

Back to the Streets!

Since the October 7th attacks by Hamas, Israel has drastically escalated its genocidal assault on Palestinians. The number killed has exceeded 23,000, with untold numbers still buried under rubble. Half of Gaza's population is starving, while 90% regularly go without food for a day. 70% of all homes have been destroyed. Half of all other building have been demolished. 1.9 million people are displaced—85% of Gaza's population. This does not reflect the number of people who have been displaced multiple times. This is a completely politically made humanitarian crisis.

Israel has also increased its attacks in the occupied West Bank. In 2023, the number of Palestinians killed in the West Bank was the highest recorded since recordkeeping began in 2005.

Tensions with regional powers remain high. The threat of this conflict spilling into a broader war in the Middle East is very real. Over 150,000 people have fled the border regions between Israel and Lebanon with increasing attacks between Hezbollah (the Iraniansupported militia) and Israel. The U.S. is active militarily in the region and fully supports Israel, despite its genocide of the Palestinian people. In Iraq, attacks on U.S. military bases have increased. On the Red Sea, from Yemen assaulted rebels Houthi have commercial ships to mount pressure in support of Palestine.

In the face of these attacks on Palestine, people around the world have not been silent. From October to December, hundreds of thousands were regularly taking to the streets against the war on Gaza. Over the holidays, there continued to be some demonstrations.

These mobilizations are important; they show our opposition to the attacks, and show the Palestinian people they are not alone. But, ultimately, Hamas has no solution to the occupation. They are the rulers of a prison, seeking only to maintain their credibility, and pressure the Arab states to maintain their minimal material support for Palestine.

Significantly, we have seen unprecedented numbers of Jewish people standing against the actions of the state of Israel. In the United States, there is a reckoning happening; a realization that the state of Israel does not represent the interests of Jewish people. This is the result of the organizing of thousands of people who have gone against the official, well-funded, and powerful narratives in support of the state of Israel.

While this organizing has not been enough to stop U.S. support for Israel, let alone put a stop to Israel's assault, these actions have shifted the minds of millions of people. We must build on the gains we have made and continue to organize.

We must be prepared to defend those who are facing attacks from school administrations and attacks on our freedom of speech more broadly. Our solidarity with each other and the Palestinian people is important.

We are the ones that must organize to go back to the streets. There is a national protest on January 13th in Washington D.C., and another major action on January 14th in the San Francisco Bay Area.

We are the ones who can put up posters, wear buttons, and initiate conversations with our friends and coworkers to see what actions, however small, we can take together.

We must ask far bigger questions: how will we stop these governments from carrying out genocide and other horrible atrocities in our names? How will we stop the increasing militarism and threats of war? How will we stop the mass hunger and housing deprivation—in Gaza and around the world?

We certainly have a lot of organizing to do; it's time to take it on all together!

# We Will Not Be Silenced!

#### Sun. Jan. 28 at 4pm PT/7pm ET

Come to our townhall against the repression of free speech by equating anti-Zionism with anti-Semitism.

#### **In-Person Locations: TBD**

Can't join in person? Join on Zoom:

tinyurl.com/43v38w9e

### Medical Errors on the Rise

For years, private investment firms have bought up large numbers of hospitals across the country. A recent study has shown that these hospitals have higher rates of serious medical complications compared to other hospitals. Patient issues like surgical infections and bed sores are up 25 percent, dangerous infections like central line infections are up 38 percent, and falls are up 27 percent.

These investment firms did not purchase these hospitals to provide safe healthcare for all. To maximize their profits, they spread overworked hospital workers thinner, thereby putting patients' and workers' lives at greater risk. This is unacceptable!

#### 2023: Hottest Year on Record!

2023 is the hottest year on record with global temperatures at 1.46 degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels. This barely keeps temperatures below the 1.5 degree limit that climate scientists agree we must keep to prevent even worse consequences.

The deadly consequences are here! Massive wildfires have consumed regions around the world North America, Siberia, and Europe, and recordbreaking rain fall from China to Libya have killed thousands and over a million.

Investment in global fossil fuels doubled and emissions were the largest on record in 2023. Those in power are accelerating life on earth towards disaster. This can't go on! 2024 is on track to shatter emissions and global temperature records again. Let's make it the year we shatter the fossil fuels companies' hold on us!



## **Ongoing Forced Migration Crisis**

While some of us spent the holidays in our homes with loved ones, about 400,000 migrants spent them outside on scraps of cardboard or plastic. Many of them, from various parts of Central and South America, the Caribbean, and the Middle East, have been traveling for months seeking better living conditions.

In response to this caravan, government officials in both the United States and Mexico have been calling for tighter border controls and more deportations. They do not address why migrants continue to leave their homes year after year — economic instability (meaning lost jobs, pay, and public services), increasing climate disasters, and constant cycles of violence created by the capitalist system. Everyone should have the ability to live safe and decent lives in their homes. No one should be forced to walk ridiculous distances and remain displaced in search of a better life.

### Homelessness is Killing Us

Across the country, there are record increases in homelessness, leading to more and more death. In Washington D.C., federal government data shows that the unhoused population surged by 12 percent in 2023, or 4,922 people. On any given night in the U.S., more than 650,000 people are denied access to good housing. This is the highest number seen since 2007. How many will die unhoused?

This is happening in the the capital of the richest country in the history of the world. This suffering and death is completely preventable. Decent housing is a basic human need. Control over housing shouldn't be in the hands of greedy landlords and bankers. We should not allow a small minority to have that kind of power.

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

> Get in touch with us if you want to fight for a better world! speakoutsocialists.org