

STRUGGLE ★ LA LUCHA

for Socialism | por el Socialismo



Pride 2024: Solidarity with Gaza

Meet danger with resistance

By Melinda Butterfield

LGBTQIA+ people greet Pride Month this year with a mixture of joy, fear, and anger.

Joy at the annual celebration of our vibrant, diverse community and our struggle for liberation, marking the anniversary of the heroic 1969 Stonewall uprising of trans and other queer youth in New York City.

Fear at the growing tide of anti-trans laws and violence and attacks on all LGBTQIA+ people that seek to kill us or drive us back in the closet.

Anger that so many cisgender and straight allies have not answered our increasingly desperate appeals to join us in fighting back while others have allowed themselves to be influenced or bought off by our enemies.

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Photo: Cenesex

'We are standing in solidarity with the Palestinian cause... Our messages in the Conga against Homophobia and Transphobia will be linked to denouncing the genocide by Israel: Palestine will be free from the river to the sea.'

- Mariela Castro Espín,
Director of Cuba's National Center
for Sex Education (Cenesex)

See story in centerfold

Cisgender activists speak for: **TRANS SOLIDARITY**

CUBA for a free Palestine: Conga against Homophobia & Transphobia

Biden, Congress stoke war with \$95 billion
'Antisemitism' farce

Guantánamo: A global call for justice
and resistance against imperialism

Never forget the U.S.-NATO bombing
of China's embassy!

10 years of injustice: Anti-fascist leader
recounts Odessa massacre

Nicaragua's Day of National Dignity

MAY DAY 2024

Resist the witch hunts!

LA 'Build movement
to stop genocide!'

SAN DIEGO 'Trump & Biden,
no solution!'

NEW ORLEANS Celebrates
diverse working class

BALTIMORE
Encampment for Gaza

NYC for Palestine

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

SAT OCT 19 2024
Columbus Ohio

Join us!
Help organize a national
protest to push back the
far right attack on trans people,
LGBTQIA+ and BIPOC communities,
immigrants, Palestinians and all workers.
Bodily autonomy for all,
including abortion rights.
We say fight back!
We won't go back!

Initiated by Protect Trans Lives Coalition
Volunteer & endorse at ProtectTransKidsMarch.org



MUMIA ABU-JAMAL: 'Shake the earth'
UCLA students resist violent attacks
PFLP: U.S. administration responsible
NYC arrests at Nakba protest

Hundreds march in Philadelphia to free Mumia Abu-Jamal

By Stephen Millies

Hundreds of people marched through the streets of Philadelphia on April 24 to demand freedom for Mumia Abu-Jamal. That day the world-renowned political prisoner turned 70 years old.

Mumia Abu-Jamal has spent over 42 years in prison, including 29 years on death row, for a crime he didn't commit. He was framed for the 1981 killing of Philadelphia Police Officer Daniel Faulkner.

People gathered on the south side of Philadelphia's City Hall in front of the statue of Octavius Catto. The Black educator and freedom fighter was assassinated by a racist in 1871 when Catto was 32 years old.

Frederick Douglass called Philadelphia the most racist city in the United States. Police dropped a Pentagon-supplied bomb there on a house belonging to the MOVE organization on May 13, 1985. Eleven Black people — six adults and five children — were killed.

The wealthy and powerful made former Police Commissioner Frank Rizzo, a super bigot, mayor in 1971. Mayor Rizzo threatened Mumia at a news conference.

As a 15-year-old Mumia Abu-Jamal joined the Black Panther Party in 1969. The FBI kept a file on the young revolutionary.

Marching through Philadelphia

Long-time freedom fighter Mama Pam was among those that spoke at city hall. Baba Zayid of the Malcolm X Commemoration Committee fired up the crowd.

People marched to District Attorney Larry Krasner's office and then through downtown to Pennsylvania Gov. Josh Shapiro's Philadelphia office.

Both these politicians claim to be "liberals," yet they refuse to free Mumia Abu-Jamal or even give him a new trial. Dozens of boxes containing evidence were "discovered" in Krasner's office that had been kept from Mumia's defense counsel.

Fred Hampton Jr. spoke in front of Krasner's office. Hampton's father, Chicago Black Panther leader Fred Hampton, was murdered by police on Dec. 4, 1969, along with fellow Panther Mark Clark. The assassinations were part of the FBI's COINTELPRO program to exterminate Black leaders.

Representatives of the Philadelphia



Mama Pam speaks.

SLL photo: Stephen Millies

Free Palestine Coalition and Queers for Palestine also spoke there. Pentagon-supplied bombs have killed 14,000 children in Gaza and those who died at the MOVE house in Philadelphia.

Also speaking were organizers from France who've been fighting for Mumia's freedom. There's a street in St. Denis, a suburb of Paris, named for Mumia Abu-Jamal.

A speaker from the Black Alliance for Peace addressed marchers at Gov. Shapiro's office. Later that day, a rally was held at the Waters Memorial AME Church.

Free Mumia and all political prisoners!

Mumia to student protesters: 'Shake the earth' for people of Gaza



Students rally in support of the Gaza Solidarity Encampment at City College of New York.

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

The following solidarity message was given over the phone by former Black Panther and political prisoner Mumia Abu-Jamal to the participants in the Gaza Solidarity Encampment at the City College of New York on April 26.

I am speaking to you from the American system of mass incarceration, but what we're involved in right now is something called mass education. City College, Columbia, Emory, and USC are all part of that process right now. That education is about the repression

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UCLA students for Gaza resist violent attacks by cops, Zionists

By Scott Scheffer

Los Angeles – The widespread campus revolts over the genocidal attack on Gaza by the Zionist state continue to spread. High-tech communications are such that millions are watching the horrific military assault on Palestinian babies, their parents, and all Palestinians in sight with the machinery handed over by U.S. military contractors, paid for by our tax dollars.

The spread of determined protests, inspired and often led by young Palestinians, is historic in how fast it has grown and how widespread it has become. Students have been suspended, expelled, arrested, unjustly accused of antisemitism, and physically attacked. Support has emerged from faculty, unions, and thousands of individuals. Campus authorities are clueless as to how to stop it.

UCLA students are a great example of how durable this new protest movement is. In spite of their actions being declared illegal by the school's chancellor, a four-hour fascist attack during the early morning hours of May Day, police brutally breaking up their encampment on May 2, and nearly 300 arrests and constant harassment by violent Zionists, LA cops and a private security agency, the struggle continues.

Mumia to students

Continued from page 2

that Gaza is suffering under.

It is a wonderful thing that you have decided not to be silent, and decided to speak out against the repression that you see with your own eyes. So you are part of something massive, and you are part of something that is on the right side of history. You're against a colonial settler regime that wants to steal the land from the people who are indigenous to that area, and you're saying that is wrong.

I urge you, I beg you to speak out against the terrorism that is afflicting

Immediately after the students set up the encampment at Royce Hall, Zionists began showing up with an expensive sound system and huge video screen. The funding that paid for their equipment and perhaps more than that was from a GoFundMe account that raised nearly \$100,000. Among the contributors was Jessica Seinfeld, the wife of reactionary comedian Jerry Seinfeld, and billionaire hedge-funder Bill Ackman. That was the first indication that there would be an ongoing presence of a pro-genocide crowd.

Campus police and California Highway Patrol (CHP) were stopping people going to the anti-genocide rally, while people wrapped in the Zionist flag or carrying pro-genocide signs were freely wandering into the pro-Zionist crowd.

Cops, fascists, media collude

Beginning late Tuesday night, April 30, the Zionists began showing up in greater numbers at the edge of the ongoing encampment. These were a more ominous crowd than the Zionists that had been showing up for several days. Some sported the Zionist flag, but oth-

ers were masked and wrapped themselves in the U.S. flag. It looked like past gatherings of Proud Boys or other right-wing goons.

Just after midnight, these thugs routed the handful of UCLA campus police, who fled when they were on the receiving end of barricades being picked up and thrown. The Zionist side blasted the sound of babies crying and music from their huge sound system to keep people from sleeping. They threw debris, sprayed water, and began tearing down the plywood walls

that protesters had erected. They used bear spray.

One protester was dragged out of the encampment, thrown to the ground and kicked by four fascists. Fireworks were tossed into the middle

of the tent city. One protestor suffered a head injury when he fell after being hit with bear spray. Other protesters carried him to a safe space, where he lay prone and barely conscious as they tried to get an ambulance.

The call for an ambulance brought three accompanying squad cars. EMS workers rinsed some peoples' eyes,

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Gaza with all of your might, all of your will, and all of your strength. Do not bow to those who want you to be silent. It is time, right now, this day, this hour, this moment, to be heard – and shake the earth so that the people of Gaza, the people of Rafah, the people of the West Bank, the people of Palestine can see your solidarity with them.

I am a student of Frantz Fanon. I read him every day, and think about his ideas. When I see what is happening in Gaza right now, I know the people of Gaza are the wretched of the earth. They are fighting to be free from generations of occupation.

And so it is not enough, brothers and sisters – students – it is not enough to demand a ceasefire. How about this? Make your demand “cease occupation.” Cease occupation, cease occupation! Let that be your battle cry. Because that is the call of history, of which all of you are a part.

You're part of something magnificent, soul-changing, mind-changing, history changing. Do not let go of this moment. Make it bigger. Make it more massive, make it more powerful. Make it echo up into the stars.

I am thrilled by your work. I love you, I admire you. On the MOVE! #

Resist the witch hunts!

By Melinda Butterfield

On International Workers' Day 2024, workers in the U.S. could swear that Senator Joe McCarthy and Minister Cotton Mather had returned from the dead.

More than 35,000 Palestinians, including 14,000 children, have died in just over 200 days of Israel's genocidal campaign in Gaza – funded, armed and given political cover by Washington. Yet any expression of opposition to the mass slaughter of Palestinians is labeled “antisemitism” by politicians of both capitalist parties and the corporate media.

Congressional hearings reminiscent of the Red Scare anti-communist spectacles of the 1950s target university officials. Depending on how pliable they are, they are driven from office – like former Harvard President Claudine Gay, the first Black person to serve in that post – or they are given marching orders to crack down on student protesters, like Columbia University President Minouche Shafik.

After two weeks of violent police raids against campus Gaza Solidarity Encampments coast-to-coast, Columbia and other schools are now carrying out mass suspensions, threatening to prevent student activists from graduating. Right-wing politicians have called for students who participate in the encampments to be blocked from future employment.

Nor is it just Republicans. On April 29, 23 House Democrats called on Columbia President Shafik to “end” the encampment that sparked a nationwide student uprising, or resign. And of course, Genocide Joe Biden himself joined fascist House Speaker Mike Johnson in threatening the heroic students and faculty resisting at Columbia.

This comes after months of police attacks, targeted arrests of organizers, and slander campaigns against pro-Palestine protesters.

Yet the student encampments continue to grow and spread day by day.

Whipping up anti-trans hate

At the same time, another witch-hunt is unfolding across the U.S. targeting transgender people.

In many ways, this hate campaign – now underway for three years and growing ever-more dangerous – set the stage for how opponents of genocide in Gaza are being treated.

So far this year, 550 anti-trans bills have been introduced in state legislatures in 42 states, along with 47 national bills. This includes some of the most drastic measures yet – cutting off all access to gender-affirming health care regardless of age, banning all restroom access, threatening the livelihoods of teachers, librarians and other workers if they are queer or respect the rights of trans students, and generally attempting to force trans lives out of existence.

State hearings on trans issues have the same tenor as the Congressional anti-Palestine hearings, driven by fascist politicians who repeat long-discredited theories or bigoted political and religious ideology as fact. When trans people and supporters show up and try to be heard, they are often silenced, driven out, or arrested.

Typical of this approach is the Cass Review commissioned by the British government, where anti-trans attacks are also at a fever pitch. This so-called review to advise the National Health Service policy on treatment of trans youth dismissed over 100 scientific studies to cherry-pick a handful that reached anti-trans conclusions.

The supposedly impartial review was carried out by a team that excluded trans people, but included known transphobes who collaborated with Florida's DeSantis administration.

And yet the Cass Review is already being used by the British government to cut off access to care, not only for trans youth, but also trans adults. It is being favorably cited by U.S. far-right politicians and “liberal” media like the New York Times and The Guardian to manufacture consent for anti-trans genocide.

Like the opponents of genocide in Gaza who are unjustly accused of antisemitism, no amount of evidence will suffice to refute charges of “grooming” and “social contagion.” Like those accused of witchcraft in 17th century New England, the only way trans people can prove their innocence is to stop existing – death.



More than 50 people were arrested at what the Austin American-Statesman admitted was “a peaceful, pro-Palestinian protest held at the University of Texas” on April 24.

No more Odessa massacres!

The witch-hunt rhetoric directed at pro-Palestine students and faculty and at trans people escalates the danger of fascist violence, whether from “official” repressive bodies of the state (police and national guard) or “unofficial” neo-Nazi aligned movements. It's an attack on the rights of the whole working class and all oppressed people, and must be fought with unity and urgency.

Ten years ago, on May 2, 2014, fascist gangs were given the green light by the U.S.-backed coup government in Ukraine to carry out a bloody massacre of nearly 50 activists and workers at the House of Trade Unions in Odessa. The working class movement in Ukraine was smashed and thousands of organizers driven into exile in its wake.

Anti-imperialists and anti-fascists from Ukraine to the U.S. warned then that Washington's support for neo-Nazi terror abroad would boomerang here. Now this is visible for all to see.

The working class is making important gains in organizing, from Starbucks to Amazon to the United Auto Workers victory at Volkswagen in Tennessee. But this progress is threatened by the attacks on the political and civil rights of students, teachers, and LGBTQIA+ people.

The bigoted politicians, the neo-Nazis and the big capitalists behind them will not stop with demonizing the Gaza solidarity movement and trans community. The purpose of the witch-hunts is to shatter the ability of the working class and oppressed to resist.

Don't wait for an Odessa massacre to happen here! Mobilize to resist the bosses' witch-hunts! #

Los Angeles marchers link arms with student protesters

By Struggle-La Lucha
Los Angeles Bureau

In Los Angeles on May Day, hundreds of people set off on a march and motorcade from MacArthur Park for the annual celebration of the international workers' holiday. The neighborhood that surrounds the park is home to thousands of immigrant workers and has become the traditional launching point for the annual event.

An opening rally was held from the back of a flat-bed truck when the event kicked off. Then the loud procession slowly made its way downtown for a final rally at a busy intersection adjacent to the University of Southern California (USC).

Chants that called out all the issues that are important to working-class people at home were interspersed with expressions of solidar-

ity for the people of Gaza. The anger over the Biden/Netanyahu genocide echoed off the storefronts along the three-mile route.

Originally, the march was to have ended at the Los Angeles Federal Building. But during the weeks of organizing for the May Day march, campus protests and encampments in solidarity with the people of Gaza seemed to pop up everywhere. By May Day there were tents occupying the grounds of

college campuses not only across the country, but internationally.

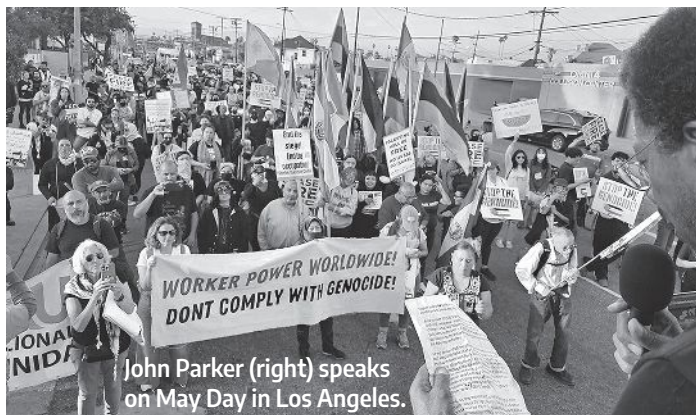
Students at USC had been arrested and their encampment had been cleared out when the L.A. cops were called in by the campus administration in the days leading up to the workers' holiday. To the shock and dismay of the cops and campus authorities, the 93 arrests that they carried out didn't end the protest.

Students reconstituted their tent city almost immediately. It was this beautiful act of defiance that inspired May Day organizers to change their destination to make sure to express the utmost support for the campus protesters.

Shutting down traffic for Palestine

For the final rally, the flat-bed truck that had led the march was parked across the intersection of Jefferson

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John Parker (right) speaks on May Day in Los Angeles.

Photo: Unión del Barrio - Los Angeles

Build a movement to stop genocide from Los Angeles to Gaza!

By John Parker

Talk given at the Los Angeles May Day march by John Parker of the Socialist Unity Party and Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice.

We remember George Floyd. We remember white knees on Black necks. We remember that on April 18, Frank Tyson was murdered by that white knee on his Black neck in Ohio. And the last thing he said was, "I can't breathe."

How many times have we heard that? We've heard it many times, and it's just part of the genocide that has been going on. It's been beating records every year in terms of police killings of Black and Brown people.

We're well aware of the murder of

immigrants at the border, at detention centers and the denial of health care for immigrants that is currently causing more deaths.

With so much genocide going on here that we can see with our own eyes, why would anyone be tolerant of genocide overseas in Gaza? We can see the denial of health care and homes and food that is afflicting all of the working class.

When we talk about genocide against people of color, we also have to remember that during the height of the COVID pandemic, the likelihood of death for Black and Brown people was sometimes three times higher.

And what did Biden do when federal funds were supposed to go to the states

for pandemic relief? He told people like New York City Mayor Eric Adams, "Don't worry about using money for COVID. Use it to hire more police." He said that during another record year of police killings.

We know that the genocide will continue until the movement for justice is strong enough to stop it.

How do you stop genocide by building a movement? By making it so powerful that business as usual will not be possible. That's what we're going to do. We're doing it right now and we're going to do it tomorrow and we're going to do it until those bombs that are falling on children in Gaza finally stop.

Palestine will be free, from the river to the goddamn sea! #

'Trump & Biden, no solution!' Revolutionary march in San Diego

By Gloria Verdieu

Hundreds showed up at the Federal Building in downtown San Diego on May 1 for the International Workers' Day opening rally. The rally was followed by a three-mile march to Chicano Park, the heart of Barrio Logan in Logan Heights.



SLL photo: Gloria Verdieu

The May Day Organizing Committee, a coalition of grassroots organizations, unions, and workers, comes together annually to plan and organize the event. This year the committee, led by Unión Del Barrio, began organizing early in February. The committee united on the theme: "Trump and Biden, NO SOLUTION! Working Class for REVOLUTION," recognizing neither Biden nor Trump prioritizes the struggles of the working class.

Chants emphasized the points of unity and demands: union jobs at a livable wage; free universal health care, housing, and education; end police terror; abolish all colonial borders and the U.S. war machine; end U.S. funding

to Israel; and lift the siege on Gaza.

Chants along the march included: "Not another nickel, not another dime! No more money for Israel's crimes!"; "Abolish the war machine"; "Cancel RIMPAC"; and "Hands off Cuba, Venezuela, Nicaragua, Palestine, Africa, and the Philippines!"

Armed with banners and signs alerting the public about issues that have a direct impact on workers, the crowd swelled as marchers began the three-mile march from the Federal Building through Logan Heights to historic and artistic Chicano Park. There the Danza Azteca Dancers and Drummers performed while organizers prepared

for the closing rally.

May Day is a day of international workers' solidarity recognized in countries worldwide. Workers march – voicing our demands, showing we are determined to continue to fight until respect, dignity, and justice is won. Together we will end capitalism, colonialism, and U.S. imperialism.

We must believe we can change the world. The solution for the working class in the United States and around the world is revolution – a socialist revolution.

Endorsing organizations included: Unión Del Barrio, Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano de Aztlán (MEChA), United Auto Workers, Socialist Unity Party, Association of Raza Educators, Party for Socialism and Liberation, International People's Democratic Uhuru Movement (INPDUM), Anakbayan S.D., Malaya, The Panther Party, Palestinian Youth Movement, Free Them All!, Friends of Friendship Park, and Armadillos Search & Rescue. #

May 1 with Baltimore students

By Bayani

This year, the Baltimore Peoples Power Assembly held its annual International Workers' Day celebration at the newly established Palestine solidarity encampment at Johns Hopkins University. About a hundred already supporting the encampment were joined by hundreds more.

Originally planned at the War Memorial Plaza in front of Baltimore City Hall, this May Day was held in honor of Palestinian workers and the immigrant workers who died in the Key Bridge collapse.

The student organizers of the solidarity encampment were enthused when PPA organizers asked if they would welcome the May Day event. Not only were the students looking for an opportunity to raise the working class and its connections to Palestine,

they knew it would be uplifting for morale.

The May Day program taught about the working class origins of May Day and its relevance to the anti-imperialist movement we

are currently witnessing for a free Palestine. The relevance, of course, is that the working class is crucial to winning the fight against imperialism. The anti-imperialist struggle is itself a class struggle.

Speakers represented the Peoples Power Assembly, Socialist Unity Party Baltimore branch, Palestinian Youth Movement, Starbucks Workers United, Unemployed Workers Union, Prisoner Solidarity Committee, Party for Social-



SLL photo: Sharon Black

ism and Liberation Baltimore branch, CPUSA Baltimore Club, and West Wednesdays Coalition. All gave important educational talks about an aspect of May Day, the working class struggle, and the liberation of Palestine.

As the program ended, speakers representing the Peoples Power Assembly encouraged students to hold strong in their encampment and for everyone to mobilize as often as possible to be there in support. #

New Orleans celebrates diverse working class

By Gregory E. Williams

New Orleans, May 1 – Immigrant-worker organization Unión Migrante led a march to celebrate the international workers' holiday, which has been revived across the country in recent years by immigrant activists.

The march began on Conti Street beneath a statue of Mexico's Indigenous president, Benito Juárez. (Juárez was a Zapotec leader from a peasant family who was exiled by a conservative government during the 1850s, first in Havana, Cuba, and then in New Orleans.) The May Day march ended with a rally in front of City Hall.

Representatives from many endorsing organizations spoke, including unions like the National Association of Letter Carriers, United Teachers of New Orleans, and Starbucks Workers United. Speakers from revolutionary organizations also took to the mic, such as Workers Voice Socialist Movement, Freedom Road Socialist Organization,



SLL photo

and Party for Socialism and Liberation.

Reflecting the great movement that is sweeping the country, many participants wore keffiyehs and speakers emphasized the importance of the Palestinian liberation struggle. An organizer with Students for a Democratic Society spoke on behalf of Tulane University's Palestine encampment, which had been brutally suppressed by police the day before.

The prominence of Palestine solidarity on May Day is a very good thing. The workers' movement cannot confine itself to narrow economics. All attacks on oppressed people are attacks on workers. These are all workers' issues. Indeed, this was one of the main arguments in Bolshevik revolutionary Vladimir Lenin's pamphlet, "What is to Be Done?"

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Twenty thousand march in New York

By Struggle-La Lucha NY Bureau

Twenty thousand workers and students took to New York City's streets on May Day to denounce the genocide in Gaza and police attacks on college encampments.

People came to Foley Square in lower Manhattan to rally, surrounded by courthouses run by the capitalist deep state. These included the federal courthouse where Ethel and Julius Rosenberg were framed and sentenced to the electric chair.

Delegations of city workers, health workers and other union members came along with students. Plenty of older folks attended too. They carried hundreds of colorful signs and banners.

The rally at Foley Square was co-chaired by Manolo De Los Santos, executive director of The People's Forum, and Lameess Mehanna of the Palestinian Youth Movement.

Speakers from Health Care Workers



SLL photo: Melinda Butterfield

for Palestine and City Workers for Palestine denounced Genocide Joe Biden's support for the killing of 14,000 Palestinian children. Also speaking were representatives from the United Auto Workers; the Palestinian Youth Movement; PAL Al-Awda; the Palestine Right to Return Coalition; Tech Workers Against Apartheid; and the Party for Socialism and Liberation.

People marched to Washington Square near where New York Uni-

versity students had their encampment attacked by police with many students arrested. One section of the demonstration continued to march and rallied at a NYU building complex. Other groups marched to the New School and Fordham University.

Police have arrested hundreds at the NYU, City College and Columbia University campuses in New York City. As of the morning of May 2, there were still 50 people in jail from the roughly 300 arrested at City College and Columbia. Some students are facing felony charges.

None of the police attacks in New York, Los Angeles, New Orleans or elsewhere are stopping the momentum of the movement to stop the genocide in Gaza. Free Palestine! #

Behind southern governors' anti-union agenda

By Gregory E. Williams

Southern politicians who sold their souls to the corporations and banks are a bit rattled right now, and who can blame them? Volkswagen workers won big in Chattanooga, Tennessee, when 73% of plant workers voted to join the United Auto Workers Union.

This is the first time that autoworkers have successfully unionized via election in the South since the 1940s! What if more of us workers here in the South get an idea?

Before the vote even happened, six “anti-woke” southern governors put out a joint letter condemning the union. That should tell us how significant the unionization victory is.

Seriously. The Volkswagen vote is a big deal for all workers in the region. When economists compare workers of the same type, with the only difference being whether they're union members, unionized workers earn 10-15% more in wages according to the U.S. Department of the Treasury. That's just wages. Unionized workers have better benefits and working conditions, too.

And unlike with “trickle down economics” – the now totally disproven idea that tax breaks for the ultra-wealthy will trickle down to the rest of us – when it comes to the benefits of unions, the high tide really does lift all workers' boats. The Treasury Department admits that the data is clear on this point. There is a spill-over.

For every 1% increase in union membership in the private sector, that results in a 0.3% increase in wages for nonunion workers, and the benefits are greatest for workers without college degrees.

Workers in states that have extreme anti-union laws (misleadingly called “right to work” or RTW laws) make 3.2% less on average than those doing the same job in states with less restrictions on unions. That is to say, full time workers in RTW states like Louisiana or Mississippi make about \$1,670 less per year.

The letter written by the governors has a laughable graphic saying “Republican governors stand with American Auto Workers.” It's signed by Kay Ivey (Alabama), Brian Kemp (Georgia), Tate Reeves (Mississippi), Henry McMaster (South Carolina), Bill Lee (Tennessee), and Greg Abbott (Texas). Every word of the statement is a lie. We should ask who they're working for, because it ain't us.

Roster of shame

The governors' main claim is that all the jobs are going to leave if the workforce unionizes. But there is no correlation between whether a state has RTW laws, and thus low unionization rates, and employment. When you look at whether prime working-age people (ages 25-54) have a job in RTW vs. non-RTW states, there's no systematic difference. Fluctuations in employment follow the same capitalist boom-and-bust cycles (expansion followed by recession) across states.



It pays to play. Pennsylvania billionaire Jeff Yass gives Texas governor Greg Abbott \$6 million to get his preferred policies enacted.

Forbes looked at U.S. Census data for 2023 and ranked the states with highest and lowest poverty levels. Mississippi comes in as the poorest state, with 19.1% living below the federal poverty level. So there's Tate Reeve's state.

(U.S.-occupied Puerto Rico has a poverty rate of 43%, but the island is not a state, so is usually not included on these lists. It's being plundered by corporations and banks. U.S. out of Puerto Rico, now! Puerto Rico will be free!)

Louisiana has the second-highest poverty level, but our governor – Jeff

Landry – didn't sign the letter; maybe because auto-manufacturing hasn't taken off here yet. Alabama is the 7th highest, so Kay Ivey gets an “F.” South Carolina comes in at number 10; Henry McMaster is another loser.

So, three out of six of the signees govern states in the top 10 poorest. And since they're doing absolutely nothing to alleviate poverty, we can rest assured that they do not care about workers, only about making themselves and their big donors rich. There's no reason to trust them about unions.

Speaking of big donors, a Mississippi Today investigation in late 2023 found that Tate Reeve's top campaign contributors brought home a whopping \$1.4 billion in state contracts and grants, all from agencies Reeves oversees. It pays to play! Or is it pay to play?

Texas-sized hypocrisy

According to Market Realist, Greg Abbott has a net worth of \$14 million. In December 2023, his campaign received \$6 million – “the largest single donation in Texas history,” in the campaign's words – from Pennsylvania billionaire Jeff Yass.

Yass is thought to have \$29 billion. He's the co-founder and managing director of investment firm Susquehanna International Group.

Why would a Pennsylvania capitalist be funding Texas politics? Because he champions the anti-public school voucher movement, tax cuts for billionaires, and all manner of other things that only benefit the rich. He's making an investment in Texas.

The truth is that there is nothing unusual about these shenanigans, and Democratic politicians are no better. The Washington Post said it: “More than half of those who served in the House and Senate were worth more than \$1 million; many had net worths that stretched into the tens of millions.”

We should not be surprised where these capitalist politicians' allegiances lie. Every time they try to stir us up about unions, trans people, immigrants, or some supposed foreign adversary, we should ask: “What's in it for you?” #

UAW workers at Daimler Truck win big wage gains: Organize the South!

By Stephen Millies

Blinking at the last minute on April 26, Daimler Truck agreed to union demands for big pay raises. The 7,300 United Auto Workers members won an immediate 10% wage increase.

Pay will go up by at least 25% over the proposed four-year contract. UAW President Sean Fain announced that employees will for the first time receive cost of living increases.

The lowest-paid UAW members making school buses at Daimler's Thomas Built Bus won increases of over \$8 an hour. Their wages will match the pay of the workers in the truck plants.

Equal pay for equal work was won. The hated pay tiers — where two workers doing the same job get different pay because of when they were hired — will be abolished.

Daimler — headquartered in Stuttgart, Germany — is the world's biggest commercial vehicle manufacturer. It made \$4.3 billion in profits last year from exploiting 100,000 workers in the United States, Germany, Mexico, South Africa, Brazil, India, Indonesia, Türkiye and other countries.

Corporate profits are stolen wages. Daimler's wage theft amounted to an average of \$43,000 in profit taken from every one of its employees.

The huge corporation saw how UAW's successful strikes last year against General Motors, Ford and Stellantis (Chrysler and Jeep) brought the Big Three automakers to their knees. The week before, workers at Volkswagen's Chattanooga, Tennessee, plant voted three to one to join the UAW.

What made the Daimler and Volkswagen victories all the more important is that they happened in the U.S. South.

Daimler has truck factories in Cleveland, Gastonia and Mount Holly, North Carolina, and Gaffney, South Carolina. The Thomas Built Buses plant is in Mount Holly. (There's also a Daimler Freightliner truck plant in Portland, Oregon.)

Using the Klan to bust unions

The UAW breakthroughs in the Carolinas and Tennessee are historic because unions have been overwhelmingly kept out of southern states.

Just one out of 37 workers in North Carolina have union protection. That's 2.7% of the workforce.

Next door in South Carolina, only 2.6% of workers belong to unions.

This union busting is a legacy of slavery and the bloody overthrow of the Reconstruction governments in the South following the U.S. Civil War. The Ku Klux Klan was used to break union drives like at the old Bibb textile mills in Macon, Georgia, in the 1940s.

Wall Street banksters were the puppet masters of these lynch regimes which they viewed as reservoirs of cheap labor. Behind the fascist Alabama Gov. George Wallace was U.S. Steel, whose mills dominated the state's economy in the 1960s.

At least U.S. Steel hired Black workers, although usually in the worst jobs. Ford and General Motors refused to employ Black workers on their Atlanta area assembly lines until the early 1960s. They did so only after Black workers in Detroit threatened walkouts.

The biggest southern industry was textiles, centered in the Carolinas. Yankee textile outfits fled south to escape union drives in the North. By 1960, 89% of U.S. textile production was in the South.

Wages in southern mills were up to 40% below the northern average. Key to keeping this industry non-union was keeping out Black workers.

No other manufacturing industry in the United States was so segregated for so long. In the southeastern textile belt, millions of Black workers lived near mills where they couldn't get a job.

Hiring Black workers in southern textile mills is one of the great triumphs of the civil rights movement. However, hundreds of these plants, including the Bibb Mills, have since shut down.

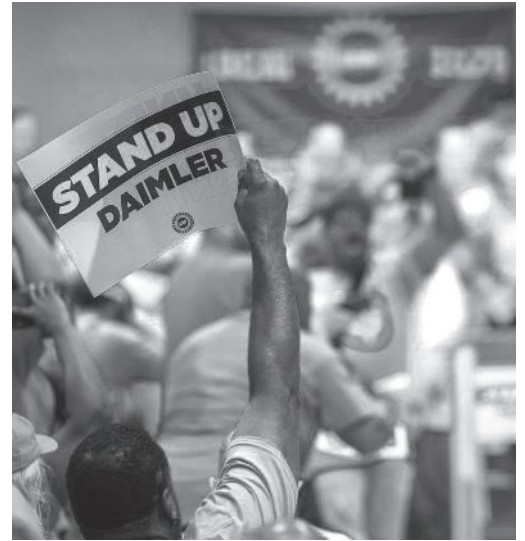


Photo: UAW International Union

When Ezell Blair Jr., Franklin McCain, Joseph McNeill and David Richmond began their sit-in at a Woolworth's lunch counter in Greensboro, North Carolina, on Feb. 1, 1960, just 3.3% of textile workers were Black.

Eighteen years later, in 1978, African Americans "held a quarter of all production jobs in the Southern textile industry." ("Hiring the Black Worker, The Racial Integration of the Southern Textile Industry, 1960-1980," by Timothy J. Minchin)

Avenging Ella May Wiggins

Some whites did break with Jim Crow. The most notable example was the Gastonia, North Carolina strike — led by the Communist Party — in 1929. Today Gastonia is home to one of the UAW-organized Daimler truck plants.

Despite a fantastically intense campaign of race-baiting, hundreds of white workers remained loyal to the National Textile Workers Union. The NTW called for equality between Black and white workers.

The strike was drowned in blood. Among its martyrs was 29-year-old union leader Ella May Wiggins. She was shot to death in broad daylight on Sept. 14, 1929.

Typical of the poverty suffered by white textile workers was that four of Wiggins' children died of whooping cough. ("The Lean Years: A History of the American Worker 1920-1933," by

Continued on page 18

Cisgender activists speak: Why is supporting trans rights

Andre Powell, retired AFSCME leader, longtime gay activist

A mere decade after the Stonewall Rebellion, as the LGBTQIA+ community was winning some victories, the right wing began mobilizing to take them away. It began in Dade County, Florida, as former Miss America Anita Bryant led a campaign called “Save Our Children.”

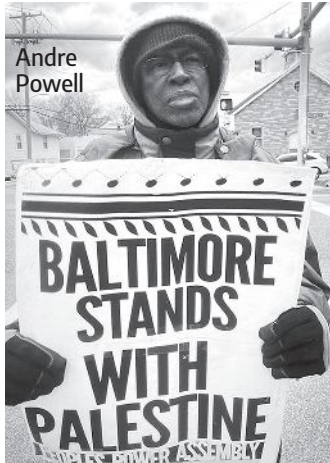
Dade County had recently passed a law that added sexual orientation to its anti-discrimination protections. The goal of Save Our Children was to collect enough signatures to force a recall referendum at the next election to overturn the decision. They were successful at wiping away the gay rights ordinance.

Then the right-wing political operatives went into action and waged similar successful efforts, overturning newly-won gay rights laws around the country. The political right had created a new weapon.

The LGBTQIA+ community began organizing itself around the country. Two national marches were held in 1979 and 1987. The second march in 1987 was held amid the HIV/AIDS health crisis which had killed nearly 100,000 gay men. Over 750,000 queer people and allies marched on Washington, D.C., under the banner, “For Love and For Life, We’re Not Going Back.” Following this march, organizing efforts mushroomed, gaining anti-discrimination protections from coast to coast.

Another political fight by the right wing began as the LGBTQIA+ community was winning the right to same-sex marriage. It had the same forces from the earlier battles in the 1970s, putting forth millions of dollars to push back against marriage equality. It was the organizing by the queer community which forced the Supreme Court to

rule on the side of marriage equality during this reactionary period.



SLL photo

After this defeat, the right wing regrouped with all its money and began attacking the transgender community. First trying to deny trans people the right to use the bathroom that matched their gender identity. Secondly, harkening back to the days of Anita Bryant, they went after the rights of trans children to be able to get the gender-affirming medical treatment necessary to transition. From one state to another, using their money and bigotry, right-wing politicians have put forward several hundred bills to attack trans rights to equality.

Our enemies are united against us, but our strength is in our own unity. The LGBTQIA+ community will not be pitted against each other by right-wing bigots, no matter how much money and power they have. The ultimate victory will be the abolition of capitalism, which will eliminate the material conditions that breed hatred and oppression.

LGBTQIA+ people and allies will once again face down the bigots this Oct. 19, 2024, at a march and rally called by the Coalition to Protect Trans Lives in Columbus, Ohio.

Sharon Black, Women In Struggle/Mujeres En Lucha, Unemployed Workers Union

First, I am very proud that Women In Struggle/ Mujeres En Lucha, a working-class, anti-imperialist women’s group, not only supports trans rights but includes trans women in our membership and leadership. With very lit-

tle resources and support, we helped to organize the Oct. 7 National March to Defend Trans Kids in Orlando and spearheaded an LGBTQ-Two Spirit solidarity delegation to learn about Cuba’s work around the “Families Code.”

We are a broad working-class group of women of all nationalities. Each of us comes to our organization with our own special oppressions, whether it is based on white supremacy, as immigrants, as low-wage or no-wage workers. And this includes the special oppression of trans women. Our strength has been our unity, our recognition of our different oppressions, and our fight against capitalism.

Secondly, it’s critical that the entire working class see through the diabolical and vicious campaign by the far right against trans people, women, men and nonbinary.

There isn’t a day that you don’t see some derogatory lie against trans people posted on one social media or the other. The purpose is to whip up prejudice and backwardness — essentially to distract workers from the real enemies — the trillion-dollar capitalist class, their banks and war machine.

I would say to every cisgender person like myself, “Don’t take the bait.” It doesn’t matter what you don’t understand. Trans people are our sisters, brothers, siblings, friends, coworkers

and neighbors. They are not hiking up prices on food and housing, closing schools and workplaces, taking away our rights to make decisions about our own bodies, or paying us slave wages.

The bottom line is: Respect trans people’s right to live! Something that is being threatened every minute.



Sharon Black

SLL photo

important?



Gloria Verdieu

SLL photo

Gloria Verdieu, San Diego Coalition to Free Mumia & All Political Prisoners

I am a cisgender African woman and I stand in support of transgender rights for justice, safety, and inclusion. I believe that every human being should be given every opportunity to live a productive, fulfilling life.

The term cisgender was new for me. Many of these terms are new to me, but I am determined to gain an understanding of the range of gender identities.

I had the pleasure of interviewing Christynne Lili Wrene Wood, an African American trans woman who was the target of the racist, anti-trans panic that exists in this country.

Wood is a mother, grandmother, auntie, retired health care worker, and community activist who happens to be the same age as me. Just having a conversation with Christynne gave me a better understanding of why it is important for me as a cis woman who identifies with the gender assigned to me at birth to support the rights of trans women.

Christynne was targeted in the women's dressing room at a YMCA after a swim class. A 17-year-old girl claimed that she was traumatized when she saw a "naked man" in a dressing room shower stall. Her story was broadcast on major newscasts and the YMCA was forced to close when a hate rally was staged outside the facility.

I listened to Christynne because that could happen to me. I have been

mis-identified many times and it became annoying enough to make me angry, which could jeopardize my freedom and even my life. I understood what Christynne was going through, and no one should have to go through that. Even after the truth comes out there are some lasting effects that stay with you.

The good thing is that at the next city council meeting I showed up along with many people supporting Christynne. The room was packed with many holding signs that read "Rise Up for LGBTQ+ Youth" and "Love you Christynne."

After her transition Christynne was the same caring person as before, but happier.

John Parker, Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice coordinator, 2024 congressional candidate

The U.S. increasingly uses racism, genocide, white supremacy and anti-LGBTQ2S bigotry. These tools of fascism promote Israel's horror in Gaza; the recent racist police killing of Frank Tyson in Ohio, so much like the murder of George Floyd; and the horrible attacks on the trans community in the U.S.

Nex Benedict, a 16-year-old transgender Choctaw student, was brutally beaten in an Owasso, Oklahoma, high school bathroom on Feb. 7 and died the next day. The school was complicit in that murder. It came nearly a year after the Oklahoma state legislature passed a ban on trans students and teachers using restrooms that align with their gender.

And the fascist attack is not only done by Republicans in backward legislatures in the states. Biden's Department of Veterans Affairs ruled that trans veterans would not be eligible for gender-affirming surgeries.

We have seen for decades now how anti-trans bills are used to divide and weaken our working class. Whether we conform or don't conform to our gender assignments, whether we are people of color denied the right to life in the face of a cop's gun, whether we are victims of the denial of abortion – everyone in our multinational working class is targeted with pover-



John Parker

Photo: ClayisCreative

ty, austerity and the denial of dignity and humanity. People of color, immigrants and LGBTQ2S communities are the first and usual targets in each episode of falling back in time — stealing hard-fought gains of social progress in the U.S.

My family remembers being told to only use the bathroom labeled "colored," and we fall back in time when bathrooms are denied to our trans community. My parents remember not being allowed to see our Black representatives in sports, and now the divisive smokescreen excuses for not allowing participation of trans athletes sets back the clock on division in sports.

And the denial of gender-affirming health care, a denial that increases the number of trans youth considering suicide, reminds us of the past and current inadequate and unequal health care that pushes up the number of deaths of Black people.

I would, however, like to roll back the clock to the most militant and united struggles for social justice that help build the necessary consciousness to clearly see our common enemies who make the laws that attack us with poverty and repression and fascist ideologies.

In the 1960s it was the Black Panther Party, the Brown Berets, the Young Lords, the civil rights movement, the Deacons for Defense, the Stonewall Rebellion, the movements inspired by Malcolm X and Rosa Parks, and the music of Nina Simone and others that helped build multinational unity, creating a powerful and effective movement against the war in Vietnam and Jim Crow, and that helped put the women's and union movements on more solid ground. #

Louisiana needs a statewide anti

By Gregory E. Williams

June 1 will mark five months in office for Louisiana's far-right governor, Jeff Landry. In this short amount of time, he and the Republican supermajority state legislature have unleashed a barrage of attacks on the state's working-class and oppressed people.

These range from greenlighting new, cruel methods of execution (such as asphyxiation by nitrogen gas) to deregulating homeowners' insurance, making it easier for giant corporations to raise rates and drop customers. He sent the state's National Guard to the Mexico-U.S. border in Texas, wasting three million in taxpayer dollars to further scapegoat immigrants for the problems caused by U.S. capitalism.

At this point, the anti-Landry movement has yet to fully flower, but the potential is there. Various organizations are keeping up the pressure. And the huge Palestine solidarity movement has kept people marching in the streets of the greater New Orleans area and in Baton Rouge, showing that the will to resist is strong.

Activists set up a pro-Palestine encampment in New Orleans' Jackson Square. Tulane and Loyola students set up a joint encampment about a day later. Both encampments were violently cleared by police, but resistance has continued.

Students and faculty at historically Black Xavier University successfully got pro-genocide U.S. ambassador to the U.N., Linda Thomas-Greenfield, dropped from speaking at graduation.

Concerted action works, even in Louisiana. What's needed is a statewide

movement uniting everyone who's under attack.

HB608, the 'trans erasure bill'

Despite having a gay brother who has spoken out against Landry's anti-LGBTQIA+ bigotry, the governor has accelerated the attacks on our communities.

The Queer and Trans Community Action project (QTCAP) is one organization that has led marches against Landry and showed up to protest at the legislature in Baton Rouge. They have sounded the alarm about the "trans erasure bill." Their statement says:

"HB608, sponsored by Rep. Roger Wilder III, seeks to legally define 'sex' as an individual's gender assigned at birth, functionally and knowingly erasing trans people from law. This bill would ban trans people's safe access to bathrooms and beds in schools, prisons/jails, and domestic violence shelters."

The statement goes on to say that Wilder and other legislators (with Landry included) claim that this bill is supposed to protect women and girls. This assertion falls flat when we look at Landry's budget slashing: He wants to cut funding to domestic violence shelters by \$7 million.

That's in his proposed state budget, set to go into effect on June 1. The Louisiana Illuminator Reports: "Domestic violence is one of the largest public safety issues facing Louisiana. In 2020, the state had the fifth highest female homicide rate in the country. More than half of women victims that year were killed by an intimate partner, according to the Violence Policy Center.

"... A 2021 investigation by the Louisiana Legislative Auditor concluded

the state desperately needed more shelter beds for domestic violence victims. Louisiana's 16 shelters had a total of 389 spaces, while Louisiana had an average of 2,700 unmet requests for shelter beds every year."

So, if Landry and company don't really care about women's safety, we have to look elsewhere in order to discover their motivations. To the point, on April 11 of this year, a House committee struck down a measure to gradually increase Louisiana's ridiculously low \$7.25/hour minimum wage, and another measure that granted LGBTQIA+ people legal protection against workplace discrimination. (When he was campaigning, Landry told a reporter that he wants to abolish the minimum wage entirely.)

Who could possibly benefit from these actions besides the bosses who would pay zero dollars if they could, and who want to keep their ability to fire workers for any reason whatsoever?

This is one very clear reason that the right supports LGBTQIA+ discrimination on behalf of the capitalists. Respecting basic human rights cuts into the bosses profits. In addition, keeping us divided prevents us from fighting back in a united struggle.

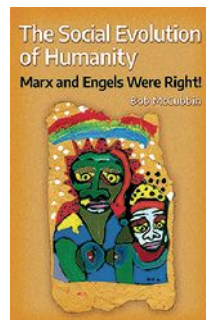
Landry is a paper tiger

Mao Zedong famously stated that imperialism is a paper tiger – fierce-appearing, but ultimately flimsy compared to the power of the masses. This was dramatically illustrated when Vietnamese peasants and workers defeated U.S. imperialist invaders, the most powerful and technologically advanced military force in history. That's what's possible with unity.

Likewise, Landry may be a paper tiger. His zombie government does not have a mass base. He simply outspent everyone else. Big donors wanted him.

For example, an out-of-state billionaire, Richard "Dick" Uihlein, of Illinois, paid \$450,000 to flood Louisiana with Landry ads during the election. Uihlein owns packing and shipping supply company Uline, and funds far-right causes across the country.

Apparently he thought Landry was a good investment for people like him, and he's likely right; in month two of his gov-



Paperback or Kindle? <https://tinyurl.com/vwarcv7>

The Social Evolution of Humanity Marx and Engels were right! by Bob McCubbin

This study of the evolution of humanity focuses on human social/sexual relations and, in particular, the changing social status of women. It offers a selection of scientific evidence that updates and augments the viewpoint expressed in Frederick Engels' masterful work, *'Origin of the Family, Private Property and the State.'*

McCubbin is the author of 'Roots of Lesbian and Gay Oppression: A Marxist View.' Published in 1976, during the first rise of the modern LGBTQ2S movement,

-Landry movement

ernorship, Landry issued an executive order that corporations receiving tax breaks in Louisiana do not even have to meet a meager job-creation quota, which was the conventional excuse given for the already-outlandish tax breaks.

With his big-money backers, Landry just strolled into the governor’s mansion, effectively unopposed by a weak Louisiana Democratic Party that had defamed itself by supporting the abortion ban. He activated his fascist base, but the election still had record-low voter turnout. Only 35.8% of the state’s 3 million registered voters even went to the polls, with only 18% of registered voters casting their ballot for Landry.

Meanwhile, there are 4.59 million people in Louisiana, and the vast majority are not rich – far from it. The majority have a stake in fighting the attacks. We just have to figure out how to reach

more workers (employed and unemployed). We need to get out in the streets, talk to people at bus stops and laundromats, and anywhere else we can find workers to build this movement.

There’s a long road ahead but we gotta start somewhere.

First ever Northshore Pride

Here is one bright spot on the horizon. The Northshore (that is, the parishes north of Lake Pontchartrain, and thus north of New Orleans) is going to have its first Pride parade. It is scheduled for June 1 in Mandeville, and a month of activities are planned to follow it.

This area has been a major focus of struggle in the state. The Landry-aligned, book-banning, Moms for Liberty clones – The St. Tammany Parish Library Accountability Project – caused havoc in St.



QTAP and Unión Migrante activists hold up banners at New Orleans May Day 2024, during a speech by a member of the Int’l Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees.

Tammany. This was ground zero for the Landry movement’s street-level assault on queer and trans people.

But throughout it all, LGBTQIA+ and other progressive community members came out in large numbers to council meetings. They showed up at libraries to defend these important public institutions. Queer and trans activist and social groups formed.

Northshore Pride is a result of all that, and is hopefully a sign of things to come. #

FOR A FREE PALESTINE

Conga against Homophobia & Transphobia in Cuba

By Prensa Latina

Havana, May 11 — The Cuban Conga Against Homophobia and Transphobia took its message of “Love is the law” to the central avenues of the capital’s Vedado neighborhood, along with demands for a free Palestine and against the Israeli genocide in Gaza.

Representatives of Cuban LGBTQIA+ activism and friends from other countries joined the parade that called for “All rights for all people,” convened by the National Center for Sexual Education (Cenesex) within the framework of the Cuban Days Against Homophobia and Transphobia, from May 3 to 18.

Cuba encourages the effective exercise of the sexual rights of LGBTQIA+ people and the combination of academic, cultural, sexual education, and community participation activities that promote that purpose during these days.



Cuban Conga Against Homophobia and Transphobia

Photo: Granma

In recent statements to the “Mesa Redonda” program on Cuban television, the director of Cenesex, Mariela Castro Espín, highlighted the need to continue making visible the forms of violence which transgender people and their families experience.

She underlined the purpose of Cenesex to provide tools against different forms of discrimination and under the

premise that love is the law, endorsed in the Constitution and the Cuban Families Code.

In that sense, she pointed out the urgency of increasing the communication effort of the country’s institutions to achieve higher levels of understanding, learning and acceptance in relation to gender identity and sexual preferences within families and society.

Likewise, she drew attention to the existence in the LGBTQIA+ community of revolutionary activism in defense of popular causes, in the midst of the active imperialist media crusade that stimulates rejection and discrimination against homosexual and transgender people.

Translated by Melinda Butterfield
Source: Granma

Biden, Congress stoke war on all fronts with \$95.3 billion package

By Gregory E. Williams

On April 20, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a \$95.3 billion aid package for Washington's proxies in Israel, Ukraine, and Taiwan. Included in the package were provisions for imposing sanctions on China, Russia, and Iran, and a requirement that TikTok's Chinese parent company sell its stake within one year or be banned in the U.S.

One third of U.S. adults use TikTok, including a majority of those under 30. A majority of teens use the platform. The potential ban would certainly curtail people's ability to freely access information and communicate. Importantly, it would limit people's ability to access global perspectives.

The so-called "liberal" media is even portraying far-right House Speaker Mike Johnson as a sensible "adult in the room" for working to get the bill passed. They also said that Trump had become more "presidential" after he greenlit the assassination of popular Iranian General Qasem Soleimani in 2020.

Some House Republicans had held up the bill by attaching it to demands for intensifying repression of immigrants at the U.S.-Mexico border and other reactionary policies. Some of the Republicans do have misgivings about Ukraine funding, but only because the ruling class is divided on where exactly to focus its attacks. These Republicans are not anti-war. They have never flinched when it comes to arming Israel throughout this genocide.

Both parties are united on the goal of continuing U.S. imperialist supremacy. There are no peace-loving doves leading these parties of war-mongers.

Following the House, the Senate quickly passed the bill on April 23 with a 79-18 vote. Biden signed the bill the very next day. He stated: "In the next few hours — literally, a few hours — we're going to begin sending in equip-

ment to Ukraine." and that "it's going to make the world safer."

Given that Washington has repeatedly blocked UN ceasefire resolutions to end genocide in Gaza, all the while pumping money and weapons into Israel (the administration found ways to keep the flow steady while funding bills were tied up), there is no indication that Biden is interested in making the world safer. Quite the opposite.

As for Ukraine, it is Washington that set the stage for the current war, orchestrating the fascist Maidan coup in 2014 on behalf of U.S. capitalists and IMF creditors who demanded extreme austerity. It is Washington that funded the coup regime for eight years as it cracked down on domestic dissent (namely the left and trade unions), while attacking and killing some 14,000 people in the Donbass region.

After Biden signed this funding bill on April 24, the Pentagon jumped to send the first \$1 billion delivery to Ukraine.

Biden chides student protesters

With the majority of Washington behind him — especially the Pentagon — Biden is stoking war on all fronts. The blood of the 32,000+ dead in Gaza is on his hands just as much as it is on Netanyahu's. And yet, when he finally decided to comment on the student protesters who are acting as the conscience of the country (the same young people he wants to come out and vote for him in November), he scolded them!

"Vandalism, trespassing, breaking windows, shutting down campuses, forcing the cancellation of classes and graduation — none of this is a peaceful protest," he said.

First of all, in every location, it has been the police who have violently attacked the student protesters. The students have been brutalized by the police, and there is no doubt that ap-

proval is coming from the top.

We have all spent months watching horrific videos of dead, mutilated children being pulled from rubble, killed by weapons Biden has paid for with our tax money. We could be forgiven for being more outraged by that than by a proverbial broken window. Biden's audacity in talking about peace is astonishing.

"A nation that continues year after year to spend more money on military defense than on programs of social uplift is approaching spiritual death." Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. said this 57 years ago in his "Beyond Vietnam" speech.

We can imagine what King would say today if he were alive to witness the absurdity of this military spending compared with the increasing immiseration of the population in the United States, the richest country in the world.

Right now, the same Supreme Court that took away women's and other people's right to reproductive autonomy — the same unelected Supreme Court being exposed for their lavish, free resort stays and wine tastings — is hearing a case about how easy it should be to throw homeless people in jail. The case started because the city of Grants Pass, Oregon wants free rein to fine and jail the homeless. Instead of the government addressing the housing crisis this is what we get.

In January 2023, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development counted 653,104 homeless people in their annual homeless assessment report. That is about 1 out of every 500 people experiencing homelessness, up 22% from the year before. People are suffering from soaring food, housing, medical, and other costs.

The federal government spent \$700 billion in 2008 to bail out the "too big to fail" for-profit banks. It is spending many billions to wage wars on behalf of shareholders. But it will not bail out the working class. It is obvious where the government's priorities lie, and it is not helping the people. #



Joe Biden's 'antisemitism' farce

By Lev Koufax

Joe Biden has engaged in some pretty abhorrent politics over the years.

At Strom Thurmond's 90th birthday party in 1993, Joe Biden spoke, heaping praise on the segregationist stooge. Biden's glowing remarks reached a height when he compared Thurmond to another segregationist stooge, Robert E. Lee.

Ole Genocide Joe did not mean this as a criticism, nor was he drawing a thoughtful parallel between the neo-Klan movement and the Confederacy. This comment was genuinely meant as a compliment.

Thurmond had led the "Dixiecrat" charge against the Civil Rights Movement in the 1950s and 1960s, famously filibustering the Civil Rights Act of 1957 for 24 hours. The man certainly had a dogged commitment to the most pernicious racism and fascism.

If you don't remember that particular saga, you may remember Biden's championing of racist mass incarceration legislation, or his glib threats of genocide against Serbia ... or, last one, his insistence that "poor kids are just as bright as white kids." Woof.

That said, Genocide Joe Biden may have outdone himself May 7 with a right-wing tirade on national television that the Democratic Party had the nerve to frame as a "speech against antisemitism."

Genocide Joe began this "speech against antisemitism" with recognition of some alleged friends of the Jewish community and allies in the fight against antisemitism. In particular, Biden named Speaker of the House Mike Johnson, House Minority Leader Hakeem Jeffries, and former Anti-Defamation League (ADL) spokesperson Abe Foxman.

Let's start with the esteemed speaker, Mr. Mike Johnson. Johnson is an open Christian Zionist and a proud Trump right winger. Christian Zionists support the colonization of Palestine by U.S.-backed Jewish Zionists because they believe that the full "return" of Judaism to Palestine will usher in the end of the world, where all non-Christians will be destroyed.

Does this seem like a real friend to the Jewish people?

Moving on to Hakeem Jeffries. The Democratic minority leader in the House has voted for every piece of legislation to arm Ukraine, despite neo-Nazis playing a prominent role in the Ukrainian military, and Ukrainian society being deeply engulfed in fascism since the 2014 Maidan coup. As if that wasn't enough, Jeffries has said that the U.S. should consider sending troops to Ukraine to protect those fascists.

Last but not least, we get to Abe Foxman, a fervent Zionist spokesperson and lobbyist who formerly ran the Anti-Defamation League. Foxman is a huge supporter of the "birthright" program, which grants young Jews free trips to Palestine in order to indoctrinate them into the Zionist colonial project. Many of these young Jews from the U.S. are brainwashed on these trips into literal or figurative soldiers for the Zionist entity.

In 2016, Foxman attacked anti-Zionist Jew and IfNotNow founder Simone Zimmerman, taking particular aim at her new position in Bernie Sanders' primary campaign. Foxman's attack actually led to Zimmerman being suspended from her position, just two days after she started.

Foxman has a strange way of showing support for young Jews. The cherry on top is Foxman's vitriolic stance against collegiate diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) programs.

These men may be friends of Zionism, but they are certainly not friends to the Jewish community.

Distorting history

After these insidious introductions, Biden launched into a lecture on Jewish history, and who better to speak on Judaism than an old white Catholic guy from Scranton?

In his speech, Biden preached many inaccuracies and twisted versions of history. However, one rang out as particularly bold in its evil.

About a third of the way through, Biden made a parallel between two events. He declared that the events of Oct. 7, 2023, were equal to the Shoah (or Holocaust) in their horror, hatred, and

violence against the Jewish community.

The events of last Oct. 7 were not an attack on Judaism. They were an attack against violent Zionist settlers who stole Palestinian land and waged a terror campaign against the Palestinian community, who the colonists themselves forced into Gaza and the West Bank.

Many Jews live by a saying: Tikkun Olam. It is Hebrew for "heal the world." My old rabbi opened every Friday evening or Saturday morning service with a discussion of Tikkun Olam. As a community, we asked ourselves, "How will we heal the world?"

So it needs to be asked, how is the violent seizure of land from an Indigenous people healing the world? How are the armed Zionist settler militias that commit pogroms against the Palestinian community healing the world? How are the Zionist bombs that rain all over Gaza healing the world?

The Jews who are staying true to the values of their community and the legacy of their ancestors' struggles against fascism are the ones who now struggle against Zionist fascism. Those Jews are trying to heal the world. They are trying to heal the infected wound that is the state of "Israel."

So for Joe Biden to assert that resistance against vicious settlers, settlers who have really replaced their Judaism with a form of fascism, is not only an insult to living Jews, but to all our ancestors who struggled against monarchism and fascism in Europe.

Lucky for us, Genocide Joe did not stop there. He took it all one step further. When discussing the recent pro-Palestine protests and encampments at colleges across the United States, Biden again drew a comparison to the Shoah.

Apparently, 19 year olds protesting against apartheid are as serious a threat to the Jewish community as the policies of Hitler. This is a pretty wild comparison considering that 97% of pro-Palestine encampments did not even cause "serious damage," according to study by Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project, a nonprofit.

The study analyzed 553 campus

Continued on page 20

U.S. administration fully responsible for escalation of aggression in Gaza

The Zionist army is drowning in the quagmire of Gaza and paying the price for Netanyahu's narrow political interests.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) holds the U.S. administration and the international community fully responsible for the continued closure of crossings, intensifying shelling in various areas of the Gaza Strip, and forcing refugees once again to flee to unsafe areas under bombardment and gunfire.

The Front emphasizes that the recent statements by U.S. officials regarding the occupation's operations in Rafah confirm high-level coordination between the U.S. administration and the Zionist entity, especially regarding the plan to occupy the Rafah crossing and close the crossings, exacerbating the humanitarian situation as a means of pressure on the resistance.

The Front warns of the catastrophic consequences of the continued clo-

sure of crossings, especially the Rafah crossing, amid severe shortages of relief supplies and medical supplies due to the non-entry of relief convoys into the Strip for several days.

The Front affirms that the return of the Zionist army to invade areas it had previously invaded, such as Jabalia and Zaytoun, despite claiming to have cleared them of resistance, indicates disagreements between the military and political levels. This was expressed by chief of staff of the Zionist army Halevi, when he repeatedly interpreted "the army's return to work in places where work had been done due to the lack of any political horizon," confirming that the Zionist army is drowning in the quagmire of Gaza, suffering severe losses and failing to achieve any field accomplishments on the ground, and that it is paying the price for Netanyahu's narrow political interests.

The Front also warns of the deceit-

ful methods practiced by the occupation to cover its upcoming crimes in Rafah, when it classified neighborhoods in the center of Rafah city as the Shaboura and Yabna Camps and included them within the areas located east of the city that must be evacuated, which is a prelude to committing massacres against the citizens and displaced in these neighborhoods.

The Front concluded its statement by affirming that the moment of truth is approaching for the war criminal Netanyahu, his war council gang and his defeated army; they are on the verge of a strategic defeat drawn by our heroic resistance fighters in various confrontation axes from the far north of the Strip to its south, with its other landmarks and details.

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine

Central Media Department
May 12, 2024

Source: Resistance News Network

PFLP: Solidarity with student protesters

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) condemns the repressive practices of the administrations of universities in the United States, and affirms its support for the struggle of the student movement in support of Palestine.

At a time when the genocidal war against our unarmed Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip continues, and the brutal Zionist practices in Al-Quds and the West Bank, executed by the Zionist occupation army in partnership, support, and complicity with the U.S. administration and Western colonial countries, aligned with all the forces of evil and tyranny in the world, when the occupation army has been committing massacres and brutal crimes for over 200 days now, the likes of which human history has never witnessed before; and at a time when all lovers of peace in the

world stand by the Palestinian people in their just struggle to reclaim their usurped rights, the ugly face of Zionist racism clearly appears.

While our students in American universities were looking forward to support and solidarity from the university administrations, which prioritized their interests, profits, and investments over noble human values, they have undertaken a number of punitive measures against students, faculty, and staff, threatening and extorting them for nothing but standing by the Palestinian people and supporting their just struggle for freedom and human dignity. These administrations prioritize their interests over Palestinian blood and human values and engage in hate speech against Arabs and Muslims, canceling student organizations' licenses, deluding themselves that by doing so,

they can suppress our students' struggle in the universities within the United States.

We in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, along with all our people, the honorable of our nation and the world, confirm our steadfast support for the struggle of the student and youth movements, Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and the Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM) at universities such as Columbia, Rutgers, Yale, and Stanford, among others. We call for enhancing the unity of students and their struggle to divest American universities from the Zionist entity and cut all forms of relations with it.

As we highly appreciate the positions, movements, and struggles of our students in American universities, and call for the escalation of their struggle against aggressive policies, and the

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Nakba protest: Cops arrest hundreds of Palestinians and supporters in NYC

By Struggle - La Lucha NY bureau

Thousands of people marched in Brooklyn, New York, on May 11, to commemorate the 76th anniversary of the expulsion of 800,000 Palestinians from their homes. Called the Nakba — Arabic for “catastrophe” — by Palestinians, the 1948 massacres allowed Zionists to set up their apartheid state of Israel.

Over 500 Palestinian villages were destroyed and 15,000 Palestinians were killed during the Nakba. At least 110 Palestinians in Deir Yassin village were murdered on April 9, 1948, by the Irgun and Lehi terrorist gangs. Zionists threw bodies down wells.

Seventy-six years later, Zionist Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Genocide Joe Biden have killed over 30,000 children, women and men in Gaza. Hundreds more have been slain on the West Bank by Zionist settlers, cops and soldiers.

It was these war crimes that were protested by thousands of people who came to the Barclays Center in Brooklyn. The basketball arena is named for the Barclays Bank, British loan sharks with \$2 trillion in assets whose business was jump started by slavery. With billions invested in arms companies, Barclays now profits off genocide in Palestine.

PFLP: Solidarity

Continued from page 16

rejection of compliance with the policies biased in favor of the occupation, we also call for the strengthening of ranks and enhancing the unity of students. We highly value the supportive and solidary positions for the struggle of our people in various American universities and around the world, and all the strugglers for freedom, justice, and human dignity.

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine

Central Media Office
April 23, 2024

Source: Resistance News Network

The rally was called by Palestinian Assembly for Liberation - Al Awda: the Palestine Right to Return Coalition (PAL-Awda) and supported by the Shut It Down for Palestine Coalition.

Speakers included representatives of PAL-Awda, the Palestinian Youth Movement, American Muslims for Palestine, The People's Forum, the Party for Socialism and Liberation, and Raja Abdulhaq, co-founder of the Quds News Network and former director of the Islamic Leadership Council.

Even as the rally was beginning, helmeted police charged into the crowd to seize an organizer holding a bullhorn and another protester. That's freedom of speech in the capital of capitalism.

Hundreds of cops wearing helmets and other riot gear threatened protesters. Prison buses were lined up on Flatbush Avenue along with dozens of police vehicles.

After the rally, people began to

march, with cops trying to block them and force them off the streets. Hundreds attempted to march to Manhattan, with many arrested on the Manhattan Bridge. Even a media photographer was busted. The bridge was shut down for hours.

Other contingents marched through the Fort Greene neighborhood of Brooklyn. Police arrested 20 or more protesters on Myrtle Avenue. Many residents and shoppers greeted the marchers.

Around 200 people were arrested in total. Police were obviously seeking to bust such a large number in order to try to stop the Palestine solidarity movement.

So far nearly 3,000 people have been arrested across the United States with dozens of university encampments raided. None of these attacks will stop the movement for Palestinian freedom. #

Thousands march in NYC demanding 'Hands off Rafah!'

By Struggle - La Lucha NY bureau

May 7 – Thousands of people marched tonight on New York City streets demanding an end to the latest U.S.-Israeli assault on Rafah in Gaza, Palestine. While Zionist soldiers kill Palestinian children, it's Genocide Joe Biden who is supplying the bombs and shells.

People gathered at 6 p.m. in lower Manhattan's Union Square for a short rally. Ysabella Titi of the Palestinian Youth Movement, Areej Khan of PAL Al Awda: the Palestine Right to Return Coalition, and Layan Fuleihan of The People's Forum demanded an end to the U.S.-sponsored genocide. So did TPF Executive Director Manolo De Los Santos and Claudia De la Cruz, the presidential candidate of the Party for Socialism and Liberation.

Thousands marched out of Union

Square carrying signs and banners. They headed west on 14th Street. People chanted “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!” while playing drums.

Cops forced marchers onto the sidewalk and singled out Manolo De Los Santos for arrest. Other marchers were arrested as well.

The demonstration went north on Avenue of the Americas (Sixth Avenue), then turned east on 42nd Street. Onlookers were friendly and interested.

A rally was held in front of the great reference library on Fifth Avenue. Hundreds then went to One Police Plaza for jail support.

Others went to the Fashion Institute of Technology, where cops arrested 50 people while breaking up the student encampment there. The people will stop the genocide in Gaza! #

New Orleans celebrates diverse working class

Continued from page 7

He said that the workers' struggle absolutely cannot confine itself to just wages or economics in the narrow sense. Instead, our movement must expose the oppressors and exploiters in whatever sphere they're operating, and we must fight all their attacks. We might take this advice to heart, given that Lenin led the revolution that established the first lasting workers' state.

'Resist Landry!'

Queer and trans contingents were prominent throughout the march, from trans youth organization BreakOUT!, to La Familia LGBTQ del Sur, to the Queer and Trans Community Action Project (QTCAP), newly formed by members of the old Real Name Campaign.

QTCAP activists held aloft a banner saying, "Resist Landry." Jeff Landry is Louisiana's far-right, bigoted governor, who recently tried to prevent hungry kids from accessing school lunch over the summer (doesn't seem like much of a "family man"). Others in the crowd held up the blue, pink and white trans pride flag.

One stage and film set worker with the International Alliance of Theatrical Stage Employees or IATSE gave a talk. He said:

"The union movement right now in this country is huge. The workers' voice is being heard and they are very frightened. Stay together, fight the fight, continue to spread the message of what is right."

This message of unity was echoed in all the speeches. We are living in dangerous times. Capitalism is in crisis and attacks are coming down every-

where. Things are bad in Louisiana. Landry and his fascist movement are ramming through anti-worker, anti-immigrant, anti-Black, anti-queer, and anti-trans legislation. They're imposing anti-women legislation. (Landry made a career undermining abortion rights long before he was elected governor.)

But that speaker was right. Our ruling class enemies are afraid. If they weren't afraid, they wouldn't be attacking us so fiercely. Six southern governors wouldn't have signed a letter denouncing the United Auto Workers union drive in Chattanooga, Tennessee. Despite the governors' efforts, the workers won! They organized a union.

As in cities and towns across the country, and around the world for that matter, the crowd that gathered in New Orleans on May Day was a microcosm of the working class. Our class is diverse. It is immigrant and non-immigrant, Black and white, Asian, Indigenous. It is trans, cis, straight, and queer. Despite these differences, we are all workers. The capitalists are afraid of that.

May Day was a warmup. They know that we can come out in the thousands and the millions, just like we did for Black lives in 2020.

¡El pueblo unido jamás será vencido! The people united will never be defeated! #

UAW workers at Daimler Truck win big wage gains: Organize the South!

Continued from page 9

Irving Bernstein)

Textile workers were seething. They exploded in 1934. One hundred seventy thousand workers went on strike in the South.

Bosses and their state governments mobilized 23,000 sheriff deputies, National Guard soldiers and private gunmen to break the strike.

After receiving \$20,000 from mill owners, Georgia Governor Eugene Talmadge declared martial law. A concentration camp for arrested strikers was set up at Fort McPherson near Atlanta.

Thirteen strikers were killed in the South. Another two died in the North. Seven workers were murdered at the

Chiquola Mill in Honea Path, South Carolina, alone. ("Testing the New Deal: The General Textile Strike of 1934 in the American South," by Janet Irons)

President Franklin Roosevelt and Labor Secretary Frances Perkins did nothing about these bloody massacres. Don't count on Joe Biden to help union organizing drives either. Genocide Joe is busy helping to kill children in Gaza.

The capitalist deep state also allowed the Klan and Nazis to murder five Communist Workers Party members in Greensboro, North Carolina, on Nov. 3, 1979.

Cesar Cauce, Mike Nathan, Bill Sampson, Sandi Smith and Jim Waller were murdered in front of TV cameras. The leader of these fascist killers, Edward Dawson, was on the payroll of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms of the United States Treasury Department.

None of the assassins spent a day in jail. Like the Honea Path atrocity in 1934, the Greensboro Massacre was approved by the wealthy and powerful.

The UAW victories at Daimler and Volkswagen are helping to avenge Ella May Wiggins and the Greensboro martyrs. Organize the South! #

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Pride 2024: Solidarity with Gaza

Continued from page 1

Queer people, especially trans youth and adults, are in danger. Over half of U.S. states have now enacted laws and regulations aimed at harming trans people.

These attacks on gender-affirming health care, bodily autonomy, free speech, sports participation, and even our right to use public restrooms feed violence and hate – like the attacks that led to the death of Nex Benedict and so many others.

The corporate-owned media have joined in this hate campaign, gleefully spreading misinformation and stoking the far-right campaign by “just asking questions.” It’s not just Fox News but also mainstream and liberal outlets like the New York Times and the Guardian that are responsible.

In April, the FBI issued a warning that Pride Month activities were again likely to be targeted by violent extremists. But we know all too well that the FBI, the police, and the military are no friends of queer people. From Stonewall 1969 to West Hollywood 2023, the state’s repressive agencies not only attack us outright but regularly aid and abet neo-Nazis threatening our events.

The cops and the federal government want us to be too scared to resist while state governments peel away our rights and our ability to even exist in public.

But we refuse to sit by as our rights are stripped away by the far right while Biden offers only “thoughts and prayers.” We refuse to run, and we refuse to stay silent while the Democratic Party and the administration arm, fund, and provide political cover for the ongoing genocide of our Palestinian siblings in Gaza.

Supporting our Palestinian siblings

June marks eight months of genocide in Gaza by the terrorist apartheid state of Israel. Over 35,000 Palestinian people have been killed so far, including over 14,000 children. Among them are uncounted numbers of LGBTQIA+ people.

Yet there are still people trying to convince us that Israel is a “democracy” that is “queer-friendly” while

Palestinians are all homophobic and transphobic barbarians.

The best answer to this racist lie comes from Palestinian queers themselves:

“We refuse the instrumentalization of our queerness, our bodies, and the violence we face as queer people to demonize and dehumanize our communities, especially in service of imperial and genocidal acts. We refuse that Palestinian sexuality and Palestinian attitudes towards diverse sexualities become parameters for assigning humanity to any colonized society. We deserve life because we are human, with the multitude of our imperfections, and not because of our proximity to colonial modes of liberal humanity. We refuse colonial and imperialist tactics that seek to alienate us from our society and alienate our society from us on the basis of our queerness.

“We are fighting interconnected systems of oppression, including patriarchy and capitalism, and our dreams of autonomy, community, and liberation are inherently tied to our desire for self-determination. No queer liberation can be achieved with settler colonization, and no queer solidarity can be fostered if it stands blind to the racialized, capitalist, fascist, and imperial structures that dominate us.

“We, queer Palestinians, are an integral part of our society, and we are informing you: from the heavily militarized alleys of Jerusalem to Huwara’s scorched lands, to Jaffa’s surveilled streets and cutting across Gaza’s besieging walls, from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.

“We call on queer and feminist activists and groups around the world to stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people in their resistance to displacement, land theft, and ethnic cleansing and their struggle for the liberation of their lands and futures from Zionist settler-colonialism. This call cannot be answered only by sharing statements and signing letters but by an active engagement with decolonial and liberatory struggles in Palestine and around the globe.”

(Full text of A Liberatory Demand from Queers in Palestine: [Tinyurl.com/queersinpal](https://tinyurl.com/queersinpal))

Queers for Palestine

From coast to coast, a mass movement against genocide and for Palestinian liberation has shaken U.S. society to its foundations. The powers that be, from the White House and Congress to universities and city halls, have failed to repress or brainwash this solidarity movement with false charges of “antisemitism.” Anyone can see that anti-Zionist Jewish people are in the front ranks of this movement.

Also at the center of it, from day one, have been mobilizations of Queers for Palestine. Why?

For eight decades, Palestinians have been:

- Told they do not actually exist
- Demonized and dehumanized
- Driven from their homes
- Forced to build and rebuild communities of resistance wherever they can
- Targeted by capitalist powers as scapegoats for the crimes of the system

No wonder so many queer people, especially trans youth, have put their bodies on the line for Palestine! These attacks on the whole Palestinian people parallel on a global scale what so many of us have experienced in our own lives. We empathize, we are in solidarity, and we feel compelled to act.

Just a few decades ago, it was nearly forbidden to mention Palestine even at progressive events in the U.S. But Palestinians’ courage, resistance, and refusal to be silenced, no matter the odds, has won them the solidarity of millions here and billions worldwide. We can, and we must, learn from their example as we work together to end U.S.-Israeli war crimes.

It’s the same U.S. ruling class, the same bosses and profiteers, the same reactionary politicians and media – the same capitalist system – aiming at people in Gaza and trans and queer people here at home. We are all sand in the gears of their efforts to turn back the clock on people’s rights worldwide.

Let’s do whatever we can to unite our struggles, together with all workers and communities under attack, to say: Our rights are not negotiable, and we are not going anywhere! #

UCLA students for Gaza resist violent attacks

Continued from page 3

treated a few minor injuries, and left. The cops (who turned out to be campus police) milled around for a few minutes and then left without taking any action or ordering the fascists to leave.

When this writer called the Los Angeles Police Department and demanded to know why they did nothing to stop the attack, the cops claimed that they were there. It was a blatant lie, and the next morning, CBS News falsely reported that LAPD had shown up in full riot gear to stop the attack. Nothing of the sort happened.

Fatimeh Judeh, a member of the organization Unmute Humanity, confirmed with Struggle-La Lucha that no LA cops had ever shown up to stop the attack and that one protester had been stabbed by a knife-wielding attacker.

In reality the LAPD held back while the fascists attacked. In hindsight, it looked like a case of collusion between cops and hired fascist thugs, as well as a media coverup.

The power of this protest movement is such that UCLA's chancellor, Gene Block, is now facing consequences. He's hired the former Sacramento police chief to form a new "Office of Campus Safety." The first task is to "investigate," along with LA police agencies, the question of "if" there had been a security lapse. This is clearly a case of the fox being appointed to guard the henhouse.

UCLA's Daily Bruin newspaper reports that Block is facing calls for his resignation even after the clumsy attempt to save himself.

If there were still questions about the role of the cops after they did nothing to stop the fascist attack the night before, they were answered when California Highway Patrol moved in overnight on May 1-2 and broke up the encampment, arresting 200 people in the process.

Their assault was no walk in the park though. Their first attempt to rout the students failed. Students and their supporters from UCLA faculty

and other UCLA workers had linked arms and would not budge. The shoving match went on long enough so that the cops retreated.

It was only when they returned in larger numbers, using flash bangs, rubber bullets and pepper spray, that the cops succeeded in kettling the protestors and arresting 200 people.

With all of this, the protest is continuing. On Monday, May 6, students held two consecutive sit-ins at Moore Hall and Dodd Hall. As the sit-ins were getting organized, cops arrested another 43 people – this time in the parking lot before they even reached any activity. Absurdly, they charged them all with "conspiracy to commit burglary" and "breaking curfew."

Hours later though, hundreds of students, faculty and staff marched through campus again.

The students united will never be defeated! Down with Zionism, down with U.S. imperialism! #

Los Angeles marchers link arms

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Boulevard and Figueroa Street for at least an hour and was surrounded by throngs of May Day marchers, blocking rush hour traffic.

There is a long tradition of May Day marches being organized by Union del Barrio, Harriet Tubman Center for Social Justice, BAYAN USA and others. This year took on a new level of determination and spirit. The courage of the students at USC and so many other campuses fed the militancy of the May Day demonstration.

As the organizing days ticked by, a host of organizations joined in the effort, such as Unmute Humanity, which had held a demonstration at CNN to protest U.S. media support for the genocide, and the Palestinian Youth Movement, which has been organizing mass protests repeatedly since Oct. 7.

The Association of Raza Educators, Gabriela LA, Stop LAPD Spying Coalition, United Teachers Los Angeles, American Indian Movement, Los Angeles Tenants Union and others all joined in the effort to build May Day.

The beautiful poster for the event

was printed in English, Arabic and Spanish, and sported the logos of 23 community and anti-war organizations. Every group helped spread the word for weeks to bring people out.

The deadly agenda of U.S. imperialism and its proxies has never been more visible. Biden and Netanyahu are despised by millions for their terrible crimes. Those brave students and activists who protest are being slandered with ridiculous accusations of antisemitism and claims they are all "outside agitators" by the capitalist media. But the slanders are ineffective.

Around the world, working-class people understand the nature of the Zionist state. The campus protests are hailed in the Global South countries that have been exploited and targeted by U.S. imperialism. There is growing awareness that it doesn't matter which of the two parties of the billionaire class occupies the White House. The hope for humanity is in a united global working-class struggle that resists imperialism.

Long live International Workers' Day! Viva, viva Palestina! #

Biden's speech

Continued from page 15

demonstrations between April 18 and May 3 of this year. It found that fewer than 20 resulted in any serious interpersonal violence or property damage. So we are supposed to believe that several hundred relatively tame protests against apartheid are equivalent to the systematic industrialized murder of millions of Jews, Roma people, communists, LGBTQIA+ people, Slavs, and others? Really?

Comparing the two is at best a trivialization of the Holocaust, and at worst – outright denial.

Joe Biden's speech didn't have anything to do with antisemitism. It was just another despicable chapter in the propaganda war against the Palestinian liberation struggle disguised as an overture to the Jewish community. The spectacle was evil beyond evil and not a word of it should be believed by Jews or anyone else.

Free Palestine!

Lev Koufax is an anti-Zionist Jewish activist in Baltimore.

Guantánamo Peace Seminar: A global call for justice and resistance

By Gary Wilson and Lallan Schoenstein

Guantánamo, May 5 — An international peace seminar held in Guantánamo, Cuba, brought together delegates from 30 countries demanding a world free of U.S. imperialist intervention and military bases.

During the VIII International Seminar for Peace and the Abolition of Military Bases, participants echoed the international condemnation of Israel's genocide against the Palestinian people, demanded the return of Cuban territory occupied by the U.S. Naval Base at Guantánamo, and repudiated the wars organized by NATO under U.S. leadership. Fernando González Llort, President of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with Peoples (ICAP), emphasized that the seminar is being held amidst a complex global situation.

The seminar expressed solidarity with countries and peoples under occupation and colonial rule, such as Palestine, Western Sahara, and Puerto Rico.

Regarding the genocide committed against the Palestinian people by Israel, with the collaboration of the U.S. and the European Union, participants agreed that a comprehensive, just, and lasting solution requires the Palestinian people's right to self-determination.

Speakers highlighted the imperative to end NATO's expansionism and called for the dissolution of the aggressive military bloc. They also stressed the need to strengthen the anti-imperialist struggle and solidarity for a world of peace and social justice. Iraklis Tsavdaridis, executive secretary of the World Council for Peace (CMP), noted that the U.S. imperialist military presence and NATO are not only the source of the Russia-Ukraine war but also support Israel's genocide against Palestinians.

Delegates pointed out that the United States has over 900 military bases in 90 countries, with 1.3 million men and women in these military installations, making it the main promoter of

wars worldwide. The U.S. Naval Base at Guantánamo, Cuba, established in 1902, is the oldest and first U.S. military base in Latin America. Its presence significantly affects the economy of Guantánamo province and causes environmental damage.



Photo: Yaimi Ravelo

Murid Abukhater, a Palestinian medical student in Cuba.

Voices of resistance

Murid Abukhater, a Palestinian medical student in Cuba, expressed gratitude for the international solidarity with the Palestinian cause and Cuba's unwavering support. He condemned the U.S. blockade against Cuba and demanded the closure of the Guantánamo Naval Base and the return of the territory to Cuban sovereignty.

During the last day of presentations, delegates discussed cyberwar and cyberterrorism as new weapons used by imperialism to undermine the sovereignty of nations. Speakers emphasized the need for Cuba to continue advancing in cybersecurity research and innovation, as the U.S. Naval Base in Guantánamo poses a real threat to the island. They also highlighted how cyber warfare is silently used to attack countries and manipulate international public opinion.

Key points from the final declaration included:

- 1. Condemn U.S. and NATO imperialism:** Denounce the aggressive and interventionist policies of the U.S. and NATO that threaten world peace through expanding their network of military bases and increasing military spending.
- 2. Support Cuba:** Support Cuba's fight against the unjust U.S. blockade, remove Cuba from the illegal U.S. list of terrorism sponsors and express solidarity with Cuba's pursuit of a just and sustainable socialist society.
- 3. Call for base closures:** Demand closure of all foreign military bases worldwide, particularly the illegally occupied Guantánamo territory,



Fernando González Llort, President ICAP.

and oppose NATO expansion and increased military spending.

- 4. Support sovereignty and self-determination:** Support nations' rights to self-determination and independence, particularly calling on Colombia, Brazil, and Argentina to abandon NATO partnerships. Stand in solidarity with countries and peoples facing occupation and colonial domination, including: Guyana and Puerto Rico in the Caribbean; Argentina's Neuquén province and the Malvinas, South Georgia and South Sandwich Islands in South America; Palestine, Syria, and Cyprus in the Middle East; Western Sahara in Africa.
- 5. Solidarity with Haitian people:** Stand in solidarity with the Haitian people's right to determine their own path towards a peaceful, sustainable, and prosperous future. Reject any foreign military intervention and call for solutions that respect Haiti's sovereignty and independence.
- 6. Advocate nuclear disarmament:** Warn against nuclear conflict and campaign for a world free of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, opposing the militarization of space and cyber warfare.
- 7. Promote peace zones:** Amplify the Proclamation of Latin America and the Caribbean as a Zone of Peace and advocate against the presence of the U.S. Southern Command in the region. Condemn U.S. interference and militarization in the region (e.g., Peru, Guyana Essequibo, Venezuela) and support regional peace processes (e.g., Colombia).

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Never forget the U.S.-NATO bombing of China's embassy!

By Stephen Millies

May 7, 2024, marked the 25th anniversary of NATO's bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade.

On the night of May 7-8, 1999, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Belgrade, Yugoslavia, was deliberately bombed by the U.S. Air Force.

This war crime was committed during the 78-day-long bombing of then-socialist Yugoslavia by NATO. Three Chinese journalists were killed. At least twenty were injured.

Ambassador Pan Zhanlin escaped being killed only because the bomb that crashed through the roof of his residence didn't explode.

The bodies of newlywed journalists Xu Xinghu, 31, and Zhu Ying, 27, were found under a collapsed wall. They wrote for the Communist Party newspaper Guangming (Enlightenment).

Forty-eight-year-old Shao Yunhuan of

the Xinhua news agency was also killed; her spouse, Cao Rongfei, blinded.

While it was one or more U.S. Air Force B-2 stealth bombers that attacked the embassy, it was the CIA that picked the target. The CIA director, George Tenet, later testified that the embassy bombing was organized and directed by his agency. This liar claimed satellite images showed "no flags, no seals, no clear markings," when in fact all three were present.

Three journalists were killed in the embassy. Why did the U.S. do it?

The CIA chose to bomb the embassy because the U.S. military-industrial complex wanted to launch a war on China. They viewed President Bill Clinton's murderous bombing of Yugoslavia as a poor substitute.

After the Soviet Union and the socialist countries of Eastern Europe were overthrown — with the exception of Yugoslavia — the Pentagon wanted to

destroy the People's Republic of China.

In 1996, Clinton had already used aircraft carriers in a military provocation against China, ostensibly over Taiwan province. But that wasn't enough for the military. The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff in 1996 was Gen. John Shalikashvili, whose father had been a general in Hitler's SS.

The attitude of a major section of the ruling class was shown by the Republican Majority Whip of the House of Representatives, Tom DeLay, who bragged how he physically confronted the ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the U.S. during a filming of Meet The Press:

"So he's coming off the stage and I'm going onto the stage and I intentionally walked up to him and blocked his way. ... I grabbed [his] hand and squeezed it as hard as I could and pulled him a kind of little jerk like this and I said: 'Don't take the weakness of this president as the weakness of the American people.' And he looked at me kind of funny, so I pulled him real close, nose to nose, and I repeated it very slowly, and said, 'Do-not-take-the-weakness-of-this-president-as-the-weakness-of-the-American-people.'"

The attack on the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade was answered by hundreds of thousands of Chinese students demonstrating against U.S. imperialism.

Later that same year was the "Battle of Seattle," where thousands of union workers and students confronted the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank. People around the world saw the brutality of Seattle's cops.

But it was world finance capital trying to squeeze blood out of a stone throughout Latin America that provoked the biggest fightback. Hungry people in Buenos Aires stripped supermarkets of food and Argentina was forced to cancel debt payments.

Latin American declared ¡Basta ya! to the neoliberal program of cutbacks and misery. Hugo Chávez Frías was elected Venezuela's president on Dec. 6, 1998, and inaugurated on Feb. 2, 1999. #

Guantánamo Peace Seminar

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8. Defend Indigenous and African communities: Demand reparations for the damages of colonialism and slavery while expressing solidarity with Indigenous and African communities of Latin America.

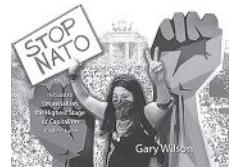
9. Oppose imperialist actions: Oppose imperialist actions globally, including in Nicaragua, Haiti (supporting its right to self-determination and development), and Ukraine (calling for an end to the conflict and denouncing U.S./NATO involvement).

10. Establish World Day of Action: Observe February 23 as "World Day of Action against Foreign Military Bases" for actions and initiatives to be carried out in all countries against these installations.

A symbol of hope and resistance

The seminar took place against a backdrop of escalating global tensions fueled by the increasing aggressiveness of imperialism and the interventions of the United States, the European Union, and NATO. These powerful entities continue to impose their agendas through propaganda campaigns and military conflicts, threatening peace and sovereignty worldwide.

The event concluded with a powerful demonstration of solidarity from the people of Caimanera, a town located near the U.S. Naval Base at Guantánamo Bay, a stark symbol of this imperialism. Their joyful resistance in the face of such a powerful symbol of oppression underscored the importance of the seminar's mission and the ongoing fight for a world free from war and oppression.



WAR & LENIN in the 21st Century

Included in Gary Wilson's book is VI Lenin's pamphlet: 'Imperialism, the Highest Stage of Capitalism' Paperback or kindle at tinyurl.com/LeninAndWar



Nicaragua's Day of National Dignity

By Lev Koufax

Washington, D.C. – On May 4, the Embassy of Nicaragua, along with the Nicaragua Solidarity Coalition, held an event in honor of Nicaragua's Day of National Dignity. The day celebrates General Augusto Sandino's refusal to adhere to the Espino Negro Pact, which essentially turned over control of Nicaragua to the United States military.

The pact stripped Nicaragua almost entirely of its sovereignty regarding matters of diplomacy, trade, legislation, economic development – you name it. As such, Sandino refused to order his forces to surrender their weapons to the U.S., stating that Nicaragua would never surrender its sovereignty to an imperial invader.

Ever since, Nicaragua has celebrated May 4 as a Day of National Dignity and sovereignty, recognizing that Nicaragua will never concede its governance to U.S. imperialism.



Organizers from Baltimore Peoples Power Assembly attend Day of National Dignity festivities at the Nicaraguan Embassy in Washington, D.C., May 4.

To celebrate this day here in the U.S., Nicaragua's embassy invited friendly organizations and activists in the Mid-Atlantic region to hear International Court of Justice Ambassador Carlos Arguello speak about the day of dignity and the current struggle against imperialism. The Baltimore Peoples

Power Assembly sent a delegation.

Arguello gave a captivating history of Sandino's stand against imperialism and outlined Nicaragua's current case against Germany in the International Court of Justice for its continued arming of the illegal Zionist entity known as "Israel" while it is committing genocide in Gaza.

Long live Nicaragua! Sandino presente! Down with Zionism! #

Por Palestina libre conga contra la Homofobia y la Transfobia en Cuba

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Educación Sexual (Cenesex) en el marco de las Jornadas Cubanas contra la Homofobia y la Transfobia, del 3 al 18 de mayo.

Cuba estimula el ejercicio efectivo de los derechos sexuales de las personas LGTBIQ+ y la combinación de actividades académicas, culturales de educación sexual y de participación comunitaria que impulsan ese propósito durante estos días.

La directora del Cenesex, Mariela Castro Espín, destacó en declaraciones recientes al programa Mesa Redonda de la televisión cubana la necesidad de continuar visibilizando las formas de violencia en la que viven las personas transexuales y sus familias.

Subrayó el propósito del Cenesex de propiciar herramientas contra las diferentes formas de discriminación y bajo la premisa de que el amor es ley, refrendada en la Carta Magna y el Código de las Familias cubanas.

En ese sentido, señaló la urgencia de elevar el esfuerzo comunicacional de las instituciones del país para alcanzar mayores niveles de comprensión de las familias y la sociedad, el aprendizaje y la aceptación de las individualidades en relación con la identidad de género y las preferencias sexuales.

Asimismo, llamó la atención sobre la existencia en la comunidad LGTBIQ+ de un activismo revolucionario en defensa de las causas populares, en medio de la activa cruzada mediática homofóbica que estimula el rechazo y la discriminación a las personas con preferencias sexuales homo y transexuales.

Fuente: Granma



La privatización mata

Por Berta Joubert-Ceci

El proceso neoliberal de privatizaciones ha utilizado a nuestro país, Puerto Rico, como conejillo de Indias. No solo se han privatizado los servicios de agencias gubernamentales cruciales para la sobrevivencia de la población, como la salud y la energía, sino que cada servicio dado a estas agencias, desde la limpieza y el mantenimiento, hasta su misma evaluación, ha sido a su vez sub-contratado a ejecutores privados.

Aquí, la administración del gobierno se ha convertido en un mero intermediario para premiar a contratistas mayormente corruptos y mediocres, tanto locales como extranjeros, que aportan a los bolsillos y a las campañas electorales del partido de gobierno. Muchas de las compañías contratadas ni siquiera existían formalmente hasta que vieron la oportunidad de enriquecerse, y rápidamente se constituyeron.

Con la excusa de que lo privado da mejor servicio y abarata los costos, cosa que ha resultado totalmente falso, el gobierno nos ha empujado a la privatización tras privatización. Sin siquiera, tener mecanismos para eval-

uar ni mucho menos, penalizar la incompetencia e irresponsabilidad de estos contratistas.

Pero estas semanas, un contrato ha estado en la mira del pueblo, y es el de los servicios de salud en el Departamento de Corrección. Por años, familiares de personas encarceladas se han estado quejando de la falta de estos servicios, y solo el año pasado fallaron 90 prisioneros en las cárceles de nuestro país en condiciones que aún no se han aclarado. Ahora, el escándalo mayor ha sido que un asesino confeso que tenía una condena de 125 años por asesinar mujeres, fue puesto en libertad y mató a otra mujer.

Él se hacía pasar por parapléjico y se acogió a una ley existente que libera a prisioneros si están en etapa terminal de una enfermedad. Por todo un año luego de salir de prisión, trabajó en la libre comunidad, caminando normalmente. Sin embargo, los médicos y funcionarios de la agencia de salud privada lo habían certificado



Colectivo Feminista en Construcción protesta contra el feminicidio en Puerto Rico.

como un paciente parapléjico con pocas semanas de vida.

Tanto la directora del Departamento de Corrección como el mismísimo gobernador Pedro Pierluisi, rehuyen la responsabilidad del Estado en la muerte de una mujer boricua a consecuencia de la negligencia e irresponsabilidad de esa privatizadora.

Pero el pueblo no olvida, ni perdona.

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



Por Palestina libre conga contra la Homofobia y la Transfobia en Cuba



Foto: Cenesex

Por Prensa Latina

La Habana, 11 de mayo — La Conga Cubana contra la Homofobia y la Transfobia llevó su mensaje de «El amor es ley» a avenidas céntricas del Vedado capitalino, junto a pronunciamientos por una Palestina libre y en contra del genocidio israelí.

Representantes del activismo LGBTI cubano y amigos de otros países se sumaron al pasacalle que llamaba a «Todos los derechos para todas las personas», convocado por el Centro Nacional de

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