

Unemployed workers demand their rights

written by Struggle - La Lucha
May 10, 2021



SLL photo: 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, foreclosures, car repossession 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!



Presenters included:

Steven Ceci, unemployed hospitality worker

Rasika Ruwanpathirana, unemployed warehouse worker

Joyce Butler, community organizer, Peoples Power Assembly

A union representative spoke for workers inside the Maryland Department of Labor's Division of Unemployment Insurance

Sharon Black of the PPA chaired the news conference



Brooklyn rally declares: Palestine will win!

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Hundreds of people rallied in the Bay Ridge neighborhood of Brooklyn, N.Y., on May 8 to denounce the latest atrocities against the Palestinian 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 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 rejected 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 anniversary of the catastrophe called Al-Nakba. That's when hundreds of Palestinians were killed and hundreds of thousands of people were driven out of their homes by Zionist settlers in 1948.



Palestinians defy Israeli repression to save homes

written by Struggle - La Lucha

May 10, 2021



On May 7, 80,000 Palestinians congregated at the Al-Aqsa Mosque in the Old City of Jerusalem to mark the last Friday of Ramadan. Palestinians call the ancient city Al-Quds, the Holy.

The large attendance was in spite of Israeli blockades in the West Bank, which made it impossible for many Palestinians to reach Jerusalem.

After Friday prayers, almost the entire crowd stayed to protest Israeli plans to evict Palestinian families from their homes in the city's Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood. Sheikh Jarrah was built in 1954 by Palestinians forced from their homes in western Jerusalem by the Israeli army. Now the Israeli state wants to give these homes to settlers from the United States and Europe.

Without warning, [Israeli troops assaulted Al-Aqsa Mosque](#). Stun grenades, sound bombs, tear gas and rubber-plated metal bullets rained down on the people inside. Videos recorded inside the mosque paint a picture of terror and chaos.

Over 200 people were wounded, and 88 were hospitalized. At least one man lost an eye and several people are in critical condition. Palestinians fought back with bare hands, and a number of border police were also injured.

If only this repression wasn't the norm in occupied Palestine.

The May 7 attack came on the heels of Israeli troops murdering two Palestinians in the West Bank: a 60-year-old woman named Rihab Zaoul in Bethlehem and a 16-year-old boy named Said Odeh in Huwara.

Odeh was shot twice in the back during a raid by the Israeli "Defense" Forces on his village. His murder is evoking comparisons to those of Michael Brown and Adam Toledo in the U.S. The "deadly exchange" of training [between the IDF and U.S. police departments](#) is well-documented.

Racist mob attacks

Israeli attacks on Palestinians have been a constant during this year's observance of Ramadan.

On the night of April 23, a mob of white-shirted Western settlers invaded the Old City, chanting "Death to Arabs" and "We'll burn your village down!" Gangs of white shirts attacked Palestinian families breaking their daytime fast. Youth who mobilized to defend their community were attacked, shot at and gassed by the IDF.

Settler gangs have also invaded Sheikh Jarrah to harass and intimidate the families resisting eviction. These families report being [censored by Instagram](#) when they attempt to post about the attacks.

However, across Palestine people have risen up in solidarity with Jerusalem. In the West Bank, Palestinian land defenders clashed with settlers and occupying troops. On May 8, thousands of Palestinians living inside Israel's 1948 borders broke through an Israeli blockade to come to Al-Aqsa.

As this article is written, the fascist, Zionist forces continue their attacks on Al-Quds, while the Israeli government quibbles over which racist to appoint prime minister. Even the European Union has condemned Israeli advances into Arab East Jerusalem.

Joe Biden's State Department has called for "deescalation." But Washington continues to pour in weapons and billions of dollars to the racist Israeli regime. It is this massive financial and military support that makes Israel's crimes possible.

The [European Union's condemnation](#) of Israel's actions, along with Human Rights Watch and the U.N., is a significant development. Historically, both the EU and HRW turned a blind eye to Israel's apartheid regime. There is no doubt that the strength of the Palestinian mass movement, along with international solidarity, have pushed these historically pro-Zionist institutions to criticize the racist Israeli state.

Mainstream Western media has been mostly silent about the events now playing out in Jerusalem. But that won't stop the Palestinian struggle for independence and the right to return.

Across the U.S. and the world, people are demonstrating in support of Palestine even as these events are unfolding. More protests will take place on May 15, the 73rd anniversary of Al-Nakba (the Catastrophe), the 1948 exile and dispossession of the Palestinian people from their land. The [Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network](#) and other organizations have named May 15-22 a week of international action in support of Palestine.

The global working class must support Palestinian liberation in any way it can. We must shine a light on Israel for what it is: an apartheid settler state built on stolen land. We must demand an end to all U.S. military and financial aid to the racist settler state that illegally occupies Palestine.

Lev Koufax is a young Jewish activist based in Baltimore.



Take action! #SaveSheikhJarrah and defend Jerusalem: Boycott Israel, support Palestinian resistance

written by Struggle - La Lucha
May 10, 2021

#SAVE SHEIKH JARRAH



**DEFEND JERUSALEM
DEFEND PALESTINE**

samidoun
PALESTINIAN PRISONER SOLIDARITY NETWORK

SAMIDOUN.NET

As we approach the [73rd anniversary of the Nakba](#), the Zionist colonization of Palestine and the forced expulsion of Palestinians, the Nakba is continuing. This is apparent everywhere in Palestine, but perhaps is most clear in the heart of Jerusalem, Palestine's capital: in Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan, where Palestinian families are being threatened with imminent expulsion from their homes and lands by the Israeli regime and its colonial settlers, as they refuse to concede their lives to racist Zionist colonialism.

Palestinians in Jerusalem are under attack on multiple levels, defending their land, city and identity from erasure and colonialism for 73 years. They face the stripping of their identity and residence — even from their place of birth — severe repression, land confiscations, home demolitions and ongoing Zionist attempts to erase the Palestinian and Arab presence and nature of the city.

Right-wing settler mobs have rampaged through Sheikh Jarrah in the past days, screaming “Death to Arabs” and attacking Palestinians. Settlers attacked Palestinians breaking the Ramadan fast during Iftar, pepper spraying them and throwing rocks at them. Working hand in hand with these violent settlers, the Israeli military has attacked residents, sprayed skunk water and tear gas throughout the neighborhood, invaded homes, assaulted women, children and elders and seized dozens of Palestinian youth defending their own homes.

In Silwan, Palestinians are being threatened with violent expulsion from their Jerusalem homes in order to make way for a “David-themed” tourist attraction to produce income for the Zionist settler colonial project, built atop the homes and lives of the indigenous Palestinian people.

Palestinians in Jerusalem — and throughout occupied Palestine and in exile — continue to resist and to prove that the Palestinian struggle continues and that organizing and resistance is the road to liberation. We know that it is this resistance that will defeat the attacks of Zionism and imperialism, and our actions and

organizing around the world can work to build support for the Palestinian people and their resistance in Jerusalem, Gaza, throughout occupied Palestine and in exile and diaspora.

Samidoun Palestinian Prisoner Solidarity Network urges all friends of Palestine around the world to join the campaign to [#SaveSheikhJarrah](#). Boycott Israel, take the streets and take action, organize direct actions and speak out to defend Jerusalem, defend Palestine and support the Palestinian resistance and the liberation of Palestine from the river to the sea!

Join us in the [Week of Palestinian Struggle from 15-22 May](#) — and before the week officially begins — to escalate our organizing, resistance and action to support the Palestinians struggling, resisting, fighting and facing the most severe, brutal and deadly colonial violence on the front lines of liberation struggle.

READ THE FULL CALL TO ACTION
in [English](#) — [Arabic](#) — [German](#) — [French](#) — [Swedish](#)

Here are some ways that you can take action:

Boycott Israel

The international, Arab and Palestinian campaign to boycott Israel can play an important role at this critical time. Local boycott groups can protest and label Israeli produce and groceries. During Ramadan, Israeli dates from stolen Palestinian land are marketed around the world while Israel attempts to force Palestinians from Jerusalem, demolish homes, and imprisons thousands more. By participating in the boycott of Israel, you can directly help to throw a wrench in the economy of settler colonialism. [Download our Boycott Flyer](#)  to distribute at supermarkets, stores and other venues in your community!

Take the Streets

On the [Week of Palestinian Struggle](#), join us to defend Jerusalem, #SaveSheikhJarrah and continue on their path of resistance, steadfastness and solidarity. There are more actions on 8 and 9 May to stand with Palestine in New York, London, Berlin, Columbus, Chicago, Milan and elsewhere. It's time to make our voices heard loudly and clearly for justice for Palestine. Take to the streets and join these actions below — and see our [full list of events!](#)

Our comrades at Within Our Lifetime - United for Palestine developed a useful toolkit that you can use when planning your own event! Check it out here: <https://wolpalestine.com/resources/rally-toolkit/>

- **[Chicago: Stand with the people of Sheikh Jarrah](#)** - Saturday, 8 May 1:00 pm Federal Plaza 219 S. Dearborn, Chicago, IL, USA Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/2775358572713794/>
- **[NYC/Brooklyn: Defend Palestine! Support Palestinians Resisting in Sheikh Jarrah Speak-Out](#)** - Saturday, 8 May 4:00 PM 7114 5th Ave Brooklyn, NY 11209 Organized by Within Our Lifetime - United for Palestine
- **[Columbus, OH: Free Palestine! #SaveSheikhJarrah](#)** - Saturday, 8 May 1 pm Goodale Park Columbus, OH Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/462746188320785/>
- **[Amsterdam: Save Jerusalem, Save Sheikh Jarrah](#)** - Sunday, 9 May 3:00 pm Dam Square Amsterdam, Netherlands Organized by the Palestinian Community in the Netherlands
- **[Den Haag: Car Caravan for Palestine](#)** - Sunday, 9 May 3:00 pm Zuiderpark Den Haag, Netherlands
- **[Berlin: Rally to Save #SheikhJarrah and Defend Jerusalem](#)** - Sunday, 9 May 5:00 pm Hermannplatz Berlin, Germany (also, march at 4 pm from Rathaus Neukolln in Berlin)

- **Milan: Stop Ethnic Cleansing in Jerusalem** - Sunday, 9 May 4:00 pm
 Piazza Mercanti Milan, Italy
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/224923282725755/>
- **London: #SaveSheikhJarrah - Shut Elbit Down** – Tuesday, 11 May 1 pm
 Elbit Headquarters 77 Kingsway, Holborn, London Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/events/495682988443219>
- **Washington, DC: Stop Jerusalem Expulsions** - Tuesday, 11 May 4 pm
 State Department 22nd St and C St NW Washington, DC
 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1733963580122820>
- **Brisbane: Rally and March for Palestinian Nakba Day** - Friday, 14 May 5:30 pm King George Square Meanjin (Brisbane), Australia Facebook Page: <https://www.facebook.com/events/482349836444158/>
- **Berlin: The March for Return and Liberation in Berlin** مسيرة العودة والتحرير في برلين - Saturday, 15 May 3:00 pm Hermannplatz Berlin, Germany Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/285393236431944/>
- **Frankfurt: Nakba Demonstration 2021: Struggle for a Free Palestine** - Saturday, 15 May 4:00 pm Hauptwache Frankfurt am Main, Germany Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1134671537040565/>
- **Vancouver: Nakba73 - Flash Picket for Palestine** - Saturday, 15 May 2:00 PM CBC Vancouver 700 Hamilton St Vancouver, BC, Canada Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/511558669861511/>
- **Manchester: Open mic rally for Palestinian Liberation** - Saturday, 15 May 12 pm Piccadilly Gardens Manchester, UK Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/197717268833756/>
- **Athens: Rally to commemorate the Palestinian Nakba** - Saturday, 15 May 5:00 pm Marathonodromon 1 Psichiko, Athens Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1118460608659512/>
- **Gothenburg: Car Caravan for Al-Nakba 73** - Saturday, 15 May 2:00 pm Heden parking (start) Gothenburg, Sweden

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/3839719726155420/>

- **Brooklyn/New York: Nakba 73 - Defend Palestine from the River to the Sea!** - Saturday, 15 May 4:30 pm 7114 5th Avenue Brooklyn, NY
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/934431837104538>
- **San Francisco: Nakba 73 - We will Return!** - Saturday, 15 May 1 pm - 3 pm Community Art Event 3 pm Community Rally to commemorate the Nakba 24th and Mission San Francisco, California, US
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/294729132357416/>
- **Los Angeles: Nakba 73 - Resistance Until Liberation Rally & Protest** - Saturday, 15 May 12:00 pm Federal Buildng 11000 Wilshire Blvd Los Angeles, CA, USA
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/371476687562290/>
- **Minneapolis: Al Nakba Protest and Car Caravan** - Saturday, 15 May 2:00 pm Filfillah 4301 Central Ave NE Minneapolis, MN, USA
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/162055159148897/>
- **Houston: Rally & Protest - Nakba 73: We Will Return** - Saturday, 15 May 3 pm Westheimer and Post Oak Houston, TX
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/621652099233619/>
- **Las Vegas: Rally to Defend Palestine** - Saturday, 15 May 5:00 pm Venetian Resort 3355 S Las Vegas Blvd Las Vegas, NV, USA
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/s/rally-to-defend-palestine/1161077187721746/>
- **Stuttgart: Nakba Day Demonstration** - Saturday, 15 May 4:00 pm Marienplatz Stuttgart, Deutschland
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/314851323362059/>
- **Köln: Nakba Day Demonstration** - Saturday, 15 May 4:00 pm Heumarkt Köln, Germany
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/1816335211886920/>
- **Freiburg: The Ongoing Nakba** - Saturday, 15 May 10 am – 2 pm Platz

der alten Synagoge 2 pm - 5 pm Konzerthaus Freiburg, Germany
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/237853331472279/>

- **Hamburg: Demonstration for the Day of the Nakba** - Saturday, 15 May 3:00 pm Ottenser Hauptstrasse Hamburg, Germany Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/296738808610593/>
- **Lyon: 15 May Rally for Palestinian Nakba** - Saturday, 15 May 3:00 pm, Place Bellecour, Lyon, France. Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/216771669906512/>
- **Brussels: Rally to commemorate Nakba 73** - Saturday, 15 May 3:00 pm Place Albertine Brussels, Belgium Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/911945669375799/>
- **Marseille: 1948 Nakba - 73 years of Palestinian Resistance** - Saturday, 15 May 3:00 pm Place Bargemon Marseille, France
- **Napoli: NAKBA نكبة - Ricordare e resistere per esistere!** - Saturday, 15 May 11 am Piazza Dante Napoli, Italy Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/915416095919119/>
- **Machynlleth: Nakba Day Vigil** - Saturday, 15 May 11 am The Clock Tower Machynlleth, Wales Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/208833754148964/>
- **Nottingham: Remember the Nakba** - Saturday, 15 May 12 pm Old Market Square Nottingham, Britain Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/833822114155903/>
- **East London: Remembering the Palestinian Nakba in East London** - Saturday, 15 May 12 pm Stratford Market East London, Britain and Whitechapel Ideas Store, East London Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/753847125250976/>
- **Canterbury: Nakba 73 - Exist! Resist! Return!** - Saturday, 15 May 1 pm HSBC Bank, Whitefriars 9 Rose Lane, Canterbury, UK Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/307828627519700/>

- **Waikato: Al Nakba Commemoration Rally** - Saturday, 15 May 1:30 pm Wairere Drive and Cambridge Road Hillcrest (same place as previous Rallies) Waikato, New Zealand Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/158619039441894/>
- **Sydney: Rally: Free Palestine, Commemorate Al Nakba** - Saturday, 15 May 2:00 pm Sydney Town Hall Sydney, Australia Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/841268616598354/>
- **Paterson, NJ: Rally to Defend Palestine from the River to the Sea** - Sunday, 16 May 1 pm Main St and Gould Avenue Paterson, NJ Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/510383643319503/>
- **Stafford: The Day Elbit Dies in the Dock** - Friday, 17 May 9:00 am Stafford Crown Court Victoria Square, Stafford ST16 200 Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/506942006968372/>
- **Melbourne: Nakba rally (Naarm): 73 years of Israeli colonisation must end** - Saturday, 22 May 1:00 pm State Library Victoria 328 Swanston Street Melbourne, Victoria, Australia Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/events/922133665236736/>

GET SAMPLE TWEETS: bit.ly/sheikhjarrahtweets



#SAVE SHEIKH JARRAH

END CANADIAN SILENCE ON ISRAELI ETHNIC CLEANSING

**Join the Social Media Storm: Saturday, May 8, 2021
10 am Pacific - 1 pm Eastern - 8 pm Palestine**



Source: [Samidoun](#)



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

written by Struggle - La Lucha

May 10, 2021

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 Atlanta 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.



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

written by Struggle - La Lucha

May 10, 2021

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 Upper East Side — is covered in blood.

OSHA was won by struggle

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.

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. Meatpacking 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.



Repression in Colombia: Made in USA

written by Struggle - La Lucha

May 10, 2021

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.



From april 28th at 6:00 am to may 5th at 12:00 pm we have registered in our platform **GRITA** 

1708

Cases of
Police
Brutality

222

victims of
**physical
violence** by
the police

37

victims of
homicides in
hands of
police

831

**arbitrary
arrests**

312

**violent
interventions**
by the
public force

22

victims
with
**injuries
to their
eyes**

110

cases of
**firearm
shootings**
by the
police

10

victims of
sexual assault
by the public
force

Si eres víctima de violencia
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313 677 9720



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 strafe 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!



Al Quds Day: Palestinian resistance can never be defeated!

written by Struggle - La Lucha

May 10, 2021

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 massacres 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!



Community groups file injunction to stop Kroger store closings

written by Struggle - La Lucha

May 10, 2021

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 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.



A celebration of Mumia in South Central LA

written by Struggle - La Lucha

May 10, 2021

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.

<https://www.facebook.com/100005678580251/videos/pcb.1762711717261431/1762793033919966>

