



Speak Out Now

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Millions Protest Attacks on Palestine

In the wake of the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas on Israeli civilians and military outposts, Israel's retaliation has been tantamount to genocide. Israeli officials have declared they would turn Gaza into "rubble," and have cut off power, food, water, and all aid. They have killed over four thousand and wounded over 13,000 Palestinians as of Oct. 20, and as fuel and provisions run out, this will rapidly increase. Even the few dozen trucks of aid beginning to cross the border will not be nearly enough for the two million people trapped under the siege and bombings. Outrage has spread around the world — particularly after the Ahli hospital bombing.

Millions of people have demonstrated around the world against the atrocities committed by the Israeli state. At universities across the Middle East, students demonstrated to end the attacks on Gaza. Across the Middle East — from Morocco to Iran, thousands have protested foreign embassies.

In Tunisia, protests outside the French Embassy called out French and U.S. support for Israel. More than 5,000 in Jordan demonstrated against the Israeli embassy. Halfway around the world, a thousand people rallied outside the U.S. Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia, protesting American support for Israel.

Elsewhere, from the war-torn streets of Yemen and Syria, to the streets of Jordan and Bahrain, solidarity for the Palestinian people brought people out in mass.

In Iraq, tens of thousands flooded Tahrir Square in the capital. Other protests occurred around the country, and outside the Green Zone, a heavily militarized area of Baghdad where the U.S. embassy is located.

In Egypt, these are the first demonstrations in nearly five years, as they have been severely repressed under the regime of President Abdel Fattah Al-Sisi. On Friday, hundreds of thousands of protesters gathered across the country to protest. In Cairo, one protester described the power of the protests: "The police tried to block us from entering [Tahrir] square, but there were so many people pushing through, they just decided to let them through. I haven't seen the square so full of people in a long time." Protesters chanted "bread, freedom, social justice," which was a prominent slogan in the 2011 Arab Spring that ended the dictatorship of Hosni Mubarak.

Even in countries where the governments have banned protests for Palestine, some have persisted, such as in France where three thousand demonstrated, and in the U.K. and Germany. Under this pressure, governments have been forced to reconsider their bans.

In sports, moments of silence for Israel were interrupted by chants of "Free Palestine," like at the Baltimore Ravens football game in London. Arab soccer players and other athletes have spoken out in support of Palestine, facing bans and punishment.

The U.S. has also seen a wave of protests. Across the country, hundreds of demonstrations have taken place in the nearly two weeks since Israel's invasion. A mass arrest of 300 demonstrators was organized in the Capitol building by Jewish Voices for Peace and IfNotNow demanding an immediate ceasefire. This was the largest Jewish-led protest for Palestine in U.S. history.

Despite the protests against Israel's genocidal policy by millions in the Middle East and around the world, Israel's attacks continue, fully backed by the U.S. and other ruling powers. The U.S. government reaffirmed its position to stand with Israel, promising billions in additional military aid on top of more than three billion dollars that goes to Israel every year. In so-called democratic countries, demonstrations of opposition to Israel's massacre have been attacked and banned.

The worldwide protests show the immense potential of the population to break through the national divisions imposed on us. One protester in Iraq said: "We, as Iraqis, know the pain of having an occupier on our land ... We stand with [the Palestinians] in their struggle." We too must stand with the Palestinian people, and demonstrate our opposition to the occupation of their land and destruction of their lives.

As Israel carries out horrific violence in Gaza, we have a moral obligation to show up, speak out, and stand up. We must make it known that the Palestinian people are not alone in their struggle, and that the world is watching! We must oppose the U.S. government's support of this genocide and take every action possible to activate others around us, by showing up to protests and mobilizing our forces. We cannot be silent while this massacre is carried out!

Wall Street Profits While People Suffer

Two days after the Hamas attack on Israeli's, both oil and war corporations' stock surged, with war companies seeing their best day on the U.S. stock market in years. In total, military stocks surged nearly \$30 billion in one day.

It's horrific that while Gaza is under siege with children, families, homes, and hospitals being decimated, there are wealthy corporations that only exist to benefit from such wars.

The true cost of these companies' profits is in the lives and families destroyed in Palestine. But U.S. war companies cannot reap these profits without draining the coffers of the government at the expense of people's health, education, and general quality of life here. The military companies profit from workers' labor as well as from wars like the one on Palestine. Why should they profit off of oppression and violence around the world?

New School Year, New School Shootings

This year, there have been 59 school shootings in the U.S. so far that have left at least 28 people dead and more than 67 people injured. Over the past three years, the amount of school shootings skyrocket across the country. And gun violence is the leading cause of death for people under 18.

In response, politicians have promised again and again to address gun violence. Not only have they failed to follow through, but their solutions wouldn't address the root cause of these shootings: a system that creates and maintains the violence of poverty, desperation, and hopelessness.

Their proposed solutions keep the entire system intact. That is exactly what we need to end. The solutions for the rest of us must challenge the entire system — to get there we can and must organize ourselves!

We live in the wealthiest country in the world, and it is our labor that has created this wealth. But we aren't the ones who benefit from this. The super rich – the bosses of the big corporations and banks – keep the wealth and make all the decisions. But working people do the work that makes society run, and we can organize to unite our forces. And when we do, we have enormous power to change things and make a better world.

Get in touch with us if you want to fight for a better world!

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COVID Vaccines: All Demand, No Supply

Have you recently had a COVID-19 vaccine appointment cancelled on you due to availability problems or “unforeseen circumstances”? You are not alone!

As we enter flu (and now COVID) season, COVID vaccines are now being distributed through the commercial market and managed by health insurance providers for the first time. So far, this has looked like huge delivery delays, insufficient supply, and uncovered costs to the patients and the pharmacies.

Medicines and other healthcare that people need should not be treated like hula hoops and Xboxes that come and go as fads. When cutting costs and maximizing profit are the priorities of the economy, our health and basic needs will always come second.

A Government Shutdown Hurts Workers and the Poor the Most

If Congress fails to pass the federal budget by November 17th the consequences will be disastrous for federal workers and the millions who rely on government assistance. All “non-essential” activities of the government would be paused, meaning that hundreds of thousands of workers would stop working or work without pay. Additionally federal programs like WIC, SNAP, Medicaid, Medicare and IRS tax refunds would stop, leaving people without the resources they need to survive.

Workers' paychecks and federal assistance to low-income families are essential! It's nauseating for the president and the wealthy members of Congress to fight amongst each other for political clout, all while calling these programs we survive on non-essential. Our ability to eat and pay rent should be something we can rely on, not a politician's ping pong ball!

