

# Deadly bridge collapse exposes capitalist decay



By Sharon Black

Baltimore — In the very early morning hours of March 26, while it was still dark and most people were asleep, the massive 984-foot-long, 213-million-pound container ship Dali lost power, veered off course and struck one of the main concrete supports of the Francis Scott Key Bridge. Within minutes, the bridge collapsed.

Shock and disbelief were immediate. Fear and grief followed rapidly.

Word spread quickly in Turner Station, the neighborhood closest to the Key Bridge. Oliver Baptist Church immediately called a prayer vigil for the lives of the immigrant workers from Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, and Mexico who were laboring on the bridge at the time of its collapse.

Families in this tight-knit community hugged each other, deeply aware that many of their own members traverse the bridge daily.

Turner Station is a historic Black community. The town grew out of a need for Black millworkers to have a place to live while nearby Dundalk remained segregated.

During the “Great Migration,” people came to get jobs at Bethlehem Steel. But with deindustrialization and the closing of the mill, the area is now an industrial “Brownfield” — much of it abandoned or underutilized due to industrial pollution.

A giant Amazon warehouse complex, which employs thousands of overworked and underpaid workers, stands in place of the once-unionized Bethlehem Steel. The bridge could be seen in the near distance.

## War on immigrants

Six immigrant workers died in the bridge collapse, changing the lives of their families and communities.

When the ship hit, eight workers employed by Brawner Builders were fixing potholes on the bridge. All were Latino immigrants from ages 26 to 49. Only two survived. One worker from Michoacán, Mexico, was hospitalized and is recovering from injuries.

All had partners and families who

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**PUERTO RICO**  
update from the  
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- Clues in the Russian concert hall bombing

**LAND DAY 2024: PALESTINE, an indivisible land for an indivisible people**

**30,000** march in NYC for Palestine's Land Day  
'No blood money for genocide!'

**Ceremony on U.S. military supply ship foiled**

## BROOKLYN:

# Community mobilizes to protect Trans Day of Visibility event

By Melinda Butterfield

Trans and queer activists and allies mobilized to defend a family Trans Day of Visibility event in Brooklyn, New York, on March 30. The event at Marsha P. Johnson State Park included arts and crafts, informational tabling, and a drag story hour for children and parents. The annual event was targeted for a second year by far-right anti-trans protesters.

The community response was organized by NYC Queer and Trans Defense. This grassroots movement was created by activists in response to the growing number of fascist threats against queer events and venues, including drag story hour

and Pride events at libraries, museums, and other public facilities in New York City.

Eight bigots showed up to protest the trans event, making hateful chants and waving signs like “God save our children” and a large U.S. flag. The goons would have been quickly dispersed and chased off by the defenders but were protected behind metal fencing by at least 12 armed New York State Troopers and parks police inside, as well as several NYPD cops stationed outside the park gate.

Outrageously, State Troopers and parks police brutally attacked a community defender, using the excuse that he briefly sat on the grass. The defender was jumped and wrestled to the ground by several of the armed goons, then handcuffed and handed over to the NYPD. He was taken to the 19th Precinct and released afterward with a violation – the kind of charge that would normally warrant a ticket, at most, not a violent arrest.

Despite this, community defenders successfully created a barrier of safety between the fascists and the families and performers who came out to the TDOV event. They held trans and other queer community flags and rainbow umbrellas, shook noisemakers, cheered, and sang to drown out the far right.

Thanks to their efforts and the discipline of the parks’ workers and performers, the event went forward without any major disruptions.

The park that sponsors the annual TDOV event is named after Stonewall combatant Marsha P. Johnson, a Black trans woman who played a historic role in founding the modern LGBTQ+ liberation struggle. Together with Sylvia Rivera, Johnson founded Street Transvestite Action Revolutionaries (STAR) to protect trans street youth and fight for their voice within the early gay-lesbian rights movement.

International Trans Day of Visibility is marked every year on March 31.

To get involved and learn about future actions, follow NYC Queer and Trans Defense at [Instagram.com/nycqueertrans-defense/](https://www.instagram.com/nycqueertrans-defense/). #



SLL photo: Melinda Butterfield

**Save the Date!**  
**NATIONAL MARCH**  
**& Speakout**  
**for Trans Lives**

**SAT OCT 19 2024**  
**Columbus Ohio**

**Join us!**  
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**We say fight back!**  
**We won't go back!**

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Initiated by Protect Trans Lives Coalition  
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# Why can't everyone have Princess Kate's medical care?

By Stephen Millies

News that the Princess of Wales is battling cancer has swamped the corporate media both in Britain and the United States. People are sympathetic to Catherine Middleton, a mother of three young children, as they would be for anyone fighting cancer.

That doesn't explain the media's obsession with the royals. The wealthy and powerful want to divert attention away from the looming economic recession and the genocide in Gaza.

The TV networks are silent about Dr. Mohammed Zaher Al-Nono's execution by Israeli forces in Gaza on March 23. The Palestinian doctor was murdered in front of his patients at Al-Shifa hospital after refusing to leave their side.

Isn't that as compelling a news story as a British princess, who was appointed "Dame Grand Cross of the Victorian Order," having cancer? This noble order was named after Queen Victoria, who starved a million Irish people to death.

Meanwhile the Zionist regime is preparing to kick 22 Palestinian cancer patients out of hospitals in Al-Quds (Jerusalem) and Tel Abib (Tel Aviv) and send them to Gaza. The group includes five newborn babies and their mothers.

Apartheid Israel has used U.S. bombs and shells to attack every hospital in Gaza. The crisis conditions in these hospitals include lacking surgical gauze because of the Zionist state's blockade of Gaza.

British capitalists, junior partners in Big Oil, also have bloody hands. British and U.S. warplanes are bombing Yemen.

Both British Petroleum and Shell are headquartered in London. Israel exists to guarantee Big Oil's profits looted from western Asia.

None of the stories about Princess Kate mention the savage cuts by the Tories (Conservative Party) to Britain's National Health Service. Around 8 million patients are on waiting lists for treatment.

Don't these patients, who overwhelmingly come from the working class, deserve the same care that Princess Kate is assured of?



Cancer patient Asmaa Al Dabje and her child will soon be deported from East Jerusalem back to Gaza, where Israel has attacked every hospital.

## 'Shocking and inhuman' inequality

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. declared that "of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health is the most shocking and inhuman."

It was shocking and inhuman that 12-year-old Deamonte Driver died of a tooth abscess in 2007. The Black child's mother couldn't afford a dentist for her son. Many dentists in private practice don't accept Medicaid.

Neither does the Mount Sinai Health System of 30 medical clinics in New York City. Mount Sinai Hospital's CEO Kenneth Davis raked in \$6,896,381 in 2022.

Two years before, at the beginning of the COVID crisis, nurses there had to wear Hefty garbage bags because of a lack of personal protective equipment.

It didn't help Deamonte Driver that a few miles from his Maryland home was the National Institutes of Health. Less than 40 miles away in Baltimore was the Johns Hopkins Hospital and medical school, which received \$843 million in NIH research grants last year.

The "world famous" hospital — named after a slave master — didn't allow any Black physicians to practice until Dr. Roland Smoot was given admitting privileges in 1966.

Hopkins used the cells of Henrietta Lacks without her own or her family's permission. Lacks, a Black mother of five

children, died in 1951 of cervical cancer when she was only 31 years old.

According to the STAT website, these HeLa cells "saved countless lives and sparked the creation of the entire field of virology."

"HeLa cells are also a big moneymaker. Johns Hopkins distributed them for free, but a number of biotech companies profit from products derived from the cells. Among them is Thermo Fisher, a biotech company with an annual revenue of over \$40 billion."

It would be interesting if research derived from using HeLa cells will help Princess Kate's treatment.

The harvesting of Henrietta Lacks' cells without her family's knowledge was a complete lack of respect. It was no different than Black cemeteries being robbed to provide corpses for anatomy lessons in white medical schools, as described in Harriet Washington's classic book, "Medical Apartheid."

Slave owners would sell Black corpses to medical schools.

Health care is a human right in socialist Cuba where working people are respected. While Gaza has been besieged, Cuba has suffered from a 64-year-long economic blockade by the U.S. government.

Hospitals are short of supplies. But Cuba, like Palestine, refuses to surrender. #



Protesters block the entrance to the Instro Precision factory, a subsidiary of the Israeli military contractor Elbit Systems, on October 26, 2023, in Sandwich, England.

# Biden's budget fuels war machine: 68% for military and police

By Gary Wilson

Biden's federal budget, signed on March 24, exposes the chilling reality of U.S. imperialism: Even as its economic power fades, its pursuit of global domination grows. A staggering 68% of official federal spending – \$1.1 trillion – fuels war and repression. But the reality is potentially double that amount, according to independent researchers.

The U.S. controls an unprecedented 74.3% of global military spending through NATO and other alliances, collectively accounting for over \$2 trillion. This dominance feeds an insatiable war

machine that profits from endless wars.

After World War II, the U.S. emerged as the world's leading imperialist power, with unmatched economic and military dominance over its rivals in Western Europe, Japan, and developing countries. In the early 1950s, the U.S. accounted for more than 50% of global economic production. The U.S. now accounts for just 26% of global GDP, with socialist China and imperialist Germany and Japan rising. China's share surged from 2% in 1980 to 18% in 2021, while the U.S. ranks ninth in per capita GDP (PPP) due to deindustrialization.

This contradiction between economic

decline and military expansion reflects attempts to suppress China and its BRICS allies, including Russia and Iran, as well as North Korea, driven by the war machine in Washington.

A bipartisan Congress approved the war budget. Despite their public disagreements, both Democrats and Republicans alike support policies that inflict mass starvation and genocide on the Palestinian people in Gaza.

The coming elections can't overturn this war machine. The international movement to stop the genocide in Gaza and free Palestine is making a real impact now. #

## Baltimore bridge collapse exposes capitalist decay

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were part of the immigrant communities in Southeast Baltimore and Dundalk. The surviving families are dependent on the incomes of these workers, who perform difficult and dangerous work.

The bodies of two workers were recovered from the freezing waters. Divers found both trapped inside a red pickup truck on March 27. They were identified as Alejandro Hernandez Fuentes, 35, from Veracruz, Mexico, and Dorlian

Ronial Castillo Cabrera, 26, from San Luis, Guatemala.

Road crews, made up of primarily immigrant workers, perform dangerous, mostly low-wage, non-union work in unsafe conditions. Less than a year ago, six immigrant workers lost their lives on Interstate 695, the Baltimore Beltway, when one of two speeding cars crossing between barriers struck and instantly killed them.

The violent deaths of these workers illustrate the hypocrisy of the vicious

war on immigrants that has been perpetrated by both capitalist parties, Republicans and Democrats. The same workers whose bosses depend on them to do the dirtiest and most dangerous work are vilified as criminals and scapegoated.

### Gateway to Baltimore's port

The 47-year-old Key Bridge, named after a slaveholder, is the gateway to Baltimore's main port – the deepest harbor

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in Maryland's Chesapeake Bay. Ships had to pass beneath it to enter or exit the port. Baltimore is also the closest East Coast port to the Midwest.

In addition, the bridge was a major artery for road traffic, linking Interstate 695 across a 1.6-mile-long span of the Patapsco River. In 2023, approximately 12.1 million vehicles – roughly 33,000 daily – drove across the Key Bridge.

Currently, the port is shut down; ships cannot leave or enter until salvage and debris blocking the 50-foot-deep shipping channel are removed. There are no clear estimates on how long it will take to open the channel or build a new bridge. Reports differ wildly, ranging from 3 to 15 years.

It's estimated that 15,000 people work directly at the Baltimore Port, and 140,000 jobs are indirectly tied to it. All will be impacted by the shutdown.

Thousands of trucks must find new routes. Cargo ships have been turned away from Baltimore to other ports, disrupting the flow of goods from container ships to final destinations. The environmental impact has yet to be determined.

A confusing network of quasi-public agencies administers the Baltimore Port, but private shipping companies actually rule the roost. Their profit drive prevents them from acting in any manner that can be characterized as rational, much less in the interests of the people.

## A preventable disaster

What happened at the Key Bridge could have been expected and should have been prevented.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg quickly claimed that the collision and collapse were a unique, one-in-a-million-chance accident. The ship was so large that nothing could have prevented the collapse once it hit the main concrete support.

But engineers indirectly dispute Buttigieg, citing a lack of protection systems that are already in use, especially in busy shipping channels where large ships come and go frequently. They describe the different mechanisms to protect bridges, comparing them to a bumper system.

For example, more than 40 years ago, the Sunshine Skyway over Lower Tampa

Bay, Florida, collapsed when the freighter Summit Venture collided with its support beam. Thirty-five people were killed.

Afterward, a new bridge was built with an extensive system of protections.

## Giant ships for giant profits

Of course, what Buttigieg says is true on the surface: that a ship the size of the Dali striking the bridge's main support would cause its collapse. But it immediately raises the question of oversized ships safely traversing waterways. Why do outsized cargo ships even exist?

The answer is that shipping companies need to maximize profits.

Worldwide, cargo ships have gotten bigger, and with increased automation and technology, crews have gotten smaller. Containerization is the longshore component of this process.

The oversized Dali, described as being as tall as the Eiffel Tower, was staffed by a crew of just 22 workers. Maersk, one of the world's largest shipping companies, chartered it, which reported more than \$51 billion in revenue in 2023.

Earlier, a Maersk whistleblower was disciplined and then fired after reporting inoperable lifeboats, unpermitted alcohol consumption, faulty emergency fire equipment, and other concerns aboard a Maersk-operated ship to the federal government. As a result, Maersk was sanctioned by the U.S. Labor Department eight months prior to the crash.

Workers at the Baltimore Port have questioned why tug boats were not assigned to the Dali. The answer is obvious – it costs money and cuts into profits.

## Decaying U.S. infrastructure

Of 35 reported major bridge collapses around the world, at least 18 have been in the U.S. – a damning statistic. Three of those were in Maryland.

In its four-year report card, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) states that 46,154 U.S. bridges are in “poor” condition. At least 178 million trips are taken across these bridges each day.

The ASCE states that to improve the conditions of bridges nationally, spending must be increased from \$12.4 billion to \$22.7 billion annually.

The cost may seem high to the aver-

age worker trying to make ends meet. But compared to the \$886 billion military budget passed in 2024, it's peanuts. That staggering amount does not even include the nearly \$4 billion worth of arms Washington gives to Israel annually. Those weapons are now being used to commit genocide in Gaza. The Biden administration wants to send the racist settler state \$14 billion more this year.

Gary Wilson, writing for Struggle-La Lucha, points out: “Biden's federal budget, signed on March 24, exposes the chilling reality of U.S. imperialism: Even as its economic power fades, its pursuit of global domination grows. A staggering 68% of official federal spending – \$1.1 trillion – fuels war and repression. But the reality is potentially double that amount, according to independent researchers.”

## What's next for workers?

The most immediate question is the loss of income for the estimated 15,000 workers who have lost paychecks. The 2,400 longshore workers who belong to International Longshoremen's Association Local 333 are on the front lines.

These workers are hired daily, so there is no work for them when there are no ships or cargo to load and unload. Scott Cowan, president of ILA 333, expressed how dire the situation is for workers concerned about mortgages, rent, and bills.

There is a level of uncertainty not only for these workers but also for those who work at small restaurants and convenience stores in the area and in other port jobs.

Alec Summerfield, pro bono attorney for the Unemployed Workers Union and the Peoples Power Assembly, explained: “All impacted workers need direct pay similar to the federal unemployment pandemic benefits (PUI). Maryland cannot handle this alone. The union cannot do it alone.”

He added that there needs to be a comprehensive relief program, including a halt on mortgage foreclosures, evictions, and repossessions during the rebuilding, and the government must protect people from price gouging.

*The author is a former Amazon worker. She worked in the warehouse complex in the shadow of the Key Bridge.*

# Ceremony on U.S. military vessel foiled by protest for Gaza

San Francisco

By Lallan Schoenstein

An action to block U.S. military supplies for the Zionist campaign of genocide in Gaza shut down the Embarcadero, a major roadway on the eastern waterfront of the Port of San Francisco, on March 29. Protesters occupied the Embarcadero's northbound lanes near Pier 32 to stop a U.S. military ship from carrying military supplies to Israel.

The demonstration began during a ceremony celebration on the U.S. Naval Ship (USNS) Harvey Milk.\* Former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi was among the officials attending. Pelosi is well-known for her hawkish belligerence — most recently, her provocative voyage on a U.S. destroyer through the Strait between China and Taiwan.

As pro-Palestinian protesters began to scale the pier's fence, Pelosi fled. Some protesters breached the security fence surrounding the ship and chained themselves to the gangway. Police pointed heavy assault guns as others used bolt cutters to remove protesters they arrested. The massive USNS ship was held up in San Francisco Bay for the rest of the day.

Steve Zeltzer on Labor Radio interviewed an activist who told him that “she can't sleep at night unless she finds ways to oppose the attack on Palestinians. She called the ship's name a travesty to Milk's memory.”

Sharif Zakut, an organizer from the Arab Resource and Organizing Center (AROC), said he has family in Gaza. Zakut said: “It's outrageous that Nancy Pelosi is commemorating a U.S. warship which is serving the genocidal Israeli Army and its government and is named after civil rights activist Harvey Milk.

“Biden now says he's for a ceasefire, but apparently, he can't open up the border for Palestinians to get food. It's ridiculous to believe he is for a ceasefire. If he was really for the end of this genocide, he would cut off military aid to Israel.

“The United States has trillions of dollars for the military. Yet people are suffering in the United States. We need health care. We need safety for queer



Protesters for Palestine at the Port of San Francisco, March 29.

and trans communities. We need safety for women's bodily autonomy. We need housing. We need better infrastructure.

“Instead the president and his administration would rather prioritize war making, genocide and continuing the occupation of Palestine.”

Lara Kiswani from AROC said, “It is outrageous and unacceptable that our government continues to fund and supply the Israeli military as it carries out genocide against the people of Gaza.”

## Longshore workers against genocide

There have been ongoing actions in the Bay Area to block the U.S. shipment of weapons being used to decimate the population of Gaza.

On Jan. 13 “over 3,000 workers and community members shut down the Port of Oakland to demand an end to U.S. economic and military support of Israel's genocidal bombing campaign in Gaza. Thanks to the Bay Area's steadfast commitment, operations at the Port were effectively shut down all day,” reported Jack Heyman, a retired International Longshore and Warehouse Union (ILWU) Local 10 worker, to The Internationalist.

“Over 200 scheduled jobs were canceled during the afternoon shift. The Oakland Port preemptively called off the morning shift in anticipation of massive community turnout.”

As Jimmy Salameh, a Palestinian longshoreman and member of ILWU Local 10, said: “I've worked at the port for 10 years, and I can say for a fact that there was no business as usual out here today. How could there be in the middle of a genocide? I couldn't be prouder of the people who turned out today to raise their voice against the war on Gaza and to demand that this port isn't used for military purposes.”

On Nov. 18, Local 10 in the Bay Area unanimously passed a resolution recalling the local's repeated refusal – in 2010, 2014, and 2021 – to work Israeli Zim Line ships when there were protests in defense of Palestinians and expressing “our determination to take action in their defense.”

It is also reported that ILWU Local 6 in the Bay Area, Local 8 in Portland, Oregon, as well as the San Francisco and Southern California Inland Boatman's Union in the Marine Division of the ILWU have called for a ceasefire in Gaza.

\* *Harvey Milk, the first openly gay man to be elected to public office in California, was murdered in San Francisco City Hall in 1978. While Milk served in the U.S. Navy during the Korean War, he was forced to accept an “other than honorable” discharge rather than face a court martial for being gay. The LGBTQ+ community has expressed outrage that Milk, an advocate for peace, would have his name branded on a machine of war.*

# Baltimore protest for Palestine slams land theft

By Lev Koufax

One hundred and fifty people gathered in northern Baltimore April 1 to protest an event sponsored by Zionist real estate magnate CapitIL. Local activists believe it to have been either an illegal auction of Palestinian land to settlers or an informational meeting on the potential purchase of Palestinian land.

These auctions have become disturbingly common since the start of the U.S.-backed Zionist military operation in Gaza after Oct. 7. Zionists are anticipating a swath of new stolen land to purchase and settle.

To show that Baltimore will not stand for genocide and land theft, a coalition of organizations – including Peoples Power Assembly, Jewish Voice for Peace, Council on American-Islamic Relations (CAIR), and Al Awda – formed a strong, noisy picket line directly across the street from the event.

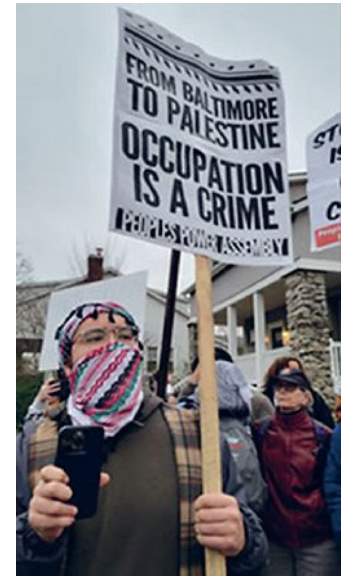
The pro-Palestine demonstration was met with racist, sexist, and homophobic vitriol from a similarly sized fascist demonstration in support of the land auctions. The fascists donned a variety of “Israeli” and U.S. flags. They had the local police department’s complete support.

The Zionist crowd was almost completely white, while the counter-demonstration was multinational and multi-gendered. The pro-Palestine demonstration included a number of anti-Zionist Jews as well.

Have no doubt, these Zionists do not care about Judaism or the Jewish people, even if many are themselves Jewish. They are in thrall to the agenda of the



SLL photos: Sharon Black



U.S. military industry, Big Oil and the Washington political establishment.

Wherever they gather, those who stand for complete and absolute Palestinian liberation will continue to deny them peace. #

## No blood money for genocide!

### Three U.S. presidents confronted by pro-Palestine marchers

By Struggle - La Lucha  
New York bureau

More than a thousand people protested against the genocide in Gaza in New York City on March 28. They marched in the rain to a cadence of drum beats from the reference library on Manhattan’s Fifth Avenue to Radio City Music Hall.

There they rallied against the Democratic Party fundraising event hosted by presidents Joe Biden, Bill Clinton and Barack Obama. All these war criminals have blood on their hands.

Bill Clinton bombed socialist Yugoslavia for 78 days and killed thousands in Iraq with sanctions that prevented importing vital goods. Barack Obama’s invasion of Libya led to slave markets being set up in the African country.



New York City, March 28.

SLL Photo: Steven Millies

Joe Biden has helped kill over 14,000 Palestinian children in both Gaza and the West Bank.

Manolo De Los Santos, executive director of The People’s Forum, was among the speakers denouncing the genocide in Gaza. The march was organized by the Shut It Down for Palestine Coalition, which includes the Palestinian Youth Movement; PAL Al-Awda; the Palestine Right to Return Coalition; Jewish Voices for Peace; Party for Socialism and Liberation; and The People’s Forum.

Groups of health workers and other union members came to the demonstration.

Inside Radio City people courageously disrupted the blood money collection event.

One protester stood up and shouted “Shame on you, Joe Biden – you are pushing genocide in Palestine!” As she was forcibly kicked out, she shouted, “There’s blood on your hands!”

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# Land Day 2024: Palestine, an indivisible land for an indivisible people

Today marks the 48th anniversary of Land Day, immortalizing a battle that continues to form the core of the struggle in occupied Palestine. The land remains the title of the Palestinian people's battles since the inception of the Zionist project as an advanced tool for global imperialism to seize the region's resources and quash its aspirations for liberation and independence.

This year's anniversary coincides with the brutal genocidal war ongoing for about six months against the backdrop of the heroic Al-Aqsa Flood operation organized by the brave Palestinian resistance.

The parties and organizations signing below:

- **Commemorate Land Day**, united in the streets, squares, and arenas with all peoples and free forces opposing imperialism, Zionism, and colonialism.
- **Salute the Palestinian people** and their brave resistance, especially the armed resistance, as a legitimate and just revolutionary response.
- **Salute the armed resistance in Lebanon, Iraq, and Yemen** for supporting the Palestinian resistance and all the free people of the world who have exposed the essence of Zionism as a racist colonial ideology.
- **Consider that the land** was and still is the core of the conflict, which can

only be resolved by liberating the land, all the land, from the river to the sea, returning all refugees, and establishing a secular democratic state with Al-Quds as its capital on the entire Palestinian territory.

- **Renew their condemnation** of the shameful complicity of the Arab regimes, agents of Zionism and imperialism, especially the normalization regimes that fly the flag of the occupation entity in their capitals, suppress the free by arresting them (Jordan, Bahrain), fabricating cases against them and prosecuting them (Morocco), or assaulting them in the streets (Egypt). In this regard, they stand in solidarity with all activists and free individuals, women and men, victims of oppression and tyranny.
- **Urge all progressive forces** in the region and the world to double their efforts to support the Palestinian people and their brave resistance, boycott the occupation entity, expose its crimes of genocide, starvation, land theft, and violation of human dignity across occupied Palestine, in Gaza, the West Bank, and the occupied interior, and escalate mobilization for the immediate cessation of aggression, opening of crossings, and delivery of aid.

**Honor to the resistance!**



## Glory to the martyrs! Victory to Palestine!

March 30, 2024

The signing parties and organizations:

1. Workers' Party - Tunisia
2. Democratic Working Path Party - Morocco
3. Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP)
4. We Can Movement - Mauritania
5. Democratic People's Party of Jordan (Hashd)
6. Lebanese Communist Party
7. Democratic Popular Unity Party - Jordan
8. Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP)
9. Sahrawi Association of Human Rights Defenders CODESA
10. Unified Democratic Patriots' Party - Tunisia
11. Popular Socialist Alliance Party - Egypt
12. Progressive Movement of Kuwait
13. Jordanian Communist Party
14. Sudanese Communist Party

Source: Resistance News Network



SLL photo: Stephen Millies

## in NYC for Palestine's Land Day: Stop genocide in Gaza!

By Struggle-La Lucha  
New York bureau

Thirty thousand people demonstrated in New York City on March 30 to stop the genocide in Gaza. They marched from Manhattan's Times Square to Washington Square Park.

March 30 is commemorated around the world by Palestin-

ians and their supporters as Land Day. On that date in 1976, six unarmed Palestinians were killed and more than a hundred wounded by Zionist police.

The Palestinians were protesting the theft of nearly 5,000 acres of their land in Galilee. That's 7.7 square miles or the size of Manhattan south of Central Park.

All of it was inside the "1948" borders of the Zionist state. The apartheid regime

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# Israel bombs Iran embassy in Syria, escalating war

By Gary Wilson

Israeli warplanes bombed Iran's embassy in Syria on April 1. The strike, carried out by Israeli F-35 fighter jets, killed senior commander Brig. Gen. Mohammad Reza Zahedi, his deputy, Gen. Mohammad Hadi Haj Rahimi, Gen. Hossein Amiroollah, and four other officers.

Other casualties included diplomats, military advisers, and Syrian police guarding the embassy.

Israel's bombing of the Iranian embassy in Damascus, Syria, is the first time in modern history in which a state has directly targeted another state's diplomatic facility in a third country (with the possible exception of the 1999 U.S. bombing of China's embassy in Belgrade, Yugoslavia).

The Israeli attack is a significant violation of international law. Embassies are sovereign territories of the nation they represent under the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations.

Israel has conducted numerous attacks in Syria and Lebanon. This strike marks the first Israeli attack on Iranian diplomatic territory.



An Iranian flag hangs as smoke rises after an Israeli airstrike on the Iranian embassy in Damascus, Syria, on April 1.

The attack comes as the U.S. authorized a new arms shipment to Israel, including powerful bombs.

On March 29, the Washington Post reported: "The Biden administration in recent days quietly authorized the transfer of billions of dollars in bombs and fighter jets to Israel. ... The new arms packages include more than 1,800 MK84 2,000-pound bombs and 500

and State Department officials familiar with the matter.

"The 2,000-pound bombs have been linked to previous mass-casualty events throughout Israel's military campaign in Gaza."

In addition, Politico reported on April 1 that the Biden administration is preparing a deal for another 50 new F-15 fighter jets for Israel along with 30 AIM-120 Advanced Medium-Range Air-to-Air Missiles and several Joint Direct Attack Munition kits, which turn dumb bombs into precision-guided weapons.

Israel has received more U.S. military aid – and more U.S. aid of any type – than any other country since World War II.

The Israeli airstrike on the Iranian consulate in Damascus appears to be a deliberate escalation. The U.S., along with Israel, is already engaged in a military campaign against Yemen as well as Syria, conducting airstrikes in Syria and Iraq in February.

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.

Yemen's military announced that it would block any ships bound for Israel from passing through the Red Sea. In response, on Jan. 11, the United States began conducting airstrikes against Yemen. #

## NYC march for Palestine's Land Day

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occupying Palestine was determined to kick out the indigenous Arab inhabitants and fill it with Zionist settlers.

The Israeli prime minister at the time was the so-called peacemaker Yitzhak Rabin, who was later assassinated. During the first Intifada (Uprising), Rabin ordered Zionist occupation forces to break the arms of Palestinian children arrested for allegedly throwing rocks at invading soldiers.

This year people demonstrated on Land Day in dozens of cities across the United States and around the world. They protested the murder of 14,000 Palestinian children in Gaza with bombs supplied by Genocide Joe Biden.

Around 50 people were arrested in Philadelphia for blocking the I-76 Schuylkill expressway. The courageous

action of blocking the Schuylkill was first carried out for Black Lives Matter.

The New York City action was organized by the Shut It Down for Palestine Coalition. It includes the Palestinian Youth Movement; PAL Al-Awda: the Palestine Right to Return Coalition; Jewish Voices for Peace; Party for Socialism and Liberation; and The People's Forum.

After a rally with speakers in Times Square, people marched across 42nd Street to Fifth Avenue and then south to Washington Square in Greenwich Village. Block after block of protesters filled Fifth Avenue.

People chanted while accompanied by drums and horns. Many onlookers cheered on the march. A short rally at Washington Square Park encouraged people to keep fighting.

Palestine will win! #

# Russia accuses U.S., Britain, Ukraine of ‘direct involvement’

By Gary Wilson

Federal Security Service (FSB) chief Alexander Bortnikov dropped a bombshell on March 26, accusing the U.S., Britain, and Ukraine of orchestrating the horrific March 22 concert hall attack in Krasnogorsk, near Moscow, that left 144 dead and 360 injured. This explosive claim, largely ignored by Western media, came just a day after President Putin hinted at Ukraine’s involvement.

Bortnikov’s rare TV appearance underscored the gravity of the situation, with Russia expert Gilbert Doctorow comparing it to the Cuban Missile Crisis. Evidence suggests the attack, originally planned for March 8 — International Women’s Day — to disrupt Russian elections, was carried out by Ukraine following the elections after tight security foiled the initial plot.

ISIS-Khorasan (ISIS-K) is reported to have claimed responsibility for the attack. Following the fall of the U.S.-backed Afghan regime, a significant number of former members of the Afghan National Defense and Security Forces (ANDSF) reportedly joined ISIS-K. There are reports that the CIA has been supplying ISIS-K with weapons and matériel. That ISIS-K was involved may be accurate, providing mercenary foot soldiers.



On March 22, Russian emergency services vehicles parked near the burning Crocus concert hall outside Moscow.

Bortnikov minced no words: “Radical Islamists carried out the attack, but Western special services provided assistance. Ukrainian special services were directly involved.” Bortnikov says Russia has evidence, though conclusive proof is still lacking. These stunning allegations implicate the U.S., Britain, and Ukraine in one of the deadliest terror attacks in recent history, a fact conveniently omitted by the U.S. media. #

## No blood money for genocide!

*Continued from page 7*

Among the people who disrupted Genocide Joe’s fundraiser and were escorted out were members of Jewish Voices for Peace and the Party for Socialism and Liberation.

Genocide Joe raised \$25 million for his reelection campaign. All of it is coated in blood. It amounts to about \$750 for every Palestinian killed in Gaza by U.S.-made bombs and shells.

That’s reminiscent of the Vietnam War. Vietnamese families were offered no more than \$120 for each child murdered by U.S. forces while Michelin Tire got \$600 for every rubber tree destroyed.

What better location for Genocide Joe raking in cash than Radio City Music Hall in Rockefeller Center? It’s named for and was owned for decades by Big Oil’s first family — the Rockefellers.

The Zionist state occupying Palestine exists to protect Big Oil’s holdings in Western Asia.

The courage of the Palestinian people, backed by poor and working people around the world, will defeat the apartheid Zionist state and its U.S. paymasters. #

## ‘War and Lenin in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century’

New book released on the 100<sup>th</sup> 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 remains an influential critique of imperialism.

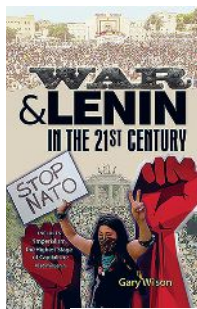
When WWI broke out, Lenin’s main interest was promoting a socialist revolution to end the war. He exposed the war’s economic roots and identified imperialism’s key features: monopoly capitalism, finance capital, the export of capital, and colonialism — the imperialist division of the world.

**Does Lenin’s analysis of imperialism hold up today?**

The U.S. emerged from WWII as the world’s most powerful imperialist country. It established the U.S. dollar as the international currency and engages in endless wars. As in Lenin’s time, the conclusion is that socialist revolution will end imperialist war, enabling workers to meet their own needs.

The book by Gary Wilson includes Lenin’s original pamphlet.

Available in paperback or kindle at [tinyurl.com/LeninAndWar](http://tinyurl.com/LeninAndWar)



*'The Yankees want the cage, but not the birds'*



# PUERTO RICO

## Hear Berta Joubert Ceci

Berta Joubert-Ceci, a convenor of the 2019 Puerto Rico International Tribunal of Colonial Crimes of the United States, will be touring U.S. cities in April to highlight conditions inside of Puerto Rico and report on the struggle against colonialism on the island.

She will present slides, visuals and video documentation.

Joubert-Ceci is also a founding member of Women In Struggle/Mujeres En Lucha, a member of the Women's International Democratic Federation and a regular contributor to "Struggle La Lucha." Joubert-Ceci resides in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

- What are the conditions and main crises facing the people of Puerto Rico?
- Who is to blame?
- What can we do?



## Update from the archipelago

The tour will include New York City, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Los Angeles, New Orleans and Orlando.

In New York City, Joubert-Ceci will speak on Thursday, April 11, from 6:30 - 7:30 p.m. at the Sylvia del Villard Meeting Room in the Roberto Clemente Family Guidance Center at 540 East 13th St., NYC, 10009 (between Avenues A & B); and on Friday, April 12, from 6:00 - 8:00 p.m. at La Sala de Pepe, 73 Avenue C, NYC, 10009.

In Philadelphia, the event will take place Monday, April 15, at 6:30 p.m. at SEIU Local 668, 1924 Spring Garden Street, Philadelphia, 19130.

— Sharon Black

For a listing of events in other cities email: [info@womeninstruggle.org](mailto:info@womeninstruggle.org)

# Los Cinco días de Kamala Harris en Puerto Rico

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

Hace unos días llegó a Puerto Rico la vicepresidenta estadounidense Kamala Harris. Venía por 5 horas para promocionar la administración genocida de Biden en camino a las próximas elecciones, y, para conseguir dinero que abulte esa campaña. Irónicamente, llegó justo el día cuando conmemoramos la Abolición de la Esclavitud. Un mensaje de que nuestro pueblo aún está esclavizado, esta vez por el colonialismo yanqui.

Lo que encontró, aparte de los achichincles del gobierno local, fueron protestas de diversos tipos. Desde la madrugada, cuando la organización Se Acabaron Las Promesas retiró las banderas gringas y las substituyó con banderas de Palestina en un puente muy concurrido para darle el mensaje de repudio a la política genocida estadounidense.

Toda su trayectoria por el área estuvo marcada por diversas formas de repudio a su visita, incluyendo una manifestación por la agrupación Madres Contra la Guerra frente al Monumento al Holocausto judío en el Viejo San Juan, repleto ahora de banderas palestinas en honor a las víctimas del genocidio del pueblo palestino a manos de la entidad sionista y el gobierno de Biden y Harris.

Resalta sin embargo, una muy peculiar que encierra en sí las contradicciones de su visita. Como cuando visitó el Taller La Goyco en Santurce. Éste se encuentra en el edificio de una escuela que fue clausurada durante la criminal ola de cierres por el gobierno en el



Los puertorriqueños protestan por la visita de Kamala Harris a un acto de recaudación de fondos del Partido Demócrata.

2015. Pero la comunidad, que ha sufrido desplazamientos por los millonarios de la Ley 60 de incentivos fiscales para extranjeros que compran propiedades para convertirlas en hoteles de lujo y habitaciones de corto alquiler, se organizó, la rescató y la convirtió en un centro Cultural, Educativo y de Salud para beneficiar a toda su vecindad.

Al llegar Kamala al Centro, la recibieron a son de plena. Lo que ella no sabía es que al ser la plena un género musical de protesta, pese al vibrante y pegajoso ritmo, el mensaje sería muy contundente. La vicepresidenta se dejó llevar por los tambores y mientras sonreía y aplaudía, con una cara de regocijo, el mensaje que le daban y no entendía por ser en español, era:

**¡Queremos saber Kamala, qué viniste hacer!,**

**¡Queremos saber qué piensas de la colonia!**

**Si vas a hablar de la Ley 60 Y la Junta de Control Fiscal.**

**Seguiremos tocando**

**La plena de mi país**

**¡Viva Palestina libre,**

**Y también Haití!**

Sobra decir que tan pronto le tradujeron la letra, dejó de aplaudir.

Y luego de salir, ¿a qué no adivinan adónde fue? A un evento de recaudación de fondos a pocos pasos de allí, en la casa lujosa de uno de los inversionistas extranjeros, el multimillonario beneficiario de la Ley 60, Nicholas Prouty donde los asistentes tendrían que contribuir entre \$25,000 hasta \$100,000 para la campaña de Biden.

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



See 'Berta Joubert-Ceci: Update from the archipelago' – page 11

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