

► Baja población Boricua ► Vinie Burrows, una vida completa

# STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA

*for Socialism / por el Socialismo*

**Struggle-La-Lucha.org**  
Vol. 7, No. 1 • Jan. 15, 2025  
Suggested donation: \$1  
**Socialist Unity Party**  
**Partido de Socialismo Unido**

# U.S.-British airstrikes support Gaza genocide

# HANDS OFF YEMEN!

By Melinda Butterfield

On orders of President Joe Biden and Prime Minister Rishi Suchak, the U.S. and Britain bombed Yemen, the poorest country in the Middle East, on the night of Jan. 11, in violation of international and U.S. laws.

The airstrikes were blatant support for Israel's ongoing genocide against the Palestinian people in Gaza. The Ansarallah movement (called "Houthis" by the racist Western media), which leads Yemen's military, heroically declared that it would not allow any ships bound for Israel to pass through the waters of the Red Sea.

The Associated Press reported: "The bombardment — launched in response to a recent campaign of drone and missile attacks on commercial ships in the vital Red Sea — killed at least five people and wounded six, [Ansarallah] said. The U.S. said the strikes took aim at more than 60 targets in 16 different locations across [Ansarallah]-controlled areas of Yemen."

*Continued on page 6*

**MLK PEOPLES MARCH & VIGIL**

**MONEY FOR FOOD & HOUSING NOT FOR GENOCIDE**

**SOUTH AFRICA CHARGES ZIONIST STATE WITH GENOCIDE!**

- Detroit ceasefire car rally
- U.S. airstrikes on Iraq
- NOLA fights through the holidays
- Imperialists' anti-North Korea propaganda
- NYC bridges & tunnels shut down!
- Gaza freedom and climate justice at COP28
- Massive march in Los Angeles
- Biden's illegal arms shipments



► Ralph Poynter's fight for justice

► 55th ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE PHILIPPINES





# Charge the Zionist state with genocide!

By **Struggle-La Lucha**  
New York bureau

A news conference was called on Jan. 9 to support the petition of South Africa to the International Court of Justice charging “Israel” with genocide. “Keep hope alive” was the event’s theme, which was held in front of the South African Mission to the United Nations in New York City.

The conference was called by the Palestinian Assembly for Liberation (PAL), Al-Awda NY: The Palestinian Right to Return Coalition, and its Commission on War Crimes, Justice, Reparations and Return.

Palestinian mothers belonging to PAL presented flowers to South African diplomats, thanking them for indicting the Zionist apartheid state. Several of the moms gave heartfelt remarks describing the mass murder of children and other family members.

Nelson Mandela’s statement was quoted: “We know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the

Palestinians.”

Human rights lawyer Lamis Deek, a founding member of PAL, denounced the genocide that’s being financed with billions from the U.S.A. A Palestinian mother, born in Gaza, movingly spoke about the war crimes being committed by the Zionist state.

Roger Wareham, a member of the International Secretariat of the December 12th Movement, pointed out Israel’s support for the apartheid state in South Africa. Israel even helped that Nazi regime to develop a nuclear weapon.

Margaret Kimberley of the Black Alliance for Peace and executive editor of



Lamis Deek of the Palestinian Assembly for Liberation speaks at a news conference in New York City, Jan. 9.

SLL photo: Stephen Millies

Black Agenda Report denounced the genocide in Gaza and the rest of Palestine.

Rabbi Weiss from Neturei Karta said that the Zionist state of Israel doesn’t represent many Jews who are appalled by the mass murder being committed by Israel.

Manolo De Los Santos, executive director of The People’s Forum, spoke of the massive march taking place in Washington, D.C. on Saturday, Jan. 13. Busses are being organized around the United States to stop the genocide. #

# Detroit ceasefire car rally shuts it down

By **Cheryl LaBash**

Today’s amazing Dec. 25 Hamtramck-Detroit-Dearborn Shut it Down for Palestine caravan was sparked by a simple graphic shared on social media, spread by word of mouth. There was no organization calling it, no supporting organizational logos.

Cars gathered at a parking lot in Hamtramck, a small historically migrant town within Detroit – formerly Polish and Eastern European but now mostly Muslim Bangladeshi and Yemeni. Flags, large and small, hand-lettered signs decorated cars, stretched across car hoods and poked out of retracted moon roofs.

How many cars? How many does it



SLL photo: Cheryl LaBash

take to shut down a four-lane interstate freeway, get out of cars, and shoot off red smoke flares? Although I was in the middle of the line of cars, the action and smoke were about a quarter mile ahead.

In downtown Detroit, police couldn’t keep the caravan from circling Campus Martius park, dubbed “Detroit’s meeting place,” drawing thumbs up and victory signs from pedestrians.

Then down Michigan Avenue to stop traffic again, this time at the Greenfield Road underpass, honking horns and then finally clogging West Dearborn business and residential areas.

This Instagram post sums it up: “Hundreds showed up today for Palestine. The first and biggest car rally in Michigan.

Let’s not forget what we are doing this for ... this is for showing all the people in the USA how powerful we are when we unite as one and give us what we demand: Permanent ceasefire!” #

# Ralph Poynter used his strong voice and stout heart to fight for justice

By Lallan Schoenstein

Whether you were tuned in to “What’s Happening,” a weekly WBAI radio show hosted by Ralph Poynter and Betty Davis, or if you followed them in a Black Lives Matter caravan during the COVID crisis, you knew you were among those fighting for liberation. In December, one of the last email posts for their radio program read: “Warfare + colonialism = Palestine! Warfare + colonialism = Cop City.” Betty Davis reported that Ralph’s final words to all his friends and supporters were: “It is on you now. Continue the struggle.”

According to a brief biography posted on WBAI, Ralph Poynter was the son of a union organizer. His family was located in the Pittsburgh area, which was a major steel producer at that time. He graduated from Duquesne University with a master’s degree in music education.

Grounded in union principles, he joined the United Federation of Teachers, UFT, when he began working at P.S. 175 in Harlem as a 5th-grade substitute teacher in the mid-1960s. It was at the time when the struggle for community control of the city’s public schools first erupted.

Community school boards throughout the city were attempting to exercise their control of the teaching staff to reflect the needs of the children in their communities. Poynter joined the first demonstrations in Harlem and Brooklyn in 1967.

On May 9, 1968, a racist confrontation arose between the UFT and the New York City Central Board of Education against the majority Black and Puerto Rican community school board in Ocean Hill-Brownsville. The UFT and the city administration refused to negotiate and went on the offensive. In the end, the communities throughout the city lost local control of their children’s schools.

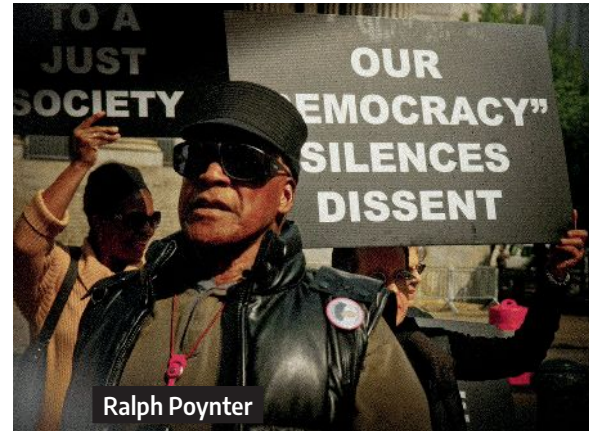
In Ocean Hill-Brownsville, Poynter and 10 other teachers took over P.S. 175, resisting police violence during the protests. He ended up on Riker’s Island for a few months after defending protesters from a police assault during a demonstration.

According to Poynter, “When the UFT colluded with management to support the racist Board of Education against Black communities’ demands for community control of schools, I founded the Teachers’ Freedom Party and became a leader in that fight.

“Much of my 50+ years of political activism has focused on improving our public schools. My leadership facilitated appointments of NYC’s first Black and Puerto Rican principals. Doing this required confronting the NYPD Army of Occupation installed to maintain ideological control of schools. In the course of self – and community-defense, I was convicted and served time on Rikers Island, where I organized fellow prisoners in one of the first successful prison rebellions, winning important concessions.”

Ralph Poynter met Lynne Stewart when she was a librarian and he was a teacher at P.S. 175 in the 1960s. They were both fighting for Black control of the Black community and its schools.

Stewart became well known as a “people’s lawyer.” During Bush’s “War on Terror” in 2005, she was thrown into a federal prison in Fort Worth, Texas, for four years and disbarred. She was prosecuted by Attorney General John Ashcroft on a phony charge of materially aiding terrorism. Stewart had distributed press releases on behalf of her jailed client, the blind Egyptian cleric Omar Abdel-Rahman, who had been accused of having a role in the attack on the World Trade Center in 1993. Earlier, she had defended David Gilbert, who was part of a Weather Underground action.

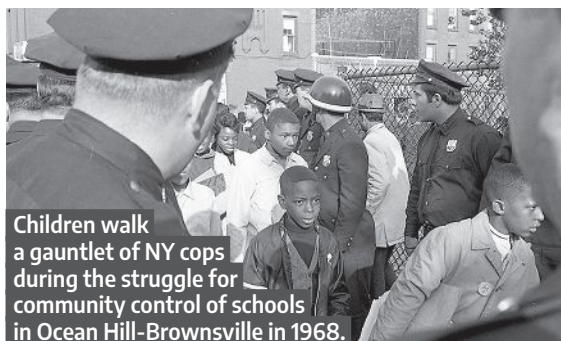


Poynter was her greatest defender while she was in prison, first in 2005. He led an international movement to “Free Lynne Stewart.” When she was jailed with a 10-year sentence in 2010, that movement won her freedom. She was finally released in 2013. Lynne Stewart, who had been denied adequate care for breast cancer while in prison, died in 2017.

Poynter said that one of their “primary focuses was on freeing U.S. political prisoners serving unconscionable sentences.” He supported Stewart in her lifelong struggle against the U.S. “injustice system.” Together, they fought for the freedom of Mumia Abu-Jamal. At rallies for Lynne Stewart, Ralph told her supporters that she asked them to fight to free Mumia before protesting for her release.

Together with Betty Davis, Poynter and Stewart co-founded the New Abolitionist Movement, working to eliminate miseducation in New York City. Betty Davis said she was a warrior in the struggle for community control of education ever since she heard Ralph Poynter speak at a pro-union rally supporting the social workers’ strike in 1967. Davis said, “Later that year, I met Stewart and Poynter at a Teachers’ Freedom Party social. Lynne Stewart’s account of the history of the struggle for freedom and democracy in education solidified my resolve to join the struggle. I was a social worker soon to become an educator.”

Up until the very last breath of his 89 years, on Dec. 25, Ralph Poynter fearlessly rallied to fight racism, oppression, and injustice. #





# NOLA fights for Palestine through the holidays

By Gregory E. Williams

Throughout the holiday season, people in New Orleans and surrounding towns have continued to protest in the streets for Palestine. That continued throughout Thanksgiving, Hanukkah, Christmas, and is carrying over into the area's most distinctive season, Mardi Gras.

## Die-in at Lakeside Mall

NOSHIP (New Orleans Stop Helping Israel's Ports) is an organization formed after Oct. 7 that is calling for the Port of New Orleans and other city and state entities to cut ties with the Zionist regime. NOSHIP led a demonstration outside the packed Lakeside in Metairie, Louisiana, the day before Christmas Eve.

This was not an easy feat in the suburban sprawl of one of the town's biggest shopping areas at the height of the holiday rush. Despite difficulties, some 50 pro-Palestine demonstrators gathered outside and conducted a lively rally in a high-traffic median. A handful of hostile motorists shouted obscenities, but they were outnumbered by others waving, honking, and raising their fists in support.

In the spirit of the radical LGBTQ+ movements of the past like ACT UP, a group of activists inside the mall carried out a die-in, lying on the ground while holding placards with the names of Palestinians – including children – martyred by the Washington-backed Zionist forces.

Mall security massed around them and ejected them from the building, but many shoppers heard the message. The protesters outside cheered for these activists as they exited the mall and joined the crowd.

## Roll 'Til Palestine is Free

Jan. 6 was Epiphany, the first day of Mardi Gras, when the beloved Joan of Arc Parade is held in the city. This is the first Mardi Gras parade of the season.

That same night, hundreds joined in a march through the packed French Quarter, led by a brass band playing Palestinian music. The flier read, "Procession for



SLL photo

NOLA musicians playing Palestinian music led a procession through the French Quarter, packed with people out to celebrate the first night of Carnival.

Palestine: New Orleans Musicians Roll 'Til Palestine is Free!"

Many bystanders out for Carnival celebrations were energized by the message, often joining in the chants for a free Palestine.

One speaker said, "U.S.-made bombs are falling on Palestinians as we speak. Carnival season starts on this night, but we're not stopping until Palestine is free!"

The crowd cheered wildly.

She continued: "Louisiana is giving \$25 million to the Israeli military per year. Do we want that money for our roads? Do we want that money for schools? Do we want that money for housing?" The crowd shouted in the affirmative.

A Palestinian musician and activist named Marco spoke towards the end of the night.

"Gaza has been under siege for 17 years. The blockade on Gaza has always sought to deprive Palestinians access to the most basic necessities of food, medicine, essential construction materials, and so on.

"But it doesn't stop there. The occupa-

tion forces that control what is allowed to come in and out of Gaza have always done their best to stifle Palestinian life and Palestinian joy in any way that they can. One such way that they attempt to do so is by banning musical instruments from entering Gaza.

"As musicians and as music lovers in the city of New Orleans – a place with a long and deep history of music as well as a music scene and culture that is very much alive in the present, as is very clear all around us – we should all know how intimately connected music is to living a life that is full.

"... But life finds a way, resistance finds a way. The tunnels built by the resistance in Gaza have also been used to bring in instruments ...

"All of you here are part of the reason that Israel will never be able to erase Palestinians!

"... Sing and play and dance with us, but fight with us too! Ceasefire now! We're gonna end the genocide in Gaza, end the siege, end the occupation, and end the Zionist slander of Palestinian humanity!" #

# Shutting down New York City bridges and tunnels for Gaza!

By Stephen Millies

Three bridges and tunnels in Manhattan, New York City, were shut down by supporters of Palestine on Jan. 8. They were the Brooklyn, Manhattan and Williamsburg bridges, as well as the Holland Tunnel that links Manhattan with New Jersey.

The dramatic protest called by Shut It Down for Palestine was seen around the world. Police arrested 325 people who chanted as they were detained.

The Palestinian Youth Movement hailed the dramatic action: “We jam the arteries of the city and we reclaim the bridges and tunnels — which are funded by our taxes and fares — in solidarity with Palestine and all who are immiserated by the forces of capitalism and imperialism.”

At the same time, hundreds of people marched from City Hall to Wall Street. They rallied in the world’s center of evil, right across from the New York Stock Exchange.

Speakers addressed people in front of 23 Wall Street, the former headquarters of the “House of Morgan,” which at one time controlled many of the biggest U.S. corporations. Today’s JP Morgan Chase bank has nearly \$4 trillion in assets.

Manolo De Los Santos, executive director of The People’s Forum, declared, “This is the Wall Street that enslaved our ancestors!” New York City became a financial center by being the bankers for the southern slave masters.

Today JP Morgan Chase is a partner of Big Oil in sucking out billions in profits from Western Asia. Big Oil needs the apartheid state occupying Palestine to protect its empire.

A speaker from the Al-Awda, the Palestine Right to Return Coalition, pointed out that “Wall Street is the heart of the U.S. imperialist project. That’s why we’re here ... These financial institutions have been profiting off the blood of our people for generations – Black Rock, HD, JP Morgan, the list goes on and on ... all of them are complicit in the genocide of our people.”

## Disrupting the Philharmonic

Rain didn’t stop a thousand people from marching in Manhattan on Friday night, Jan. 5, for Palestine. They gathered in front of the big reference library on Fifth Avenue and marched over to the New York Times, which lies about Palestine while Palestinian children are being killed.

Hundreds then marched uptown to Lincoln Center, where an opera house and other facilities were built by evicting thousands of Puerto Rican families from their homes. It was a mini-Nakba, like the Nakba that kicked 800,000 Palestinians from their homes by Zionist settlers in 1948.

Demonstrators disrupted the season opening of the New York Philharmonic, upsetting the tuxedo set.

Shut It Down for Palestine includes the Palestinian Youth Movement; Al-Awda, the Palestine Right to Return Coalition; The People’s Forum; ANSWER coalition; and the Party for Socialism and Liberation. Jewish Voices for Peace; Neturei Karta, Jews United Against Zionism; and the Democratic Socialists of America also supported these protests.

The next step is to join hundreds of thousands and march in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, Jan. 13. From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free! #

## Massive march for Gaza in Los Angeles



Protesters march on Wall Street for Gaza, Jan. 8.

SLL photos: Stephen Millies

SLL photos: Scott Scheffer

A huge protest against the Biden/Netanyahu genocide in Gaza took place at the consulate of the Zionist entity in Los Angeles Jan. 6. After a short rally in front of the consulate, a truck led thousands of young people east, taking over a lane of traffic on Wilshire Blvd.

– Scott Scheffer



# Biden's illegal arms shipments kill Palestinian children

## An echo of Reagan's terrorist war against Nicaragua

By Stephen Millies

How many Palestinian children can a 155-millimeter artillery or tank shell kill? These munitions are 6.1 inches wide.

Genocide Joe Biden rushed 14,000 of these munitions costing \$106 million to apartheid "Israel" on Dec. 9, without congressional approval. By that time the Zionist state had dropped 29,000 bombs and shells on Gaza.

Over 23,000 Palestinians have been killed, including more than 8,000 children. Nearly 70% of the homes in Gaza were destroyed or damaged. Dozens of hospitals were attacked.

This mass murder doesn't faze Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who claims the weapon shipments are "vital to U.S. national interests." What interest do poor and working people in the United States have in massacring children in Gaza?

Less than a month later, the White House shipped another \$147.5 million of associated fuses, charges and primers without Congress giving an okay. Even Virginia Sen. Tim Kaine, Hillary Clinton's 2008 running mate, denounced the bypassing of Congress.

Isn't this what President Reagan did when Congress refused to fund a terrorist war against Nicaragua? The people of the Central American country, led by the Sandinista National Liberation Front (FSLN), overthrew the U.S. puppet dictator Anastasio Somoza in 1979.

Wall Street wanted Nicaragua back as its colony. Racist Reagan urged Congress to finance a dirty war using Somoza's thugs and torturers, who were called "contras."

Over 22,000 Nicaraguans were killed and a quarter-million people were driven from their homes. In Gaza today, 1.9 million Palestinians have been displaced by U.S.-made and financed bombs.

### War crimes and crack

People in the United States didn't want another Vietnam War, this time in Central America. Congress refused to finance the contras.



Demonstrators rally in support of Gaza in Norfolk, Virginia, on Oct. 14, 2023.

Going around Congress to fund a war is an impeachable offense. The Democratic leaders in Congress did nothing.

The CIA and their contras collected more money by starting the crack epidemic. Journalist Gary Webb exposed this in his "Dark Alliance" series of articles.

Webb was later driven to suicide or perhaps was "suicided."

That didn't stop the Reaganites. Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams shook down U.S. vassals like the Sultan of Brunei to help finance Somoza's terrorists.

Abrams was the godfather of CIA death squads in Central America and helped cover up the El Mozote massacre in El Salvador. He was convicted of lying to Congress.

That didn't stop Biden from nominating this war criminal to chair the U.S. Advisory Commission on Public Diplomacy.

Eighty-one million people who cast their ballots for President Biden weren't voting for turning Gaza into rubble. Hundreds of thousands have protested against Israeli Prime Minister

Netanyahu's war of extermination, which would be impossible without U.S. support.

We need to organize the power of the people to stop the war against Palestine. Come to Washington, D.C. on Saturday, Jan. 13 to stop Biden's and Netanyahu's war crimes. #

## U.S.-British airstrikes support Gaza genocide:

*Continued from page 1*

Yemen's Brig. Gen. Yahya Saree vowed that the strikes would "not go unanswered or unpunished."

On Jan. 12, millions of Yemenis took to the streets of the capital, Sana'a, to protest the act of war by the Western powers. "We are not afraid," they chanted.

While the so-called "democratic West" offers excuses, justifications, and support for genocide, the Yemeni people are taking action to stop it, just as the South African government did this week with its genocide case against Israel at the International Court of Justice.

The U.S. and Britain once again exposed themselves by punishing those who oppose their Israeli puppet's genocide in Gaza.

In the tradition of every modern U.S. president, both Democrat and Republican, Genocide Joe Biden carried out this act of war against Yemen without the legally required approval of the U.S. Congress.

In 2020, candidate Biden said then-president Donald Trump did "not have the authority to take us into war with Iran without Congressional approval" after Trump ordered the assassination of General Qasem Soleimani.

"A president should never take this nation to war without the informed consent of the American people," Biden said — back then.

Meanwhile, British PM Rishi Sunak, whose government is actively attempting to outlaw the existence of trans

*Continued on page 7*

# U.S. broadens imperialist terror campaign with flurry of airstrikes on Iraq

By Lev Koufax

The tragically all-too-familiar sound of a U.S. airstrike rang out across Baghdad on Jan. 4 as a drone struck a logistic center for the Popular Mobilization Forces, killing Commander Abu Taqwa Al-Saeedi and one other PMF senior leader. Six additional individuals were wounded.

Al-Saeedi's assassination comes on the heels of a U.S. airstrike on Iraqi military positions on Dec. 27 that killed one Iraqi soldier and wounded 18 people.

The PMF functions as a paramilitary wing of the Iraqi government and has provided military assistance to the Palestinian resistance since Oct. 7. For this, the U.S. has carried out a terror campaign against Iraq over the past weeks, including multiple strikes against the PMF.

The U.S. imperial line has been that these strikes against Iraq are self defense and only retaliation for recent PMF attacks on U.S. military bases in Iraq and Syria.

Oh the poor billion-dollar U.S. military! Who will look out for them?

It's laughable how the imperialist military beast justifies its crimes. There would not be PMF attacks on U.S. military bases in Iraq and Syria if there were

no unwanted U.S. military bases in two sovereign nations. Further, there would not have been an escalation of PMF attacks on U.S. military bases if the Zionist entity ("Israel") did not similarly escalate its genocidal efforts in Gaza.

## Assassination of Soleimani

The strike that killed Al-Saeedi quickly invoked comparisons to the illegal Jan. 2, 2020, U.S. drone strike that murdered Iran Revolutionary Guard general and hero in the fight against ISIS, Qassem Soleimani.

In some sort of sick irony, that strike also killed the deputy chairman of the PMF at the time, Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis. Then-President Donald Trump also claimed that this assassination was a matter of self-defense.

All U.S. military presence in Western Asia is a crime, as it only serves to spread violence in the furtherance of the Western oil and defense industry profits.

There is no justification. Oppressor violence in response to resistance and solidarity is not self-defense. It is just more oppressive violence.

These sort of targeted killings against government-affiliated officials by the



Aftermath of deadly U.S. drone strike in Iraq on Jan. 4, 2024.

U.S. are widely recognized, even amongst bourgeois institutions, as violations of international law, let alone human rights. Yet, the U.S. carries out these strikes with continued impunity.

As solidarity with Palestine continues to grow in the Arab and Muslim world, so will the imperialist crimes against humanity grow throughout the region. Workers and oppressed people across the world must continue to stand in solidarity and fierce resistance, even in the face of repression.

Long live Iraqi resistance to imperialism! Long live the Palestinian resistance! When people are occupied, resistance is justified! #

## Hands off Yemen!

*Continued from page 6*

people, had the gall to call the attack on Yemen an act of "self-defense" to "de-escalate tensions and to restore stability to the region."

Emergency protests against the U.S.-British attacks on Yemen were held Jan. 11 in New York's Times Square, outside the White House in Washington, D.C., and Vancouver, British Columbia. More protests are planned Jan. 12 in Los Angeles and other cities.

### Yemenis slaughtered by U.S.-Saudi war

Missing from most corporate media coverage of Ansarallah's military action against genocide and the Western retaliation is any mention of the more than

377,000 people killed in the 2015-2021 war waged by Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates against Yemen.

Like the genocide in Gaza, it was a proxy war carried out on behalf of U.S. imperialism, relying on U.S. weapons and military support.

That war became so unpopular that Biden actually claimed to oppose it when he was campaigning for the presidency in 2020, trying to cover himself in a paper-thin progressive veneer that is now completely stripped away.

Two-thirds of the victims of the U.S.-Saudi war in Yemen were children. A whole generation has been stunted by hunger and disease – those fortunate enough to have survived.

Nevertheless, the Ansarallah movement has prevailed, uniting the country

under a program of national liberation and opposition to Israeli genocide. Yemen is part of the Axis of Resistance to imperialism in West Asia that includes the Islamic government of Iran, the secular government of Syria, the Hezbollah movement in Lebanon, and popular militias in Iraq.

In a statement translated by Resistance News Network, Ansarallah spokesperson Mohammed Abdul Salam said: "This aggression will only make Yemen stronger and more resolute. We affirm that there is absolutely no justification for this aggression on Yemen, as there was no threat to international navigation in the Red Sea and the Arabian Sea. The targeting was and will remain directed at 'israeli' ships or those heading to the ports of occupied Palestine. #



# Israeli war crimes expose imperialists' anti-North Korea propaganda

*Statement from Korean American Support for Prisoners of Conscience.*

Asserting human rights while merely paying lip service to them — what an absurdity!

To be respected as a human being, one must be free from threats to survival.

One must break free from worrying about where to seek shelter from storms or how to alleviate hunger.

Even San Francisco's streets, known for their countless homeless and bizarre manifestations of drug addiction that had become commonplace, briefly appeared clean. This was solely due to the San Francisco authorities meticulously cleaning the streets that foreign dignitaries attending the APEC conference would pass through. While efforts are made to deceive foreign dignitaries by disguising the city's citizens' shattered lives, there is no genuine concern for these citizens.

In a society where concerns about health issues are compounded by exorbitant health care costs and discrimination in health care insurance that individuals must bear entirely, even the sick struggle to access hospitals easily.

It's a society where one cannot step out of their homes feeling secure, and even indoors, there is a constant fear for safety. Incidents of minor crimes and reports are routinely disregarded.

Despite a stable living environment being a fundamental right of citizens, this right is infringed upon, and the people have grown numb to this infringement in the United States.

While U.S. Imperialism spends astronomical amounts on wars worldwide, it annually provides \$3.8 billion to Israel. Yet, the nation itself teeters on the brink of crisis due to an unsustainable increase in debt, nearly causing the government's functions to fail.

An Arab boy, aged 5, loses his life, and his mother is critically injured as a



South Koreans protest the anti-communist National Security Law.

white assailant targets a Muslim household. Three Arab youths are shot by a white person on the streets, resulting in the deaths of two. Countless incidents occur where Asian women are assaulted for no reason.

The unfounded China and Muslim hatred instigated by U.S. imperialism has led to persistent hate crimes in American society.

When MSNBC anchor Mehdi Hasan attempted to discuss events unfolding in Palestine, the ongoing program was abruptly canceled.

A university student supporting Palestinian liberation lost a confirmed job offer, while a Jewish professor advocating for the deaths of all Palestinians briefly left their position only to return. Workers are dismissed from their jobs for participating in pro-Palestinian demonstrations. Similarly, in Canada, a broadcaster was ousted for the same reason, while in France and Germany, police violently suppressed unarmed demonstrators.

The double standards imposed by the West and U.S. imperialism, which condemn and oppress underprivileged individuals for their own gain, reveal the true nature of their touted human rights.

Among the distortions and fabrications propagated by the West and nations against North Korea, there is a propaganda war labeling North Korea as a

human rights-abusing nation.

Despite Israel indiscriminately bombing schools, hospitals, refugee camps, and residential areas in Palestine, causing the mass slaughter of women and children, U.S. imperialism and Western imperialism continue to support Israel's inhumane crimes.

These countries have no right to even speak of human rights.

The authorities violently suppress workers fighting for their right to survive, and intelligence agencies and police raid union offices. Under the National Security Law, which claims that "a deeper understanding of North Korea poses a substantive danger to South Korea," raids are rampant in the South, promoting such actions.

Though rights are violated, lives are taken, and truth is manipulated and suppressed, perpetrators often go unpunished. The National Security Law, a sharp blade that condemns ideologies, controls media, and silences the voices of the people, is shameless in its display while hypocritically talking about human rights.

In this landscape where human rights are being annihilated, there exists the "North Korean Human Rights Act," purportedly aimed at guaranteeing and improving the basic human rights of North Korean citizens. However, with all communication channels to the North blocked and no real understanding of the basic human rights of North Korean citizens, how does the South claim to guarantee and improve them?

Just as North Korea's reconnaissance satellite launch claims sovereignty over its territory, North Korea's human rights are something that its citizens should handle themselves.

Dec. 6, 2023



# ‘From the river to the sea’: Activists link Gaza freedom to climate justice at COP28

By Scott Scheffer

*Excerpts from a presentation given at the Socialist Unity Party national plenum on Dec. 16, 2023.*

COP28 just concluded in Dubai. Annual COP (Conference Of the Parties) conferences are sponsored and organized by the United Nations. They are supposed to be where nations get together and map out a strategy and set goals to beat back climate change.

This year’s conference will be remembered as the one when the oil companies took over. The conference’s leader was Sultan Al Jaber, who happens to be the CEO of the United Arab Emirates’ state-owned oil company.

UAE is one of the most oil-rich nations in the world. Jaber has a close relationship with Saudi Arabia and, by extension, the United States. Jaber’s ascent to the leadership resulted from a carefully crafted,

years-long plan accomplished with the guidance of the world’s five biggest public relations firms, all based in the United States. Jaber’s leadership impressed John Kerry, Biden’s Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, who praised him and has visited with him seven times since joining the Biden administration.

The world’s poorest countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin America, are only responsible for a minuscule portion of the greenhouse gases that heat the atmosphere. Britain and the U.S. are historically responsible for more than half. But because of the poverty imposed on them by imperialist wars, the theft of their resources, and economic sanctions, it is much more difficult for poorer countries to recover from extreme weather events. The anger over this has been growing at each one of these conferences. For years, there has been an outcry for the rich imperialist countries to organize a fund

to develop renewable energy and, more importantly, for developing countries to recover from punishing weather events. Moving people inland, rebuilding infrastructure, and recovering from spikes in the costs of medical care are all very expensive.

At last year’s conference in Sharm el Sheik, Egypt, this issue turned the conference into somewhat of a battleground, forcing the imperialist countries to agree to a Loss and Damage fund. Since then, the U.S. has been demanding that it be organized through the World Bank, opening the door to calling already existing aid and loan packages part of the fund. Funds that were promised have been dribbling in, leaving countries that have already been devastated by deadly weather events, like Pakistan, Madagascar, and Mozambique, in dire straits.

During the Sharm el Sheik conference  
*Continued on page 10*



Holding banners calling for a “ceasefire” and “climate decolonization,” activists in the Dubai Expo City chanted “Free, free Palestine.”

# ‘From the river to the sea’: Activists link Gaza freedom to climate justice at COP28

*Continued from page 9*

ence last year, a former Clinton administration climate official was asked why he thought a Loss and Damage fund wouldn't be realized. He responded that it seemed too closely related to the demand for reparations for Black people in the United States. Once again, an agreement for a Loss and Damage fund has been announced this year, but how it will turn out remains to be seen.

Part of the UAE's clever agenda to win leadership of COP28 included sending some aid to countries in the Global South in the months leading to the conference and Jaber pushing for the Loss and Damage fund to be finally organized. The amounts donated by the UAE are tiny compared to the enormous oil profits of even their own oil operation and far less than the \$332 billion raked in by U.S. oil companies in 2022. He used the racist intransigence on the part of the United States, hoping to burnish his reputation with the Global South delegates. The White House doesn't seem to mind the

## Vinie Burrows, una vida completa

*Continua de página 12*

encia del pueblo afroamericano en los Estados Unidos. La audiencia, hay que recalcar, era mayormente blanca.

Vinie creía en la salud tanto del cuerpo como del espíritu, llamando ese espíritu conciencia política. Nadie le creía su edad, pero su apariencia juvenil era más bien el resultado de una gran esperanza en la humanidad, de su positivismo y activismo político que le daba la mejor razón para vivir. Además, como responsabilidad política, alimentaba su cuerpo sanamente y se ejercitaba con regularidad. Muchas recetas y consejos se aprendieron de ella.

A las compañeras de Grannies' Peace Brigade y Women for Racial and Economic Equality, con las cuales Vinie Burrows trabajaba, les damos nuestro más sincero pésame con la esperanza de que podamos seguir colaborando juntas. #

minor difference in policy because having the UAE run the show results in such significant gains.

The gains most significantly include doing away with the language of “phasing out” fossil fuels. Jaber pushed for the final text to call for lowering emissions from the production of fossil fuels using Carbon Capture and Sequestration to limit the emissions only from power generation. CCS is panned almost universally by climate scientists and engineers as unscalable and as a means to allow the continued use of fossil fuels. Jaber's narrative is sleight of hand – distracting the attention from the emissions from all sectors of the capitalist economy, including heavy transportation. Manufacturing, aviation, and agriculture, not to mention Pentagon warfare, which has been excluded from discussion at COP conferences for years. If placed on a list of countries contributing GHGs to the atmosphere, the Pentagon would rank somewhere near Portugal or Denmark. But it isn't just the emissions from warfare that need to be exposed. It is the poverty imposed on so much of the world that maintains the imbalance of power.

These conferences have always been exclusive affairs. Climate activists in

## Baja población Boricua

*Continua de página 12*

eliminado servicios de salud y cerrado escuelas? Donde las viviendas asequibles casi no existen porque se ha priorizado el establecimiento de alquileres a corto plazo cuyos dueños extranjeros reciben descuentos del propio gobierno? Donde los y las jóvenes no encuentran un trabajo digno y se ven forzados a emigrar a la nación que nos oprime, Estados Unidos?

Por eso, este año tenemos más razones para luchar por la descolonización para lograr la soberanía que nos permita construir un Puerto Rico más justo.

**Desde Puerto Rico, para Radio  
Clarín de Colombia, les  
habló Berta Joubert-Ceci.**



many organizations from around the world travel to them and can participate in certain forums, but the real decisions are made behind closed doors. Still, millions of people around the world have pinned their hopes on the United Nations to somehow overpower the domination of the imperialist powers. The reality is that the global effort is nowhere near on track to keeping the atmosphere below 1.5° higher than pre-industrial temperatures. So far, in 2023, oil and natural gas extraction have reached their highest levels ever, and energy giants ExxonMobil and Chevron are buying up other oil operations to expand. The fact that the fossil fuel industry has now exerted so much weight on the outcome of the conferences is a dangerous precedent and calls into question the value of the conferences as a vehicle for the desire of humanity to save the planet.

The most promising development at COP28 is that pro-Palestinian activists held an action in solidarity with the people of Gaza and called for a ceasefire. The restrictions on them were shocking. They were not allowed to chant the widespread slogan, “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free” (they still did), nor carry a Palestinian flag. Some were detained and restricted to certain areas away from the conference halls. But they bravely held their protest to show that climate change and war are the same issue. Since the Biden/Netanyahu genocidal assault on Gaza began, others, including Greta Thunberg and activist colleagues from developing countries, have come out in solidarity with Palestine. They've been slammed for it in the press but have held their ground.

The movement to save the planet must embrace the fight against U.S. imperialist wars, proxy wars, and sanctions, while building solidarity with its victims. If possible, the issue has to be brought to the floor of the U.N. conferences, but more importantly, it must link the issues at every climate change action in the streets and around the world. Without the Pentagon, millions now trapped in endless poverty would be living free from the devastating threat of U.S. war and able to use their own natural resources freely. #



# 55<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THE PHILIPPINES

**O**n the 55th anniversary of the Communist Party of the Philippines, the Socialist Unity Party extends its deepest solidarity and congratulations to all its members, leaders, and fighters — to all who are leading the mass movement to free the Philippines from the shackles of U.S. imperialism.

Only a year ago did the world suffer the collective heartbreak of Ka Joma's passing. But, because revolutionary Filipinos continue to fulfill the tasks of the national democratic revolution, the struggle lost no steps in his absence. Ka Joma lives.

Instead of a typical solidarity statement filled with familiar talking points, we would like to take this opportunity to call on the rising anti-imperialist mass movement to study the Philippines. We know firsthand that there is much to learn from its revolutionary history and its application of Marxism to its particular conditions. At the very least, anti-imperialists in the U.S. should understand their government's role in the exploitation of Filipino people and their land.

The masses around the world are galvanizing like never before for Palestine and its national liberation struggle. It is in this context that anti-imperialist unity is built stronger and stronger every day, and more and more people recognize the repugnant centrality of the United States. It is this same mass movement that will need to defend the Philippines revolution, which we hope to see in our lifetimes. The masses must be prepared to cut through the inevitable misinformation and repression campaign that follows.

Our commitment as a revolutionary formation in the U.S. is to aid the building of this consciousness in every way we can. It is no secret that the reactionary government of the Philippines is more similar to "Israel" or Ukraine and more similar still to other client states like South Korea or Saudi Arabia. Secret or no, we are responsible for building that consciousness. The national liberation movements of the world must be united against U.S. imperialism, but it is still the primary responsibility of revolutionaries in the U.S. to win our own revolution. We call on anti-imperialists in the U.S. to take on a genuine study of the Philippines and its revolution and to foster positive relations with national democratic organizations toward a united front against imperialism.

Long live the Communist Party of the Philippines! Long live the National Democratic Front! Long live the New People's Army!

From Palestine to the Philippines, stop the U.S. war machine! #



# Baja población Boricua

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

El 2024 ha comenzado en Puerto Rico con noticias que nos auguran muchas dificultades. Aumentos en la tarifa de luz, de los peajes, de la canasta básica; cierres de hospitales, en fin, se podría decir que es más de lo mismo que ha estado ocurriendo desde que se instauró el modelo neoliberal en esteroides de mano de la Junta de Control Fiscal dictatorial impuesta por el Congreso estadounidense para disque solucionar los desastres fiscales del gobierno.

Pero resalta una noticia muy penosa: el vertiginoso descenso de la población boricua. En el 2023, solo nacieron poco

más de 17,000 bebés, mientras que murieron más de 33,000 personas. Esto, en una población de 3 millones 300 mil habitantes.

Desde el año 2000 cuando nacieron cerca de 60,000 criaturas, y fallecieron alrededor 30,000 personas, y los nacimientos superaban a las muertes, esta tendencia ha ido revirtiéndose.

El Puerto Rico actual es un país envejecido donde su población carece de los servicios más básicos para gozar de una buena calidad de vida.

Por las políticas sociales y económicas erradas de los gobiernos corruptos que trabajan para el provecho de sus familias, de los negocios locales y extranjeros



La gente está luchando contra la gentrificación de Puerto Rico para beneficiar a los norteamericanos ricos. Foto: Adriana De Jesús Salamán

gringos, se ha abandonado todo interés por beneficiar al pueblo.

De pronto, ese mismo gobierno se ha dado cuenta de que la baja poblacional afecta el desarrollo económico y están instando a las mujeres a parir. Pero, ¿cómo traer bebés al mundo donde han

*Continúa a página 10*

# Vinie Burrows, una vida completa

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Vinie Burrows, actriz, educadora y activista política quien representó a la Federación Democrática Internacional de Mujeres (FDIM) ante las Naciones Unidas, falleció el pasado 25 de diciembre a los 99 años en la ciudad de Nueva York.

Vinie, con la familiaridad con que la llamábamos todas en la FDIM, fue ejemplo vivo del propósito de nuestra organización. Sus acciones, tanto en su vida personal como en la profesional siempre demostraron la coherencia de sus convicciones políticas por la paz con justicia social y económica, en contra del racismo, por el derecho de la mujer y los niños y niñas de vivir sin violencia y poder desarrollar todas sus capacidades.

Fue fiel a las palabras de la primera presidenta de la FDIM Eugénie Cotton "En un mundo decidido a cambiar el estado de cosas que ha llevado a los hombres a librar dos horribles guerras mundiales en 25 años, el nuevo elemento, el poder de la masa de mujeres activas en la vida pública, puede y debe ser de gran importancia".

Como representante de la FDIM, viajó a varios países en misiones de solidaridad internacional, invitada por organizaciones hermanas. En estos viajes, no solo demostraba su apoyo para con las



Vinie Burrows honrada por sus contribuciones por la Federación Democrática Internacional de Mujeres.

luchas locales, sino que también exponía la cruel realidad que se vivía – y se vive aún – en su país de origen, los Estados Unidos.

Recordemos que fue Estados Unidos quien le retiró el estatus consultivo a la FDIM en las Naciones Unidas en el 1954, furioso porque la FDIM publicó el documento "Yo Acuso" que exponía las atrocidades cometidas en ese entonces contra Corea del Norte. Eventualmente, en el 1967, se readmitió a la FDIM con estatus consultivo.

Vinie fue actriz de teatro que protagonizó piezas junto a conocidos actores y actrices, recibiendo muchos premios y reconocimientos, incluyendo un doctorado honorario de la Nueva Escuela (New School). Entre los múltiples artículos y entrevistas realizados a lo largo de su carrera, se destaca uno del New York Times donde la llaman la "Reina del Teatro Negro", por su gran influencia en este arte.

Precisamente, fue su huella mayor en el arte, su exquisitez dramática como solista, que supo llevar a niveles nunca antes vistos en el teatro negro de la ciudad que presume ser la capital del teatro estadounidense. Estos soliloquios surgieron como respuesta al racismo y la exclusión de artistas negros y negras en el ámbito artístico de ese país.

Uno de los muchos ejemplos, fue el espectáculo "Walk Together Children" (Caminemos juntos niños), una pieza montada en un teatro de Greenwich que exponía a través de los escritos de personas esclavizadas, la horrible experiencia

*Continúa a página 10*

**STRUGGLE** ★ **LA LUCHA**  
*for Socialism* | *por el Socialismo*