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Global protests erupt against US-NATO-backed Israeli genocide of Palestinians as Netanyahu declares war on “barbarism”

What's happening:

- Millions protest throughout the world against genocide in Gaza
- “A lot of our Jewish brothers and sisters are out here protesting with us”: Tens of thousands march for Gaza in New York City
- Hundreds protest in downtown Norfolk, Virginia: “It’s not about race or religion... It’s about money, capitalism”
- Up to 10,000 protest Israel’s genocide in Detroit
- More than 2,000 protesters fill Toronto’s Nathan Phillips Square to demand a halt to the genocide in Gaza
- Thousands of supporters of Jewish Voice for Peace occupy Grand Central Station in New York City to protest genocide in Gaza
- Louisiana college students hold protest at Tulane University denouncing Israel’s genocidal war against Gaza
- A call to the working class and youth: Stop the imperialist-Zionist genocide in Gaza!

The WSWS will be reporting on demonstrations throughout the weekend. Check back for the latest updates.

Millions protest throughout the world against genocide in Gaza

For the second weekend in row, millions of people on every inhabited continent have taken to the streets to oppose the genocide against the Palestinian people by Israel,

supported by the major imperialist governments. In many cases, protests were much larger this weekend than those held a week ago.



Hundreds march in opposition to Israeli genocide in Scotland.

Demonstrations have erupted in the wake of the communications blackout, intensified bombing and beginning of the ground invasion of Gaza by the Israel Defense Forces on Friday. Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said Saturday that the military campaign had “moved to a new phase.” In a subsequent television address, IDF Chief of the General Staff Herzi Halevi confirmed, “This war has stages, and today we are moving to the next stage. Our forces are currently operating on the ground in the Gaza Strip.”

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu gave a nation-wide address in which he justified the ongoing slaughter as a “war for humanity... against barbarism.” Pointing to the indispensable role of the US government and its NATO allies in the extermination campaign, Netanyahu emphasized “our allies in the Western world and our partners in the Arab world, all understand that if we don’t win, they will be next... in this ‘axis of evil.’”

Netanyahu added that his government has received “extensive international support,” starting with President Joe Biden.

“Leaders from the US and Europe, led by Biden, the Prime Minister of Britain, the Chancellor of Germany, the leaders of Cyprus, France, the Netherlands and many others... they came here and conveyed a very clear message, ‘not only do we support you, we also pray and yearn for your victory.’”

Following the severing of communication by IDF attacks, it has become nearly impossible to get reliable data on the number of people being massacred. The latest figures from the Gaza Ministry of Health reveal that at least 7,703 Palestinians have been killed by IDF forces since October 7.

In their latest update, Defense for Children-Palestine reported “3,195 Palestinian children are confirmed killed in Gaza and at least 1,000 are missing under the rubble as Israel isolates Gaza from the rest of the world. Along with other organizations, DCIP has completely lost contact with staff in Gaza.”



Smoke and explosions caused by Israeli bombardment are seen on the horizon in northern Gaza, Saturday, October 28, 2023. [AP Photo/Abed Khaled]

Every major hospital in Gaza is on the brink of collapse and at risk of running out of power at any moment.

Israeli warplanes and artillery continue to pummel Gaza. Some 300,000 residents north of Wadi Gaza, including those trying to survive in the Al Shati Refugee camp, were bombarded with flyers from Israeli warplanes on Saturday warning them that “Gaza” including “shelters in the Gaza Strip” were “unsafe.”

“You must evacuate immediately and head to the areas south of Wadi Gaza,” the IDF flyer warned.



The IDF flyer reads: "Warning, urgent. To the residents of the Gaza Strip. Gaza Governorate has become a battlefield. Shelters in the northern Gaza Strip and Gaza Governorate are unsafe. You must evacuate immediately and head to the areas south of Wadi Gaza."

Israeli war crimes, overseen and directed by the Pentagon, have provoked mass outrage among broad sections of the world's population, regardless of age or ethnicity.

Topping last week's mass demonstration, an estimated half a million people flooded Westminster Bridge in London on Saturday.

At the same time, hundreds of pro-Palestinian supporters held a peaceful mass sit-in calling for an end to the war at Waterloo Station, the busiest railway station in the UK.

Throughout Europe, hundreds of thousands of people attended demonstrations in Glasgow and Edinburgh, Scotland; Paris, France; Stockholm, Sweden; Berlin, Germany and many

other cities. Despite the overwhelmingly peaceful character of the protests, videos have emerged on social media of police assaulting demonstrators.

At a well-attended protest in Germany, Christoph Vanderier, the national secretary of the *Sozialistische Gleichheitspartei* (Socialist Equality Party) of Germany, reported, “Despite police repression, thousands demonstrate against the genocide in Gaza on the Oranienplatz in Berlin.”

Several videos have emerged on social media video showing thuggish police in Europe beating and assaulted protesters. At least two people were arrested in London.

In Paris, police assaulted dozens of protesters and arrested at least 21. Some 1,400 demonstrators were also fined for participating in the “banned” protest.

Massive demonstrations were held throughout Asia and the Pacific. In Kuala Lumpur, the capital of Malaysia, tens of thousands marched to the US embassy where they denounced the United States and Israel.

In Istanbul, Turkey President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan was obliged to transform what was originally slated to be a centenary celebration of the creation of the Turkish state, into a mass pro-Palestine protest dubbed the “Great Palestine Meeting.” An estimated 1 million people attended the rally, with many wearing headbands that read, “We are all Palestinians,” and “End the genocide, let the children live.”

Some 4,000 people in Wellington, the capital of New Zealand, marched on the streets Saturday chanting, “We don’t want your bloody war, free, free Palestine.”

Over 3,000 protesters in Jakarta, Indonesia marched on the US embassy on Saturday demanding an end to US support for the war, prompting the deployment of 1,000 security forces.

Protests are being held in cities throughout North America, which the WSWS will be covering live throughout the weekend.

“A lot of our Jewish brothers and sisters are out here protesting with us”: Tens of thousands march for Gaza in New York City

A massive and diverse crowd of between 50,000 and 100,000 marched through New York City to oppose the slaughter of Gaza. The march began shortly after 3 p.m. from the Brooklyn Museum, past Barclays Center, over the Brooklyn Bridge and through the streets of Manhattan after sunset, shutting down many of the busiest thoroughfares in the city. The crowd was drawn from all corners of the city, largely young, and included Jews, Muslims, Arabs and all other religious and ethnic backgrounds.

Demonstrators demanded an end to the genocide in Gaza and liberation of Palestinians. Many slogans and chants emphasized resistance and denounced the criminal role of President Biden and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu. “Biden, Biden, you can’t hide, you’re committing genocide” accompanied the familiar chants of “From the River to the Sea, Palestine will be free” and “Long Live the Intifada.”

An appeal from David North: Donate to the WSWWS today

Watch the video message from WSWWS International Editorial Board Chairman David North.

DONATE TODAY

Placards like “Jews for a free Palestine” and “Speak up for Gaza” rejected the attempt to equate opposition to genocide with antisemitism.

“As a Jewish person myself, I feel really passionate about standing up against something that is generally, they say, being done in our name,” a young woman told WSWWS.

“I grew up under a lot of Zionist brainwashing that I feel very fortunate to have broken out of. And looking back on it, I’m horrified! And I just want to use my voice to help promote that [Zionism] is wrong.”

“We’re out here to protest the continued occupation, apartheid, dehumanization and war crimes perpetrated against the Palestinian people,” another protester told WSWWS reporters.

“A lot of our Jewish brothers and sisters are out here protesting with us,” he added.

WSWS supporters handed out 1,000 copies of the statement, “A call to the working class and youth: Stop the imperialist-Zionist genocide in Gaza!” There was a warm response to the call for an orientation to the working class as the only social force capable of stopping the genocide, as opposed to the Democratic Party that is fully responsible for the ongoing massacre

Hundreds protest in downtown Norfolk, Virginia: “It’s not about race or religion... It’s about money, capitalism”

Several hundred protesters gathered a third week in downtown Norfolk, Virginia—home of the largest naval base in the world and hub to the US Navy logistics command center for European and Central Command—to oppose the genocidal war in Gaza. WSWWS reporters spoke to demonstrators about the need for a political strategy, perspective, and working class organization to stop the war.

One young protester spoke out about the effort to cast opposition to Zionism as “antisemitic.”

“We don’t have a problem with Jewish people,” he said. “I love Jewish people. I don’t have an issue with them. Israelis, you could argue we don’t have an issue with them. The issue is with Zionism, because Zionism is violent.”

“It’s all about money,” he added. “It’s not about race or religion at all. It’s about money. Capitalism, that’s what it’s about.”

Another protester explained, “Biden is supporting Israel financially and through military. It’s as simple as that.”

Faisal, a 19-year-old Palestinian-American demonstrator, told the WSWS, “I want all the American people to know and remember the words that led to the creation of America. ‘Give me liberty or give me death.’

“That’s what Palestinians are going through every day. That’s what they say every day. They want their liberty; they want their freedom. That’s what this is about. They want their culture, their dignity, their history. For their martyrs, for their families that passed before.”

“Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness,” Faisal added. “That’s what Palestinians want. They want equality, and they want peace.”

Up to 10,000 protest Israel’s genocide in Detroit

Between 7,000 and 10,000 people took part in a demonstration Saturday in Detroit’s Hart Plaza opposing Israel’s genocide in Gaza. Participants included people of all ethnicities, nationalities and religions, with many families and children in attendance.

The crowd was boisterous and energetic, with cars passing down Detroit’s Jefferson Avenue honking in support. Chants at the demonstration included “Ceasefire now” and “Genocide Joe,” in reference to US President Joe Biden. Another prominent chant included “Biden, Biden, you can’t hide, we charge you with genocide.”

These chants contrasted sharply with remarks from some of the speakers at the rally, who supported the Democratic party—the same political figures who are funding and enabling Israel’s “genocide” against the Palestinians. The speakers, including Palestinian-American comedian Amer Zahr, a supporter of Senator Bernie Sanders, were clearly thrown into crisis by the role of the Democrats in supporting Israel’s genocide against the Palestinians. Several speakers addressed the crowd, including Students for Justice in Palestine and Jewish Voice for Peace.

More than 2,000 protesters fill Toronto's Nathan Phillips Square to demand a halt to the genocide in Gaza

The group Toronto for Palestine organized a large demonstration Saturday called "Roar for women and children in Gaza" to denounce the ongoing Israeli military campaign.



Protesters outside Toronto City Hall

The demonstration began by paying tribute to the thousands who have been murdered by Israel with the financial, diplomatic, economic and military assistance of imperialism, including Canadian imperialism.

The demonstration organizers appealed to the Trudeau government to reverse its policies in Gaza, before marching down Bay Street where it occupied the intersection with King St., the heart of Canadian finance and banking.

Reporters from the *World Socialist Web Site* distributed hundreds of leaflets which were warmly received.

Young people expressed a hunger for a political explanation of the crisis, why it was happening, and how it could be resolved. Several said that they already considered themselves socialists.



2,000-strong march in downtown Toronto, October 28, 2023

Emily made an eloquent statement, declaring, “All workers have the same struggle, all over the world, and I think we vastly outnumber everybody else. We outnumber the ruling classes, and there’s power in that, and if we could marshal that, if everybody could stand together, and work for the same things, there’s nothing that we can’t do.”

When asked how she would respond to the smears being spread by the capitalist press that demonstrations in support of the Palestinian struggle were “antisemitic,” Emily responded:

“I have a Masters Degree in in Judaic Studies. I study the Holocaust and Holocaust Museums, and I am very well-educated in genocide, and in the Holocaust specifically, and antisemitism and how the Holocaust happened. Being the victims of a genocide does not mean you get to commit a genocide on other people.

“If people cannot see, if people believe that a free Palestine cannot exist without the subjugation and apartheid of other people who are not Jewish, then that tells you everything you need to know about Zionism, and nothing about Palestinians, or the Palestinian struggle. It is not antisemitic to protest apartheid. If Zionism cannot exist without the subjugation of other people, then it cannot exist. There is no right argument for Zionism.”

Thousands of supporters of Jewish Voice for Peace occupy Grand Central Station in New York City to protest genocide in Gaza

On Friday evening, a mass action of civil disobedience by thousands of supporters of the organization Jewish Voice for Peace shut down Grand Central Station in Manhattan to protest the escalating genocide against Gaza. The NYPD arrested several of the protesters, but thousands then gathered outside.

Chants included, “Biden Biden you can’t hide, we charge you with genocide” and “From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free.”

The demonstration showed widespread pro-Palestinian sympathies among the public, including Jewish workers and youth, who packed the main floor of the terminal during rush hour.

“This is an impending genocide,” another protester from South Africa said. “This is worse than apartheid, what’s happening now... I hope everything gets shut down. I hope we heed all the calls from the Palestinians [for strike action by workers]. I don’t see any other way we’ll stop the genocide that is happening.”

“I’m an American Jew, and I can’t stand to see genocide committed in our name,” another protester said. She said that many Jews in the US and in Israel felt the same way. “Unfortunately our voices are smaller, and we are not given the same platform as Zionist Jews, and that’s why it’s incredibly important that we are here today and show up and show the world that not all Jews feel like Zionists do.”

“Zionism is, and always has been, an antisemitic ideology,” another protester told the WSWS, adding, “We want to live in peace and security with Palestinians.”

[Full Report](#)

Louisiana college students hold protest at Tulane University denouncing Israel’s genocidal war against Gaza

On Thursday, students at Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana, held a rally Thursday in support of the Palestinian people. Students from Loyola University, which is adjacent to Tulane, also attended.

Despite pressure from the university, including one-sided statements from Tulane’s President Michael Fitts denouncing Hamas’ “terrorist attacks” and multiple pro-Zionist articles in the student newspaper, over 100 people participated in the protest.

Prior to the rally, Jewish and Muslim student organizers issued [an open letter](#) to the university in which they demanded the university denounce Israel’s genocide of the

Palestinian people, divest from Israel, and condemn instances of Islamophobia against Arab and Muslim students.

A group of Zionists counter-protested the rally. At least two people were arrested during an altercation that broke out between the groups. Tulane University responded by saying it is increasing campus security, as well as discouraging students from participating in further protests that are not officially sanctioned.

Reporters from the *World Socialist Web Site* attended the rally and spoke to several students.

Colette, a student from Loyola, said that she attended the rally “to show that Loyola as a whole but also me as a person, are proudly anti-genocide. You have to make the choice to actively condemn the actions and the harm that’s going on. It’s innocent Palestinian lives, an invasion of their homes. You have to actively condemn that.”



Colette, a Loyola student, at the Tulane rally for Palestine on October 26, 2023.

Speaking on Biden’s support for Israel she said, “As Americans we should be ashamed in our federal government, in our military, to back this. I come from a military family but this is purely shameful. This pushes capitalism, it pushes revenue. It pushes sociopolitical agendas over human lives.”

Full Report

A call to the working class and youth: Stop the imperialist-Zionist genocide in Gaza!

Israel, with the support of all the imperialist powers in the US-NATO axis, is carrying out a genocide in Gaza.

A genuine mass movement is developing in response to the war crimes being committed against the Palestinian people. Spontaneous protests erupted on Friday in the West Bank, Turkey, Jordan, Tunisia and other countries. In New York City, hundreds of members of Jewish Voice for Peace shut down Grand Central Station. This follows protests involving millions over the past week, and demonstrations are being held throughout the world this weekend.



A fraction of the 300,000 people who protested the Israeli war on Gaza in London, October 21, 2023.

This movement must be developed and expanded. The *World Socialist Web Site*, which is published by the International Committee of the Fourth International, calls for strikes and other protest actions by the working class in every country. We urge the organization of mass demonstrations in every city and emergency solidarity protests by college and high school students.

We call for the development of protests and demonstrations within Israel itself. Its soldiers, many of whom are reservists, should defy - as is required under international law - the criminal orders of the Netanyahu regime and the military general staff.

There is no time to lose. Action to stop the war must not be subordinated to the political maneuvers of capitalist governments, whose verbal protests against Israeli atrocities are

aimed at deflecting and maintaining control over the emerging mass movement. Opposition to Israel's crimes must be rooted in the international working class, using the powerful weapon of a general political strike in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Full Statement

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