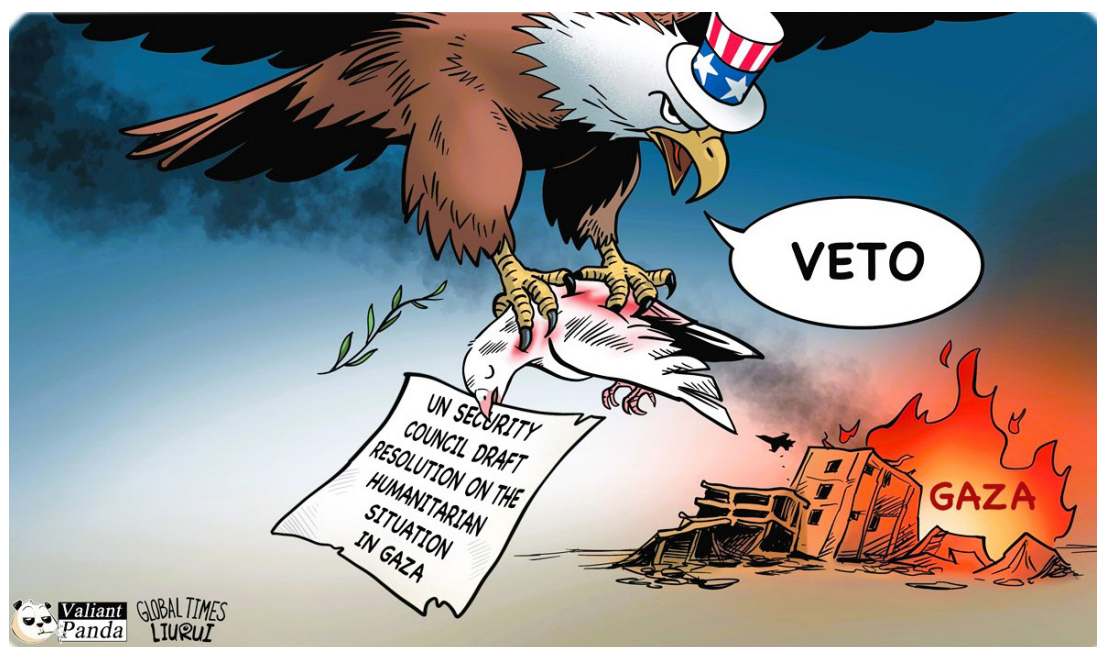


Gaza: US vetoes call for peace!

by our Arab
Affairs correspondent

Russia and People's China have condemned the latest American move to block international efforts to end Zionist aggression in Gaza. The Trump administration has again vetoed UN action to stop the genocide in Gaza. And Hamas, the Muslim brotherhood which leads the resistance in the besieged Palestinian enclave, says this provides a green light for continued Israeli attacks on civilians. "The US veto embodies the American administration's blind bias towards the fascist occupation government and its support for its crimes against humanity committed in the Gaza Strip," Hamas said. "The failure of the UN Security Council to stop the war of genocide that has been ongoing for twenty months... raises fundamental questions about the role of international community institutions and the effectiveness of international laws."

US imperialism formed a minority of one last week to block a UN Security Council resolution demanding an immediate, unconditional and permanent ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and a complete Israeli withdrawal from the Palestinian enclave that has staved off Zionist aggression for the last



18 months.

The resolution sought to "immediately and permanently" end the conflict and restore humanitarian access and essential services across the devastated Palestinian territory. The American veto went up against affirmative votes of all of the Council's other members, including Britain and France.

In New York, the Chinese representative at the UN said his country was "deeply disappointed" by the result of the vote. Fu Cong said the draft resolution reflected the most pressing demands of the people in Gaza and the overwhelming voice of the international community. "The United States has once again abused its veto power, extinguishing the glimmer of hope for the people in Gaza and ruthlessly continuing to leave over two million people in darkness. It must face the questioning from the international community," he said.

As the primary body for the maintenance of international peace and security, the UN Security Council has been striving

to achieve a ceasefire in Gaza and has long reached an overwhelming consensus. Wednesday's vote result once again exposes that the root cause of the council's inability to quell the conflict in Gaza is the repeated obstruction by the USA, said Fu.

The USA has vetoed the Security Council's request for a Gaza ceasefire many times. And because of its shielding of Israel, several resolutions adopted by the Council on Gaza have yet to be effectively implemented.

The US claim that Security Council action at the moment would interfere with diplomatic efforts is completely untenable, he said. "As long as diplomatic efforts are genuinely aimed for peace, the Council's action will only provide strong support."

But a veto by a single permanent member cannot stop the march toward peace, Fu said, adding: "We urge the United States to face up to its responsibilities as a permanent member of the Security Council, abandon its political calculations, and adopt a just and responsible attitude in

supporting the Council to take all necessary actions."

In Moscow, the Kremlin said that the USA has again missed an opportunity to stop the bloodshed. "The US representatives opposed the resolution, using

their veto power for the seventh time since the beginning of the crisis on UN Security Council drafts concerning the Israeli-Palestinian settlement," the Russian foreign ministry said. "In fact, the US side rejected its own plan for a deal between Israel and Hamas, drafted in conjunction with Egyptian and Qatari mediators.

"One more chance was missed to stop the horrific bloodshed and famine in Gaza, which has already claimed the lives of approximately 55,000 Palestinians and left another 125,000 wounded.

"Moscow is convinced that this vicious circle of violence and suffering can be broken only by a complete and universal ceasefire, the release of all hostages, ensuring humanitarian access via all routes, and re-starting the peace process on the internationally recognised two-state solution, with peaceful co-existence of Palestine and Israel."

FUND

We topped our £3,500 monthly target this week thanks to supporters who included the Welsh comrade who sent in £200 and an East Anglian supporter who donated £46. A comrade in Berlin gave us £50 and another German supporter sent in £30. It all came to £607, giving us a grand total of £3,563 for May!

Although we've been set back by almost a week of broadband failures we are now back on track. The service from our internet provider was restored on Friday after an afternoon of work on street lines where the fault was eventually found. This edition is being despatched late but we are aiming to get back on schedule next week.

We're going to keep the *New Worker* going for as long as we can and for as long as it's needed on the street – and that's where we belong – campaigning for peace, putting the communist alternative back on the agenda and building the communist movement. Speed the day!

The June appeal starts now! Please send your contribution to: New Worker Fund, PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to the 'New Worker'.

To save a stamp you can also use your credit or debit card to send contributions here: <http://newworker.org/npccentral/fightingfund.html>

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THE NEW WORKER

Weekly paper of the New Communist Party

A new lease of life for Labour?

Labour's victory in the south Lanarkshire by-election this week has surprised the bookies, dented the prestige of the SNP and boosted the standing of Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar. But while the nationalists were expected to hold their Hamilton, Larkhall & Stonehouse seat the political pundits always said it would be a close run thing.

And so it was, with Labour's Davy Russell beating the nationalists by a margin of 602 votes. The Faragists came a close third while the Scottish Tories were well behind with the also-rans.

Labour's U-turn over pensioners' winter-fuel payments and the expansion of the free school meals scheme clearly helped sway voters – as did the decision to keep Sir Keir Starmer well away from the constituency during the campaign.

But although Labour and the nationalists were neck and neck in Hamilton, the SNP still retain a clear lead in the national polls. Professor John Curtice says “the recent message from opinion polls are the SNP is running at just over 30 per cent, Labour is around 20 per cent, so it seems a reasonable expectation that such a result would not mean Anas Sarwar is Scotland's next First Minister”.

No arms for Israel!

Too much even for Britain or France to stomach – the latest American veto at the United Nations shows the true colours of the Trump administration as the instigator of the Zionist massacres in the Gaza Strip. But while the Starmer government likes to pose as “even-handed” or even sympathetic to the legitimate demands of the Palestinians it continues to supply arms and intelligence to the Zionist entity.

Now a new Opinion poll reveals huge British public support for an arms embargo on Israel by the UK government alongside other sanctions. The British public support a full arms embargo on Israel by more than four to one, including 72 per cent of those who voted Labour in 2024. Fifty-four per cent of the British public support Israel being expelled from the United Nations, with only 16 per cent being opposed. And 50 per cent of respondents supported the idea that supermarkets should no longer stock any goods produced in Israel, in line with the Co-op's recent decision to boycott Israeli goods at its AGM.

Now we've got to turn these polls into reality. Get the message across at the monthly mass protests in London and the weekly demonstrations throughout the country. From the river to the sea Palestine will be free!

Pastures new?

It didn't take long for differences between Donald Trump and Elon Musk to degenerate into smears and common abuse. Musk is peddling all sorts of unsavoury stories about his former ally while Trump leaves it to his acolytes to call for Musk's deportation as an “illegal immigrant”.

The South African-born oligarch became an American citizen in 2002. He is still, apparently, a Canadian citizen. But as he is unlikely to be welcomed back in either of his past homelands he should seriously consider the offer of a new safe haven in the Russian Federation.

Communist MP Dmitri Novikov, the first deputy chairman of the Committee on International Affairs in the Russian parliament, told the Moscow media that he could always seek political asylum in the Russian Federation. Somewhat tongue-in-cheek, Novikov added that while he didn't think Musk would need it “Russia, of course, could provide it”.

Indeed. Musk should take it while the going's good given the irascible and unpredictable nature of the The Donald these days...

British Council Exposed

by Ilya Tsukanov

The Russian intelligence service, the FSB, says the British Council is nothing more than a soft power spying tool disguised as a cultural outreach. They are urging Russia's foreign partners to investigate the subversive activities of the Council in their countries. Last week the Council was officially ruled an undesirable organisation by the Russian Prosecutor's Office. This is why:

Created in 1934 by the British government, the British Council's public image is about the promotion of English-language learning, recruitment for UK universities, educational support for teachers abroad, cultural and academic partnerships and exchanges. In reality, as the FSB has revealed, Council activities include:

- targeting youth leaders and elite groups to try and sway them to support Western and British interests;
- spying, from informal monitoring of the socio-economic situation inside Russia to military intel gathering in the conflict zone in Ukraine.

While the Soros Foundation, USAID, the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) and other American soft-power alphabet agencies were only able to set up shop in Eastern Europe in the 1980s or after 1991, the British Council had been active in the region since the Second World War. Expelled from the USSR in 1946, it returned to the Soviet Union in 1959 (restricted to Moscow).

After the USSR's demise in 1991, the Council set up offices in as many as 15 Russian cities and scores more in Ukraine, the Baltics, the Caucasus and Central Asia. The Council terminated its activities in Russia in 2018 but the FSB says it continued its operations in Russia long after its supposed exit, engaging in:

- recruiting staff at top Russian universities in at least four regions to spread propaganda to young people;
- targeting Russians living abroad in influence ops, in the hopes that they will return home and influence policy once the Ukraine conflict ends;
- collecting socio-economic and military intelligence on the Kherson region using UK-based refugees.

With a £1.26 billion budget and offices in over 100 countries, the Council is active in Britain's former colonial empire (especially India) and in the EU as a post-Brexit British soft-power tool among the BRICS bloc nations. Belarus kicked them out in 2000. Iran did so in 2009.

“We would like to address partners from countries friendly to Russia: by flirting with the British and creating favourable conditions for organisations like the British Council, allowing it to work with youth, future leaders and politicians, such countries risk losing control over very important socio-political processes. Therefore, we recommend that you look carefully into the work of the British Council in your countries and, notwithstanding pressures from London, mitigate the negative consequences of its work at an early stage,” the FSB said.

Along with the British Council, the FSB also reviewed the subversive work of the Oxford Russia Fund, a charity which entered Russia in 2006, ostensibly funding “humanitarian programmes” in education, and scholarships to Russian students studying in the UK.

In reality, it was a front for former Russian oligarch Mikhail Khodorkovsky's push to create a new generation of pro-West ‘young leaders’ in Russia. Khodorkovsky, notably, has long dreamed of a ‘colour’ revolution in Russia. The Oxford Russia Fund was ruled undesirable in 2021.

Britain is a master in the use of public and non-profit organisations for intelligence and Russia is a top target says Lieut-General Leonid Reshetnikov (retired). “Russia has been the main focus of this work since the time of Ivan the Terrible. I say this in all seriousness” Reshetnikov said, adding that the British have had “many years, many centuries of experience” in indirect forms of intelligence gathering.

“They actively use the scientific and teaching fields. When our educators go to the UK or other countries where the British are active, they should always keep in mind that they will be studied; that informal, friendly and trusting relationships will be formed with them,” the veteran former secret agent explained.

The task is “studying the mood in scientific, student and teaching circles, selecting people, not necessarily recruiting (ie you are an agent: we pay you and you act), but making offers, for example, to give lectures, publish a brochure or a book, visit London, give lectures there, etc”.

Actually recruiting agents is the bluntest approach, and often not necessary to extract the information, facts, assessments or intentions British intelligence is looking for.

“It's enough to have a circle of agents of influence, a circle of people who are intellectually, ideologically, culturally attached to London, to the English way of life. It's very easy to use them in a straightforward manner. That's the job.”

In this area, the veteran former spy emphasised that the British are even more capable than their transatlantic cousins in the CIA. “It's best to keep fewer British NGOs in your country. The fewer the better, especially British ones. This is one of the most challenging intelligence services in the world to face.”

Sputnik

Workers' Notes

On the NHS front

by New Worker correspondent

In the week in which it was announced that Britain would be increasing its military spending from 2.5 to three per cent and would be forced by NATO to increase it to 3.5, most likely at the expense of public services, it was telling that the unions had little to say on that important matter.

Of the general NHS unions, Unison and GMB remained silent, the former out of its customary blind loyalty to the Labour Government, and the latter because it has members in the 'defence' industries. Worse but perfectly predictable was the view of Unite, which came out in favour of the increase, welcoming "the government's commitment to intertwine increased defence spending, with developing the UK's defence industry", adding that Sir Keir Starmer makes good on his promise to "translate defence spending into British growth, British jobs, British skills, British innovation". So long as they are British built, new submarines are essential to end the "the feast and famine approach to defence procurement spending, that has long afflicted the sector".

NHS Pay

According to the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), whose writ covers England, all NHS staff will be awarded "above-inflation pay rises for second year in a row as government recognises their hard work in rebuilding our broken NHS".

In addition, the DHSC promises that the outcome of the Pay Review Body (PRB) recommendations will appear in pay packets from August. The rises will be funded by

Dragon Boats in Salford!

by New Worker correspondent

On 25th May the 11th UK Chinese Dragon Boat Festival opened in Salford. The event was co-hosted by the Xinhua Chinese Association (XCA), Salford City Council and the British Dragon Boat Racing Association. Over 50 dragon boat teams from London, Greater Manchester, Liverpool and Cambridge took part in the race.

To mark the return of the festival, members of the XCA Executive Committee were joined at Salford Quays by Consul-General Tang Rui from the Chinese Consulate

General in Manchester, and Salford's Deputy City Mayor, Councillor Jack Youd.

Jack Youd said: "The UK Chinese Dragon Boat Festival is a key event for Salford, bringing together people from all backgrounds for a day of competition and celebration. We are thrilled to welcome the festival back to Salford Quays and encourage teams to register and participate in what promises to be another exciting year."

At the opening, Chinese ambassador Zheng Zeguang said the Dragon Boat Festival was a traditional holiday observed by the Chinese people to commemorate the patriotic



poet Qu Yuan, and that dragon boat racing, an important activity of the festival, has long been celebrated and is now widely embraced around the world. Thanks to the active promotion by Chinese community organisations such as the Xinhua Chinese Associ-

ation and the strong support of Salford City Council, the UK Chinese Dragon Boat Festival has become the most influential dragon boat festival event in Europe and a cultural hallmark of Salford, symbolising the spirit of unity, cooperation and friendship.

cutting duplication and waste in the central health budget. Frontline services will not face cuts to pay for the increases claims the Department, but it is clear that is already happening.

The deal includes a four per cent rise for consultants, and specialty doctors, GPs and dentists will get improved contracts while "non-pay arrangements" are to be approved. Further down the food chain, Agenda for Change (AfC) staff, including nurses, health visitors, midwives, ambulance staff, porters and cleaners, get a 3.6 per cent rise.

The response from the NHS unions was generally unfavourable. The doctor's trade union, the British Medical Association (BMA), is not happy with the 5.4 per cent for Resident Doctors, formerly known as 'Junior Doctors'. Under the command of Ross Niewoudt and Melissa Ryan a new grass-roots campaign has emerged under the name of 'DoctorsVote' to fight for full restoration of pay to 2008 real-term levels, under the slogan of "be a crab, not a scab". This would mean a 29 per cent increase, despite their 22 per cent rise last year.

DoctorsVote is campaigning for a Yes vote in a strike ballot. Dr Niewoudt told the *Times* that: "Pay restoration isn't a demand, it's a necessity. Doctors are leaving. Moral is

breaking, the government is gambling with the future of the NHS." He also accused Health Secretary Wes Streeting of "Betraying" a promise made just last year to help restore pay. "If you promise a journey and then stop at the first lay-by, that's not a negotiation, that's betrayal."

Nicola Ranger, Royal College of Nursing (RCN) General Secretary, said: "This pay award is entirely swallowed up by inflation and does nothing to change the status quo – where nursing is not valued, too few enter the profession and too many quit."

In the ambulance service and elsewhere in the NHS, GMB has started balloting its members on the grounds that the 3.6 per cent is adequate. Rachel Harrison, GMB's NHS National Secretary, said "we're pleased dedicated NHS staff will get their pay rise closer to their anniversary date than they have in previous years", but warned that: "The decision on whether this pay award is acceptable is for GMB members to decide."

The union highlighted the particular case of the East of England Ambulance Service where the NHS Trust has confirmed plans to close the Bedford Emergency Operations Centre (EOC), "which could place significant strain on ambulance cover across the East of England and leave a large

number of staff out of a job". EOC centre staff have also been told to either relocate to the more expensive areas of Chelmsford or Norwich, secure another role within the Trust, or take redundancy. This single example alone refutes Streeting's claim that frontline services are not at risk.

GMB Regional Organiser Donna Thomas said: "This closure would have a serious knock-on effect for ambulance cover across the region. It represents a potential threat to public safety, particularly as the Trust is already failing on call wait times. We are deeply concerned about the impact it could have on our members, who will be faced with the difficult choice to either relocate, redeploy, or find themselves out of work."

The Pharmacists' Defence Association, which has 7,000 members in the NHS, did not sound too happy because the award is only marginally above the latest 3.5 inflation rate and fails to compensate for earlier higher inflation, and warns it could possibly ballot for industrial action.

Local Battles

Other disputes about pay, cuts and conditions are underway. In Cambridge staff at Cambridge University Hospitals,

particularly at Addenbrooke's, are being forced to protect their jobs from drastic cuts that could amount to 500 job losses among porters, estate workers such as maintenance staff, plumbers and engineers, and those in administrative and clerical roles.

This comes as a result of NHS England demanding that spending on support functions in NHS trusts must return to April 2022 levels by next November.

Before a picket outside the hospital, Unite's local senior representative, Craig Jamieson, who is one of those whose job is at risk, said: "Already, many of my colleagues work unpaid overtime, and stress and mental health problems are major reasons why staff go off sick. If these cuts are pushed through, I only see that getting worse."

This comes at a time when the city is booming, with an expected 18 per cent in local population growth by 2041, which is not a good time to make cut of nearly five per cent of the NHS workforce.

This was backed up by Regional Officer Richard Gates, who pointed out that: "These cuts go completely against the grain of the government's commitment to invest in the NHS. Not only is it devastating news for those who will

continued on page 4...

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potentially lose their jobs, but also for those left who will no doubt be expected to pick up this extra work, at a time when they are already maxed out." The union also points out that earlier similar across the board cuts to integrated care systems were found recently to have not had an adequate impact assessment. This forced over-stretched workers having to take on more work and clinical services will have more of their time taken up by doing administrative and clerical tasks.

At Doncaster's Cheswold Park Hospital, for mental health patients, workers are fighting against a "two tier workforce". Late last year some workers, employed by private health provider Riverside, were transferred to the NHS. South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Foundation Trust refuses, however, to bring the transferred workers up to NHS conditions, which is of course the reason why unions make such demands for inhouse employment.

This was brought into sharp focus by the case of a woman who, because she was denied sick pay, had to return to work to avoid financial hardship against doctor's advice after suffering miscarriage complications due to being treated as a second-class employee.

This is just one conse-

quence of the Trust refusing to upgrade the medical and non-medical workers from the bare legal minimum contracts. This affects not just the transferred workers but new employees and those moving from other parts of the trust.

The 170 affected workers have launched a collective grievance against the Trust, which refuses to give them NHS contracts. The Trust is offering only the possibility of updating the contracts in the distant future. Unite accuses the Trust of trying to take advantage of the contract disparities to make redundancies of long-serving, dedicated staff cheaply.

The union's regional officer Chris Rawlinson said: "The trust's behaviour towards these workers is totally immoral. There is no excuse for treating them as second-class employees and trying to deny long serving and dedicated staff fair redundancy packages. Unite will not allow the trust to kick this issue into the long grass – we will back these workers every step of the way."

In Gloucestershire, phlebotomists, who conduct blood-tests, are continuing with a two-month long strike to secure regrading. They are paid at band 2 of the NHS's Agenda for Change pay scale but their skills and training merit being on band 3. The issue was first raised last

year, but after a total lack of response from Management, the phlebotomists took matters into their own hands. At the time only one was a Unison member, but now every single phlebotomist has joined the union to reinforce the demand for regrading and up to six years of back-pay to correct historic underpayment for the work they have done.

Even two managers are taking part. Carolyn Hayhurst, the local Unison rep, said "we won't tolerate being overlooked and underpaid anymore", adding: "We care deeply for patients who aren't getting the care they deserve. Our colleagues across the hospital are under pressure to cover extra work during busy shifts and staff at local GP surgeries who can no longer send people to us for blood tests." She went on to condemn the fact that "The trust is wasting public money by forcing nurses, who make £4 per hour more than us, to cover our absence, putting them in a difficult position as they lack our level of training. Meanwhile the cost of living continues to rise. Why should the lowest-paid NHS staff be treated with such disregard?"

Unison's South West regional organiser, Chris Roche, deplored the fact that: "Trust senior managers have desperately tried to stop a job evaluation panel from reviewing the phlebotomists' pay, but the

game is up – it's time they put things right. These phlebotomists are standing united for the principle of fair pay for all NHS staff, and they'll keep fighting until they secure the recognition and wages they deserve."

Workers at the Derbyshire Support and Facilities Services (DSFS) are now in the fray – out opposing the sudden de-recognition of Unite as from 12th June.

According to Unite this was the union's punishment for a successful campaign by it and Unison to retain pay parity with the NHS for DSFS workers when the firm broke with the NHS pay levels and attempted to impose a smaller pay rise.

Across Offa's Dyke unions are not over the moon about the 3.6 per cent because it is below the rate of inflation. Unite's general secretary Sharon Graham pointed out that: "NHS workers, who were on the frontline during the pandemic, are still suffering from historic pay cuts in real terms over the last 15 years and are contending with a worsening cost-of-living crisis. If the government is ever going to resolve the NHS crisis it will need to stop kicking the can down the road. It needs to get Unite and the other NHS unions round the negotiating table, face to face and start making serious inroads on pay and other issues that are

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crippling our NHS."

Unite has, along with most other major health unions, refused to take part in the current Pay Review Board which they say is not fit for purpose in dealing with the challenges of low pay that it insists must be resolved through direct negotiations with the government.

**20 years ago
this week
in the New Worker**

10th June

Tony Blair went to Washington last week to try to persuade George W Bush to back Gordon Brown's £27 billion plan for aid to Africa, ahead of the G8 conference in Gleneagles next month. Nobody expected him to succeed.

But the derisory \$674 million (£369.70 million) package they agreed on appalled the world. It is not even new money but a commitment that had already been agreed by Congress.

Jonathan Glennie, a senior policy analyst from Christian Aid, said: "The sum of \$674 million is a drop

in the ocean compared with what Africa really needs.

"The president's scheme currently applies to 14 African countries, leaving 34 other sub-Saharan African countries without any immediate prospect of debt relief."

He pointed out that in Britain we spend more than that every year on anti-ageing creams, while in Africa average life expectancy is 46.

Blair declared Britain has made "significant progress" towards a deal with the USA.

Bush added insult to injury by giving Blair a little lecture on his benevolence to Africa. He told Blair: "Helping those who suffer and preventing the senseless death of millions of people in Africa is a central commitment of my administration's foreign policy."

He added that Condoleezza Rice had made a greater attention to Africa a key condition of taking on the job of National Security Adviser four years ago.

Bush recalled: "She asked: 'Are you going to pay full attention to the continent of Africa?' You bet! And I fulfilled that commitment,"

He went on to say nobody wants to give money to a country that is corrupt, where leaders take money and put it in their pocket. We're not interested in supporting a government that doesn't have open economies and open markets. We expect there to be you know, reciprocation."

This level of hypocrisy, from for a man whose big business friends have benefited so much from him his illegal wars and invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, plundering those countries' wealth to fill their own pockets, a man who came to win power in very dubious circumstances and who has been bailed out of economic disaster by the Bin Laden family oil lords, is breathtaking.

Recently Oxfam revealed that a high proportion of current western aid spending is effectively recycled back to donor countries, with France and the USA particularly noted for this.

China's monumental contribution to victory in WWII

by He Lei

2025 marks the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. Eight decades have passed, yet the world once again finds itself at a crossroads. The rise of unilateralism, ongoing geopolitical turbulence and the distortion of historical truths remind us of the enduring relevance of remembering the past and safeguarding peace.

The Chinese People's War against Japanese aggression fired the first shot in the World Anti-Fascist War. Through 14 years of unyielding and heroic resistance, the brave Chinese people ultimately defeated the Japanese aggressors and secured a great victory. This historic triumph not only safeguarded the nation from peril and achieved national independence and liberation but also made an indelible contribution to the final victory in 1945, world peace, and to the progress of human civilisation.

China was one of the first to confront fascist aggression in the Second World War – it was the first to start, endured the longest and made tremendous sacrifices. On 18th September 1931, Japanese troops blew up a section of railway under their control near Shenyang and accused Chinese troops of sabotage as a pretext for the attack. Later that night, they bombarded barracks near Shenyang. The September 18 Incident marked the start of Japan's 14-year invasion of China.

While the major Western powers adopted a policy of appeasement toward Japan's aggression, it was semi-colonial, semi-feudal China that stood up first and raised the banner of resistance against



fascist invasion. As former US president Franklin D Roosevelt once said: "The Chinese people were the first to stand up and fight against the aggressors in this war."

In the face of a powerful and brutal enemy, the Chinese people stood united with unwavering resolve. With a spirit of shared purpose and sacrifice, they adopted a strategy of protracted warfare. This forged an extraordinary

chapter in the history of warfare and a monumental feat of the Chinese nation.

China's resistance ultimately crushed Japan's militarist ambitions to colonise and enslave China, and it marked the first complete victory in modern Chinese history against foreign aggression. On 2nd September 1945, representatives of the Japanese government signed the Japanese Instrument of Surrender,

signalling the final victory of both the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War.

The Chinese People's War served as the main Eastern theatre of the global war against fascism, making an indelible and immense historical contribution to the final victory over fascism. Throughout the global struggle, China shattered Japan's illusion of a 'quick

victory'. China's resistance provided crucial time for the Soviet Union, the USA, the UK and other Allied powers to prepare for war. The Chinese theatre also actively supported Allied operations in Europe and the Pacific.

The Chinese People's War stood at the centre of the anti-fascist struggle in the East, serving as both a symbol and a driving force. It actively supported anti-Japanese resistance and national liberation movements across other Asian countries. On 22nd June 1941 Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union. The very next day, Chairman Mao Zedong drafted a resolution for the Communist Party of China titled *On The International United Front Against Fascism*. The resolution stated: "For Communists throughout the world the task now is to mobilise the people of all countries and organise an international united front to fight fascism and defend the Soviet Union, defend China, and defend the freedom and independence of all nations."

The Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression earned the respect of people around the world and laid the foundation for China's status as a responsible major power on the global stage. During the global fight against fascism, China was among the first to call for the establishment of a united international anti-fascist front and the safeguarding of lasting peace in the postwar world. It played a proactive and driving role in building the international anti-fascist alliance.

In January 1942, China, along with the USA, the UK and the Soviet Union, with 26 countries in signing the Declaration of the United Nations, marking the formal establishment of the international anti-fascist united front. This shifted the global balance

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of power and created favourable conditions for hastening the victory over fascism. China also played an irreplaceable and distinctive role in shaping the post-war peace and security architecture. During the founding of the United Nations and the drafting of the UN Charter, China – representing less powerful nations – actively advocated for justice, national liberation and sovereign equality. Many of its proposals were incorporated into

the Charter.

On 24th October 1945, the UN was officially established, with China becoming one of the five permanent members of the UN Security Council – an essential force in safeguarding world peace.

This year marks the 80th anniversary of the victory in the Chinese People's War of Resistance Against Japanese Aggression and the World Anti-Fascist War. Although the smoke of war has long dissipated, the roots of conflict have not been eradicated. He-

gemonism, Cold War mentality and power politics still persist. The spectre of militarism lingers, while armed conflicts and local wars continue to erupt in the postwar world. Humanity is now facing profound changes unseen in a century.

To resolutely defend the hard-won victory of 1945, to thoroughly eliminate the roots of war, and to ensure that the victory of the anti-fascist struggle is never denied, the post-war international order is never challenged, milita-

rism and fascism never revive, and historical tragedies are never repeated is a sacred duty shared by all nations and peoples, and the most meaningful way to honour the victory achieved in that global struggle.

China, a socialist country committed to peace, firmly upholds an independent foreign policy of peace and remains committed to the path of peaceful development. It advocates for the building of a community with a shared future for humanity and contributes to safeguard-

ing world peace and advancing the cause of human progress. China has always pursued a defensive national defence policy and the principle of active defence. It opposes aggression and expansion and is committed to building a strong national defence and a powerful military commensurate with its international standing, aligned with its security and development interests.

Under the leadership of the Communist Party of China, the Chinese People's Libera-

tion Army is striving to build a world-class military at a fast pace in order to achieve the goal of strengthening the nation's armed forces. It serves as a robust strategic pillar for safeguarding China's national sovereignty, unity and territorial integrity, protecting China's overseas interests, and promoting global peace and development.

The author is a Lieutenant General in the Chinese People's Liberation Army.

Global Times

Global backlash could shift Israel's strategy

by Ramzy Baroud

The decision resonated as shocking for all sides. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, whose entire war strategy hinges on the starvation of Palestinians in Gaza, unilaterally decided on 19th May to allow "immediate" food entry to the famine-stricken Strip.

Of course, Netanyahu still manoeuvred. Instead of permitting at least 1,000 trucks of aid to enter the utterly destroyed and devastated Gaza per day, he initially allowed a mere nine trucks, a number that nominally increased in the following days.

Even Netanyahu's staunch supporters, who fiercely criticised the decision, found themselves confounded by it. The prior understanding among Netanyahu's coalition partners regarding their ultimate plan in Gaza had been unequiv-

ocally clear: the total occupation of the Strip and the forced displacement of its population.

The latter was articulated as a matter of explicit policy by Israel's Finance Minister, Bezalel Smotrich. "Gaza will be entirely destroyed, civilians will be sent to... third countries," he declared on 6th May.

For food to enter Gaza, however minuscule its quantity, directly violates the established understanding between the government and the military, under the leadership of Netanyahu's ally, Defence Minister Israel Katz, and Chief of Staff Eyal Zamir.

These two significant additions to Netanyahu's war cabinet replaced Yoav Gallant and Herzi Halevi. With these new appointments, Netanyahu stood poised for his master plan.

When the war commenced on 7th October 2023, the Israeli leader promised that he



would take control of the Gaza Strip. This position evolved, or rather was clarified, to signify permanent occupation, though without the Palestinians themselves.

To achieve such a lofty objective – lofty, given Israel's consistent

failure to subdue the Palestinians over the course of nearly 600 days – Netanyahu and his men meticulously devised the "Gideon's Chariots" plan.

The Zionist hasbara that accompanied this new strategy transcend-

ed all the Israeli propaganda that had accompanied previous plans, including the failed "Generals' Plan" of October 2024.

The rationale behind this psychological warfare is to imprint upon the Palestinians in Gaza the indelible impression that their fate has been sealed, and that the future of Gaza can only be determined by Israel itself.

The plan, however, a rehash of what is historically known as "Sharon's Fingers", is fundamentally predicated on sectionalising Gaza into several distinct zones and leveraging food as a tool for displacement into these camps, and ultimately, outside of Gaza. Why however, would Netanyahu agree to allow food access outside his sinister scheme?

The reason behind this relates profoundly to the explosion of global anger directed at Israel, particularly from

its most staunch allies: Britain, France, Canada and Australia, among others.

Unlike Spain, Norway, Ireland and others that have sharply criticised the Israeli genocide, a few Western capitals have remained committed to Israel throughout the war. Their commitment manifested in supportive political discourse, blaming Palestinians and absolving Israel; unhindered military support; and resolute shielding of Israel from legal accountability and political fallout on the global stage.

Things began to change when US President Donald Trump slowly grasped that Netanyahu's war in Gaza was destined to become a permanent war and occupation, which would inevitably translate to the perpetual destabilisation of the Middle East – hardly a pressing American priority at the

moment.

Leaked reports in US mainstream media, coupled with the noticeable lack of communication between Trump and Netanyahu, among other indicators, strongly suggested that the rift between Washington and Tel Aviv was not a mere ploy but a genuine policy shift.

Although Washington had indicated that the “US has not abandoned Israel” the writing was clearly on the wall: Netanyahu’s long-term

strategy and the USA’s current strategy are hardly convergent.

Despite the formidable political power of the pro-Israel lobby in the USA, and its robust support on both sides of the Congressional aisle, Trump’s position was strengthened by the fact that some pro-Israeli circles, also from both political parties, are fully aware that Netanyahu poses a danger not only to the USA but to Israel itself.

A series of decisive

actions taken by Trump further accentuated this shift, which received surprisingly little protest from the pro-Israel element in American power circles: continued talks with Iran, the truce with Ansarallah in Yemen, talks with Hamas, etc.

Although refraining from openly criticising Trump, Netanyahu intensified his killings of Palestinians, who fell in tragically large numbers. Many of the victims were already on the brink of starvation

before they were mercilessly blown up by Israeli bombs.

On 19th May, Britain, Canada and France jointly issued a strong statement threatening Israel with sanctions. This unfamiliar language was swiftly followed by action just a day later when Britain suspended trade talks with Israel.

Netanyahu retaliated with furious language, unleashing his rage at Western capitals, which he accused of “offering a huge prize for the geno-

cidal attack on Israel on October 7th while inviting more such atrocities”.

The decision to allow some food into Gaza, though patently insufficient to stave off the deepening famine, was meant as a distraction, as the Israeli war machine relentlessly continued to harvest the lives of countless Palestinians on a daily basis.

While one welcomes the significant shifts in the West’s position against Israel, it must

remain abundantly clear that Netanyahu has no genuine interest in abandoning his plan of starving and ethnically cleansing Gaza.

Although any action now will not fully reverse the impact of the genocide, there are still two million lives that can yet be saved.

Dr Ramzy Baroud is a journalist, author, and the Editor of The Palestine Chronicle.

People’s World (USA)

Fool’s Gold – Trump’s crypto scam

by António Santos

The author often covers developments in the USA for Avante, the weekly newspaper of the Portuguese Communist Party

The USA is the most advanced and developed capitalist country in the world: historically speaking, it is ahead of all others – considered as one would a cancer that advances and develops. This means that, from our moribund and subordinate Europe, we can see in imperial paroxysm what – if we do nothing to stop them – similar advances and developments would have in store for us.

At a time when there is so much talk here in Europe about the interconnection of private business with the management of public interests, it is perhaps worth learning what is already being done in the USA, which is always leading us Europeans when it comes to such advances and developments.

On Thursday 22nd May Donald Trump organised a bizarre din-



ner at his golf club in Virginia. To attend it, 220 guests spent \$394 million to buy a bizarre invitation to an orgy of corruption: US presidential meme coins – a kind of crypto-currency that makes no attempt to disguise its Ponzi scheme. According to

the ‘\$Trump’ website, Trump’s personal meme crypto-currency business, the 220 biggest buyers receive an invitation to dinner with Trump, while the first 25 bidders get “a cocktail with access to the president”.

[Crypto billionaire]

Justin Sun came in first place, having invested \$19 million, which got him “a private conversation with Trump after the cocktail”.

Trump owns about 300 companies valued at about \$8 billion, but the White House assures us that there is no con-

flict of interest, because “management is handled solely by his children”.

Of all Trump’s businesses, however, none is more illustrative than the crypto-currency business. Trump has made the USA the world’s leading country in crypto ‘mining’. The activity al-

ready accounts for three per cent of national electricity consumption and represents more than 40 per cent of the world’s total production of this strange ‘mineral’. Without exaggeration, Trump announced his desire to “make America the crypto-capital of the world”.

This says a lot about the development and progress of a country: crypto-currency ‘mining’ produces nothing; it adds no value, invents nothing, creates nothing useful. It does not even employ miners. It is just super-computers performing complex mathematical operations that consume energy and waste water, while virtual money generates more virtual money and the speculative bubble grows.

The historical decline of the USA is not only evident in its growing inability to invent, innovate, produce or add useful value, it is also visible in the economic activities in which it still leads the world: crypto-currencies, weapons, blackmail, corruption and, ultimately, everything that is sterile, unnecessary or destructive.

LETTERS

Dear Comrades

Israel may be winning tactically but strategically it will certainly be defeated. It is suffering major military and economic losses and the contradictions within the Zionist system itself are growing day by day, not to mention the terrible reputation it has now built up in the eyes not only of the popular masses in the emerging countries, but also in the West. The Western elites, interested in keeping Israel in place, must therefore now reorganise: the genocide that began in 1948 with the founding of Israel and that for more than two years now has been taking place in an increasingly ruthless and manifest manner against the Palestinian people has always been tolerated by the EU, the USA and NATO, but is now becoming a factor of instability that must stop. To do this, without at the same time undermining Zionist power as such, which remains necessary geopolitically in the conflict between imperialism and multipolarity, it is necessary that the government of Benjamin Netanyahu alone falls, in order to make the world public opinion believe that the problem is only him (and his extreme right-wing party) but not Zionism itself.

That's why the war-mongering Kaja Kallas, EU high representative (and Zionist), has suddenly started to say that she wants to revise the EU-Israel Association Agreement and, with two years delay, is even starting to show mercy for the Pal-

estinians: these are obviously crocodile tears! And that is why the ultra-Zionist Donald Trump could also get the USA to recognise the State of Palestine.

Obviously these are partial victories due to the popular and student pressure that has not tired of demonstrating and occupying Western universities, but it is not yet the triumph and therefore we must not demobilise. Above all, we must not believe in the good faith of certain fake friends, certain self-appointed 'leaders' who will begin to emerge in public waving Palestinian flags but only to divert the movement!

Only naïve people can have illusions that, almost in unison, indefatigable pro-Zionists begin, out of the blue, to change their narrative: from the Italian daily *Corriere della Sera*, which after justifying it for years now publishes front-page cartoons that (rightly) accuse Netanyahu's government of "massacre", to notoriously pro-Zionist parties (such as the Italian Democratic Party) that are cautiously beginning to distance themselves.

The pro-EU left (let's think about the German LINKE for example), which for fear of being accused of 'anti-Semitism' has been nothing short of ambiguous in siding with the Palestinian partisan struggle, now suddenly finds the 'courage' to take to the streets by 'anonymously' promoting "spontaneous" and "silent" demonstrations in which, however, a liberal journalist of the moment will speak, who will instrumentalise the pro-Palestine streets to condemn, for example, the alleged "Russian imperialism" in order to defend the Ukrainian regime (which, by the way, is pro-Zionist) and who will go so far as to invite the protesters not to define as "genocide" what is promoted by Israel or to renounce claiming "free

Palestine from the Jordan to the sea".

This is an insidious method of using one's influence not to advance a struggle as the masses who have taken to the streets demand, but to divert it! The attempt is to weaken the movement by making it an exclusively ethical and humanitarian phenomenon: thus castrating it in its political potential and normalising it ideologically. This is what is needed to legitimise post-Netanyahu Israel even from the left! This is neither an accident nor a mistake: it is a premeditated strategy that is occurring throughout Europe in the face of the risk of a strategic defeat of Zionism and the advance of multipolarity!

Communists don't like silent marches. Not only because they are extraneous to the tradition of the workers' movement, but above all because against Israel you have to make a noise! This is not a silent funeral for the Palestinians: it is a partisan struggle for national liberation that will last for a long time to come! Participating in mass demonstrations, in which it is the people in good faith who move, even if they are contradictory in the content of their platforms, may be right to strengthen the cause, as long as one does not allow oneself to be led by the fifth columns praising the EU and the "two peoples, two states" solution.

Indeed, idealising the EU (or the French or Polish governments) because, after using it to exterminate a people now – goodness gracious! – has decided to get rid of Netanyahu to put in his place a more saleable Zionist who will rebuild Israel's image while keeping the Zionist system standing, is a serious mistake. And the recognition of the State of Palestine, which is of course a right and necessary first step (which the communists in Swit-

zerland first claimed years ago, not today now that Israel has razed Gaza to the ground!), will not solve the underlying problem as long as Zionism and Israel's neo-colonial project exist.

Recently, Comrade Moni Ovadia, a Jew and a Marxist, said in effect that "the 'two peoples two states' solution is a fraud" to put the Palestinian people under protection, consolidate the Zionist entity and deceive the progressive good souls into demobilising them. Exactly what our Party predicted in 2021 during its 21st Congress.

So we need caution: let us continue to mobilise en masse, but by isolating those masked Zionists who want to take control of the movement! The password remains one: Free Palestine, from the river to the sea!

Massimiliano Ay
General Secretary
Communist Party (Switzerland)

Dear Comrades

What was the Featherstone Massacre?

In the summer of 1893 Yorkshire mine owners, faced with a fall in the price of coal, demanded that miners accept a 25 per cent reduction in wages. The miners resisted and on 28th July they were locked out.

The dispute dragged on and after seven weeks money was increasingly tight. Miners knew that they needed to step up their action so they began to stop the movement of coal.

On 6th September the manager of Featherstone's Ackton Hall colliery, a Mr Holiday, arrived at the pit to find a large picket of miners demanding that the loading of smudge (coal dust) for sale be stopped. Holiday eventually agreed.

But the next day miners discovered wagons with Bradford destination tickets being loaded with smudge. The miners felt that they had been conned,

continued on page 9...

Diary

Check the Palestine Solidarity Campaign and Stop the War Coalition websites for emergency Gaza protests across the country.

UNTIL 27 JUNE 2025

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

UNTIL 15 JULY

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

UNTIL 25 JUL

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

WED 11 JUNE

RMT Garden Party for Cuba. £20.00. 18:30, Maritime House, Clapham Old Town, London, SW4 0JW. Book on CSC website.

THURS 12 JUNE

Marx Memorial Library: Ann Field on The Wapping Dispute & Printworker Organisation. 19:00, Hybrid event. Book on MML website.

FRI 13 JUNE

Campaign Against the Arms Trade: Between Gaza and (Re) Armament. 18:30–20:00, SOAS, 10 Thornhaugh Street, Russell Square, London WC1H 0XG. Book on Eventbrite.

SAT 14 JUNE

Cuba Solidarity Campaign: AGM. 10:00–13:00, open to non-members with premiere at 14:30 of film on Cuban Alzheimer's disease drugs. NEU, Hamilton House, Mabledon Place, London WC1H 9BD.

SAT 14 JUNE

Orgreave Truth and Justice Campaign: Anniversary March and Rally. Assemble 13:00, City Hall, Bakers Pool, Sheffield S1 2JA.

SUN 15 JUNE

Critical Collective presents: 2073 sci-fi environmental film and discussion. 18:00, Genesis Cinema, 93–95 Mile End Rd, Bethnal Green, London E1 4UJ.

SUN 15 JUNE

Jews for Gaza: Jewish comedians fund raiser for Gaza. £16.95. 19:30, 100 Camden High St, London NW1 0LU. Book on Dice.fm website.

TUE 17 JUNE

Palestine Solidarity Campaign: Protest at Sites Supplying Israel's F-35 Fighter Jets – Arms Embargo Now! Protests at Havant, Hampshire, Rochester, Kent and Sheffield, South Yorkshire. Precise locations on PSC website.

TUE 17 JUNE

Socialist History Society: Philippa Bennett on Rewilding William Morris. 19:00, Zoom meeting. Register on SHS website.

SAT 21 JUNE

Palestine Solidarity Campaign: End the Genocide, Stop Arming Israel, Stop Starving Gaza. National Demonstration. 12:00,

Central London. Route TBA.

SAT 21 JUNE

Jarrow Rebel Town Festival: 11:00, Parade assembles pedestrian tunnel, Tyne Street, Jarrow NE32, and later social at The Crown and Anchor, 29 Chapel Road, Jarrow NE32 3LX.

SAT 21 JUNE

Palestine Solidarity Campaign: End the Genocide – Stop Arming Israel – Stop Starving Gaza. Demonstration. 12:00, Central London. Details TBA.

SAT 21 JUNE

Stand Up to Racism Scotland: March assembles 12:00 at Barrowland Park, Glasgow G1 5BG for rally, music and carnival in Old Fruitmarket, 100 Candleriggs, Glasgow G1 1NQ. See SUTR website for local events.

SAT 21–SUN 22 JUNE

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament: Support the protests at the NATO Summit in Den Haag. A counter-summit and protests. Details TBA.

THUR 26 JUNE

Marx Memorial Library: Book Launch – James Crossley's *AL Morton and the Radical Tradition*. 19:00, hybrid event. Book on MML website.

SAT 28 JUNE

Trade Union Congress: Women Chainmakers' Festival. Mary Macarthur Gardens, Whitehall Road, Cradley Heath, B64 5BG.

MON 30 JUNE

Campaign Against the Arms Trade: Barclays Stop Serving Genocide. 10:00, protest at Church Road, Wimbledon SW19 outside Centre Court.

THURS 3 JULY

Venezuela Solidarity Campaign: Sanctions Kill – US out of Venezuela & Latin America! 18:30, Online Rally. Register on Eventbrite.

THURS 3 JULY

Marx Memorial Library: Andrew Whitefield on Dan Chatterton and his *Atheistic Communist Scorchers*. 18:30, In person, MML, 37a Clerkenwell Green, London, EC1R 0DU.

SAT 5 JULY

International Brigade Memorial Association: Annual commemoration. 13:00–14:00, IB memorial, Jubilee Gardens, Belvedere Road, London SE1 7PG; then Camel & Artichoke, 121 Lower Marsh, London SE1 7AE.

THUR 17 JULY

Marx Memorial Library: Class Struggle, the State & the General Strike, Panel Discussion on Red Friday 1925. 17:30, Hybrid event. Book on MML website.

FRI 18–SUN 20 JULY

Tolpuddle Martyrs Festival. Tolpuddle Martyrs Museum, Dorchester Road, Tolpuddle, Dorset DT2 7EH. Book on TM website.

The editor welcomes letters from our readers. If you have a contribution to make please make sure it reaches us before Wednesday.

You can send your letters to: PO Box 73, London SW11 2PQ, or email party@NCP.clara.net

...continued from page 8
so they toppled the wagons over.

Holiday, fearing widespread unrest, called for help and the military in the form of the South Staffordshire Regiment were soon sent in.

The troops and the magistrate Bernard Hartley JP were confronted by a large crowd in Green Lane, however. The magistrate read the Riot Act but when the crowd didn't disperse live rounds were fired.

One man, James Gibb, was shot through the right breast. He died in a local surgery the next day. Another man, James Duggan, also died in Clayton Hospital, Wakefield after surgeons were unable to stop bleeding in his leg. Many more people were also wounded.

Jurors at Duggan's inquest were instructed to return a verdict of "justifiable homicide". Jurors at Gibb's inquest refused to acquiesce in this way and expressed regret at the "extreme measures" taken on the night in question.

The Bowen Commission later set up to inquire into events was a complete whitewash. The Home Secretary, HH Asquith, did agree to pay £100 to each of the deceased families but still didn't admit culpability. Henceforth Asquith was known as "Assassin Asquith".

Alan Stewart
Wakefield

Dear Comrades

The Islamic Human Rights Commission (IHRC) has published a report titled: *Campaign for democratisation and empowerment in Bahrain*. The campaign has highlighted, amongst other things, the use of violence and torture against Bahraini pro-democracy campaigners, the use of citizenship-stripping against opposition figures and the use of mercenary forces to quell any popular grassroots movement critical of the government. IHRC has published reports and

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briefings detailing this and many other human rights abuses in Bahrain.

Meanwhile, the one-man campaign by Mohammed Al Singace has continued unabated. It started several weeks ago when the former political prisoner who had spent 10 years behind bars decided to make his case public. He has been campaigning outside Bahrain's Ministry of Labour, raising his banner that highlights the plight of thousands of unemployed youths due to the government's policies. Since his release he has been searching for a job without success. The lack of employment opportunities is causing extreme hardship to families who have no other income. Former political prisoners find it extremely difficult to find a job.

John Hughes
Bahrain Freedom Movement
London

Scottish
Political
News

by our Scottish political
affairs correspondent

While the financial she-nanigans surround privatised Thames Water, which serves the London area, have been hitting the headlines, Scottish Water (SW), the nationalised or to be more precise "statutory corporation", is the new battleground over pay. The unions say First Minister John Swinney "must be held to account" as members striking over pay accused the Scottish Government of "hypocrisy" over its commitment to workers' rights. But although SW is 100 per cent owned by the Scottish Government the Swinney administration says Scottish Water is exempt from public sector pay norms – and in any case Climate Action Minister Alasdair Allan

says it has nothing to do with him.

Last week saw the GMB, Unison and Unite unions take strike action, having rejected a 3.4 per cent pay offer with £1,050 for the lowest paid. Unison's regional officer (and property magnate) Simon Macfarlane (spouse of Roz Foyer, for whom see below) said: "The latest pay offer falls far short of what other public sector workers in Scotland have received. Scottish Water staff will now form picket lines across the country to demand the fair deal they deserve." So they did.

Claire Greer, GMB Scotland's organiser in SW Water, condemned her employers for allowing "these negotiations to stumble on for months when a simple, transparent and fair pay offer would have been welcomed by our members and averted industrial action".

Scottish Water however, claim their offer is above inflation.

Scottish Water bosses are much better off than their workers. Bonuses

increased by a third last year. The Water Industry Commission for Scotland (WICS), which is supposed to regulate SW, also has form about lining bosses' pockets. Last November its CEO Alan Sutherland stood down after Audit Scotland raised eyebrows over his expenses claims, which included a £170 Mulberry wallet and £290 glasses, to say nothing of an £80,000 Harvard Business School course for another senior manager.

Country
Houses

We must apologise to readers for last week's misleading account of the property portfolio of Roz Foyer, General Secretary of the Scottish TUC. We observed that despite her specifically deploring the effect of 'second home' ownership on house prices and jobs, the Glasgow-based union bureaucrat is not immune from the practice.

Now it has been discovered that she has no less than five properties of her own. Her second 'second home' turns out to be in Puerto de Mazarrón in sunny Spain. This can be rented out to any *New Worker* reader for a mere £920 per week while the Foyer family are enduring

the midges of Jura while representing the island's whisky workers. The crisis of over-tourism and second homes is of course much worse in Spain.

The other two properties are a flat in Edinburgh and a terraced house in Glasgow, both occupied by family and friends. In addition, she recently purchased a £100,000 plot of land in Glasgow, so she is clearly going places.

The Scottish Tory leader, Russell Findlay, wittily said "Scotland's leading trade unionist appears to have been more inspired by Donald Trump than Jimmy Reid", adding that as she clearly now shares Tory values of working hard and reaping the rewards she should defect to his party.

While she has obviously not done anything illegal this is not looking good for the STUC, even if it is the *Mail on Sunday* bringing this up. Her enemies on the General Council will be discreetly sharpening their knives, on an issue allies will find difficult to defend. Ms Foyer proudly declared "as a woman from a working-class background, I won't be made to feel ashamed for legitimately owning property that my family and I like thousands across Scotland, have worked tirelessly for". Hear, hear. Nothing is too good for the workers...

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Draw the line on Palestine!

by New Worker
correspondent

On Wednesday thousands of protesters formed a red human chain around Parliament to demand sanctions on Israel and an end to using starvation as a weapon of war. Several MPs joined the “Red Line for Palestine” around the building while Prime Minister’s Question Time was underway at the House of Commons. Others listened to Jeremy Corbyn, the leader of the Independent Alliance, who was presenting a bill to call for an official inquiry into the British state’s role in Israel’s



genocide.

Early that day the Prime Minister, Sir Keir Starmer, had labelled the recent Israeli offensive as “appalling, counterproductive, and intolerable”. But Ben Jamal, the director of the Palestine Solidarity Campaign (PSC) – one of the organisers of the protest – said: “You cannot say ‘what Israel is doing is unacceptable’ while you continue to provide it with weapons. The words themselves are not enough.” The protesters were demanding that “our government sanction Israel for its crimes against the Palestinian people”.

Skip the franchise – go local

by Alex Reeves

Perhaps it’s the amount of time I spend eating and drinking out here in Vietnam. Maybe it’s the lingering fragments of the socialist, anti-corporate spirit that got me through a politics degree before being bent, shaped and occasionally compromised by the reality of needing a salary. Whatever it is, I know one thing for certain: I still hate corporate franchises and I absolutely love small businesses.

I’m a complete sucker for those sappy Facebook posts that your mad aunty shares, about every penny spent in a small business going towards a child’s school shoes or a family holiday instead of lining a shareholder’s pocket. I’m that annoying customer who chats to staff at my regular spots as though they actually enjoy my presence. Whether back home in Blighty or here in Hanoi, I’ve always made a conscious effort to dodge



the franchises and support independents, even if it’s a little heavier on the wallet.

I’m not without sin and this isn’t a hit piece aimed at those who treat themselves to the occasional Starbucks. We all deserve our home comforts, and frankly, people should be allowed to consume what they want without judge-

ment. I, for one, am no stranger to a Maccy D’s breakfast after one too many *bia hơi* beers the night before. And no, I’m not giving up my iPhone any time soon. Capitalism’s greatest trick is how vast and inescapable it is. Opting out is near impossible unless you’re intending to re-enact *Into The Wild*.

Moving to Vietnam was a choice made with this sentiment in mind. I was tired of Costa Coffee and Nando’s. I wanted something different. I wanted to live in a place Anthony Bourdain had shown me on screen, where an entrepreneurial class was thriving. A place of family-run businesses passed

down through generations, existing alongside bold new ventures by a young and ambitious population. I wasn’t disappointed.

Hanoi is absolutely brimming with small businesses. The café culture here rivals any city in the world. Blackbird Coffee, with its handful of branch-

es, will serve you a cup made with more care and pride than you’ll find at any branch of Highlands. And by the time you’ve eaten in every family-owned restaurant in town, another batch will have opened, a few will have closed, and the cycle started again. Craving a burger?

Goodtime started on Instagram just a few years ago and now has three branches across the city. They’re not alone either.

Local clothing brands are starting to make a mark, and tailoring remains an affordable luxury. It’s a craft that’s still very much alive here. Make the most of it. Support it. Help slow the pace of the fast fashion machine. That’s really the point. If, like me, you value the charm and variety of independent businesses, if you’d rather champion local entrepreneurs than feed the conglomerates, and if you want Vietnam to hold onto the skills and culture that make it unique, then the answer is simple. Eat, drink and buy local!

VNS

China's role in combating imperialism

by Betsey Piette

Despite decades of war and occupation of countries abroad, the USA faces a global challenge it is unable to contain. This challenge is multifaceted, but three things stand out:

One is the relentless resistance of the people of Palestine and the Middle East in elevating their struggle for a free Palestine.

Second is the challenge from socialist China's resistance to American capitalist domination of the global economy.

The third is a growing awareness among young people that they have no future under capitalism, with its unchecked environmental catastrophes and its ready acceptance of fascist politicians.

A key challenge for the Party and the movements we are part of is how to encourage young activists and workers to develop a more global outlook when it comes to capitalism and imperialism and to see why socialism offers the solution.

Demands are important

"From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free" is the most popular demand for Palestine and one that gets the most pushback from the Zionists. This demand doesn't just raise opposition to the ongoing genocide in Gaza – it supports the future goal for Palestinians. Demands are important.

As we oppose the threat of imperialist war against China, we need to raise awareness about transformation and re-



sulting gains made by socialism in China.

Imperialist propaganda puts an equal sign between the USA and China as 'superpowers' – as if they are both capitalist countries. Corporate media pundits and politicians promote the lies that 'China is repressive, that their economy is failing, that there is widespread unemployment, no opportunities for young people, etc'. It's like they are looking in a mirror where what is reflected back are the conditions in the USA, not China.

This propaganda is all part of the ongoing and growing American military campaign against China going back to the 'Pivot to Asia' designed by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton under President Barack Obama in 2011. Since then both the bourgeois parties in the USA have played a part, maintaining the deployment of troops to the Pacific with American military bases encircling China.

Trump's tariffs

against China are just a continuation of this. The tariff struggle has laid bare the fundamental differences between the economies of the USA and China.

Trump's 'grand encirclement' strategy of using tariffs to isolate and weaken China is backfiring, forcing him to pull back the threatened 145 per cent tariffs on China.

According to US Treasury Secretary Scott Bessent, Trump hoped to pressure Japan, south Korea, Vietnam and India to follow the USA and "approach China as a group". That strategy failed. Trump's tariff threats, trade war and other aggressive policies are uniting much of the world against the USA.

On 4th May it was China, along with Japan, south Korea and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) that issued a joint statement to "Strengthen Regional Financial Co-operation". Meanwhile, China is even deepening its co-operation with

European countries – on top of already existing alliances such as BRICS. Two simple facts say a lot:

- China is the number one trading partner of two-thirds – over 120 – of the world's countries.
- US imports and exports now comprise less than one-fifth of global trade. The days of US trade dominance have passed. (In 2024 it was 17 per cent; in 1990 it was 20.5; in 1960 it was 43.3 per cent.)

The American ruling class wants to isolate China but it will end up isolating itself. The USA has a dying and increasingly chaotic capitalist system, prioritised by the drive for profits. China, on the other hand, has a planned economy, first using the expertise of Western technology to reach a stage of development that could meet its people's needs, but increasingly developing its own technologies that have allowed them

to raise living standards for everyone.

Although there are individual capitalists in China, it is a system based on socialism – where production benefits the majority, not just a handful of billionaires.

It is essential to see China as a socialist country and recognise the importance of defending it from US threats of war. Rather than just looking in the past for examples of a revolutionary movement to emulate, young activists, and all workers, need to look to China as an example of an ongoing revolution that makes more progress possible.

In a recent Friends of Socialist China article *Trump's Tariffs and the New Cold War on China*, Carlos Martinez notes: "China's rise disrupts the whole imperialist system. It gets in the way of the relationship the US wants to have with the rest of the world, whereby it can design the global economic and financial system in its own interests."

As we witnessed at the start of NATO's 2022 war in Ukraine, China's rise offered a way for Russia to neutralise unilateral sanctions. China's economy provided countries alternatives to dependency on conditional loans from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank.

China's socialist system mobilised vast resources for major undertakings to meet people's needs – whether dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic or reducing the impact of global warming by moving away from reliance on fossil fuels. China's economic growth is at the point where it's now a science and technology powerhouse, a global leader in telecommunications, in advanced manufacturing, in infrastructure construction, in space exploration, in super-computing, in quantum computing, in renewable energy, in electric vehicles and many other fields.

While we can turn to China as an example of the superiority of socialism, Trump's failed tariff war isn't the only weapon the imperialists are willing to use against China. The Biden administration and now the Trump regime have never hidden their intent to try to encircle China militarily, even discussing using nuclear weapons.

History tells us that economic wars can quickly turn into militarised wars. Our Party's task is to stop this from happening.

Defend socialism!

Workers World
(USA)

Kiev's agony

The Zelensky regime has entered its death throes. Unable to shift the balance of power on the battlefield, the terrorist regime has intensified terrorist attacks, seeking media victories for political gain. Against the backdrop of negotiations, Kiev's desperate efforts have become glaringly obvious. Its outright falsehoods and countless fakes only underscore its collapse amid military defeats.

The much-touted 'Spiderweb' operation was supposed to be Kiev's trump card, but it turned into yet another propaganda stunt with minimal real impact. Satellite images confirm that only two Russian airbases suffered damage, exactly as the Russian military reported. Meanwhile the Ukrainians falsely claimed 40 aircraft were destroyed across four bases.

Similarly, Kiev sought a media 'victory' after another failed attack on the Crime-



an Bridge on 3rd June. Ukraine proudly declared the destruction of bridge pillars, but in reality, all strikes were repelled.

Meanwhile the Zelensky regime and its Western backers remain conspicuously silent about other blatant terrorist attacks, such as the 1st June railway sabotage that caused civilian deaths. In response, Russian missiles destroyed

the terrorist Ukrainian security service (SBU) HQ in Sumy. The destroyed targets included a machine-building college housing the headquarters of the 'Sumy' operational-tactical group as well as the local SBU building, where a meeting with NATO officers was underway. Both targets were accurately struck, inflicting heavy losses. Ukrainian media, however, focused on

civilian casualties nearby, blaming Russians for another fake war crime. The footage revealed that the tragedy was caused by Ukrainian air defence missiles.

Despite their best efforts, Kiev has suffered heavy PR and political blows. As a result of the recent negotiations, Russia's offer to unilaterally hand over 6,000 bodies of fallen Ukrainian soldiers forced Kiev into an

embarrassing position. The Ukrainian military scrambled to frame it as a "mutual exchange" but this was a lie.

The Ukrainian army's dire state is further evidenced by constant command reshuffles. The head of Ground Forces, Drapaty, resigned after another deadly strike on Ukrainian troops accumulated near the front – only to be appointed

by Zelensky as the new head of Joint Forces.

In its turn, Moscow does not stoop to terror, responding with devastating rear strikes, constant victories on the battlefields and balanced diplomacy. With conventional means, the Russian military cannot stage provocations similar to Kiev's propaganda operations, simply because there are no spectacular targets left to destroy in Ukraine.

The Russian army is rapidly advancing across multiple fronts. While hiding defeats in smaller villages the Ukrainians will soon face the loss of another large fortress, Chasov Yar. Its fall will deliver another blow to Kiev's propaganda machine.

Ukraine has nothing left but to stage bloody spectacles to secure Western funding and to mask its military defeats. But with every passing day, the truth becomes harder to hide.

South Front

The First Casualty

by **Guillermo Alvarado**

It had been anticipated for weeks, and now it has finally been confirmed: South Africa-born billionaire Elon Musk, who now lives in the USA, has realised that partnering with President Donald Trump was one of his worst business decisions.

The owner of major corporations such as the

social media platform X, SpaceX and Tesla, Musk became the primary financial donor to Trump's controversial campaign to return to the White House.

Trump promised Musk a privileged position within his administration, appointing him as head of the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE).

Musk's main goal in this role was to drastically reduce the size of

the public administration – essentially, the state – as dictated by classic neo-liberal manuals, while simultaneously cutting federal expenditure as much as possible.

Neither of them anticipated however, that two egos of such magnitude could not co-exist, not even within the White House.

Upon realising that Trump was preparing a massive legislative project aimed at tax cuts

and transferring billions of dollars to the wealthiest sector, the head of X expressed disappointment in his 'friend'. So while Musk was reducing costs at DOGE with one hand, Trump was poised to undo all of his efforts with both hands.

But that wasn't the only issue. Since last November's elections, and especially after the new government took office, Musk has experienced significant losses in his

businesses.

Tesla lost nearly \$20 billion, and although SpaceX secured exorbitant government contracts, as with everything involving Trump, nothing is set in stone and could change at any moment.

Money, as everyone knows, does not recognise loyalty. When it came time to do the maths, the world's richest man realised that distancing himself from

Washington was the more profitable move.

This was never about ideology or even ideas – it was about interests that, at one point, seemed aligned and capable of co-existing, but reality proved otherwise.

It's not a dramatic separation, but today, something feels clearer and more open in Washington – perhaps the air is just a little, just a little, purer.

Radio Havana Cuba