

# Where's the outrage over labor leader Chris Smalls' violent arrest by the IDF?

written by Struggle - La Lucha

July 30, 2025



U.S. labor leader Christian Smalls sails on the Gaza Freedom Flotilla ship Handala on July 15, 2025. Photo: Tan Safi/ Freedom Flotilla Coalition

**Despite Smalls having been profiled by every major media outlet in the U.S. when he successfully led the union drive at Amazon, not a single major media outlet has covered his violent detention by the IDF.**

July 29 — On Saturday, [the Israel Defense Forces boarded the \*Handala\*, a ship associated with the Flotilla Freedom Coalition](#), that was attempting to

reach [Gaza](#) with supplies for starving Palestinians. The IDF detained 21 activists, who had their hands held up, in graphic images that were captured by the Freedom Flotilla Coalition.

Among those on the ship was Chris Smalls, who gained fame when he led a successful union drive at Amazon in Staten Island in 2022. [Former U.S. President Joe Biden even invited Smalls to meet with him at the White House to strategize on union organizing in 2022.](#)

On Monday, details emerged that not only was Smalls detained, but he was physically beaten by the IDF. He was the only Black member of the Freedom Flotilla on the *Handala*.

“The Freedom Flotilla Coalition confirms that upon arrival in Israeli custody, U.S. human rights defender, Christian Smalls, was physically assaulted by seven uniformed individuals,” [wrote the Freedom Flotilla Coalition on Instagram](#). “They choked him and kicked him in the legs, leaving visible signs of violence on his neck and back.”

Still, despite Smalls having been profiled by [every major media outlet in the U.S. when he successfully led the union drive at Amazon](#), not a single major media outlet has covered his violent detention by the IDF three days ago.

In 2022, [The New York Times even ran a Style section profile on his fashion choices among more than a dozen pieces that they ran on his organizing efforts](#), but the paper has not said anything about the detention and beating of a high-profile labor activist at the hands of the IDF. Only three smaller left-leaning outlets, [Zeteo](#), [The Grio](#), and [Jezebel](#), covered it.

“This totally makes sense,” [wrote University of New Brunswick Professor Nathan Kalman-Lamb on Bluesky](#). “A notable public figure in the U.S. (Amazon labor

organizer Christian Smalls) is illegally arrested by [Israel](#) and subjected to severe physical violence while on a hunger strike... and not one U.S. media outlet of any type has decided that is news.”

Some union leaders have already begun to speak out about his detention.

“As a union, we are demanding the immediate release of Chris Smalls and all captured activists,” [said the 29,000-member California Faculty Association in a statement late Monday](#). “We further call for an immediate end to the engineered famine and deliberate starving of the people in Gaza, labor complicity with genocide, and all U.S. military aid to Israel”.

Other unions are expected to denounce the beating and detention of Smalls by the IDF.

However, his international union leader, Teamsters union president Sean O’Brien, has stayed silent on the detention of Smalls, who founded the Amazon Labor Union, which is now an affiliate of the Teamsters.

Instead, the Teamsters President Sean O’Brien took to social media to advertise his upcoming interview with [fascist commentator Vivek Ramaswamy and his 3 million right-wing followers](#).

*Mike Elk is the senior labor reporter at Payday Report and member of the Washington-Baltimore NewsGuild.*

Source: [Common Dreams](#)



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# **PFLP slams international silence as Gaza faces 'worst extermination war in history'**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
July 30, 2025

Popular Front For The Liberation Of Palestine



الجبهة الشعبية لتحرير فلسطين

**The Popular Front calls on the masses of our people in the occupied homeland to**

# **participate in mass activities against the war of starvation and genocide.**

“Our blood is one, and the popular uprising against genocide is a national duty.”

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine calls on our people in the occupied West Bank and in our land occupied in 1948 to participate broadly in all mass activities announced by national forces and institutions, in defense of our people and their just cause, and within the framework of solidarity with our people in the Gaza Strip, who are being subjected to the most brutal war of extermination and starvation in history.

- 1- The Front affirms that the duty of every Palestinian individual and activist is to work, mobilize, and participate in the mass activities announced by the national forces. It emphasizes its call for the broadest mass mobilization and participation, in light of the existential threat to which our people are exposed as a result of the ongoing aggression and the raging war of extermination.
- 2- The Front calls on our people throughout the occupied homeland to further unite, coordinate, and organize jointly, to escalate popular actions, and to participate in all forms of confronting the brutal war of extermination and ethnic cleansing that the enemy is waging against our people in Gaza and the West Bank, in conjunction with massive popular activities that will be organized in the diaspora and various capitals and cities of the world.
- 3- The Front stresses that the duty of the factions, institutions, and national and societal structures is to overcome any differences, work to escalate action in the face of the war of extermination, and truly contribute to popular action and all forms of resistance to the occupation.

4- The Front commends the Palestinian youth movements and the night marches they organize in various areas of the occupied West Bank, and calls on Palestinian youth from all factions and sectors to overcome the advocates of impotence and frustration, to march unified into the fields of national action, and to reclaim their role in the streets in defense of existence, the homeland, and the just cause of our people.

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine

Central Media Department

July 29, 2025

## **Popular Front: The occupation's continued detention of activists on the "Hanthala" ship is a war crime, and the free world must act immediately.**

- The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine holds the Zionist occupation and the international community fully responsible for the lives of the 14 freedom activists who were arrested during the occupation forces' interception of the "Hanthala" ship, which was on its way to break the siege on the Gaza Strip.
- The Zionist piracy crime against these activists from the high seas, and then their arrest and continued forced detention, is considered a war crime that puts the lives of the activists at great risk, especially after they were subjected to severe physical violence at the hands of the Zionist special forces, and were deprived of the minimum humane conditions inside the prison, including the lack of ventilation in the intense heat, and the lack of basic sanitary supplies for women.

- The Front commends the courage of the detained activists who refused to sign the so-called “voluntary deportation” or provide any pledge not to repeat their participation in such initiatives, and declared an open-ended hunger strike in protest against their forced detention.
- The continued detention of these international activists is a clear message to the world that this criminal entity poses a threat to all of humanity, and that the crimes of genocide, starvation, and siege it is committing against our Palestinian people mirror in their ugliness the crimes of fascist, Nazi, and racist regimes witnessed throughout history. Indeed, the Zionist entity surpasses them all in brutality and criminality.
- We call on the free world, peoples and solidarity movements, to take urgent action to support Gaza and stop the holocaust and famine, to continue the pressure to break the siege, and to work to deliver the voices of the detained free activists to the entire world.

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine

Central Media Department

July 28, 2025

Source: [PFLP.ps](https://www.pflp.ps)





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# Outside the UN: Stop Starving Gaza Now!

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
July 30, 2025



Bill Dores speaking on behalf of PAL-Awda NY at the Stop Starving Gaza Now! rally outside the United Nations HQ in New York City. The protest was part of the International Day of Action for Gaza on July 25.

Transcript:

... And in September 1945, the United Nations was formed, supposedly, to prevent that from ever happening again. It was a lie because at that time, most of the world was colonized, most of Africa was colonized, and Harry Truman was able to make the UN ratify the genocide, the Nakba Holocaust in Palestine in 1948, and they used the cover of the UN for a holocaust in Korea in 1950.

But today, the overwhelming number of countries of the world are members of the United Nations, and overwhelmingly, the people of the world stand with the people of Palestine.

Because most people don't like people who starve children to death. Today, Dachau Auschwitz is back, and it has a new name. It's called Gaza. And Adolf Hitler, and Eichmann, and Bormann, and Himmler are back. Their names are Netanyahu, and Trump, and Gallant, and also Macron, and then Merz in Germany.

Because there is an international conspiracy by the most powerful forces in the world, the richest countries in the world, to exterminate the people of Palestine, to starve them to death, to eradicate an entire nation.

Like the people of the Warsaw Ghetto in 1943, the people of Palestine, the people of Gaza, are fighting back. But they need the whole world to stand by their side. The UN is rigged because the United States, by being on the Security Council, can veto any effective international action.

President Gaddafi tried to change that, and they murdered him. But there is an instrument passed by the General Assembly, called Uniting for Peace, that gives the General Assembly the right to go around, to overrule the Security Council, and call for international action.

And we've had enough talk, we need action. We don't need Qadri City recognizing the Palestinian state after the people of Gaza are dead. We need food and medicine

to get into Gaza right now. We need an international military force. Only 12 countries have stood up.

They signed a declaration in Bogota calling for a complete arms embargo on the Zionist state. Countries like Cuba, Venezuela, South Africa, Colombia. And when I say the Nazis were trying to hide their atrocities, they were. This atrocity, this massacre, is being carried out in plain sight because, as the President of Colombia, President Petro, said, they want to send a message of fear to the entire world that we can kill anybody.

And murder and massacre anybody, so humanity has to stand up. We need an international force to go to Egypt to open the Rafah gate. We need the entire world, including the Arab regimes, who continue to pour money into the U.S. military-industrial complex.

We need them to BDS. And we need to be in the streets and whatever else we have to do again and again and again until this genocide stops. Because we need action right now. Next week, next week there's a conference happening here sponsored by France and Saudi Arabia.

Two state solutions, you know, recognition down the wall.

We don't need that. We need those countries. Do they have armies? Do they have navies? Do they have an air force? Do they have a merchant marine? We need those countries who say they are against the Holocaust to take action right now. And we've got to tell our government here, because the United States government wants the genocide, otherwise they wouldn't be paying for it.

We've got to tell them, not another nickel, not another dime, no more money for Israel's crimes. Not another nickel, not another dime.



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# Stop starving Gaza!

written by Struggle - La Lucha

July 30, 2025

Almost beyond belief, the U.S.-Israeli genocide in Palestine has intensified to an even greater degree of brutality.

The Resistance News Network published a Gaza Update Summary (July 16 - 19, 2025): "The past four days have been defined by a dual crisis of escalating IOF

massacres and catastrophic, deepening famine.”

On Wednesday, July 16, Palestinian civilians were lured to U.S. aid distribution centers throughout Gaza, which the IOF then bombed and gassed. The IOF also bombed refugee shelters, a school in Bureij, and a church in Gaza City.

The following days were more of the same — massacres of starving families awaiting aid, babies and children dying of malnutrition, people collapsing of hunger in the streets. At the same time, fleets of trucks full of aid wait at Rafah Crossing.

The Gaza Freedom Flotilla ship “Handala,” carrying only unarmed civilians (including labor leader Chris Smalls) and food, medicine, and baby formula, is on its way to Gaza’s shores. Israel stopped the Gaza Freedom Flotilla Coalition’s first ship, the Madleen, in June 2025.

While most media outlets ignored the massacres at aid distribution sites, even mainstream bourgeois press could not conceal the famine unfolding in Gaza — likely compelled by damning UNRWA and WHO reports, along with harrowing eyewitness testimonies. Even The Times of Israel begrudgingly acknowledged it with the headline: ‘Israel blames UN for Gaza aid shortage, says Hamas exploiting famine claims at talks.’ The same tired propaganda, but this time, their lies had run up against undeniable reality.

## **The people respond**

On July 20, the united Palestinian resistance called for action. The Palestinian Youth Movement called for an international day of action to Stop Starving Gaza on July 22.

In Baltimore, on July 22, the People’s Power Assembly joined with the Party for Socialism and Liberation and Black Alliance for Peace to hold an emergency demonstration to denounce the U.S.’s primary role in the genocide.

Then, on July 24, the Council of American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), the Islamic Maryland Action Network, Jewish Voices for Peace, and the Baltimore Rapid Response Network called an emergency rally, demanding: “Let Gaza Live!”



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# **‘From Iran to Palestine, stop U.S. war crimes!’: Activists rally in New Orleans**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
July 30, 2025

New Orleans, June 23 - “No war with Iran!” was the message of an emergency rally downtown during the evening rush hour. Gathered in the shadow of the Hale Boggs Federal Building, they chanted, “From Iran to Palestine, stop U.S. war crimes!” and “From the belly of the beast, U.S. out of the Middle East!”

These views are pretty mainstream. An Economist/YouGov poll covering June 13-16 asked people in the U.S., “Do you think the U.S. military should get involved in the

conflict between Israel and Iran?" Sixty percent said "no." Only 16% said "yes," and 24% "not sure." Even 53% of Republicans oppose direct U.S. intervention.

The problem with the wording of the question is that the U.S. is already involved, because Israel's real masters are in the U.S. Pentagon. Still, these results are clear enough. *The people don't want war.*

Today's action featured speakers from multiple organizations, including the Palestinian Youth Movement, Freedom Road Socialist Organization, Party for Socialism and Liberation, and others.

Some participants came from other towns in the region, including the Northshore. One participant, a Slidell mom new to activism, told this writer:

"I came out because I believe we have a duty to show up when power is used to harm — not just in our own backyard, but across borders. In the face of war, silence is not neutrality — it's surrender — and I came to stand for peace, not as a bystander, but as part of a global refusal to accept violence."





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# **NYC says: Stop bombing Iran! End the genocide in Gaza!**

written by Struggle - La Lucha

July 30, 2025

June 22 — Hundreds of people came to New York City's Times Square on a few hours' notice today to protest the U.S. bombing of Iran. Among the organizations that called the action were ANSWER, the National Iranian American Council, the Palestinian Youth Movement, Nodutdol for Korean Community Development, the Party for Socialism and Liberation, and the People's Forum.

Speakers denounced Trump and Netanyahu as war criminals who've killed more than 400 Iranians so far, as well as over 50,000 Palestinians. PSL's Sean Blackmon pointed out that the same U.S. ruling class that betrayed Reconstruction and imposed Ku Klux Klan terror on Black people is the same class that's attacking Iran.

Protesters took to the streets with signs, banners, and drums. Onlookers were friendly. They marched to the monument at 59th Street honoring the genocidal Christopher Columbus, where a brief rally was held.

Later that day, many of the marchers welcomed Mahmoud Khalil, who had just been released after being jailed by ICE for 104 days. The Palestinian activist addressed people in front of St. John the Divine Cathedral

Protesters then marched to Columbia University, which was denounced for suspending students challenging the genocide in Palestine.

Activists are preparing more actions in New York City as well as a national march in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, June 28. Hands off Iran!





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# **Palestine contingent in Baltimore Pride Parade met with applause**

written by Struggle - La Lucha

July 30, 2025

June 14 - The energy was electric at this year's Baltimore Pride Parade, as activists in the Palestine contingent, led by the People's Power Assembly and Struggle for Socialism Party, marched on the parade route for a mile on North Charles Street up to Wyman Park Dell near Johns Hopkins University. This marks the second straight year in Baltimore Pride's history that such a pro-Palestine contingent has participated.

Historically, the People's Power Assembly has strived to set the more political tone at Pride amidst the endless sea of rainbow capitalist sponsors, which was especially crucial for this moment, as Israel continues its all out genocidal assault on the people of Gaza and now is trying to initiate a fully U.S.-backed regional war against anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist Iran.

A large Palestine flag was held front and center alongside three main banners: "No

Pride in Genocide, \$\$ for Gender-Affirming Healthcare, not War," "Stonewall Still Means Fight Back," and "Black Trans Lives Matter — 'Be yourself, the world will adjust' - Manabi Bandyopadhyay." Drummers flanked each side.

Connecting the current migrant liberation struggle in L.A. (against ICE raids and National Guard / Marines terror) to the roots of the queer liberation struggle, participants chanted "Stonewall was a riot! We will not be quiet!" and "Power to the people! No one is illegal!" which drew roaring cheers from the crowd. Local rapper and activist Slim Rob also performed a solo rap during the march, which further hyped up both the contingent and the crowd.

People in the contingent distributed copies of the Struggle-La Lucha paper, which contained flyers advertising both the "Free Kilmar! Free Them All!" Car Caravan happening in the city on June 28, as well as the Defend Black History Petition to Rename the Francis Scott Key Bridge to either the Frederick Douglass or Harriet Tubman Memorial Bridge. So many people wanted copies because they were drawn by the cover page depicting the current struggle in L.A. against ICE raids; the folks distributing had to keep running back to the supplies wagon to grab more papers until they eventually ran out!

The crowd response was overwhelmingly positive and supportive. Some participants even noted the increase in onlookers wearing keffiyehs in solidarity and signs reading "ABOLISH ICE" or "ACAB." Now imagine if all those supportive people in the crowd took to the streets with us and joined in the struggle!



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# **Los Angeles: A Night of Witness and Art**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
July 30, 2025



On May 24, the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice in Los Angeles hosted a fundraising exhibit to support the people of Gaza. The event was titled “A Night of Witness and Art.”

The art displayed included incredible paintings by children who have survived the genocide and are now residing in Egypt at the Meera Kindergarten (Center). Also shown and for sale were photos by photojournalist Mahmoud Abusalama, who spoke to the crowd via Zoom.

All of the young artists had lost some or all of their family, and Abusalama had lost 30 members of his family to the barbaric Biden / Trump / Netanyahu genocide.

Fatin, of Unmute Humanity, conducted and translated an hour-long Q&A with Abusalama. In addition to the devastating loss of his family, Abusalama's computer — containing much of his work — was destroyed when his home was bombed. This made the contribution of the few photos that were saved and used to raise funds for Gaza, especially moving.

It was clear that the exchange with supporters at the exhibit lifted his spirits.

The event, organized by Unmute Humanity, Riverside4Palestine, and the Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, raised nearly \$5,000.



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## **Protesting genocide is not a crime: hands off Yunseo Chung!**

written by Struggle - La Lucha

July 30, 2025

New York, May 29 — Hundreds rallied in Manhattan's Foley Square against the Trump regime's attempt to deport Yunseo Chung. The ICE (Immigration and Customs Enforcement) Gestapo wants to kick her out for protesting the genocide in

Gaza.

The 21-year-old Columbia University student, who was born in Korea and has lived in the U.S. since she was six, is a permanent resident. The so-called legal proceedings against her are an attack on everyone's First Amendment right to free speech.

The attempted deportation of Yunseo Chung is part of a government round-up of activists, including fellow Columbia student Mahmoud Khalil and Tufts University student Rümeysa Öztürk.

The deportation hearing against Ms. Chung was being held next to the rally in the same federal courthouse where Ethel Rosenberg and Julius Rosenberg were framed and sentenced to death.

The protest was called by Nodutdol for Korean Community Development. Speakers connected the U.S. occupation of Korea with the occupation of Palestine.

Millions of Koreans were killed by the U.S.-instigated Korean War, while hundreds of thousands of Palestinians have been killed and starved in Gaza. Nodutdol proclaims, "Korea is one!"

People chanted, "From the river to sea, Palestine will be free!" Chants were accompanied by drums and even a bagpipe. Messages were read from student groups in South Korea.

Among the rally speakers were those from Nodutdol, PAL Awda: the Palestinian Assembly for Liberation, Palestinian Youth Movement, the All-African People's Revolutionary Party, Columbia University Apartheid Divestment, CUNY for Palestine and The People's Forum.

The rally closed with a survivor of the U.S. war against Korea describing how his

village was bombed and strafed by U.S. Air Force planes in 1950, injuring him and his sister. He said he remembers that when he thinks of the people of Gaza being bombed and massacred by Israel's U.S.-made planes, and is determined to fight for a free Palestine.

Hands off Yunseo Chung!



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## **Protesters confront Zionist celebration in Los Angeles**

written by Struggle - La Lucha

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Zionists in the Israeli American Council of Los Angeles organized an event at the Dolby Theater in Hollywood to celebrate 77 years of their murderous occupation of Palestine. The well-heeled attendees had to walk past a group of loud protesters who kept Palestinian flags and protest signs aloft, and chanted until their voices were hoarse.

They were a young crowd that reflected the multi-national character of L.A.'s

population. Judging by the Keffiyehs worn by many, and the many t-shirts with a variety of anti-imperialist and anti-Zionist messages, these were participants in the powerful movement that has grown up on campuses and in cities across the country during the horrible genocide against Gaza.

The Dolby Theater is centered in the area of Hollywood where thousands of tourists crowd the sidewalks each day, and the anti-genocide action was warmly received by the great majority walking by.

