

400,000 workers poised
to strike in Quebec

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**END ISRAELI
TERROR**



Thousands have marched across Canada in support of the Palestinian struggle. Coverage on pages 4,5,6,7

Thank you Sarah Jama

I write, Sarah, to say I will be here to support you, and because I want to express how much I, and I believe all people on the left looking for a way forward, owe to you.

Your principled, public stand on Palestinian human rights and Israeli apartheid is longstanding and consistent, predating your entry into electoral politics. I have never met you, but I became aware of Sarah Jama through your activism in Hamilton, fighting for housing rights, exposing racism, championing and inspiring the disability community.

In 2019, when far-right zealots and neo-Nazis felt bold enough to physically attack the Pride celebration in Hamilton's Gage

and education. You have been active in No Pride In Policing Coalition (NPIP), which in the past has extended support to such important causes as Black Lives Matter, Indigenous Landback, and Palestinian freedom. I should be writing this fan letter just for how much I envy your ability to annoy the cops. Even after you became a sitting MPP, you continued to lend your voice to these crucial causes. It was just a couple of months ago that the boss of the Hamilton Police Association went on talk radio to denounce you for refusing to blunt your words: "Who wants to live in a world where the police have been abolished? We have come to expect no better from MPP Sara Jama and her dangerous rhetoric."

actions.

In my rear-view mirror I see a terrain littered with good activists, some with records much like yours, who have joined or been recruited by the NDP. But once in they get bullied, bribed or convinced to keep their "dangerous rhetoric" to themselves. Think of the party line. What fits with our electoral strategy. We'll tell you what to say and when.

I have friends, good activists once, who sit in the same ONDP caucus you were just kicked out of. I am disappointed and angry, to say the least, that they sat silent as you were singled out for brutal attack, from the right-wing, from their lap-dog media, and finally from your own party apparatus – all because

A prominent "progressive" Toronto city councillor sent a message to constituents defending Marit Stiles' decision to purge you from caucus, not because of what you said about Palestine, but because you were "difficult".

Well, we know that after you were turfed, the ONDP suddenly started to appropriate your words – in a watered down version carefully omitting the dreaded words-that-must-not-be-said. They didn't rise to defend you, they rose as damage control, to stop the bleeding of members and support, to silence the din of constituency office phones ringing non-stop.

A local journalist spoke obliquely about how you were "tone-policed and micromanaged" long before you spoke out on Palestine.

And Jill Andrew, one of your caucus mates, having previously stated they wouldn't be seeking re-election, and after an embarrassingly long delay, issued a sort-of message of support for you. She rightly said Stiles' statement announcing your expulsion contained "what I feel were stereotypical tropes often used to communicate about Black people, especially Black women, who are perceived as difficult."

She cautiously avoided the issue of Palestine. She wasn't wrong – other observers have remarked that for the NDP and other "progressive" organizations, diversity and

inclusion are matters of window dressing.

Sarah, I believe you got kicked out because you had a different idea about what your role as an MPP meant. For so many others, the goal was getting "good people" elected in order to nudge it slowly

but surely back to left-of-centre where it belonged. Instead we have seen generations of activists sucked in and then beat down by a mostly unelected bureaucracy that bounces between ignoring them and taking them for granted as a stage army to keep and win seats.

I don't think you bought into this when you slipped through a candidate vetting process designed to keep people like you out. You didn't buy into it when you ran an activist campaign that resulted in the party machine giving you grudging material support. And you clearly didn't buy into it when you chose not to settle for the lesser-evilism of the others, but used your position as MPP to speak loud and clear for the people who you have always supported and represented.

Lenin used to call electoral politics a "dung heap". He said it was useful to stand atop to make your voice go further, but it was a bad idea to bow down and kiss it. I think you have the same approach. And I think we all owe you a great debt for the leadership you have shown, and for resisting the institutional weight that has ground down so many "good people" before you, and doing it so publicly.

You have revealed the limitations not just of the NDP, but of the project it claims to represent. You have inspired a crucial debate about how we on the left can unite, organize and fight, and leave the increasingly useless hulk of reformism behind.

I have no idea how this debate will play out, but I for one am glad that Sarah Jama, a truly independent MPP, will be at the heart of it.

With thanks and admiration,
John Bell
Columnist, Socialist Worker



Park, local police stood back and let it happen. But in the front line you were there, demanding accountability from the Hamilton police. You have been a thorn in their side for a long time, calling for defunding the police instead of defunding health, housing

Nice going. Who wants to live in a world without police? That's my life's ambition.

Sarah, we need more "dangerous rhetoric" in support of the exploited and oppressed in this world, but it was never just your words that scare and rile up the cops, it is your

you refused to sacrifice your stated beliefs and rose in the legislature to speak the truth in plain, simple language. You dared to speak the words-that-must-not-be-said: apartheid and occupation.

Dangerous rhetoric indeed. The truth often is.

Ford's housing swindle

When is a house not a house. Doug Ford and his corruption hounded government have solved this riddle. They have decided that one new Long Term Care bed equals one new home.

So going forward, when you see Doug Ford posing with his prop shovel, announcing that his government has miraculously created thousands of new "affordable" homes, remember that 4 of those "homes" may be crowded together in one room in an understaffed, under-regulated private LTC facility.

We have come to expect this sort of preferential treatment for his corporate friends in the seniors warehousing business. First he cut their already minimal inspections and oversight, then during COVID he rushed in legislation to protect LTC facilities from

being investigated and sued by the families of the far-too-many elders who died from the pandemic.

Every impartial health investigation has concluded that seniors mortality rates in publicly run LTCs was far lower than their privatized counterparts. So Ford

has done the logical thing, spending over \$5 billion public money on "partnerships" with private corporations like Chartwell to build over 30,000 new LTC beds – or is that new homes – by 2028.

They call this "innovation". We call it a swindle.



Don't get hurt on Monday

Just a quick reminder that even though Doug Ford's government has its hands full dealing with the Greenbelt scandal, they are still hard at work destroying public healthcare. This is especially true in small towns.

The South Bruce Grey Health Centre, overseeing hospitals and facilities in the towns of Walkerton, Kincardine, Chesley and Durham, is announcing closures to emergency services due to lack of staff and underfunding.

On October 23 the Walkerton Hospital Emergency Department announced it was shutting down overnight due to staff shortages.

Then the Chesley Hospital ED announced it was shutting its doors all day on Monday, October 30. Again there was insufficient staffing to run the ER.

After the first closure of a SBGHC facility, Tory Health Minister Sylvia

Jones announced she was rushing "interim funding". It wasn't enough to last a week.

Staff shortages reflect the latest rise of COVID, flu and other viruses, and the burnout of workers, especially nurses during the past 3 years.

Our advice: be extra careful on Mondays.



Interview: Quebec Common Front worker on the fight against the CAQ

by: Chantal Sundaram

Four union federations in Quebec have formed a Common Front to collectively bargain with the right wing CAQ government. More than 400,000 workers are poised to walk out on November 6th. We spoke with Gustavo Monteiro, a healthcare worker and rank and file militant with the CSN (confederation des syndicats nationaux), about the strike preparations and the plan to fight back.

SW: Clearly this fight is over the cost of living. Quebec government is stuck at a ridiculous offer of 9% over 5 years, while the Common Front is seeking a three-year deal with a weekly pay hike of \$100 or an increase equivalent to the inflation rate plus two per cent for the first year, cost of living plus three per cent for the second year and cost of living plus four per cent in the third year. Can you tell me about the state of public sector pay and labour shortages right now, and how this fight is linked to providing good public services?

We're talking about 11.9% of what we call "rattrapage" in Quebec (catching up) to what salaries should be right now [short of inflation], and we have a long way to go.

Since the pandemic we've seen many quitting public healthcare and education. Even with the programs that the Quebec government created for people to join the public healthcare sector from a different field, most have left. It was a parallel contract imposed by the government on the unions, and unions didn't have a chance to negotiate it. We had a bunch of people working at hospitals and residences without any training, it was pretty stressful so many left right at the beginning and then more later on.

Even with other programs for orderlies, where you would have a scholarship for three months and a course, you would still start working right away. And many, many, left, and they had to reimburse the government for these scholarships. They didn't know the situation in healthcare was as bad as it is, and of course the government didn't explain. I could give you the same story about nurses, kitchen workers, janitors, all positions.

SW: The Common Front held a series of strike vote meetings to get that 95% vote. What is the mood on the ground, and what were the strike meetings like?

It's a process. Last year we had a bunch of meetings about our demands on salary, working conditions, pensions, and how healthcare is managed in different regions in Quebec and what is needed to deliver it outside of Montreal.

First the Common Front had larger cross-sector meetings and then we had CSN meetings.



Thousands of public sector workers rally in Montreal

Within the CSN we have four federations that are part of the Common Front: healthcare and social services, education, and professionals (psychologists and social workers). The local unions had direction to go see what the local members wanted to bring to the table: it was a very interesting and consultative process for the whole year. It wasn't the top union leadership but the base of workers saying this is what we need to protect public services and working conditions. The pandemic was still on and workers felt disrespected, especially in healthcare.

In November we put our demands on the table. And then we didn't hear from the government, they didn't want to negotiate. We went through a media battle until the spring then we had to change our approach, because things weren't moving. In spring and summer we organized general assemblies to apply more pressure on the government. We did actions at metro stations, canvassing the public, countering the media's fake news, all spring and summer.

On September 23 we had a Common Front rally of 100,000 people in Montreal, with buses from all different parts of Quebec and planes with people from Iles de la Madeleine and some northern territories. And at that point people were saying: when are we going to vote for the strike already? That's when we started our general assemblies for a mandate that can go to an unlimited general strike.

SW: The Common Front has announced that there will be at the very least some warning strikes. What can you tell us about the organizing for this?

We will have our first day of one-day strike on November 6, and then maybe another day here and there, but if things aren't moving we could go for more in late November or early December.

But the feeling in all the assemblies was: if we could go on strike tomorrow, we would, people were ready to go on strike right away. People are fed up, they can't make ends meet.

SW: The size of this Common Front is much bigger than in the last Common Front strike of 2015. But that strike ended with a lot of bitter division between different unions and workplaces accepting deals and going back to work at different times. How can it be different this time?

Since I started working in public hospitals in Montreal I've heard stories about the consequences of the 2015 Common Front. But this Common Front is bigger and because of that experience and the privatization of public services, all different unions are sharing the same feeling: we know we have to stick together and really put the government against the wall.

Legault's Bill 15 would create an agency to allow even more privatization of Quebec's public healthcare system. And it's a direct attack on how unions organize as well, which could cause some division in the Common Front if unions tried to raid each other. But the Common Front representatives said, we are not going to fall into that trap, we are going to stick together to protect public services and working conditions. The CSN rejects Bill 15 completely.

If we want to win this battle, we

have to organize together. We are talking about picketing together on joint picket lines with the other Common Front unions.

SW: Also in 2015, the threat of back to work legislation was used to divide and intimidate workers. Do you see that playing out differently this time? How can this be stopped from happening again?

This is something we talk about, but we haven't really spent much time on what we're going to do if it comes. But the feeling from the base is that even if the government tries legislation, people are ready to keep going. They see this as a battle not only over their collective agreement but to defend public services. And the public is with us, because they know we need good jobs to deliver those services. I think the membership at the base is prepared to push the Common Front leadership to keep going no matter what the government tries.

SW: What role do rank and file activists have in making the strike movement a success?

To continue to organize the way we have since the beginning. Reaching out to the membership, every single worker, janitors, kitchen staff, laundry workers, orderlies. Workers know what's needed, we just have to keep this momentum going, and be really transparent. If we don't see anything close to what's needed on the table, if necessary we're going to have to push our representatives of the Common Front to respond to the government. This is an important moment, about the future, and workers know that, and they are

ready.

SW: What was the 'secret' action you were just involved in?

It was an action for the Common Front at Caisse de dépôt et placement du Québec. It was there because one of our demands is about our pension plan: Legault wants to make us work longer and reduce the percentage the government puts into this public pension, and this is where it is managed. We occupied the building with nearly 1000 people. We swarmed in and had speeches from all the different Common Front unions and stayed as long as we could. This won't be the last action, and for sure the CSN is going to have another one.

SW: News is not travelling much outside Quebec about this struggle. What would help to build solidarity?

Motions of solidarity would help us, we know we need solidarity throughout all unions, and across the country. Times are hard for workers everywhere, but this is a battle to protect public services: we're seeing the same attack in other provinces like by Ford in Ontario. I've shared with the CSN what the Ontario Health Coalition has done to fight privatization. It's going to be a big battle here: people should use every channel, every platform they can to send messages of solidarity.

We saw CSN organizations show solidarity with the CUPE Ontario education workers when they were on strike. That's the kind of thing we want to see, to increase the power of unions both in Quebec and across Canada.

Palestine

It's right to res

The murderous attack on the Palestinian people is part of a long history of violence and oppression by the Israeli state, yet Canada, the US and other NATO nations always support Israel no matter how brutal their actions. We look at why that is and situate Israel into the larger framework of global Imperialism.

The Canadian state is cheer-leading ethnic cleansing. The brutal assaults on the 2.2 million people in the Gaza strip are part of a much longer process of colonization, mass killings and dispossession of the Palestinian people that has been going on for 75 years.

But to hear Canadian politicians of every party speak of it you would think that the conflict began with the attacks by Palestinian resistance groups on October 7. Media pundits agree and any voice that opposes the slaughter is marginalized for the mainstream audience.

They are deliberately hiding the reality of daily life for the Palestinian people. The system of segregation, humiliation, dispossession and violent attacks affects Palestinians on a daily basis. Every reputable human rights organization globally calls it apartheid. Human Rights Watch, Amnesty International and even B'tselem—the largest human rights group on Israel—agree on that definition.

It's right to resist

Palestinians have every right to fight back. People will decry their use of violent tactics but fail to mention that they have tried non-violent tactics for decades and have always been met with a violent response.

The right of return marches in 2018—when trapped Gazans marched to the border fence unarmed and with hands raised in the air—were met with machine guns and sniper fire. When Palestinians and supporters launched the non-violent Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions campaigns they were met with hostility and groundless accusations of antisemitism.

When peaceful means of creating change are throttled, violent fightback will be the result.

The Israeli state simply doesn't want to allow the Palestinians to speak out at all. Canada has been complicit in creating this situation because of its all-party support for the Israeli state.

For Canadian politicians who are desperate to hide the reality of our own state which was found-

and politicians are happy to have a new focus to take the pressure off.

The global Imperial order

But there is a much larger issue of the role that the Israeli state plays for the global imperial order which fits in nicely with the goals of Canadian foreign policy. For Canada, being on the side of the US and NATO powers isn't a moral

populations and to keep them in-line while the US and its allies pillage the region for its resources - chiefly oil.

As the Israeli paper Ha'aretz said in 1952,

"Israel is to become the watchdog. There is no fear that Israel will undertake any aggressive Policy towards the Arab states when this would explicitly contradict the wishes of the US

Joe Biden declared in 1986 and reiterated this year, "If there were not an Israel, we'd have to invent one."

The narrative in Canada may be that the "global community" supports Israel but this isn't true. The world is divided into imperial blocs with one centred on the US and NATO and another that has coalesced around China, Russia and many other countries in the global south. A simple look at UN votes sanctioning Israel show the disparity. There are routinely votes to sanction Israel supported by roughly 80 percent of the UN general assembly members.

These rival blocs have very different and competing interests. The "rules based international order" that Canadian politicians talk about is an order decided upon by the US for their own benefit. The rules are enforced by economic sanction and if need be, war. Any country that tries to decide to move in its own direction internationally has to do so based on the rules that the west enforces.

For the US being the dominant economic power after WW2 meant that they had tremendous sway over other countries. In Europe the various belligerent powers were in a shambles. The US decided to give loans to rebuild the countries—not out of benevolence but a desire to both build new trading partners in their own image but also to dominate the globe economically.

They did so through a series of means including the institutions of the Bretton Woods agreements (the IMF, World Bank and WTO) that set the economic rules and forced smaller and undeveloped (deliberately under-developed) states to do the bidding of the US and its allies.



More than 10,000 march for Palestine in Toronto - Victory to the intifada

ed on the genocide of Indigenous peoples, it is convenient and necessary to amplify the voices of the colonizers in Israel.

They are also using the opportunity to lecture Canadians about antisemitism less than a month after all of our MPs stood in Parliament and applauded a Waffen SS Nazi. That incident was an international embarrassment

position but is centrally about the economic and political advantages to tying the state to the US global empire.

Israel was created to be the watchdog for the Imperial powers in the Middle East. It is championed by the largest empires—the UK and more recently the US—precisely because it can be used to control the restive Arab

and Britain. But if for any reasons the Western powers should sometimes prefer to close their eyes, Israel could be relied upon to punish one or several neighbouring states whose discourtesy to the West went beyond the bounds of the permissible."

For the US and the UK before it, Israel is an essential part of the global imperial framework. As

sist

They also used the UN security council—which controls all the military enforcement mechanisms for International action to maintain US dominance. The US vetoes any action by the SC if it works against their interests.

The UN SC was deliberately designed to keep power in the hands of the 5 veto wielding members. It was never democratic and wasn't meant to be.

If the official channels of the UNSC are blocked by other members, the US simply ignores their decision and acts unilaterally as it did with the unsanctioned invasion of Iraq.

It is the US empire that is the primary supporter, enabler and funder of the Israeli state, but they

support for the Israeli state.

Justin Trudeau's statement was the standard for a Canadian politician, "Israel has the right to defend itself in accordance with international law."

Foreign Affairs minister Melanie Joly said exactly the same thing as she reiterated, "Canada's support for Israel and its right to defend itself in accordance with international law."

Of course, Canada would not actually challenge the Israelis conduct even if they were violating international law—evidenced by the fact that they have never brought charges to Israel after decades of violations of those same laws.

By stating that they support

Beyond the obvious political support Canada sends millions in weapons to Israel. They sent more than \$26 million in explosives and targeting systems in 2021 and a further \$21 million in 2022. Since the low point of arms sales — \$2.5 million in 2008— to today, sales have gone up consistently to a sum total of roughly \$170 million in the last 15 years.

Central to this has been the sales of bomb components that are currently being used to cause mass killings in Gaza today.

This is why a central call from Canadian human rights and peace campaigners has to be the end of arms shipments to Israel. The blood of the



Rally at Chrystia Freeland's office - End weapons sales to Israel.

are not alone. Canada and other G7 nations are in lockstep in their support for Israel.

How is Canada supporting Israel?

The main and obvious support is political with Canadian government officials and diplomats offering unconditional

international law and then avoiding any criticism of Israel, they are providing further cover for the Israeli state. To be clear, international law does not include the right to self defence by an occupying power. Those that are occupied have a right to defend themselves—not the military doing the occupying.

Palestinian people is on the hands of successive Canadian governments who support this slaughter.

The mobilizations against the killing in Gaza and the West Bank have been huge across the country. They need to grow and broaden to fight back against the knee-jerk support for the Israelis.

Labour movement needs to stand with Palestine

by: Carolyn Egan

The attack on Gaza by the Israeli Defense Force has sparked a worldwide movement of solidarity with the Palestinian people. In cities and towns across Canada and Quebec we are seeing mass demonstrations almost on a daily basis as tens of thousands take to the streets. This includes members of the Jewish community organized by groups such as Independent Jewish Voices who are saying end the occupation!

Well known Hunter College professor Rosalind Petchesky was arrested in New York City with many others from the Jewish community. She said, "I am older than the state of Israel. That's why we are here to say, 'not in our name'."

The international movement is growing on a daily basis with more and more organizations calling for a stop to the slaughter. Thousands are dead and injured and the situation is growing worse every day. The humanitarian crisis is escalating as the violence increases.

Ordinary people are taking action and it is imperative that the trade union movement take a strong stand. The Palestinian trade unions have called for solidarity. They call on our counterparts internationally and all peoples of conscience to end all forms of complicity." The Canadian Union of Public Employees Ontario was the first to speak out with its president Fred Hahn making it clear that it stood against the bombardment of Gaza. This was followed by a debate at the CUPE national convention. A resolution was passed

demanding 1. The Canadian government call for an immediate cease fire in Israel- Palestine, an end of its sale of arms to Israel, an end to diplomatic immunity for the state of Israel, and for an end to Israel's blockade of Gaza and the restoration of aid and the basic necessities of life. 2. Conduct member education about the history of Israel's occupation and colonization of Palestine, Canada's complicity and what trade unions can do to support a just peace. It was met with huge applause by the thousands of delegates present.

Other unions have also made statements. The Ontario Federation of Labour is speaking out to oppose the rapidly escalating violence in Israel- Palestine, and joining the call for an immediate ceasefire, aid to Gaza and an end to the blockade." CSN Montreal has come out with a similar statement. The Public Service Alliance of Canada and other unions have signed on to Ceasefire Now, a pan Canadian coalition of humanitarian, labour and faith groups.

A contingent of Steelworkers marched in a recent mass rally in Toronto and spoke to the thousands taking part calling for an immediate ceasefire and an end to the siege of Gaza. Trade unions must come out with their flags and banners showing the Palestinian community, the broader public, and the Canadian government that this movement is growing and will not stop until its demands are met.

There can be no peace in the Middle East until the Palestinian question is solved and we must do all we can to build the resistance.



International Socialist Tendency statement on the new war in the Middle East

1 The attacks launched by Hamas and other resistance organisations on 7 October were a warning that there can be no peace in the Middle East until the Palestinian question is solved. But the reaction by the State of Israel and its Western allies, headed by the United States, is to launch a new imperialist war. Already the assault by the Israel Defence Forces on Gaza has caused thousands of civilian deaths and vast devastation and disruption of ordinary people's lives.

2 Too many on the liberal and reformist left have been quick follow their governments in condemning Hamas and affirming Israel's right to self-defence. The flood of media atrocity stories has obscured what actually happened on 7 October. But when oppressor and oppressed clash there can be no neutrality or equivalence. We support the right of self-determination of the Palestinian people and their right to wage armed struggle against the Israeli settler colonial state.

3 The corrupt far-right government of Benjamin Netanyahu, with the support of the Biden administration, had been driving to 'normalise' relations with Saudi Arabia, following the 'Abraham Accords' with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain in 2020. Netanyahu sought to marginalise the Palestinians by playing Hamas off against the Palestinian Authority while Zionist settlers and the IDF continued to dispossess and expel Palestinians on the West Bank and in East Jerusalem.

4 The 7 October attacks have brutally demonstrated that the Palestinians cannot be ignored or marginalised. They have also humiliated the Israeli military and security establishment, which failed to anticipate and was slow to repel the attacks. For the racist rulers of Israel this defeat must be punished by a spectacular revenge.

5 The Israeli far right, whose influence has vastly increased under Netanyahu, also see the new war as an opportunity to realise their dream of 'the transfer' – the mass expulsion of Palestinians from the Occupied Territories. The IDF's orders for Palestinians in Gaza to move south towards the border with Egypt are widely seen as a first step towards realising this goal, by driving them into the Sinai desert. The US has tried to pressure the Egyptian government into opening the border and Netanyahu lobbied the EU to do the same. Meanwhile, the settlers have stepped up the expulsions of Bedouin herders from the West Bank. Middle Eastern governments must warn both Israel and the Western powers that a second Nakba will mean a general war in the region.

6 The US, the European Union, and the leading West European states have all rushed to back up Israel, not only in words, but also

with military support – in the case of the US, two aircraft carrier groups, 2000 Marines, and air defence systems. The Biden administration has been strident in linking Hamas and Putin as enemies of 'democracy'. For the rest of the world this has simply underlined the hypocrisy with which the US and NATO have

Zionism as antisemitism, as well as the efforts, especially in Europe, to criminalise solidarity with Palestine. In some countries, the escalation and the growing solidarity movement with Palestine are accompanied by a new wave of repression and anti-Muslim racism. We oppose the bans on demonstrations

state attack in recent years. The effort to build it must be intensified. Solidarity with Palestine within the trade unions is especially important. During the Unity Intifada in 2021, dockers across the world, from Italy to South Africa and the United States, blocked supplies of weapons to Israel. We need to build on this example. Support for Palestinian freedom has re-emerged across universities and militant action in support of BDS can help to rebuild a strong radical student movement. Activists can also raise BDS in their local areas, for example through calling for Israeli goods to be removed from supermarkets.

11 There can be no solution to the Palestinian question so long as the Zionist settler colonial state of Israel exists. It is structurally based on the dispossession and oppression of the Palestinians. It cannot co-exist peacefully with them but must either wage perpetual war against the Palestinians or, as the far right demands, exterminate or expel them. The 7 October attacks moreover showed that this state cannot even guarantee the safety of its own Jewish citizens – the historic goal of Zionism. We support the original vision of the Palestinian national movement of a secular democratic state on the territory of Israel and the Occupied Territories where Arabs and Jews, Muslims, Christians and those of no religion can peacefully co-exist with equal rights. We see as very significant the emergence of a new generation of

radical militants within Palestine who reject the failed two-statism and corrupt sell-out of the Palestinian Authority and who seek to rebuild the mass resistance of previous intifadas.

12 Palestinian resistance is an essential condition for the achievement of this state. But the power of the entire Arab world needs to be mobilised to defeat the Western imperialist watchdog that is Israel. The existing Arab regimes, corrupt, oppressive, and closely bound to imperialism, have long proved themselves incapable of waging this struggle. Socialist revolution in the Arab East, where the workers, urban poor, and peasants overturn these regimes, would complete the conditions for victory over Israel. The risings of 2011 and more recently in Algeria and Sudan gave us a glimpse of the potential for revolution in the Middle East and North African region. Not the least of the dangers for Western imperialism created by Israel's savage war of revenge against the Palestinians is that it is bringing the Arab masses back onto the streets. As Tony Cliff, the founder of our Tendency used to say, the road to Jerusalem is through Cairo.

The Coordination of the International Socialist Tendency, 31 October 2023



The road to Jerusalem runs through Cairo - Thousands take to the streets in Egypt

waged a proxy war with Russia, supporting the Ukrainians' right to self-defence and denouncing Moscow's invasion and attacks on civilians and infrastructure, while denying the Palestinians the same right and casting a blind eye at Israel's atrocities.

7 In fact, Israel and its Western imperialist backers are in a vulnerable position. If Iran and Hizbollah in Lebanon joined the war, the IDF would find itself hard-pressed. The US is rushing to protect its own troops and bases in the region, though the strikes it is making, for example at targets in Syria and Yemen, could precipitate the wider war it is striving avoid. Washington is also seeking to manage relations with China, whose economic and political influence in the Middle East is rapidly growing. Military escalation in the region could exacerbate the growing inter-imperialist rivalries on a world scale. Hence the growing pressure on Israel from the US and many other governments to take 'humanitarian' measures to alleviate civilian suffering in Gaza.

8 The siege of Gaza has stimulated a huge world-wide movement of solidarity with Palestine, even those countries where repression is intense. This has developed despite the official campaigns, which have intensified in recent years, to brand anti-

and the racist attacks against the Palestinian and Muslim populations in many countries, who are denied the right to demonstrate and accused of antisemitism. The protesters include increasing numbers of Jewish people around the world who refuse to allow Israel to speak in their name. We in the IS Tendency have been actively involved in building the mass demonstrations and we pledge ourselves to continue. Socialists must be at the centre of the movement for it contains real potential in different countries qualitatively to strengthen the revolutionary left.

9 The current Palestinian solidarity movement represents an impressive surge of popular internationalism that has given voice to the deep anger against our ruling classes, who have so brazenly sided with Zionism. Putting pressure on our governments is key. The focus will vary from country to country but demands such as that of expelling the Israeli ambassador can provide a concrete means of forcing governments to shift.

10 Solidarity needs to be expressed not only on the streets. Mass demonstrations must be reinforced by direct and community action and by the assertion of organised working-class power. The Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions movement has come under growing

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Resistance in an age of crisis

*Alex Callinicos, author of *The New Age of Catastrophe* and a leading member of the Socialist Workers Party in the UK, recently spoke at the Marxism conference organized by the International Socialists in Canada. Here we publish excerpts from his speech.*

WE'RE EXPERIENCING resistance on a massive scale that is producing the most brutal drive for class revenge that we've seen in a long time, with the drama that is unfolding in Israel and Palestine. Zionist settler colonialism has created a tremendous pressure cooker of oppression. On the 7th of October, that pressure cooker exploded in a violent angry revolt on the part of the Palestinian resistance, which has then produced the massive bombardment and other attacks on the Palestinian people.

The response of Israel is echoed and confirmed by our governments – the governments of the US, of Canada, of Britain, of Germany, etc. – essentially to wage all out war on Gaza.

This appalling moment of violence and suffering on a huge scale takes place against the background of growing global instability and danger.

At the present time, we confront a multi-dimensional crisis of the capitalist system. There is the biological dimension, as a consequence of the way in which capitalism has turned on, and is increasingly destroying, nature.

We have economic stagnation, something that has prevailed in the so-called advanced capitalist countries since the global financial crisis of 2007-2009, but which has sustained itself and is spreading.

We have the geopolitical dimension of the crisis – the development of increasingly dangerous geopolitical competition between the major imperialist powers. In Europe, we see the terrible war in Ukraine, which is being waged by the US and its allies in NATO essentially as a proxy war against Russia, using Ukraine as cannon fodder in order to weaken and distract Russia.

But the bigger conflict is that between the United States and China, because China is a much more serious challenger to the US at the global level. The potential for a war between the US and China would be absolutely disastrous for humankind. And it goes without saying that our governments, in Canada and Britain and so on, tag along behind the US.

Finally, there is a political crisis which is characterized particularly by the far-right. We see this with the way in which Donald Trump

is still the frontrunner for the Republican nomination in next year's presidential election, despite the multitude of court cases against him. This is clearly not just a US phenomenon. Doppelgänger by Naomi Klein is very much about how the pandemic in particular saw a big step forward for right-

supplying missiles and drones to Russia rather than the other way around.

There is the possibility of the war spreading on a much larger scale. Probably it won't do that. There is an old saying, "Don't interrupt your enemy when he's making a mistake". That may well be the Russians' attitude, and even the

Nakba like the disasters that took place in 1948 and 1967, and expel the Palestinians from Gaza, then maybe they could count it as a victory – although of the most barbarous sort. But I think it's very unlikely that they would get away with it.

Already, Western relations with the major Arab regimes, including those that are closest to the West like the Egyptian military dictatorship, have been badly shaken up by this. Another mass expulsion of Palestinians, pushing them into other Arab lands, I think will be a step too far. You never know – people with the kind of genocidal mentality that are running Israel are capable of trying anything. But I think it's very unlikely they could achieve it. So, all this killing and destruction that is happening and will continue is likely to be futile.

This is already further weakening the position of the West globally. The BRICS, the block of major southern powers headed up by Russia and China, expanded significantly at its last summit. What we see happening over Palestine has made the West's isolation in the global South even worse. There was all this talk by Washington and Brussels about how terrible it was of the Russians to invade another country, how justified the Ukrainians were to fight in their national defence. Now we're seeing the hypocrisy of the Western powers exposed.

Of course, we shouldn't put our faith in governments. We see change coming through the struggles of ordinary working people. We support movements of resistance, movements of transformation. We see something like that growing with the absolutely enormous movement of solidarity with the Palestinian people.

But it's necessary to build resistance on a much broader front. We have seen this with the organized working class beginning to return to a fighting position – for example, with the strike wave provoked by the way inflation is biting into people's living standards. We need to do everything to build up these kinds of movements of resistance until they develop into a real alternative to the existing system, with its imperialism, its capitalism, its racism, and its colonialism.

But that won't happen automatically. We need organized revolutionaries who can help to develop movements that don't simply take on different aspects of the system, but the system as a whole.



500,000 march in London for Palestine

wing ideas, penetrating the consciousness of many people who previously had been in some broad sense on the progressive side of politics.

Crisis, instability and war

The different dimensions of this crisis interact with each other. Jamie Dimon, CEO of JP Morgan Chase bank, recently talked about the way in which geopolitics is increasingly becoming economically destabilizing, saying: "This is the most dangerous time the world has seen in decades."

The Palestine crisis feeds into this overall situation of danger and instability. The forces that have provided support to Hamas – Hezbollah, which is the dominant political force in Lebanon, and also Iran – could get involved in the fighting. Because of the increasing inter-imperialist competition on a global scale, there is a further potential of the war spreading. In particular, Russia and Iran have drawn increasingly close in recent years, with Iran

Iranians – "best to sit this out and let Israel and the US make a complete mess of things".

But that doesn't limit the destructive potential of what has happened. What Joe Biden tried to do by going to Israel and putting his arm around this vile far-right crook Netanyahu, is to back Israel up. He sent two US carrier groups to the area to intimidate anyone else from getting involved, hoping that giving this support will restrain Israel. There is no evidence of that restraint so far.

But more fundamentally, this is a war which I don't believe the US and its backers will win. This is a classical colonial war, in which the guerillas can survive so long as they have enough support from the population that is being oppressed by the colonial state. Israeli politicians talk about destroying Hamas. But even if they kill a lot of Hamas fighters, after all the destruction, all the suffering, they are breeding a new generation of fighters who will come back at them in future.

If Israel was able to mount a second or third

Victory to the Palestinian people

Suzanne Weiss, holocaust survivor, spoke at the Oct 23 2023 rally at Israeli Consulate in Toronto. WE have reprinted excerpts from her speech

"What is our duty as defenders of Palestinian resistance, as defenders of all humanity who seek justice and peace? We must do all we can and also demand that our governments – especially the Canadian government – although themselves complicit, act immediately and unconditionally to stop and block the genocide, to end the blockade on Gaza and to send food, medical aid to the besieged Palestinians in war-torn Gaza...

"As Jews, we were marked down for death as subhumans. I was saved by the solidarity of many people, many individuals and whole communities, who believed in humanity and justice. Let us recall that the Holocaust was carried out by the Nazi regime with the indifference of the governments of the world.

Not one intervened to aid the insurgents in the Warsaw ghetto. Not one sought to put an end to the Nazi massacre. Similarly, today the indifference of the governments is repeated. As the Palestinians valiantly defend themselves, they have done so with sticks and stones against the Israeli machine for 75 years.

"In the struggle against the Nazis, the Jewish resistance worked with anybody and everybody who stood with them. In the same way the Palestinians have a right to use every means to defend themselves from Israel's wars on them and to end the occupation.

"Is this for what we survived? When Nazism was smashed in 1945, we Jews cried out, "Never Again!" We meant Never Again for all! For all humanity. Yet we see a new Nakba – an

attempt to eradicate a whole people. We proudly say as defenders of Judaism, Not in our Name! What do we mean by that? The government of Israel does not speak for the Jewish people. Judaism is not Zionism. Judaism does not stand for racism. Yet the occupation – the systematic war of recrimination – is done in our name. Israeli apartheid drags the Jewish people through the mud, smears us with blood of the Palestinians, denouncing us as self-hating Jews and anti-semitic. How do we combat this lie against Judaism? Hold on tight to the Palestinian flag! Palestinian freedom is our freedom. And it is the freedom for humanity. It is the freedom for humanity! PLO chairman Yasser Arafat once said, "We are saying no to the Zionist state, but we are saying yes to the

Jewish people of Palestine. To them, we are saying you are welcome to live among us as equals, not as dominators." This is worth our allegiance. Victory to the Palestinian people and to humanity!"



Doug Ford, arsonist in chief

by: **Michelle Robidoux**

“The sudden acceleration of environmental crises we have seen this year, coupled with the strategic uselessness of powerful governments, rushes us towards the point of no return,” writes Guardian columnist George Monbiot.

Ontario premier Doug Ford heads one of the most useless of powerful governments. Useless, that is, for anything but generating profits for his wealthy corporate backers.

While climate change drives record areas of forest fire across the country, Ontario is preparing to dramatically ramp up use of dirty fossil gas to generate electricity. Ford is literally adding fuel to the fire.

New gas plants

Thirty-four Ontario municipalities, representing over 60% of Ontario’s population, have passed resolutions calling for the government to phase out fossil fuel electricity generation. This includes Toronto City Council. This should be no surprise, as gas plants in the GTA are among the region’s biggest polluters, and the Portlands Energy Centre is Toronto’s biggest emitter of greenhouse gases.

Ontario’s gas plants are already some of the biggest polluters in the province. If Canada is to reach zero emissions by 2050, Ontario must phase out the use of fossil gas, starting now – and instead massively invest in solar and wind power, along with retrofitting buildings across the province.

According to Environmental Defence, energy-efficiency investments alone could bring down Ontario’s electricity demand to 50 per cent of expected gas plants output in 2030. Instead, the Ford government canceled 750 re-

newable energy projects, slashed conservation program spending by 60 per cent, and threw out the Green Energy and Green Economy Act.

At the same time, Ford has green-lit efforts to exploit the so-called “Ring of Fire” in

the James Bay lowlands, one of the world’s largest untapped sources of nickel, copper and cobalt— minerals essential for batteries that power electric vehicles. Having signed deals with automakers Volkswagen and Stellantis

to build battery plants in the province, Ford said: “If I have to hop on a bulldozer myself, we’re going to start building roads to the Ring of Fire.”

Land Defence Alliance

This, despite fierce opposition from the Land Defence Alliance – which includes Grassy Narrows, Wapekeka, Neskantaga, Kitchenuhmaykoosib Inninuwug and Muskrat Dam First Nations – who are worried about the long-term damage to the waterways, the caribou and the migratory birds that live there. These peat lands are one of the world’s greatest carbon sinks, and the Indigenous peoples whose livelihoods are connected to them are already impacted by the multiple crises of climate crisis, biodiversity loss, contamination and inequality.

Ford and the 1% he represents want Indigenous people who contributed the least to, and are impacted most by, environmental destruction, who have already suffered colonial dispossession – to sacrifice even more to satisfy corporations and shareholders’ thirst for profits.

On November 3rd and 4th, as part of the global mobilization Power Up for Climate Solutions, activists across Ontario and around the world will be demanding a global energy revolution in the face of catastrophic climate change. We don’t need a low-carbon version of our existing colonial, extractivist, capitalist society. We need to fight for a world for people and planet over profit, and for Indigenous sovereignty over colonial violence and threats.

For info on Power Up: globalpowerup.org



Land Defence Alliance march to Queen’s Park in Toronto

“Parental Rights” or Far-Right Hatred

by: **Morgan Oddie**

The Saskatchewan government’s passed Bill 137, the “Parents’ Bill of Rights”.

The bill mandates teachers to notify parents if students request a change in name or pronouns in the classroom. By invoking the notwithstanding clause, the Bill overrides sections of the Charter and the Saskatchewan Human Rights Code.

The initial introduction of the new education policy that required forced disclosure of gender identification changes for youth under the age of 16 was halted under a temporary injunction. The inclusion of the notwithstanding clause in the new legislation ensures that court challenges are squashed for five years.

The Human Rights Commissioner and a contingent of law professors have criticized the unusual and pre-emptive use of the notwithstanding clause. The legal violation of rights must have a sufficiently compelling purpose to invoke the clause use. The use in Bill 137 is instead to ensure the violation of human rights for 2SLGBTQIA+ youth.

The legislation in Saskatchewan and its parallel in New Brunswick follows on the heels of the rise of “parental rights” concerns for U.S. Republicans. Ontario Premier Doug Ford has echoed support for similar legislation, citing fears school board indoctrination of youth. Florida Governor Ron DeSantis has led the charge against the inclusion of sexuality and gender education, with the expansion of the “don’t say gay”

legislation.

“Parental Rights” has been a conservative rallying cry against 2SLGBTQIA+ inclusion but has also been weaponized to exclude discussions of racism and Black and Indigenous history, and to challenge mask mandates during the height of the COVID-19 pandemic crisis.

The pandemic galvanized the “parental rights” movement and its connection to Convoy-based far-right organizing in Canada.

The discussion of the rights of parents is seemingly only at play when those parents have far-right conservative values. This

has been the basis for unifying typically disparate groups of conservative Muslims and Christians, buttressed by the underlying fascist current of the Convoy supporters. While this is unlikely to be longstanding bedfellowship, given the xenophobia and racism of the later group, it is an alarming example of big tent organizing around transphobia.

Historically, a fringe of conservative Christians in the U.S. utilized rhetoric of “parental rights” in the fight to legalize homeschooling. Leader Michael Ferris coalesced arguments for homeschooling

as the ultimate freedom from government interference and the positive privatization of public education with the expertise of parents at the centre. The Moral Majority saw public education as the battle grounds for abortion rights, 2SLGBTQIA+ tolerance, and fundamentalist Christian values. The so-called secular ethics that were foundational to public education in the U.S. were the enemy, especially in the fight against Communism in the Reaganomics of the 1980s.

However, the fight for parents to opt out of public education has evolved into control over public education itself.

By banning books and curriculum that are cited as part of the ideological “woke” agenda of indoctrinating children into progressive values, far-right forces ensure that education maintains an underlying conservatism. Targeting “critical race theory” and “gender ideology” entrenches an opposition to dismantling systemic oppression.

The use of the notwithstanding clause to ensure that conservative “parental rights” can go legally unchallenged, despite their Charter and Human Rights Code violations, is a disturbing next step in the use of state power to entrench the far-right agenda of anti-2SLGBTQIA+ rights.

The history of state violence and colonial white supremacy must be taught. Gender diversity must be accepted if not outright encouraged. The socialist call to protect access to public education is more important now than ever.



CUPE members march for 2SLGBTQIA+ rights in Saskatchewan