

‘LETHAL A\$\$ET\$’:

U.S. finance capital owns the bombs falling on Palestine

By Lallan Schoenstein

Lenin on the economic essence of war

Lenin wrote in “Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism”:

“I trust that this pamphlet will help the reader to understand the economic essence of imperialism, for unless this is studied, it will be impossible to understand and appraise modern war and modern politics.”

In the new book “War and Lenin in the 21st Century,” author Gary Wilson writes about industrial capital merging with banking capital, creating “finance capital,” a financial oligarchy. This combination allows financial institutions to exert significant control over the economy as well as the government.

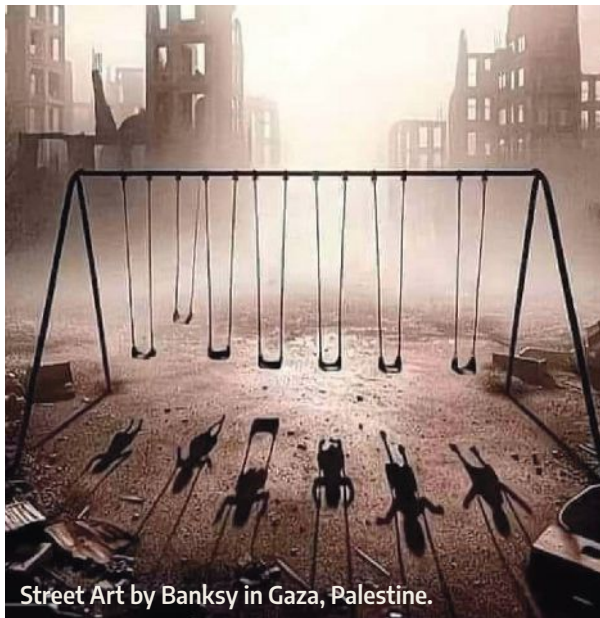
The banking institutions of monopoly capitalism own the arms manufacturers that are supplying weapons of genocide in Gaza warfare. The competitive drive to expand profitable investments and to absorb an ever-greater proportion of the U.S. government’s budget is fueling the broader war fronts all across the globe. It is threatening to develop into a Third World War.

Top arms manufacturers are owned by largest financial institutions.

The shadow banking system

BlackRock (BLK) is the largest private asset manager, holding about \$10 trillion in assets as of 2022. The company became the leading asset management operation after it acquired several large firms’

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Street Art by Banksy in Gaza, Palestine.

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► Far-right threats to trans lives

John Parker

is running in California’s 37th District for the U.S. Congress. Parker is the 37th’s only candidate willing to fight for a permanent CEASEFIRE in occupied Palestine.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF LENIN’S DEATH

WHITE PHOSPHORUS WEAPONS

Made in the U.S.: White phosphorus weapons

By Lallan Schoenstein

“Any time that we provide items like white phosphorus to another military, it is with a full expectation that it’ll be used in keeping with ... legitimate purposes and in keeping with the law of armed conflict,” said U.S. National Security Council spokesman John Kirby.

White phosphorus weapons are a part of the billions of dollars in U.S. munitions that flow to Israel every year. Biden administration officials say: “The United States is not conducting real-time assessments of Israel’s adherence to the laws of war.”

Credible evidence that Israel used white phosphorus weapons in its genocidal attack was reported by Gaza Human Rights Watch (HRW) and Amnesty International. They say that Israel has used white phosphorus in Lebanon and Gaza beginning in early October. On Jan. 12, it was reported that more than 50 patients in Nasser Hospital were being treated for phosphorus burns.

According to data collected by ACLED, a group that monitors war zones, Israel has used the munition more than 60 times in Lebanon’s border areas in the past two months. Lebanese Prime Minister Najib Mikati said on Dec. 2 that Israel’s use of white phosphorus has “killed civilians and produced irreversible damage to more than 5 million square meters of forests and farmland, in addition to damaging thousands of olive trees.”

White phosphorus munitions ignite when exposed to oxygen. They cause burn injuries. Inhalation of the vapor inhalation can lead to asphyxiation. Fragments of their casings cause other injuries. Phosphorus burns carry an



Israel used white phosphorus weapons in its genocidal attack reports Gaza Human Rights Watch (HRW) and Amnesty International.

increased risk of mortality due to the absorption of toxic phosphorus into the body through the burned area, causing multiple organ failure.

Burning white phosphorus produces a hot, dense, white smoke consisting mainly of phosphorus pentoxide in aerosol form. The smoke is more dangerous in enclosed spaces. It sticks to various surfaces, including skin and clothes; the burning substance is difficult to extinguish. White phosphorus can cause deep burns down to the bones, and remnants of the substance in the tissues can ignite again after the initial treatment.

It is difficult for military doctors, who are usually limited by medical resources, to provide timely and full assistance to the victims. In addition, fires caused by incendiary projectiles can destroy civilian buildings and property and damage crops and livestock.

International protocols and conventions on warfare, such as the Geneva Convention, ban incendiary weapons as “any weapon or munition which is pri-

marily designed to set fire to objects or to cause burn injury to persons through the action of flame, heat, produced by a chemical reaction of a substance delivered on the target.” Other bans prohibit the deliberate use of incendiary weapons against civilian targets and the use of air-delivered incendiary weapons against military targets in civilian areas. Incendiary phosphorus bombs may also not be used near civilians in a way that can lead to indiscriminate civilian casualties.

The majority of U.S. white phosphorus munitions are produced at the Pine Bluff Arsenal in Pine Bluff, Arkansas, according to the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. The Pine Bluff Arsenal munitions production plant was originally built as part of the U.S. Army’s Chemical Warfare Service during World War II. The plant then went on to produce biological weapons, such as weaponized anthrax, until 1969, when that biological weapon was internationally banned. #

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Massive march and rally in D.C.: Stop the genocide in Gaza!

By Stephen Millies

At least 400,000 people came to Freedom Plaza in Washington, D.C., on Jan. 13 to demand an end to the slaughter of Palestinian people. They gathered three blocks east of the White House where Genocide Joe Biden oversees the killing of thousands of children in Gaza. (He who pays the piper calls the tune.)

As people were coming to the capital of the blood-soaked empire, the U.S. Navy was again attacking heroic Yemen, one of the poorest countries on earth. Yemen's crime is to turn ships around that were going to the Zionist state occupying Palestine as a way to stop the bombing of Gaza.

The rally and the following march were a mass outpouring from the Arab and Muslim communities in the United States. They had many allies. Parents brought their children with them.

People carried signs in English, Arabic, Spanish, and other languages. A truck carried a banner reading "Sikhs for Palestine."

Union contingents, including those from the Postal Workers Union (APWU), lined up with their banners. APWU president Mark Dimondstein, who is Jewish, has demanded a ceasefire in Gaza.

Among the many groups that came was the People Power Assembly from Baltimore. Among the speakers was Indiana Rep. Andre Carson, one of three Muslims in Congress.

The massive event was organized by the American Muslim Task Force for



SLL photo: Stephen Millies

Palestine. It includes American Muslims for Palestine (AMP), Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), Islamic Circle of North America (ICNA), Muslim American Society (MAS), Muslim Student Association-National (MSA), Muslim Legal Fund of America (MLFA), Muslim Ummah of North America (MUNA), and Young Muslims (YM).

Participants carried thousands of flags. Most flags were Palestinian, but many were those of heroic Yemen. South African flags were also welcomed.

Nelson Mandela's South Africa has righteously charged the Zionist apartheid regime with genocide. Mandela declared, "We know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom

of the Palestinians."

The proceedings being held before the International Court of Justice have put a spotlight on Israel's mass murder, paid for by the United States.

Two days after the rally would have been the 95th birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Dr. King was assassinated exactly one year after he declared that the United States was "the greatest purveyor of violence in the world."

Joe Biden and the Pentagon are still the greatest purveyors of violence. They are Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's paymasters and bosses.

People from Yemen and South Africa to the United States will stop the genocide in Palestine! #

Palestinians vow 'We Will Remain' Millions march, unions act in solidarity

The Palestinian uprising on Oct. 7 occurred after 75 years of brutal colonial occupation. Palestinian leader Leila Khaled says: "Liberation is not achieved at the negotiation table."

Palestinian leaders have been continuously negotiating, during which time the Zionist arrests of Palestinians

increased, as have Zionist settlements, with the confiscation of Palestinian land and the demolition of their homes, murdering and maiming many in the process. Palestinians were imprisoned in their own occupied territory through the Israel checkpoints.

Even before October, the Zionist entity

was engaged in conducting a system of apartheid in Palestine, where the original people were denied their right to survival.

Since October, in over 100 days of bombing, Israel has killed nearly 25,000

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Palestinian Resistance on the decision of the International Court of Justice



Islamic Resistance Movement - Hamas

On the decision of the International Court of Justice: The Islamic Resistance

Movement - Hamas welcomes the decision of the International Court of Justice in The Hague (<https://t.me/PalestineResist/27364>), which indicted the occupying state on charges of genocide, and demands that the occupation army protect civilians, lift the siege imposed on our people in the Gaza Strip, and respect its duties as an occupying force within the framework of international law and international humanitarian law. This decision means the cessation of all forms of aggression against our Palestinian people in Gaza.

We call on the international community to oblige the enemy to implement the court's decisions and stop the ongoing "crime of genocide" against our people. We look forward to the court's final decisions convicting the occupying state of committing the crime of "genocide," war crimes, and crimes against humanity. This decision opens the way for enemy leaders to be held accountable for these crimes before the International Criminal Court, affirming the rights of our Palestinian people to self-determination, establishing their independent state, and returning to their lands and homes from which they were forcefully displaced, in line with international resolutions on this matter.

We in the Hamas movement appreciate the genuine position of the Republic of South Africa, its support for our Palestinian people and the justice of their cause, its sincere endeavor to repel the aggression against the Gaza Strip, and its rejection of the brutal crimes of the occupation. We also extend our thanks to all countries that have expressed their support for this noble humanitarian action.

Islamic Resistance Movement - Hamas

The Front stated: "Regardless of the fact that the International Court of Justice today did not issue a direct decision to stop the aggression on the Gaza Strip and our rejection of what was mentioned in the decision regarding the legitimate operation of October 7th against the brutal occupation, what was included in the text of its decisions today regarding the response to South Africa's invitation is a historic decision, and a victory for justice and the Palestinian cause, especially since there is almost consensus from the court judges to proceed in considering the invitation presented by South Africa."

The Front expressed its pride and honor in the Republic of South Africa for its great efforts in supporting the just struggle of the Palestinian people, calling for more solidarity and escalating activities to support our people and boycott the occupation, through the continuation of the global intifada of rage against the forces supporting the genocide war, affirming that all forces believing in justice and humanity should escalate their struggle against the system of brutality that exterminates our people from the imperialist powers that have violated our occupied Palestinian land.

The Front concluded its statement by affirming that the struggle is long to prosecute the leaders of the occupation and their partners in America, Britain, and others for their heinous crimes against the Palestinian people. It considered that this invitation presented by South Africa constitutes a step towards achieving this goal, despite the fact that the main bet today in facing genocide, massacres, injustice, and brutality should be on our people first, our Arab nation, and the free people of the world in light of the collusion and inaction of the international system, and their blatant bias towards the occupation.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine

Central Media Department

January 26, 2024

On Jan. 26, the International Court of Justice accepted the genocide case brought by South Africa. In the acceptance, the court ordered the Zionist regime to take all measures to prevent the killing or wounding of Palestinians.

The court's order says:

"The Court indicates the following provisional measures:

(1) **By fifteen votes to two,**

The State of Israel shall, in accordance with its obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, in relation to Palestinians in Gaza, take all measures within its power to prevent the commission of all acts within the scope of Article II of this Convention, in particular:

(a) **killing members of the group;**

(b) **causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group"**

Following are responses from the Palestinian Resistance posted on the Resistance News Network:

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine

Regardless of its direct disregard for the call to stop the aggression on the Strip, The Popular Front welcomes the decision of the International Court of Justice to accept the invitation presented by South Africa.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine welcomed the decision (<https://t.me/PalestineResist/27364>) of the International Court of Justice in The Hague regarding what it presented today on the urgent measures required to stop the genocide war against our people, expressing hope for the necessity of implementing these decisions and imposing their implementation on the Zionist entity, starting legal accountability mechanisms for this occupation, considering it a brutal occupying force practicing all forms of massacres, killings, siege, displacement, and genocide, despite the fact that the authority to implement the ceasefire decision lies with the United Nations Security Council.

New Orleans keeps marching, rallies for Yemen

By Gregory E. Williams

Despite the onset of Carnival season, New Orleanians have not stopped marching for Palestine. And on the cold night of Jan. 16, several dozen gathered outside the Hale Boggs Federal Building to rally for Yemen.

The action was called by New Orleans for Palestine, NOLA Freedom Forum, Tulane Students for Palestine, Freedom Road Socialist Organization New Orleans, New Orleans Stop Helping Israel's Ports, and Students for a Democratic Society.

The crowd chanted, "Yemen, Yemen, make us proud, turn another ship around!" and "Hands off Yemen!"

All of us who participated support the heroic actions of the Yemeni resistance, who have struck real blows against the Zionist regime and its genocidal campaign in Gaza.

When Gaza called, Yemen answered – despite the fact that some 377,000 Ye-

meni people have died in war over the past few years, with the U.S. and Saudi Arabia being primarily responsible.

The blood from those deaths is on the hands of Biden, Trump, Obama, and company. So when Biden orchestrated the retaliatory bombing of Ansar Allah ("Houthi movement") forces on Jan. 11, he wasn't doing anything new. In fact, it was all too predictable.

Washington continually brutalizes Yemen, one of the poorest countries on Earth – poor because of imperialism. The governments of the U.S., Britain, Australia, Bahrain, Canada, and the Netherlands – the coalition of imperialist forces that carried out last week's attacks – are a

bunch of rotten cowards.

The Yemeni people, on the other hand, are heroes. They will not be deterred. For our part, we, in the belly of the beast, must also vow to keep fighting until both Palestine and Yemen are free. #



SLL photo: Gregory E. Williams

Palestinians vow 'We Will Remain' Millions march, unions act in solidarity

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Gazans, nearly 10,000 of them children. The Zionist goal appears to be the complete extermination of the Palestinian people. The Biden administration has assisted with billions of dollars of U.S.-manufactured weapons. U.S. weapons, including 2,000-pound bombs, are falling on homes and apartment blocks, murdering children, women, men, the elderly, and the youth.

Palestinians are ordered to evacuate their homes. Then, the refugee caravans and camps are bombed mercilessly. Hospitals and UN relief centers are targeted. Access to food and drinking water is blocked. Disease is spreading unchecked.

Cuba and South Africa charge genocide in the World Court

On January 9, South Africa initiated proceedings in the International Court

of Justice against Israel for the Crime of Genocide. Cuba issued formal support. Indonesia followed with a similar proceeding. Chile and Mexico have called upon the International Criminal Court to investigate Israel's crimes. Beginning in November, Bolivia, South Africa, Djibouti, and the Comoros called on the court to investigate war crimes of genocide in Palestine.

Namibia rejected Germany's support of the genocidal Intent of the racist Israeli state against the people of Gaza. They commented that Germany committed the first genocide of the 20th century against thousands of Namibians.

In countries around the world, millions have taken to the streets to demand a ceasefire.

Major labor unions in the U.S. and abroad have pledged solidarity with the call of the Palestinian General Confeder-

ation of Labor to take action against governments, like the U.S., that are arming Israel. They are picketing munitions factories and shutting down weapon shipments at the ports.

On January 12, the U.S. bombed Yemen in retribution for their solidarity with the Palestine people. Millions of Yemenis have protested, and militants are struggling to block arms shipments to Israel.

Leila Khaled says: "We hear from inside Gaza those standing in the rubble chanting: We are with the resistance, and we will remain in the land of Palestine. Resistance against the Zionist entity has not stopped since the occupation and the displacement of the masses of refugees in different countries. Yes, Palestinian society was destroyed in 1948, but the Palestinian people restores itself every time." #

Which side are you on?

Far-right deepens threats to trans lives, Biden stays silent

By Melinda Butterfield

You can't use a restroom in a public building, your school, or the airport without facing jail or violence. The medication you rely on to stay alive is suddenly denied you.

You fear arrest for speaking in public or even walking past your neighborhood school. The government is collecting intimate medical and legal records about you – for what purpose, they won't say, but you know it's nothing good.

It sounds like a nightmare, doesn't it? But this is the daily reality facing trans people across the United States in 2024. An entire section of the population is being legislated out of existence before our eyes through a well-financed, coordinated campaign by far-right extremists, with nary a peep from the federal government.

Between this year and last, half of U.S. states have passed anti-trans legislation or enacted executive measures against trans lives.

Threats of violence by neo-nazis grow in tandem with the "official" attacks. Incursions by hate groups aimed at queer events and spaces are becoming more common even in "safe" cities like Los Angeles and Boston.

In New York, the fascist Patriot Front held a march in lower Manhattan on Jan. 20; videos taken at the scene showed police allowing them to enter the subway system without paying and otherwise taking a completely hands-off attitude. The same day, New York cops viciously attacked a pro-Palestine march in upper Manhattan, targeting protest leaders and arresting at least 12 people.

While the Biden administration is neck-deep in Israel's genocidal campaign against Palestinians in Gaza, another genocide is being prepared right here by Biden's political opponents – against transgender people.

More than 300 hate bills

Since Jan. 1, at least 317 anti-trans bills have been introduced in state legisla-



Photos: Nuanua Collective

Trans rights supporters rally at the Utah State Capitol in Salt Lake City, Jan. 25.

tures across the country. These are being swiftly voted into law and are even more extreme than those in 2022 and 2023: total bans on gender-affirming healthcare for people of all ages, bathroom bans, refusal to recognize the identities of students and teachers, and increasingly, measures that would make simply being out in public illegal for trans people.

On Jan. 26, Utah passed HB257, a law banning trans students from using the correct restrooms for their gender, trans public employees from using the correct restrooms in their workplaces, and any trans person from using restrooms in public facilities like airports. Trans people could be imprisoned for up to six months – jailed with people of the opposite gender. The law depends on vigilante-style "citizen reporting," like Texas's snitch laws on abortion.

The measure also ends gender-affirming care for trans youths and bans them from participating in sports, among many other attacks. Republican leaders bragged about how they revised the bill at the last minute in an attempt to prevent legal challenges like those that met Utah's abortion ban.

Ohio is a beachhead in the Midwest for hate measures. Despite their abortion ban being thoroughly rejected by voters in a statewide referendum, Republicans who dominate the state government have enacted some of the most brutal anti-trans laws this month. On Jan. 24, the state legislature overrode the veto of Republican Gov. Mike DeWine, who thought he could more cleverly achieve the same ends with executive measures. But DeWine's planned attacks on trans lives just weren't vicious enough for his colleagues.

Texas is attempting to subpoena medical records of trans residents who visit other states for care, while Florida and other states move to compile lists of trans state residents, including legal records related to name and gender changes. These are often paired with measures to rescind identification, like driver's licenses and birth certificates.

Florida is also attempting to force insurance companies to cover deadly anti-LGBTQ+ "conversion therapy" for trans children while denying them real health care. Oklahoma's Department of Education hired Chaya Raichik, a transphobic social media troll who last year instigated bomb threats against the Tulsa School District, among many other targets. And on and on.

No protection from Biden, Dems

It seems almost impossible that the anti-trans panic that started a few years ago could grow so swiftly into a campaign of legal and extra-legal eradication. But with zero resistance from Democrats in the White House and Congress – and with the cooperation of more than a few – the fascist measures have advanced unimpeded.

On Jan. 25, Democrats in Maine struck another blow against trans rights, joining Republicans in voting down a measure to make Maine a sanctuary state.

LGBTQ+ nonprofits tied to the Democrats have offered little opposition either outside of courtrooms. Yet the courts,

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Justice for Tawfik Abdeljabbar

Louisiana teen killed by U.S.-funded occupation force

By Gregory E. Williams

Community members are mourning the death of Tawfik Abdeljabbar. The 17-year-old native of Gretna, Louisiana – a U.S. citizen – was murdered on Jan. 19 by an Israeli Occupation Force officer in the occupied West Bank, in the Palestinian town of Al-Mazra'a. The U.S. State Department has confirmed the killing.

The young man was a student at the Muslim Academy Gretna Islamic School. The family returned to Palestine last year to reconnect with their relatives. Tawfik hoped to improve his Arabic and had college plans.

On the night of Jan. 20, several hundred gathered for a vigil at Masjid Omar mosque in Harvey, Louisiana. A separate vigil was held at a family home. One attendee spoke to Struggle-La Lucha about the experience.

“The house was full, people in every corner, in every room. Some were crying and being consoled; others were consoling until it was their turn to be consoled.

“As I scanned the sea of faces, looking for Tawfik’s closest relative in order to pay my respects, every face in that sea was one I knew. These are the faces of the moms of the countless kids I’ve taught in my 17 years at Muslim Academy. I knew everyone. Instantly, I felt soothed, relieved that I was surrounded by people who felt this loss as deeply as I did.

“As I hugged each one, probably longer than I would have normally, my tears fell. The hugs tightened. I didn’t want to let go. These mothers understood me, understood the pain of loss. We birth these babies, raise the children, and nurture the youth in the security afforded to us by where we live. But when we go home, instead of security in the knowledge that we’ll see our children, the insecurity of IF we see our children becomes an ever-present thought. I cried.

“I didn’t see you this morning,” Tawfik’s father cried at his side when he bid his boy a final farewell.

“It reminded me of the last time I saw Tawfik. ‘Have a great summer! Stay out of trouble!’ I advised him, knowing that going home (to Palestine) meant IF, yet

safe in the assumption of ‘it couldn’t happen to someone I know.’

“I cried a little more. I thought about Khair, Tawfik’s younger brother, the child I taught for nine months, who I grew to love and nurtured through the year. I cried harder. But surrounded by my people, by our faith, by our shared resilience, and in the knowledge that death is not the end for our martyrs, gave me peace ... for a while. Until I left, until I returned home, where my rage at the ongoing genocide of my people welcomed me home.”

Another NOLA Palestinian community member spoke to Struggle-La Lucha.

“This needs to stop — the murder, us in the U.S., funding these murders. I want the broader community to understand that this is not the first time this happens. Shireen Abu Akleh was a Palestinian with American citizenship, and she, too, was killed by the IOF.

“We should care, regardless of the citizenship a person holds. And the only reason we’re telling everyone this is a murdered child from our community is so that the next time you see your Palestinian friend or co-worker, you understand that this – the occupation — is a dark shadow in their life – and that it could be any of us killed.

“What would you do and/or say if this was your Palestinian American friend or colleague killed? Will you remain silent and pray for us in the quiet? I fear the disappointment that may come with this answer.

“I think the media coverage needs to get better. Media claims objectivity, and yet, the biased reporting that favors Israel shows otherwise.”

Struggle-La Lucha also spoke with Kevin Ericksen, a Louisiana State University employee in finance. Ericksen says that he has “a quarter century of trying to change American policy toward Palestine” behind him and associates with Faith Organizing for a Free Palestine. Some of the members attended vigils for Tawfik.



Tawfik Abdeljabbar

“Americans know more than they let on. But they’re good at deflecting, always bringing it back to Hamas and how Hamas is the alpha and omega of this tragedy.

“But no more. We now realize that there are clear victims of the \$10 million per day that America gives the Israeli military.

“Until Troy Carter [U.S. representative for Louisiana’s second congressional district] flies over to Nablus or Jenin and sits in front of one of the mothers whose son was killed by American guns and looks her in the eyes and tells her why her son’s killing was necessary for American national security, until Troy Carter looks her in the eyes, we don’t want to hear from him or any news outlet about how evil Hamas is the cause of all this.”

We at Struggle-La Lucha say justice for Tawfik Abdeljabbar! In the name of workers and oppressed people here in the belly of the beast — who have no interest in upholding U.S. imperialism — we say end the occupation! Free, free Palestine! #

On the 100th anniversary of the death of V.I. Lenin



Statement of Socialist Unity Party and Struggle-La Lucha for Socialism on the 100th anniversary of the death of V.I. Lenin.

It's really a shame that Vladimir Lenin is such a maligned figure in the capitalist world. Not surprising, but a shame.

If more people knew the truth about Lenin and the Russian Revolution, they'd see another Che, another Harriet Tubman, or another Geronimo.

And not necessarily the liberation fighters as individuals but the mass struggles they led and were part of and what they won for their people. They won their liberation. They won their ability to determine their own futures.

If more people knew about Lenin, that would mean more people knowing another example that, if the masses of working and oppressed people can come together and get organized, we can fight for and win a better world.

And not only CAN we — we MUST. The same way Palestine MUST be free. Because ALL of our futures are at stake.

We honor the anniversary of Lenin's death every year, but in this hundredth year, at this historical moment, we pay particular tribute. More people must be strengthened by the true history of the Russian Revolution.

75 years of Lao People's Army

Celebrations are ongoing across the Lao People's Democratic Republic, marking 75 years of the Lao People's Army.

The army was founded on Jan. 20, 1949. By 1953 — along with allied Vietnamese forces — this army and the broad masses managed to drive out the French colonialists. By 1975, they kicked out the U.S. invaders, the world's dominant capitalist power.

The Socialist Unity Party and Struggle-La Lucha newspaper salute the people, party, state, and army of socialist Laos for these achievements.

Laos demonstrates what a revolutionary people can achieve when they have a revolutionary state. That lesson is a pressing one for us today as the U.S. imperialists unleash terror in Palestine. The Palestinian people need a revolutionary state, too.

The U.S. imperialists dropped 2 million tons of bombs on Laos between 1964 and 1973, making it the most bombed country per capita in the history of the world. This was a campaign of extermination directed, in no small part, by Henry Kissinger, who finally died this



President Thongloun Sisoulith joins army officers on a short walk to mark the 75th anniversary of the Lao People's Army on Jan. 18.

past November. It is an outrage that he was never tried for his crimes.

Many bombs have yet to explode, with people being killed and maimed to this day. These bombs have killed some 20,000 since the end of the war in 1975. Half of the victims are children.

Nevertheless, Laos progresses despite the odds. Today, landlocked Laos and China are connected by a high-speed rail line built through collaborative efforts between the two countries. The U.S. has no such lines. This is just one example of Laos' continuing advancement. #

Luxemburg-Liebkecht memorial: Police in Berlin attack Palestine solidarity activists

Photos: Junge Welt

By Nick Brauns

“Viva Palestine” could be heard from afar during the kilometer-long demonstration that marched under red flags to the Socialist Cemetery. Israel’s war against Gaza was the dominant theme at the traditional memorial demonstration for Karl Liebknecht and Rosa Luxemburg, the co-founders of the Communist Party of Germany who were murdered by right-wing Freikorps soldiers 105 years ago, on Jan. 14 in Berlin.

Solidarity with Palestine was also the trigger for brutal police attacks that left numerous people injured. First, a speaker from a block of mostly Palestinian demonstrators was arrested — the reason for this was the banned slogan “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free,” a police spokesman told jW. After the arrest, contingents at the front of the demonstration turned around and the police were briefly pushed away.

The frightening results of the subsequent use of batons and pepper spray by the helmeted state power: A 65-year-old man, run over by the police, lay unconscious on the ground and bleeding from his mouth and nose. According to demonstration paramedics, 15 other demonstrators also had to be treated in hospital with injuries, some of them serious, such as broken bones. The police, however, spoke of attacks on officers during the demonstration, with 21 police officers injured.

“I’m glad that the other demonstrators immediately showed their solidarity with us. This is where our strength lies,” a Palestinian activist named Walid told jW.

According to the police, among the 16 demonstrators arrested are several musicians from Turkey’s Grup Yorum, who are currently on a hunger strike for comrades imprisoned in the Federal Republic of Germany.

According to the organizers, more than 10,000 people took part in the demonstration. In addition to contingents from German Communist Party (DKP) and Socialist German Workers Youth (SDAJ), Marxist-Leninist Party of Germany (MLPD), Trotskyist groups and socialist parties from Turkey and Kurdistan, left-wing trade unionists and neighborhood initiatives, what was noticeable was the strong participation of mostly young supporters of Marxist-Leninist organizations, dressed in black and in orderly formations among a sea of red flags. “Road free for the red youth,” “Youth, future, socialism” and “With Rosa and Karl against war and capital” were heard from these blocks.

With the banner “Defend revolutionary history! Attack German warmonsters!” and images of Luxemburg, Liebknecht and Lenin, who died 100 years ago, the “Perspective Communism”



movement made it clear that commemoration is not a nostalgic end in itself. This is also how Sevda Karaca, a member of the Labor Party (EMEP) in the Turkish parliament, sees it. “Rosa Luxemburg and Karl Liebknecht are revered worldwide as champions of socialism,” Karaca told this newspaper at the Socialist Cemetery. “In times when fascist ideas are increasing worldwide, it is particularly important that we reflect on the roots of our resistance.”

Even before the demonstration arrived, thousands of people, including the leadership of Die Linke party, had taken part in a “silent commemoration.” The murdered labor leaders were honored at their graves with red carnations and wreaths.

Solidarity with the Palestinian struggle for freedom, the call for peace and the need for socialism also played a central role at the 29th International Rosa Luxemburg Conference. The conference organized by this newspaper took place on Jan. 13 in the Berlin Tempodrom with a new record attendance of 3,700 visitors.

Translated by Melinda Butterfield



Protesters hold portraits of Karl Liebknecht, Rosa Luxemburg and V.I. Lenin.



‘LETHAL A\$\$ET\$’:**U.S. finance capital owns the bombs falling on Palestine***Continued from page 1*

portfolios, including Merrill Lynch Investment Management and Barclay’s Global Investors (BGI).

According to data from WallStreet-Zen, as of April 2023, 61.87% of BLK shares were owned by institutional investors, investment firms, and asset managers. This means that over half of the Blackrock shareholders are investment firms and asset managers, similar to BlackRock.

As of April 2023, the institutions with the most BLK stock were The Vanguard Group, State Street Corp, and Bank of America (BofA). BofA is the second biggest bank in the U.S. after JP Morgan.

The Vanguard Group is a U.S.-based asset management firm that oversees more than \$8 trillion in assets for both individual and institutional investors.

Capital Group Companies manages more than \$2.3 trillion in investments. In 1953, an investment in Royal Dutch Petroleum made Capital Group one of the first U.S.-based finance capital firms to invest outside the U.S. After WWII, U.S. finance capital became dominant globally with the U.S. dollar becoming the world currency.

State Street Global Advisors, Inc. is the world’s fourth-largest asset manager, with nearly \$4.14 trillion in assets in December 2021.

These institutions are known as the shadow banking system. Shadow banks are not regulated and include hedge funds, private equity funds, mortgage

lenders, and some large investment banks.

Their lethal assets

RTX (formerly Raytheon) is the second largest U.S. defense contractor behind Lockheed Martin. RTX manufactures weapons and military electronics. It is the world’s largest producer of guided missiles and special-mission aircraft, including the Patriot system, a shoulder-fired stinger missile.

General Dynamics supplies technologically advanced wheeled combat vehicles, including the Abrams tank, Stryker combat vehicles, LAVs and AJAX armored fighting vehicles. They provide weapons systems, nuclear submarines, and munitions for naval, air, and ground forces across all weapons platforms, boasting that they “offer lethality on the battlefield.”

Lockheed Martin provides helicopters and rotary-wing military aircraft to all five branches of the U.S. armed forces, along with military services and commercial operators in 40 nations. Lockheed claims their aircraft can target static or moving targets with rockets and laser-designated air-to-ground missiles. Their long-range, guided missile carries a 500-pound class blast fragmentation warhead.

In a joint venture, Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman prepared a high-tech system they call a “force multiplier” that is supposed to provide aircrews with automatic target detection while enabling rapid, multi-target engagement in all weather conditions over multiple types of terrain.

In 1993, Lockheed purchased the Fort Worth-based jet fighter division of the General Dynamics Corporation, giving them the F-16 fighter program and a greater stake in developing the F-22 “stealth” fighter. The \$3.5 billion F-22, by the way, is not yet working. The U.S. Air Force says it can’t use the F-22 jets because it would require too

much effort and cost too much to get the aircraft ready for battle.

Northrop Grumman pioneered stealth technology to keep military aircraft virtually unseen. They claim to lead in advanced multifunction systems that will deliver intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, electronic attack, and multi-domain networking capabilities for the U.S. defense and intelligence community and international customers.

They are the prime contractor delivering the \$21 billion B-21 Raider, a so-called strategic bomber. The B-21, only one of which has been built, making a single test flight in November 2023, is designed to be a nuclear bomber.

In April 1994, the company was formed when Northrop Corporation acquired Grumman Corporation. Lockheed Martin then acquired Northrop Grumman in July 1997.

Boeing designs, manufactures, and sells military weapons, including attack helicopters, combat aircraft, missiles, bombs, battlefield laser systems, and intelligence and surveillance systems. Boeing’s AH-64 is a combat helicopter for the U.S. Army and many other countries’ military forces.

The Ground-based Midcourse Defense (GMD) system is the United States missile defense program. As prime contractor, Boeing designs, produces, integrates, tests and sustains all GMD components deployed across 15 time zones.

TransDigm, as a subcontractor, buys up companies the military depends on for spare parts. By providing maintenance and parts for weapons it creates a locked-in market.

Forbes magazine reported in May 2023 that the expansion of NATO has opened up a big new market for U.S. military-industrial complex defense contractors. It’s “a big win” for Raytheon, Lockheed Martin, and Northrop Grumman. “More importantly, aligning with NATO is a commitment to interoperability with the American defense ecosystem. This directly benefits the big U.S. contractors. The market for their goods is expanding and they will face no competition for the foreseeable future. ...

**Bombed out houses in Gaza.***Continued on page 11*

'LETHAL A\$\$ET\$'

Continued from page 10

"The F-35-ification of European armies might be a bigger deal, though. In addition to the cost of the units, corresponding ground support, spare parts and maintenance, there is a lock-in factor. Europe is now committed to America-made gear for decades to come."

Weaponry acquired by the Defense Department is a process that is most easily navigated by experienced defense contractors like Lockheed Martin, Boeing, and General Dynamics.

The 10 most expensive weapons systems in the world total \$868 billion in research and development and manufacturing costs. The Department of Defense has commissioned each of the 10 weapons systems.

Weapons contractors set their own inflated prices

Military contractors overcharge the Pentagon on almost everything the Department of Defense buys each year, expert Shay Assad told 60 Minutes on May 21, 2023. Assad is now retired after four decades negotiating weapons deals for

Raytheon and then for the U.S. Defense Department.

Assad points to the Patriot weapons system purchased by the U.S., NATO, Ukraine, and Taiwan. In 2015, Assad ordered a review, and Army negotiators discovered Lockheed Martin and its subcontractor, Boeing, were grossly overcharging the Pentagon and U.S. allies by hundreds of millions of dollars for the Patriot's PAC-3 missiles.

Shay Assad said, "The average profitability that was negotiated in a firm fixed price contract was typically between 12% and 15%. But Pentagon analysts found total profits approached 40%."

In 1993, the Pentagon, claiming that it was aiming to cut costs, urged defense companies to merge. Fifty-one major contractors consolidated into five giants. In the early 2000s, the Pentagon, in another cost-saving move, cut 130,000 employees whose jobs were to negotiate and oversee defense contracts.

Assad said. "They were convinced that they could rely on the companies to do what was in the best interests of the war fighters and the taxpayers."

Now that Raytheon is the sole supplier

of stinger missiles, the cost is seven-fold more than in 1991.

The cost of Lockheed Martin's troubled F-35 program, seven years behind schedule – is now \$90 billion over the original estimate and may end up costing taxpayers \$1.3 trillion. The Pentagon had ceded control of the program to Lockheed Martin. Lockheed and its suppliers retained control of design and repair data – the proprietary information needed to fix and upgrade the plane. The weapon system belongs to the defense department. However, the data underlying the design of the airplane does not.

When a part breaks, it's likely to come from a subcontractor like TransDigm, which has seen its stock soar as it buys up companies the military depends on for spare parts. Assad's review team found the government "will pay" the company "\$119 million" for parts that "should cost \$28 million."

Since 2002, total arms sales among the 100 largest arms manufacturers have increased by 60%. Over half of all arms sales that year were made by 10 companies with the highest revenue from arms sales. #

'War and Lenin in the 21st Century'

New book released on the 100th Anniversary of Lenin's death

Vladimir Lenin, the revolutionary leader of the Soviet Union and a key contributor to Marxist theory, wrote "**Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism**" in 1916, more than a century ago. It is still one of the most influential critiques of imperialism.

After the first imperialist world war broke out, Lenin's main interest was promoting a socialist revolution to end the war. To this end, he exposed the war's economic roots and explained why the popular Social Democratic anti-war movement had crumbled. Lenin identified imperialism's key features: monopoly capitalism, finance capital, the export of capital, and colonialism, leading to the competitive division of the world among the imperialist powers.

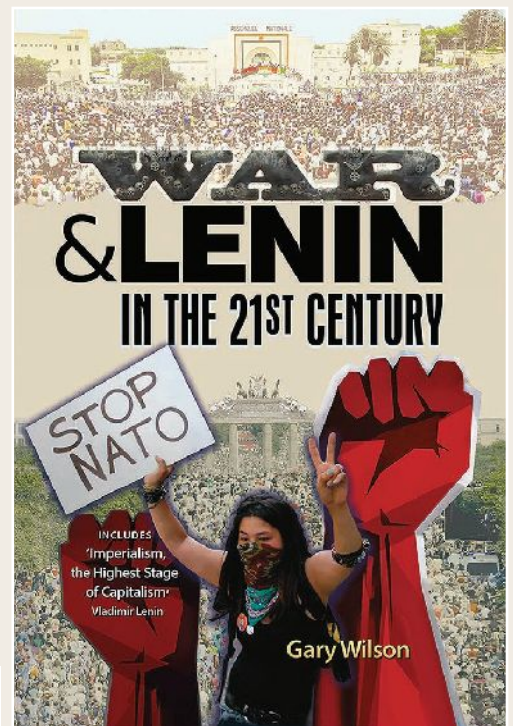
Does Lenin's analysis of imperialism hold up today?

The United States emerged from WWII as the world's most powerful imperialist country, gaining control of European and Japanese empires in Asia and Africa. It established the U.S. dollar as the international currency and engaged in endless wars to maintain what the Cubans call '**The Empire.**'

Unlike in 1914, the U.S. military-industrial complex dominates the imperialist world.

Pentagon contracts are gutting the U.S. and NATO allies' economies. The U.S. government's budget is dominated by military spending, now almost a **\$1 trillion a year.** Military contracts drain the budgets of every NATO member. To pay for this war budget, services are cut, and austerity imposed; the working class is being impoverished.

As in Lenin's time, the conclusion is that socialist revolution will end imperialist war, enabling workers to meet their own needs.



<http://tinyurl.com/LeninAndWar>

‘Black and a Red’: Rank-and-file ILWU Local 10 leader Leo Robinson linked local and global fights for justice

By Clarence Thomas

The following summary is extracted from a presentation by Clarence Thomas, a retired member of the International Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 10 in San Francisco. The full presentation is at tinyurl.com/ylttdnr3

The event was “Reckoning with the Black Radical Tradition: A Conference in honor of Jack O’Dell on January 13, 2024, at the University of Washington in Seattle, sponsored by the Harry Bridges Center for Labor Studies.

Jack O’Dell (1923-2019) was a visionary intellectual and an astute organizer who helped shape the course of the Black freedom movement in the second half of the 20th century.

A profile of Leo L. Robinson

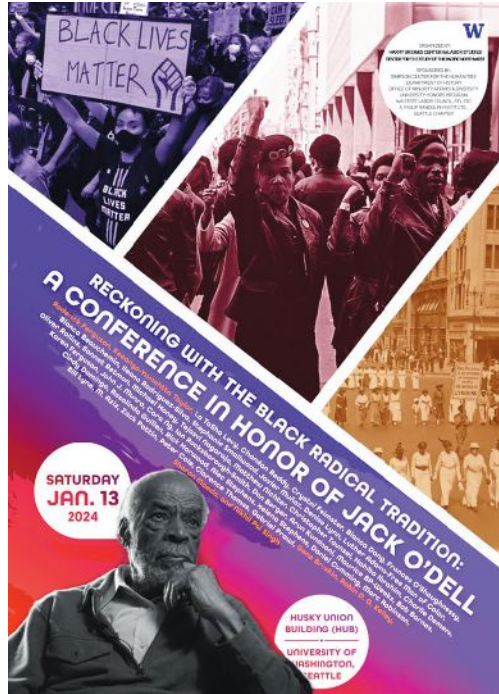
When reckoning with the Black radical tradition inside of the ILWU, particularly Local 10, the person who comes to mind is Leo L. Robinson — a second-generation Longshore worker. In my opinion, Robinson is one of the more important rank-and-file leaders in the union’s modern era (1970s-90s). I say that because he was in the tradition of the founders of the ILWU, leftists who were committed to rank-and-file democracy, as well as the working class at home and abroad.

Like Jack O’Dell, Leo was “Black and a Red!”

Born May 26, 1937, in Shreveport, Louisiana. His mother moved to the West Coast in 1942 to work at the Moore Shipyard in Oakland and prepare a place for his family. His father and four siblings moved to Oakland in 1943. Leo’s dad also worked at Moore Shipyard and was hired on the waterfront in 1944.

He became a longshore worker in 1963.

When he came to the waterfront, he wasn’t that political. His issues were all local, and it was only later that it occurred to him that everything local was also national and international. During the Vietnam War, a question by a young longshore worker changed his political outlook for life and led him into activism.



He said, “I want to ask you a question, and you don’t have to answer it now, but I want you to answer this question. Of what kind of threat do the Vietnamese pose to you?” Leo became politicized in the late ‘60s, discussing the Vietnam War with fellow longshore workers and eventually joining the Communist party.

Photojournalist David Bacon wrote of Brother Robinson, “One of the things I learned about Leo was that he was not afraid of being called a Red. He took great pride in it.”

“When some people insult you and call you a Red,” Leo said, “that’s when you know you’re doing good work. When you’re hurting the racists, that’s their weapon of choice.”

Local 10 predominantly African American

It is important to mention that ILWU Local 10 is the only predominantly African-American longshore local on the West Coast. It is also the most radical of all longshore locals in the ILWU.

In the 1970s and 1980s, Leo’s leadership exercised the power of the rank

and file of Local 10 and the U.S. working class on the side of the South African liberation struggle and against the racist apartheid regime. In July 1976, after the SOWETO uprising and youth were massacred, Leo introduced the resolution to Local 10 for a boycott of goods to and from South Africa.

Leo assisted in forming Local 10’s South Africa Liberation Support Committee (SALSC), the first anti-apartheid group in a U.S. labor union. In April 1977, he put the resolution into action. A 5,000-person-strong community picket was honored by ILWU Local 10 members, stalling South African cargo at San Francisco’s Pier 27 for two days at a time when then-imprisoned Nelson Mandela and the African National Congress was slandered as terrorist by the U.S. government.

Nelson Mandela thanked the ILWU

In 1990, when Nelson Mandela toured the United States after his release from 27 years in prison, he thanked the ILWU before a mammoth crowd at the Oakland Coliseum.

During the early 1980s, Leo, along with David Stewart and other local members of the CBTU, brought a resolution passed at its convention to Local 10 calling for all international unions to include in their union contracts, making Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.’s birthday a paid holiday. Local 10 adopted it as a contract caucus demand for the Longshore Caucus. The Longshore Division gained Dr. King’s birthday as a paid holiday.

When he was once asked what the anti-apartheid struggle had to do with workers here at home, Leo responded by explaining that while plants were being shut down here, corporations were investing in industry in South Africa and taking advantage of the subjugation of Black workers under apartheid. He further highlighted that the cargo discharged from the boycotted ship Nedlloyd Kimberly in 1984 contained steel, glass, and apple juice concentrate, all

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Local 10 leader Leo Robinson

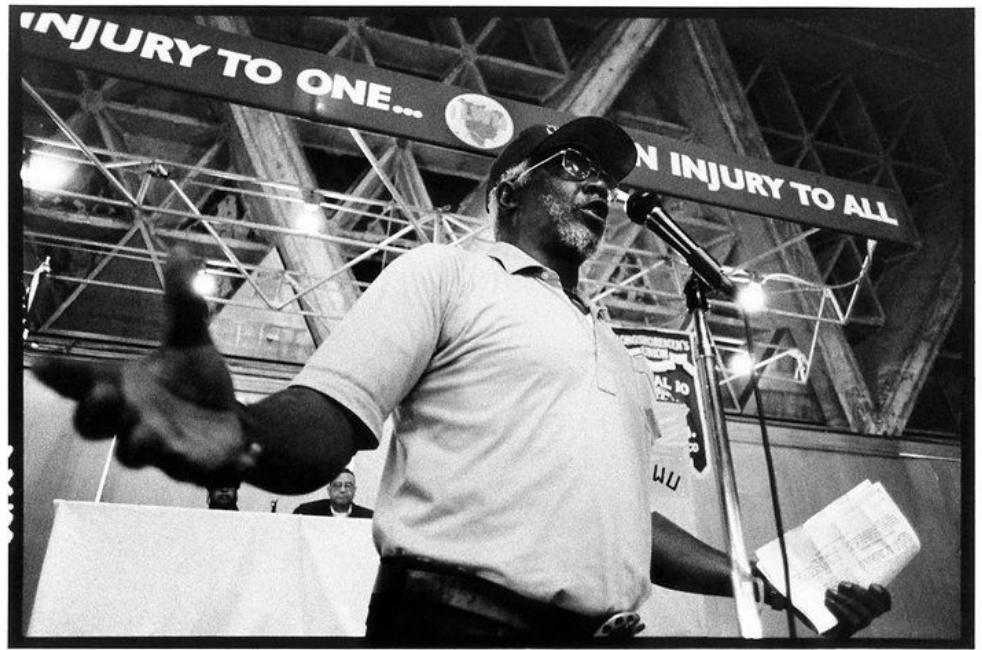
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products that had once been produced here in the U.S.

Call for a Million Worker March

Leo Robinson, in collaboration with Trent Willis and myself (Clarence Thomas of Local 10), wrote the resolution calling for a Million Worker March, an event that took place at the Lincoln Memorial on October 17, 2004, in Washington, D.C. The gathering, which took place a few weeks before the presidential election, faced tremendous opposition from the Democratic Party and the AFL-CIO.

Brother Gabriel Prawl, executive board member of ILWU Local 19 in Seattle, and the MWM coordinator of the Pacific Northwest, introduced a motion to allow Brother Leo Robinson to address the membership. Prawl was motivated to do this because he was very disappointed at the local's \$500 donation for the MWM. Robinson had a reputation in the Longshore Division for speaking before audiences that did not necessarily share his political views. However, members



Leo L. Robinson speaking to Local 10 members.

Photo: David Bacon

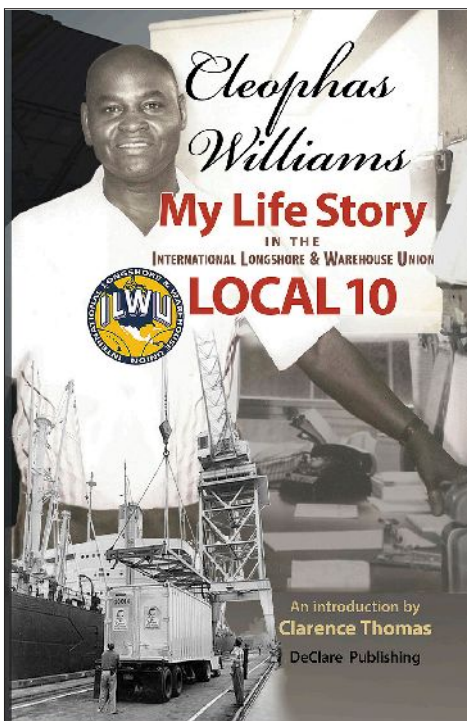
never doubted his commitment to the ILWU and its rank and file. During Robinson's remarks to Local 19, he asserted, "I couldn't stop the MWM even if I wanted to." He made such a compelling case for supporting the MWM that a white member of the local stood and made a motion that the local make a \$5,000 contribution to the MWM. The motion passed unanimously!

Brother Robinson contributed \$50,000 towards the building of the MWM. He demonstrated his unwavering commit-

ment to making MWM a reality, no matter what lengths the Democratic Party and the labor officialdom went to stop it. His contribution was truly revolutionary.

Thomas is the author and co-publisher of "Mobilizing in Our Own Name: Million Worker March" and "Cleophas Williams: My Life Story in the International Longshore & Warehouse Union Local 10."

Clarence Thomas, ILWU Local 10 pensioner, is co-founder of the MWMM and DeClare Publishing. books online at: www.MillionWorkerMarch.com



Cleophas Williams: My Life Story in ILWU Local 10

The history of African Americans in the International Longshore & Warehouse Union (ILWU) in San Francisco is indeed worthy of documentation. Such an individual is Cleophas Williams, whose distinguished career as a member of the Local 10 spanned 38 years.

Cleophas Williams' election as president of ILWU Local 10 in 1967, made him the highest elected African American to serve as an officer in the entire ILWU.

Born in rural Camden, Arkansas, and part of the Great Migration to the Bay Area, he arrived in Oakland, California, in 1942 – seeking to escape the horrors and multifaceted structures of systemic racism and white supremacy.

He was amongst the leaders who placed Local 10 into the vanguard of the labor movement by engaging in civil-rights unionism and other social movements in the 1960s and 1970s.

Here is Cleophas Williams' historic journey – his rise in Local 10 within the greater context of the Black liberation movement.

Williams' book includes pictures, glossary and index.

Order online at: www.MillionWorkerMarch.com

If I must die / You must live / To tell my story ...

By Iña Martinez

If I must die / You must live / To tell my story ...

These are the first three verses of a poem written by Refaat Alareer, a Palestinian professor assassinated by Israel on Dec. 6, 2023.

Yesterday, I learned of the assassination by medical neglect, if not direct torture (we will learn this in the future, I hope) of Chilean-American journalist Gonzalo Lira in a prison in Ukraine.

Julian Assange is yet another example of a journalist who is agonizing in Belmarsh, a British high-security prison, for the sin of letting the world know of crimes against humanity committed by the USA. USA is asking for Julian to be extradited to the USA and incarcerate him for 175 years. There was a plot by the CIA to assassinate Julian Assange, but they were caught.

Journalists, real ones, not the ones who repeat the lies of the mass media ad nauseam, are in danger of extinction. Since Oct. 7, Israel has killed 117 Palestinian journalists, so it is obvious that Israel is trying to bury the truth.

Another example, and in his case not so well-known, is the case of journalist Pablo Gonzalez. His grandfather was a child refugee. One of many Basque children whose lives were spared by Russia, giving them refuge in Moscow when Fascist Franco bombarded their Basque towns (like Gernika, Durango, etc.) during the Spanish Civil War (1936-1939). Three generations later, Pablo Gonzalez was born in Moscow, although as a 10-year-old, his mother took him back to Spain. He later on in life became a freelance journalist.

He was on his way to Ukraine to work as a journalist when, on Feb. 28, he was detained by Polish authorities and incarcerated without formal charges but outrageous accusations of being a Russian spy. One of the accusations is that he speaks several languages, Russian and Spanish being two of them. Apparently, speaking several languages can become a hazard in a world of ignorance.

Pablo Gonzalez's requests for warm clothing (this is the second winter in a freezing cell), being able to talk to his children via Zoom, etc., have been consistently denied. He has three little chil-



Pablo Gonzalez

dren, and the youngest of them is having psychological issues due to not being able to comprehend what happened to his dad.

His family started a petition on Change.org asking to respect his rights as a journalist: "Respeten los derechos del periodista Pablo Gonzalez, detenido en Polonia el 28 de febrero."

And this is his address in the Polish prison: Pablo Gonzalez Yagües // Alexia // AS Radom // UL. Wolanowska 120 // 26600 Radom // Poland.

In the hope that more people knowing Pablo Gonzalez's unjust incarceration will spare his life and wishing for a world in which we care to know the truth,

Iña Martinez

Far-right deepens threats to trans lives

Continued from page 6

both at the state and federal levels, right up to the U.S. Supreme Court, are dominated by the ultra-right.

The result: many tens of thousands of internal refugees are fleeing dangerous conditions for so-called "safe" states – often the most expensive like California and New York – which claim to be sanctuaries for persecuted LGBTQ+ people but provide no resources to make housing, health care, or jobs accessible. Millions more are without the resources or ability to flee, trapped under the domination of those who make clear they want to eliminate trans people.

A California activist recently told Struggle-La Lucha about a trans couple he is trying to find housing for. The couple fled Michigan – considered a "safe state"

on the legislative front this year – after death threats. The prohibitive cost of housing is a major obstacle to providing refuge for them and other trans refugees.

Already, the Democratic Party and its social media operatives have started a campaign of attacks on LGBTQ+ people who criticize Biden's inaction on trans rights and participation in genocide in Gaza, telling people they are "supporting Donald Trump" and threatening them with the prospect of being rounded up and imprisoned – or worse – for opposing Biden.

Who benefits?

Behind the coordinated nationwide campaign to dehumanize and eradicate trans people are wealthy capitalists who see the growing fascist movement as a

guarantee of their grip on power.

In this time of deepening political, economic, and military crisis for U.S. imperialism worldwide, there is no incentive among any section of the ruling class to oppose the politics of divide and conquer taken to the extreme.

Recently, the New York Times ran an article on the role of the Claremont Institute, one of the well-funded think tanks coordinating the attacks on trans rights, abortion, diversity programs, and "critical race theory" – ironic, given the Times' role in disseminating and normalizing anti-trans and anti-affirmative action propaganda. This and similar media exposes never touch on the underlying systemic roots of the crisis.

The whole capitalist class and its polit-

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South African lawsuit against U.S. for complicity in Israel's war crimes

By Anadolu Agency

After South Africa filed a case against Israel at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) for genocide in Gaza, the country's nearly 50 lawyers are preparing a separate lawsuit against the U.S. and British governments on the grounds that they are complicit in Israeli forces' war crimes in Palestine.

The initiative, led by South African lawyer Wikus Van Rensburg, aims to prosecute those who are complicit in the crime in civilian courts in collaboration with lawyers from the U.S. and Britain, with whom he is already in contact.

Rensburg, who has been writing letters to various countries and the ICJ for the last few weeks demanding that Israel and its supporters be prosecuted, has begun preparations to file a lawsuit against the two Western countries with the support of his colleagues.

"The United States must now be held accountable for the crimes it committed," Rensburg told Anadolu in an interview, detailing the process by which Washington and London will be tried as complicit in Tel Aviv's war crimes against the people of Gaza.

When he told the people around him

about filing a lawsuit, Rensburg said he received a lot of support. "Many lawyers decided to join us in the lawsuit. Many of those who have joined are Muslims, but I am not. They feel obligated to assist this cause, but I believe that what is happening is incorrect."

What happened in Iraq is an example of this, he said, noting that no one held the U.S. accountable for the crimes it committed in the Middle Eastern country as the issue was not given the necessary importance.

But now people believe what is happening in Palestine is an ideal scenario for the legal process to be carried out, the South African lawyer said, adding that "the U.S. is busy spending more money and more resources to (allow Israel) commit the crime."

"No one says stop, enough is enough," he remarked.

Rensburg said the genocide case filed by South Africa against Israel at the ICJ will serve as a guide for their case against the U.S. and Britain and that they will begin the process based on the outcome of the case and the steps to be taken by the United Nations.

If the ICJ trial against Israel is concluded in favor of South Africa, Rensburg be-

lieved that the U.S. may face sanctions even if it does not accept the verdict.

The ICJ ruling will also strengthen a case against the Joe Biden administration, he added.

Rensburg said he and his colleagues in South Africa are making preparations by contacting law firms in the U.S. and Britain.

Reminding that Berlin is still paying compensation for the crime of genocide committed by Germany even today, Rensburg said, "The U.S. must now be held responsible for the crimes it has committed. It must accept its responsibilities."

Pointing out that similar cases were filed against former U.S. President George Bush in the 2000s, he said they believed that they could successfully carry out the legal process abroad by working as a team.

He said South Africa made stronger arguments in the case in The Hague, and that he is intimidated by the argument that an attack against Israel could happen again if the court ruled in favor of South Africa. #Last week, the group of lawyers, which has now grown to 47, wrote an open letter to the leaders of the U.S. and Britain governments, stating that they could not avoid responsibility. #

Far-right deepens threats to trans lives

Continued from page 14

ical institutions, including the corporate media, are deeply committed to keeping workers and other parts of the population fighting against each other rather than the profit system that exploits us.

The Coalition to Protect Trans Lives, organizers of last October's National March to Protect Trans Youth & Speakout for Trans Rights, released this statement:

"Last Oct. 7, we brought together hundreds of people from across the U.S. on the front lines in Orlando, Florida. We said then that Orlando was just a first step toward building an independent fight-back movement in the spirit of Stonewall, AIDS activism, and the Civil Rights Movement.

"This election year presents special challenges to our efforts to build an independent grassroots movement. There will be enormous pressure (in fact, it's already begun) to drop every form of protest in favor of electoral campaigning for 'lesser evil' candidates, many of whom have already proven their utter indifference to trans rights.

"But we believe it is necessary to persevere and continue the struggle in the streets – because whoever is in the White House and Congress next year, we will need to continue the fight for our very lives and the existence of our community.

"We also remain committed to breaking down barriers and uniting with other communities that are under attack

– Palestinian, Arab and Muslim people targeted for challenging the genocide in Gaza; immigrants and refugees facing execution at the U.S.-Mexico border; pregnant people whose lives and well-being are sacrificed to the altar of repressive abortion bans; workers whose access to healthcare, food, and housing are being stripped away by attacks on Medicaid, SNAP, and other social programs; and so many more."

The Coalition to Protect Trans Lives will hold an initial organizing call for 2024 on Wednesday, Feb. 7. Readers who want to participate are urged to contact info@protecttranskidsmarch.org or fill out the interest form at ProtectTransKidsMarch.org for details. #

Celebración MLK y militarización en PR

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Esta semana, la Red de solidaridad con Palestina en Puerto Rico conmemoró el día de Martin Luther King con una manifestación en contra de la compañía Lockheed Martin, la gigante de la industria militar estadounidense.

Esta industria es responsable de la fabricación de armas, aviones, y una gran variedad de equipos de alta tecnología utilizados para la guerra global de los Estados Unidos. Equipos que le vende a la entidad sionista de Israel para masacrar al pueblo palestino.

Utilizan a nuestros jóvenes recién graduados de universidad para crear aplicaciones destructivas, para que se mate mejor, para que se conquiste mejor a otros pueblos. Aquí que tanto necesitamos esa creatividad joven para desarrollar y mejorar la calidad de vida de nuestro pueblo.

Por ser colonia yanki, ellos siempre han utilizado nuestra tierra para uso militar. Primero en Culebra y luego en Vieques, usaron nuestro territorio para probar todo tipo de armamentos, para almacenarlos y para desde nuestras costas invadir a pueblos hermanos. Ocuparon dos terceras partes de Vieques y envenenaron a sus habitantes



Fotos: Berta Joubert-Ceci

con el producto de los bombardeos incasantes. Aún después de veinte años del cese de bombardeos, esa población sigue sufriendo de altas tasas de diversos cánceres y enfermedades producidas por metales pesados.

Pero nuestro pueblo organizado que luchó por años hasta sacar la Marina estadounidense de Vieques en el

año 2003, no se detendrá y seguirá manifestándose no solo contra Lockheed Martin, sino contra todas las otras industrias militares que poco a poco han venido a Puerto Rico a espaldas del pueblo.

Libertad para Puerto Rico, Libertad para Palestina.

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



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