

MUNDO OBRERO WORKERS WORLD

Workers and oppressed peoples of the world unite! workers.org Vol. 67, No. 4 January 23, 2025

In honor of King's legacy

Protests hit Trump's policies



Martin Luther King Day counter-inaugural march, Philadelphia, Jan. 20, 2025. Read roundup online. WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE



New York City march, Jan. 20, 2025. WW PHOTO: BRENDA RYAN



March called by December 12 Movement, Brooklyn, New York, Jan. 20, 2025. WW PHOTO: SASHA MAZUMDER

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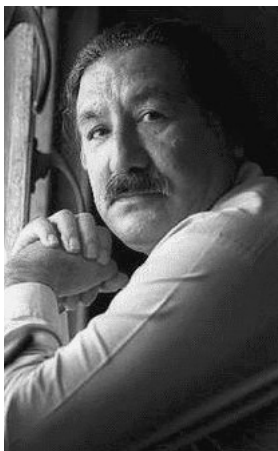
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Leonard Peltier is finally going home!

NDN Collective, an Indigenous-led organization, has been tirelessly advocating for Leonard Peltier's release. Nick Tilsen, the group's founder, was one of only two witnesses permitted to speak on Peltier's behalf during his most recent parole hearing in June.

Tilsen stated, "Leonard Peltier's freedom today is

the result of 50 years of intergenerational resistance, organizing and advocacy. Leonard Peltier's liberation is our liberation — we will honor him by bringing him back to his homelands to live out the rest of his days surrounded by loved ones, healing and reconnecting with his land and culture." (azcentral.com)



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Vol. 67, No. 4 • January 23, 2025

Closing date: January 22, 2025

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Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is pub-
lished monthly by WW Publishers, 121 W.
27th St., Suite 404, New York, NY 10001.
Phone: 212.627.2994.

Subscriptions: One year: \$36; institutions:
\$50. Letters to the editor may be con-
densed and edited. Articles can be freely
reprinted, with credit to Workers World,
121 W. 27th St., Suite 404, New York, NY
10001. Back issues and individual articles
are available on microfilm and/or photo-
copy from NA Publishing, Inc, P.O. Box
998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998.

A searchable archive is available on the
Web at www.workers.org.

A headline digest is available via e-mail
subscription. Subscription information is
at workers.org.

Periodicals postage paid at New York, NY
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to
Workers World, 121 W. 27th St., Suite 404,
New York, NY 10001.

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 multina-
tional, multigenerational and multigen-
dered 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, LGBTQIA2S+
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 insur-
mountable 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,
class solidarity, and joining us in the fight
for a socialist future, please sign up at
www.workers.org/join-form and an
organizer will get back to you. Or contact
a WWP branch near you. □

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Trump inaugurates anti-migrant, anti-trans agenda

WORKERS WORLD editorial

Jan. 20 – A vicious, racist, misogynistic, xenophobic, transphobic, Islamophobic, antisemitic, fossil-fuel-loving, jingoistic bigot was sworn in as president of the United States.

What stood out the most in the new president's program was the attack on current and future immigrants. In what has been characterized as more of a State of the Union address than an inaugural one, President Donald Trump presented a list of executive orders he would issue immediately. The largest number – from sending federal troops to the border with Mexico to promises to deport millions of undocumented people to the reinstatement of the “Remain in Mexico” policy – were directed against an important sector of the global working class – the migrant community.

Trump's first speech of his second term stirred up the most vile stereotypes, portraying migrants as criminals whose presence constitutes an “invasion.”

Also in the list of executive orders to be implemented was a brazen attack on transgender and non-binary people, proclaiming the official U.S. government position to be recognition of “only two genders, males and females.” This order, along with a racist one ending “diversity, equality and inclusion” programs inside the federal government, have already been signed – on the Martin Luther King Day holiday, ironically, with Trump promising that King's dream would somehow be fulfilled by his reactionary program. In fact, it is intended to roll back the gains of the historic Civil Rights Movement!

The hate-monger Trump took his oath of office with his hand on – not one, but two – Bibles, his late mother's and the one President Abraham Lincoln purportedly used in his inauguration. References to the biblical god permeated the entire ceremony, from the invocation by Rev.



Mass protests pushed back against anti-migrant policies during the first Trump administration. Feb, 22, 2017, Los Angeles.

Franklin Graham (son of the late Cold War evangelist Billy Graham) to Trump's inauguration speech. Despite the token inclusion of a conservative, pro-Zionist rabbi in the benediction, the overall message had a right-wing Christian fundamentalist tone.

Both Franklin Graham and Trump himself, referring to the failed assassination attempt against him last year, claimed the president “was saved by God to make America great again.” (CBS News broadcast, Jan. 20)

“America First” – also the name of an outright fascist group active in the U.S. in the 1930s – was a running thread in the address. President number 47 repeated his pledges to take back the Panama Canal, rename the Gulf of Mexico the “Gulf of America,” restore the name “Mount McKinley” to the renamed Mount Denali in Alaska and impose tariffs on all goods imported from other countries.

Patriotism was invoked, under the banner of “Drill, baby drill,” to justify new anti-climate measures. They include ending the “Green New Deal” – which was never really put in place to begin with – and reversing outgoing President Joe Biden's mandate to build electric vehicles.

All in all, beyond all the chauvinistic drivel, Trump presented a pretty scary program. But declaring intentions is one thing. To carry them out Trump will come up against the resistance of millions

of immigrants, LGBTQIA2S+ people, women, people of color, anti-war and youth and student activists and any workers who believe in solidarity against this reactionary program.

Millions of people worldwide have been inspired by the heroic resistance of the Palestinian people, who wrested a cease-fire agreement and prisoner release from the Zionist apartheid state and its powerful imperialist backers. Out of this inspiration arose international solidarity that will only grow stronger.

As the saying goes, “When we fight, we win!” □

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Biden attempts to whitewash his disgraced legacy

By Hugo East

The administration of President Joseph R. Biden in its waning days had the lowest approval rating of any outgoing president since Jimmy Carter. The U.S.-Israeli genocide in Gaza and several other disastrous policies put a stain on the legacy of the outgoing administration that it dearly hopes to whitewash for the sake of posterity and perhaps ego.

As Biden's term comes to an end, he has attempted to accomplish this rehabilitation as so many bourgeois politicians have before him: by staging attention-grabbing political stunts that contradict the conservative and genocidal policy priorities his administration demonstrated throughout his one and only term.

Between the launching of a deadly NATO war in Ukraine, the escalation of the U.S.-enabled genocide in Palestine, historic economic inflation, the increased precarity of the working class and the failed 2024 presidential campaign that he was forced to end, followed by the decisive loss to Donald Trump of his anointed successor, Kamala Harris, there is much to rehabilitate. The Democratic Party has shown it's an imperialist pro-war party and is unresponsive to the needs of the multinational working class right here.

Taking credit for a ceasefire that Biden never wanted

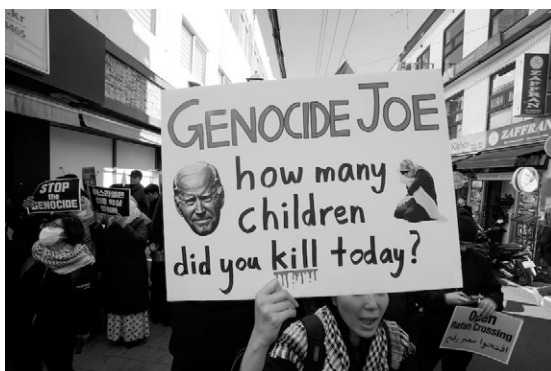
After 470 days of Israel's genocide of the Palestinian people, a ceasefire began on Jan. 19, the last full day of the Biden term. Though the outgoing president said in a Jan. 15 statement that the ceasefire is a result of "dogged and painstaking American diplomacy" and that his administration "never ceased in their efforts to get this done," that is a lie. President-elect Donald Trump, who did not yet control U.S. foreign policy, was able through political clout to pressure Israel into the deal. That victory was due to the steadfastness of the Palestinian resistance and their allies, who had worldwide support.

The Biden administration never had that political will. Their attempt now to take credit for a ceasefire they have ardently opposed is crass political cover for a legacy disgraced by its perpetration of genocide.

An empty gesture for the Cuban people

Biden removed Cuba from the list of state sponsors of terrorism on Jan. 14 in an executive act that was rescinded upon Trump's inauguration. Trump, after all, at the start of his first term, reversed President Barack Obama's attempts to normalize relations with Cuba, and Trump's attitude toward Cuba has not changed.

A 2015 Chicago Council poll found that 67% of Americans supported the United States ending the trade embargo with Cuba. The United Nations General Assembly voted again in October 2024 to end the blockade, 187 in favor, two against (Israel and



the U.S.). By appearing to support the overwhelmingly popular cause of the Cuban people at a time when there will be no political consequences, Biden hopes to soften his indelible image as an enthusiastic caretaker of U.S. imperialism.

A hollow apology to Indigenous victims of genocide

Two weeks before the election, in October 2024, President Biden formally apologized for the federal government's role in running boarding schools in the

U.S. where thousands of Indigenous children endured abuse, neglect and eradication of their tribal identities, calling it "a blot on American history."

This apology does nothing to assuage the devastation and genocide of Indigenous people, in light of the U.S.'s continued pursuit of substantially similar policies in its colonies, against other people of color and incarcerated people in the U.S. and against migrants (to name a few).

A concrete step Biden should have taken as soon as he took office, and one with real meaning, would have been to pardon ailing Indigenous 80-year-old political prisoner Leonard Peltier. Instead Biden waited until his last day in office to commute Peltier's sentence to compassionate release, forcing him to now live under home confinement.

Honoring the victims of U.S. oppression

On Jan. 2 Biden awarded the Presidential Citizens Medal to 20 U.S. citizens who "have performed exemplary deeds of service for their country or their fellow citizens." Among the awardees was Mitsuye Endo Tsutsumi, who was incarcerated in a United States concentration camp for Japanese Americans during World War II. She filed a habeas corpus petition to the Supreme Court that led to the release of thousands of her fellow detainees as well as herself.

The award is another example of an attempt to sanitize the legacy of the United States' attitude of contempt toward oppressed and marginalized populations. Official U.S. domestic and foreign policy has always been to oppress whoever suits U.S. actors as much as possible within the bounds of "respectable" liberal politics and only to relent when those who resist this oppression force its hand. Tsutsumi was one such resister, and Joe Biden redoubled U.S. hypocrisy by honoring her while the government continues to treat others in her position the same way it treated her. □

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Strengthen solidarity with Palestine!

WORKERS WORLD ★

editorial

Resistance in Palestine and West Asia has mobilized an important movement in the U.S. and other NATO countries for over 15 months to demand the genocide in Gaza stop. A ceasefire has finally been achieved. This movement must ask itself the following question: What do we do now to contribute to liberation for Palestine?

Despite the avalanche of pro-imperialist propaganda from the Israeli and Western corporate media, hundreds of millions of people around the world have been propelled into action to oppose the horrible, genocidal war against Gaza. Millions have learned that Israel is an extension of world imperialism. The people know now, if they didn't already, that the U.S., its NATO allies and Israel use military technology to murder civilians, including children; the imperialists and Israel destroy schools, homes, workplaces and hospitals.

And the people learned that despite this imperialist ruling class's ruthless cruelty and advanced weapons, it is possible to resist.

The first thing this movement should do is make sure no one forgets that lesson: **Resistance is possible.**

The second is to refuse to demobilize those anti-imperialist forces that have been in motion. Those who have been battling on the campuses and the streets denouncing the Israeli war crimes and the complicit role of U.S. and NATO imperialism, which have kept the Israel Occupation Forces armed with the bombs, rockets and ammunition for genocide, those forces must continue their solidarity with Palestine.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and General Yoav Gallant remain two Israeli war criminals facing charges at the International Criminal Court. The journalists who confronted the outgoing U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken at his



Palestinian women hostages released, Jan. 19, 2025.

final news conference set a good example. Blinken too is guilty of genocide. Those confronting the new cabinet nominees have it right. The new administration is no less dangerous to the people of the world.

We at Workers World are part of the movement that developed over the past 15 months, and we know this movement must continue with the same determination. The lessons of this period will feed and nourish the ongoing struggle that will be as necessary as it was from October 7, 2023, until now.

We must continue fighting for the just punishment of the Israeli genocidal regime and its NATO backers. Continue demanding to boycott, divest and sanction the crumbling Israeli economy, continue to fight to stop supplying Israel with weapons, and expand the fight to stop feeding the military budget of the U.S., its NATO allies, Australia and Japan. This last demand is an essential part of the struggle for the working class in all these countries.

We must continue to expose the lies of the Israelis and the imperialists. This starts by telling the truth about almost 77 years of land theft from the Palestinians, who the Zionist settlers expelled starting in 1948. It continues with exposing the lies about October 7, 2023, itself. Even some

Israeli media have admitted that hundreds of the casualties that day were caused by the Israeli forces following their "Hannibal Directive" that dictates they slaughter their own population rather than allowing them to be captured.

We must demand that the oppressive Israeli state free all the Palestinian hostages that they have seized, held in prison and, yes, tortured, and not only in the last 15 months.

Whatever course the ceasefire takes — and we have no confidence that Israel's Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu or President Donald Trump will adhere to the agreement — we must hold the imperialist warlords' feet to the fire and keep them from restarting the genocidal war.

Only while strengthening our commitment to Palestine can we develop the working-class struggle needed here in the center of world imperialism to confront the cabal of oligarchs now reigning in Washington and their imperialist opposition in the outgoing administration. We will continue to thank the Palestinians and their allies in West Asia for showing us how to be brave, resilient and steadfast under the most horrific conditions. □

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Palestinians win new ceasefire in Gaza

After 15 months of U.S.-funded, vicious destruction by the Israel Occupation Forces of every city, including every hospital, school, torching tent cities and over 64,000 official deaths in Gaza, the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, in consultation with representatives of the other Palestinian factions, on Jan. 15 announced that a ceasefire agreement with the Zionist state of Israel had been reached. According to the Qatari foreign ministry, the ceasefire is scheduled to take effect on Jan. 19.

While we are waiting for clarification on the full terms of the agreement, Workers World welcomes the news of an agreement that leaves the Palestinian Resistance undefeated. The heroic people of Gaza have forced the U.S.-backed Zionist regime to officially deal with Hamas, which remains intact.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, with massive shipments of arms from Washington, was committed to rooting out Hamas as the government of Gaza. Since Hamas was first elected to govern in 2006, the Zionists have refused to negotiate with this organization, even when deals were possible from the first days after October 7, 2023, and again during the initial prisoner exchange in November 2023.

Having illegally occupied greater Palestine since 1948, the Zionists wanted full control of Gaza and the expulsion of the population. Their military assaults, which resulted in mass deaths among Gaza's civilians, were absolutely intended to cause the depopulation of northern Gaza to move in Zionist settlers and expand the Israeli state.

Despite enormous hardship and even facing famine, the people of Gaza have refused to be expelled to the south. In resistance, in guerrilla



Palestinians celebrate ceasefire in Gaza.

warfare, to survive as an organization is to live to fight another day. We salute this enormous political, organizational and military accomplishment, paid at a high price.

At the same time, Israel and U.S. imperialism are hated globally, on a scale not seen before. Tens of thousands of Zionist settlers have left Israel, where thousands of businesses have closed.

A growing number of Israeli soldiers are speaking out against the 15-month genocide and refusing to serve anymore, saying that what they witnessed and did in Gaza crossed ethical lines. Two hundred Israeli soldiers signed a letter saying they would stop fighting if the government does not secure a ceasefire. Soldiers for the Hostages, the group behind the letter, distributed poster-size stickers with a Martin Luther King Jr. quote: "One has a moral responsibility to disobey unjust laws."

Zionism has failed to achieve its aims and the resistance has survived.

This latest ceasefire, no matter how short-term or long-term, reflects that Israel is not invincible and that its days of existence are numbered.

The movement in the United States in solidarity with Palestine must stay alert to prevent new war crimes and genocide from U.S. imperialism and from its ally in the West Asian region, the Zionist state.

From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free! □

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DECLARACIÓN DE MOWWW

Los palestinos logran un nuevo alto el fuego en Gaza

Tras 15 meses de destrucción despiadada, financiada por Estados Unidos, por parte de las Fuerzas de Ocupación de Israel de todas las ciudades, incluidos todos los hospitales, escuelas, incendiando tiendas de campaña y más de 64.000 muertes oficiales en Gaza, el Movimiento de Resistencia Islámica Hamás, en consulta con representantes de las demás facciones palestinas, anunció el 15 de enero que se había alcanzado un



Los palestinos celebran el alto el fuego en Khan Younis, sur de Gaza, 15 de enero de 2025.

acuerdo de alto el fuego con el Estado sionista de Israel. Según el Ministerio de Asuntos Exteriores qatari, está previsto que el alto el fuego entre en vigor el 19 de enero.

Mientras esperamos que se aclaren los términos completos del acuerdo, Mundo Obrero acoge con satisfacción la noticia de un acuerdo que deja invicta a la Resistencia palestina. El heroico pueblo de Gaza ha obligado al régimen sionista respaldado por Estados Unidos a pactar oficialmente con Hamás, que permanece intacto.

El primer ministro israelí, Benjamin Netanyahu, con envíos masivos de armas desde Washington, se había comprometido a desarraigarse a Hamás como gobierno de Gaza. Desde que Hamás fue elegida para gobernar por primera vez en 2006, los sionistas se han negado a negociar con esta organización, incluso cuando los tratos eran posibles desde los primeros días después del 7 de octubre de 2023, y de nuevo durante el intercambio inicial de prisioneros en noviembre de 2023.

Tras haber ocupado ilegalmente la Gran Palestina desde 1948, los

sionistas querían el control total de Gaza y la expulsión de la población. Sus asaltos militares, que provocaron muertes masivas entre la población civil de Gaza, tenían como objetivo absoluto provocar la despoblación del norte de Gaza para trasladar a los colonos sionistas y ampliar el Estado israelí.

A pesar de las enormes dificultades e incluso de enfrentarse a la hambruna, la población de Gaza se ha negado a ser expulsada al sur. En la resistencia, en la guerra de guerrillas, sobrevivir como organización es vivir para luchar otro día. Saludamos este enorme logro político, organizativo y militar, pagado a un alto precio.

Al mismo tiempo, Israel y el imperialismo estadounidense son odiados en todo el mundo, a una escala nunca vista. Decenas de miles de colonos sionistas han abandonado Israel, donde miles de empresas han cerrado.

Un número creciente de soldados israelíes se están pronunciando en contra del genocidio de 15 meses y se niegan a seguir sirviendo, diciendo que lo que presenciaron e hicieron

en Gaza cruzó las líneas éticas. Doscientos soldados israelíes firmaron una carta diciendo que dejarían de luchar si el gobierno no consigue un alto el fuego. Soldados por los Rehenes, el grupo detrás de la carta, distribuyó pegatinas tamaño póster con una cita de Martin Luther King Jr: «Uno tiene la responsabilidad moral de desobedecer las leyes injustas».

El sionismo no ha logrado sus objetivos y la resistencia ha sobrevivido.

Este último alto el fuego, sea a corto o largo plazo, refleja que Israel no es invencible y que sus días de existencia están contados.

El movimiento de solidaridad con Palestina en Estados Unidos debe permanecer alerta para impedir nuevos crímenes de guerra y genocidios por parte del imperialismo estadounidense y de su aliado en la región de Asia Occidental, el Estado sionista.

Del río al mar, ¡Palestina será libre! □

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