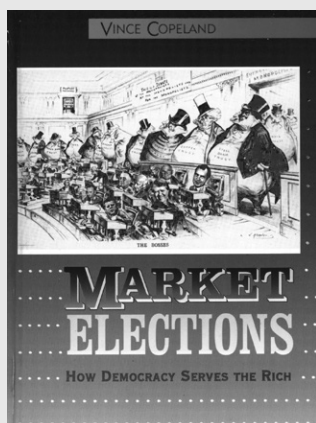
The Foreign Assistance Act states that no assistance can be provided to any country "which engages in a consistent pattern of gross violations of internationally recognized human rights." The Leahy Law prohibits providing weapons to "a foreign country if the secretary of state has credible information that such a unit has committed a gross violation of human rights."

If intentional genocide against 2.3 million people in Gaza is not a "gross violation," then what is?

The news medium Mondoweiss wrote on Aug. 31: "According to a recent Israeli Defense Ministry report, the U.S. has sent over 50,000 tons of arms and military equipment to Israel since October 7, an average of two arms shipments per day."

Harris and the Democratic Party leadership also continue to ignore public opinion polls, including frequent CBS News surveys that found that 60% of the U.S. population and 77% of Democratic voters are demanding the U.S. impose an arms embargo on Israel. (tinyurl.com/yc34t3wt)

But neither Harris nor her Republican opponent, former President Donald Trump, will alter U.S. imperialism's tight relationship with the Israeli state just because the public objects. Nor do they care one iota about saving lives in Gaza. No to Trump! No to Harris! No vote for genocide! □



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By Vince Copeland

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Hamas statement on deaths of hostages killed in Gaza



The following is a statement by Khalil Al-Hayya, Deputy Head of Hamas in Gaza, to Al Jazeera concerning the six hostages killed in Gaza:

The six [Israeli] prisoners (t.me/RNN_Backup/54954) and others could have been released to their families through a real exchange deal while still alive, but the insistence of the occupation army, [Prime Minister Benjamin] Netanyahu, and his extremist government is the reason these prisoners lost their lives (t.me/RNN_Backup/55040), along with dozens killed directly by the occupation through bombardment, targeting those who were with them, guarding them or living with them.

Some enemy prisoners were killed directly by live bullets from the occupation. Netanyahu and his team do not care about the prisoners. When Netanyahu was asked to choose between Philadelphia and the prisoners, he said, "Philadelphia is more important than the prisoners," and this is publicly known.

Netanyahu displays bravado and attempts to portray false heroics here and there. These six were directly killed by the occupation and were also targeted in bombings and other actions, as were many before them. I provide here an example of one of them, an "israeli" youth who holds U.S. citizenship.

This young man, for purely humanitarian reasons requested by his family and through the intervention of many people via the Qatari brothers, asked for assurances about his life. We responded for humanitarian and political reasons, to push toward progress in concluding a real deal. We handed the Qatari brothers a video of this young man speaking with his mother and father.

The young man addressed the "israeli" government. After this video, and before some time, Al-Qassam announced that they had lost contact with him and those guarding him, clearly indicating that he was subjected to a direct strike by the "israeli" occupation. Since that day, nothing was known about his life, and today he was found dead with a group of others, which is clear evidence that the occupation targets these individuals.

All stages of negotiation have shown that Netanyahu is not interested in reaching a deal. Instead of sending his army to kill and destroy an entire area to recover two or three prisoners, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of Palestinians, he could have retrieved them through a real exchange deal, as we did last November.

In November and December, more than 115 to 125 "israelis" and foreigners returned through negotiations conducted with the desire, will and mediation of Qatar. This is an example of how, if Netanyahu truly wanted a prisoner exchange, we were immediately ready. We have shown great flexibility and made significant concessions to achieve an exchange deal, halt aggression and war, and end the suffering of the people.

The United States is responsible for obstructing the negotiations; it does not want to reach a deal and has withdrawn from its previous commitments. Briefly looking back, since last March there have been indirect negotiations between us, the mediator brothers and the occupation. We stopped at the points of a ceasefire, prisoner exchange, the withdrawal of the occupation and reconstruction.

Our demand for the exchange included high standards, such as 500 Palestinian prisoners in exchange for every soldier and female soldier and 250 for others. When the mediators indicated there would be a significant opportunity if we showed flexibility in the exchange criteria, we immediately responded, reducing from 500 to 50 for the female soldiers and from 250 to 30 for the civilians.

The mediators, including those from the U.S., received this flexibility positively. But what did the occupation do? They disregarded it and began a new maneuver in May. In May, the Egyptian mediator brothers presented a complete agreement, to which we immediately agreed. The next day, what did the occupation do? They stormed the Rafah crossing, which remains closed.

This statement has been lightly edited.



Thousands of protesters rallied across Israel on Sept. 1, condemning Prime Minister Netanyahu for his handling of the hostages being held in Gaza. Protester's sign in Hebrew reads "Netanyahu's Legacy"

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No votaremos por el genocidio

EDITORIAL

La delegación del Partido del Mundo Obrero marchó en la protesta ante la Convención Nacional Demócrata portando una pancarta que decía en parte: «¡No votaremos por el genocidio!».

Si los dos únicos candidatos que pueden ganar la presidencia apoyan un genocidio evidente y continuado por parte de Israel en Gaza, no hay forma posible de que un partido revolucionario y antiimperialista pueda sugerir votar por cualquiera de ellos y seguir afirmando que lucha por la humanidad. Así que instamos a nuestros lectores a no votar ni a los candidatos republicanos ni a los demócratas.

Los republicanos no sólo son enemigos super capitalistas de la clase obrera mundial, sino que también son supremacistas blancos y misóginos. Y esa es la lista corta. Amenazan los pocos derechos democráticos que les quedan a los trabajadores. Este periódico dejó claro en julio por qué todo el mundo tenía que oponerse a los candidatos republicanos. (workers.org/2024/07/79895 y workers.org/2024/07/79838, artículos en inglés) Mundo Obrero siempre ha evaluado y descrito al Partido Demócrata como la otra ala del capitalismo y el imperialismo estadounidense.

Por un lado, los miembros del PD e incluso sus principales oradores reflejan mejor la diversidad de la población estadounidense. Por otro lado, el Partido Demócrata ha defendido el capitalismo con el mismo vigor que los republicanos, y su política exterior ha sido tan militarista y expansionista como la del GOP.

Ambos partidos promueven la explotación de los trabajadores y los pueblos de todo el mundo. Este año la razón para negar el voto a los demócratas va más allá de ese análisis marxista. El gobierno de Biden y el Partido Demócrata son identificados como cómplices del genocidio en Gaza, un genocidio que se puede seguir en las redes sociales. No hay forma de que los revolucionarios se comprometan con ese genocidio.

La forma en que se desarrolló el DNC no hizo nada para desafiar la oposición de MO/WW a este partido pro-imperialista. A diferencia de la habitual disidencia y casi caos que se ha visto en muchas convenciones del PD en el pasado, los demócratas coreografiaron este evento, presentando a sus candidatos exactamente como querían.

Ninguna palabra estaba fuera de lugar,

ninguna pancarta casera, ningún gesto de la mano sin practicar. Cuando la vicepresidenta Kamala Harris pronunció su discurso de aceptación, podemos asumir con seguridad que dijo exactamente lo que ella y el resto de la dirección del Partido Demócrata habían acordado. No sólo MO-WW, sino The New York Times -que en general favorecía a Harris- describieron el 23 de agosto su discurso de esta manera: «Fue un discurso patriótico y de línea dura en política exterior y seguridad fronteriza».



WW PHOTO: SARA FLOUNDERS

'No votaremos por el genocidio.' Chicago, 19 de agosto de 2024.

Estaba claro que Harris dirigió la parte de política exterior de su discurso al Pentágono, la CIA y cualquier persona de la clase dominante imperialista que pudiera dudar de que su administración sería menos militarista que la de Biden o Trump. Esto es lo que dijo «Como comandante en jefe, me aseguraré de que Estados Unidos siempre tenga la fuerza de combate más fuerte y más letal del mundo.

«Me aseguraré de que ... Estados Unidos, y no China, gane la competición del siglo XXI y de que reforzemos, y no renunciemos, a nuestro liderazgo mundial. ... Y como presidente, me mantendré firme con Ucrania y nuestros aliados de la OTAN. Y que quede claro. Siempre defenderé el derecho de Israel a defenderse, y siempre me aseguraré de que Israel tenga la capacidad de defenderse».

Y Harris repitió las mentiras acusando a Hamás de violencia sexual el 7 de octubre de 2023, que la máquina de propaganda israelí difundió y que Biden respaldó. (Noticias PBS, 23 de agosto)

En otras palabras, al igual que hizo la administración Biden, Harris amenazaría

a China, armaría la guerra por poderes de Ucrania contra Rusia y armaría a Israel hasta los dientes para llevar a cabo el genocidio. Luego, para añadir insulto a una herida ya grave, Harris y los organizadores del DNC se aseguraron de que ningún palestino pudiera hablar en una sesión plenaria.

Y eso a pesar de que la representante del estado de Georgia Ruwa Romman -la primera mujer musulmana elegida para la Cámara de Georgia y que estaba entre los que el «Movimiento de los No Comprometidos» eligió para hablar en el DNC- quería que los demócratas derrotaran a Trump.

Unos 300 delegados se unieron a una protesta de 30 delegados «no comprometidos» a las puertas de la sala, exigiendo el derecho a hablar. Cuando Romman dio su discurso fuera del centro de convenciones, llamó la atención sobre el gran número de delegados del PD que llevaban pins y keffiyehs palestinos.

¿Tenían miedo Harris y sus asesores de que cualquier llamamiento a favor de Palestina despertara una lucha dentro de la convención? Como consecuencia de la censura, «Muslim Women for Harris (Mujeres musulmanas para Harris)» retiró su apoyo a Harris y se disolvió. Y eso a pesar de que el grupo sabía muy claramente que Trump es su enemigo, y lo dijo.

Así, Harris y los propios demócratas se arriesgaron a perder las elecciones ante Trump antes que dar la más mínima apariencia de dejar de apoyar el genocidio israelí en Gaza. Esta indicación de las propias prioridades del Partido Demócrata es otra prueba de la necesidad de que el movimiento obrero se organice independientemente de los dos grandes partidos capitalistas y por qué Mundo Obrero insta a sus lectores a no votar ni a Trump ni a Harris. □

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