

Detroit/Seattle Workers' Voice mailing list

Jan. 18, 2025

RE: MLK Day in Seattle, 2025

From *Seattle Workers' Voice*, vol. 9, #1, Jan. 15, 2025:

With Trump taking office, continue the fight against white supremacy!

***Rally and March on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Mon.,
Jan. 20*** Garfield High School, 400 23rd Ave
— Indoor Rally at 11:00 am, March at 12:30 pm

Donald Trump is inaugurated president on January 20, with the bedrock of his MAGA movement being racism. His administration will be an offensive of white supremacy, of eliminating memory of black history, of fighting diversity, of rolling back civil rights and negating the civil rights movement. Resistance must be built, and like in the time of Martin Luther King this is going to be a protracted and self-sacrificing struggle. Also like that time, it will take place beside other struggles. That's because the Trump agenda also includes things like the following: Denying women their reproductive rights. A "drill, baby, drill" energy policy that will further increase global heating. Causing more illnesses, injuries and deaths by tearing up regulations that hinder profit-making. Giving massive tax breaks to the parasitical billionaires while slashing benefits for the poor and working people. Continuing U.S. support for Israel's genocidal slaughter of the Palestinian people. And massive deportations of our undocumented fellow workers and students, friends and neighbors "from Day One." Thus, the necessity for organizing mass resistance to Trump's entire reactionary offensive. This leaflet addresses two immediate items on it.

Defend the immigrants!

Rather than using his campaign to deal with the health care, housing, environmental and many other crises facing the people, Trump used it to stir fear and hatred of immigrants. For example, he consistently linked immigrants with criminals, disregarding the many studies that show undocumented immigrants are *less* likely to commit crimes than native-born citizens. He worked to incite African American and Hispanic voters against undocumented workers by claiming "They're taking your jobs", never mind that undocumented immigrants help grow the economy, or that they pay an estimated \$11.6 billion a year in taxes. He spoke of an "invasion," even saying he "will rescue every city and town that has been invaded and conquered." He said "illegal immigration is poisoning the blood of our nation." And on and on.

Trump's solution to this imagined problem is that on "Day One" he will launch the largest deportation program in American history, and that he'll declare a national emergency and use the military. And Trump's incoming "border tsar," Homan, has said Congress must initially come up with \$86 billion to get the mass deportations under way.

Well, the estimated 11+ million undocumented people in this country have precarious enough lives already, and elementary justice says they should have the same rights as everyone else. Moreover, as long as all immigrants are denied full rights the employers will be able to super-exploit them, and use this to drive down the wages and conditions of all workers. Thus, immigrant rights groups and others have been planning actions to defend the immigrants for months. These actions should be supported, and joined where possible. As well, everyone can help build the movement by refuting Trump's big lies.

No more aid to Israel!

During its October 7, 2023 raid into Israel, the fundamentalist Hamas and its allies killed 1,175 people, 796 of whom were defenseless Israeli civilians, including at least 17 Arab Bedouins. They also mowed down at least 50 migrant workers, primarily from Thailand and Nepal, and they kidnapped about 251 people to hold as hostages. This cannot be defended.

On its part, Israel has responded with Nazi style collective punishment of the entire Palestinian people, which during the past 15 months has become genocidal. In the Gaza Strip, the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) have now killed some 46,000 people outright, and thousands more are missing, most of them probably buried under rubble. They've repeatedly ordered the people to go to supposed "safe" zones—where they're often living in tents—and then bombed them there. They've denied the population access to food, fuel, clean water and other necessities. They've consciously targeted and destroyed the Gaza Strip's cultural institutions, schools and universities, hospitals and ambulances, water plants and more, as well as aid convoys.

Causing all this is that Israel is an apartheid state based in Jewish supremacy. Indeed, it was only founded through the violent displacement and dispossession of about half of Palestine's predominantly Arab population in 1948, when the newly founded state grabbed 78% of Palestine's territory. But up until the early 20th Century, the then small minority of Jews in Palestine had generally lived peacefully with their Arab neighbors for many centuries. And today the orientation of the Palestinian solidarity movement, as well as both the Jews and Arabs in historic Palestine (which now includes Israel) should be to fight against anti-Arab racism, against anti-semitism and for equality.

Both anti-Arab racism and anti-semitism are hallmarks of white nationalism. While Trump backs Israeli apartheid and spews Islamophobia, the MAGA movement is filled with anti-semitic conspiracy theories. It strengthens the defense of the Palestinians as well as the fight against Trump to oppose all racist bigotry.

The United States is Israel's biggest arms supplier (69% between 2019 and 2023), with Biden supplying \$25.9 billions worth of bombs, missiles and artillery shells just since October 7. Trump fully supports this, and has implied that Biden has somehow held Israel back by saying that Biden should "let Israel finish the job." Behind this bipartisanship is that Israel is one of U.S. imperialism's chief enforcers of order in the oil and gas rich and strategically located Middle East. Other enforcers include various oil monarchies and the Egyptian military dictators.

The need for an independent movement

Both parties in Washington support Israel's genocidal assault on Gaza because this is the dominant stand of the bourgeoisie, the ruling class. So even if a few Democrats express doubts about what's going on, the movement must work to build support among the people, and do so despite repression. And among the masses, sympathy for the Palestinians has increased over the years, while the bourgeoisie sinks deeper into arming genocide.

But more Democrats are opposed to the Trumpist immigration policies, partially because many capitalists rely on immigrant labor, but we cannot rely on the Democrats. For example, on the one hand, Democratic Party leaders at the city, county and state levels have pushed through legislation declaring their jurisdictions immigrant sanctuaries, and as one of his last acts in office, Biden extended the Temporary Protected Status for nearly one million people for another 18 months. But on the other hand the immigration reform bills they've pushed in Congress have been centered on law enforcement and further militarizing the border with Mexico, while giving undocumented people a pathways to citizenship that were very, very long, costly, and they could still be deported if they made a slip-up along the way. Furthermore, to this day, it is Obama who holds the record for the most deportations—1.6 million in his first term and 1.5 million in his second term.

We should say no to these latter things. Undocumented workers must have full rights. We should work to build the movement side-by-side with immigrants against Trump's attacks. This will no doubt be a long struggle requiring perseverance, but it's a key component of unifying all the working people for an eventual counteroffensive against Trump's entire right-wing agenda. Further, if we take this path we'll be honorably continuing the mass fight against white supremacy that arose in the decades when Martin Luther King lived, as well as honoring its many martyrs.

— *Seattle Workers' Voice*, January 15, 2025

SWV can be contacted at seattle.com.sg@gmail.com

A pdf of the leaflet can be found at

<https://www.comunistvoice.org/SWV-250115.pdf>.