

Stop Starving Gaza! Stop Arming Israel!

by our Arab Affairs
correspondent

The guns blaze on the streets as Palestinian resistance fighters take on Israeli forces advancing deeper into Gaza City killing dozens of Palestinian civilians in their way and forcing tens of thousands of others onto coastal roads away from the city centre. While the feudal Arab leaders wring their hands at the UN the Zionist killing machine continues unchecked, spreading terror that spares neither the sick and the hungry or women and children in the besieged Palestinian enclave.

Back in Beijing the Chinese Foreign Ministry repeated its call for a truce. Israel must stop its military operations in the Gaza Strip, which belongs to the State of Palestine, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Guo Jiakun said. “Gaza belongs to the Palestinian people and is an integral part of Palestinian territory” he told reporters while commenting on the conflict’s escalation and several Western countries’ recognition of the State of Palestine. “Under the current circumstances, China believes that it is extremely important to promote a comprehensive ceasefire in Gaza and alleviate the humanitarian catastrophe” he said.

Countries with “special influence” on Israel need to “ef-



fectively fulfil their responsibilities” Guo added, pointing to the importance of adhering to two principles: “Palestine should be ruled by Palestinians” and “two states for two peoples”.

Guo also stressed the importance of maintaining a broad international consensus on the Palestinian issue and refraining from unilateral actions. “Peace cannot be achieved through force, and security cannot be ensured through violence” he said, confirming Beijing’s readiness to “resolutely support the just cause of the Palestinian people”.

Although the USA and Israel were, as usual, totally isolated at the UN, the emergency Arab-Islamic summit in Qatar achieved nothing and few believe that the adoption of the “New York Declaration” at the UN General Assembly will turn the wave of Western recognitions of Palestinian statehood into concrete steps toward building an independent state anytime soon.

But moves are afoot to kick Israel out of the Eurovision song contest, the World Cup and other

sporting competitions. Italy has sent a naval frigate to protect the Gaza aid flotilla that has come under repeated Zionist drone harassment on the high seas, and Spain has cancelled more than \$1 billion in defence deals with Israeli firms, imposing a total arms embargo on the Zionist entity.

The international community must sever all economic ties with Israel over its actions in Gaza and should question its membership of the UN. That’s the view of the Hamas representative in Iran who told the Russian media last week that Israel was committing genocide and undermining international efforts to end the fighting in the Gaza Strip.

Dr Khaled Al-Qaddoumi praised Qatar, which has played a central mediating role between Hamas and Israel since the Gaza war began, as well as Egypt, but said Israel had sabotaged the talks. Hamas had accepted peace proposals and was prepared for a full prisoner swap, but negotiations collapsed due to Israeli actions.

“[Israeli premier] Netanyahu

decisive action and called for a “political decision to make those criminals stop this genocide in Gaza...we should today question the membership of Israel as a member state of the United Nations. We should question all bilateral deals with Israel. We should cut all the economic ties.”

“How many more innocent lives must be lost before a ceasefire can be achieved in Gaza? How many more tragedies will it take before humanitarian aid can flow unimpeded?” The soul-stirring questions posed by China’s UN envoy, Fu Cong, reflect the harsh reality of the Gaza Strip. Since the outbreak of the latest round of fighting in the Israel–Palestine conflict, Israeli military operations in Gaza have resulted in the deaths of over 65,000 Palestinians, leading to famine in the region and forcing more than two million residents to flee their homes.

FUND

We received £530 in the post this week, pushing the running total for September up to £1,511, but we still need to raise £1,989 to hit our fighting fund target for the month.

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INSIDE

PEOPLE’S CHINA
.. PP2,5,10

PALESTINE .. PP10,11

IRAN/ISRAEL .. P12

VENEZUELA .. P12

THE NEW WORKER

Weekly paper of the New Communist Party

A step in the right direction

The Starmer government's decision to recognise the State of Palestine may be no more than a diplomatic gesture of support but it nevertheless clearly recognises, at long last, the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arabs to self-determination and independence. The UK, together with a number of its Western allies, have now joined the overwhelming majority of countries around the world that have long recognised the Palestinians right to establish a state of their own on the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The USA and Israel can now only count on the support of a handful of venal puppets in the international arena.

The surge of support in the corridors of power throughout the Western world reflects a new realism towards the Palestinians and the Zionist entity. At the same time, it is a response, and an attempt to pacify, the overwhelming support for the Palestinian Arabs on the street that has led to the dispatch of Italian and Spanish warships to protect the aid flotilla sailing to Gaza and fired calls to kick Israel out of the Eurovision song contest and the World Cup.

Zionist drones have repeatedly harassed the Global Sumud Flotilla to Gaza. Luckily nobody has been hurt but all those onboard are now on high alert. These boats are on a mercy mission to break Israel's illegal siege and deliver much-needed aid to the Palestinians in Gaza who are facing Israel's genocide. The British government must also act now to protect the flotilla and those onboard, and take action to end its complicity in Israel's genocide.

Much more now needs to be done. The international community must sever all economic ties with Israel over its actions in Gaza and should question its membership of the United Nations. Israel must withdraw from all the occupied territories, and recognition of a Palestinian state must be followed by recognition of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab refugees whose homes are now in Israel. They must be allowed to return or, if they so wish, be paid appropriate compensation in exchange.

Burnham shows his cards

By all accounts Andy Burnham, the Mayor of Greater Manchester, is on the verge of returning to front-line Labour politics. He says Downing Street has created a "climate of fear" within the Labour Party and tells the media that Labour MPs have privately urged him to challenge Starmer for the leadership. That, of course, is easier said than done.

The not-so-young pretender first of all needs to find a safe, vacant Labour seat to return to the House of Commons before he can move to oust Starmer – and although some seats may soon be up for grabs getting the nomination largely depends on the goodwill of the Labour bureaucracy. He then needs to win the seat in a by-election – no mean feat these days with Labour in the doldrums and Farage on a roll – to garner sufficient support needed within the Labour bloc in parliament before a challenge can even take place.

Burnham is, nevertheless, preparing his platform and already saying he's willing to work with the Liberal-Democrats and Jeremy Corbyn to face off the Faragists. But there's plenty of others waiting in the wings who want to fill Starmer's shoes. If Burnham doesn't move quickly he'll miss the boat.

China: A better life for all

by Ding Gang

If you want to understand the Chinese economy truly, it takes more than reading numbers off a screen. You need to see how ordinary Chinese people live their lives.

What's remarkable about China's growth isn't just those giant statistics, but how this economic transformation has improved the lives of hundreds of millions of ordinary families. Those are the real stories.

Let me start with a number that may sound simple but carries enormous weight. According to the latest announcement from the State Council Information Office, as of 2024, the average life expectancy in China has risen to 79 years. That's not an abstract figure – it represents the standard of living and the health of ordinary people across the country.

Now, let's rewind 20 years. In 2005, the average life expectancy in China was about 72.1 years, while it was 77.6 in the USA. That's a difference of more than five years.

At that time, China was rapidly moving from being an agrarian society to an industrial powerhouse, but the healthcare system was still playing catch-up. Many older adults in rural areas had to walk several miles to see a doctor, and even hospitals in big cities could be cramped and under-equipped.

Fast forward two decades, and China's life expectancy has surged by almost seven years, from 72.3 to 79.

But this isn't just a numbers game. These statistics tell the story of millions of Chinese families leading healthier, longer and happier lives. Why has China's average life expectancy risen so quickly?

Over the last decade, the government has committed substantial resources to enhancing public welfare, particularly in healthcare.

Just look at the 14th Five-Year Plan (2021–25), which laid out blueprints for 114 national regional medical

centres. These centres act as bridges, connecting world-class medical resources from top cities to towns and counties all over China.

In practice, this means county hospitals and township clinics are working together like never before, forming an efficient healthcare safety net.

I've experienced this progress first-hand. Early this year, during a trip to Lingao, a small tropical county in South China's Hainan province, I injured my ankle and went to the county hospital's emergency room.

To my surprise, I found that the hospital was equipped with modern CT and X-ray equipment, with attentive, professional doctors who gave me a complete check-up and advice for recovery. The whole process was quick and affordable.

Later in the summer, I visited a hospital in Meixian county, a modest agricultural region in Northwest China's Shaanxi province. Again, the county hospital impressed me: clean waiting areas, patient doctors and state-of-the-art equipment.

A local resident told me that most people now choose the county hospital for their healthcare needs, as all routine tests and treatments can be managed locally, with only complicated cases being referred to larger hospitals elsewhere.

The progress in these county hospitals is the direct result of nationwide initiatives. The 'Thousand Counties Project'

has targeted over 1,800 county hospitals for major upgrades, including expanded facilities, new specialty departments and telemedicine.

Now, nearly 90 per cent of patients receive the care they need within their own county – an achievement that stands out globally and has drastically reduced deaths from delayed treatment.

Across the nation, this healthcare transformation is raising living standards for everyone, reducing poverty and allowing more people to participate in the growing economy.

The rise in life expectancy didn't happen by chance – it's the result of practical, robust policies aimed at giving people not just longer lives, but healthier lives.

This is the essence of Chinese modernisation – not a single-minded pursuit of numbers but a mission to build a better life for all.

It's not an empty slogan – it shows up in metrics like life expectancy that capture what truly matters to people. China's achievement isn't just about GDP growth or high-tech breakthroughs, but about real, everyday improvements in the standard of living and the health of every citizen.

The author is a senior editor with the People's Daily and currently a senior fellow with the Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies at the Renmin University of China.

Global Times



Workers' Notes

Bloody Sunday fight for justice

by New Worker correspondent

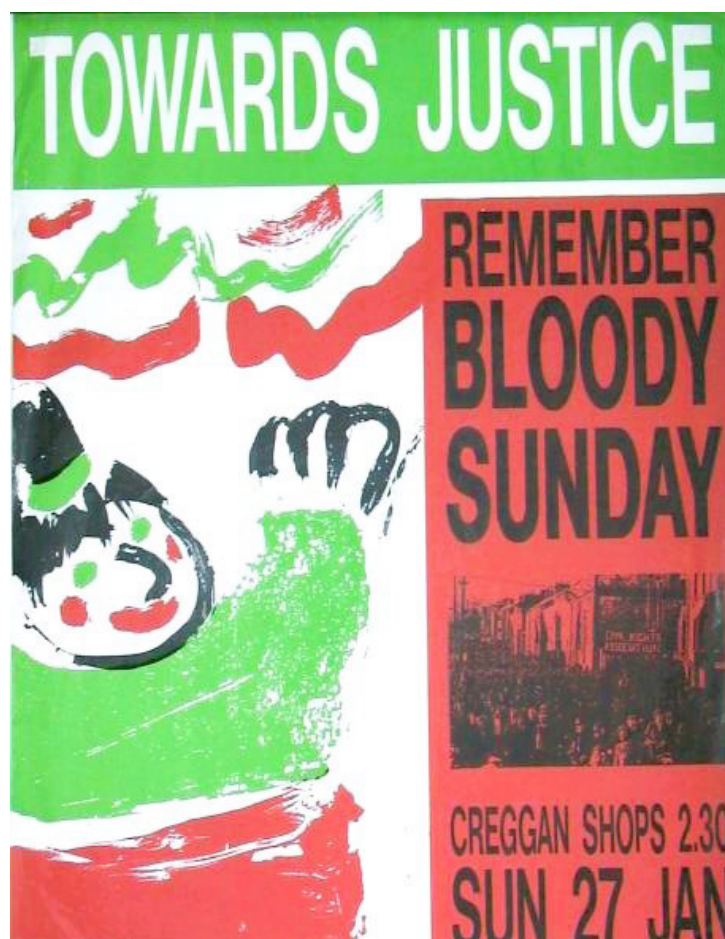
The judge in the trial of the sole British soldier charged with murder over the 1972 'Bloody Sunday' killings of 13 unarmed Catholic civil rights marchers has ruled that key military statements could be entered as evidence by prosecutors. Judge Patrick Lynch said the hearsay statements that the prosecution case was "totally dependent upon" should be admitted, but that it would be inappropriate at this point to give reasons for his decision. A lawyer for the families of the victims, Ciaran Sheils, said they were "very, very pleased", describing the evidence as "decisive".

Prosecutors initially decided in 2021 not to go to trial over fears that the statements given by two other soldiers, who were with the soldier charged over the killings, could be ruled inadmissible because of how the evidence was obtained. Northern Ireland's High Court quashed the decision to discontinue the murder case in 2022 after a legal challenge by the victims' families, and lawyers for the prosecution began presenting their case last week.

'Soldier F' is accused of murdering two men and attempting to murder five others when members of the Parachute Regiment opened fire in the mainly Irish nationalist city of Derry.

The former paratrooper, who cannot be named due to an interim court order granting his anonymity, denies all the charges.

Sinn Féin's Pádraig Delargy, a member of the northern Ireland Assembly, paid tribute to the Bloody Sunday families ahead of the murder trial against Soldier F that began on Monday in Belfast. Mr Delargy also said the case will be monitored by his party in light of the recent legacy framework between both governments.



The Foyle MLA said: "After five decades of families courageously battling for truth and justice for their loved ones murdered on Bloody Sunday, it is welcome that the trial against Soldier F will begin on Monday. I want to pay tribute to the families for their tenacity in ensuring such a day would come.

"This case will be closely monitored by our party in light of the recent framework for legacy agreed by both governments. In 2025 there is still a total lack of accountability for the role Britain's state actors, and indeed the state itself, played in the conflict, causing hurt for so many families. British combatants who broke the law during the conflict must be held accountable for their actions. Sinn Féin will continue to stand with the families of Bloody Sunday, and all those still fighting for justice."

Crap Jobs

by New Worker correspondent

The extent of insecure work in the UK has recently been the subject of a useful, if fairly predictable, report from the TUC. It comes from the computer of its researcher Anjum Klair

whose major finding is that this has increased to almost one in eight of the workforce, 11.7 per cent to be precise.

The numbers affected in 2011 were 3.2 million, in 2024 it is four million. This includes people on zero-hours contracts, which mean they never know for how long they will be working and how much they will be paid. Agency, casual and seasonal workers and low-paid self-employed workers (those earning less than two-thirds the median wage, or below £11.24 per hour) are included. Being self-employed they are not regarded as employees and so have no rights.

These figures exclude those on fixed-term contracts. While many fixed-term contracts are perfectly legitimate, sometimes they are another type of insecure work such as on those occasions when employers only offer fixed-term contracts with a vague promise of renewal to keep experienced workers in line with a carrot and stick promise.

Since 2011 insecure work has chiefly grown in the care, leisure, service and elementary occupations, which account for about 600,000 of the new insecure jobs.

Men and women have different experiences at the bottom end of the labour market, neither of them agreeable. The low-paid

care sector is predominantly female, but overall men are slightly more likely to be in precarious employment: 12.4 per cent for men against 11.1 per cent of women. The higher male rate is due to low-paid self-employment.

Ethnic minorities come out worse: 16.3 per cent of Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) workers are in insecure work compared with 10.8 per cent of white workers, again in recent years this has been a major growth that we could do without. Since 2011 BME workers in insecure work rose by 250 per cent, from 360,000 to 935,000.

Zero-hour contracts (ZHC) are by far the worst as workers are kept on tenterhooks waiting for work, like dockers waiting at the gates before the post-war dock reforms. Almost two-thirds or 62 per cent report being given less than 24 hours' notice, with the figure for carers rising to 85 per cent. Making things worse is that two-thirds of ZHC workers received no compensation the last time their hours were cancelled, with mothers and carers the most likely to lose out, which is a serious hardship for those on low pay. Almost two-thirds of insecure workers said they often struggled to meet basic living costs due to a lack of hours.

While 80 per cent wanted stable hours with optional overtime, a third of ZHC contract workers reported employers denied requests for guaranteed hours. Refusing hours, even for the best of reasons, often means they will be overlooked.

The TUC thinks that the Employment Rights Bill is going to make a difference, citing clauses that will ban exploitative zero-hours contracts by giving workers rights to regular hours contracts reflecting their regular hours, along with rights to compensation from cancelled shifts.

Union efforts to organise in these sectors by the major unions such as Unite and GMB have not brought about a vast influx of members. The smaller non-TUC street unions such as the IWW and the United Voices of Workers, which have emerged out of frustration and the indifference of the mainstream union bureaucracy, have isolated victories but all too often these victories are short-lived because employers have a tendency to close down and turn

up again with a new name and a different workforce.

Government promises of improved enforcement of the law cannot be relied upon as increasing the number of civil servants is not a priority. Nationalisation of the care homes sector, which could bring workers better conditions, is clearly not on the agenda of a Government that wants to privatise anything that is not nailed down in the NHS.

Panos Theodoropoulou, author of *The Precarious Migrant Worker*, whose research included attempting to organise them into the IWW, noted that many precarious workers apart from the obvious problems of language barriers, fear of deportation and lack of knowledge of labour rights, have an annoying habit of taking pride in enduring hardships. He cites kitchen workers celebrating "their burns as badges of honour, unable to imagine a hospitality industry liberated from pain". This suggests that union organisers have a way to go in this field. It remains to be seen if Nigel Farage's latest speech will encourage greater unionisation.

Recognition Battles

by New Worker correspondent

In Sheffield, Unite is involved in dispute with waste disposal outsourcing company Veolia over the recognition of its members who have been on strike over conditions. Unite said 90 per cent of its members had voted "overwhelmingly" to extend action going back to August 2024.

It is not just Veolia who are resisting this; GMB argues it represents a large majority of employees at the depot. Unite claims depot workers it represents were "furious" at being denied a democratic right for union recognition. It wants amendments to conditions that would ensure the "harmonisation of contractual conditions" in order to secure an improved agreement on sick pay and an arrangement that better takes into account the cost impacts of inflation.

Onay Kasab, Unite's national
continued on page 4...

...continued from page 3

lead officer for refuse collectors, says the union would always seek to negotiate on pay issues before opting for strike action “but if Veolia continues to refuse to negotiate, we will not sit back. We will continue to take the action that is necessary.”

A Central Arbitration Committee (the court for such matters) hearing ruled against Unite’s recognition however, because a collective bargaining agreement was already in place with the GMB and GMB firmly opposed Unite’s claim.

Veolia claim only 37 of the Lumley Street workforce are members of Unite, while GMB lays claim to about 180 members at the depot, and argues that recognising a second union would break its existing agreement with the GMB and risk wider-scale industrial action from those members.

GMB and Veolia agreed an eight per cent pay rise over two years and a £750 bonus for all staff at the depot, which had settled their strike and got them back to work.

Veolia began legal action in July against Unite, claiming it had launched a “defamatory campaign” against the company and council. This Unite denies.

Whatever the rights and wrongs of the GMB versus Unite, it is good to report that GMB’s MPs’ and peers’ Staff Branch has made a new recruit: Barley, the

guide dog belonging to Lord David Blunkett, a Blair era minister. Lisa Gillmore, Senior Parliamentary Researcher and President of GMB MPs’ and Peers’ Staff Branch, said “as the largest union for those working for MPs and Peers, we felt it was important to recognise the crucial role that working animals have for thousands of people in Britain, including several on the Estate and in constituency offices”.

Earlier, this summer saw more than 200 Macmillan Cancer Support staff gain union recognition with Unite after a dispute with bosses over plans to reduce the workforce by making 300 welfare advisors redundant while recruiting more bosses, such as a £119,000 ‘director of strategy and transformation’, to manage the smaller number of workers.

As this came hot on the heels of an earlier headcount reduction of 400 or 26 per cent it is not difficult to see the attraction of union representation if perhaps it is somewhat overdue.

Unite’s Sharon Graham said: “This vote will allow Macmillan staff to drive up the quality of their jobs, pay and conditions through their chosen union, Unite. These workers, along with the rest of the Macmillan workforce, have faced a challenging year, but Unite is working hard to defend their interests and the critical services they deliver.”

From the other side, Francesca Okosi, the charity’s ‘chief people and culture officer’, said:

“We welcome Unite the Union as a partner in strengthening colleague voice at Macmillan. We’re looking forward to working together constructively to make Macmillan the best possible place to work, so we can continue delivering outstanding support for people living with cancer.”

Having even better luck in the recognition stakes is the Communication Workers Union (CWU), who have won recognition at the Hong Kong-based Sapphire Technology Limited after a six-month battle that was secured without even needing a ballot. This was obviously due to the fact that the Sapphire workers (who make equipment for gamers) were more highly skilled and cannot be replaced easily.

The union cited a Sapphire worker as saying “winning recognition this fast shows what’s possible when people stick together, through simply starting a conversation with a few colleagues about the challenges we faced, we found out these issues were team-wide” adding that: “We are proof that in tech – just like anywhere else – when workers are united, we can win and have a voice in the workplace.”

The union point out that despite being a hi-tech industry workers suffer from precarious contracts, high turnover and opaque decision-making, which the CWU is now in a better place to challenge. Workers are now preparing to negotiate a strong first pay deal.

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(cheques to New Worker)

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

30th September 2005

THE LABOUR Party conference in Brighton this week started out promisingly, with a firm pledge that Blair will go before the next general election and Brown was in confident mood that he would soon inherit the top job.

Brown addressed the conference, speaking of “renewing New Labour” while pledging to carry on Tony Blair’s “reforms” in order to appease Blair and make it easy for him to go.

Union leaders were busy flattering Brown, pleased that although he supports the war in Iraq and galloping

privatisation at least he’s not Blair.

Trade unions defeated the party leadership in a vote – on the right to solidarity strike action.

The motion, proposed by the Transport and General Workers’ Union (TGWU) was passed by 69 to 31 per cent in a card vote.

Union determination on this point was fuelled by the Gate Gourmet dispute where nearly 700 workers were sacked by the Heathrow airline catering company after an unofficial walkout.

The vote will not, alas lead to a change of policy on these laws. Work and Pensions Minister Alan Johnson has already made that clear. But it does provide the unions with extra pressure on the Government.

Furthermore, the vote indicates that Blair is losing control of the conference.

But on Tuesday, as if to say “Fooled you all!”, Blair was back on the podium to announce that his “reforms” will

take at least another three years and that he intends to supervise them personally.

Blair spoke of the need for more and faster changes in the headlong rush to turn Britain into a giant free market, with everything for sale. Meanwhile his wife Cherie beamed and boasted to the press that they would not be moving out of Downing Street for many years – as though the place was their private property.

Blair’s stand will come as bitter news to the unions and the rank-and-file Labour members who worked so hard last spring to secure another Labour election victory despite Blair.

Former Health Secretary Frank Dobson said then: “He was an enormous liability in this general election. If he had not been leader I doubt whether we would have lost a seat.”

Hampstead and Highgate MP Glenda Jackson said: “The people have spoken. In fact they’ve screamed at the top of their lungs. The message is clear. They want Blair gone.”

People's China: imperialist or socialist?

by Sara Flounders

China's emergence as an economic powerhouse is a game-changer on a world scale today, with its Belt & Road Initiative, the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation, the BRICS trade alliance and numerous bilateral trade agreements. China is the top trading partner of over 120 countries and has become an alternative to the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank and their brutal structural adjustment, deregulation and privatisation programmes (SAPs). Every international gathering, trade agreement and aid shipment confirms that China is a lifeline for the Global South.

China was able to end poverty for 800 million people – something neither the USA nor any other capitalist country has been able to do. Life expectancy is on par with the USA, and China has achieved the fastest growth in living standards of any country in the world.

In the 1950s, when Japan and much of Europe were in ruins, the USA led the world by almost any economic measure. It manufactured half the world's goods, possessed over 40 per cent of the world's income and had by far the highest standard of living. For more than 60 years, the American-based monopolies maintained their domination, but in the decades since the 2008 crisis, China has overtaken America in total production and especially in manufactured goods. How is this possible?

The corporate media presents the competition between the USA and China as a contention between two nation states and falsely accuses the Chinese government of not playing fair. In reality, China's



• China: the workshop of the world.

advantage arises from the sharp difference in two wholly different forms of organising society. In the USA, nearly all resources are privately owned by a handful of billionaires. Even public forests, waters and raw minerals are ripe for exploitation for private profit. In China, the overwhelming bulk of resources – oil, gas, coal, gold, gems, rare earth minerals and water – are socially owned and used for the development of the whole of society.

We will show some of the ways this difference in ownership impacts further modernisation and the ability to adapt to new technology in the two societies. We will also discuss how the American ruling class is reacting to challenges it faces from China and from the crisis in its own capitalist system. Right now, American politicians and media are waging an ideological assault on China. Refuting their lies and propaganda is helpful, but the fundamental reason behind their hostility must also be exposed. This reason lies in the class and property differences between People's China and US imperialism.

Co-operation in a Global Market

Ruthless competition for profit, the fundamental feature of capitalism, disrupts co-operative work that is needed to solve the enormous environmental and social problems that confront the whole planet. In fact, a higher stage of industrial and technical development in a more complex society actually requires a higher stage of social organisation. Since it employs little to no planning, capitalism can't solve the overarching problems humanity faces on a global scale. It is beyond dispute that US living standards and quality of life, measured in health care, education, housing and infrastructure are in sharp decline.

Higher levels of production need a high-tech infrastructure to move what is produced to global markets. China dominates the global commercial shipbuilding market, producing over 50 per cent of the world's new ship orders, while the US share has dwindled to less than one. China's shipbuilding industry

is backed by a vast industrial base with government support, allowing it to compete on a larger scale than the USA.

China's workers have laid down tens of thousands of miles of high-speed rail that connect 500 Chinese cities and are still expanding to connect to neighbouring countries. Meanwhile in the USA, both freight and passenger railways are in decline. China has gone green, rapidly adopting solar power and has put half a million electric city buses on its streets. Most US city buses are still belching out pollution from burning fossil fuels.

A significant portion of China's free higher education starts with an emphasis on STEM (science, technology, engineering and maths) education, graduating some 3.5 million STEM graduates each year. This is approximately 10 times as many as those from US educational institutions. High levels of skill and advanced education are essential for intervention in today's world.

The internet is widely available even in rural China due to government initiatives

such as the National Broadband Strategy. This level of internet penetration, a massive increase over the past, enables economic development and improves quality of life for rural residents.

Imperialist decline

The USA is desperate to preserve its hegemony. The American capitalist class has grown frantic about the decline of its global dominance and is therefore doubling down on imperialism. The Democratic and Republican parties both agree to blame China. The Pentagon agrees. NATO agrees.

They direct new sanctions, new tariffs and new rounds of propaganda at China. In the Pacific and the South China Sea, US strategists are rushing to construct a military alliance similar to NATO. It will include Japan, Australia, New Zealand, south Korea and the Philippines, and is directed against China. Every arm of the imperialist colossus is predicting and planning for war. The vicious and relentless propaganda, the expanding military budget, the relentless war games and military manoeuvres all confirm the build-up. Thinktanks and strategists promote the idea that war with China is inevitable.

Voices in all imperialist centres are united in slandering China, calling it an imperialist country, no different than past or present imperialist looters. Constant repetition of their propaganda attacks can make the slanders stick, even in the ranks of anti-imperialists. That's why it's important to underline the class differences between People's China and the USA.

In a capitalist economy,

continued on page 6...

...continued from page 5

run for the benefit of corporate billionaires, the CEOs and Boards of Directors must base their decisions on maximising profit – usually in the shortest term. If they fail, they will lose their positions. Market cycles, not human needs, drive every decision in capitalist production; what is produced is decided by what can immediately be sold for profit.

In China, whose economy is still developing and is catching up in many areas, the major productive forces are owned collectively. Since decisions are not driven by profit, let alone short-term profit, rational planning is possible. Planned production is different from the boom-and-bust swings in capitalist economies. China has enjoyed steady development, year after year, for 75 years, without the recessions and rock-bottom depressions that have been a feature of every capitalist economy for 400 years.

A capitalist economy depends on the state apparatus enforcing private ownership of all means of production and all resources. The police, the courts, the largest prison system on the planet and the giant, US-command-

ed NATO military machine act as its enforcers. The US military, by far the largest in NATO, has been American capitalists' shortest path to the highest profits for decades, with its huge, guaranteed, multi-billion dollar annual subsidy.

In 2025, President Trump announced the largest military budget in history, more than \$1 trillion. "Nobody's seen anything like it," he bragged. This means that the American strategy is still to impose its military domination at the expense of funding for industrial development and infrastructure. Federal funding has been pumped into the military for over four generations, providing huge subsidies and a guaranteed source of profits to US defence corporations. But this quick fix has become a drag on the economy. It adds nothing of real value and weakens civilian infrastructure by draining the resources needed for vital social programmes, including those that feed, house, provide medical care and educate the US workforce.

The Chinese

Revolution Shook the World

The Chinese Revolution was an upheaval that shook the world. It aroused workers and peasants globally. It achieved victory because it was led by the Communist Party of China (CPC), which broke with the dominant imperialist powers that had looted China. The early accomplishments made by what was then a totally impoverished country were enormous, including evicting the imperialist powers from China and opening the road to a new society. China faced enormous impediments in this task; its many contradictions led to fierce debates within the CPC.

In an all-out effort to strangle this revolution, the USA and its allies walled China off from Western trade and technology during its first 30 years after the revolution. During that time, the CPC reorganised agriculture as well as the basic industries that had survived decades of civil war and Japanese and Western colonial occupation.

Every step forward required a mass mobilisation involving the great energy of millions of people. They collectively organised mass immunisations and literacy programmes, and built basic schools, sanitation and irrigation systems, dams and other infrastructure. They collectivised the land and enthusiastically ripped out the feudal landlord system, root and branch.

The world dominated by monopoly capital was also changing fast, however, and the leadership of the CPC decided to turn toward gaining access to Western technology and trade. Be-

ginning in 1978, China focused intensively on its development and on gaining Western investment. This necessarily opened China's economy to hostile class elements, as Western investments of money, machinery, technology and skills flooded into China, creating a new domestic capitalist class.

The compromise included concessions and profits to the capitalist class internationally and distortions of China's socialist structure. Some observers wondered if the CPC could balance the emerging contradictions and still maintain the party's socialist goals, and many in the West said that the enthusiasm engendered by Western corporations' heavy investments in China had already succeeded in bringing China back into the capitalist orbit. Judging by their enthusiastic focus on China, the big corporate investors certainly must have assumed that they would be able to overturn China's socialist base.

The emergence of a class of Chinese millionaires and billionaires and a stratum that looked to and studied in the West was certainly politically disorienting. Many who

had been strong supporters of China in the past assumed that the socialist base of the Chinese state was totally lost. But both the Western capitalists and the disillusioned supporters of China were wrong.

Socialism with Chinese characteristics

The most important aspect of defending China today is recognising the socialist base of the Chinese economy and the leadership of the Chinese Communist Party in building an economy of a new type. This is not a finished product; according to the CPC, China is building "toward socialism" or is in the "primary stage of socialism" and is not yet a fully developed socialist country with equality for all. This phase of socialist construction is described by the CPC as "Socialism with Chinese Characteristics". It is also described as "market socialism" or "socialism with a market". China today has a "market" built on socialist pillars,

and its people-oriented central planning remains decisive. Step by step, China has opened a controlled capitalist market, while holding on to state ownership of the major industries and banks.

China still faces imbalances, insufficiencies and enormous difficulties from past imperialist looting and from US military encirclement and economic sanctions today. Yet the CPC keeps firm political control over this complex and uneven process by employing socialist planning at every level of society. Major economic and social targets are set in advance and co-ordinated nationally, by province, by county and by municipality.

The 14th Five Year Plan, which was focused on raising the level of the whole society and balancing historic inequality, is now ending. The 15th Five Year Plan will focus on expanding consumption and the "market" by increasing social benefits, especially in health care, day care, elder care and particularly protections for migrant workers and new urban residents. These improvements in social life can simultaneously unlock service consumption, enhance



• This is America: homeless beggar in San Francisco.



• Chinese pensioners relaxing in a Beijing park.

social mobility and promote social equality.

Local governments are being reoriented from prioritising mid- and low-end manufacturing toward investments in productive services and livelihood consumption. This includes funding for culture, theatre, domestic tourism, improved recreational services and increasing rural residents' pensions. This approach shifts the growth drivers from volatile external market demands toward a resilient domestic cycle that benefits the people.

Role of the Communist Party

The CPC now has more than 100 million members. Its cells, elected from within the ranks, are in virtually every workplace, neighbourhood, school and department. The party organisations are committed to defending socialist property and determined to protect Chinese sovereignty. They are the backbone of its extensive social programmes.

The CPC considers that while imperialist corporations have exploited and profited from hiring Chinese labour, this was a temporary compromise to gain access to Western technology and factories and to accumulate investment funds. The key economic role is assigned to a state controlled by the working class. Every major industry, especially banking, remains under state control – a state controlled by a massive Communist Party. The central banks play a crucial role in subsidising and developing key industries. The State decides where to allocate funds and what kinds of investments will be pri-



• Modern Shenzhen in south China.

oritised. Labour-intensive, low-paid industries are now being phased out, and high-tech industries with specialised skills are the future.

Today in China, raw materials, high-speed railways, airlines, most forms of energy, communications and most key areas of the economy continue to be state-owned enterprises (SOE). These state-owned enterprises, a very precise category in China's state planning, have laid the foundation for China's further development over a long period of time.

The SOEs also enjoy many advantages, particularly in credit lines and interest rates granted by state-owned banks. These banks play a critical role in stimulating technological innovation in all fields, such as robotics, nuclear power, space etc. Without the major innovations and key core technologies achieved by SOEs, there would be no economic independence and national security for China. Without their long-term commitment to a large number of social responsibilities, there would be no continuous improvement in people's lives.

Today hundreds of millions of Chinese urban workers, especially the youth, are well-informed, well-trained, highly educated, in good health, have access to good jobs and modern housing units that they own outright, and are using fast and efficient transportation facilities. A current goal is to bring these high standards to the rural and least developed areas of China.

Small production, food delivery apps, numerous restaurants and coffee shops, artisan booths and craft facilities in both urban and rural areas are largely in private hands. Much further development in many levels of production is also still a long-term goal. The majority of the workforce is still employed in a wide mix of small-scale private, co-op and township ownership plans, in the cities and in the countryside. Large-scale development of all the productive forces is far from complete in China.

Capitalism: an Impediment

to Social Progress

Today in the USA, the centre of imperialism, virtually everything that we touch, eat and wear, every pill we take, every hospital we visit, every cup of coffee we drink is controlled by giant capitalist monopolies. The cars we drive and the homes and apartments we live in are mostly mortgaged to the banks, which are all privately owned. Bank lending and government subsidies are given mainly to the corporations that have the immediate potential to make a high rate of profit.

US imperialism is incapable of modernising in order to regain its place in today's global economy because it is totally chained to an outmoded form of production – capitalism. Ruthlessly lowering wages, cutting social benefits, infrastructure investments and education is the billionaires' only strategy. The private ownership of the means of production and the expropriation of all socially produced wealth by a handful of billion-

aires means fabulous wealth for a few, in the short term, but ultimately it is an impediment to the ability to modernise industry in the context of today's global supply chains.

US imperialism can still threaten to destroy its opponents to impose its demands. This is a powerful threat. But the capitalists will discover that military might not backed-up by industrial capacity becomes a paper tiger, growling without substance.

The interests of workers and oppressed people in the USA are bound up with the development of the people of the whole world. Only through increased solidarity will our class here develop the ability to solve the enormous global problems. The ability to rationally plan and invest socially created wealth into rapidly improving technology and infrastructure is decisive, and this requires socialism.

Socialist economies, based on planning and co-operation, are alone capable of solving the problems that the world now faces. Therefore, stepping up to defend China, its revolution and

its accomplishments is necessary for the collective future of humanity.

Which Side Are You On?

"Which side are you on?" is the oldest formulation in the class struggle. Political movements, parties and organisations of the working class that take sides in the global class struggle are the most able to withstand the crisis confronting their class and all oppressed peoples. Without this anchor, this basic understanding, workers and activists are cast adrift in the onslaught of each imperialist flood.

A growing number of left forces are using a Marxist lens to understand a complex world development of a new type. China's gains hold a liberating potential for humanity. If we can explain the reason for American imperialism's hostility and why Washington calls Beijing "the greatest threat" we can strengthen popular resistance to the US drive toward war. We urgently need to take the defence of China to a more serious and higher level. We need to challenge the attacks in the corporate media, in social media and in academia that have increased as the Chinese economy has skyrocketed past the imperialist economies.

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LETTERS

Dear Comrades

Britain faces serious political and economic crises. Far right forces are exploiting people's widespread discontent. Workers are being forced to carry the burden resulting from decades of capitalism that has left the economy in ruins and hapless bourgeois politicians in denial. Our nation needs a revolutionary change to overcome a failing political system that continues to exploit the people with falling standards of public services, growing poverty and very little say in important matters. Only a revolutionary political party, such as the New Communist Party of Britain (NCP), can make a revolution. Elections and syndicalism alone cannot achieve socialism. We have to enthuse, educate and motivate a militant mass working class.

This is much easier said than done – but is essential. Political involvement that is to be successful has to be far more than just a click on a computer. We are up against the constant propaganda of the shameful bourgeois mass media that has been so successful in the elimination of free thinking and critical analysis amongst a high percentage of the population. We have to tackle the challenge at grass roots level.

This means increasing sales of the *New Worker* and other progressive literature, forming *New Worker* supporter groups, and supporting local actions and struggles. There is no such thing as armchair socialism. Above all it

is the young people with whom we need to engage and show the alternative. They have inherited an appalling legacy that only revolutionary change can address.

In Britain all the major parties support capitalism. The NCP believes that socialism is essential to eliminate exploitation, job losses, low wages, poverty, economic crisis and never-ending wars. Marxism is a dynamic philosophy that shows how scientific socialism can transform society and turn dreams of a better world into reality.

**John Maryon
Suffolk**

Dear Comrades

On the 15th September the website *Wrexham.com* carried an article titled "Council Leader says North Korea 'literature and discussions' in Ty Pawb was 'unacceptable'," which basically referred to the participation of the Korean Friendship Association of the UK (KFA UK) at the Wrexham Socialist Bookfair (organised by Red Book Fairs) on the 30th August at the Ty Pawb Centre in Wrexham.

The article quoted the leader of Wrexham, one Mark Pritchard (described an "Independent" – independent of what exactly?), as saying: "It should not have been there...we shouldn't allow them to do what they were doing, promoting and selling books on that within that area...If you look at that individual, what he stands for, we wouldn't want that in Wrexham."

To-date *Wrexham.com* has not given us the right of reply. Moreover, in the first place they never contacted KFA UK, me or Red Book Fairs about the article. They have also used images from KFA UK social media without our express and prior permission.

I most strongly suspect that rather than "some in-

dividuals have contacted me after this happened" as asserted by Councillor Pritchard, the complaint probably came from one particular hostile and irate individual who looked anti-social and as if he had mental health issues.

So Wrexham council is trying to ban KFA UK in Wrexham! This is a totally arrogant and dictatorial attitude. KFA UK totally rejects this attack on free speech and the freedom of expression! What it shows is that the establishment and the elite in Britain do not want people finding out the truth about People's Korea, it is as simple as that. We will continue to defend People's Korea with No Ifs or Buts! We will be back to Wrexham and north Wales, and we will expand our activity to new areas of the UK.

**Dermot Hudson
London**

Dear Comrades

Dianne Kirby writing in the Irish Communist Party's news (13 Sept 202525), says that it is becoming ever clearer that no meaningful state action will be used to force an end to Israel's relentless, escalating genocide. Dianne goes on to say however, that ordinary people the world over have responded with a force of their own: people power. She points out that extraordinarily creative means of protest, in addition to marches, vigils, fund and consciousness raising, has shifted the rhetoric and tone of the so-called "Free World's" elected leaders. But, as we all know, Gaza remains besieged, starved and bombarded, and the West Bank terrorised daily by savage settlers intent on mayhem and murder.

Western governments have failed to sanction Israel, resisted stopping trade, and continue to supply arms for the neo-fascist Israeli state. In addition,

more recent measures have been far too little and far too late, being more performative than substantive. Yet on the ground, ordinary people are acting. Support for BDS (Boycott, Divest, Sanction) has grown exponentially, while social media is replete with petitions, posts and pleas for Palestine.

The supposed rule-based order accorded Israel 'eternal' impunity, refusing to hold it to account for its criminal conduct. Not so the people.

Across the world lawyers, investigative journalists, even former military men, are identifying the IDF (Israeli Defence Force) war criminals and creating evidence dossiers with the intent to pursue prosecutions. The Hind Rajab Foundation has identified the unit and named the officers involved in the Palestinian six-year-old's killing, plus of course her family members and the ambulance crew who tried to rescue her.

When the UK government enacted draconian measures and proscribed Palestine Action, a non-violent direct-action group committed to stopping the Gazan genocide, our pensioners were on the streets challenging a blatantly unjust law. But perhaps the most impressive and telling question is the Global Sumud Flotilla.

Dianne reminds us that it was in August this year that UN human rights expert Francesca Albanese called on countries around the world to send military forces to break Israel's illegal blockade, end the genocide and to provide aid and medical care.

No state stepped forward but plenty of people did. At this present moment the largest ever civilian aid convoy, consisting of more than 50 vessels, has set sail from Gaza from ports across Europe, carry-

continued on page 9...

Diary

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

UNTIL 14 NOV

Prince Charles Cinema: Films of Andrei Tarkovsky's season. (Soviet film director 1932–86.) PCC, 7 Leicester Place, London WC2H 7BY. Detail and tickets on PCC website.

TUE 30 SEPT

Working Class Movement Library: Archiving the People's Papers: Learning from Leeds, Liverpool & Birmingham. 15:00–16:30, Online event. Book on WCML website.

TUE 30 SEPT

Korean Friendship Association UK: Film Night: *Two Families in Haeun Dong*. 19:00, online via Telegram.

FRI 3 OCT

Ipswich New Worker Group: Socialism in the 21st Century. 19:30, Friends Meeting House, 39 Fonnereau Road, Ipswich IP1 3JH.

FRI 3–SUN 5 OCT

International Brigade Memorial Trust: AGM weekend. Belfast. Details and bookings on IBMT website.

TUE 7 OCT

Socialist History Society: Michael Braddick on *Christopher Hill: the life of a radical historian*. 19:00, Online Zoom meeting. Register on SHS website.

WED 8 OCT

Palestine Solidarity Campaign: Protest at Sites Supplying Israel's F-35 Fighter Jets – Arms Embargo Now! 11:00–13:00, BAE Systems, Brough, East Yorks; Ultra Precision Control Systems, Cheltenham; BAE Systems, Rochester; Forged Solutions, Sheffield. Further details of locations and transport on PSC website.

THURS 9 OCT

Marx Memorial Library: Michael Roberts on the world capitalist crisis and Britain's place within it. 19:00–21:00, Hybrid event. Register on MML website.

SAT 11 OCT

Stop the War Coalition: End the Genocide demonstration. 12:00, London, details TBA.

SAT 11 OCT

Stand Up To Racism: No to the far right, no to Reform UK. 12:30, Leeds Art Gallery, The Headrow, Leed, LS1 3AA.

TUES 14 OCT–SAT 18 OCT

Arcola Theatre: Michael Mear's *The Mistake*, a play about Hiroshima with Q&A. Arcola Theatre, 24 Ashwin Street, London E8 3DL. Book on Arcola's website.

THURS 16 OCT

Marx Memorial Library: Trade Unions and Trades Union Councils – Mobilising for class politics within communities. 19:00–21:00, Online panel discussion. Book on MML website.

SAT 18 OCT

CND: No new British nukes. Protest: RAF Marham, Main Gate, Woodview Road, Upper Marham, King's Lynn PE33 9NP. Time TBA.

SAT 18 OCT

Marx Memorial Library: Book Sale. 11:00, 37a Clerkenwell Green, London, EC1R 0DU.

SAT 18 OCT

Korean Friendship Association UK: In person meeting, London. Details TBA.

THURS 23 OCT

Marx Memorial Library: William Morris: Politics and Art. 18:00, In person, MML.

SAT 25 OCT

Scotland Demands Better, march and rally. Edinburgh. Details TBA.

SAT 1 NOV

Scottish CND: For a peaceful nuclear-free Scotland! Conference. 10:00–16:00, Adelaide Place Baptist Church, 209 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4HZ. Book on SCND 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

ing crew from 44 nations. Thousands of supporters welcomed a part of it docked in Tunisia, before it joined the rest of the fleet. Thousands more are supporting the carefully vetted participants on the home front.

Since 2010, all flotilla aid missions have been intercepted or attacked by Israeli forces. Given Israel's well-known capacity to infiltrate and incapacitate, as demonstrated with Hezbollah in Lebanon and within government structures in Iran, the endeavour is inherently dangerous. Israel is not known for showing restraint once it identifies and locates an enemy. Assassination of key figures, as recently demonstrated in Yemen, is but one of Israel's weapons in an overflowing arsenal of elimination, intimidation and eradication.

All flotilla crew are now trained in non-violence and de-escalation in order not to give Israeli forces an excuse to claim self-defence and gun down flotilla crew members, as they did in 2010.

Then, nine Turkish civilians, part of an earlier enterprise to get aid into Gaza, were killed in international waters.

As well as opening a humanitarian corridor for

aid delivery, the flotilla will highlight the illegality of Israel's blockade and the legitimacy, indeed the rightness, of breaking it.

The flotilla has captured the world's imagination. Italian dockworkers have threatened to shut down Europe and block all shipments to Israel should communication be lost.

I wholeheartedly agree with fellow comrade Di-anne Kirby that the flotilla is in essence a challenge to the existing international order. It has thrown down a gauntlet to the world's leading powers. Should states, confronted with a genocide that is in their power to stop, choose not to do so, if they persist in rejecting their legal and moral obligations, not to mention the wishes of their electorates, then the people themselves will act. There-in lie the seeds of revolution.

A McKerl
Fife

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Scottish Political News

by our Scottish political
affairs correspondent

Holyrood has been unusually exciting recently. First the SNP have voted to remove a distinctive feature of Scottish justice and make it more like the English system, which is just what nationalist parties should not be doing.

The newly passed Victims, Witnesses, and Justice Reform Bill saw the demise of the famous 300-year-old Scotch Verdict of 'Not Proven', which is effectively the jury saying that "we know you did it, but can't prove it, so go away and don't do it again". It is therefore a variant of the 'Not Guilty' verdict. Nevertheless, the SNP hope it will increase conviction rates, particularly in sexual offences and thus win support from feminist organisations. It will also apply to people picked up at demonstrations by the police.

The measure was passed with 71 SNP, Green and Liberal Democrat votes for, and 46 Tory and Labour against. The Tories thought it did not go far enough and objected to an SNP refusal of an inquiry into the extent of grooming gangs. Labour thought it would not deliver what it promised and would represent only cosmetic change. Earlier plans to have juryless trials presided over by a single judge for sex crimes met with a rare, united opposition from the legal profession such that a speedy, undignified retreat took place.

Other measures included creating a specific sexual offences court and establishing a victims' commissioner. Future juries will need a two-thirds, rather than a simple majority to convict. The Law Society of Scotland say this will increase the risk of mis-

carriages of justice because "every legal system with a two-verdict system requires a unanimous or near unanimous jury to convict, whereas Scotland will now have a system where a person can be convicted despite five members of the jury having significant doubts about their guilt".

Labour justice spokesperson Pauline McNeill said it would be better to "fix the shortage of defence lawyers and ensure courts more broadly have enough staff to tackle the backlog of cases". She also said that taking serious sexual offence cases out of the high court and into a specialist court was foolish.

This Bill was so complex that MSPs had to stay up as late as 12 minutes to nine one night. Hereditary Labour MSP Katie Clark said the Bill was "far too large" and despite the late night sitting several amendments received too little scrutiny.

Flap in a Bird Bath

The next day former Scottish Tory leader Douglas Ross claimed he was "physically assaulted and verbally abused" in the building by SNP Parliamentary Business minister Jamie Hepburn. The minister originally denied the claim and was initially supported by the First Minister.

A neutral parliamentarian backed up Ross's claims and Hepburn later resigned, admitting he used "industrial language" and placed his hand on Ross's shoulder. This was less drastic than Ross claimed but some undignified actions certainly took place.

This fracas took place when the SNP government announced it was holding an important summit about urban gulls at the Scottish Nature HQ at Inverness. Hepburn seemed annoyed at Ross complaining about his local councillors not getting invited. Such are the burning issues that

MSP's deal with to earn their £74,507 salaries.

Labour MSP Monica Lennon observed that the workplace culture at Holyrood had deteriorated since she joined in 2016. She also complained that backbench MSPs are increasingly ignored and that they have little input into policy.

The resignation caused a rearranging of deck chairs. The new Minister for Parliamentary Business keeps his former non-job as Veterans minister while a backbencher takes over as Minister for Higher & Further Education. Their names need not trouble us as they will soon be forgotten...

Musical Chairs

It was also musical chairs at SNP HQ. They have appointed their fourth CEO in three years. Failed MP Callum McCaig has succeeded Carol Beattie, a former CEO of Stirling Council, who suddenly resigned, supposedly on health grounds.

Mr Nicola Sturgeon, otherwise known as Peter Murrell, had served in that role for nearly 25 years when the boys in blue came knocking. A former minister, Mike Russell, briefly held the post on an interim basis before Murray Foote, a former *Daily Record* editor, took over in August 2023. His appointment was not universally welcomed in nationalist ranks. He was the author of the notorious "Vow" published in his paper on the eve of the 2014 Referendum, which nationalists wrongly blame for their defeat. He resigned in October 2024 after carelessly losing dozens of Westminster seats in the July. It was left to Beattie to carry out the post-election butchery, cutting 10 of the 26 HQ staff.

Monday saw the SNP leader of Perth & Kinross Council (which John Swinney represents at Holyrood) resigning from his

post, and perhaps more significantly from the party to sit as an Independent. "Personal reasons" were given as the reason. Hours later it was announced that he had been charged with embezzlement which is alleged to have taken place over the last eight years.

On a more positive note, there is a vacancy for ambitious SNP members wanting to get the letters MSP after their names. Argyll and Bute councillor Math Campbell-Sturgess will no longer be seeking to depose Labour's deputy leader Dame Jackie Baillie in her Dumbarton constituency. He stood down as SNP candidate after being caught advertising for partners for threesomes on a swingers' website. He should have learned the unhappy lesson of Tommy Sheridan. Given the standards of SNP vetting, any *New Worker* reader interested in fresh employment could send an application to Gordon Lamb House, 3 Jackson's Entry, Edinburgh EH8 8PJ.

And Finally...

Chris Law, the Dundee MP who owns a castle near Forfar, made a right royal fool of himself by denouncing people who attended the Windsor Castle bash for Donald Trump.

He declared that "sitting at tonight's banquet dinner with President Donald Trump is conceding that it's acceptable to support Genocide in Gaza after yesterday's publication of UN's report on Gaza", blissfully unaware that one of the King's other guests was his own boss, the First Minister. His comments have now been deleted...

One wonders why Law did not make his remarks earlier, when Swinney flew to Washington to unsuccessfully plead for the ending of tariffs on Scotch whisky, which of course involved dealing with the same teetotal Donald Trump.

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Palestinian flag raised outside new embassy

by New Worker correspondent

The Palestinian flag was raised outside the premises in London on Monday of what is now Palestine's embassy to the UK, marking Britain's historic but long-overdue recognition of the Palestinian state.

The Palestinian envoy Husam Zomlot raised the flag watched by Labour government ministers including Health Secretary Wes Streeting – as well as Scottish Labour leader Anas Sarwar, Scot-

tish First Minister John Swinney, and Jeremy Corbyn who leads the Independent Alliance bloc in the House of Commons.

Husam Zomlot said that recognition was about “righting historic wrongs and committing together to a future based on freedom, dignity and fundamental human rights”. He called on people to remember “that this recognition comes at a time of unimaginable pain and suffering as a genocide is being waged against us – a genocide that is still being denied and allowed to continue with

impunity.

“It comes as our people in Gaza are being starved, bombed and buried under the rubble of their homes; as our people in the West Bank are being ethnically cleansed, brutalised by daily state-sponsored terrorism, land theft and suffocating oppression.”

Zomlot said the recognition was occurring “as the humanity of Palestinian people is still questioned, our lives still treated as disposable and our basic freedoms still denied. Yet, this moment

stands as a defiant act of truth, a refusal to let genocide be the final word; a refusal to accept that occupation is permanent; a refusal to be erased and a refusal to be dehumanised.”

And Corbyn said: “Well done to all those who have tirelessly campaigned for the recognition of Palestine – an inalienable right of the Palestinian people. Next, the UK should recognise the genocide in Gaza, end its complicity in crimes against humanity, and stop arming Israel.”

• Husam Zomlot raises the Palestinian coat of arms outside the embassy.



China: 76 years of progress

by New Worker correspondent

NCP leader Andy Brooks joined diplomats, businessmen, solidarity campaigners and members of the Chinese community in London to celebrate the 76th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China last week.

Over 400 guests gathered at the Peninsula hotel in Belgravia for a reception followed by a musical interlude performed by artistic troupes including overseas Chinese and international students, as well as embassy staff.

Wang Qi, the Chinese chargé d'affaires of the Chinese Embassy

in the UK, delivered a speech highlighting China's achievements in the past years, and extended thanks to people from all walks of life who have long cared for and supported the development of China and bilateral relations.

China has achieved two remarkable miracles: rapid economic growth and sustained social stability, both rare in world history, over the last 76 years.

In the first half of 2025, China saw the establishment of 30,000

new foreign-invested enterprises, a year-on-year increase of about 12 per cent, with actual foreign capital utilisation exceeding 420 billion yuan.

Wang said that China and the UK, both influential nations, held nine key dialogues this year across areas such as strategy, economy, energy, military, health, artificial intelligence (AI), leadership, climate and the environment. Both sides should maintain their strategic partnership, respect differences and pursue win-win co-operation by implementing dialogue outcomes, reducing disruptions, expanding engagement, and deepening mutual benefits to advance China-UK relations.

Seema Malhotra, a Home Office minister, replied, speaking highly about the renewed China-UK relationship – spotlighting security, environment and economic growth as three priorities to shape UK's vision for future China-UK relations. She expressed the Starmer government's willingness to take the ties forward in a constructive and effective way.

This was followed by a concert given by artistes that included the famed singers Deng Tao and Chen Luhong, violinists from the Yehudi Menuhin School in Surrey, Chinese traditional music, the choir of the Chinese Embassy in the UK and the London Chinese Philharmonic Choir.



• Traditional Chinese music at the reception.

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Recognition of Palestine in the West – Why?

In the last month, a wave of Western countries including the UK, Spain, Norway, Ireland and Slovenia, amongst others, have announced with much fanfare the recognition of the State of Palestine. For some, this represents a historic milestone, for others, a moral victory after decades of occupation and suffering. But behind these diplomatic gestures lies a much more complex strategy. To better understand what these hidden interests are Amyra El Khalili spoke with Ricardo Mohrez Muvi last week.

Ricardo Mohrez Muvi is the president of the Palestinian Union of Latin America (UPAL). Amyra El Khalili is a Palestinian-Brazilian professor, economist and editor of the networks Women's Movement for Peace in Palestine and RECOs Alliance – Alliance of Community Cooperation Networks from the Global South.

Ricardo Mohrez Muvi is a Palestinian, born in Beir-Jala, Palestine in 1952. A refugee in Colombia, he is a business administrator and president of the Palestinian Union of Latin America (UPAL), created in 2019 in the city of San Salvador, El Salvador, Central America. UPAL is a regional organisation founded by Latin American associations and entities to strengthen the unity of Palestinian communities in Latin America and to support the Palestinian cause in all its aspects. UPAL promotes solidarity among peoples, fosters cultural, political and humanitarian activities, and works to defend the rights of the Palestinian people. With an active presence in several countries, its mission is to consolidate a strong



and united Latin American voice in the struggle for justice, peace and freedom for Palestine.

The question is inevitable: what are the real interests behind this sudden avalanche of recognitions? A Palestinian State... or a way out for the West?

First of all, we must understand that these recognitions do not come out of nowhere. They occur in the midst of a genocidal war against Gaza, in which Israel failed in its attempt to eliminate Palestinian resistance, particularly Hamas. Neither with bombs, nor with starvation, nor with forced displacements has it managed to subjugate a people who resist with dignity.

Faced with this failure, the West – especially the USA and Europe – seeks a 'Plan B'. It can no longer sustain the narrative that Israel is "defending itself". It needs to offer an alternative that maintains political control, neutralises the resistance and calms domestic social pressure. That is where the recognition of the "Palestinian

State" comes in.

But there is a catch: the recognised State has no borders, no army, no sovereignty over its territory. It does not control its airspace or its seas. It cannot guarantee the security of its citizens nor does it possess political unity. It is, in essence, an administrative phantom under occupation. And that is not a real State.

Is this a makeover for Europe? Do these recognitions also serve to cleanse Europe's conscience?

After months of complicity in the genocide – whether through silence, military support, or sanctions directed against the resistance – they now try to balance the scales with a symbolic gesture. They talk about "two States" as if it were still a viable option, when, in reality, Israel has fragmented and colonised the territory so much that such a formula has become impracticable.

A "Palestinian State" is recognised but Israel is not sanctioned, arms sales are not halted and settlement expansion is not stopped. In other words, a diplomatic solution is le-

gitimised without altering the material conditions of the occupation.

And if the real objective is to replace the resistance?

Another worrying element is who is being recognised. Most of these countries continue to consider the Palestinian Authority as the "legitimate government" of the Palestinian people, despite its lack of representativeness, internal corruption and collaboration with the occupation. We are witnessing an attempt to reorganise Palestinian leadership from the outside, excluding resistance movements such as Hamas or Islamic Jihad.

So the goal would be to create an artificial and obedient State that administers the occupation without questioning it?

If that is the case, the avalanche of recognitions would be less a demonstration of solidarity and more a geopolitical manoeuvre to neutralise the struggle of the Palestinian people.

Could this be a trap?

There is a huge risk that the world will begin to speak of Palestine as a "recognised state" when, in practice, it remains an occupied, colonised and blockaded nation. This legal fiction can be used to freeze the conflict, neutralise inter-

national complaints and blame the victims themselves for their situation.

In that scenario, the Palestinian cause would cease to be a legitimate anti-colonial struggle and would be reduced to a bureaucratic dispute between "two governments". History is erased, apartheid is made invisible and the voices of the martyrs are silenced.

What would be the consequences of these merely diplomatic actions?

The avalanche of recognitions is neither free, nor disinterested, nor revolutionary. It is part of a global political realignment in the face of the moral erosion of the West and the rise of Palestinian resistance. It may be diplomatically useful, yes, but we must not be deceived: true liberation will not come from foreign ministries but from the determination of the Palestinian people – in Gaza, in the West Bank, in exile and in the diaspora.

And what is your conclusion?

As long as the Zionist occupation regime is not dismantled, no recognition will be complete. And as long as blood continues to flow in Gaza, no symbolic gesture will be enough.

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Iran: Is another war with Israel coming?

by Andrei Nikolaev

The Week of Sacred Defence in memory of the Iran–Iraq war in the 1980s began on Monday in Iran. It starts with a military parade and continues with patriotic events throughout the week. Given the general tension in the region, however, there is a high probability that this military tradition will soon be replenished with more dramatic moments worthy of immortalisation in the national memory of the Iranian people.

There are so many militaristic messages coming from the Middle East that it is difficult to understand the real picture. There will or will not be another tougher and larger-scale war between Israel and Iran. Most experts agree that something similar is to be expected. And probably, this time it will not be only

with missile, bomb and drone strikes.

It is no coincidence that the press flashed a message about Israel's massive purchase of armoured vehicles from the USA – 3,250 infantry fighting vehicles for \$1.9 billion. Suffice it to note that at the time of the start of the operation in the Gaza Strip in the autumn of 2023, Israel had about 1,400 armoured personnel carriers and infantry fighting vehicles in total. And here we are talking about more than doubling the increase.

In reality, this figure of almost two billion dollars raises questions. It is unlikely that such an amount can be used to purchase exactly this number of infantry fighting vehicles. Rather, we are talking about cars of a simpler class, for example, the MRAP mine-resistant armoured personnel carrier.

In any case, deliveries



of this magnitude do not occur in an instant but stretch over years. But the very fact once again indicates that Israel has embarked on a course of total militarisation and does not intend to retreat from its policy. And the purchase figure also suggests that Israel will have to make up for heavy losses in armoured vehicles, probably in the forthcoming large-scale war.

Based on experience, a reasonable question arises

as to how useful or useless armoured vehicles are in modern warfare in which drones dominate. But it seems that Israel is full of confidence in its invincibility and in every possible way demonstrates a victorious attitude. Or, at least, the willingness to go through difficult times. Netanyahu said this the other day speaking about the likelihood of Israel's economic isolation.

As for the threats from drones and missiles, Tel Aviv declares that work

has been done to correct the mistakes, and that the country's air defence now, in addition to the hyped but not very effective 'Iron Dome', will also be provided with combat lasers.

Well, we'll see. For in our age of information wars and vacuous statements it is increasingly difficult to separate the wheat from the chaff.

We have already seen an example of an exchange of missile and drone strikes between Israel and Iran during the 12-day war. But, as you know, it is impossible to win by bombing alone. A land operation is needed. But Israel has already launched one ground operation in Gaza. How will it be enough for Iran as well?

Moreover, on the way to Iran, Israel will have to resolve the issue of flying over the buffer territory

from Syria and Iraq.

It is not difficult to guess that Israel will certainly be able to negotiate with the Syrian militias – the pro-Iranian forces have already been ousted from there. Well, Israel learned to find a common language with the sectarian gangs back in the days when ISIS was active despite the anti-Semitic slogans of the local terrorists.

In Iraq things are a little more complicated. Iranian-backed militias are still present in the country. True, there are also American bases in Iraq. But their total contingent does not exceed 2,500 people and the latest news from there says that the USA is allegedly withdrawing its forces from Iraq to the north, to Kurdistan. The Pentagon, however, only talks about a temporary redeployment.

Pravda.ru

Venezuela launches drills after American attacks

by Maria Candela
Hechavarria
Carmenate

The Venezuelan Armed Forces held three days of military exercises on the Caribbean island of La Orchila amid increased American military build-up in the region and escalating threats against President Nicolás Maduro.

The exercise, dubbed 'Sovereign Caribbean

200', was announced by Venezuelan Defence Minister Vladimir Padrino López on 18th September. It reportedly involved the deployment of 2,500 troops, 12 naval ships, 22 aircraft and 20 small boats.

"There will be air defence deployments with armed drones, surveillance drones, submarine drones ... we are going to implement electronic warfare actions," the minister said. He added that the

operation is a response to "the threatening and vulgar deployment of US ships in the Caribbean", which Venezuelan leaders consider "a threat to the country and the region".

Last week the US destroyer USS *Jason Dunham* boarded a Venezuelan tuna fishing boat crewed by nine fishermen in the country's special economic zone,

The vessels and warships deployed from the

military base at La Orchila island, near the area where the US Navy boarded the fishing vessel.

Earlier this month, US forces sank a boat in the Caribbean, killing 14 people. US President Donald Trump claimed the boat was carrying drugs and that President Maduro was the leader of the cartel. The American attack was condemned by UN experts, who stated that international law does not allow

governments to simply assassinate suspected drug traffickers.

Maduro rejected accusations of involvement in drug trafficking, stating: "Those intelligence reports they give him (Trump) are not true. ... Venezuela today is a country free from coca leaf production, cocaine, and is a country that fights against drug trafficking."

Venezuelan Interior Minister Diosdado Ca-

bello also reacted to the accusations, saying: "One doesn't know, because they say it carried drugs, but who saw the drugs?"

Cabello told reporters that the Venezuelan authorities are cracking down on the drug trade and have seized more than 60 tons of drugs in 2025. "It is the largest amount that has been seized since 2010," he said.

Radio Havana Cuba