

# Support Sarah Jama

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# Israel, USA and imperial terror

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# Socialist Worker

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# SMASH

# RACISM



Stand up to racism held a mass rally against the fascists in London

**R**acism and oppression serve the bosses by dividing the working class to stave off a united fightback.

Working people end up fighting each other rather than focusing on the real culprit that is destroying their lives—the billionaires who are raking in the cash while millions suffer.

This becomes particularly acute in times of crisis. At those moments we see the attacks become more vicious and the calls for violence against anyone that stands in the way of profit become mainstream.

And we are in a state of acute crisis globally.

The endless war and genocide in Palestine, the collapse of environmental systems, the cost of living crisis for working people are impacting billions.

And so they will argue, with a willing corporate media as messenger, that, for example, housing is unaffordable because of immigration. They willfully neglect to mention that our governments stopped building affordable housing decades ago, that the removal of rent control, predictably, resulted in much higher rents.

They cover for the failures of their own policies by deflecting blame onto marginal sections

of society.

Doug Ford is doubling down on these racist ideas.

He is banning international students from medical schools in Ontario. He argues that this will result in more family doctors to make up for the acute shortage of doctors that exists today. But he is responsible for the collapse of our healthcare system himself as he underfunds and paves the way for privatization. International students are just a scapegoat.

The same thing is happening at the federal level where even the allegedly progressive

Trudeau Liberals are cutting immigration levels and threatening mass deportations.

We are in a moment where the ruling class is stoking these divisions with the help of far-right street forces that have been waiting in the wings.

In this issue, we look at many aspects of this new rise of the far-right from the BC election to the fight back in the UK to the international student/workers who are demanding their rights.

It is urgent that we build a broad based and confrontational movement to push the bigots back onto the fringes of society.

# All out for Sarah Jama!

**A**nger at the Ontario NDP's decision to run a candidate against popular independent MPP Sarah Jama flared across the province, as the party clearly signaled it does not intend to mount any kind of serious fight against the Ford government.

Speaking on CBC, ONDP leader Marit Stiles said that Sarah Jama—the MPP expelled from the caucus last October for speaking in support of Palestine, would not be readmitted into the party and that the NDP will be running a candidate in her riding of Hamilton Centre.

Running a candidate against Jama—a popular MPP who has the support of the Hamilton Centre Independent Constituency Association—will split the progressive vote, possibly handing the poorest urban riding in Ontario to the Tories or Liberals. Marit Stiles would rather than to admit that her decision to remove Jama was a disaster.

Sarah's only crime is that she took a principled stand in support of Palestinians. Her censure is being applauded by far-right Israel supporters.

ONDP caucus members publicly said much the same thing that Sarah did about a week after her initial statement and expulsion.

The expulsion reeks of the top-down approach of an increasingly irrelevant NDP, where caucus members are not allowed to speak their minds on crucial issues. They are only supposed to take their marching orders from a party that refuses to take a principled stand against genocide.

Worse still, it is impossible to look at the decision as anything other than a racist response.

Hamilton NDP MP Matthew Green stated that the expulsion "perpetuates a long history of racialized voices being dismissed and ignored in spaces where decisions are made."

Attempts by the NDP brass and other caucus members to explain the situation only made matters worse. The general line is that Sarah was not a "team player" because she spoke out of turn rather than waiting for her marching orders from Styles.

The NDP leadership also lied when they said that the decision to expel Jama was made by the whole caucus. MPP Jill Andrew said that she was not consulted on the decision. She wrote:

"I did not support this decision

for a variety of reasons. I learned about this decision on Monday, October 23, 2023 at 11:11AM via email while sitting in my MPP seat in the legislature, when the decision was already made. The subsequent press release stated with support of our Ontario NDP MPPs a decision was made to remove the member. The release went on to conjure what I feel were stereotypical tropes

*including when 1005 was locked out, supporting migrant workers in their fight for fairness, supporting healthcare and educational workers in their struggle against the Ford government. She's always been a voice for marginalized groups that don't really have a voice, homeless people, people living with disabilities, her work with ACORN, people fighting for fairness against greedy*



Photo: Hamilton Centre Independent Constituency Association

often used to communicate about Black people, especially Black women, who are perceived as difficult. I expressed my concerns about this release to the leadership team and to my caucus members."

### Support for Sarah

Last October, in the immediate aftermath of the NDP decision to expel Jama, support flowed in from many activists and community leaders. At a rally in Hamilton, author and activist Desmond Cole said, "Stiles and the party have tried to paint our sister as an uncontrollable and unreasonable person and this is being done on purpose. It exploits all the tropes related to Sarah's Blackness, her womanhood, her Muslimness and her disability."

Jama has continued her work as an independent MPP and is building a new political movement. Her long time advocacy for the poor and marginalized, from people with disabilities to the homeless, as well as her clarity on issues of workers' rights, racism and imperialism has galvanized a base in her riding.

At her nomination meeting on September 12, a wide range of speakers spoke of their support for Sarah. Among them were Anthony Marco, president of the Hamilton and District Labour Council, Fred Hahn, president of CUPE Ontario, and federal NDP MP Matthew Green.

Ron Wells, president of United Steelworkers local 1005, stated: "I met Sarah about two years ago. She's always been visible on picket lines supporting workers,

*corporate landlords. We need leaders that won't be silenced, intimidated or corrupted... Sarah is that type of leader. Full disclosure, I am still an NDP supporter but for the riding of Hamilton Centre provincially I am a Sarah Jama supporter and I hope all of labour is as well, steelworkers, autoworkers, CUPE, COPE, everyone."*

Local 1005 VP Jim McColl said, "I work in the coke ovens as a machine operator down at Stelco. We have members that die every year from what we breathe. We care about the environment too—and we also care about good paying jobs. And so does Sarah. She's the transformative leader we need to champion the causes that matter most to us, like social assistance, environmental justice, housing, all those things. Another good thing is that Sarah also advocates for justice for injured workers, a \$25 minimum wage, card certification for unions. You are the transformative leader we need."

The NDP still has time to reverse this criminally stupid decision—but at present there is no indication that they will. This is a huge mistake.

At a moment when we need to accelerate our actions in confronting the many critical crises of capitalism today—centrally and most urgently, the ongoing genocide in Palestine—we cannot wait for a party consistently moving to the right. If the NDP refuses to reverse course, every progressive should flood Hamilton Centre to help Sarah retain her seat as a beacon for the kind of politics we desperately need.

# Steelworkers urge ONDP not to run candidate against Sarah Jama

by: Carolyn Egan

**T**he Ontario New Democratic Party is not listening to its membership, nor unions that have traditionally supported it. The party leadership expelled Hamilton Centre MPP Sarah Jama because of her statements on the war in Gaza eleven months ago, which they said broke party discipline. She continues to sit as an independent and has been representing the people in her riding. She is very popular and has developed a vibrant riding association with active members. She is well known and outspoken on labour and social justice issues having been involved for many years in progressive causes in the city.

The Steelworkers in Hamilton, USW Local 1005, are in strong support. They spoke at her nomination meeting as an independent candidate, as did many other local activists and NDP members, including the president of the Hamilton and District Labour Council. Support for her has spread beyond the boundaries of the riding and the city itself.

The Steelworkers Toronto Area Council unanimously supported the following motion at a recent meeting of its workplaces in Toronto and York Region.

"Whereas the ONDP is poised to take on the anti-worker Doug Ford government in the next election

Whereas the Ford government censured Sarah Jama for her principled solidarity with Palestine 11 months ago

has an interest in ensuring progressive pro labour voices do not run against one another and divide the impact of workers' votes

Whereas Sarah Jama is planning to seek office as an Independent candidate in the upcoming election

Whereas pitting an ONDP candidate against Sara Jama will have a significant demobilizing effect on Hamilton Centre as well as many other ridings

Therefore, be it resolved that Steelworkers Toronto Area Council (STAC) urges Marit Stiles and the ONDP not to field a candidate against Sarah Jama in the riding of Hamilton Centre in the next election."

The same motion was then passed by the Hamilton and District Labour Council.

Support for her is spreading. Avi Lewis, a founder of the LEAP Manifesto and a past NDP federal candidate, recently stated on social media, "Sarah is a principled politician who showed early courage and moral clarity in calling out Israel's genocide. She inspired many new members and longtime NDPers across the country...who were then upset and demoralized when she was pushed aside."

The party announced that there will be a candidate running against her which is a slap in the face to the many activists and trade unionists who have spoken out and have traditionally supported the NDP. There has to be continued pressure on the party to reverse this decision. Activists throughout the city of Hamilton and beyond are volunteering to



Sarah meets with USW local 1005 Photo: USW Local 1005

Whereas Sarah Jama, as an independent MPP, has worked closely with organized labour in her community and has won the endorsement of USW locals in her community

Whereas the labour movement

help her. She is directing her supporters to concentrate on the issues that are affecting working people and build momentum for the movements that they are involved in and for a strong independent campaign.

# NDP failures provide opening for BC Conservatives

by: Bradley Hughes

**A**s Socialist Worker went to press, final counts in the BC election returned the NDP to government. Recounts in three ridings over the next few days will determine if they govern with the smallest possible majority, 47 seats, or with a minority of 45 or 46 seats. The BC Conservatives won 44 seats. The Greens have won two seats.

While it is welcome news that the NDP has won, the fact that the former Liberal cabinet minister John Rustad has taken the convoy politics of the BC Conservatives from fringe party status to official opposition is a warning to us all.

Last year, after being kicked out by the BC Liberals for being too much of a climate denier even for them, Rustad won the leadership of the moribund BC Conservatives. This is a party that won 2% of the vote in the last provincial election and last elected an MLA before 62 year-old Rustad turned thirteen. As we have written before this success has little to do with Rustad himself. The Conservatives are benefiting from the name recognition of the federal Conservatives and the support of far-right convoy organizers.

More importantly the NDP continues to give legitimacy to far-right policies. Rustad himself, in his speech on election night pointed out the NDP “flipped on decriminalization, they flipped on involuntary care, they flipped on a whole bunch of things.” That includes Premier Eby’s back down on the carbon tax, and the removal of safe drug

inhalation and injection kits from hospitals.

Unfortunately, the NDP’s shift to the right long predates Rustad’s arrival at the front of the convoy forces in BC. After the election in 2017 they immediately betrayed Indigenous people and environmentalists by approving the Site C hydroelectric dam. They moved

dogs and machine guns to displace Wet’suwet’en land defenders in order to complete the fracked gas pipeline to supply the LNG terminals.

Their housing policy has relied on subsidies to renters and home buyers that will end up in the pockets of landlords and speculators. And as the death count from the poisoned drug supply mounts, the NDP has

failed to provide solutions that challenge the profits of the 1%.

There was an alternative. During the last seven years of NDP government they could have implemented effective rent control that would have brought rents down well below inflation. They could have spent billions on social housing in competition with market housing. They could have acted on their 2017 campaign against “hallway healthcare” to provide more beds, nurses and shorter emergency wait times. They could have provided more treatment options and a safer drug supply and saved thousands of lives. Had they done any of that, the Conservatives would have had almost nothing to run on.

## Big win for Convoy politics

Compared to the 2020 election the NDP has lost at least 10 seats. Their share of the vote dropped from 47.7% to 44.6%. The number of votes they received increased by only 30,000 votes. At the same time, the opposition Liberals got 33% and 636,128 votes in 2020. This time the Conservatives got 900,000 votes for 43.4% of the vote. This is an increase for the party of the 1% by 260,000 votes.

As happens after nearly every election the strategists in the NDP party, aided by dozens of mainstream commentators, will declare that the election shows the population has moved to the right and the NDP failed to move far enough to the right to keep their seats. This neglects the role of the NDP itself in moving people to the right and



Rustad and far-right crank Jordan Peterson

on from that to reviving the empty dreams of fracked gas export terminals that the BC Liberals were unable to fulfill. The NDP did this by providing even greater subsidies and tax breaks for fossil fuel expansion than the Liberals. They quickly dropped their opposition to the Trans-Mountain oil pipeline. They sent in the racist RCMP with attack

repeatedly and steadfastly refused to consider a safer supply.

By valuing profits over people, the NDP has done nothing to fix the housing crisis, the affordability crisis, the climate emergency or the opioid crisis. Naturally people are looking for solutions. The NDP has allowed things to get worse while promoting right-wing alterna-

## How do socialists approach elections?

**O**ne of the most noticeable things about elections under capitalism is how little change they deliver in our day-to-day lives. We may elect a party to office but you can’t elect your boss, or the CEO of the company you work for. Students can’t elect the administration of their college or university, they don’t get to vote for the marking scheme in their classes. Workers can’t vote on the opening hours of their workplace and in many cases don’t even have a say in the clothes they wear.

Even within the government itself, we don’t elect police or police chiefs, army generals, judges, prison wardens, city planners, the board of the bank of Canada board and so on. Vast swaths of government are unelected, and largely unaccountable. Even with the legislature, we don’t get to vote directly for our Prime Minister or Premier, or vote for who holds cabinet positions like minister of education, or housing.

When we do get to vote, those we elect are unaccountable until the next vote. Most modern democracies do not include any method of recall.

If our elected government changes their policies or we change our minds, nothing can be done until the next election.

There is almost no way to dismantle the power of the 1% with the votes of the 99%. That’s because the capitalists maintain power through their wealth and connections regardless of who is elected to office. This

is why we see allegedly left governments shift to the right on most economic policy once elected.

Despite their limitations, for most people elections are the most important political event and millions are often attuned to politics during elections. And the results can provide confidence to the right or the left.

The IS calls for a vote for the

NDP, not based on their platform, which is always disappointing, but based on the fact that the party still has organic connections to the trade unions—or at least the trade union bureaucracy. Many union activists tend to support and be involved in the NDP.

And, as we saw with the forced surrender of the BC Liberals to the

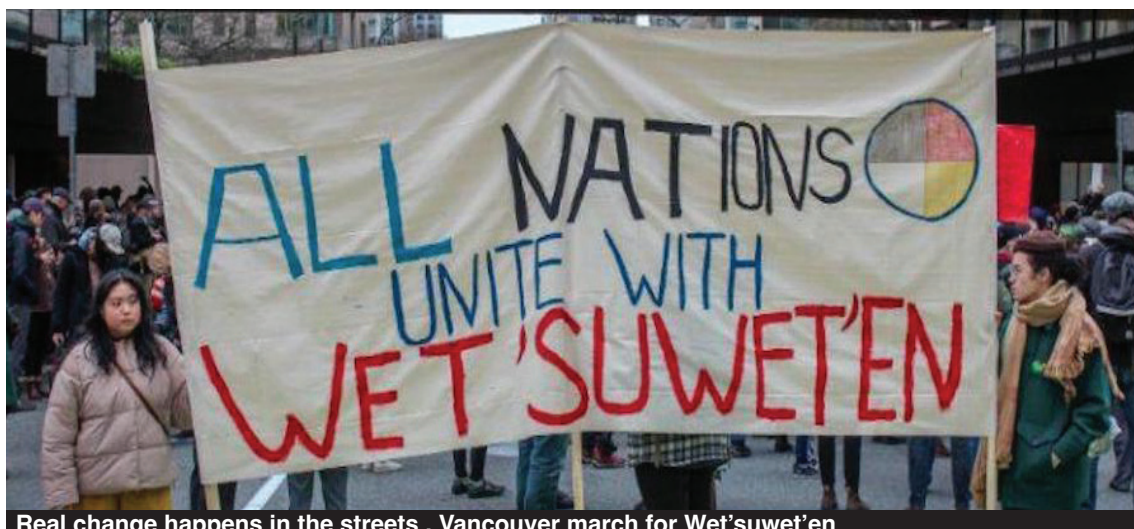
Conservatives, the NDP is still seen as a party hostile to the rightwing parties that exist only to support the 1%. So a vote for the NDP is a class conscious vote, as opposed to voting Liberal or Conservative.

That support for union activists and other progressives is still there; unions worked to get their members to canvass for the NDP.

However, voting NDP will not beat back the Conservatives, since the NDP will continue to legitimize Conservative policies with their own softer versions of them.

## Fight back!

This election has resulted in a convoy leader of the opposition. Only a determined fight back can protect us. The protests and rallies to defend trans rights, to defend Indigenous Sovereignty and defeat planet killing resource projects, to demand rent control and public housing must start immediately after the election. Even small actions can spark bigger movements and along the way they can win people away from the politics of despair that both Eby and Rustad are peddling.



Real change happens in the streets . Vancouver march for Wet’suwet’en

# Imperialism and resistance from Gaza to Lebanon

Anne Alexander, author of *Revolution is the choice of the people: crisis and revolt in the Middle East* and co-editor *Middle East Solidarity* magazine, and Clare Lemlich, a member of *Marx21* in Los Angeles, recently spoke at a meeting on *Imperialism and the Middle East* outlining a Marxist appraisal of the current state of the global crisis. Here we publish excerpts of their presentations.

by: Anne Alexander

All of us are, at the moment, opening our phones, our TV screens or looking at the internet and seeing every moment bringing fresh horrors from Gaza, from Lebanon, from Iran and throughout the Middle East. We've seen at least 87 dead in an air strike in Gaza, the immolation of patients outside Al-Aqsa hospital, horrific scenes broadcast around the world.

All of which makes the claims by Joe Biden and Keir Starmer in the UK that somehow this war was all about Israel needing to kill Yahya Sinwar, the leader of Hamas, or Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah, seem exceedingly hollow.

Those of us who have been marching and protesting on the streets in our millions, of course, never bought into this. We've known from the beginning that this has been a war against the Palestinian people as a whole and not simply a war against Hamas, in the same way as the war that is being carried out in Lebanon is against the Lebanese people as a whole.

But there is a sense in which Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was right when he said that the war being prosecuted by the Israeli state is an attempt to shift the balance of power in the Middle East in Israel's favour. It is carrying out a political as well as a military strategy, which is not simply about subjugating the Palestinians – although that is of course part of the picture. Other members of the Israeli government, particularly Bezael Smotrich who is one of the far-right ministers in the government, are also in a certain sense right when they say that there is an existential question at stake, that there can be no co-existence between two competing national projects – a Palestinian one, versus the Jewish supremacist, racist and apartheid state that Smotrich and Netanyahu are defending and trying to expand – on the same piece of territory, historic Palestine.

This is one reason why any revolutionary perspective on a future without war and without violence in the region has to be based on the idea that there can only be one democratic Palestinian state at the end of that process. There is no prospect of having a two-state solution as a way

out of this war.

When we look at what is really driving this particular phase in the conflict, a whole range of different answers are brought up. Sometimes people will argue that there's a uniquely racist violent ideology at play in Zionism, or that it's to do with the settler-colonial nature of Israeli society, or it's an outgrowth to the apartheid nature of the Israeli state.

Although the racism in Zionism has a legacy and roots going back to the period of European colonialism, and Zionists have always seen themselves as part of a European settler-colonial project, they're not really the driving force behind what's going on at the moment, nor across the whole of the history of the development of the struggle for liberation of Palestine.

Actually, a Marxist analysis of Imperialism is central to understanding both where the war comes from and how it is the latest round of a longer-standing struggle, and also what the potential alternatives or solutions really are and what social forces both in the region and internationally can provide the firmest basis on which to resist the Israeli state.

## Imperialism

The term Imperialist is often used in everyday speech – people think of domination by strong countries of

weak countries, or they might think about conquest, they might have images of the Death Star and Darth Vader in their minds, of a kind of overwhelming military force being applied to weaker forces.

Those are all aspects of what Imperialism is, but there is a more specific, narrow definition which sees Imperialism as a fusion of processes of economic and military competition under capitalism – in other words, that capitalist accumulation drives war and imperialism.

This argument was subject to debates by Marxists over a hundred years ago when they looked at the parceling of the world by the European powers. There were debates especially among people like Rosa Luxemburg, Vladimir Lenin, Bukharin, Karl Kautsky and so on at the time, trying to come to an understanding of what Imperialism meant.

In terms of what is specific to understanding this war, we see the expansionist Israeli state launching a genocidal war against Palestinians in Gaza, at the same time as also launching a war against Lebanon, that already has clear aims of occupying large parts of Southern Lebanon and is carrying out bombing across the whole of the country. This is a scale of war that we haven't seen for many decades.

And, of course, it also involves conflict between Israel and Iran,

where there have already been terrifying exchanges of missile barrages

I would argue this war is being driven by accelerating military competition at two levels of the global system. The first one is what people think of as where imperialist conflict takes place – competition between the big powers. There is a version of the theory of imperialism that tends to say that imperialism is the U.S. and its allies, and nobody else. I would totally disagree with this. It's very important to see imperialism driven by capitalist accumulation on a global scale. The U.S. is, of course, the biggest, most powerful state on the planet in many dimensions. But actually, its largest economic competitor, which has a larger economy, is China. And there is increasing military competition now between the U.S. and China in many areas. China, compared to the U.S., is a much weaker military power – you only have to look at what's happening in the Pacific to see that.

There are also other competitors to the U.S. at a global level, one of which is Russia. The Russian economy is much smaller, and the Russian military is much smaller than the U.S., but it does have a large nuclear arsenal. Russia is an important player in global imperialist rivalries, but it's not anything like on the same scale as the U.S./China rivalry.

So, where does that picture fit into what's happening in the Middle East? We've seen over the last year that the actions of the Israeli state have been designed to pull the U.S. behind the strategy to smash the Palestinian population and to move towards a shift in the balance of power on a regional scale by striking severe blows at Iran.

How does this fit into the U.S.' interest? It's a contradictory process. One of the things that has been noticeable over the last year is the way in which the U.S. has feigned reluctance, and there's clearly large sections of the U.S. ruling class who have been trying to put pressure on the Israelis to stop or to contain themselves within the limits of previous grounds of attacking Gaza, so as not to trigger a regional conflagration.

There are deeply contradictory things going on here. The Israeli state is supported by the U.S., it's armed and funded by the U.S., they could shut off the supplies of weapons to Israel and refuse to do so. They shout about how Israel is going to blow up the whole of the region, while continuing to give them the bombs to blow up the whole of the region. But there has been a genuine concern amongst some segments of the ruling class. You only have to look at statements from some of the key military figures who talk to the media to warn the Israelis about the possible consequences, if there were attacks on U.S. forces would the U.S. be able to defend Israel.

But there is a general sense in which the growing competition with China in the background and the way in which the U.S. has been bogged down in the war in Ukraine after Russia's invasion, has left the U.S. with a massive dilemma, where relying on Israel to discipline other states in the region, to assert U.S. power, even to go beyond the bounds of what the U.S. wants to do itself is seen to make sense for a set of larger sections of the U.S. ruling class.

You can see this shift. In Lebanon, within a short space of time, the U.S. government went from telling the Israelis they should stop, to now saying that the removal of Hezbollah and its dismantling is something that the U.S. government wants to see as an outcome of this war.



On the streets of Toronto for Palestine and Lebanon - Resistance until victory!

# stance n

So that competition at the top level of the global economy is one of the underlying things that has made the war what it is. And it's worth remembering that the Middle East as a region retains an enormously important role in the global economy as a massive source of hydrocarbon exports, principally going to China now, shifting eastwards. The U.S. is largely self-sufficient in terms of oil and gas. You have a decoupling of two parts of the global economy in a way that denying those resources to others is obviously seemingly important to the U.S., and also obviously to the arteries of world trade that they flow through like the Suez Canal.

That's one level of the global competition, but it's not the only one.

There is also a regional competition which has been accelerating over the last few years between regional powers, of which Israel is one. Israel happens to be the one that is most closely allied with and it's a special nature because of its settler-colonial origins, but it's one of a set of regional powers competing for economic, political, military dominance. The others are Iran, which has emerged in the wake of the disastrous U.S. invasion of Iraq as a much stronger regional power. It was able to intervene in Syria in a disastrous way – supporting the Syrian counter-revolution – and obviously has relations with Hezbollah in Lebanon. There's also Turkey asserting itself as an imperialist power in the Mediterranean. And then there are the states of the Gulf. Many of the other regional states are jockeying around, making overtures to each other to try and avoid an all-out war. But there have been multiple signs of this competition underlying some of the developments over the last few years.

How does this relate to the question of the Palestinian liberation struggle? Because there's a problem if we see the whole question as being reduced to the competition between states. The Palestinian struggle for liberation has been fundamentally important as an inspiration to people

right across the region for decades, and the failure of the Israeli state to crush Palestinian resistance in all its forms – whether that's armed struggle, or whether that's cultural, social, political – the resistance of mass movements inside Palestine and in solidarity with the Palestinians has often played a role of helping to, not only inspire but feed into the development of revolutionary movements and mass movements around the region.

The system of imperialism and western domination is something that oppresses people right across the region. It's a material fact in the misery that Egyptian workers experience because the oppressive state that governs them, which has taken billions of dollars in U.S. sup-

port over the years, is also one the Egyptian government that holds shut the gates of Gaza and has connived in the genocide unfolding there and in the siege of Gaza over more than a decade.

But one of the things that flows from the particular nature of the Nakba – the forced expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians that created the space for the Israeli state to exist – is that Palestinians on their own, without the support of wider social forces in the region are unlikely to overcome the Israeli state, however courageous the resistance they mount to Israeli terror and apartheid. If we think back to the whole idea of imperialism as something driven by capital accumulation itself,

states is something that really points the way to a future.

It's through the power of the organized working class, in places like Egypt or potentially the Gulf or Jordan and elsewhere, that we could see how that could come to bear, as pushing forward the struggle from national liberation to the struggle for socialist revolution.

In a moment when we see the horrors unfolding in front of us in places like Gaza, we also have to remember that if we want to end this war, there has to be a revolutionary solution and it's primarily in the region that that will come about. But our movement staying on the streets, organizing and trying to disrupt the Israeli war machine where we are, also can play its part.



Indigenous drummers lead the march on October 5 in Toronto

## US: no electoral solution to genocide

by: Clare Lemlich

Turning off the tap of weapons the US government sends to Israel could halt the onslaught. Instead, they are breaking all their records for military aid. Israel's rampage in Lebanon killed more than a thousand people in two weeks, wounded thousands more and displaced hundreds of thousands. They assassinated Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah with a 2,000 pound US-made bomb, much to the celebration of both Biden and Harris.

Ending the growing disaster in Lebanon, and preventing expanding and escalating the war, requires the same solution as ending the carnage in Gaza: an immediate and lasting ceasefire. And that can only happen if the US stops sending arms to Israel.

In the US elections, on one side we have an unpredictable, far right candidate who says he's going to "deport pro-Hamas radicals" (i.e. student activists). On the other, we have Kamala Harris, whose own administration has spent the last year handing Israel all the weapons it needs to carry out all this violence, and who has explicitly promised not to change course if the Democrats are re-elected.

There is no electoral solution to the genocide in Palestine. The Muslim and Arab-led Uncommitted movement of Democratic party members rallied thousands of votes against nominating Biden during the primaries. The Democrats didn't even let a Palestinian speaker with a pre-approved speech on the platform at the Democratic National Convention.

If that energy and anger at Biden could have been turned into a break entirely with the Democrats, we'd be in a different situation today. The Uncommitted movement is now in a pickle because there is enormous pressure not to "spoil" the election and give Trump a competitive advantage. They rightly say that the Democrats are in lockstep with Israeli genocide, and they cannot in good conscience endorse Harris as a result. But then they explicitly say "don't stay home, you must vote to prevent Trump, AND voting third party is a vote for Trump" – a roundabout way to call for a Harris vote.

A recent statement from Muslim religious leaders and academics called for people to vote third party, a much stronger statement and to the left of both the Uncommitted movement and the wider mainstream left.

### Empire

The US ruling class is anxious about Israel's expansionist plans. They don't want to be dragged into more wars directly, which would commit them to boots on the ground. After the US's humiliating defeats in Iraq and Afghanistan, their preferred foreign policy strategy has been to set up friendly client states that can do the dirty work of Western imperialism on their behalf. This is why Israel is the largest recipient of US aid and why they let Israel get away with literal murder.

No amount of lobbying about the humanitarian catastrophe or appeals

to moral outrage can change what the US ruling class is doing. Israel is the lynchpin of the way they control both the flow of oil and regional geopolitics, and they won't sacrifice it – unless it becomes politically impossible at home for them to do so.

### Movement

The student encampments were a huge step forward in building a movement that could make support for Israel politically untenable – especially at schools where students were able to link up with faculty unions.

But college administrations have since done an expert job at repressing the movement. At Columbia University, "Zionist" is now a protected class, meaning it's illegal to discriminate or disparage or exclude Zionists, in the same way as women or Black people are protected classes. At UCLA, new "enhanced safety measures" make it harder to speak out, to have disruptive actions, and to occupy school property.

There are some bright spots inter-



nationally: dockworkers in Greece recently refused to load a shipment of bullets bound for Israel. This goes beyond lobbying for arms embargoes on moral grounds and takes it into our own hands where we have more power, as workers who can disrupt business as usual in key industries.

The labour movement in the US isn't nearly as organized or militant, but there are examples of labour standing in solidarity with Palestine. In February, seven national unions and more than 200 local unions announced the formation of the National Labor Network for Ceasefire (NLNC), aiming to expand support for the ceasefire among unions nationally. Unions representing 9 million workers are calling for a ceasefire to end the war on Gaza.

### Be ungovernable

When people say it's going to be worse for Gaza under Trump, they're probably right – but how much worse can it be for the at least 50,000 who have already been killed? For the 90% of Gazans already displaced? It's hard to talk about a "lesser evil" Democratic administration when they have outstripped all previous support for Israel.

The "lesser evil" strategy is what gave us Trump in the first place. Voters keep telling the Democrats, "Do whatever you want about Palestine, immigration, the economy, etc, there's no red line for us, you can count on our vote no matter how far right you swing". That opened the space for Trump.

However people vote on November 5, it needs to come with a commitment to making the country ungovernable on November 6, for them to break ties with Israel.

# Workers fight back

## Long-term care workers take direct action

by: **Kyung Ah**

**A** rally organized by angry workers at Kipling Acres Long-Term Care (LTC) Home took place on October 21st with the support of CUPE Local 79, demanding immediate action from the City of Toronto.

These workers have been trying for a long time to address ongoing issues such as harassment from management, chronic understaffing and a toxic work environment through internal processes such as grievances. However, they have not seen any positive changes and endure worsening working conditions.

They decided to take direct action for the first time.

There are over 460 unfilled positions across the city's Seniors Services and Long-Term Care division, which represents 12 percent of all long-term care positions.

Fully 70 percent of the workforce across all the positions in the city's nursing homes are part-time.

At the 337-bed Kipling Acres facility, currently 32 positions are unfilled.

These conditions have led to both compromised care for residents and extreme stress for staff.

However, the City of Toronto continues to

sit on a \$15.4 million surplus in the Senior Services and Long-Term Care division, due to underspending on much-needed salaries and benefits.

In reality, all across the city workers have experienced similar issues due to chronic

understaffing and inadequate compensation and benefits.

### Solidarity on full display

As more workers joined the rally during their breaks and shift change, the rally became so

loud and the attendees started dancing while the management watched on the other side.

Almost all TTC drivers that passed by honked in support and some high school students spontaneously joined the rally and the chanting. The public eagerly took information sheets.

There were hundreds of CUPE Local 79 members and other allies including from CUPW, IBEW, Toronto and York Region Labour Council, CUPE 4400, OCHU and TTC Riders, drawing the connections between struggles due to cuts to public services, the cost of living crisis and the privatization of public health care.

### Change from below

It was very inspiring to see ordinary fed-up workers organizing a rally in front of their management. We need to do more of this kind of action – visible and loud – to make working conditions better.

A worker from another LTC home said that she would like to organize one at her workplace, since they face the exact same issues.

It also sent a strong message to management that City workers are getting organized to take action in the lead up to negotiations when Local 79's contract ends on December 31st.



## TNG layoffs ignite workers fight

**W**orkers rallied at the Neighbourhood Group in Toronto to save their jobs. The employer is laying off 18 people which will have devastating impacts on both the workers and the services that many people rely on.

According to the union statement, "It may be tempting to look at 18 job losses at an agency of hundreds as inconsequential. But when The Neighbourhood Group laid off 18 workers this summer, they upended hundreds of lives and changed the fabric of our city. The programs they cut support the most marginalized, from at risk youth and senior citizens."

Connie Ndlovu, president of CUPE local 7797 that represents the workers said,

"We have just finished bargaining to get a good agreement for our members but all of a sudden the employer is claiming a deficit and we are losing our jobs. They are planning to lay off 18 workers and say that more layoffs are coming.

It's not only our jobs that are impacted today, the community that we serve is impacted. We are talking about vulnerable seniors. We are talking about vulnerable youth, racialized youth who are trying to find their identity in this community. If we kick them out onto the

streets without support there will be more problems."

Former 7797 VP Peter Votsch said, "The employer and union bargained and agreed on a settlement, after which they turned around and shocked everybody by announcing these layoffs – and blamed them on the union asking too much at the table. They had ample opportunity to raise the possibility at bargaining, but chose not to, in order to weaken the union in making this announcement."

Send a letter to show your support. Find info at: [cupe.on.ca/tng/](http://cupe.on.ca/tng/)



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### Territorial Acknowledgment

As settlers, we acknowledge our occupation of lands that are the Indigenous territories of Turtle Island. Furthermore, we support all struggles for Indigenous sovereignty in whatever forms they take by the hundreds of First Nations and Inuit communities that have resided here for many thousands of years, and by Métis communities that have developed in the last hundreds of years.

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# Why we have to confront the Nazis on the streets

We stand in the tradition of the anti-fascist battles of Cable Street, Lewisham and Welling

Fascists are unlike any other political grouping. Their aim is to build a street army of thugs to terrorise minorities and their political opponents—and, ultimately, smash working class organisation and all democratic rights.

That is why we need mass numbers to confront them when they march on the streets. Outnumbering them, denying them space and demoralising them is the key to beating the likes of Tommy Robinson and his supporters.

Mass confrontation can isolate the fascists' hardcore from their wider support, fragmenting their movement and stopping it from growing. If we don't face up to them, fascists will gain in confidence, deepen their roots and pull more people into their network.

The history of anti-fascism in Britain shows standing up to them can work. Anti-fascists beat back the fascist English Defence League, founded by Tommy Robinson, in the 2010s.

Thousands of people marched and staged a sit-in to stop them marching through Walthamstow, east London, in 2010, for example. The fascists left the area, shattered and demoralised.

The Anti Nazi League (ANL) did the same

to the fascist National Front (NF) in the 1970s and the British National Party in the 1990s.

The Battle of Lewisham in 1977 saw thousands of people, black and white, block a Nazi march in south London. That victory over the NF was a catalyst to launching the ANL, which beat back the fascists nationally.

The Battle of Welling in 1993 saw anti-fascists from across Britain mobilise against the BNP's headquarters.

That tradition of mass and militant confrontation goes back to the 1930s.

It was how the first major fascist organisa-



tion in Britain—the British Union of Fascists (BUF) in the 1930s—was beaten.

The Battle of Cable Street of 1936 was a defining moment. Thousands of working class people went up against the full force of the police to stop the BUF marching through the largely Jewish east end of London.

The battle proved to be a turning point, as sustained mass anti-fascist resistance led to the party's disintegration.

On each of these occasions, mass mobilisation meant anti-racists had the strength and numbers to take on the far right and fight off the police.

The forces of the revolutionary left cannot build these mass mobilisations alone. There must be a sustained attempt to win alliances with the wider left, sections of the trade union movement and supporters of the Labour Party. Only this can win us the numbers needed to stop a serious Nazi threat.

When Nazi Tommy Robinson tries to mobilise his supporters in central London this Saturday, we must fight tooth and nail to stop him. And we have to continue to build opposition on the streets wherever the fascists try to grow next.

## The crown's racism

Indigenous people and their supporters were right to protest against King Charles's visit to Australia this week. And Senator Lidia Thorpe was right to say that his ancestors were responsible for mass murder and mass genocide.

Australia was founded as a settler colonial state, based on the attempted eradication of the Indigenous population.

When Captain Cook arrived in 1770, he took possession of the eastern coast of what is now called Australia "in the name of His Majesty King George III".

Over the next century and a half, the British Empire murdered at least 40,000 people.

In the 20th century, thousands of Indigenous children were systematically stolen from their homes and sent to institutions or adopted by white families.

Indigenous people still have a shorter life expectancy than the white population, poorer health outcomes and are more likely to be in prison.

The monarchy upholds the ideology of a British Empire based on slavery, genocide and racism. It should have been abolished decades ago.

# Anti-fascists deny Nazi Tommy Robinson a victory in London

Anti-fascists have made sure Nazi Tommy Robinson wasn't able to put fascism back on the front foot.

Over 20,000 people joined Stand Up To Racism's (SUTR) counter-mobilisation against the "Uniting the Kingdom" rally in central London on Saturday.

Up to 25,000 fascist and far right thugs turned out to support Robinson—who couldn't make his own march from Victoria to Parliament Square. He was remanded in police custody the day before on a contempt of court charge.

Robinson was desperate to mobilise tens of thousands onto the streets and turn the tables against anti-fascists. SUTR mobilisations across Britain had put the far right on the back foot after a wave of racist riots in the summer.

Adham Al Shami is a Palestinian activist from Rotherham in South Yorkshire. He was outside the hotel housing refugees when far right thugs tried to burn it down and murder those inside in the summer.

"I'm here because fighting racism is at the core of the Palestinian struggle," he told Socialist Worker. Israel built alliances with the far right across Europe like in France and Hungary. It is an insult to the memory of all the Jewish people who died at the hands of the Nazis.

"Everyone should come and protest against the far right."

Zoya from Leicester was on her first demonstration in London. "We are on the streets today because we can't leave a space for the fascists to grow," she told Socialist Worker. "We've seen it in history, and we can't let it happen again."

"We are a multicultural community and we don't want them threatening that. The fascists

target the working class and feed them lies. They want workers to blame the wrong people. In Leicester, we just can't imagine fascists getting power.

Anti-fascists spent weeks building the SUTR counter-protest—and came from every corner of Britain.

There was a sizeable trade union bloc—and several trade union leaders spoke from the platform. Mike Gurney, NEU education union joint secretary in Devon, told Socialist Worker, "The far right wants to divide our communities and pose a threat to the trade union movement."

"The NEU really mobilised for this protest which is great because you have to mobilise on the streets when it is necessary."

Speakers from the stage included Jeremy Corbyn MP, Palestine Solidarity Campaign director Ben Jamal, Lindsey German from the Stop The War Coalition, Aslef and NEU union general secretaries Mick Whelan and Daniel Kebede. Labour MPs Jon Trickett and Kim Johnson also spoke.

The march went from Piccadilly to Whitehall chanting, "Tommy Robinson we see you, you're a fascist through and through." A section of the anti-fascist march tried to break through police lines to confront the fascists near Trafalgar Square, but weren't able to push through.

The far right organised a hate-fuelled march, filled with Islamophobic chants, racist remarks and vile placards. It was mainly male

and old. At various points, the crowd chanted, "Who the fuck is Allah," "Allah is a pedo," and, "We want our country back."

The march was covered with St George's flags, flags celebrating Donald Trump and racist signs.

One placard read, "Stop and return the migrants—traitors are giving our country away."

When questioned, marchers were all too quick to slide into murderous racism. "When I go on holiday to rural areas in Britain, there are no Muslims at all. It's paradise," one said.

Another racist, referring to the Palestine marches, said, "The Muslims have their marches and so we have to have ours to oppose them. It's against British culture."

We face both a fascist street movement around Tommy Robinson and Nigel Farage's far right Reform UK party in parliament.

The trajectory for our side is upwards. On 27 July, Robinson mobilised 15,000 while SUTR turned out 5,000—the balance of forces was substantially different on Saturday. Robinson wasn't able to turn the tables on our side as he hoped.

But the far right remains a mortal threat and is growing across Europe. SUTR co-convenor Weyman Bennett told Socialist Worker, "This is the beginning of building a mass movement against the far right."

"Tommy Robinson wanted to get tens of thousands onto the streets and our opposition stopped him from scoring a major victory."

"We have to keep building to stop them."

We have to mobilise on the streets—against the far right and the state racism that fuels it.

*Edited and reprinted from socialistworker.org.uk*



20,000 march against the fascists in London.

Photo: PCS twitter

## Good enough to work Good enough to stay

by: Brian Champ

**H**undreds of people participated in a candlelight march along Queen St E in Brampton on Sunday, Oct 27th on day 59 of the encampment by Post-Graduate Work Permit holders who are protesting the “use and throw” policy of the Liberal government. Many of the campers are from the Sikh community and have strong local support in the established Sikh community in Brampton. While the candles marked Diwali - the festival of lights, rather than a celebration, it was a somber procession, without the chants that had energized the previous marches.

These are International students who spent tens of thousands of dollars in tuition - paying 4 or 5 times what domestic students pay - to attend Canadian universities and colleges who have now graduated. They came to Canada, lured by promises that they would be welcome to stay, work and be able to become permanent residents. In many cases, their families sold land, family heirlooms or went into debt to support their new life here. Overall these graduates have contributed \$31 billion to the Canadian economy.

But anti-immigrant rhetoric from conservative parties at federal and provincial levels has pushed the Liberals to renege on these promises. This is under the influence of far right forces

that have gained ground globally. These forces seek to scapegoat immigrants for rising housing costs, inadequate public services and low wages - all of which result from the need of bosses to extract as much profit as possible from workers

to maintain their economy.

But Migrant workers, including PGWP holders, are super-exploited by bosses, live in cramped housing conditions and work dangerous jobs - before marching a prayer was said

for the soul of Gursimran Kaur, a young woman who was tragically burned to death in a walk-in oven at a Halifax Walmart.

The PWGP encampment demands are:

- extend work permits expiring in 2024-25
- implement a fair pathway to Permanent Residency
- stop Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) exploitation - where bosses sell job offers to the highest bidder
- provide 5-year PGWPs for all

Workers form the majority of people under capitalism. In Canada, only a minority are organized in unions, many more have some basic rights as workers, while migrant workers' rights are severely restricted. Bosses use this to their advantage, using migrant workers' precarious position to drive their wages and working conditions down further which ultimately makes things worse for all workers. Racism and xenophobia can't be allowed to divide the working class, because this weakens the ability of workers to fight back.

Support the demands of the PGWP Encampment and mobilize your community, workplace and school in active support for this important fight.

Visit the encampment at 295 Queen St E (south side), just west of Hwy 410.



## Ford policies push climate chaos

**W**hen the Ford government first came to office in Ontario in 2018, one of the first things they did was to scrap over 700 renewable energy projects - a step which cost \$250 million in public money to break contracts.

In the Fall of 2022, after realizing that there would be a shortfall in electricity supply, they launched a plan to expand gas fired electricity across the province by building new plants and extending the life of existing ones. They called for municipalities to approve these plans, while pledging to honour their decisions. Environmental Defense and the Ontario Clean Air Alliance launched campaigns to oppose these plans, connecting with local groups across the province.

While they were able to win local support for new gas plants in Windsor and Napanee, a host of other townships rejected plans for new plants, including in Thorold, Halton Hills and Loyalist Township. In each of these locations, local groups organized to pressure their councils not to approve gas expansion. The grassroots climate group Seniors for Climate Action Now! (SCAN) has played a big role in energizing these local campaigns.

In Toronto, the community group Toronto East Residents for Renewable Energy (TERRE) launched a local campaign to oppose plans to invest in new turbines for the Portlands Energy Centre near Cherry Beach - a plan that the Toronto City Council has repeatedly voted against. The engagement of TERRE has caused delays in these refurbishment plans.

The combined efforts of environmental NGOs and grassroots community groups has pushed back these gas expansion plans.

Without much fanfare in mid August, the Ford government did an abrupt U-turn on electrical power generation. They opened the door to doubling renewable energy production - a

level which is still woefully inadequate.

Last week, however, new Energy Minister Stephen Lecce announced the Ford government ambition to be an “energy superpow-

er”, with a plan for a mix of nuclear power generation (that would require new plants to be built), hydroelectric power and re-iterating their plan for gas-fired electricity to kick in at peak demand.

But Lecce also promised to unveil a “significant energy conservation program” as well as incentives “to produce power for their own needs” for families and businesses. While not explicitly referring to renewables, it is a concession by a government that is loath to talk of energy conservation at all.

But this announcement must be seen as electioneering, full of promises to build an energy plan “using the lowest-price options, competitive procurements and making affordability the No. 1 priority that drives our decision.”

If this were true, there would be a massive increase in investments for renewable energy, which are now the lowest cost option for electricity generation. Ontario's plans for Small Modular Nuclear Reactors (SMRs) and a new full-sized Nuclear plant are not cost-effective solutions and require long time-frames for design and construction before they can operate, even if anyone believes they are a climate solution. (hint: they're not)

We need to energize opposition to these (literally) dead end energy policies of the Ford government.

Join TERRE's November 2nd “Passing on Gas” Rally for a Renewable Energy Future at 12 noon in Kew Gardens Park (near the Gazebo) south of Queen St in the Beaches.

<https://terrecoalition.ca/2024/10/02/passing-on-gas-rallying-for-a-renewable-energy-future-for-toronto/>



Stop Ford's planet killing boondoggle