

## PALESTINIANS CALL ON ARAB LEADERS TO STAND FIRM!

by our Arab affairs correspondent

**A NEW ROUND of fighting in Gaza seemed imminent this week after Hamas suspended the prisoner exchange following Israeli breaches of the cease-fire agreement including delaying the return of Palestinians to northern Gaza, carrying out air-strikes across the enclave and hindering the entry of humanitarian aid.**

Donald Trump, in one of his inane rants, said “all hell” would break loose if all the Israeli captives were not released by high noon on 15th February. But the American leader is wary of doing anything that might jeopardise his talks with Vladimir Putin that are set to take place in Saudi Arabia in the very near future. And the Israelis, despite all their bluster, may not be too keen to immediately return to the fray given their heavy losses in the Gaza war.

Fears of a return to full-scale war have abated after Israel belated complied with the truce terms. Hamas now says it will release three Israeli prisoners from Gaza on Saturday as scheduled following talks with the Egyptian and Qatari cease-fire monitors. But the Zionists

are again attempting to push back their withdrawal from southern Lebanon until at least the end of the month amid reports that the Zionists are building five military outposts in the borderlands they still occupy.

Meanwhile Palestinians have denounced the Trump plan to deport all the Palestinians in Gaza as a “declaration of war”. The follow-up committee of the National and Islamic Forces, an umbrella for most Palestinian resistance movements and political parties said the American plan was “a new declaration of war to uproot our people”.

“Trump’s recent statements reflect the true face of the American-Zionist partnership in the aggression on our people” the Palestinian resistance committee said in a call for firm action from Arab leaders and the international community to stop any attempt at ethnic cleansing in the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian National and Islamic Forces called on the Arab leaders going to the emergency Arab summit in Cairo on 27th February to “take practical and direct steps, and play a vital and ef-

fective role against (Trump’s) criminal plans...the steadfastness of the Palestinian people in Gaza, the West Bank and inside Israel requires direct political and material support to strengthen their resistance and establish them on their land”.

In The Hague the UN Special Rapporteur for the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Francesca Albanese, condemned Trump’s proposal, calling it “illegal, immoral madness” that would further erode international law. She warned that the plan is “grotesque and insulting” and turns Israel’s long-standing policies into an open international crisis.

At the White House King Abdullah of Jordan told Trump he would not budge in his opposition to the US president’s proposal to deport all the Palestinians in Gaza to other countries, such as Jordan. And Egypt’s President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi says he will not even travel to Washington for talks with the American leader as long as his criminal plan to ethnic cleanse the Gaza Strip remains on the agenda.

In Israel demonstrations in support of the truce and an end to the war are continuing to be held in Tel Aviv and dozens of other towns and cities across the country. The protests have been fired by the recent admission of Israel’s heavy losses in the Gaza war. General Eyal Zamir, the new head of the Israeli armed forces, said that Israeli casualties were much higher than



Palestinians walking back to northern Gaza.

previously reported, with at least 5,942 officially recognised bereaved families and over 15,000 soldiers admitted to the rehabilitation sys-

tem. These are the heaviest losses Israel has suffered in any round of fighting in the Arab-Israeli conflict that began in 1948.

### FUND

Readers rallied to the cause this week raising £1,013 for the fighting fund in the first week of the February appeal including a London comrade who gave us £500 and a Suffolk reader who sent in £65. “Every little helps” says a supporter who sent in a tenner. “Keep up the good work. Every time the papers print the Starmer ‘Party line’ it’s nice to learn the truth from you”. We couldn’t put it better!

The February fund-raising campaign has begun. Our target is £3,500 by the end of the month.

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# THE NEW WORKER

Weekly paper of the New Communist Party

## The Nobel road to peace

**THOUGH Donald Trump has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize on four occasions over the years his supposed efforts to promote peace and resolve global conflicts have, so far, failed to impress the Nobel Peace Committee.**

This rubbishy prize, with a few honourable exceptions, has long been the preserve of imperialist politicians and prominent agents of imperialism. The anti-communist Soviet dissident Andrei Sakharov won it in 1975. The reactionary Polish union leader Lech Walesa got it for his counter-revolutionary campaign in 1983. Gorbachov was similarly rewarded for his treachery in 1990. And a prominent Chinese anti-communist writer, Liu Xiaobo, got his Nobel for "his long and non-violent struggle for fundamental human rights in China".

Bizarrely enough the European Union was collectively awarded this glittering prize in 2012 for contributing "to the advancement of peace and reconciliation, democracy and human rights in Europe".

Needless to say the Dalai Lama is on the list of winners together with Henry Kissinger, who was jointly given the prize together with the chief north Vietnamese negotiator Le Duc Tho in 1973 for negotiating the Vietnamese peace accord. Comrade Le, the only communist ever to get this accolade, took the principled stand and refused to accept the prize on the grounds that the war in Vietnam was still raging.

But Trump may be lucky this time round. His efforts to end Joe Biden's proxy war against Russia in Ukraine have soon borne fruit with a positive response from the Kremlin and a summit with Vladimir Putin in Saudi Arabia in the offing.

The Russians have made it clear that they want international recognition of the autonomous republic of Crimea's accession to the Russian Federation. They intend, one way or another, to liberate all the territories of the two Donbas people's republics that have joined the Russian Federation as well as the two former southern Ukrainian provinces that have also been liberated. They want equal rights for all the remaining members of the Russian community in Ukraine and a guarantee of permanent Ukrainian neutrality.

The Trump team are talking about a standstill ceasefire but offering the Russians what they've already got is not the most generous opening gambit. It's nevertheless a start.

However Trump's people do seem to accept the justice of some of the Russian claims while outlining their own demands for exclusive American exploitation of Ukraine's priceless rare earths and other mineral deposits after the end of the fighting.

Though only Trump and Putin can set the seal on a deal to end the war most of the hard bargaining will have already been resolved before they meet in the secret talks between their envoys that are already preparing the terms of a settlement.

Secret diplomacy, that has sadly become the norm since the end of the Cold War, is rarely the best pathway to peace. But both the Russian and American sides are clearly working towards a win-win agreement that ends the war – and that clearly will be in the benefit of the Ukrainian and Russian people. Perhaps Trump will get his Nobel afterall...who knows, maybe Putin too!

## US aid: No such thing as a free lunch

**AS THE instigator behind the Russia-Ukraine conflict, the so-called "aid" from the USA to Ukraine is nothing more than a carefully designed game of interest exchange. US National Security Advisor Mike Waltz talked about the future of Washington's economic support for Ukraine in a recent interview, during which he claimed "we need to recoup those costs, and that is going to be a partnership with the Ukrainians in terms of their rare earth, their natural resources, and their oil and gas and also buying ours". According to a Reuters report on Tuesday, the US also plans to push European allies to buy more American weapons for Ukraine ahead of potential peace talks with Moscow.**

From "non-refundable aid" to "resource swaps" and from "shared responsibility" to "Europe footing the bill" the US strategy to aid Ukraine lays bare its hypocrisy and undoubtedly reaffirms the ironclad rule of "no free lunch" on its diplomatic menu.

The American demand that Ukraine offer rare earth minerals as a form of payment for financial support in the Ukraine-Russia conflict starkly embodies its "America First" policy. This idea is not new. US Senator Lindsey Graham bluntly stated last year that the USA stands to financially gain from Ukraine's vast agricultural sector and "two to seven trillion dollars'

worth" of rare earth minerals. "This war is about money. People don't talk much about it. But you know, the richest country in all of Europe for rare earth minerals is Ukraine," Graham declared.

Noticeably, the current US aid strategy towards Ukraine has sparked dissatisfaction among its European allies. According to the Politico Europe online newspaper, German Chancellor Olaf Scholz sharply criticised the US proposal to tie future military aid for Ukraine to access to its rare earth resources, calling the move "very egotistic, very self-centred".

Behind Scholz's criticism lies a harsh reality: Washington is forcing Europe to continuously "bleed" for America's geopolitical ambitions. Reuters reported that two sources revealed the US government's plan to push European allies to buy more weapons for Ukraine is "one of several ideas the administration is discussing to potentially continue US weapons shipments to Kiev without expending significant US capital".

For a long time, Europe, under US' encouragement, has been providing massive aid to Ukraine. Washington may compensate for its military aid to Ukraine by extracting mineral riches from its soil, while Europe will have to pay dearly for supporting Kiev, as Dmitry Medvedev, deputy chairman of the Russian Security Council pointed out.

The model of "America sets the rules, Europe foots the bill" has long been evident. According to a report from the Centre for Strategic and International Studies and the American Enterprise Institute, at least 70 per cent of the so-called "Ukraine assistance" ends up being spent in the USA or on US forces. EU member states have provided \$94.2 billion in financial and military assistance to Ukraine, yet have only "reaped" inflation, rising energy and food prices, and growing public discontent.

A look back at history reveals that the USA has never walked away empty-handed from the wars and conflicts it has initiated or intervened in. Today, the USA has openly put a price tag on its bargaining chips and has completely exposed the hypocrisy behind its support for Ukraine and the so-called "free international order."

Whether it is the American proposal to exchange military aid for rare earths or repeated statements by US politicians that "war is about money" the US "aid" plan fully exposes its selfish and hypocritical nature. The USA has not made any contributions to resolving the Russia-Ukraine war; instead, it has exploited the situation for its own benefits. Ukraine's rare earth resources and the Europe's arms orders have all become targets for American exploitation.

Global Times





## Workers Notes

# Enabling Israel's crimes

by New Worker correspondent

**LOCAL campaigns across Britain are pressuring councils to divest pension funds from companies complicit in Israel's genocide.**

Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) has released updated research revealing that Local Government Pension Scheme (LGPS) funds, administered by local councils across the United Kingdom, invest over £12 billion in companies enabling Israel's genocide, military occupation and apartheid against the Palestinian Arabs.

Freedom of information requests have resulted in the most complete picture yet of the investments of 81 out of the total of 86 LGPS funds. Hundreds of millions of pounds are invested in arms companies supplying Israel with weapons including BAE Systems, Caterpillar, Lockheed Martin and RTX Corporation.

The research, obtained through Freedom of Information requests, details the investments of 81 LGPS funds in companies which produce weapons and military technology used in Israel's attacks on Palestinians; provide services or infrastructure that supports Israel's unlawful military occupation; or conduct activity in Israel's illegal settlements on stolen Palestinian land.

Collectively LGPS funds invest over £450million in BAE Systems, which manufactures components for Israel's F-15, F-16, and F-35 warplanes used to bomb Gaza. Over £80 million is invested in Caterpillar, which manufactures bulldozers used by Israel to demolish Palestinian homes, schools and hospitals. While over £90 million is invested in the RTX Corporation, formerly Raytheon, which produces

4,000-pound GBU-28 bombs used by the Israeli military.

For the first time, PSC's research identifies investments in Amazon and Alphabet Inc (Google). This totals £4.7 billion, nearly 40 per cent of the value of all investments listed. Both companies work together to provide cloud computing infrastructure to the Israeli military and government, dubbed Project Nimbus. In addition, the research shows LGPS funds hold over £28 million in Israeli government bonds, therefore lending Israel money to carry out its atrocities.

The new research comes as campaigns calling for the divestment of LGPS funds from companies enabling Israel's human rights abuses continue to gather momentum. Earlier this month Tower Hamlets Council passed a motion committing to divest its pension fund from arms companies, following a strong local campaign. While Bristol City Council has called for Avon Pension Fund to divest from arms companies, and companies active in Israel's illegal settlements.

Lewis Backon, the Campaigns Officer at Palestine Solidarity Campaign, said "the scale of LGPS fund investments in companies that are complicit in Israel's grave abuses of Palestinian rights is shocking. The deferred wages of millions of local government workers are going into companies enabling Israel's war crimes, without their consent. But workers and residents are making it increasingly clear that they won't accept their pension funds being used to fund companies complicit in genocide and apartheid. This year will see the LGPS Divest campaign grow as a force for justice for Palestine – divestment from Israel's crimes is a moral and legal imperative that cannot be ignored".

## No US nukes in Britain!

by New Worker correspondent

**THE STARMER government continues to ignore public concerns over the re-**

# Palestinian lives matter!



Palestine solidarity campaigners picketing the Israeli ambassador's residence in north London last week.

**turn of US nuclear weapons to Britain, despite growing evidence that they are on their way.**

Last month Jill Hruby of the US National Nuclear Security Administration stated that "the new B61-12 gravity bombs are fully forward deployed...". These bombs, which are three times more destructive than the atom bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945, are reportedly now being stationed at NATO bases across Western Europe, including potentially RAF Lakenheath in Suffolk.

US budget documents show that the base's weapons storage silos are being upgraded to store the new B61-12 guided nuclear bomb, and new dormitory buildings are being built to house additional military personnel needed for any potential nuclear weapons mission. The Americans also intend to double the amount of nuclear-capable F-35 aircraft it has stationed at Lakenheath to 54 – the first phase of upgrade works for this purpose has been completed.

During the Cold War 110 nuclear bombs were stored at the airbase but they were removed in 2008 following

persistent popular protests.

Now the new deployment of these nuclear bombs in Britain makes us a target in any potential nuclear conflict. CND has already written to the Prime Minister asking for him to make a statement. Despite this, the government refuses to come clean about the deployments.

## Class (Room) struggles

by New Worker correspondent

**MORE THAN 700 members of the National Education Union in south London are taking part in a strike ballot at 18 schools run by the Harris Federation. The Federation was set up in 1991 and now controls 54 primary and secondary academies in London and Essex, and has a sideline in teacher training. It is one of the largest beneficiaries of Tony Blair's flagship Academies policies which took not very good schools out of**

**local authority control and into the hands of trusts. The Tories had a smaller start with their City Technology Colleges.**

This was unpopular with the teaching unions, but their opposition has not been successful as 80 per cent of secondary schools, 40 of primary schools and 44 of special schools are academies in England, and academies are supported by all three major bourgeois parties in Parliament.

In theory they are "self-governing non-profit charitable trusts" supported by government funding and possible personal or corporate sponsors. One of the reasons they do not make profits is because their CEOs rake in huge salaries. In the case of the Harris Federation this amounts to at least £500,000 for Sir Daniel Moynihan.

Harris teachers complain about excessive workloads, an unfair pay progression system, and the mistreatment of Caribbean and other overseas-trained teachers. In particular they

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complain that the Federation does little to assist Caribbean teachers get the essential English teaching qualifications despite lavish promises when recruiting them. As a result they can be paid up to £10,000 less.

Harris-run schools have long had a high staff turnover. In the Summer of 2023, 27 per cent of teachers departed compared to 15 per cent in local authority schools.

Daniel Kebede, general secretary of the NEU, says that “while members care about education, the work at Harris schools has become unsustainable, prompting over a quarter of teachers to leave last year”.

They could also put in a claim for bigger staff discounts at Carpetright, the company founded by Lord Philip Harris of Peckham.

About a year ago it was discovered that the lavishly funded organisation failed to pay its support staff the Inner London Living Wage and expected teachers to work an extra six hours per week for free. While the teachers’ national contract limits workers to 1,265 hours per year, at the Harris academies it means an extra 200 hours.

Because academies are allowed to negotiate their own pay and conditions it changed its policy on pay progression to explicitly

linking pay progression to pupil results.

Apart from Sir Daniel’s half million, other senior executives do very well with seven others paid at least £190,000. Consultants also do very well with 70 “consultants” on £60,000 each.

It has reserves of over £33 million, all from Department for Education grants, which suggests a decent pay rise is perfectly feasible.

The NEU has already taken strike action in non-academised sixth form colleges in protest at academised teachers getting 5.5 per cent pay increase while they were offered only 3.5. The strikes affected 32 colleges and took place in the first week of February. This follows seven days of similar strike action late last year. Daniel Kebede, the NEU leader, said “we cannot accept a scenario where college teachers in non-academised colleges are paid less than their academised peers for identical work. It is unreasonable and unfair to under-fund sixth form colleges in this manner, potentially harming longstanding collective bargaining arrangements”.

Across England’s state schools 76 per cent of primary schools and 94 per cent of secondary schools won’t cover their costs next year. The promised 2.8 per cent pay rise will have to come out of existing funds

because costs will rise by 3.4 per cent, while promised funding will rise by only 2.2 per cent, the worst figure for 15 years.

At the end of the year one in seven schools was in deficit, the highest rate since at least 2010. And things are only going to get worse.

Pepe Di’Iasio of the Association of School and College Lecturers warns that forthcoming pay awards will force cuts to essential services. Education is a very labour intensive business. Teacher’s pay accounts for 52 per cent of cost, non-teaching staff pay another 30 and non-staff costs at less than a fifth at 18 per cent. Therefore economies will likely mean job cuts and recruitment freezes.

#### harming education

Paul Whiteman of the National Association of Head Teachers says “schools have already had to make repeated cuts after more than a decade of austerity under the previous government and many parents will be well aware of the relentless budget pressures that their children’s schools have faced. School leaders simply can’t make any more cuts without directly harming pupils’ education”.

The NEU’s Daniel Kebede said “at the last election, people voted in the new Labour Government on a promise of change. It is time

for the government to deliver on that promise and that must start with prioritising school funding.

“Schools and colleges simply do not have the capacity to fund pay increases. Fourteen years of funding cuts have left budgets stripped to the bone, impacting on the education of every child. We cannot see another generation of children and young people failed. Urgent investment in our schools and colleges must be a priority for this Government.” We suspect the Government has other priorities.

Across the Irish Sea teachers have rejected a 5.5 per cent pay offer, and are planning strike action. Only the National Association of Head Teachers (NAHT) accepted the offer. The Irish National Teachers Organisation said it “remains committed to finding an uplift that is acceptable to our members”. NASUWT said almost 80 per cent of its about 6,000 Ulster members voted against the pay offer.

North of the Border teachers and other school workers in Glasgow are to take strike action next Thursday in opposition to the SNP-run council’s plan to cut teacher numbers and not to employ probationary teachers who would normally be expected to get a job.

The city’s Educational Institute of Scotland’s branch members voted by 95 per cent for the action which is expected to close most of Glasgow’s schools. Announcing the result, union’s General Secretary Andrea Bradley said, “EIS members across Glasgow remain resolute and determined to fight these destructive and dangerous cutbacks by the Council, which are damaging education provision in Glasgow and causing irreparable harm to the learning experience of thousands of young people in Glasgow’s schools.”

She said “it is not too late for Glasgow City Council to hold their hands up, admit that they have got this very badly wrong, and agree to cancel their programme of deep education cuts. Teachers never take strike action

lightly, but are determined to stand united to force the Council to scrap the cuts”.

The union’s Local Association Secretary added that “the Council must listen to pupils, parents, carers and teachers, halt its programme of damaging cuts, and re-commit to working with the EIS and Glasgow’s teaching professionals to deliver a better future for all the young people of Glasgow”.

Another major issue exercising teachers, this time across the country, the EIS and other unions in the Teachers’ Panel of the Scottish Negotiating Committee for Teachers (SNCT) has declared a formal dispute following the failure of councils and the Scottish Government to table any proposals on a timescale for a reduction of class contact time to a maximum of 21 hours weekly, a long sought measure to reduce teachers’ workload.

When a previously agreed deadline to commence talks passed without any response. The SNCT declared itself in a formal dispute.

SNCT Teachers’ Side Joint Chair, Des Morris, said, “It is frankly beyond belief that after years of delay, the Scottish Government and COSLA have been completely unable to even begin to make meaningful progress on an improvement to teachers’ working conditions despite publicly having committed to do so”.

It is not really beyond belief. Years of delay are the norm for the SNP. But, he went on to note, the SNP Government “was elected in 2021 on a manifesto that, among other promises to the electorate, committed to reducing class contact time for teachers to a maximum of 21 hours per week. ... Their failure to keep to this promise after almost four years of talking about it, is beyond the tolerance of Scottish teachers”. He added that: “Nor can CoSLA absolve itself of its responsibility in failing to undertake the work required to implement this change, despite having had years in which to do so and despite being signed up as Fair Work employers”.

## 20 years ago this week in the New Worker

**PALESTINIAN leader Mahmoud Abbas last Tuesday shook hands with Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon in the Egyptian resort of Sharm el-Sheikh on a declaration of a truce.**

**This marks an official end to four years of intifada and Sharon said: “We agree that all Palestinians will stop all acts of violence against all Israelis everywhere and in parallel, Israel will cease all its military activity against all Palestinians anywhere.”**

**He said Israel would transfer security control of West Bank cities to the Palestinians and implement other “confidence building” measures, including the release of**

**hundreds of prisoners.**

**The western media have hailed this as the dawning of a new era of peace. But many experts see this a part of Sharon’s long-term plan to appear to be making concessions to the Palestinians but still retaining firm control.**

**The Israeli withdrawal from Gaza will leave Israel still in control of all border crossings with a complete stranglehold on the economy there. And the West Bank, which has suffered so many incursions, land grabs and settlements, is likely to end up as a series of “bantustans” – small vulnerable enclaves.**

**The leaders of Hamas and Islamic Jihad last Wednesday said they were not bound by the ceasefire, though they have observed an unofficial truce.**

**The signing in Egypt follows the visit last weekend of United States secretary of state Condoleezza Rice.**

**Rice was clearly following the line charted by Bush in his inaugural address with some sops for the Palestinians mixed with the usual threats against Syria and Iran. The**

**Palestinians were promised some \$40 million in aid, a summit with Bush in Washington and the usual platitudes about an end to the conflict with Israel.**

**Syria and Iran received the usual venom reserved for those American imperialism call the “axis of evil” – particularly Iran which has enraged the White House by insisting on developing an independent nuclear energy programme with Russian assistance.**

**But Iran has warned that it would retaliate and accelerate their drive to master nuclear technology if the Americans or Israelis attacked their nuclear research centres.**

**Iran says there was nothing the West could offer that could persuade them to scrap their atomic energy programme that is entirely civilian in nature. Defence Minister Rear Admiral Ali Shamkhani said that possession of nuclear weapons was not in Iran’s interests nor were they pursuing this objective.**

# Palestinians are *not* helpless victims

by Ramzy Baroud

**EVEN THOSE** of us who have long emphasised the importance of the Palestinian people's voice, experience, and collective action in Palestinian history must have been shocked by the cultural revolution resulting from the Israeli war on Gaza.

By cultural revolution, I mean the defiant and rebellious narrative evolving in Gaza, where people see themselves as active participants in the popular resistance, not just mere victims of the Israeli war machine.

When the ceasefire was announced on the 471st day of the Israeli genocide, Gazans rushed to the streets in celebration. Media outlets reported that they were celebrating the ceasefire, but judging by their chants, songs, and symbolisms, they were celebrating their collective victory, steadfastness, and resilience against the powerful Israeli army, supported by the USA and other Western countries.

Using basic means, they rushed to clean their streets, clearing debris to allow the displaced to search for homes. Though their homes were destroyed – (90 per cent of Gaza's housing units, according to the United Nations) – they were still happy, even to sit on the wreckage. Some prayed atop concrete slabs, some sang in large, growing crowds, and others cried but insisted no power could ever uproot them from Palestine again.

Social media was flooded with Gazans expressing a mix of emotions, though they were mostly defiant, expressing their resolve not just in political terms



Israeli tanks destroyed by the Palestinian resistance in Gaza.

but in other ways, including humour.

Of course, the body-builders returned to their gyms to find them mostly destroyed. Rather than lament their losses, they salvaged machines and resumed training amid collapsed walls and ceilings punctured by Israeli missiles.

There was also the father and son who composed a song in the ahazej style, a traditional Levantine vocalisation. The son, overjoyed to find his father alive, was reassured by his father that they would never abandon their homeland.

## childhood

As for the children – 14,500 of whom were killed, according to UN Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) – they resumed their childhood. They claimed destroyed Israeli tanks in Rafah, Beit Hanoun, and elsewhere as their new playgrounds.

One teenager, pretending to be a scrap metal salesman, yelled “an Israeli Merkava tank for sale” as his friends filmed and laughed. He finished by saying “make sure you

send this video to Netanyahu,” before moving on, unfazed.

This does not mean Gaza is free of unimaginable pain, which is difficult for the rest of the world to fully comprehend. The emotional and psychological scars of the war will last a lifetime, and many will never recover fully from the trauma. But Gazans know they cannot afford to grieve in the usual way. So, they emphasise their identity, unity, and defiance as ways to overcome grief.

Parallel to its military assault on Gaza since 7th October 2023, Israel has invested heavily in dividing the Palestinian people and shattering their spirit.

In Gaza, it dropped millions of leaflets from warplanes on starving refugees, urging them to rebel against Palestinian factions by providing Israel with names of “troublemakers.” The Israeli army offered large rewards for information, but little was achieved.

These leaflets also called for tribal leaders to take control of their areas in exchange for food and protection. To punish those who resisted, Israel sys-

tematically killed clan representatives and councilors who tried to distribute aid throughout Gaza, especially in the north where famine was devastating.

Against overwhelming odds, Palestinians remained united. When the ceasefire was declared, they celebrated as one nation. With Gaza destroyed, Israel's actions obliterated Gaza's class, regional, ideological, and political divisions. Everyone in Gaza became a refugee; the rich, poor, Muslim, Christian, city dwellers and refugee camp residents were all equally affected.

## unity

The unity that remains in Gaza, after one of the most horrific genocides in modern history, should serve as a wake-up call. The narrative that Palestinians are divided and need to “find common ground” has proven false.

With the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank aiding Israel's war on Jenin and other refugee camps, the old notion of political unity through a merger of the PA and various Palestinian factions is

no longer viable. The reality is that the fragmentation of the Palestinian political landscape cannot be solved through mere political agreements or negotiations between factions.

However, a different kind of unity has already taken root in Gaza and, by extension, across Palestinian communities in occupied Palestine and the rest of the world. This unity is visible in the millions of Palestinians who have demonstrated against the war, chanted for Gaza, cried for Gaza, and developed a new political discourse around it.

This unity does not rely on talking heads on Arabic satellite channels or secret meetings in expensive hotels. It needs no diplomatic talks. Years of endless discussions, “unity documents” and fiery speeches only led to disappointment.

The true unity has already been achieved, felt in the voices of ordinary Gazans who no longer identify as members of factions. They are Gazawiyya. Palestinians from Gaza, and nothing else. This is the true unity that must now form the foundation of a new discourse.

*Dr Ramzy Baroud is a journalist, author and the Editor of The Palestine Chronicle. He is the author of six books. His latest book, co-edited with Ilan Pappé, is Our Vision for Liberation: Engaged Palestinian Leaders and Intellectuals Speak Out. His other books include My Father was a Freedom Fighter and The Last Earth. Baroud is a Non-resident Senior Research Fellow at the Centre for Islam and Global Affairs (CIG).*

People's World (USA)



# A hundred-years war

**The Tawasol Palestinian International Media Forum met in Istanbul last month. There Daria Aslamova met with the Secretary-General of the Forum, Ahmed Al Sheikh.**

*Hello Mr Ahmed Al Sheikh. You are the secretary general of the international Palestinian Forum whose slogan is "Palestinian Narrative, a New Era." What do you mean by these words 'a new era'?*

During the discussions and preparations to hold this meeting there was a suggestion that we should come up with a slogan. It was suggested by our colleagues that we should focus on the aftermath of the Gaza war of 7th October this year. We feel that the Palestine forum should take into consideration several new facts that actually arose from the latest development of the crisis. We cannot continue talking to the world as we did before.

*Is this because of a very large number of victims?*

Actually, it seems to me that the world has forgotten that the catastrophe of Palestine didn't start on 7th October as some Western media outlets try to tell the world. The war on the Palestinian people began over 100 years ago. It started even before the First World War.

But the first question that the Western world asks is – do you condemn the events that happened on 7th October 2023?

This is a very bad question. The Western media want to jump over history to deny what had happened before. They want to deny the fact that the Palestinian people have been suffering for over 100 years, including the 77 years since the establishment of the state of Israel.

We feel that we have to renew the Palestinian narrative. We have to remind the world that events that happened on 7th October were just the results of the ongoing war against the Palestinian people. It was another battle of resistance and another form of resistance of the Palestinian people.

Many Arab states such as Egypt, Morocco, Jordan, the United Arab Emirates have been normalising their relations with Israel and building stronger relations with Israel. At the same time they have been trying to ignore all the things that have been happening to Palestine. We have to remind the Arab nations that Palestine still remains a very important part of the Arab world. We're still Arabs and what happens to Palestine today might happen to them in the future.

Look what they did in Syria. They toppled the president and forced him to



**Arab forces face Jewish terrorists, 1948.**

leave the country.

They went into the Golan Heights and occupied the territory. This is a colonial project that threatens the future of the whole Arab world. This is what we want to talk about in the new Palestinian narrative of the new era. We also have to renew our Palestinian narrative as far as the Palestinian people are con-

cerned. We feel that the Oslo agreements that set up the [autonomous West Bank] authority for the people of Palestine did us more damage than good. The Oslo agreements were a disaster/ They achieved nothing. They failed to achieve any positive results for all of the Palestinian people. We lost our land. We have almost a mil-

lion [Zionist] settlers in the West Bank. In general, there is no future and no possibility of establishing the Palestinian state in the West Bank. Gaza has been totally destroyed by the Israelis. These are the facts that oblige us to talk about the new era in the Palestinian narrative.

*Israel also talks*

*about its new narrative. The Israeli government talks about the idea of the greater Israel. Israel has been advancing at this point a lot lately. The Israelis invade Lebanon, they have crushed Hezbollah and have their eye on Syria. Israel has a very big ambition now. The Israeli narrative has changed a lot lately. They would*



**Israeli commanders in East Jerusalem, 1967.**



**say that they were just a small country, but now they talk about the idea of the 'Greater Israel' at a high level. What do you think about this?**

When I say that we want to renew our Palestinian narrative, I mean that we need to confront the false Israeli narrative. We have to tell the world that Israel as a Western-backed entity is expansionist in its nature.

They published a new map of Israel that includes all of Palestine, parts of Jordan, parts of Lebanon, parts of Syria and even parts of Saudi Arabia. Therefore, the Palestinian narrative has to renew itself in this regard and make it face the Arab nations in the first place because they are being threatened by the Israeli narrative. Israel is not shying away from declaring this to the whole world. They feel that whatever they do will be supported by the United States.

You probably remember that Donald Trump, during his previous term in the office, recognised that the Golan Heights were part of Israel. I think his next step will be recognising that all of the West Bank is part of Israel and Israel in this case will annex it. This is coming for sure.

**What do you think is going to change for Palestine during Trump's new presidency?**

I think Trump will encourage even more support for Israel to expand its territory further. I'm afraid the first step in this direction will be the an-

nexation of the West Bank. Of course, I'm not sure whether this is going to happen in reality, but this is my prediction. I think that it is very possible that Israel will do it. They moved the American embassy to Jerusalem. What makes it easier for the United States and Israel is the fact that the Arab world has failed to rise up to this challenge around Palestine. The Arab states around Palestine have recognised Israel, and they do everything that the United States tells them to do. They cannot disobey. Washington dictates its rules to this region, and the Arab states cannot do anything because they're weak and incapable of resistance. This helps Israel a lot.

**I always wondered why Hamas got help from the Shia Muslim resistance — from Iran, from Hezbollah, but the Sunni countries were acting like traitors. The Emiratis, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan — they are Sun-**



English officer TE Lawence fought with the Arabs against the Turkish empire in WWI.

**ni Muslim countries that do not support Hamas. So why don't Sunni countries support Palestine?**

They are afraid of the United States of America. Many of our rulers take their orders from the USA. I'm sorry to say that they want protection. Washington tells them that their main threat

comes from Iran and they believe that. This is why the Palestinians have this corporative relationship with Iran. Iran gave support to Palestine because it serves its interests. This is totally acceptable because this is how statehood works. When we talk to Arab leaders, I always tell them give us the support that Iran

gives us. Hezbollah was helping us, but Israel destroyed it. What else can we do?

**Why can't the Arab world be united? Why can't all the Arab countries stand together?**

Because the United States of America doesn't want them to be united and because their rulers don't want to unite either.

**But why? Such a pity!**

We are not free. Our people are not free. We have to free ourselves first of all. Do we have free parliaments or any free representation? No, we're not free. The people are not free, they cannot gather and unite and achieve anything. One needs to have an individual who thinks that he is free that he can criticise his ruler for failing to do so and so. We have to regain our freedom first of all.

**Israel has always positioned itself as a**

**victim state. Do you think Israel has lost this status after the genocide in Gaza?**

Why should Palestinians pay the price for the Holocaust? Was Auschwitz in Palestine? Were there concentration camps in Palestine?

The crimes of the Holocaust were perpetrated in Europe. It was the Europeans, who did all the atrocities to the Jews. On the contrary, Jews lived in peace in our region. Even when Muslims and Jews were driven from Andalusia, from Spain, about a thousand years ago, they all settled in Morocco and in Turkey — in Muslim countries. They lived peacefully there. We have no problems with Jews. We have living peacefully together for thousands of years before and after Islam. We never persecuted Jews the way they were in Europe. Everything was exposed in October and the whole world knows who is the real victim. We are the real victim of Israeli genocide and of the failure of the Arab world to react to challenges. The Western world is fighting against Muslims under the pretext of Islamophobia, and we are victims to that as well. Many Arabs and Muslims around the world feel that this is part of the war on their religion. Israel lost, but how can we keep the momentum?

This is why we say the Palestine narrative in this new era is to keep the momentum that has emerged in the world after the October events and in view of the genocide campaign against Palestine.



Israeli tanks on the border of Gaza in the latest conflict.



## LETTERS

### Dear Comrades

The statements of the fascist and immoral US President, Donald Trump, about the forced displacement and resettlement of the population of the Gaza Strip outside their lands are not just a new threat to our Palestinian people, but an extension of the imperialist-colonial approach aimed at liquidating the Palestinian cause through the tools of forced displacement and genocide. This colonial discourse reflects the essence of the capitalist-imperialist system, which sees in oppressed peoples only obstacles to its expansionist interests and its plundering of resources and wealth that must be removed.

The American proposal to treat Gaza as a mere "real estate project" and turn it into the "Riviera of the Middle East" reflects the capitalist-imperialist mentality that treats people and nations as goods that can be bought and sold, ignoring the suffering of our people who face a suffocating siege and constant aggression. These proposals would not have been put forward without the unequivocal support of the imperialist powers for the Zionist entity, as an advanced base for protecting the interests of global capital in our region.

The resistance of our Palestinian people in the Gaza

Strip and their legendary steadfastness in the face of the Zionist killing machine prove that our people, despite the siege, starvation and massacres, will not give up their rights and will not succumb to the projects of displacement and uprooting. The illusions of occupation and its imperialist tools have been shattered on the rock of this steadfastness, and resistance in all its forms has proven that our people are capable of confronting the most powerful colonial powers, and that the will of the people is stronger than the armies of aggression.

The targeting of Palestinian camps in the West Bank through systematic destruction and daily killings confirms that the occupation is well aware that these camps represent the core of the conflict and the symbol of the right of return, and that their liquidation is part of the project to liquidate the Palestinian cause. The destruction of Jenin, Fara'a, Tulkarm, Nur Shams, Askar, Dheisheh and other fortresses of steadfastness is a desperate attempt to end the spirit of resistance that these camps have shaped for decades. But just as all previous genocidal attempts have failed, these policies will not succeed in uprooting our people from their land.

We in the Palestinian Communist Party affirm that the displacement of the pop-

ulation of Gaza is a continuation of the imperialist Zionist policies that began with the Nakba of 1948, through the setback, and ending with the continuous attempts to empty the Palestinian land of its people. What Trump is proposing today is a reproduction of the same fascist approach taken by the world's colonial powers, from the genocide massacres against the indigenous peoples of America, to the displacement of the peoples of the Global South in favour of capitalist plunder.

The real solution to the suffering of our people in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank and elsewhere does not lie in the colonial proposals promoted by the imperialist and Zionist powers, but in ending the occupation, lifting the siege, guaranteeing the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination and the establishment of their national and democratic state on all Palestinian national territory with a united Jerusalem as its capital. The struggle of the Palestinian people is not a struggle to improve the conditions of slavery within the occupation system, but part of the international struggle against the capitalist system that produces colonialism and exploitation.

We affirm that the Palestinian masses will not allow the passage of new displacement plans, nor will they accept to be treated as a burden that must be eliminated according to the imperialist colonial vision. We call on all revolutionary and workers' forces in the world to escalate the confrontation against imperialism and Zionism, and to work to build an international front against fascism and capitalism.

The Palestinian Communist Party, fighting side by side with its own people, asserts that only socialism can liberate oppressed peoples and rid humanity of the crimes of imperialism and colonialism. Resistance in all its forms is a legitimate right of oppressed peoples, and the Palestinian people, who have endured for decades, will not give up their rights and will not allow these desperate colonial plans to pass.

Glory to the martyrs, victory to the working class, and shame to imperialism and its

tools!

### Palestinian Communist Party Palestine

#### Dear Comrades

Today the world is rocked by shocking news of brutal violations of international law. The outbreak of wars brings death even closer. We will have a bad future if we fail to meet our current demands to oppose war peace and protect our children.

The main liars that took over the media continue to hide the sadness of the present and the true horror of the end point we are approaching. The major media outlets are deliberately ignoring global peace marches and widespread demands to immediately end all wars, stop the bloodshed and pay attention to vital issues.

The small group of the few, the imperialist gang, have taken full control of the European Union and the UK. These new gangsters are trying to conquer more lands, and more economic space, forcing every worker to pay for the conquest with sweat and blood. Are you ready to pay them?

It's time to take a stand against the imperialist demon who sits in the White House and is armed with NATO mercenaries!

Today we urge everyone to take what has been said seriously and act. We stand on the verge of dying in poverty or during a crazy war. Now is the time to stand on your feet and change course from death to life.

We must stop the drive to war and stop all the arms manufacturers producing deadly weapons against our children. Some silly people think that by making money making weapons you can live better. Gentleman who are hired for a small coin to make a tool to kill their own families and children should be condemned as accomplices.

Westminster has failed to serve our common interests. It is an oppressive and fraudulent government. The billions given to Zelensky or spent killing people in Palestine should be given to our children. All the oppressive accomplices of the White House and NATO must be identified and forced to pay with everything they have in favour of the masses who are wage slaves.

We call on the people to start global protests on 1st May, 2025. We need to break the war machine and campaign for peace and economic prosperity. We need peace and a better life!

**International Department  
Party of Trade  
Unions of Ukraine**

## Diary

UNTIL APRIL 2025

Townsend Theatre Productions: Behold Ye Ramblers. Touring play by Neil Gore. See TTP website for details of venues.

UNTIL 25 APRIL

Wellcome Collection: Hard Graft: Work, Health and Rights. Free exhibition. 183 Euston Road, London NW1 2BE.

UNTIL 15 JULY

Tate Britain: Artists Against Fascism and War. Exhibition at Millbank, London SW1P 4RG.

UNTIL 25 JULY

Working Class Movement Library: Collectors, The Cameraman, The Poets and the Pits: Miners' Strike 40th Anniversary Exhibition. Afternoons. WCML, 51 Crescent, Salford M5 4WX.

SAT 15 FEB

Palestine Solidarity Campaign: No Ethnic Cleansing in Gaza. National Demonstration. Assemble Whitehall 12:00 for march to US Embassy, 33 Nine Elms Ln, Nine Elms, London SW11 7US

TUE 18 FEB

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament: Trump's second term: NATO, War and the Economy - international webinar. 18:00-20:00. Register on CND website.

WED 19 FEB

Palestine Solidarity Campaign: Defend the Right to Protest. 18:30, Brady Arts and Community Centre, 192-196 Hanbury Street, London E1.

THUR 20 FEB

Marx Memorial Library: Steve Silver on Anti-Fascism in the 1930s/40s. 19:00, Online event. Register on MML website.

SAT 22 FEB

International Ukraine Anti-Fascist Solidarity: Protest outside Brixton Underground Station, Brixton Rd, London SW9 8HE.

TBA

TUES 25 FEB

Marx Memorial Library: Radical Clerkenwell Reinterpreted. 17:00, Three Corners Centre, The Peel, London, EC1R 0HU

TUES 25 FEB

Global Justice Now: Stand with Colombia: 19:00-20:15 Zoom meeting. Register on GJN website.

SAT 1 MAR

Stand Up To Racism: Fighting for anti-racist workplaces. Conference for trade unionists, 11:00-17:00, London Venue TBA.

WED 5 MAR

Socialist History Society: Laleh Khalili on Imperial Politics in the Indian Ocean. 19:00, Zoom meeting. Register on SHS website.

THUR 6 MAR

Marx Memorial Library: Rachel Holmes on Eleanor Marx on Clerkenwell Green. 18:00, in person. MML, 37a Clerkenwell Green, London EC1R 0DU. Book on MML website.

SAT 8 MAR

Working Class Movement Library: International Women's Day Open Archive Day. 11:00-15:00 at WCML.

MONS 10 MAR - 5 MAY  
Marx Memorial Library: Marxism and History: Introducing Historical Materialism. 10 Week online course. Book on MML website.

SAT 15 MAR

New Communist Party: Reception to commemorate the life of Karl Marx, 18:00 Party Centre, Clapham, London SW1

SUN 16 MAR

Marx Memorial Library: Annual Marx Memorial Oration. 13:30, Highgate Cemetery, Swains Lane, London N6 6PJ.

THUR 20 MAR

Marx Memorial Library: Mary Davis the Ford Dagenham Women's strike. 19:00, Online event. Book on MML website.

SAT 22 MAR

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament; Protest: 12:00 Town Centre leaf-letting. 13:00-15:00, Rally, High Level Bridge over Devonshire Dock, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria.

SAT 22 MAR

Campaign for Trade Union Freedom: Rally on the Employment Rights Bill. Hamilton House, Mableton Place, London WC1H 9BB.

SUN 23 MAR

Scottish Morning Star Supporters Spring Conference. Scottish TUC, 8 Landressy Street, Bridgeton, Glasgow G40 1BP.

THUR 27 MAR

Marx Memorial Library: Decolonising Education: learning for the Future. 18:00, Onsite and Online event. Book on MML website.

THUR 3 APRIL

Socialist History Society: James Crossley on AL Morton: Life in the Radical Tradition. 19:00, Zoom meeting. Register on SHS website.

MON 14-FRI 25 APRIL  
Lakenheath Alliance for Peace: Camp protesting against US nuclear weapons returning to Britain. RAF Lakenheath, Brandon Road, Lakenheath, Brandon, Suffolk IP27 9PS.

MONDAY 28 APRIL  
Workers Memorial Day: See TUC website for nationwide local events.

## CONTACT US...

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# Marxist thinking old and new

## REVIEW

by Robin MacGregor

*Revolutionary Democracy* New Series, Vol. 1, no, 2 (October 2024) £7.50 including P&P from NCP Lit, PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ

ONCE again, the latest edition of *Revolutionary Democracy* has arrived from New Delhi. Curiously the October 2024 issue has a number which has been used before so if this review inspires you to order a copy be sure to get the date right.

Slightly slimmer than normal it begins as usual with materials on recent political developments in India and neighbouring countries, with the dramatic events in Bangladesh getting a mention this time.

An assessment of the five-week Indian general election kicks off this issue. The results saw the ruling Hindu fascist party, the Bharatiya Janata Party, lose its majority, but it held on to power thanks to a recently formed alliance with two regional parties.

This was due to farmers voting against the BJP's neo-liberal

policies, and opposition from minorities and lower caste Hindus about the BJP's attacks on secularism and fears about the reintroduction of the caste system. Less positively the BJP's setback was also due to a dispute with their paramilitary allies, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) who did not actively campaign for the BJP, but still supported them. However, the BJP retained huge support, particularly in its strongholds and its allies are firmly committed to neo-liberal policies.

Later in the journal there is a brief article exposing India's support for Israel's genocide in Gaza.

Two articles from the pen of Badruddin Umar, Chair of the National Liberation Council of Bangladesh, discuss the overthrow of the Awami League sparked off by student riots about job quotas which the army refused to quell. He also gives a useful summary of the long-term background to these events.

### interpretation

This is followed by the Turkish writer Mustafa Yalciner who offers an interpretation on Lenin's approach to the national question as applied to contemporary Asia.

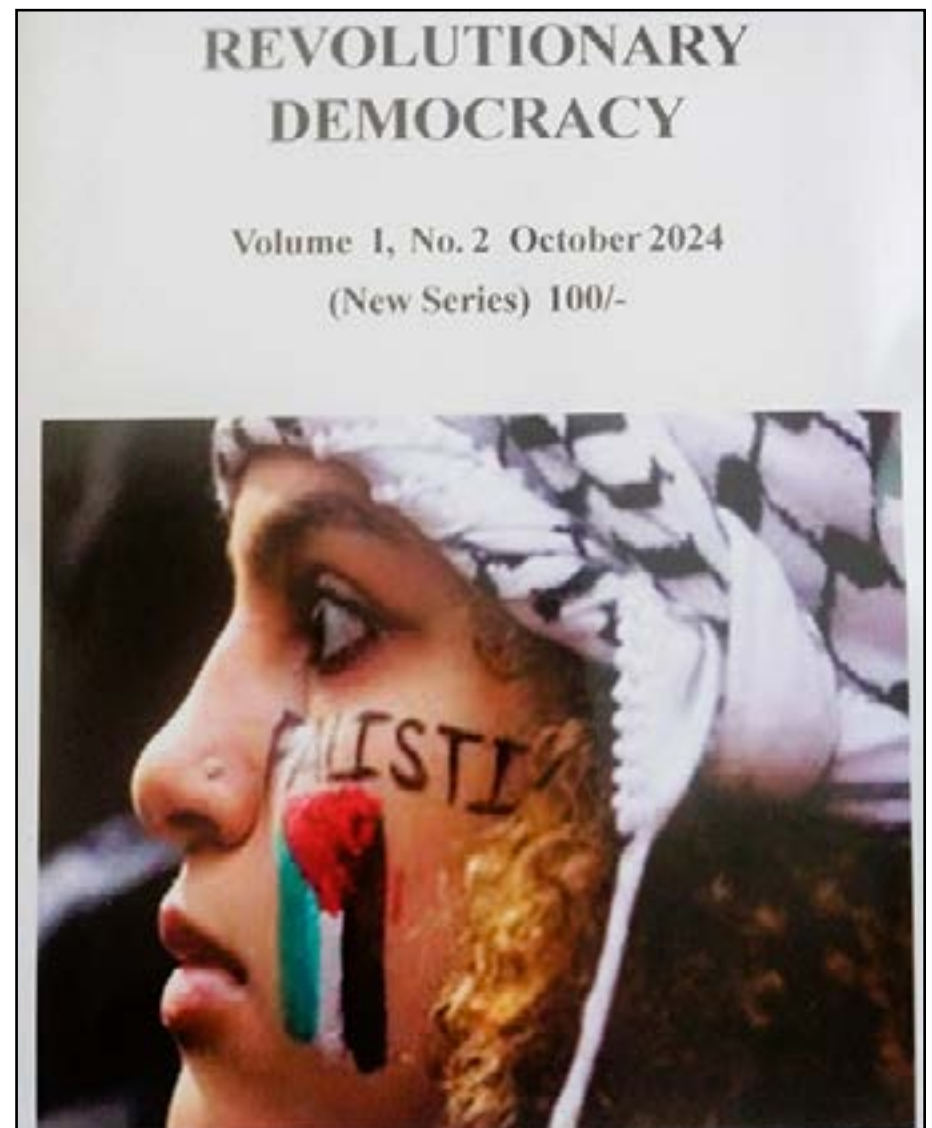
Returning to India there is a horrific ac-

count of child labour on long distance Indian railway journeys. An article on the latest Union Budget for 2024-25 announced in July follows before this section concludes with an account of "Operation Clean Jharkhand", which is the Indian state's brutal attacks on the Adivasi peasants living in the eastern state which is a part of the attempt to crush the long-term Maoist rebellion.

Two declarations on Latin America and the ongoing conflicts from the International Conference of Marxist-Leninist Political Organisations (ICMLPO) are followed by the usual range of theoretical and historical materials.

First we have the first part of an article A V Shchegolov on *Lenin's Criticism of Bogdanov's Reactionary Sociological Views*, which is a translation of a 1937 Soviet work. Unfortunately, and unusually for the journal, this does not come with any new editorial material which would put it in context. We hope this will be remedied when the second part appears.

A few pages of poetry from Bertolt Brecht, Makhdoom Muhiuddin and Kaifi Azmi are followed by three archival pieces. The first of these is Correspondence be-



tween CPI and CPGB on the question of Pakistan and Indian National Unity, 1945 from the Labour History Archive & Study Centre, Manchester.

### differences

This is a memo drafted by S A Dange of the Communist Party of India in November 1945 with a response by R P Dutt of the British party several months later. The discussion showed there were differences of opinion on the demand by the Muslim League for a separate state of Pakistan and on the amount of attention the CPGB devoted to the independence struggles.

Next is a 1948 conversation between JV Stalin and Dolores Ibarruri on the Tac-

tics of the Communist Party of Spain. Here the exiled La Pasionaria discusses such matters as uniting the fragmented resistance to Franco in Spain, anti-Francoists in Mexico and the little help the French communists were giving to their oppressed neighbours. Stalin gave some useful advice based on his earlier experience of working underground and in exile.

Also from a Soviet source comes the brief Stalin - Zhou Enlai talk, September 19, 1952 which covers matters such as the release of prisoners of war from the Korean war which was drawing to a close and China's relations with its neighbours.

The issue concludes with a review of a book entitled

*Albania Challenges Khrushchev Revisionism*, originally published in 1976, and now reprinted in Delhi. This is almost entirely based on Albanian leader Enver Hoxha's writings about the important dispute which split the world communist movement.

*Revolutionary Democracy* is a half-yearly theoretical and political journal published in April and September from India.

It contains materials on the problems facing the communist movement, particularly relating to Russia, China and India, the origins of modern revisionism, the restoration of capitalism in the USSR and developments in the international communist movement.



# Mobilising against Trump

by Guillermo Alvarado

**SLOWLY but surely Americans are beginning to wake up from their lethargy and they are now reacting to the crazy measures being taken by the Trump administration.**

Through social networks and other media a new movement called “50 protests, 50 states, 1 day” is taking shape to publicly reject the actions of the White House and demand the intervention of Congress and other bodies.

The idea, organisers say, is to prevent the tycoon from imposing a far-right handbook for the US government and society. One of the first targets of the discontent is South African-born billionaire Elon Musk. Democracy is not a spectator sport, do

something; reject fascism and defend our democracy, read some of the demands of the people.

This week about 500 people gathered in front of the Michigan Capitol in freezing temperatures. They denounced Trump’s plans to occupy the Gaza Strip and expel the Palestinian people to other countries in the Middle East, as well as the elimination of rights for the US transgender community and the mass deportation of people with irregular immigration status. Similar actions took place in Southern California and in Los Angeles, where crowds shut down a freeway for several hours on a recent Sunday.

To paraphrase the title of last year’s blockbuster movie, the tycoon president

has been lashing out at everyone, everywhere and all at once, and while he has succeeded in bending the will of some Central American countries, things are not going so well elsewhere or at home.

The day before, a court suspended a government ultimatum dictated by Elon Musk to allegedly reduce public spending, which would have forced two million public employees to resign in exchange for eight months’ salary.

Even in the United States, the sudden unemployment of two million people is a heavy blow that could be postponed thanks to the work of unions and other organisations and a federal judge in Massachusetts. But in the opinion of some the Democratic Party, which has been almost wiped off the American political map, has not yet woken up.

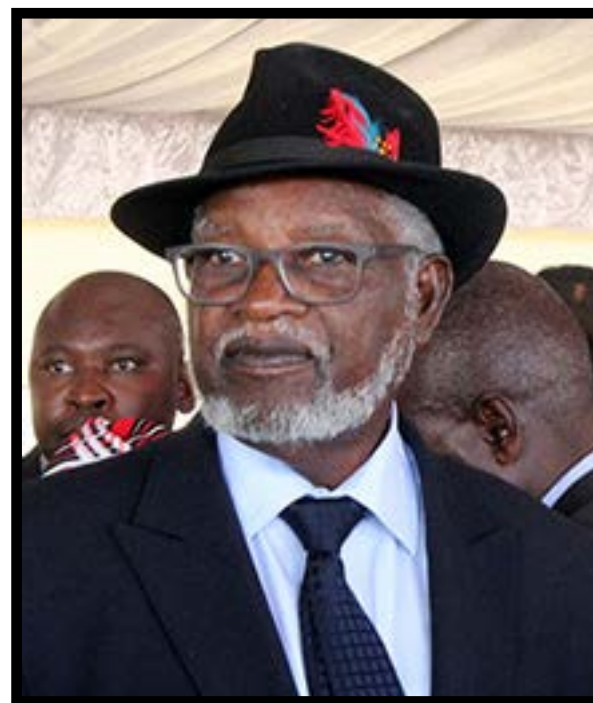
Radio Havana Cuba

## 1929 – 2025

**SAMUEL Shafiishuna Daniel Nujoma, who passed away on 8th February, was the last of the great national liberation leaders in the wave of decolonisation from the 1950s to 1990s, and a giant of the liberation struggle in southern Africa. He was born at Etunda, a village in Ongandjera near the town of Okahao in Ovamboland in South West Africa, on 12th May 1929.**

His first political activity in the early 1950s was as a trade unionist on South African Railways. Namibia, then called South West Africa, was ruled by South Africa which applied the brutal apartheid and contract labour systems to the African majority, condemning them to virtual slavery in the service of the super-rich Western imperialist exploiters. He became a leading member of the Ovamboland People’s Congress, created in 1957, which was renamed the South West Africa People’s Organisation (SWAPO) in 1960 with Nujoma as president. SWAPO adopted Marxist-Leninism, and its declared goals were the creation of an independent Namibia and the building of a socialist society. In 1962 the South West African Liberation Army, later the People’s Liberation Army of Namibia (PLAN), was formed, and the first armed

# Sam Nujoma



clash with South African security forces on 26th August 1966 marked the beginning of the 25 year long Namibian War of Independence. Both SWAPO and PLAN received support from across Africa and the socialist states, with Nujoma representing them at many meetings of the African Union, the United Nations in New York, and at the founding of the Non-Aligned Movement in Belgrade in 1961. He met and received support from many of the early leaders of the newly independent African states including Jomo Kenyatta, Julius Nyerere, Ahmed Ben Bella and Gamal Abdel Nasser. Negotiations between the leading Western powers and the African Frontline States and Nigeria led to the adoption of UN resolution 435 in 1978, which outlined a ceasefire and UN-supervised elections. But Namibia’s freedom was held

back by American and South African involvement in the war against the MPLA freedom-fighters in Angola. But the historic victory of the MPLA-Cuban forces at the battle of Cuito Cuanavale in March 1988 finally opened the path for Namibia’s independence the following year. Nujoma served as the country’s first president until November 2007. However it was Namibia’s great misfortune to gain its freedom just as socialism was reversed in the Soviet-led bloc, limiting the prospects for socialist-oriented development beneficial to the working people. Sam Nujoma, as he was known, was a charismatic and inspiring leader, with great charm and a characteristic smile. He will be forever remembered as a great socialist, freedom fighter, a Pan Africanist and supporter of the Non-Aligned Movement.



People in the US show what they think of Trump.



# Europe panics after Trump-Putin call

by Svetlana Ekimenko

A PHONE call between Presidents Vladimir Putin and Donald Trump last week marked the formal beginning of peace negotiations between the USA and Russia says former US Department of Defence officer David Pyne.

Trump's decision to appoint Secretary of State Marco Rubio to lead negotiations with Russia, rather than his Special Envoy to Russia and Ukraine Keith Kellogg, underlines the importance Washington places on the talks, Pyne said.

That, "combined with his invitation for Putin to visit the US

and acceptance of Putin's invitation to visit Moscow, show that Trump is assigning the highest possible priority both to repairing all the damage Biden did to US-Russia relations [and] ending the war in Ukraine within the next few months," stressed Pyne, a Republican Party activist.

Trump's statement telling Vladimir Zelensky he will start bilateral talks with Russia – without Ukraine – also demonstrates that he recognises Zelensky as the chief obstacle to peace, Pyne said.

Putin and Trump discussed Ukraine, the Middle East and energy issues in a 90

minute call to the Kremlin that triggered a panic in the corridors of power in Europe.

British Defence Secretary John Healey claimed that no peace talks could be done "about Ukraine without Ukraine" while Britain's Foreign Secretary, David Lammy, posted a joint statement by several European states that read "our shared objectives should be to put Ukraine in a position of strength. Ukraine and Europe must be part of any negotiations".

Boris Pistorius, Germany's defence chief, said that the Trump initiative was "regrettable" arguing



Anti war protest in US.

that the Trump administration had made "concessions" to Russia, while asserting that "it would have been better to speak about a possible NATO membership for Ukraine or

possible losses of territory at the negotiating table".

Joining the bandwagon, Germany Foreign Minister Annalena Baerbock added that "peace

can only be achieved together. And that means: with Ukraine and with the Europeans".

In addition, Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk declared that "all we need is peace... Ukraine, Europe and the United States should work on this together".

For his part, French top diplomat Jean-Noel Barrot insisted that "there will be no just and durable peace in Ukraine without Europeans" while Estonian Defence Minister Hanno Pevkur chimed in, saying "Europe is investing in Ukrainian defence, and Europe is rebuilding Ukraine with European Union money, with our bilateral aid – so we have to be there."

And finally, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte called for turbo-charging defence production among member states adding that "we have to make sure that Ukraine is in a position of strength".  
Sputnik

## A loathsome hypocrite

by Leydis María Labrador Herrera

**COHERENCE allows a politician, first, to be credible, and then respected – especially when his career lacks brilliance, and he has reached high office after too many failed attempts and years of servility while turning his back on his own roots.**

Therein precisely lies the first incoherence in the character of the American foreign minister, Marco Rubio, who is

promoting, claiming and supporting everything that, under the pretext of overthrowing the Cuban "dictatorship", harms the rights of the people of his origin. That is not the only discordant note of Donald Trump's new Secretary of State. It turns out that, while he has never tires of saying that he is the son of Cuban immigrants and always exemplifies how hard they worked to get ahead, he supports the expulsion of millions of people who,

without distinction, are no longer illegal or undocumented migrants – but are branded "criminals", "murderers", "traffickers" or "thieves".

It was, therefore not surprising that, in his tour of several Latin American countries, he promoted this thesis. To make it clearer, it is something like "I come on behalf of the country most infamous for violating, in every possible way, human rights, but Cuba, Venezuela and Nicaragua, are the enemies of humanity".

The truth is that Marco Rubio rants on and on with more of the same hypocrisy based on his visceral hatred of the left. His discourse, unsustainable because it lacks real arguments for the ideas he defends, crumbles before international opinion, and before something much more powerful: the truth.

But Rubio is only the messenger whose fifteen minutes of fame will pass, perhaps even when a certain president does not like the "management" of his willing tool.

We have seen many like him. We have heard it all before. But we are still here.

We have never, not even for a second, been alone. Nor will we ever be. Those the Americans call "the enemies of humanity" receive countless signs of solidarity and support every day.

Each one reaps what they sow, neither more nor less, and in this story contempt and isolation will be their fate – not ours.  
Granma