

Stop the Genocides! No More Arms for Israel!

By the National Council
of the League of Revolutionaries
for a New America

A year and 45,000+ Palestinian deaths after October 7, 2023, it is past time for the people of the United States to halt their ruling class complicity in genocide. Demand that the U.S. war-makers stop arming Israel!

On September 17, 2024 – nearly a year after Israel launched its genocidal military campaign against the Palestinian population of Gaza and the West Bank – Israeli Zionist forces triggered hundreds of explosives-bearing pagers in Lebanon. Supposedly targeting Hezbollah fighters, they killed and maimed thousands of innocent people.

The next day they ignited walkie-talkies. They understood they were attacking civilians – hospital workers and children – which is the textbook definition of terrorism. Then they began a ground invasion and aerial bombardment that destroyed housing, hospitals, schools. According to the Lebanese government, they killed more than 1,000 people, injured another 6,000 and displaced a million.

The genocide begun in Gaza has expanded to Lebanon. Terrorism aimed at people holding pagers is now escalating to threats, by the Biden administration and Israel's Netanyahu, to strike Iran directly. Not far on the horizon: Israel threatens to embroil all Western Asia in a regional war that could become nuclear. This political moment screams danger and threatens all humanity.

This is not just another conflict far from U.S. shores.

First, the U.S. is bankrolling this conflict. Military aid to Israel, on average \$4 billion annually, exploded to \$14 billion shortly after October 7, 2023, culminating at the end of September 2024 with an additional \$13 billion. That's the tax money of American workers spent on devastation done in our name. Meanwhile, the ruling class tells us it has no money for housing, health care, education — whatever the people need to survive. Money that our government could use to house the homeless here is used instead to destroy Lebanon and make defense industry billionaires even richer.

Second, a Western Asia regional war threatens to engage Russia and China

and become a world nuclear war. Despite rhetorical flourishes to the contrary, the U.S. undermines every effort at making peace and, in recent threats against Iran, is provoking a region wide conflagration. Already, even before a wider war, the U.S. has committed 43,000 troops and more than half a dozen warships to the area. The U.S. military budget of close to a trillion dollars is 40% of the world-wide arms expenditures.

Further emphasizing the global impact of U.S. war-makers, the U.S. Department of Defense is the largest single contributor to greenhouse gas emissions in the world. A tiny fraction of the military budget – say the \$13 billion just given Israel – could resolve the devastation from hurricane Helene. The climate catastrophe is here, and Washington/Wall Street goes to war. If we have any hope of obtaining basic needs for our own people we must stand against the genocide and stay the hands of our own war-makers in Washington.

Third, the heat waves, droughts, hurricanes, rising oceans, and other elements of climate change should have taught us that human beings everywhere need to

cooperate to protect the planet, our only home. War threatens our planet. We all need to curtail the powers of leaders who favor war. In the midst of a very dangerous presidential election campaign, the people everywhere can call attention to the holy grail of the bipartisan \$1 trillion “defense” budget.

In every way possible, the League extends its hand to all people and organizations moving for an end to arming Israel. All the fine words of working toward a cease-fire have been only that – pretty words. As our ruling class continues to undermine any possibility of a ceasefire, this is the time for people everywhere to recognize the stakes and fight together to end arms shipments to Israel. That alone would quickly end the genocides. This will take actions in the streets as well as actions in organizations and legislatures. The Biden-Harris administration has it within its power to end this. Instead, it threatens to escalate a regional war by blowing up Iran's missile capability.

Stop all arms for Israel! Turn the military budget into funding for the needs of the people everywhere. **R**

The meaning of the Harris housing plan

By the League National Housing
and Homelessness Committee

Some of the cruelest and most painful attacks on the working class are happening on the housing front. As Will Suphon of Tucson, Arizona explained, “The housing market, the job market, the price of food ... it's all become rather insane and so many people are being thrown to the wayside. You can do everything right and still end up living in your car.”

The ruling class revealed its real, long-term solution to the housing crisis in Project 2025, the 920-page plan for establishing a fascist corporate dictatorship if they can get a “conservative president” elected. It calls for mass evictions of non-citizens, huge cuts in Section 8 housing assistance, abolishing Home First affordable housing and doubling down on housing segregation. Donald Trump, the Project 2025 candidate, has called for confining unhoused people in relocation camps in remote city outskirts. The aim of all this brutality is to protect the prof-



SHUTTERSTOCK - BILLY F. BLUME JR.

Supporters of Kamala Harris demand a better plan to avoid homelessness because of evictions such as this in a trailer park near Augusta, Georgia in 2023.

its of the FIRE sector of capital (finance, insurance, and real estate).

Project 2025 is a response to the tenant organizing and housing rights upsurge that has been steadily growing since the 2008 crisis and crested in 2020 during the intersection of the pandemic era “Cancel the Rent” movement and the massive George Floyd rebellion. Tenants presented the Homes Guarantee program to the incoming Congress and Biden administration in January 2021. This is a solid working-class program endorsed by over a hundred organizations from around the country:

- At least 12 million social housing units (permanently off the private market and not available for speculation) and an end to homelessness;
- \$150 billion+ investment in existing public housing, repeal of the Faircloth Amendment, and a Green New Deal for Public Housing;

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- A national tenants bill of rights (including just cause, universal rent control, universal accessibility) and a \$200 billion Community Control and Anti Displacement Fund;
- Reparations for centuries of racist housing policies; and,
- An end to land/real estate speculation.

Although scaled down dramatically, parts of the Homes Guarantee program made it into the 2021 Build Back Better bill that came only two Senate votes short of adoption. Since then, however, communities have been battered by spiking rents and expired eviction moratoriums, while the FIRE sector used its rising profits to consolidate political support in both parties. They funded studies and media projects attacking affordable housing programs and blaming homelessness on criminality and mental illness. They defeated the re-election campaign of Congresswoman Cori Bush of Missouri, who in 2021 led the Capitol steps sit-in to extend the eviction moratorium.

The movement today has no choice but to work to defeat Project 2025 and the candidates who support it. Project 2025's answer to the housing crisis is essential-

ly the "bloody story" that Donald Trump has promised to implement if elected. To prevent bloodshed, most of the movement is supporting the Kamala Harris campaign, not as the answer to the housing crisis, but as a tactic to be able to live to fight another day.

The Harris housing plan has essentially four components:

- Build three million homes in four years, primarily through an expansion of the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit program,
- \$25,000 in down payment assistance for first-time homebuyers,
- Crack down on corporate landlords who use algorithmic price-setting,
- End federal tax breaks for corporate investors who buy up 50 or more single family rentals.

Homes Guarantee supporters like Alliance for Housing Justice noted that the very presence of a positive housing program in a major party presidential campaign is a step forward and is a tribute to the years of tenant organizing that got us to this point. But many revolutionaries are speaking out against the weaknesses in her program, even as they fight to get her elected.

The Harris housing plan is a retreat even from the Build Back Better bill. The three million homes is a good (if insufficient) aspirational goal, but it is unlikely to be achieved since the tax credit program it relies on has produced only 3.6 million units in 40 years. The \$25,000 down payment assistance program may well end up offset by rising home prices based on the increased demand it creates. In any case, it is unfair to lower-income tenants who will receive nothing.

Going after corporate landlords is good, but targeting corporate investors buying single family rental homes is unlikely to have a significant impact, since they only own 3% of those homes.

Revolutionaries have to deal with the reality that the FIRE sector is an important Harris campaign funder and holds tremendous media power that can either lift up her campaign or crush it. Furthermore, as Vox has pointed out, Harris's housing program is essentially torn by the challenging political math of the fact that 65% of American households are homeowners, as are an even higher percentage of registered voters. Revolutionaries always stand with the lowest-income workers who are the back-

bone of the movement, but we have to do it intelligently and strategically.

We have to redouble our efforts to organize and educate the renters at the heart of our movement. Resist every effort to separate out and attack tenants who get evicted and become unhoused. Resist every effort to round up tenants based on their skin color and/or immigration status. Build unity across all low-income communities, and build long-term alliances with the homeowners among us, most of whom are mortgage-burdened so-called "bank tenants."

The housing crisis is one aspect in the overall crisis in the private property system. In the epoch of AI, human laborers increasingly find themselves without work, income, or means of subsistence, and certainly not the means to be able to pay \$3,000 a month rent. The private housing market is helpless to address this crisis because any time rents look like they might start to become affordable, for-profit developers simply stop building housing until they rise again. The path forward toward housing as a human right is to fight for the government to intervene to create enough social housing to make the Homes Guarantee a reality. **R**

Rally! mission statement

Rally! is the political paper of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America.

We fight alongside all who seek to abolish: poverty, ecological disaster, fascism, war, white supremacy, gender oppression and other attacks on the working class. We fight for a government that takes care of people first.

Our articles especially lift up the fight for humanity's basic needs, which propels every other social struggle. We focus our work, along with other fighters, on developing strategic thinking that can unleash the energy of the millions of people who are driven to fight for a better world.

Together we can participate in the reconstruction of society, on a new foundation, where social wealth is owned in common and distributed according to need.

Editorial policy

Rally! is a vehicle to reach out to and communicate with revolutionaries both within and outside of the League of Revolutionaries for a New America.

The Editorial Board is responsible for preparing the printed and website versions of **Rally!** to represent the League's political positions and policies, the Board's editorial and formatting guidelines, and the political points agreed on with article writers.

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Visit us at: rally-theleague.org

The **Rally!** bilingual website provides online access to all issues of **Rally!** It is a political resource for our readers and provides up-to-date articles, statements and analysis of key questions of importance to revolutionaries.

League of Revolutionaries for a New America

Today, whether through words or deeds, vast numbers of socially conscious people declare themselves revolutionaries in opposition to the degenerating social and economic conditions.

The League's mission is to unite with other revolutionaries around the demands of the working class, especially the class of displaced workers and show that the solution is a cooperative, communist society where social wealth is owned in common and distributed according to need.

The demands of this new impoverished class for food, housing, education, healthcare and an opportunity to contribute to society are summed up as the demand for a cooperative society.

Such a society must be based on the public ownership of the socially necessary means of production and the distribution of the social product according to need.

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Project 2025: Scapegoating immigrants

The 2024 presidential elections are fast approaching.

Immigration, asylum seekers and the border wall are front and center in the national spotlight. With cries of an “invasion by criminals, murderers and rapists” from “sh*t hole countries,” former president Trump is using immigration as a political football to score points with his political base and as a battering ram to drive his Democratic opponents further to the right. Claiming immigrants come to steal jobs, benefits, and scarce housing, he adds that Democrats are illegally registering them to vote. That is a false claim, repeated ad nauseum by governors Greg Abbott of Texas, and Ron DeSantis of Florida. Project 2025 is the framework for attacks on immigrants.

We are in the middle of a propaganda war of lies. It is a war waged to instill fear in the American people so as to jade their hearts and confuse their minds, but not to save them. Rather it is to save the private property system of corporate owners and billionaires by dividing us and confusing us about who the real enemy is, what the real sources of the problem are and how we need to unite to resolve the issue once and for all.

The corporate billionaires couldn't care less whether a U.S.-born, debt-ridden college graduate, recently unemployed from Silicon Valley dies homeless on the street, hounded by California governor Gavin Newsom's executive order preventing camping, or a Guatemalan mother and her two children drown at the border in Eagle Pass, Texas in full view of

National Guard and Border Patrol agents. With Artificial Intelligence, private equity, tax breaks for billionaires and soaring profits for surveillance and military hardware, etc. used on the Border and in the wars in Ukraine and against the Palestinian people – all those deaths are just the cost of doing business.

The corporate class funds both the Republican and Democratic parties, because in the end, they control both. We get blows from the right and sucker punches from the left (Democrats). Other electoral parties that have worked to be included are being blocked and do not have sufficient visibility.

FIGHT FOR BASIC NEEDS UNITES OUR CLASS

What matters to the corporate class is a convenient scapegoat, someone to blame. We see that class for what it is – and it does not want that. As the American Dream becomes increasingly unattainable for many working people, the corporate class through its think tanks like the Heritage Foundation and its Project 2025 and its stooges and villains like Stephen Miller and Donald Trump and others play the race and ethnic card to blame other victims of their rapacious policies – NAFTA that displaced over 2 million Mexican peasant farmers, climate change disasters that devastated farmers in the increasingly unstable Central American countries of Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, U.S. meddling in elections in Honduras and Haiti, sanctions against Venezuela and



SHUTTERSTOCK - DAVID PEINADO ROMERO

The Texas National Guard confronts migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border.

Cuba, just to name a few.

The lowered standard of living, lowered life expectancy, devastation and violence seen in developing countries such as Mexico, Pinochet's Chile, the Contra War, the drug wars in Colombia, Central America and Haiti are already becoming a reality here in the United States. As the little democracy we have left gets eroded, it is becoming increasingly clear that full-blown fascism – the brutal suppression by the ruling class awaits all of us unless we wake up, see beyond our differences and the lies and stand up for class brothers and sisters. We need to have a party that obligates the government to meet our basic needs and forces the billionaires to pay their fair share.

It is all of us or none of us. Nazi propa-

gandist Joseph Goebbels said, “a lie often repeated becomes the truth.” Don't fall victim to their division and lies. We must unmask the present-day liars and cheats and expose them for what they are.

Our country and the world stand at a crossroads. Humanity has the potential for economic security and abundance. A community of the people, by the people and for the people, where children can grow in peace, is possible as never before. Or, if we do nothing, we face increasingly unlivable conditions caused by private ownership of the wealth that human labor has created.

Revolution is the solution! Check out the full program at lrna.org/program/ Let's talk. Contact us at lrna.org/contact-us/ **R**

Privatization in Michigan: a Project 2025 warning

In 2010, Michigan governor Rick Snyder signed a new, more authoritarian version of that state's Emergency Manager law, dispatching appointees to selected cities to replace governments and school boards. This stripping of democracy as people knew it foreboded dire consequences for those municipalities and residents.

Michiganers rose up *en masse*, launching a petition drive to defeat the law. Labor unions, Democrats, Republicans, Independents, Socialists, Communists and many others joined the campaign. When a referendum to repeal the law finally made the ballot, all but six out of Michigan's 83 counties voted to get rid of it. However, the Snyder administration, ignoring the will of the people, used the lame-duck session of the Legislature to repackage it, with minor tweaks, where it remains to this day.

What does the dismantling of democracy look like in Michigan? Among other things:

- A takeover and privatization of a beloved Park in Benton Harbor. It was converted into a golf course and high-rise apartments on the shores of Lake Michigan even though the park had been donated to the public for the children in perpetuity. Now residents there are prohibited from enjoying the area they want once owned as a city.
- in Pontiac, the EM privatized or regionalized practically all critical public services including police, firefighters and 911 services. The famous Pontiac Silverdome was sold for literally pennies on the dollar.
- in Detroit, appropriation and regionalization of the mammoth Detroit

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SHUTTERSTOCK - BARBARA KALBFLEISCH

A United Auto Workers union local in Ypsilanti, Michigan asks for donations to help with the water poisoning crisis in Flint in 2016.

California's Prop 36 a war on race and class

By the National Housing and Homelessness Committee

“With California dealing with such a serious housing crisis – actually I would say beyond a crisis, we are living through a housing disaster – the idea of re-introducing tens if not hundreds of thousands of felonies into families across California [through Proposition 36] will make that problem not only worse, but it will make it unimaginably worse. It’s not about fixing anything or making anyone safer. Instead, it’s a re-investment in prison-industrial complex because it is big cash cow, and power grab by certain special interests in the state of California.” (*Lex Steppling, L.A. Community Action Network.*)

The fight against Prop 36 is gathering. Recently, grassroots organizations came together from across the state from Humboldt County to San Diego to get out the vote against Prop 36 and let the public know of the danger.

Elevating nonviolent offenses like petty theft to felonies and imposing harsh prison sentences on low-level drug offenses is the thrust of Prop 36, which will be on California’s November ballot. It is a return to California’s ruinous three-strikes as well as other punitive laws and it is an attempt to rebrand the failed war on drugs, which from the beginning was a war on race and class.

The campaign to put Prop 36 on the ballot is funded by a coalition of retail corporations, including Walmart and Target, claiming that theft has increased when in

fact it has been trending downward since the pandemic. A key ally of this corporate-funded initiative is a standard bearer for law enforcement, the California District Attorneys Association. Significantly, it is also backed by the state’s influential union of prison guards, which recently received from the legislature a pay and benefits package of almost \$1 billion.

FALSE CLAIMS OF PROP 36

Using fear and misinformation to manipulate California voters, the entire Yes on 36 campaign is based on lies. Backers claim that crime is increasing when it is actually going down. They claim that 36 will get more people into drug treatment when it will actually decrease funding for treatment and force people who want treatment to go to prison instead. They claim that it addresses homelessness when it actually reduces funding for drug disorder treatment. It provides zero dollars for housing but hundreds of millions for prisons and jails.

Prop 36 is designed and intended to roll back the gains of the abolitionist movement against police violence and criminalization – powerfully expressed in the George Floyd rebellion of 2020, which brought together millions in multiracial protests. This movement has won sentencing reforms and a 25% reduction of the prison population nationwide from its peak in 2009.

The specific target of Prop 36 is the repeal of the 2014 initiative, Prop 47,

which reduced certain nonviolent drug and property crimes to misdemeanors, limiting penalties and keeping offenders away from state prison. Prop 47 has saved over \$800 million in the costs of incarceration and redirected those funds to behavioral health treatment and other critical services.

Prop 36 is not an isolated California proposition, but it is an integral part of the ongoing fascist campaign to take over the government, which is laid out in Project 2025, the playbook of the Trump candidacy.

In addition to the hundreds of millions of dollars per year that Prop 36 will funnel into prison-industrial profits, it will activate the police to make petty theft arrests at no cost to the retail industry. The corporate class is promoting Prop 36 for political reasons, trying to consolidate its grip on the state and the electorate itself by preying on fears about crime.

It also wants to reinforce the lie that homelessness is caused not by destitution but by drug addiction.

The Finance, Insurance and Real Estate (FIRE) sector is treating housing as a profit-making commodity while the economy is being revolutionized by technology. This rapidly automating system can no longer provide living wage work. It can no longer distribute the wealth of the society, which is increasingly concentrated in billionaire dynasties.

The revolution in technology has created a growing mass of dispossessed

people, the most vulnerable part of the working class, including the unhoused in their millions. They have been abandoned by the corporate state – and criminalized. “Prison is not just a response to a ‘free floating thing called crime’ – it’s a response to ‘surplus populations.’ Which is to say that prisons are designed to absorb people: those people who have been abandoned by the state,” said writer Amelia Abraham in an article posted on documentjournal.com in 2023 about prison abolitionist and scholar Ruth Wilson Gilmore.

Organizer and educator Mariame Kaba said in an April 10, 2019 interview with Chris Hayes on MSNBC: “For me, capitalism has to go. It has to be abolished. We live within a system that’s got all these other isms and we’re gonna have to uproot those. So, we’re doing work every single day to set the conditions for the possibility of that alternate vision of a world without prisons, policing and surveillance.”

This will be a long fight with many battles, but the goals are clear. As Brian Kaneda, deputy director and Los Angeles coordinator for Californians United for a Responsible Budget (CURB), said in a recent interview: “The only way to get the things we really need is through a new system that divests from punishment and invests in communities with the goal of eliminating policing and prisons; preventing and responding to harm and creating a thriving world for all.” **R**

Privatization in Michigan: a Project 2025 warning

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Water and Sewerage Department water system was top of the to-do list and was largely achieved. As of 2023, 27% of Detroit households (170,000 people) were put at risk of water shutoffs. The world-famous Detroit Institute of Arts and the iconic Belle Isle Park were also driven to a partial privatization scheme.

The most shocking consequence of the Emergency Manager law was the disastrous Flint water crisis, where the Wall Street gods moved to consolidate their private seizure of water assets. No one could imagine in their wildest dreams that in four years an entire city would be poisoned by its emergency manager. The toll on human health – especially that of children – is incalculable and still haunts this community: the mental stress, the lowering of children’s

academic achievements and behavioral issues, the sicknesses and untold deaths. It is not lost on the resilient people of Flint that they still must use bottled water and filters, yet they pay some of the highest water bills in the nation to corporate water “landlords” Steidel, Wells Fargo, and JPMorgan Chase.

Enter Project 2025, Michigan’s emergency manager regime on steroids.

All these things were done by edict, the people’s voices denied. So it is with project 2025 — we cannot even imagine the outcomes and forms this agenda could take. Just as the Michigan-based Mackinac Center for Public Policy, (a right-wing think tank) inspired the model for the Emergency Manager law, the infamous Heritage Foundation laid out the blueprint for Project 2025. Now the nation is facing a rude awakening, courtesy of this notorious plan to unravel de-

mocracy to an even greater degree. The corporate private property class has laid out its agenda and its vision to save itself, yet neither major party offers a plan to stop this train. The Republican presidential candidate claims he neither has anything to do with Project 2025 nor does he support it despite his being tied to its authors by a thousand threads.

This devolution of democracy as we’ve known it is a ruling class response to their dying capitalist system. Under the malfeasant attorney general Dana Nessel, Michigan courts gave immunity to the former governor and his accomplices for the Flint Water crisis. Now, the U.S. Supreme Court has rendered the president of the United States a Dictator in Chief by passing a breathtaking immunity ruling.

Project 2025 and other proposals to gut, eliminate or privatize federal agen-

cies such as Department of Education, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of Veterans Affairs, along with the Department of Housing and Urban Development and more, beg the question for the people’s combatants: How do we fight for unmet social needs while the doors for redressing grievances through our government are slammed in our faces?

Despite the challenges, the resistance to the growing dystopia is rising. With more Google searches for Project 2025 than for Taylor Swift, the bad news is spreading fast. Billboards in Michigan, for example, urge residents to “GOOGLE IT!” Meetings, educational forums and more are proliferating through coordinating action plans around the country.

Project 2025 is real, but so is the resistance. Stay tuned. **R**