

# Chinese military bases in the Middle East - threat to whom?

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
November 10, 2023



Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, left, gestures to Chinese President Xi Jinping, right, with Deputy Supreme Commander of the UAE Armed Forces, second left, after reviewing the Guard of Honour, at the Presidential Palace in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, Friday, July 20, 2018.

United States President Joe Biden recently stated that his country is not only “the most powerful in the world” but also supposedly “in the history of mankind.” And while that assertion is highly debatable to anyone remotely familiar with the actual history of our planet, it’s true that very few countries (if any) can (or could’ve) [match](#)

[the U.S. in terms of military \(over\)deployment](#). Namely, while the exact number is not easy to pinpoint, Washington, D.C., currently operates at least a thousand military bases, logistics hubs, centers, etc., around the globe. The belligerent thalassocracy insists that this is “necessary” to supposedly “maintain global security.” However, the vast majority of the people on our planet are perfectly aware that this is anything but true and that the U.S. and its vassals and satellite states are [by far the greatest security threat to anyone in the world](#).

And yet, in its [endless hypocrisy and double standards](#), Washington DC keeps “expressing concern” when other countries establish a military presence on foreign soil, no matter how minuscule it is in comparison to the U.S. According to various reports, for the first time in its history, China is planning to establish a permanent military base in the Middle East. Washington, D.C., is virtually bound to see this “as a significant challenge,” particularly as the planned permanent base will be in the highly strategic (and volatile) Persian Gulf region. The U.S. itself also has a major military presence, such as the Navy Central Command military infrastructure in Qatar and Bahrain. On November 7, citing “people familiar with the matter,” Bloomberg reported that “President Joe Biden has been briefed on what his advisers see as a Chinese plan to build a military facility in Oman.”

“This comes amid a broader effort by Beijing to deepen defense and diplomatic ties with the Middle East,” [the report continues, further adding](#): “Biden was told that Chinese military officials discussed the matter last month with Omani counterparts, who were said to be amenable to such a deal, said the people, who asked not to be identified discussing private deliberations. They said the two sides agreed to more talks in the coming weeks.”

The exact location of the future Chinese military infrastructure in Oman is still unknown. Back in August, [Beijing and Muscat celebrated the 45th anniversary](#) of the establishment of their formal diplomatic relations. In recent decades, the two

countries have significantly improved their economic and military relationship, including joint exercises and other activities related to security and national interests. In addition, the port of Muscat is known for regularly hosting the ships of the People's Liberation Army Navy (PLAN). [Back in mid-October, the Royal Navy of Oman \(RNO\) and PLAN held joint naval drills](#) and also promised "to expand their naval defense and military cooperation." It should also be noted that China maintains very close relations with other countries in the region, including the United Arab Emirates (UAE), which could also be a possible candidate for future Chinese military presence.

At present, the only significant military base that Beijing operates anywhere near the region is its military base in Djibouti, a small country in East Africa. It should be noted that China is prone to establishing a military presence only in areas that its leadership thinks are important for the security of [its massive infrastructure projects, such as the unprecedented One Belt One Road](#). This Chinese-led multinational effort spans almost the entirety of Asia and large parts of Europe. It includes both land and naval facilities and infrastructure, with a particular focus on trade and transportation. An important part of the project also includes Beijing's plans to deepen ties with various major energy producers, a mutually beneficial effort that will further stabilize the otherwise volatile region. Bloomberg also suggested this is a major reason behind strengthened military ties between China and Oman.

And while the U.S. doesn't have a direct and permanent military presence in Oman (besides naval visits to its ports), it does have an official agreement with Muscat to use the country's military bases whenever it needs them for operations in the region. This includes the Thumrait airbase of the RAFO (Royal Air Force of Oman), located near the homonymous city in the south of the country. The airbase is often used by the USAF. In addition, the U.S. Navy also has a strong presence in waters off the coast of Oman. Its primary mission in the area is essentially ["legalized piracy" that](#)

[includes hunting for Iranian ships supposedly loaded with oil, weapons](#), or anything else the U.S. considers “illegal”. Needless to say, such activities by the U.S. forces in the region only contribute to unnecessary tensions and destabilization. This stands in stark contrast to China’s plans, as Beijing maintains a strong partnership with everyone in the region.

In the last several years, the U.S. Africa Command (AFRICOM) began warning that China is supposedly “not content with its Djibouti base on the continent’s east coast, but is looking to establish a military presence on the Atlantic.” Washington, D.C., sees this as a major threat to its [much-touted “rules-based world order.”](#) However, it’s obvious that Beijing’s military ambitions are nowhere near those of Washington, D.C., and that the Eurasian giant simply wants to ensure the safety of its global infrastructure projects. It’s highly unlikely that the U.S. will be able to force China’s partners in any of the areas where these projects are being conducted to stop them, let alone break growing ties with Beijing. For these countries, the choice is rather simple – it’s crucial to maintain close ties with the world’s most powerful production economy and a country that actually makes long-term investments in socioeconomic development.

*Drago Bosnic is an independent geopolitical and military analyst.*

Source: [InfoBrics](#)



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# **Call to action: Trans Day of Remembrance 2023**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
November 10, 2023



## **Trans Day of Remembrance 2023:**

### **MOURN THE DEAD, FIGHT LIKE HELL FOR THE LIVING!**

The [Coalition to Protect Trans Lives](#) calls on trans and queer people and our allies to come out in force for Trans Day of Remembrance events across the country on Nov. 20, 2023. The need to remember our fallen and fight for our future has never been more urgent.

In October alone, at least six of our Black trans siblings were murdered: A'nee Johnson, Skylar Harrison Reeves, Chyna Long, Lisa Love, London Price, and Dominic Dupree. Twenty-six trans people are known to have been killed so far this year, though the real number is likely much higher thanks to misgendering by police and media. This year, like every year, the overwhelming number of victims are Black, Indigenous, and other People of Color.

Anti-trans violence and threats have skyrocketed, propelled by hate campaigns driven by far-right politicians, corporate media, and fascist groups and funded by the super-rich. Laws passed in HALF of U.S. states in 2023 aim to eradicate trans lives, especially targeting youth, with more and worse to come in 2024.

Republican presidential candidates like Trump and DeSantis scapegoat trans people for political gain, while President Biden and Congressional Democrats offer us nothing but worthless “thoughts and prayers” while life-saving health care is ripped away.

Trans people are part of the working class and all marginalized communities under attack by the capitalists across this country. We are part of the movements for Black Lives, for immigrants, for a free Palestine, for unions. We need to reach out and build a united fightback in the spirit of the Stonewall uprising, AIDS activism, and the Civil Rights Movement.

That's why our grassroots coalition took the fight to the front lines of the fight against fascism in Florida. We organized the Oct. 7 [National March to Protect Trans Youth in Orlando](#), uniting hundreds from across Florida and the U.S. to defiantly resist. And we're not stopping there. More acts of resistance are coming in 2024 - get involved to help us plan and organize.

Join us to build a movement to turn back the attacks on trans lives. Let's fight to expand the rights of trans people and all people!

Speak to an organizer, email [info@protecttranskidsmarch.org](mailto:info@protecttranskidsmarch.org), or sign up at [ProtectTransKidsMarch.org](https://ProtectTransKidsMarch.org).

### **No more stolen trans lives! We remember:**

London Price, Oct. 23, Miami

Lisa Love, Oct. 17, Chicago

A'nee Johnson, Oct. 14, Washington, D.C.

Dominic Dupree (Dominic Palace), Oct. 13, Gary, IN

Chyna Long, Oct. 8, Milwaukee

Skylar Harrison Reeves, Oct. 2, Washington, D.C.

YOKO (YouOnlyKnowOne), Sept. 19, New Orleans

Sherlyn Marjorie, Sept. 17, Albuquerque

Thomas 'Tom-Tom' Robertson, Aug. 17, Calumet City, IN

Luis Ángel Díaz Castro, Aug. 12, San Juan, U.S.-occupied Puerto Rico

DéVonnie J'Rae Johnson, Aug. 7, Los Angeles

Camdyn Rider, July 21, Winter Park, FL

Jacob Williamson, June 30, Monroe, SC

Chanell Perez Ortiz, June 25, Carolina, U.S.-occupied Puerto Rico

Ashia Davis, June 2, Detroit

Banko Brown, April 27, San Francisco

Koko Da Doll, April 18, Atlanta



Ashley Burton, April 11, Atlanta  
Tasiyah Woodland, March 24, St. Mary's County, MD  
Chashay Henderson, Feb. 26, Milwaukee  
Zachee Imanitwitaho, Feb. 3, Louisville, KY  
Unique Banks, Jan. 23, Chicago  
Maria Jose Rivera Rivera, Jan. 21, Houston  
Tortuguita, Jan. 18, Atlanta  
KC Johnson, Jan. 14, Wilmington, NC  
Jasmine "Star" Mack, Jan. 7, Washington, D.C.

[According to HRC](#), in 2023:

88% of victims are people of color  
52% are Black transgender women  
47% with a known killer were killed by a romantic/sexual partner, friend, or family member  
48% were misgendered or deadnamed by authorities or the press

### **The Coalition to Protect Trans Lives demands:**

- Reverse the bans on trans health care, restroom access, Black & Queer history
- Stop racist attacks on our communities
- Stop censorship and attacks on the civil liberties of teachers, students & libraries
- Hands off Pride!
- Free, legal, accessible abortions
- Expand Medicaid and SNAP
- Stop voter disenfranchisement
- Drop charges on the Tampa 5 and all activists targeted by the state
- Demand Biden & Congress enforce civil rights from coast to coast



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# Capitalists behind anti-trans social media barrage

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On Nov. 2, a hate group called PragerU spent what is reported to be a million dollars to promote anti-trans lies on the social media site “X” (formerly Twitter), owned by right-wing billionaire Elon Musk.

Who funds this hate group? It’s unknown where that specific million dollars came from, but the group was originally funded by two hydraulic fracking billionaires, and a quick search suggests those same billionaires are still involved in the group.

Research also shows that other major donors include a right-wing foundation started by people who made their fortune pushing automation in factories, one of whom was a founding member of the infamous anti-communist, racist, sexist, fascist

organization known as the John Birch Society.

There are three kinds of political group in this country:

1. Those that are kept together with the grit and spit of working-class people and what little we can scrape together to fund resistance to oppression, exploitation, and violence.
2. Those that are funded by rich people who want to push the most anti-worker, oppressive agenda you've ever heard of.
3. Those that are funded by rich people who want to push a more liberal agenda in order to keep you from supporting the first kind of group, because they hate the first kind of group since those are the only kind that can make a difference.

The hate group (of the second variety) pushing this anti-trans barrage on social media is not unique. There are many anti-trans hate groups, most of them funded by very similar billionaires (or, in some cases, multimillionaires, as if that makes a difference in their political outlook).

[A recent exposé by the Huffington Post](#) went into detail about Joseph Edelman, a hedge fund manager whose business focuses on health care. He funds anti-trans, anti-abortion, and anti-anti-racist (that's not a typo) groups, including PragerU.

### **Bosses need scapegoats**

You have to ask yourself: Why do they care?

The answer is: They don't. They don't care about trans people. They care about making money.

These capitalists make their fortunes destroying the environment, automating factories, and investing in for-profit health care. They make their fortunes

intentionally worsening conditions for most of humanity. They profit off human suffering, and they know that right now, that suffering has escalated all over the world.

Between the pandemic, climate change, unemployment, new forms of automation, and endless war, it's pretty grim for workers and oppressed people everywhere.

They know that those conditions breed resistance. They know that people are angry and that anger has to go somewhere. The best thing they can do to keep that anger from showing up at their doorstep (where it belongs) is to push a scapegoat.

A million dollars to tell everyone that trans people are coming for their kids is a small price to pay to keep justice at bay for another few years.

The fact that this will likely cause many trans people to die - as we lose access to health care ourselves, as we are so demonized that we become targets of violence, as we are driven into the closet and eventually to suicide - does not matter to them. They might hire people who have been deceived enough to sincerely hate us, but the rich and powerful people pushing this agenda? They don't care if we die.

And that makes them worse than the true believers. There's nothing there to convince, to shame, to educate, to grieve, to find compassion, to be debated. The only thing they will ever understand is mass resistance.

They are the source of the problem, not religion, not politics, not misinformed doctors, not terrified parents, not "stupid cis people." They dangle millions of dollars in front of enough people, and some of those people will sign up to be used to spread hate. Then the religious, political, medical, parental, people out there are gulled by the million-dollar campaigns and constant media barrage.

Without those millions dangled in front of them, most of the opportunists would never even think about trans people, and the deceived would never stop to think

about us unless we were part of their lives. The few true believers would be powerless to push their agenda without the money as well.

### **Pushing 'de-transition' myth**

The million-dollar campaign from PragerU is pushing the idea of de-transitioners. While many trans people do desist (the proper term for it), most do so due to economic hardship, threats of violence, discrimination, or other issues, not because they aren't really trans. The number of trans people who permanently desist is very low.

(There are reports of anti-trans parents in online forums complaining that their kids "aren't growing out of this trans phase" - i.e., parents shocked to learn that the lies they have been fed are lies.)

The number of people who regret transitioning is also exceedingly low, and even then, most regret it on the same basis as they desist — because of anti-trans bigotry, violence, or economic hardships.

Furthermore, there's nothing wrong with de-transitioning. It's another way of saying, "I explored my gender and figured out that transition wasn't for me." In the rare instances this happens, it's perfectly okay. We should all be allowed to explore our genders without any barriers to doing so.

The problem is, the "de-transitioners" who are being promoted by these hate groups are opportunists using their stories to spread anti-trans hate. In the last year or so, there have been articles exposing anti-trans de-transitioner spokespeople as frauds. They're usually paid to tell a story of de-transition, distort or exaggerate parts of it, and do the bidding of these hate groups.

One recently exposed story was about a trans woman who was encouraged to sue her medical providers for pressuring her into transitioning. When she did this, the

medical providers stopped providing her with hormones.

Yes, you read that right — this infamous “de-transitioner” was still transitioning! Cutting off her hormones sent her into a depressive spiral that sent her to a mental hospital. She eventually renounced her de-transitioner status and ties to the hate groups.

While this individual was used by them, she was also willingly involved in their agenda, making her story a clear example of how these groups operate, and more importantly, what empowers them and their agenda: the money behind it.

This is why we have to make it clear when we stand up for trans rights that our enemy is the super-rich and their willing, knowing pawns, not the ones who have simply been deceived. Once we defeat them, once we defeat capitalism, the power behind anti-trans hate is gone.

This is not to say we should not fight for better conditions and oppose anti-trans hate before we defeat capitalism, but that understanding who is funding and empowering anti-trans hate should inform how we fight.

To defeat the capitalists funding the anti-trans agenda, we need everyone we can get to stand with us, which means remembering that not everyone with a backward idea about trans people is actually our enemy. They’re victims of deception, and it’s to them that we should address attempts at education and persuasion – and also solidarity in their own struggles, which are caused by the same group of rich parasites.

Solidarity with others under attack should be the first step.

*The writer is a member of Workers Voice Socialist Movement.*



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# Dagestan: Western powers feign concern after attempted anti-Jewish pogrom

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Late on the night of Oct. 29, a group of over 300 people stormed the airport terminal and ransacked a nearby hotel in Makhachkala, the regional capital of the Dagestan region of Russia. The mob's stated goal was to capture and exact revenge upon Jewish people for Israel's recent genocidal campaign against the Palestinian people.

The Russian government and local Dagestani authorities [moved quickly to squash the riot](#) and attempted pogrom. The word attempted is crucial, as the mob was unable to cause any harm to Jewish people or damage to Jewish institutions.

This was partially due to the few number of Jews in the area that night. However, the quick response of Russian police and political leaders certainly played a role in

stamping out the excesses of Oct. 29.

Russian officials at all levels harshly condemned the antisemitic riot and ordered security forces to arrest and prosecute the perpetrators to the fullest extent of the law. Sergey Melikov, the elected head of Dagestan, attacked the rioters as cowards bent on dividing Russian society.

Russian President Vladimir Putin and Press Secretary Dmitry Peskov reiterated these sentiments in no uncertain terms. All of these leaders harshly condemned antisemitism or any form of ethnic bigotry and urged the people to avoid provocations led by opportunists.

Ramzan Kadyrov, head of the Chechen Republic, gave a particularly passionate statement on the issue. Kadyrov pushed his citizens to resist the urge to take out anger about Israeli apartheid on Jews living in Russia. He also ordered his security forces to help investigate and arrest the leaders of the Oct. 29 riot and all those who participated.

Nonetheless, media outlets in the United States and Europe were quick to jump on the opportunity to frame Dagestan as an antisemitic place bent on the destruction of civilization, along with the rest of the Muslim world.

### **Spreading anti-Muslim hate**

This sort of blood feud narrative is used to justify Israel's genocidal actions and obfuscate U.S. culpability in destabilizing the entire Middle East. One only has to look as far as the imperialist publication The Hill. In the wake of the events at Makhachkala, The Hill released a piece by Yulia Latynina, an open right-wing ideologue.

In the piece, Latynina argues that the attempted antisemitic pogrom is a result of "Islamization" in the Caucasus region over the past 30 years. She further argues



that this “Islamization” has given rise to a feudal clan culture equivalent to gangland rule. In her own racist words, “There is no civil society in Dagestan.”

CNBC also seized on the opportunity to push this propaganda point, framing the entire incident as “rising ethnic tensions in Russia.” The implication of all this Western media coverage is that the more Muslim people in any given society, the more antisemitism and general barbarism in that society. This is a theme we have seen repeated in the statements of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, calling Palestinians “children of darkness.”

Not only is this narrative patently false, but it only serves to justify current U.S. and Israeli aggression towards Palestine, as well as Iran, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, etc.

### **Jan. 6 attempted coup**

The pearl-clutching on the subject is rich coming from U.S. politicians and the corporate media. Because it was exactly those two groups that whitewashed the horror of the Jan. 6, 2021, [bierhalle putsch](#) in Washington, D.C., where not hundreds but tens of thousands of fascist lunatics carrying Nazi and Confederate flags succeeded in storming the U.S. Capitol building.

At that racist riot, one protester was seen wearing a shirt that read “Staff: Camp Auschwitz – established 1940.” This sort of frothing-at-the-mouth antisemitism was on display for the entire country that day as fascist shock troops chased Black Capitol police officers and sought to assassinate members of “the Squad.” The racist mob made it all the way to the floor of the House of Representatives, the supposed seat of “American democracy.”

In the wake of the attempted fascist coup, the U.S. Capitol police launched an internal investigation into the security failures that led to the storming. The investigation concluded that [not only were the capitol police aware](#) of the potential

fascist riot, but were [ordered to stand down](#) in the face of explicit threats of violence against Congress.

In Russia, state authorities could not rush fast enough to suppress the antisemitic mob at the Makhachkala airport. Local police and military assets responded in force. Further, leaders at every level of the Russian government vowed fierce prosecutions of all responsible.

While in the wake of the Jan. 6 racist riot, there was widespread condemnation in most of the mainstream press and from many mainstream politicians, Congress still voted not to impeach Donald Trump despite overwhelming evidence that he incited the putsch.

Much can be said about a government based on its response to racism and fascism. The U.S. always responds to fascism with a whimper, if not a cry of support.

This is just one of the many realities that distinguish the current Russian government not only from the United States but also Russian tsardom that waged a campaign of countless large-scale pogroms against the Jewish people in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The Russian Federation of today is not socialist, as the USSR was before it. However, that does not mean the current Russian government is in the image of imperial tsarist Russia, despite [incessant](#) Western media [comparisons](#) of the two.

The events in Dagestan on Oct. 29 were vile and unacceptable. However, those events were almost certainly a result of efforts by right-wing opportunists and [foreign enemies](#) of Russia. This sort of division between different Russian ethnic groups serves only U.S. imperialism.

Any instability in Russia is beneficial for NATO as it desperately tries to fuel a Ukrainian fascist breakthrough on the war front.

This was an unfortunate chapter of history, where genuine anger against Israeli genocide was seized upon by political opportunists in an attempt to undermine Russia's moral authority among its people.

What Oct. 29 was not is proof that the global Muslim community or the Russian state are inherent dangers to Jews. The inherent dangers to Jews internationally are fascism and U.S. imperialism.



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# **U.S. arms shipment to Israel blocked at Port of Tacoma**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
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The Port of Tacoma in Washington state was shut down by a picket line shortly before 5:30 a.m. on Nov. 6. Protesters swarmed the entrance with signs and chants: "No aid for Israel" and "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free."

Demonstrators parked cars along the road leading into the port, stopping all traffic,

including trucking to and from the port. Organizers say their protest delayed the ship's departure by at least 12 hours.

The action was called to prevent the [MV Cape Orlando](#), part of the U.S. fleet, from transporting military cargo to Israel. On Nov. 3, the ship had been delayed by a last-minute, unpublicized demonstration at the Port of Oakland.

At that protest, Lara Kiswani, executive director of the Arab Resource and Organizing Center, said: "We're hoping that the workers in Tacoma will not load that military cargo, that people of Tacoma will show up to protest this genocide, and that workers around the world will continue to stop ships like this anywhere they may be found,"

In fact, at the Tacoma Port located near McChord Air Force Base, workers could not load the vessel. As members of the International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU), they are bound not to cross picket lines. It is a clear violation of their union principles and potentially dangerous as well.

Clarence Thomas, a retired longshore worker and former secretary-treasurer of ILWU Local 10 in Oakland, remarked that protests are more powerful when workers at the point of production become involved.

It was reported that members of the U.S. military had been ordered to attempt to load the ship using water taxis.

Commenting on the success of the demonstration, protester Alon Lapid [told KOMO News](#): "This turnout is incredible. The people here are all showing up to support Palestinian liberation, to stop an ongoing genocide, and to call out all U.S. military aid to this genocide of the Palestinian people in Gaza.

"We know that we have a responsibility and a duty to shut down this port because the military is literally going to be loading weapons and bombs that are going to be

sent to the Israeli occupation regime to commit genocide today. We're all out in force for Palestine," Lapid concluded.



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# U.S. military ship's supplies for Israel stalled by protest at berth in Oakland, Calif.

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
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As the sun rose on Nov. 3, protesters began to pour into a site near Berth 20 in the Port of Oakland in California, where the U.S. military vessel [MV Cape Orlando was preparing for departure](#). It is a roll-on/roll-off ship, part of the U.S. fleet that is replenishing military stockpiles in Israel.

After leaving Oakland, the ship's next destination was the Port of Tacoma, in Washington state, where there is a power projection platform\* located close to the McChord Air Force Base. The Cape Orlando will be prepared to deliver tanks,

armored personnel, carriers, and mobile rocket launchers, as well as troop trucks, cargo trucks, and Humvees.

Swelling ranks of protesters occupied Berth 20 and shut it down. The departure of the ship was delayed for more than nine hours.

A group of young Palestinians, their energy fueled by the loss of family and community, breached the Homeland Security Department's MARSEC security perimeter. While they scaled the fence, they must have thought of their siblings shot dead by Israeli forces when they approached the walls bounding Gaza.

Protesters lashed the boat back to its mooring lines on the bollards. Three locked themselves to the ladder leading onto the ship, adding significant delay. They are currently being held in custody by the police.

The protest was called by the Arab Resource and Organizing Center (AROC) less than 24 hours after the U.S. House of Representatives passed a \$14.3-billion aid package to Israel. Merchant marine workers told AROC about the ship.

"We know that the ship is destined as a military ship to Israel because of the courage of workers," [says Lara Kiswani](#), AROC executive director.

"We're hoping that when it reaches Tacoma, the workers will not load that military cargo, that people of Tacoma will show up to protest this genocide, and that workers around the world will continue to stop ships like this anywhere they may be found," she said.

"We are simply trying to call for an immediate ceasefire and stop the aiding of the genocide of my people."

The protest grew quickly even though there had been little time to organize the action. Speakers denounced President Biden's cruel hypocrisy of talking about a

“humanitarian pause” to the epic massacre of Palestinians in Gaza.

Kiswani said: “Today we showed the world: No business as usual while Israel commits genocide against the Palestinian people. This genocide is being funded by our government and they’re sending weapons starting from our city.”

### **ILWU solidarity with Palestine**

Clarence Thomas, a retired longshore worker and former secretary-treasurer of International Longshore Workers Union (ILWU) Local 10, spoke to the rally. He called out to the merchant marine crew of the military cargo ship to let them know that longshore and maritime workers in Gaza could not get work.

As an African American worker, he said he had experienced the scourge of apartheid in the U.S. — the inability to find a job, the theft of land and homes, as well as genocide.

Bishop Tutu, Nobel laureate, criticized Israeli policies toward the Palestinians as “humiliating,” and said those policies were familiar to all Black South Africans under apartheid.

“ILWU Local 10 has had a long record of solidarity with the Palestinians. In 2014 they blocked an Israeli ship after Israeli commandos launched a murderous attack on a flotilla bringing aid to Palestine. During another assault on Gaza in 2021, longshore workers refused to unload Israeli cargo in Oakland, Seattle, Tacoma, and Vancouver, British Columbia.”

Thomas added that he wasn’t surprised to see this demonstration just a week after dockworkers in Belgium pledged not to work any ships destined for Israel.

Sharif Zakout, speaking for AROC, said: “Israel’s ability to commit genocide against the people of Gaza is entirely dependent on U.S. military aid. We are here to sound

the alarm on this U.S. military ship bound to Israel, to disrupt this war machine, and to do whatever we can to stop the killing of our loved ones in Gaza.”

AROC reported that as many as a thousand people joined in the demonstration against U.S. military support for Israel. Communities in the Pacific Northwest have already called for more protests to block the military supply vessel.

*\* A power projection platform is an Army installation set up to mobilize and generate forces and project those forces anywhere in the world at any time.*



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## **New Orleans port protest: Cut ties with Israel!**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
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Nov. 3, New Orleans – About 100 pro-Palestine protesters gathered on Canal Street downtown, outside the Sheraton Hotel, where the annual State of the Port address



was happening. This is an elite event for business people and politicians.

Activists demanded that the Port of New Orleans, the city and state governments, along with the police forces, cut all ties with the Zionist state, which is currently carrying out a genocide of Palestinian people with Washington's full backing. Protesters rallied, passed out literature, formed a picket line, and then marched during the lunch rush.



Connecting the Mississippi River to the Gulf of Mexico, the Port of New Orleans is a major economic hub for the United States, responsible for a nationwide [economic output of \\$29.8 billion](#). The port has [established collaborations with Israel's Port of](#)

[Ashdod](#) in Tel Aviv, launching an “Innovation Embassy” this year.

The U.S. Census Bureau says that [28.3% of people in New Orleans live in poverty](#). While working-class people struggle to make ends meet, U.S. capitalists – including in Louisiana – continue to get richer by collaborating with Zionist Israel. These business leaders have blood on their hands.



Friday’s protest action was called by Freedom Road Socialist Organization – New Orleans, Students for a Democratic Society, and other groups. Speakers indicated that this is the beginning of a campaign focused on the port authority. They promised to continue disrupting meetings, luncheons, and other functions until the port ends its relations with Israel.

Speakers included Tulane students facing charges after they were attacked by Zionist students during a peaceful protest for Palestine on that New Orleans

university campus. Since the incident, they have faced harassment by university police and disinformation campaigns accusing them of antisemitism.

As with all other pro-Palestine protests in New Orleans, anti-Zionist Jewish activists played a leading role on Friday. Jewish Voice for Peace has been a driving force in the movement, showing that anti-Zionism is not antisemitism.



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# **Uprising in Puerto Rico in solidarity with the Palestinian struggle commemorated**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
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This past Monday, October 30, the Puerto Rican independence movement commemorated, like every year on this date, the Jayuya Insurrection of 1950 led by the Nationalist Party.

Although the Grito de Lares of 1868 is better known outside of Puerto Rico, the

importance of the Jayuya Uprising is that it was the first armed uprising against the Yankee invaders. Nationalist men and women fought in several towns on the island, but it was in Jayuya where the Republic of Puerto Rico was proclaimed free from gringo domination. There, the pro-independence forces fought and maintained combat, even with rudimentary weapons, for three days before the US military forces, together with the local police, repressed them.

The commemoration events this year were very special because they took place in a very painful global context. The genocide by Israel and the United States of the Palestinian people. And for us in Puerto Rico, the Palestinian struggle has always been a sister struggle. We are both colonies, and our people have been displaced from our lands in Puerto Rico with a less bloody character but with the same purpose of taking over our homeland.

That is why this year, the commemoration of the Jayuya insurrection was not only the expression of a people that continue to fight in various ways for our liberation but also an act of solidarity with those sisters and brothers who are being massacred by the same criminal hand that tries to rob us of our future. Showing solidarity with the Palestinian struggle and resistance. This was demonstrated by the speeches and even a song written by our singer, Tony Mapeyé, in honor of the Palestinian people.

Long live Puerto Rico! Long live Free Palestine!

From Puerto Rico for Radio Clarín of Colombia, Berta Joubert-Ceci spoke to you.

*Translated by Walter Lippmann for CubaNews.*

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# **☐☐ Thursday all out - Baltimore shut it down for Palestine**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
November 10, 2023

**Shut It Down for Palestine  
Baltimore**

**Thursday, November 9th, 3 pm  
gather at MLK Blvd & W. Mulberry Street**



# Nov 9th Shut It Down for Palestine

**BALTIMORE – 3 pm**  
**Thurs. Nov 9 gather**  
**at MLK Blvd &**  
**W. Mulberry St.**

SCAN TO SIGN UP  
for details or go to  
<https://rb.gy/kkbve1>



**Peoples Power Assembly To endorse or for info: Text 301-327-4799**

Shut It Down for Palestine – Banner Drop & More

Thursday, November 9th,

- 3 p.m. gather at Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd & W. Mulberry Street
- 5 pm flashlight event & March

For details, please [SIGN UP](#)

Huge thank you to all those who participated in the November 4th March on Washington D.C. and the Baltimore Stands with Palestine Contingent. Thank you for your participation and your support, whether you provided water and food, donations for transportation, or you put on your marching shoes.

Over 300,000 people gathered Saturday at Freedom Plaza in Washington D.C. for the National March on Washington for Palestine. We must continue our work to stop genocide in Palestine! We must lift up our voices and continue our actions in the street to end all U.S. wars and occupations. Say no to U.S. troops in Haiti!

Baltimore show up for the national shut it down for Palestine — called on November 4th by the Palestinian Youth Movement and many others.

The Peoples Power Assembly is planning a major community outreach banner drop and event. Let's cut through the war lies and broaden our movement – take our protest to Baltimore's workers and poor. The billions of dollars spent on bombs and genocide need to be spent on safe water, housing, medical care and ending food deserts.

Thursday, November 9th,

3 p.m. gather at Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd & W. Mulberry Street

5 pm flashlight event & March

For details, please [SIGN UP](#)

If your organization would like to endorse: text 301-327-4799

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## Peoples Power Assembly Files Complaints for Police Blocking Doors at Penn Station

Our attorney, Alex Summerfield, has filed formal complaints against both the Baltimore Police Department and Amtrak police, who blocked doors at Penn Station on November 4th in violation of our constitutional rights. If there is anyone who missed the 11 am train as a result, please text 301-327-4799.

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### Night of Solidarity

Dinner, Music & Program

Saturday, November 18

6:30 pm to 9 pm

Doors open at 6 pm

719 N. Howard Street

Proceeds to benefit: Palestinian Youth Movement DMV, Peoples Power Assembly, & NomuNomu

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Donate Venmo@SolidarityCenter

[PAYPAL CLICK HERE](#)

or mail checks made out to Solidarity Center,  
Send to 703 E. 37th Street, Baltimore, MD 21218.





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# UAW knocks out Big Three auto companies

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
November 10, 2023

## **Dumping cutbacks by fighting back**

The strike of the United Auto Workers against General Motors, Ford and Stellantis

(Chrysler and Jeep) is a big step forward for all workers and poor people. The tentative agreements with these corporations — whose sales total \$500 billion — signal an end to a decades-long retreat of givebacks and wage cuts.

UAW members won wage increases of at least 25%. More importantly, the lowest-paid auto workers will get increases of 150%.

Raising the pay more for those on the bottom largely eliminates the outrageous wage tiers that were implemented in 2008 during the Great Recession. These tiers resulted in big differences of pay for UAW members doing the same work simply because of the date they were hired.

This victory for equality builds solidarity.

Cost-of-living wage increases, to compensate for inflation, have been restored. Pensions have increased. The UAW even forced the reopening of the Chrysler plant in Belvidere, Illinois, near Rockford.

Workers at any future electric battery or car plants will be brought under the UAW Big Three contract.

No wonder former Ford vice-president, Chrysler president and General Motors vice-chairman [Bob Lutz hates the union contract](#). “This is not like other labor negotiations,” Lutz said. “This was a gun to the head from a government-sanctioned monopoly called the labor union.”

The Washington Post — whose billionaire owner Jeff Bezos runs Amazon.com — [didn't like the UAW contract](#) either. Listen up, Bezos: Your \$160-billion stash won't stop Amazon workers from getting a union.

Toyota, whose U.S. plants are non-union, promptly [announced it was raising wages](#) by at least \$2.94 per hour.

This wasn't generosity. It's trying to keep the UAW out of Toyota's factories.

UAW President Shawn Fain announced that the union is planning organizing drives at Tesla, Toyota and other non-union outfits. Full speed ahead!

### **Ending a long retreat**

Back in 1970, 321,000 UAW members in the United States struck General Motors for 67 days. Another 21,000 workers, now represented by Unifor, struck GM plants in Canada for 94 days.

They won retirement after 30 years on the job ("30 and out"), as well as getting 95% of their pay during layoffs.

During the same period, mass demonstrations demanded an end to the Vietnam War. Access to food stamps, now called SNAP benefits, was expanded. Women and LGBTQ+ people demanded equality.

Despite Richard Nixon in the White House, both the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) were established.

On July 24, 1973, two Black workers — Larry Carter and Issac Shorter — had enough of Chrysler's racist management and dangerous working conditions. They turned off the power at the company's Jefferson Avenue assembly plant on the east side of Detroit in the first big sit-down strike in 36 years.

There were [6,074 strikes](#) across the United States in 1974.

The wealthy and powerful counterattacked, taking advantage of recessions and job-killing automation. U.S. corporations make super-profits by exploiting millions of workers in other lands.

Today GM has 170,000 fewer workers in the U.S. than it did in 1970. While 29.1% of all workers belonged to unions in 1970, only 10.3% were union members in 2021.

Wall Street demanded 50,000 New York City public workers be fired during the 1975 municipal debt crisis.

When Chrysler got financial guarantees from the federal government in 1979, the deal resulted in 30,000 workers being fired in Detroit alone. Chrysler's workforce went from 70% Black to 30%.

So much of the burden of 6 million manufacturing jobs being destroyed fell upon Black workers.

White family median income fell in the Midwest by 7.1% from 1978 to 1982. That's a recession.

During those same years Black family median income fell in the Midwest by 35.8%. That's a great depression.

Instead of young workers getting jobs with union wages and benefits, many were railroaded to prisons instead. Two million prisoners are members of the working class, too.

Why aren't Trump and the rest of the billionaire criminals locked up instead? The labor movement needs to demand "jobs, not jails!"

### **Palestine needs labor solidarity**

The UAW strike and the election of Shawn Fain as UAW president means not only an end to almost 50 years of givebacks. It's also breaking with 75 years of the labor movement knuckling-under to an anti-communist witch hunt that started in the late 1940s.

AFL-CIO President George Meany supported the dirty U.S. war against Vietnam, Laos and Cambodia that killed millions, including 58,000 GIs. Meany's home union, Plumbers' Local No. 1 in Howard Beach, New York City, didn't have a single Black or Puerto Rican apprentice in 1963.

The same year Meany refused to endorse the March for Jobs and Freedom, where Dr. King gave his "I Have a Dream" speech.

In contrast, Shawn Fain announced: "We went to each of the Big Three and proposed an expiration date of April 30, 2028. We did this for several reasons. First, this allows us to strike on May Day, or International Workers' Day."

The workers of Chicago gave May Day to the world in 1886 and their leaders were hanged for it. Even since then capitalists have tried to smother it.

Palestine is also a working-class issue. Just as Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos were bombed, U.S.-made bombs are being dropped on Gaza, killing thousands of Palestinian children.

President Biden is demanding billions of more dollars to kill Palestinians. There's nothing more cynical in U.S. history than the Big Oil government in Washington supporting the Zionist regime occupying Palestine.

U.S. war secretary Henry Stimson refused to bomb the railroad tracks leading to the Auschwitz extermination camp. Anne Frank's family was denied a U.S. visa.

Henry Ford was the biggest Jew-baiter in U.S. history. His car dealers distributed a Ford-owned newspaper that ran a 91-week long lying series called the "The International Jew."

Ford was also a union-buster, whose thugs beat up UAW organizers, including future union president Walter Reuther.

GM's Opel subsidiary was Hitler's biggest truck maker. IBM's punch cards were indispensable to organize the extermination of Jewish and Roma people.

None of this prevents the Israeli regime from allowing Ford, GM and IBM to have facilities in occupied Palestine.

Mark Diamondstein, who is Jewish, is president of the 200,000-strong American Postal Workers Union. At a recent AFL-CIO executive council meeting, [Diamondstein urged the council](#) to demand a ceasefire in Israel's attacks.

All of labor should support the APWU president. "Solidarity Forever" means solidarity with all oppressed people, including the children of Gaza.

