

**COLOMBIA, el infierno que Estados Unidos soñó para Venezuela y Cuba
CUBA: El gobierno denuncia apoyo de EEUU a crímenes de Israel en Gaza**

Struggle-La-Lucha.org

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Support Resistance to Israeli terror Palestine's blood on U.S. hands



Los Angeles, May 11.

SLL PHOTO



New York City, May 11. For more on protests see page 8

SLL PHOTO: BILL DORES

By Lev Koufax and Bill Dores

Across the land of Palestine, people are rising up against decades of oppression and occupation. The racist Israeli state is answering them with mass murder and terror.

In the giant prison called Gaza, Israeli troops are raining white phosphorous, dense inert-metal explosives and other U.S.-made weapons on crowded refugee camps. They have wiped out whole families, destroyed entire apartment blocks and made tens of thousands homeless.

An airstrike on the Shati refugee camp killed a family of 10, including 8 children. As of Saturday morning, May 15, at least 39 children are among Gaza's 139 dead. Their "crime": being born Palestinian in the land of Palestine.

On May 14, Israeli troops in the occupied West Bank murdered 11 protesters with live ammunition. Hundreds more have been wounded. Israeli troops also gunned down protesters at Palestine's borders with Jordan and Lebanon.

In Jerusalem, 28 Palestinian families were forced from their homes in Sheikh Jarrah, following an Israeli police assault on tens of thousands of people praying at the Al-Aqsa mosque. Inside Israel's 1948 borders, Palestinian communities are on lockdown. Racist gangs roam the streets shouting "Death to Arabs!"

Israeli war machine made in USA

Washington is not ignoring the carnage Israel is inflicting on the people of Palestine. It is an active participant.

The missiles that kill children in Gaza are made in the USA! They are fired from U.S.-made F-35s and F-16s. The pilots that fly them are trained in the U.S. and paid by the U.S.

Artillery shells Israeli occupation forces fire at Gaza come from U.S. military stockpiles. The tear gas, sound grenades and rubber bullets fired at protesters in Jerusalem are also made here. They are all provided to the Israeli occupation forces for free.

While President Joe Biden calls hypocritically for "deescalation," the U.S. has blocked the U.N. Security Council from meeting to discuss the on-going massacre.

The blood of Palestine's children is on Biden's hands, and Donald Trump's. It's on the hands of every politician, Republican or Democrat, who votes for an endless flow of arms to the racist Israeli state.

Last May, while COVID-19 ravaged the world and millions were losing their jobs, the U.S. Congress approved a new \$38-billion arms package for the racist Israeli state. This robbery has been going on for decades.

Palestinian blood is on the hands of governors and mayors who invest public funds in Israel Bonds, guaranteed against loss by the U.S. Treasury.

Palestine's blood is on the hands of the Pentagon brass, who routinely refer to the settler state in Palestine as a their "unsinkable aircraft carrier," a phrase repeated by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and other Zionist leaders. They see Israel as an "asset" in their endless war to control the world's energy reserves and keep

the region's petrodollars flowing to U.S. banks and corporations.

Israel is the Pentagon's forward base to attack Iraq, Syria, Yemen, Iran and any other countries in West Asia and North Africa that don't pay tribute to Wall Street.

Wall Street profits off Palestinian blood

Palestine's blood is on the hands of Wall Street bankers and corporate CEOs.

By February, Israel's military had already spent the \$38 billion Congress gave it last spring. Citigroup, the fourth largest U.S. bank, loaned the occupation state \$3 billion to buy more weapons until the next U.S. aid package.

Energy giant Chevron steals natural gas from the waters off occupied Palestine under the protection of Israel's U.S.-paid navy. The corporation plans to bring Arabian oil to Europe through Israel's Eilat to Ashkelon Pipeline (now damaged by Gaza's homemade rockets). ExxonMobil also explores for gas in Palestine's waters.

And for Lockheed Martin, General Dynamics and the rest of the U.S. military-industrial complex, the war machine called Israel is a gift that keeps on giving. Their CEOs and big stockholders gloat when bombs and missiles fall on Gaza. They

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FIGHT for unemployment BENEFITS!

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Brooklyn, N.Y., May 8.

SLL PHOTO: STEPHEN MILLIES

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Killing workers for profit: Why Workers' Memorial Day is necessary

By Stephen Millies

Starting in 1930, Union Carbide hired 5,000 people to build the Hawks Nest Tunnel in West Virginia. It became a deathtrap for the workers, most of whom were Black.

Cutting through three miles of sandstone, at least 764 workers died from the silica dust that tore through their lungs like pieces of glass. The death toll may have reached 2,000.

No safety measures were taken. Workers were covered with the deadly silica dust. Black employees who were ill were forced to go to work at gunpoint.

After being promised high wages, employees worked between 10 and 15 hours a day for 25 cents an hour.

Because of segregated cemeteries, many of the Black victims were buried on a farm. Others were buried in an old slave cemetery or alongside roads.

Fifty years later, 15,000 people were killed on Dec. 2, 1984, when a Union Carbide pesticide plant exploded in Bhopal, India. At least 30 tons of toxins were released that created an open-air gas chamber.

None of these crimes prevented Union Carbide, now owned by Dow Chemical, from raking in over \$1 billion in profits in 2018.

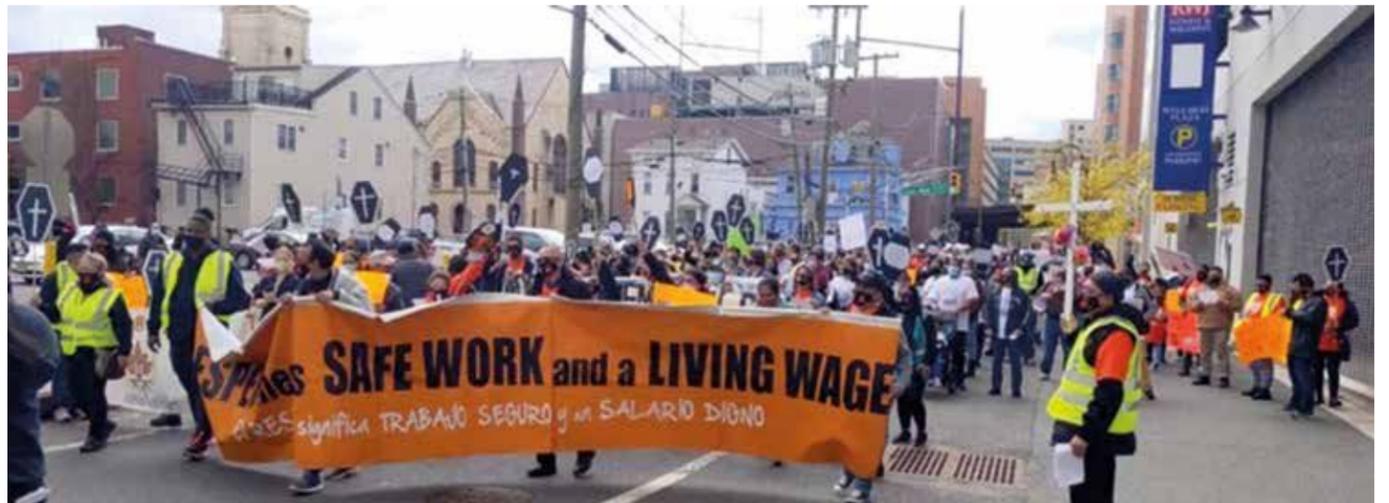
It's only the class struggle of poor and working people that forced corporations to adopt any safety measures. Typical was an early rule book of the Pennsylvania Railroad, most of whose tracks are now owned by the Norfolk Southern.

It told employees that if they got injured or killed, it was their problem, not the company's. In 1909, one out of every 210 railroad brakemen in the United States were killed on the job. ("The Economic History of the United States" by Ernest Bogart.)

The response of the Interstate Commerce Commission was to stop collecting such statistics. It wasn't until 1911 that the first workers' compensation law in the U.S. was passed in Wisconsin.

Despite these laws, workers continue to be killed and maimed on the job. In U.S. coal mines alone, 100,000 miners were killed during the 20th century.

The billion-dollar art collection of mine owner Henry Clay Frick — whose paintings are displayed in his former mansion on Manhattan's Up-



Hundreds joined the 2021 Workers' Memorial Day march held in New Brunswick, N.J., on April 25. Some carried coffin-shaped signs with the names of workers who lost their lives in the past year.

per East Side — is covered in blood.

The AFL-CIO commemorates Workers' Memorial Day every year on April 28. This was the date the Occupational Safety and Health Administration was born in 1971.

OSHA was won by struggle

The president who signed the OSHA bill — Richard "Watergate" Nixon — was no friend of working people anywhere. He and his fellow war criminal Henry Kissinger killed millions in Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia. Children were burned alive there by napalm, much of it made by Dow Chemical.

Nixon and then-California Gov. Ronald Reagan tried to break the grape boycott called by the United Farm Workers Union led by Cesar Chavez.

But the U.S. labor movement was much stronger then. Driving it forward were hundreds of thousands of Black workers concentrated in the big plants in Detroit and dozens of other cities.

Capitalists counterattacked. Malcolm Wallop's successful 1976 U.S. Senate campaign in Wyoming featured a TV ad attacking OSHA for mandating bathroom facilities on farms and ranches.

Wallop thought it was a joke that farm workers be provided with sanitary bathrooms and some dignity. Homeless people needing bathrooms aren't given any dignity by capitalism.

New Jersey Senator Harrison Williams, who co-sponsored the OSHA act, was sent to prison. He was framed during the FBI's ABSCAM investigation that was named after the

racist term "Arab scam."

According to Tip O'Neill, who was then speaker of the House of Representatives, the FBI also tried to ensnare him and Senator Ted Kennedy.

Deindustrialization — closing thousands of factories — weakened the working class. General Motors shut down nine of its 10 plants in Flint, Mich. That set the stage for the state government to poison the city's children with lead in their drinking water.

Global capitalism kills more workers. One-hundred-forty-six workers were killed in the 1911 Triangle Shirtwaist fire in New York City.

Eight times as many people were killed in the 2013 collapse of Rana Plaza, housing five garment sweatshops in Dhaka, Bangladesh. At least 1,132 workers were killed there, with over 2,500 workers injured.

Safety is a human right

In Britain, where the Industrial Revolution was born, the struggle for safety went hand-in-hand with reducing the work day of 12 hours or longer.

Frederick Engels — Karl Marx's co-worker in developing scientific socialism or communism — heard factory owners in Manchester "joke" about workers losing their fingers from accidents.

Even some wealthy individuals were appalled by the number of workers killed on the job. Sir Humphry Davy helped invent a safety lamp for coal miners.

Yet the new lamp actually led to more deaths. Mine owners used it to drive miners even deeper into the earth.

It was the decades-long struggle of workers that forced parliament to pass the "factory acts." These laws reduced the working hours in cotton textile mills and other industries.

But there were no safety laws for the enslaved Africans who picked the cotton. They worked from "no see" in the morning to "no see" at night.

James Watt's first steam engine was financed by slave owners, according to "Capitalism and Slavery" by Eric Williams. Justice demands reparations for these crimes.

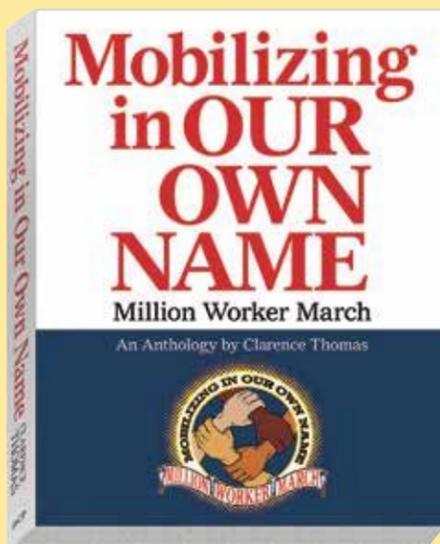
A small number of safety inspectors, led by Leonard Horner, enforced the factory acts. Horner was described by Marx as having "rendered undying service to the English working class."

British bosses kept the number of inspectors to a minimum. That's also how U.S. capitalists curbed OSHA.

According to Debbie Berkowitz, a former OSHA advisor who is now with the National Employment Law Project, it would take 160 years for OSHA to inspect every workplace. The same political windbags in Congress that attack defunding the police have defunded OSHA for 50 years.

Thousands of essential workers died from COVID-19 because of a lack of safety protection. Employees at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York City were given Hefty bags as personal protective equipment. Meat-packing workers were placed two feet from each other.

The fight for safety at work is a struggle against the same capitalist class whose cops kill 1,100 people annually in the U.S. We have to organize to stop the murders on the job and by the police. [📌](#)



Finally, a long-awaited anthology on the Million Worker March, what it took to build the movement and where to take it.

**HOT OFF
THE PRESS**

Clarence Thomas' anthology is about radical African American dock workers from one of the most militant labor organizations in the world, the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 10. This union local initiated the Million Worker March (MWM) on Oct. 17, 2004, at the Lincoln Memorial to fight for economic and social justice, for the working class, African Americans, and the oppressed. In doing so it defied the Democratic Party and the AFL-CIO.

The MWM called for an independent mobilization of working people, organized and unorganized, immigrant rights groups, anti-war activists, community organizations, social movements, youth, and trade unions from around the world with a workers' agenda to address the unrestrained class warfare by the captains of capital.

This anthology includes many of the historic, bold and courageous actions initiated as part of the Million Worker March Movement. It captures rank-and-file militant struggles. Written by activists as those events were happening. This anthology includes news articles, photos, posters, leaflets, and video transcripts.

Book is 8"x10," 354 pages, full color throughout; more than 650 photos and graphics, indexed.

rebrand.ly/MobilizingInOurOwnName

Atlanta killer cop reinstated: This rotten system has no shame!

By Lizz Toledo

Less than a year after the murder of Rayshard Brooks and the glorious summer of rebellion here in Atlanta and across the country, killer cop Garrett Rolfe has been reinstated by the Atlanta Civil Service Board. Rolfe shot and killed Brooks, a Black man, in a Wendy's parking lot on June 12, 2020.

"The Board concludes the Appellant was not afforded his right to due process," states the decision. That same board reinstated Atlanta investigators Ivory Streeter and Mark Gardner, who were fired over the tasing of college students Taniyah Pilgrim and Messiah Young during protests last summer.

This rotten system has no shame! What due process was Rayshard Brooks afforded when he was shot in the back? What consideration was he given when the police stomped on him as he lay dying on the pavement?

Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms said of Rolfe's firing: "Given the volatile state of our city and nation last summer, the decision to terminate this officer, after he fatally shot Mr. Brooks in the back, was the right thing to do. Had immediate action not been taken, I firmly believe that the public safety crisis we experienced during that time would have been significantly worse."

This shows that there's no power like the power of the people. We forced them to fire that killer cop.

But after receiving push-back



from this racist system, the mayor ordered the destruction of the Rayshard Brooks Memorial in return for a speaking role at the Democratic National Convention. And after all hopes were dashed to erect a Rayshard Brooks Peace Center in place of the burned-down Wendys where he was killed, the community suffered from demoralization.

The conviction of Derek Chauvin,

the killer of George Floyd, is another example of the power of the people. But we can't count on any bourgeois politicians — they will sell us out every time.

We must continue to fight back. Rolfe still faces murder and many other charges in the killing of Brooks. On the evening of May 5, an immediate protest took place outside City Hall in response to the At-

lanta Civil Service Board's decision. The group held signs and photos of Brooks, demanding justice for him and other Black and Brown people killed by police.

It's interesting that the same week this killer was reinstated to his position in the Atlanta Police Department, Mayor Lance Bottoms announced she will not run for re-election. [📌](#)

San Diego solidarity with Mumia Abu-Jamal

By Gloria Verdieu

San Diego joined the national call to action from the International Concerned Family & Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal on April 24 — the imprisoned freedom fighter's 67th birthday. Supporters gathered in front of the Malcolm X Library and Performing Arts Center and at the World Beat Cultural Center in Balboa Park.

At both gatherings, supporters held up "Free Mumia" banners, chanted revolutionary birthday greetings to Mumia, and took photos to post and share on social media showing support for the demand to release Abu-Jamal and all political prisoners immediately.

At the Malcolm X Library gathering, supporters signed a birthday card with messages of gratitude to

Mumia. Dawn from the Association of Raza Educators wrote: "Mumia, sending so much revolutionary love and good energy. May you heal soon and BE FREE soon. Much love and respect."

Sylvia of Friends of the Malcolm X Library wrote: "Mumia, know we are with you in spirit and we will keep fighting. Stay strong!" Adriana of American Friends Service Committee wrote: "Dear brother, my love and honor goes your way. Your love and struggle lives on!"

The Socialist Unity Party and Struggle-La Lucha newspaper, All of Us Or None, African People's Socialist Party, International People's Democratic Uhuru Movement (InP-DUM), Party for Socialism and Liberation and the Coalition to Free Mumia and All Political Prisoners



were some of the groups that showed up for Mumia and all prisoners.

As activists coast-to-coast chanted on April 24: "Brick by brick, wall by wall, free Mumia, free them all!" [📌](#)



Birthday card for Mumia. [📌](#)

SLL PHOTOS



SLL PHOTO: MAGGIE VASCASSENNO

A celebration of Mumia in South Central LA

By John Parker

On April 24, in celebration of Mumia Abu-Jamal's birthday and in solidarity with the national call to save his life from the murderous attempt to kill

him through medical neglect, the Los Angeles Branch of the Socialist Unity Party set up a table and did petitioning for his immediate release from prison at the historic Leimert Park Village in South Central LA.

After an hour of talking to folks and collecting signatures, a musician came by, signed the petition, then

stood next to a large canvas picture of Mumia that was being held up and began playing the song "Happy Birthday" to honor Mumia. It didn't take long for children playing jump rope to come by and start dancing — creating a beautiful and fitting tribute to Mumia's lifelong dedication to build a future for them to thrive in. [📌](#)



SLL PHOTO: ANDRE POWELL

Unemployed workers demand their rights

By Andre Powell

May 7 — Baltimore activists held a news conference to announce a campaign to win justice for unemployed workers who have not received their benefits.

Several workers discussed their hardships and interactions with the Maryland Department of Labor's Division of Unemployment Insurance. A union representative spoke for the workers inside the department.

Thousands have yet to receive their benefits due under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act and face evictions, fore-

closures, car repossessions and more.

The group announced an unemployed workers' speak-out and picket line. The event will be held on Saturday, May 22, 2 p.m. at 1100 N. Eutaw St., Baltimore. Unemployed workers, friends, family and supporters are encouraged to come out and participate.

The state government is violating the CARES Act. Our benefits belong to us! Bills are due now — it's life and death for us! We say: Service now — no more games, pay up! Unemployment benefits are a right!

Watch the news conference here: youtu.be/5qJIoBwRK74

Don't let them evict us!

By Stephen Millies

Federal Judge Dabney Friedrich threw out the federal ban on evictions May 5. The Trump-appointed judge claims the Centers for Disease Control had no authority to impose the moratorium under the Public Health Service Act of 1944.

The coronavirus has already killed 3 million people worldwide, including 580,000 in the United States. What's more important to public health than stopping millions of families from being thrown on the street during this pandemic?

For the capitalist class and its judges, profits always come before human lives. Children being kicked out of their homes mean nothing to the Alabama Association of Realtors and real estate agents in Georgia that filed the suit against the eviction ban.

Behind these brokers and even the biggest landlords are the banksters who own the mortgages. The big banks can lend billions to build luxury housing while almost no afford-

able housing is being built.

It's the real estate industry and financial institutions that enforced Jim Crow housing segregation. Real estate profiteers led bombing campaigns in Chicago to drive Black homeowners out of white neighborhoods.

Between 1978 and 1983, 55 people were killed in fires in Hoboken, N.J., in order to drive out poor people. Half of the Latinx community was driven out of the city.

Now these criminals want to drive millions of people out of their homes with the blessing of a federal judge.

Evictions can be stopped

Tenants' groups coast to coast, like the Crown Heights Tenant Union in Brooklyn, N.Y., have been organizing 24/7 to stop evictions. They need support from the labor movement and all progressive people.

During the Great Depression of the 1930s, the Unemployed Councils in cities like Chicago stopped evictions. People surrounded sheriffs conducting evictions. Furniture that



PHOTO: CROWN HEIGHTS TENANT UNION

Tenants' groups are organizing 24/7 to stop evictions.

was dumped on the street by cops was put back into people's homes.

Because of struggle, laws were enacted that protected millions of renters, homeowners and small farmers. We can do it again!

One of the first acts of the Cuban Revolution was to limit both rent and utility bills to no more than 10 percent of a family's income. While

over 22,000 children are homeless in New York City, the capital of capitalism, not a single child is homeless in socialist Havana.

We need what Cuba has. Housing is a right: fight, fight, fight! A fight-back by millions can stop the wave of evictions that the slumlords and banksters are plotting to carry out.



Community groups file injunction to stop Kroger store closings

By Struggle-La Lucha
Los Angeles bureau

May 5 — Today community and social-justice organizations held a news conference announcing the filing of an injunction to stop the closing of Kroger-owned grocery stores in Los Angeles County. The coalition is first trying to stop the closure of the Ralphs in South Central on Crenshaw and Slauson.

The Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Southern California is the plaintiff in the filed complaint.

"Kroger, the largest grocery chain in the U.S., made \$2.8 billion in profit during the pandemic off the labor of workers who risked exposure to COVID-19. Many got sick. But because they were forced to pay a temporary increase of \$5 per hour to their essential workers,

the corporate giant decided to abandon them and communities already suffering from a lack of quality grocery stores," explained John Parker of the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice.

"We are demanding that the courts and politicians finally take this assault on the workers and community by Kroger seriously," Parker said. "Black and Brown communities already suffer from food deserts and these closings have a disproportionately negative effect on them.

"We're not having it," said Parker. "The community will do whatever is necessary to fight the reckless and irresponsible acts of a giant whose profits and existence



PHOTO: JOHN HAAS

come from the workers' labor and community's support. That store has already been bought and paid for time and again by such support,

and therefore rightfully belongs to the community and the workers.

"Whose store? Our store!" he concluded.

The boom isn't happening: Jobs report shows unemployment worsening

By Gary Wilson

No matter how you look at it, the Labor Department's April jobs report is miserable — unless you're on Wall Street. The stock market hit record highs after the report was released. Business Insider reported, "Why the horrid April jobs report was actually great news for stocks."

There were only 266,000 new jobs available in April across the whole United States, the government reported May 7, not the million or so that capitalist cheerleaders had forecast. The Labor Department's official unemployment rate is now 6.1%. The Ludwig Institute for Shared Economic Prosperity says the true rate in March was 24.7%.

Joblessness remains rampant. The Labor Department says that the number of people working is still down 8.2 million from what it was before the pandemic in February 2020. Right now more than 16 million workers are collecting jobless aid — a number that's far higher than the roughly 2 million a year ago, before the pandemic.

Even if you accept the nervous claims that April was an aberration (see for example John Cassidy's New Yorker article "Don't Panic Over One Weaker-Than-Expected Jobs Report"), job growth has averaged only 524,000 a month for the last three months.

Women have taken the brunt

The jobs report shows that even more women have dropped out of the labor force, primarily because schools continue to be closed and there is no childcare available.

The report showed a bleak outlook for women, who have taken a disproportionate hit from the pandemic's economic devastation. According to the National Women's Law Center (NWLC), 165,000 women who are at least 20 years old dropped out of the labor force from March to April.

"If you added all of the women who've dropped out of the labor force since February 2020, the unemployment rate for women would be 8.1%," Jasmine Tucker, the director of research at the NWLC, said.

Unemployment is much higher than pre-pandemic levels for Black and Latina women. The NWLC estimates that it'll take women 28 months to reach their pre-pandemic employment levels. That'd be the summer of 2023.

What's required is accessible and affordable childcare. Lack of childcare is hampering people's ability to get back to work.

Many of the new jobs available pay the minimum wage, with no benefits. Often the jobs available are only part-time with no benefits.

Black workers' wages decline

Wages for Black workers declined in the first quarter of 2021, growing the wage gap to its highest level since before the pandemic, according to a report by the Ludwig Institute for Shared Economic Prosperity. Black workers saw their real earnings decrease by 1.4% since the

fourth quarter of 2020, and a decline of 3.5% since the beginning of the pandemic.

Black workers are now earning 70 percent as much as their white counterparts, the largest wage gap since the pandemic began and six percentage points higher than at the turn of the century, according to LI-SEP.

Soon after the Labor Department released its April jobs report, the U.S. Chamber of Congress blamed the weak employment growth on the existence of a \$300 weekly supplemental jobless benefit and began urging lawmakers to eliminate the federally enhanced unemployment payments that were extended through early September.

If \$300 a week is preventing employers from hiring low-wage workers, the answer is to raise wages and pay benefits, and make the jobs safe.

That seems obvious. And some economists say that the federal enhanced unemployment payments along with the other stimulus payments in the CARES Act are the reason for record wealth growth in the billionaire class. The richest 500 people on the planet added \$1.8 trillion to their combined wealth in 2020, accumulating a total net worth of \$7.6 trillion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

Walmart and Target reported record sales. Amazon tripled its profits.

Why not raise wages?

So it might seem like the capitalist class would favor the stimulus and extended unemployment benefits. And they've gotten so much richer. So why not raise wages?

From the standpoint of the capitalist, the mass unemployment created by the COVID-19 pandemic provided a unique opportunity for employers to lower wages and increase the rate of surplus value, which they call profit.

Workers are resisting the wage cuts — the low wage jobs now being offered. At the most basic level, workers are generally opposed to returning to work until they are fully vaccinated and their children can be safely back in school and daycare full time.

A Pew Research Center survey this year found that 66% of the unemployed had "seriously considered" changing their field of work, a far greater percentage than during the Great Recession. People who used to work in restaurants or hotels are finding better paying jobs in warehouses or as delivery drivers, for example. Or they want a job that is more stable and less likely to be exposed to the coronavirus.

Consider that grocery stores laid off over 49,000 workers in April and nursing care facilities tossed out nearly 20,000. Kroger has been closing stores to avoid local laws mandating "hero pay" of \$5-an-hour for workers in the essential grocery stores who face hazardous exposure while on the job.

"The problem is we are not making enough money to make it worth it to go back to these jobs that are diffi-



cult and dirty and usually thankless. You're getting yelled at and disrespected all day. It's hell," Sara Wojtala, who is 31, told the Washington Post. She added that with two young kids, finding child care has also been a huge issue lately.

"Cooks, who are overwhelmingly Latino, made up the highest excess mortality rate of any profession last year — and people wonder why workers would think twice before returning to these jobs?" Assemblywoman Lorena Gonzalez told the San Diego Union-Tribune.

It's no mystery

There is really no mystery to this. Good wages, full benefits, safe workplaces and respect — all that would add up to ending the near-depression level unemployment crisis.

The capitalist politicians, Republicans and Democrats, talk of getting the economy moving again. Starting the economy moving should be fairly easy. Calling people back to their jobs is easy. Offer a living wage with full benefits, at minimum.

So why is there a problem? The problem is that the bosses are not interested in starting just any economy. They are interested only in starting the capitalist economy. And there is the block.

"The real barrier to capitalist production," says Karl Marx, "is capital itself." Capital means production for profit and not for use. Lowering wages and cutting benefits maximizes profit.

It would be easy to get the economy moving, to get everyone back to work, if the economy were transformed into a system of production for use. The existing framework is fully capable of starting up and engaging everyone in useful productive labor.

The block, however, is production for profit, not for use. That's the ultimate problem. 📍

Unemployment benefits owed to every worker

The New York Times has called the Biden presidency "an echo of Franklin Roosevelt." Today, support for labor unions is broader and more widespread than at any time in the last five decades, including support from Trump Republicans.

So some may have been surprised when, after the April jobs report showed unemployment is rising, Biden responded that he's going to cut down on unemployment benefits, repeating the claims of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce that joblessness is increasing because of unemployment benefits.

"Anyone collecting unemployment who is offered a suitable job must take the job," Biden said. That's what happens with prisoners — forced to take any job offered — but shouldn't happen in a free labor market.

Unemployment benefits are owed to every worker. The benefits come out of unpaid wages. The unemployment insurance program is financed through a tax that is taken indirectly from workers' wages. Every cent that the unemployed collect is owed to the workers.

Unemployment is rising because of capitalist economic instability, not because any worker might pass on taking the low-wage, no-benefits jobs being offered.

— Gary Wilson

BALTIMORE MAY DAY

Bust racism, not unions!

By Sharon Black and Ian Schlakman

On May Day, the Peoples Power Assembly held a two-mile march and car caravan that ended at Baltimore City Hall, where participants held a United Workers' Assembly. Workers spoke on many of the major issues facing the working class and resolved to take action.

Joyce Butler of the PPA co-chaired the assembly with Sharon Black. Butler introduced Rev. Annie Chambers, who proclaimed the history of May Day as our history and called for a real minimum wage of \$25.

Steven Ceci spoke on behalf of unemployed workers, explaining that a huge number of workers are not receiving their benefits. Ceci is a former hospitality worker and Amazon warehouse worker. The assembly plans to hold a press conference on Friday, May 7, to demand that people receive their unemployment benefits and will be holding protests in the near future.

Lars Bertling, Game Workers Unite representative, declared the need to fight against capitalism and for socialism.

Prisoners are workers too! Alec Summerfield and Marilyn Barnes, mother of Marlyn Barnes, who died under suspicious circumstances at Harford County Jail, gave powerful presentations. They represented the Prisoners Solidarity Committee and the Peoples Power Assembly.

Following a presentation by American Federation of Government Employees representative Andrew Concon, the assembly voted to support the Protect the Right to Organize Act (PRO Act), a bill in Congress to defend the rights of workers organizing for union representation. They also called for President Joe Biden to immediately issue an executive order protecting union rights in the wake of Amazon's theft of the election in Bessemer, Ala.

Russ Mack highlighted the connection between racism, police ter-



ror and the workers' struggle, calling on participants to "Say their names" to highlight the rash of police killings that took place during and after the trial of Derek Chauvin.

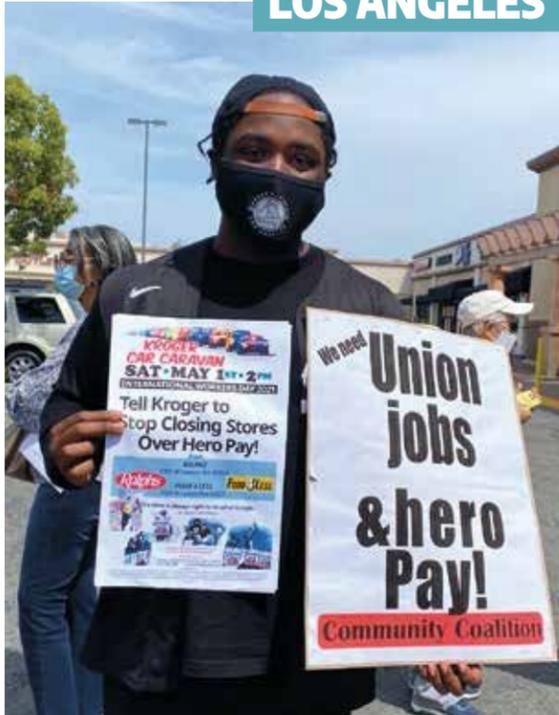
Abby Sea from Bmore 4 Border Justice highlighted the importance of supporting im/migrant rights.

The Assembly heard a special message from a Baltimore Amazon worker and an exciting message from the Los Angeles struggle to defend "hero pay" for essential workers and stop Kroger's store closings by John Parker of the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice.



SLL PHOTOS: ANDRE POWELL

LOS ANGELES



SLL PHOTO: SCOTT SCHEFFER

May Day caravan vs. Kroger

By John Parker

On May 1, Los Angeles community organizations, civil rights and church organizations, and unions mobilized for a third unified demonstration — this time a car caravan. The coalition demanded the end to Kroger's planned grocery store closures.

The coalition was formed after Kroger, the largest grocery chain in the country, announced the closing of five stores in Los Angeles County. The stores — Ralphs and Food 4 Less — are owned by Kroger.

Kroger cried poverty in response to being forced to pay an extra \$5 per hour in wages for just 120 days to compensate essential workers during the pandemic. Yet Kroger made \$2.8 billion in profits during the pandemic alone, through the labor of workers risking their lives.

Kroger's plan is an assault on its workers and the communities that depend on them, especially Black and Brown communities that already suffer from a lack of affordable, healthy and quality food. It threatens to create more food deserts in underserved neighborhoods.

The caravan began at the Ralphs store in South Central Los Angeles with a large picket line made up of United Food and Commercial Work-

ers Local 770 workers, joined by other coalition members, including the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, Families of Park Mesa Heights, Service Employees Local 721, Unión del Barrio and United Workers Assembly.

The participants then got in their cars to begin the caravan to Food 4 Less in East Hollywood.

There the protesters held an ending rally that took up the entire parking lot and had management running out the door to see what was causing the commotion. Chants and speakers rang out in harmony with Public Enemy's "Fight the Power" playing in the background.

SEIU Local 721 provided the sound truck and sound system.

Unite to fight racism and capitalism

HARLEM MAY DAY

By Greg Butterfield

On May 1 — International Workers' Day — Black, Puerto Rican, Asian and white workers rallied at Harlem's Africa Square for healthcare, housing and education, to release political prisoners and stop police terror, and to struggle together against their common enemy, the capitalist ruling class.

The May Day speak-out was called by the People's United Front. The main demands were: "Justice for all victims of racism and police terror," "Free all political prisoners" and "Reparations now." Organizers said they hope to make May Day in Harlem an annual event.

Puerto Rican activist and artist Carlito Rovira made an impassioned call for solidarity with the Asian community, facing violent racist

attacks spurred on by Trump and Biden's anti-China rhetoric.

Brother Kamau of the December 12th Movement demanded a government down-payment on reparations for Black people to be used to establish a medical delivery system to address the racist neglect of the descendants of enslaved African peoples.

Powerful appeals were made on behalf of political prisoners Mumia Abu-Jamal and Russell "Maroon" Shoatz. Speakers also denounced the exploitation of the remains of slain MOVE children by Princeton University and the University of Pennsylvania.

Other speakers represented the People-Pueblo Party, MORE-UFT rank-and-file teachers' caucus, Socialist Unity Party-Struggle La Lucha, Communist Workers League and more.



SLL PHOTOS: GREG BUTTERFIELD

Repression in Colombia: Made in USA

By Greg Butterfield

May 7 — For the past 10 days, the people of Colombia have flooded the streets of their cities, towns and villages to demand that their most basic needs be met amidst the pandemic and a deep capitalist economic crisis.

And in response, the oligarchs who rule this Latin American country of 50 million have responded to their demands with brutal violence — including a bloody massacre of protesters by police in the city of Cali on May 3 that left over 20 people dead.

As of May 6, government forces had killed 37 protesters in all and committed 1,708 acts of police brutality, according to human-rights organization Plataforma Grita.

At the forefront of the violence is the U.S.-funded and trained Mobile Anti-Disturbance Squadron (ESMAD), founded in 1999 at the direction of U.S. President Bill Clinton, to repress movements for social justice in Colombia. ESMAD works hand-in-hand with the Colombian Army, which has been deployed to occupy Cali and other cities.

But far from crushing the protests, the bloody reprisals have unleashed a popular uprising that stretches from the poorest neighborhoods and university campuses of Bogotá to the most isolated rural villages in the mountains, from the Afro-Colombian communities on the Caribbean coast to Indigenous homelands in the jungles, and everywhere in between.

The protests began April 28 in opposition to a plan of President Ivan Duque's government to privatize the healthcare system and "reform" Colombia's tax system to benefit the rich and big corporations. The protests forced Duque to withdraw his tax plan, at least for now.

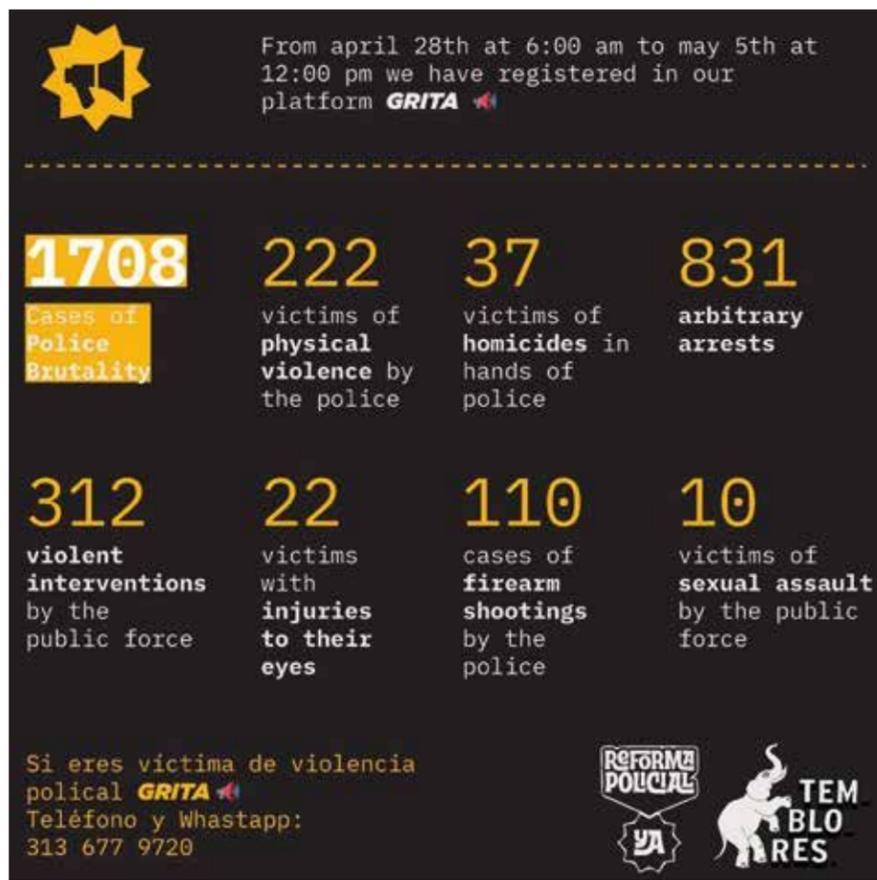
After the Cali massacre, the Central Union of Workers (CUT), Colombia's biggest trade union federation, joined in a series of national strikes during the first week of May.

But underlying the immediate demands of workers and communities reeling from the lack of government support during the pandemic crisis are decades of Draconian rule, directed from the true seat of power in Washington, D.C. Subservience to Washington made the whole country prey to the whims of foreign capitalists and big landowners, their death squads, and politicians reliant on narco-trafficking money for their positions.

For decades, Colombia's rulers and their U.S. masters have done all they can to divide the people — especially fomenting divisions between city and country. They encouraged city-dwellers, especially among the middle classes and students, to identify with U.S. imperialism and to disdain the peasants, Afro-Colombian and Indigenous communities.

They falsely branded revolutionary guerrilla movements based in rural areas, like the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia-People's Army (FARC-EP) and the National Liberation Army (ELN), as "narco-terrorists" — while themselves profiting handsomely from the drug trade.

Today the phony walls erected between working people of city and country are rapidly collapsing.



Colombia and the U.S. military

Israel is sometimes described as a big U.S. military base because of the role it plays as a loyal proxy for U.S. domination of the West Asian/North African region. Colombia plays a similar role in Latin America.

How much does U.S. imperialism rely on its domination of Colombia? A few examples tell the tale.

Since 2000, when Washington enacted "Plan Colombia," supposedly to fight the drug trade but in reality to crush the growing revolutionary guerrilla insurgencies, the U.S. has pumped nearly \$11.6 billion into Colombia to build up its repressive forces.

Today that money is on display for the world to see as Colombian police and troops use advanced weaponry to shoot out the eyes of protesters and strafed poor neighborhoods from helicopter gunships.

Did you know that Colombia is a member of NATO — the "North" Atlantic military alliance dominated by the U.S.? It is the only Latin American member — the better to

serve as a base of U.S. power in a part of the world Wall Street considers its "backyard."

The Pentagon is deeply embedded in directing Colombia's military. Along with "radar bases" staffed by Pentagon troops and a 2009 agreement allowing U.S. soldiers to be stationed on seven Colombian military bases, last May "the U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM) announced the deployment of the U.S. Security Force Assistance Brigade (SFAB) to Colombia to advise and train Colombian units in anti-narcotic missions. Colombians have spoken out against the security agreement, and the U.S. role in the country's militarized drug policy," NACLA reported.

"As a human rights defender and as a defender of the environment, the arrival of gringo troops to Colombia isn't only a violation of our sovereignty, our constitution, and our nation's laws," said Isabel Zuleta, leader of the organization Rios Vivos, who lives near one of the areas where U.S. troops may be deployed. "It doesn't take into account the

whole history of armed conflict and socio-political violence that we've lived through."

This latest growth of U.S. military presence comes years after the 2016 Havana peace agreement signed between the Colombian government and the FARC guerrillas, which was supposed to bring an end to the decades-long civil war and allow left and progressive forces to peacefully join the political system.

Instead, while the guerrillas followed the agreement and laid down their weapons, the Duque government reneged on its obligations and continued to terrorize people's movements. Nearly 300 former guerrillas and 1,000 activists, community leaders and trade unionists have been killed since the peace accords were signed.

Target: Venezuela

So why the new Pentagon build-up?

For years, Colombia has been used to attack its neighbor, Bolivarian Venezuela. When the Trump regime tried to stage a coup in Venezuela in early 2019, under the guise of bringing "humanitarian aid" across the border, it used Colombia as a staging ground. It failed.

Since then, Duque — first at Trump's direction, now at Biden's — has continued to threaten direct military intervention against Venezuela.

This year, tensions have escalated again, as Colombian mercenaries have engaged in a series of attacks on civilians and soldiers along Venezuela's northwestern border in Apure state. Most recently, on April 28, 12 Venezuelan soldiers were killed in an ambush. Once again U.S. officials and media have falsely claimed that "leftist guerrillas" are responsible.

It's clear that the iron grip of U.S. imperialism and Colombia's treacherous oligarchy has brought nothing but pain and misery to the people, while threatening the peace and stability of the entire region. The current uprising is the cry of a people determined to end decades of suffering and demand a new Colombia based on social justice and peaceful relations with its neighbors.

Victory to the Colombian people!
Down with Duque! U.S. out now! 🇨🇴



Support Resistance to Israeli terror Palestine's blood on U.S. hands

Continued from page 1

see the Israeli occupation regime as their best salesman.

Israel is a state of war

Israel is a state of war. Its very object of existence is the eradication of the Palestinian people from their land.

Seventy-three years ago, the majority of the people of Palestine were expelled from their homes by terror, force and massacre. Thousands of children, women and men were executed in cold blood, 530 villages were destroyed and entire cities were depopulated so that the racist settler state of "Israel" could be created on their land.

The Palestinians suffered the fate the U.S. government inflicted on In-

digenous people in this country and that racist gangs inflicted on Black communities like Rosewood and Tulsa.

Where did they go? Nearly 2 million are confined in the Gaza Strip, a 25-mile-long open-air prison where water is not fit to drink, electricity runs a few hours a day, and people die from lack of medicine.

But even there the racist state of Israel cannot tolerate their existence. It is murdering them with a rain of missiles and bombs.

Refugees have right to go home

Millions more Palestinians live in exile in camps on the West Bank, in "unrecognized villages" inside Israel's 1948 borders, or in exile in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and around the world.

They have a right to return home!

Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Jerusalem live under a daily reign of terror from Israeli troops and settlers, who murder and kidnap them and destroy their crops and animals in an effort to drive them from their homes.

The very existence of "Israel" has been a 73-year-long war against the people of Palestine and the neighboring countries of Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, paid for by the U.S.

Resistance will never be defeated!

For the Palestinian people, however, the land between the river and the sea remains their homeland. They have never stopped fighting for their right to exist and live in peace and freedom in every part of Pales-

tine — for a land where all people can live as equals.

Today, with homemade rockets in Gaza, with stones on the West Bank and in Jerusalem, with a general strike in Haifa and Jaffa and Galilee and the towns of the Triangle, they are rising up as never before. They need our solidarity!

We must fight for an end to the endless flow of U.S. arms and dollars to the Israeli war machine. End the \$11-million-a-day in military aid, loan guarantees, tax exemptions, the U.S.-Israel Free Trade Agreement and the other myriad ways the U.S. corporate ruling class props up the Israeli occupation regime. We need money for jobs and healthcare, housing and schools, not endless war! 📌

Protesters condemn Israeli war crimes

By John Parker

About 300 people gathered at the Israeli Consulate in Los Angeles May 11 to protest the genocidal war against Palestinian worshippers and homeowners soon to be evicted by racist, violent Zionist occupiers in areas of Jerusalem.

Palestinian organizations mobilized for the emergency action. The Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice and the Socialist Unity Party participated in this demonstration, which included a takeover of the street in front of the consulate.

International outrage has been reflected in the worldwide demonstrations. Today's protest in Los Angeles will be followed up with a demonstration on Saturday, May 15, starting at 12 noon at 11000 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles. 📌



SLL PHOTO

Brooklyn rally declares: Palestine will win!

By Stephen Millies

Hundreds of people rallied in the Bay Ridge neighborhood of Brooklyn, N.Y., on May 8 to denounce the latest atrocities against the Pales-



Palestinian attorney Lamis Deek.

tinian people. Mobs of Zionist settlers screaming "death to Arabs" are trying to drive Palestinians out of the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in Al-Quds, the capital of Palestine.

The day before, 80,000 Palestinians gathered in the city, also known as Jerusalem, for the last Friday of Ramadan, despite the racist attacks.

The Brooklyn demonstration was called by Within Our Lifetime-United for Palestine. It was supported by American Muslims for Palestine, Al Awda NY-Palestine Right to Return Coalition, Samidoun Palestinian Prisoners Solidarity Network and other members of NY4Palestine coalition. The rally was held on Brooklyn's Fifth Avenue, lined with Palestinian shops. Drivers going by honked their horns in support.

People chanted, "We don't want two states, we want '48!" The powerful slogan means all of Palestine belongs to the Palestinian people. It rejects phony peace plans that allow for a settler presence.

The old apartheid regime in South Africa also called for a "two-state solution" that was rightfully re-

jected by Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress. Palestinian people are forced to live in ghettos like the Bantustans that existed in South Africa.

Among the speakers at the rally was Nerdeen Kiswani from Within Our Lifetime, who pointed out how the Zionist settler colony occupying Palestine gets over \$10 million a day from its masters on Wall Street and the Pentagon. She emphasized the viciousness of the racist mobs attacking Palestinians during the holy month of Ramadan.

Kiswani herself has been the target of Zionist organizations. She spoke of how Palestinians in Al-Quds double and triple check that their doors are locked so settlers don't seize their home.

Longtime Palestinian activist and human rights attorney Lamis Deek spoke of the courage of Palestinian people, particularly the youth. Other speakers represented the Black Alliance for Peace and Jews for Palestinian Right of Return.

People were urged to return to Bay Ridge on May 15, the 73rd an-



SLL PHOTOS: STEPHEN MILLIES

niversary of the catastrophe called Al-Nakba. That's when thousands of Palestinians were killed and hundreds of thousands of people were driven out of their homes by Zionist settlers in 1948. 📌

Al Quds Day: Palestinian resistance can never be defeated!

By Bill Dores

Statement on behalf of Struggle-La Lucha for the International Day of Quds Online Event.

On this International Day of Al Quds, May 7, 2021, we stand in solidarity with the heroic people of Palestine in their century-long battle to defend their rights, their land and their very existence against a twisted, racist, colonial project conceived in the imperial capitals of Europe in the 19th century and funded since 1948 by Washington and Wall Street.

We stand with the Palestinian people in their struggle for independence and return, for the right of every Palestinian to live in peace and freedom in every inch of the land of Palestine. We honor Rehab Zaoul and all the martyrs of that struggle, who will be remembered forever in a free Palestine.

Today the city of Al Quds itself, also called Jerusalem, is the front line of that battle. Her people are fighting to defend their ancient city from Ku Klux Klan-like lynch mobs of hate-filled settlers, many from the United States and Europe, who chant “Death to Arabs” and “We’ll burn your village down!”

The media call these rightwing Zionist gangs extremists. But their slogans express in words what the racist Israeli state has done in deeds since it was created in 1948 by Western powers on the stolen soil of Palestine. And they are backed by the full might of the U.S.-armed Israeli state, which now seeks to evict Palestinian families in East Jerusalem from homes they have lived in for centuries.

The Zionist dream, the very goal of the Israeli state’s existence, is the eradication of the Palestinian people from their homeland. But they will never achieve this goal.

This year, the Day of Quds falls little more than a week before the 73rd anniversary of what Palestinian people call Al Nakba, the catastrophe of exile and occupation that continues to this day.

73 years of catastrophe

Seventy-three years ago, the majority of the people of Palestine were expelled from their homes. Thousands were executed in cold blood for the “crime” of being born Palestinian. Entire cities were depopulated and 530 villages were destroyed so that a Western settler state could be erected on their ruins.

Today that state, which declared its so-called “independence” on May 15, 1948, directly occupies 85 percent of the land of Palestine and part of Syria.

Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Jerusalem live under a daily reign of terror from Israeli troops and settlers, who murder and kidnap them and destroy their crops and animals in an effort to drive them from their land. Every year more families see their homes demolished or stolen by settlers from the U.S.

In the Gaza Strip, nearly 2 million Palestinians live under a constant

state of siege, locked inside a giant open-air prison where water is not fit to drink, electricity runs only a few hours a day and people die from lack of medicine. They are subject to regular bombardment by the latest weapons in Israel’s U.S.-supplied arsenal.

On any given day, nearly 5,000 Palestinians, including hundreds of children, languish in Israeli prisons, many of them under “administrative detention,” denied the right to trial.

The very existence of “Israel” has been a 73-year-long war against the people of Palestine and the neighboring countries of Egypt, Syria, Lebanon and Jordan — and now Yemen and Iran as well. For 73 years this war has been subsidized by the U.S., which provides an endless flow of arms and dollars to the settler fortress in Palestine.

Last May 22, while millions of workers in the U.S. worried about their next meal, the U.S. Senate Foreign Aid Committee approved a new \$38-billion aid package to Israel.

Enforcer for U.S. oil profits

For the corporate agents in Washington, D.C., the racist state of Israel is a critical instrument in their war machine, a weapon in their bloody quest to keep the wealth of the world flowing to the U.S. ruling class.

Israel is an apartheid state, but it is also part of a global system of apartheid that divides the world into rich and poor. It is an enforcer in a giant protection racket run from Washington that has extorted trillions of dollars from the oil-rich countries of the region. Keeping those petrodollars flowing has been the object of U.S. intervention in West Asia and North Africa since 1945.

Regimes like the monarchies of the Arabian Peninsula that pay their oil revenues in tribute to U.S. banks,

oil companies and the military-financial complex get protection. Those that refuse get attacked. That’s why Israel attacked Egypt and Syria in 1967; that’s why it wages covert war against Syria, Yemen and Iran today. Meanwhile, Chevron plans to use gas stolen from Palestinian waters in its battle for the European energy market.

Let us also be clear: The racist state in Palestine in no way represents or benefits the vast majority of Jewish people on this planet, many of whom stand in solidarity with Palestine. It only serves the interest of an elite ruling class of bankers and billionaires, very few of whom are Jewish.

Forty years ago, Reagan’s Secretary of State Alexander Haig called Israel “the largest U.S. aircraft carrier in the world, and the only one that can’t be sunk.” In 2017, aboard the USS George Bush, moored in Palestinian waters, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu said, “A few miles from here, there is another aircraft carrier for our common civilization — it’s called the State of Israel.”

When Netanyahu speaks of “common civilization,” he speaks of a commonality of racism, oppression and dispossession. The scenes of Israeli occupiers beating and brutalizing Palestinians in Jerusalem today are so much like the scenes of racist police violence against Black and Brown and Indigenous people in the United States.

Many U.S. police departments have joint training programs with Israeli occupation forces in Palestine. The NYPD even has a branch in the Israeli settlement of Kfar Saba.

The rock of resistance

The creation of the racist state of Israel was a re-creation of the Trail of Tears and the many other mas-

sacres and land thefts of the Native peoples of North America.

And today, in Al Quds and the West Bank, the settlers seek to recreate the horrors of Rosewood, Tulsa, Elaine and many other Black communities in the U.S. destroyed by racist terror.

But racist oppression is foundering on the rock of people’s resistance, from Black America to Palestine.

Seventy-three years of murder, terror and repression have not broken the resistance of the Palestinian people, their will or their determination to live free on their own land. We see that today in the streets of Jerusalem and Nablus and Bethlehem, where the occupation’s genocidal schemes are provoking a new Intifada. And the world has changed much since 1948 and 1988.

In Washington, politicians claim they will end “forever wars” and “endless wars.” Yet they still vote endless funds to the monstrous Pentagon war machine and its giant base in occupied Palestine.

It will take a huge fight by the people to get the war machine off our backs. And you cannot end “endless war” without ending the flow of U.S. arms and dollars to the Israeli occupation state.

The week of May 15-22 has been proclaimed an international week of action for the liberation of all Palestinians. Here in the United States, we need to be on the streets on those days. In New York and New Jersey, there will be rallies in Brooklyn and Paterson on May 15 and May 16. If you are in the area, please join us on those days.

We need money for human needs, not racist wars!

End all aid to the racist state of Israel!

Free Jerusalem!

Free Palestine! [📧](#)



Palestinians in Jerusalem protest the planned eviction of several Palestinian families from homes on land claimed by Jewish settlers in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, May 7.

History of U.S. betrayals and People's Korea's strong defense policy

By Scott Scheffer

The Biden administration said April 30 that it had completed its review of the diplomatic relationship with the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK or North Korea) and concluded there is little hope for an agreement regarding the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. Yet White House spokesperson Jen Psaki stated, "Our goal remains the complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula."

If there is little hope by way of diplomacy, but the goal is still to "denuclearize," there is only one option left. The statement is a thinly veiled war threat.

The real goal of the previous 14 U.S. administrations has been the overthrow of the leadership and total destruction of North Korea's socialist state. That is also the Biden administration's goal.

The imperialist doctrine called the "Pivot to Asia" has put neo-Cold Warriors in the driver's seat in the spheres of diplomacy and military matters. For the third succeeding U.S. administration, it has meant intensified U.S. hostility and belligerence, and the beat of war drums as the U.S. and the Pentagon threaten China and North Korea.

Over the decades, U.S. imperialism has caused immense damage and suffering to all Korean people, including 6 million deaths and an intense bombing campaign that leveled North Korean cities in the 1950-1953 Korean War. But the unity of the North Korean people and their dedication to a strong military defense against imperialism has frustrated

White House officials and Pentagon brass for 75 years.

In 1991, when the U.S. removed nuclear weapons from South Korea as part of the disarmament negotiations that took place during the collapse of the Soviet Union, Washington demanded that North Korea give weapons inspectors access to its nuclear energy projects that were underway.

The DPRK leadership pointed out that they had no aspirations to develop nuclear weapons. Their nuclear projects were for the purpose of energy only, and in any case, the U.S. had only removed land-based nuclear missiles from South Korea itself. The people of the north were still facing the threat of a U.S. nuclear attack by sea or from aircraft. Still, they agreed to inspections by the International Atomic Energy Agency in good faith.

Clinton at the brink of war

Soon, accusations of secret nuclear weapons development began. The loudest cries came from the U.S. administration. Even this soon after the collapse of the Soviet Union, the resulting shift in the balance of power at the United Nations brought into being an era when U.N. weapons inspectors could be more of a vehicle for imperialist plans, much as they were in the runup to the devastating war against Iraq.

In 1994, after years of U.S. insults, slanders and accusations, North Korea expelled the weapons inspectors.

In response, the Clinton administration assembled an emergency meeting in the war room of the White House and was on the verge



President Bill Clinton made a threatening visit to the Korean demilitarized zone in July 1993. Clinton brought the U.S. to the brink of war with the socialist north.

of attacking the north. An eleventh-hour deal was struck when DPRK President Kim Il Sung asked former President Jimmy Carter to travel to Pyongyang for discussions.

Kim reiterated that the DPRK had no desire to develop nuclear weapons and proposed what became the "Agreed Framework." Per the agreement, North Korea would shut down three nuclear energy reactors. In return, the Western powers would construct two "light water" nuclear reactors, capable of providing energy, but not weapons-grade plutonium.

In addition, the U.S. was supposed to provide fuel oil to help North Koreans get through the harsh winters after losing access to oil supplied by the Soviet Union, their ally and largest trading partner.

A participant in that War Room gathering later declared that the

mood there was "crestfallen" on hearing the news of the Agreed Framework. The U.S. political establishment as a whole, though, was glad to accept the agreement. Most thought that they wouldn't even have to live up to it because without the support of the Soviet Union, a North Korean collapse was imminent.

Their analysis was very wrong.

But delay after delay in the West's construction of the modern light water reactors meant that after several years, only the foundation for one reactor had been poured, while North Korea's only reactors had been shut down in compliance with the agreement. Year after year, fuel shipments arrived too late to be of any help during the winters. The hostile propaganda from the U.S. continued.

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Event honors anti-fascists killed in Odessa,

By Greg Butterfield

Several activists gathered in New York's Union Square this May 2 to pay tribute to more than 40 anti-fascists killed in the multinational port city of Odessa, Ukraine, seven years earlier. The event was called by Sol-

idarity with Novorossiia and Anti-fascists in Ukraine.

The Odessa massacre of May 2, 2014, was carried out by neo-Nazis and far-right nationalist groups that played a key part in the U.S.-backed coup in Kiev earlier that year. The new heads of Ukraine — pro-Western oligarchs and politicians, and their backers in Washington — were frightened by the powerful anti-fascist resistance that had emerged in Odessa and other cities of eastern Ukraine.

So on May 2 ultra-right goons were bussed into Odessa from western Ukraine. Progressive protesters were attacked and

driven from their encampment on Kulikovo Field into the nearby House of Trade Unions. The fascist mob set the building on fire, then shot, bludgeoned and beat to death people trying to escape the blaze.

Although these acts were caught on numerous videos and photographs, and many of the killers have been identified, none have been prosecuted or punished. Many survivors, however, were jailed or driven out of Ukraine under threat of arrest or death.

The role of the U.S. government in the illegal 2014 coup, the right-wing terror that swept Ukraine, and the subsequent war against the Donbass republics of Donetsk and Lugansk, is little known in the U.S. Those who gathered in New York to mark the anniversary distributed leaflets and held conversations with passersby to share this important information.

They held signs demanding, "Stop the cover-up," "No U.S.-Ukraine war on Donbass and Russia," and "U.S. out of Ukraine." A small memorial was erected with the names of the murdered activists from Odessa and photos of some of the young people who died. The youngest, Vadim Papura, was just 17.

In Richmond, Va., some 20 people

gathered outside the Federal Building to honor the martyrs of Odessa and oppose the U.S.-sponsored war in Donbass, at the call of the Odessa Solidarity Campaign. The New York and Richmond events were among at least 20 held that day in cities across the former Soviet Union, Europe and North America as part of an international day of solidarity.

Following is the statement distributed at the New York event:

Martin Luther King said in 1967: "The bombs in Vietnam explode at home: they destroy the hopes and possibilities for a decent America." His words are still true today.

To expand its military and economic power, the U.S. government supported a violent coup in Ukraine in 2014. Racist neo-Nazi groups led this coup. It was a lot like the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol by white supremacist supporters of Donald Trump.

Ukraine began a war against the residents of the Donbass region which has killed 14,000 people in seven years. Armed neo-Nazi battalions are involved. Fascists invaded the Ukrainian city of Odessa and massacred over 40 anti-fascists and trade unionists on May 2, 2014.

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Odessa memorial in New York's Union Square, May 2.

SLL PHOTO: GREG BUTTERFIELD

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DPRK's self-defense necessary

In 1998, the New York Times reported a secret underground “A-bomb site” had been discovered in the DPRK by U.S. intelligence agencies. After some negotiation, the north granted access to U.S. inspectors. The Times report, of course, turned out to be completely false.

For the leadership of North Korea, the handwriting was on the wall. Good faith efforts on their part hadn't lessened the threat one bit. No U.S. promises had been kept. Facing an ongoing nuclear threat from the most destructive military in human history, North Korea announced that it was initiating a nuclear weapons program.

The danger of war is greater when the balance of power is uneven. This notion was tragically played out in reality when, after the downfall of the Soviet Union and its military power, the U.S. launched the horrific war against Iraq.

The DPRK's “Military First” policy has been maintained at great sacrifice since the horrors of the Korean War. But the refusal of the U.S. to bring its aircraft carriers, battleships, submarines and bombers home, to truly end the threat of nuclear war on the Korean Peninsula, forces the North Korean people to continue making this difficult sacrifice.

DPRK Supreme Leader Kim Jong Un and others in the leadership hope that in addition to security, that the financial costs of maintaining national defense can be reduced, so that the effects of the terrible U.S. economic sanctions don't weigh as heavily on the people. He has also clearly expressed a unilateral no-first-strike policy.

Anti-imperialist organizers in the U.S. have to build a powerful movement to disarm the Pentagon. [M]

Ukraine

Continued from page 10

Violent white supremacists here in the U.S. have received training from Ukrainian neo-Nazi groups. That includes fascists who participated in the 2017 Charlottesville KKK riot where anti-racist Heather Heyer was killed.

Democratic and Republican leaders of Congress supported the coup in Ukraine. Joe Biden was Washington's point person on Ukraine as vice president. Trump began direct arms sales to the Ukrainian fascists. Today Biden continues U.S. military, economic and political support. Why? U.S. support for Ukraine's attacks on civilians in Donbass threatens to ignite a war with Russia.

More U.S. wars are not in the interests of poor and working people here. Not only are billions of dollars wasted that could be used to house the homeless, provide free quality healthcare, safe jobs and schools for all. The growing military budget fuels militarization of the police. War propaganda encourages police brutality and violent racist attacks.

Young people and elders are the first victims of U.S. wars both at home and abroad. The U.S. war on children must end! [M]

‘Solidarity with Donbass has to be built into all our work’

By Greg Butterfield

Presentation on behalf of the Socialist Unity Party at the online International Anti-Fascist Forum hosted by the Communist Party of the Donetsk People's Republic on May 8, 2021. The annual event included participants from the Donetsk People's Republic, Russia, Belarus, Lithuania, Italy, Spain, Croatia, Serbia, the Philippines, Britain and the U.S.

Comrades, it's an honor to be with you this weekend, when workers around the world celebrate the Soviet Union's great victory over fascism in 1945.

I want to speak about the information war surrounding Donbass. In all the Western countries, especially in the United States, there is a nearly complete blockade of truthful information about the war in Donbass.

Most of the time, the capitalist media ignore Donbass completely. When they do talk about it — as they have recently — they turn the situation completely upside down. The aggressors, Ukraine and the United States, are portrayed as innocent victims. The targeted countries, the Donetsk and Lugansk People's Republics and Russia, are portrayed as the aggressors.

We have had a clear demonstration of how it works this week. U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited Kiev May 6 and laid flowers at a memorial to Ukrainian troops who, he falsely claimed, were killed fighting Russia to defend Ukrainian democracy.

Blinken and the media made no mention that just a week before, neo-Nazis marched openly in the streets of Kiev to honor the World War II SS Galicia Division, or that those same groups are armed by NATO countries to commit war crimes daily against civilians in Donbass.

Nor did Blinken mention the 7th anniversary of the slaughter of more than 40 anti-fascists in Odessa, which has gone unpunished, or how the Western powers dismissed the testimony of Odessa survivors at a special U.N. hearing May 5.

The U.S. ruling class has worked methodically for the last three decades to encircle and eventually dismember Russia through the expansion of NATO. This plan has continued under both Democratic and Republican regimes in Washington, though each has its own approach.

Donald Trump used a carrot-and-stick method. He legalized di-



PHOTO: DNR LIVE

Victory Day parade in Donetsk, capital of the Donetsk People's Republic, May 9.

rect sales of offensive weapons to Ukraine and ended U.S. participation in nuclear arms agreements with Russia, while also trying to coax Moscow away from its alliances with Iran, Syria and Venezuela. His approach failed to achieve the desired results, and Joe Biden has returned to the hardline militarist policy of his predecessors.

As the global capitalist crisis deepens, the U.S. becomes ever more prone to lash out. The more sober Ukrainian generals and politicians might realize they cannot win a war. But they are not the ones who will ultimately decide. They are merely tools. Washington will not hesitate to sacrifice the lives of Ukrainian troops or people in Donbass to advance its interests.

As anti-imperialists, anti-fascists and revolutionary opponents of war, we have to have a long-term vision, just as our enemies do. That means solidarity with the people of Donbass has to be built into all of our work among the people in our countries, as we work toward our ultimate goal of socialist revolution to overthrow imperialism.

On April 10 in New York, we organized a protest after the Ukrainian drone killing of 5-year-old Vladik Shikhov in Donetsk. It was a small gathering. But it caught the imagination of groups in many countries. The following weekend, protests were held in several European cities, and a statement we initiated was signed and translated by groups in many countries. This shows the possibility for joint work across borders to expand our reach and influence.

The increased media attention to the situation in Donbass, although

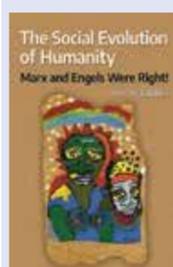
mostly negative, also provides us with new opportunities to present an alternative message. Last weekend we held a memorial for the victims of Odessa. New people joined us, and we had good conversations with several people who had questions about the situation in Ukraine, Russia and Donbass.

There is little consciousness about the struggle in Donbass, and many misconceptions about it, among leftists in the U.S. and other Western countries. One idea we are considering to address this problem is to hold educational events that bring together different solidarity movements that aren't well known. We could begin by sharing information and building solidarity among these movements. If those of us who champion the struggle in Donbass, Haiti and Korea, for example, can build solidarity and joint work, then perhaps we can all expand the scope of our outreach.

I know that everyone who is participating today feels the Donbass struggle deeply in their bones. We have kept the anti-fascist banner flying through difficult times, often in isolation, inspired by the resistance of the people in Donetsk and Lugansk. Now let's look toward building outward, toward new alliances at home and abroad, to strengthen our solidarity with the people of Donbass and the workers of the world.

We thank the Communist Party of the Donetsk People's Republic for hosting this event, and its publication, Vperyod (Forward), for providing honest information about the situation in Donbass that we can share with workers here. [M]

The Social Evolution of Humanity Marx and Engels were right!

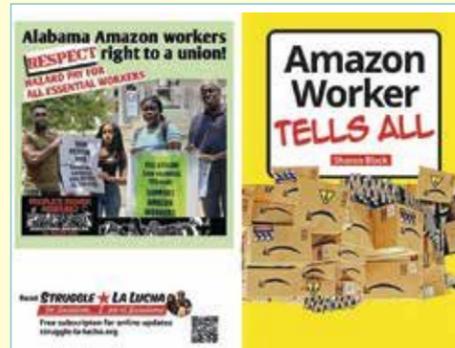


by Bob McCubbin

This study of the evolution of humanity focuses on human social/sexual relations and, in particular, the changing social status of women. It offers a selection of scientific evidence that updates and augments the viewpoint expressed in Frederick Engels' masterful work, 'Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State.'

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Colombia, el infierno que Estados Unidos soñó para Venezuela y Cuba

Por Luis Gonzalo Segura

Colombia es el infierno soñado para Venezuela y Cuba porque la desigualdad y la pobreza, que ya afecta a casi el 45% de la población, son cada vez más extremas mientras se rebajaron hace dos años los impuestos a las grandes empresas y se tolera que las élites colombianas evadan los capitales que deseen.

Colombia es el infierno soñado para Venezuela y Cuba porque sus tasas de criminalidad apuñalan el país casi a diario mientras ocupa el primer puesto mundial, año tras año, en el asesinato de líderes ecologistas –al menos 64 en el año 2019– y se encuentra en puestos destacados en cuanto al asesinato de líderes sindicales.

Colombia es el infierno soñado para Venezuela y Cuba porque su sistema sanitario ha dejado más de 75.000 fallecidos y tres millones de contagios durante la pandemia y solo ha conseguido inocular una primera dosis de vacuna en el 10% de la población mientras sus élites compran pisos en las zonas más caras de Madrid, los rehabilitan y los venden obteniendo millonarios beneficios.

Colombia es el infierno soñado para Venezuela y Cuba porque la mayoría de los ciudadanos no se puede confinar debido a la ausencia de un subsidio con el que sobrevivir mientras se ha convertido en el líder

mundial de la producción de coca, con el 70% del total.

Colombia es el infierno soñado para Venezuela y Cuba porque pretendió reducir la pobreza y la desigualdad con subidas de impuestos a las clases medias, a lo que queda de ellas, con una reforma que aspiraba a bajar el umbral del impuesto de la renta y subir los impuestos indirectos que a todos afectan, en lugar de aumentar los impuestos a las élites y a las grandes empresas.

Colombia es el infierno soñado para Venezuela y Cuba porque se ha convertido en aliado estratégico de la OTAN en la región mientras sus Fuerzas Armadas asesinan niños sin piedad.

Colombia es el infierno soñado para Venezuela y Cuba porque reprime de forma salvaje a la ciudadanía –se contabilizan 26 fallecidos y más de 400 desaparecidos en estas últimas protestas– como antes han hecho en Chile, Ecuador, Perú o Brasil mientras las causas reales que subyacen tras el descontento de la ciudadanía continúan sin solución.

Colombia es el infierno soñado para Venezuela y Cuba porque contribuye como casi ninguna otra a que América Latina sea hoy la región más desigual y violenta del mundo mientras exhibe un clasismo y un racismo tan excluyente como anacrónico y obscuro.



12 de mayo Huelga Nacional en Colombia.

FOTO: RESUMEN

Colombia es el infierno soñado para Venezuela y Cuba porque su pueblo se ha revuelto contra sus gobernantes, como en los últimos años han hecho chilenos, ecuatorianos o peruanos, de la forma en la que los Estados Unidos hubiera deseado que ocurriera en Venezuela, Cuba o Bolivia mientras en estos países fracasaron los intentos de asesinato, los movimientos golpistas, las presiones a los militares e, incluso, las autoproclamaciones presidenciales kálfianas.

En definitiva, Colombia es el infierno soñado para Venezuela y Cuba y, por ello, en estos países se han perpetrado las más salvajes y crueles medidas,

algunas de ellas con consideración bélica, como las inmisericordes sanciones económicas, lo que ha provocado una inhumana reducción de alimentos, medicamentos y productos básicos entre los ciudadanos.

Por ello, cuando lea sobre Colombia, Chile, Perú o Ecuador, lo que sólo ocurrirá cuando ardan, como en los últimos años, reflexione sobre toda América Latina en su globalidad y sus problemas. Quizás entonces, ante una visión más general y menos sectaria, sea posible considerar que el gran problema de América Latina es su modelo económico y el esbirro que lo impone, Estados Unidos.

Fuente: Resumen

CUBA: El gobierno denuncia apoyo de EEUU a crímenes de Israel en Gaza

12 de mayo – Cuba carga contra Estados Unidos por el apoyo que brinda al régimen de Israel y sus “indiscriminados” bombardeos contra el pueblo palestino.

El ministro de Asuntos Exteriores cubano, Bruno Rodríguez, manifestó el martes el repudio de La Habana a los ataques del régimen israelí que han causado entre los últimos dos días, al menos 48 víctimas mortales en Gaza, de las que 14 eran niños, según el Ministerio de Salud gazatí.

“Cuba condena enérgicamente los bombardeos indiscriminados de Israel contra la población palestina en Gaza”, escribió Rodríguez en su cuenta de Twitter.

El jefe de la Diplomacia cubana también denunció el “permanente apoyo de Estados Unidos a esos crímenes” que perpetra la entidad sionista contra la bloqueada población de Gaza.

La Franja de Gaza, zona denominada por algunos como “la cárcel más grande del mundo” ya que sus casi dos millones de habitantes están impedidos de recibir alimentos, combustibles y suministros médicos por el bloqueo israelí, fue blanco el martes de un feroz bombardeo aéreo contra estructuras civiles, incluidas casas.

Además, en la ciudad ocupada de Al-Quds (Jerusalén), al menos 500 palestinos sufrieron heridas por la represión israelí contra las protestas contra la profanación y la prohibición al acceso de los palestinos al complejo de la mezquita Al-Aqsa, uno de los tres lugares más sagrados del Islam.



Manifestación en solidaridad con Gaza y Jerusalén en Haifa, 9 de mayo.

FOTO: MATI MILSTEIN

Cuba siempre ha expresado, en foros internacionales, su rechazo a las agresiones israelíes en Palestina y ha acusado el papel de EE.UU. en la continuidad del conflicto palestino-israelí.

En este sentido, La Habana ha rechazado el llamado “acuerdo del siglo”, elaborado por el anterior Gobierno estadounidense, y ha advertido de que el proceso de normalizar de relaciones diplomáticas con Israel constituye una grave violación a los derechos de los palestinos.

Esta nueva oleada de violencia se venía cebando por las restricciones impuestas por el régimen de Israel al acceso de los palestinos a la Mezquita Al-Aqsa, situada en la ciudad cisjordana de Al-Quds, y el anuncio de la expulsión de los residentes palestinos del barrio de Sheij Yarrah, para

favorecer a colonos israelíes. Sin embargo, la chispa que ha generado un fuego cruzado de cohetes entre Israel y la Resistencia palestina fue la represión israelí perpetrada el lunes contra los palestinos en Al-Quds.

La Resistencia palestina había venido advirtiendo sobre los actos hostiles de los israelíes contra los civiles palestinos. No obstante, las agresiones israelíes contra palestinos no cesaron y siguieron sus ataques contra los manifestantes en Al-Aqsa, además de realizar ataques aéreos contra la Franja de Gaza.

En este sentido, el lunes, la aviación del régimen israelí bombardeó casas de palestinos en Beit Ha-

nun, sita en Gaza, lo que dejó varios muertos. Además, un ataque aéreo nocturno del régimen de Tel Aviv causó el martes el derrumbe total de un edificio de 13 pisos en la Franja de Gaza.

En reacción, el Movimiento de Resistencia Islámica de Palestina (HAMAS), así como el movimiento Yihad Islámica Palestina, han lanzado centenares de misiles contra los territorios ocupados, incluido el corazón de Tel Aviv.

Fuente: HispanTV

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