

## Scrap AUKUS, Disarm Israel



# TRUMP AND ALBO: PARTNERS IN WAR CRIMES

**FAR RIGHT**

March for Australia's  
second racist rallies

**PALESTINE**

No peace in Gaza  
after the ceasefire

**WHITLAM**

Fifty years since  
the Dismissal

# Solidarity WHAT WE STAND FOR

## Capitalism is a system of crisis and war

Capitalism is a system of competition, crisis, and war based on exploitation of workers, producing for profit not human needs. Although workers create society's wealth, they have no control over production or distribution. Through environmental degradation and climate change capitalism has become a threat to humanity's future and life on earth.

## Workers power and socialism

The working class has the power to challenge the existing system and create a better world. We stand for socialism, a society based on democratically elected workers councils which would control and plan the economy to produce for human need. The authoritarian states like Russia and China are not socialist but forms of state capitalism where workers have no power.

## What about elections and parliament?

Parliament, the army, the police and the courts are institutions of the capitalist state that maintain the dominance of the ruling class over the rest of society. The capitalist state cannot be taken over and used by the working class, it must be smashed. Workers need to create their own state based on workers councils.

While parliament can be a platform for socialists, real change doesn't come through parliament. It is won by mass action in strikes, protests and demonstrations.

## We are internationalists

The struggle for socialism has no national boundaries. We oppose everything that turns workers from one country against those from another; we campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose borders and immigration controls, and welcome migrants and refugees.

We oppose imperialism and support all

genuine national liberation struggles. We oppose Australian nationalism.

Australia is an imperialist power established through genocide on stolen Indigenous land. We support the continuing struggles of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for land, justice and self-determination.

## Oppression and liberation

We oppose sexism, racism, homophobia and transphobia. We fight against all forms of discrimination and the oppression of women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, migrants, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people. We oppose discrimination against Muslims and people from the Middle East.

## Linking up the struggles

We are active building movements for environmental and social change and economic equality. We are active in our unions and work to build the organisation and self-confidence of the rank and file. We work to bring activists together to strengthen each movement and build a common struggle against capitalism.

## Educate, agitate, organise

Socialism cannot be introduced from above, by parliament or parties. The emancipation of the working class is the act of the working class itself.

Solidarity is an organisation of activists, anti-capitalists and revolutionary socialists committed to socialism from below. We are part of the International Socialist Tendency.

A democratic revolutionary party is necessary to deepen resistance to capitalism and to build a movement to overthrow the system. Solidarity members are beginning to build such a party out of today's struggles against the system.

## SOLIDARITY MEETINGS AND BRANCHES

### Sydney

Meeting 6.30pm every Thursday  
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Meeting 6.30pm every Thursday  
Kathleen Syme library and community centre, 251 Faraday St, Carlton  
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## Things they say

**I mean Bibi would call me, so many times, can you get me this weapon, that weapon, that weapon. Some of them I had not heard of. But we would get them here, wouldn't we? And they are the best. And you obviously used them very well. So many that Israel became strong and powerful, and that's what ultimately led to peace.**  
Donald Trump explaining his peace plan to the Israeli parliament, the Knesset

**I am proud to be the best friend that Israel has ever had**  
Donald Trump addressing the Knesset

**If Saudi Arabia is telling us that in return for normalization they want a Palestinian state—we will say: Friends, no thank you, you can continue riding camels on the sand in the Saudi desert**  
Far right Israeli Minister Bezalel Smotrich displays his racism

**Unfortunate for humanity, but it's been a positive for Dronesield we're seeing a huge amount of demand.**  
Australian arms company Dronesield's CEO Oleg Vornik on the rearmament of Europe.

**There has been a war on our culture for the best part of 50 years...The long march of the left through the institutions is essentially war against Anglo-Celtic culture... we need to resist the attack on our culture.**  
Tony Abbott, former Liberal PM, sounding a lot like a March for Australia racist

**Because the US relationship matters more than some domestic politics about environmental reform**  
Penny Wong doesn't seem to think environmental destruction to mine rare earth metals for the US war machine matters too much

**When activists declare there is 'no room for racism and fascism', you know they are coming into the city looking for a stoush.**  
Nine newspapers reporter Chip Le Grand in Melbourne makes clear he thinks racism and fascism are legitimate stances

# CONTENTS

## ISSUE 201 NOVEMBER 2025

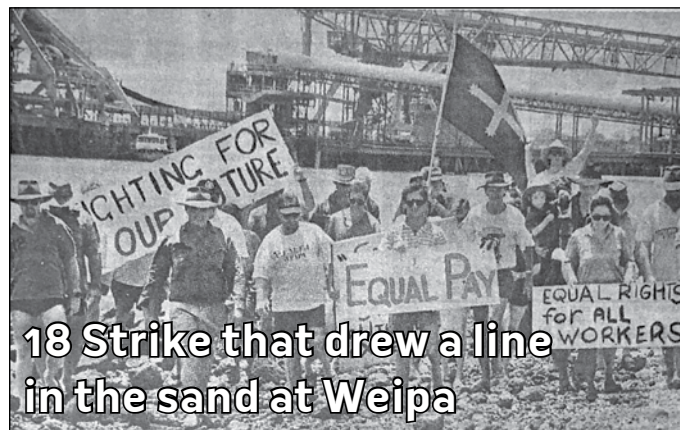


### Gaza ceasefire is not peace

- 5** Albanese and Trump—imperialist allies and war criminals
- 8** Flotilla participant interviewed
- 9** Israel still starving and bombing Gaza
- 14** What does Trump's plan mean for Gaza?



### 18 Gough Whitlam's Dismissal 50 years on



### 18 Strike that drew a line in the sand at Weipa

### Racism

- 6** Treaty in Victoria delivers symbolism not real rights
- 7** Standing up to March for Australia's second round
- 12** Nauru deportation expands offshore prison regime



### Australia

- 10** Community sector opposes pay cuts
- 10** SA public sector workers rally for pay rise
- 11** Labor's industry bailouts aim to back weapons not jobs



### International

- 13** What's driving the Gen Z global revolts?
- 20** Trump's deportation raids spark resistance

## Record number of NSW deaths in custody

MORE INDIGENOUS people have died in custody in NSW this year than in any other year, the state coroner has revealed. It is the highest annual figure in any state or territory since the end of the frontier massacres.

In total 12 people have died in prison or corrective services custody and another four as a result of police operations.

This comes as the number of Indigenous prisoners continues rising, jumping almost 20 per cent in the last five years since the Black Lives Matter protests.

The number held on remand awaiting trial is up even further at 63 per cent.

By contrast the non-Indigenous prison population dropped 12.5 per cent over the same period.

The NSW Labor government's new punitive laws that make it harder for young people to get bail carry part of the blame.

As the Aboriginal Legal Service's Karly Warner put it, "Despite committing to reduce the mass incarceration of Aboriginal people under the National Agreement on Closing the Gap, the NSW Government continues to double down on laws and policing which guarantee increased imprisonment."

## Migrant detention deaths surge under Trump

THE TRUMP administration has been forced to increase healthcare services in immigration detention after a spike in deaths in detention.

This year alone has seen 20 people die, almost as many deaths as during the three years of the Biden administration.

Trump's war on immigrants means they currently hold 60,000 people in detention, some in temporary facilities including tents. Deaths have resulted from infections, injuries, untreated diabetes and suicide.

It comes after hundreds of staff working in oversight bodies including Ombudsman's offices have been sacked.

## Triple zero failures result of corporate profiteering



The Optus network has had continual 000 failures Photo: Gngarra/Wikimedia commons.wikimedia.org

CONTINUAL FAILURES on the triple zero emergency line show the results of privatisation and putting vital services in the hands of corporate profiteers.

Optus' triple zero service went down for 11 hours on 18 September, leading to three deaths. It failed again on 28 September for more than nine hours in the Illawarra area in NSW, affecting 5000 customers. A day later Telstra's 000 service also went offline in Broadwater, 230 kilometres south of Perth.

This is despite the system supposedly designed so that calls to triple zero transfer automatically to another phone network, such as Telstra or Vodafone, in the event of an outage.

Problems with the service have been public knowledge for years—yet the government is only now rushing to appoint an independent body to oversee the triple zero service. This step was recommended by a government inquiry in March 2024, a year and a half ago, following a previous outage at Optus in 2023.

During the Black Summer bushfires in 2019-20 there was widespread alarm after the destruction of mobile phone towers in bushfire areas took the triple zero line down.

Optus failed to notice the latest major outage for 13 hours, even though at least five people called to alert them, it admitted. It was only when Optus was contacted "directly" instead of through one of its public customer service lines that the company looked into the problem.

It took Optus ten hours after it learned of the problem to contact WA police to tell them 26 calls had been missed, and advise that failed calls should be followed up.

And it was more than a day later before it finally admitted that 600 calls to 000 had failed to connect, 45 minutes before it scheduled a press conference to fess up.

## Adani avoids millions in royalties

ADANI HAS avoided around \$400 million in government royalties because it sold coal at below market rates, according to an Australia Institute analysis. One reason is that its customers include the company's own operations in India.

Although prices for coal surged following Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the price Adani charged barely moved, remaining at one-third that of other miners in 2023. The news follows a *Guardian* report earlier this year that the company had not paid any corporate tax in three years. It took \$1.27 billion in revenue for the year ending March 2025.

## Court considers if criticising Zionism is antisemitic

AN INITIAL hearing in the "law-fare" case against Sydney Uni academics Nick Riemer and John Keane has been held in the Federal Court.

Three Zionist academics and a student are attempting to prove that criticising Zionism and Israel is somehow antisemitic using the Racial Discrimination Act.

This makes it an offence under section 18C to "offend, insult, humiliate or intimidate" anyone on the basis of their race, colour, nationality or ethnic origin. They have cited a raft of articles and speeches by the two academics, prominent pro-Palestinian activists and opponents of the genocide, since 7 October 2023.

If they win it will effectively outlaw opposition to Zionism and the state of Israel in Australia.

They are also trying to hold the university liable for the actions of its two staff members. But even the university's barrister argued in court that "Zionism is at its core a political concept", not a question of race or ethnic origin. The full case will not be heard until next year. Riemer and Keane are crowdfunding to raise \$250,000 for court fees. Donate at [bit.ly/PalestineLawfare](https://bit.ly/PalestineLawfare)

## Bodies returned to Gaza were tortured

DEAD BODIES returned to Gaza as part of the prisoner exchange with Israel have shown clear evidence of torture and mutilation.

Dr Muneer Alboursh, director general of the Ministry of Health in Gaza, said many arrived "bound like animals, blindfolded and bore horrific signs of torture and burns".

The Euro-Med Human Rights Monitor said the bodies "bore clear marks of hanging, rope imprints around their necks, injuries from close-range gunfire, bound hands and feet with plastic restraints, and blindfolds".

Many appear to have been executed. The bodies were returned unidentified, forcing many to be buried in a mass grave. Documents found with them indicated they had come from the notorious prison camp at Sde Teiman. There have been numerous reports of torture of prisoners held there.



# EDITORIAL

## Albanese's enthusiasm for US and Israeli savagery on show

ANTHONY ALBANESE'S visit to Donald Trump in Washington brought together two war criminals who have backed Israel's genocide to the hilt and now want to plan for war against China.

Trump praised Albanese as a "great Prime Minister" who was doing a "fantastic job". Albanese sat grinning through Trump's rambling, self-congratulatory bluster, responding that his Gaza ceasefire plan was an "extraordinary achievement" and inviting Trump to visit Australia in 2028.

The mainstream media tried to sell it as some sort of success. But Albanese's aim was to lock in US military muscle behind Australian imperialism in the south Pacific. He has shored up the AUKUS nuclear submarines deal, for now, wasting hundreds of billions on dollars.

The rare earth minerals deal signed is another attempt to counter China, spending \$1.5 billion of government money to offer the US alternative supplies needed for its warplanes, navy and technology industries.

Albanese is determined to back US imperialism in order to secure the interests of Australia's rulers. He is boosting military spending to buy missiles, warships and drones in addition to the nuclear subs, and expanding the US military presence across Australia. This is all money that could be spent on health, education or the NDIS.

The US navy is set to get greater access to the HMAS Stirling naval base in Perth. US Navy Secretary John Phelan said during the White House meeting this was "very important to our ability to project power in the Indo-Pacific". Up to 1000 US troops will be based there from 2027.

Albanese's support for the US alliance also explains his backing of Israel. Despite his symbolic recognition of a separate Palestinian state, he has continued to allow the export of weapons parts. Declassified Australia has exposed 68 separate shipments of parts for the F-35 fighter jets sent directly from Australia to Israel since October 2023.

And Albanese is still handing multi-million dollar contracts to Israeli weapons firms, with another \$19.8 million deal with Elbit Systems signed in September.

At home the Labor government continues to deliver for business and the rich. Its environmental protection laws are a farce, with Labor hoping



to work with the Liberals to pass the laws, offering more concessions to mining companies and big business.

Albanese also backed down on superannuation tax changes, dumping a plan to tax gains on assets like investment properties before they're sold, and delaying the start date by a year. Although the tax rate on superannuation balances worth over \$3 million will increase, it will now raise only 60 per cent of what was originally planned.

And in response to the large racist anti-immigration protests from March for Australia, the government has continually stressed that it is already cutting immigration, helping to legitimise the racist scapegoating of migrants for the housing crisis.

### Keep fighting genocide

The last two years have exposed to millions of people the horror Israel is prepared to unleash against the Palestinians. Wider numbers of people now stand with the Palestinians than ever.

Albanese backs Trump's ceasefire plan because he is right behind the aim of disarming and eradicating Hamas—what Israel wanted from the war all along. But Palestinians have a right to resist.

There is no peace in Gaza, with Israel continually violating the deal to murder Palestinians and still refusing to let food in to end the starvation. Most of Gaza remains under military occupation, and Israel's apartheid system across all of Palestine is becoming more brutal.

**Above: Anthony Albanese in Washington to strike deals with a war criminal and authoritarian thug**  
Photo: White House  
Photo

Hundreds of thousands have marched for Gaza across the Sydney Harbour Bridge, but this has not been enough to shift Albanese.

The mass strikes in Italy and Greece show the kind of action that is needed. Workers' strike action has the power to cost Australian capitalism millions of dollars in lost profits.

Tens of thousands went on strike in Greece just after the ceasefire began, demanding an end to direct military support for Israel from the Greek military base in Crete.

A succession of strikes for Palestine in Italy reached a peak in October as major unions took action for the first time, following blockades at the ports to stop arms exports to Israel.

We need to encourage every move by unions here to step up action for Palestine—whether union days of protest or more serious contingents at rallies.

Israel could not continue its genocide without the weapons supplied by the West.

We need to keep organising here to end weapons exports and cut all the ties with Israel.

We also need to counter the racist rallies that are a threat to the Palestine movement, migrants and Indigenous people. There will be further anti-racist rallies when they march again on 30 November and on Invasion Day in January.

And we need to fight the capitalist system that is encouraging racism and the far right as it produces ever more horrifying imperialist barbarism.

.....  
**Albanese is determined to back US imperialism in order to secure the interests of Australia's rulers**

## Treaty in Victoria—Labor must be fought to win real change

By Paddy Gibson

THE STATEWIDE Treaty Bill passed the lower house of the Victorian parliament in October and should soon become law.

The Labor state government and the First Peoples' Assembly, an elected Aboriginal body established in 2019, have emphasised the historic nature of the proposed treaty, the first in Australia.

But Senator Lidia Thorpe has criticised the weakness of the Treaty, calling it a “service agreement”.

The only real change being legislated is an expanded role for the First Peoples' Assembly, which will direct a new institution, Gellung Warl.

Gellung Warl will be empowered to make submissions, question ministers and departments and consult on policy change. This is essentially implementation in Victoria of the “Voice to Parliament” proposal defeated in the 2023 Federal referendum.

Gellung Warl will also nominate appointees to statutory boards and committees, and play a role developing school curricula and the naming of places and landmarks—but the final say on such matters remains with the government.

Generations of Aboriginal activists have campaigned for a Treaty seeking recognition of sovereignty and restitution for genocidal dispossession.

But this treaty returns no land, pays no compensation for dispossession and creates no rights that can be enforced against the state.

And while the Labor government celebrates its “new partnership” with Aboriginal people, it is inflicting ever greater racist violence and trauma.

The rate of Aboriginal incarceration in Victoria jumped 15 per cent in the year to June 2025, now at an historic high of 14 times the non-Indigenous rate.

Rates of child removal in Victoria are the highest in Australia by a significant margin and continue to rise, with more than 10 per cent of all Indigenous children in care, 24 times the rate of non-Indigenous children.

### Racist attacks

The Liberals in Victoria have launched a racist attack on the Treaty bill, decrying supposed “special privileges” for Aboriginal people and vowing to repeal the legislation if elected in 2026.

This echoes Dutton's attacks on



**Above: Invasion Day protest in Melbourne opposing the ongoing surge in Indigenous child removals** Photo: Solidarity

the Voice to Parliament.

During the referendum, rather than actually legislate for Aboriginal rights, Albanese consistently pointed to the powerless nature of the Voice in an attempt to appease the racists. All this did was embolden the hard right and guarantee defeat.

Victorian Premier Jacinta Allan is repeating this failed approach. Speaking in support of the Treaty bill, she emphasised that “Treaty doesn't take anything away from anyone” and that “Gellung Warl will not have coercive powers or powers to veto policy and legislation”.

But real justice for Aboriginal people does require taking back land and wealth from the state and the ruling class who profit from a system built on dispossession. It requires powers not just to consult on, but to control Aboriginal affairs.

The First Peoples' Assembly says that issues of land and compensation will be dealt with in future treaties with Traditional Owners.

But the attitude of the current Labor government makes it clear that forcing any serious concessions with the state will require a fight.

### Truth but no justice

The Yoorrook Justice Commission conducted three years of “truth-telling” to prepare for this treaty from 2021.

Yoorrook heard comprehensive Aboriginal testimony about the horrors of colonisation and continuing oppression. It returned formal findings that genocide was committed in Victoria and that Aboriginal people still face deeply entrenched institutional racism, leaving many in extreme poverty.

Yoorrook made hundreds of recommendations, calling for urgent and comprehensive policy reform to address these injustices. Most of these recommendations have gone unanswered by the state—or have been explicitly denied.

Among the litany of government betrayals, Yoorrook reported that, of the 1.3 million hectares the state has previously committed to return to Aboriginal title, only 59,000 hectares has been returned to date.

Speaking at Yoorrook, the Labor government initially promised to raise the age of criminal responsibility to 14 and reform bail laws that contribute to the mass incarceration of Aboriginal people.

Two years later, Labor reneged on both promises. Victoria now has some of the toughest bail laws in Australia and the brutal Malmesbury youth detention is being reopened due to “a significant increase in young people in custody”, according to Minister Erdogan.

In its final report, Yoorrook made a strong point that Victoria's Aboriginal people have never enjoyed greater levels of “consultation” by government. Despite this, “outcomes flatline—or worse, go backwards” and “governments have failed to shift the material conditions of Aboriginal lives”.

Shifting material conditions requires mass struggle against a capitalist system premised on dispossession.

Over the past decade, Victoria has seen some of the biggest Aboriginal rights demonstrations in history. This could provide fertile ground for the struggle that is needed—mass mobilisation of popular power behind demands for land, justice and self-determination.

**This treaty returns no land, pays no compensation and creates no rights that can be enforced against the state**



# Anti-racists counter March for Australia's second round

By Luke Ottavi

MARCH FOR Australia held its second round of racist anti-immigration rallies on 19 October.

This time the Nazi National Socialist Network (NSN) weren't as visible. But the racism on display was still vile.

Sydney rally chair Jesse Stewart (partner of organiser and NSN collaborator Bec Freedom) took aim at the Palestine rallies held in Hyde Park by declaring that it "has been occupied for the past two years by foreign protesters" and that the racists were taking it back for "the patriotic people of this nation".

This showed again that the rallies are a threat not just to migrants, refugees and Indigenous people but the Palestine movement, too.

Their overall turnout was mostly lower than the first rallies in August.

But they still drew large crowds, with 3000 in Sydney, 2000 in Adelaide, 1000 in Melbourne and at least 5000 in Brisbane.

Again there were anti-racist counter-protests across the country. In Sydney a united anti-racist protest mobilised 500 people, co-organised by a broad cross-section of the left including Refugee Action Coalition, Palestine Action Group, the Young Greens, Young Labor Left, Pride in Protest and others.

This was a step forward and has laid a basis for ongoing anti-racist organising. But almost everywhere the racists still outnumbered counter-demonstrators.

Only in Melbourne and Hobart were the racists outnumbered, with about 1000 racists opposed by up to 2000 anti-racists in Melbourne.

Many people still do not see the need to counter March for Australia. The Indigenous-led marches on 13 September, for instance, drew larger crowds. Only a small portion of the tens of thousands who have marched for Palestine have joined the counter-rallies.

But unless we build a movement to consistently campaign against March for Australia, there is no other political force that will challenge their racism.

Anthony Albanese's Labor government has only legitimised the scapegoating of migrants for the housing crisis and run-down services.

On the same day as the anti-migration marches Home Affairs Minister



**Above: The anti-racist protest in Sydney on 19 October** Photo: Solidarity

Tony Burke told ABC's *Insiders* that immigration "needed to come down" to ease strain on housing and services.

Pauline Hanson's racist One Nation party has already jumped from 6 per cent support at May's Federal election to 12 per cent in October, according to Resolve polling.

If we allow the racist rallies to go unchallenged racists will gain confidence and we will see a growth in organising by far-right and Nazi groups. This will produce more violent racist attacks, like the assault of two Palestinians on their way home from the Sydney Palestine rally on 31 August.

These are the lessons from the rise of the far right overseas.

In the UK fascist Tommy Robinson mobilised more than 100,000 people in September, targeting refugees. Far-right anti-immigration party Reform UK is leading the polls, ahead of Keir Starmer's Labour Party.

As a result violent attacks against hotels housing asylum-seekers have become common, with Nazi-led riots seeing bricks thrown through windows and attempts to set the hotels on fire.

The NSN's racist attack on Camp Sovereignty in Melbourne at the end of the first MFA rally in August is an indication of the violence fascists are willing to use against Indigenous people, migrants and others.

## Building the fight

We need much larger numbers of people to join the counter-protests to successfully outnumber the racists and keep them off the streets. Even in

Melbourne, where the largest number of anti-racists gathered, a focus on direct physical confrontation with the racists backfired.

All this achieved on 19 October was splitting the anti-racist rally into several fragments in an effort to get past police lines to the racist protest. In the confusion police disgracefully attacked anti-racists, using capsicum spray and flash bang grenades.

The MFA have announced that their next major rally will be on Invasion Day, 26 January. Another group is organising their own anti-immigration rallies nationwide on 30 November, with UK fascist Tommy Robinson speaking via video link. Both events need to be countered.

The racists' attempt to celebrate White Australia through marching in opposition to the Indigenous-led protests on Invasion Day should create shock. It means the Invasion Day protests need to be as big as possible with a clear anti-racist and pro-migrant message. They need to be widely built and supported.

The Sydney anti-racist demonstration was a positive example of the kind of organising needed to do this.

This should include countering any racist organising locally. When the NSN letterboxed Newtown in Sydney in early October, anti-racists organised leaflets countering their anti-migrant lies, held a speakout at the local train station and encouraged people to join the 19 October anti-racist rally.

More of this will be needed in the months ahead if we're to grow the forces needed to drive the racists and Nazis off the streets.

**If we allow the racist rallies to go unchallenged racists will gain confidence**

# Union member on Gaza flotilla ‘I saw the mentality of the Zionist regime. We’re not going to stop’

Solidarity spoke to Hamish Paterson, a member of the Maritime Union of Australia who joined the Sumud Flotilla to Gaza, about their brutal treatment by Israel and what they learnt about the violence inflicted on Palestinians

‘OUR AIM was to break the siege on Gaza with 50 boats. The march to Gaza earlier in the year got stopped before they even crossed the border out of Egypt. We thought we had a chance to get aid in and pioneer a corridor.

Once the flotilla got to Tunisia, there were Israeli drone attacks that hit two of the main boats. Four days in, we had a drone strike with stun grenades and really horrible stink bombs. You can’t even think straight, the smell’s so awful.

We had a warning sign: they’d hijack the radios and play a Bob Marley song, and then within a minute we’d have a drone fly straight through one of the sails with a stun grenade strapped to it. When it hits you go into shell shock basically.

Israeli ships came alongside and sprayed us with water cannons, telling us to stop the engines. They were circling the boats, trying to capsize us. We held them off for 11 hours, playing cat and mouse.

We had a big bulk carrier come up and basically try and ram us. We were just about to get sucked into the propeller wash, and then I quickly double tapped the autopilot to veer out of the way.

We got, I think, 40 miles off the coast. One one of the other boats got 26 miles out.

Then we had three soldiers jump on board, machine guns pointed at us. They dragged me up onto the onto the main deck, cable tied me, and then I had a pump action shotgun cocked and put to my head. I was terrified it was going to blow my head off.

We got to Ashdod port about seven hours after we were intercepted.

That’s when the brutality started. They took the cable ties off and literally ripped our arms up high behind our shoulder blades—there were a lot of dislocated shoulders and broken collarbones.

They dragged us onto an asphalt field, in 40 degree desert heat, and I



**Above: Hamish on his arrival back in Australia at Sydney airport** Photo: Maritime Union of Australia

was slapped across the back of the head and forced to hold my head down on the concrete.

They grabbed Greta Thunberg and draped her in a big Star of David and made her hold it like a flagpole the whole time.

Some of us were kept there for five hours. A lot of ribs were kicked and broken.

They told me to dance like a monkey naked in front of my comrades, just humiliation basically, with guns to my head.

We got to Ketziot prison and then we were put in a cage with about 80 to 100 men. The Israeli Minister Ben-Gvir came with media cameras, speaking in English, abusing us and saying that we’re supporters of Hamas and support the death and killing of Jewish babies.

Every hour and a half they’d come in with Alsatians and AR-15s lined at our heads, counting us.

We had no access to water. We just had one hot tap that stank of sewage next to the one toilet.

## Brutality against Palestinians

Ketziot prison’s right on the border of Gaza. We could hear children in the cells next to us constantly crying, screaming for their mothers, with dogs attacking them, biting them and tearing at them, and screaming in agony.

I’m certain I heard people, from the screams that kept going until they

stopped, who were dead, or collapsed from pain.

There’s body bags leaving that prison on a daily basis in my belief. It’s classed as the Guantanamo Bay of the Middle East. We got nothing compared to what’s done to the Palestinian people there. There are 11,000 prisoners supposedly still in there.

I saw the mentality of the Zionist regime, of its racial superiority and oppression of Palestinians.

On about the sixth day they took us to the Jordanian border.

## Unions

I met Jose, from the Genoa dock workers union. Their main leader said before we even set sail that if anything happened to us they would shut the port down. They had a million people in Rome rallying in the streets for our release.

Unions have always been involved in solidarity work. Look at the MUA’s history of the embargoes on South Africa, over Vietnam, or the pig iron dispute with Japan.

We have to show the people of Palestine our solidarity because our purpose as unionists is sticking together for the oppressed and the underdog.

We’re not going to stop. We are planning another flotilla in April and we want to have a minimum of 200 boats. So we are going to have to raise funds and we need people that are that are brave enough to step up to go.’

.....  
**‘We could hear Palestinian children in the cells next to us screaming in agony’**



# No peace in Gaza as Israel blocks food and keeps killing Palestinians

By David Glanz

PALESTINIANS AND their supporters celebrated the ceasefire as bringing hope of an end to the killing in Gaza. But it's already clear it does not mean peace.

Since it began at least 120 Palestinians had already been slaughtered by Israel at the time of writing. This mirrors the almost year-old "cease-fire" in Lebanon, where Israel continues to launch individual bombing raids almost every week.

It launched at least 20 airstrikes in Gaza on 19 October, killing 42 Palestinians, after two Israeli soldiers were killed in Rafah. Hamas, however, said it had nothing to do with this and an armed group it had no control over was responsible. Further intense airstrikes at the end of October killed at least another 30.

And the Trump-Netanyahu plan still leaves Gaza as an open-air prison under effective Israeli control.

Under phase one of the deal Israel has pulled back its troops in exchange for Hamas releasing the last of its captives—but only a few kilometres.

Before the ceasefire, Israel controlled 80 per cent of Gaza. Its "withdrawal" still leaves it in command of almost 60 per cent of the Strip.

Israeli troops will remain in occupation of areas including more than half of the Khan Younis governorate and nearly all the Rafah governorate.

Israel remains in control of Gaza's borders and therefore the flow of aid. Israeli troops continue to hold most of Gaza's farmland, preventing any efforts to grow food. It even continues to fire on and abduct fishermen trying to work in the waters off Gaza.

In the first two weeks of the ceasefire Israel has allowed less than 100 aid trucks a day into Gaza, despite the agreement requiring it to allow 600 trucks per day. As a result the World Health Organisation says that hunger in Gaza remains at "catastrophic" levels.

The horrific medical situation is also virtually unchanged, with the World Health Organization saying only 10 per cent of requested medical supplies have been allowed in.

A second phase of the ceasefire, which would see Israeli troops pull back further but remain in a buffer zone within Gaza, depends on Hamas agreeing to disarm, something it has always refused to do.

Israel has set out to make basic



**Above: Destruction in the Tal al-Hawa neighborhood of Gaza City** Photo: Hashem Zimmo/TheNEWS2 via ZUMA Press Wire

life in Gaza almost impossible—destroying electricity, sewage and water services, creating the ongoing risk of epidemics. Over 80 per cent of all buildings have been destroyed.

But there is no indication of any reconstruction happening unless this "second phase" is agreed.

Israel broke an earlier ceasefire in March. It could do so again if Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu decides Hamas are not compliant. He is already under pressure from far-right ministers Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben-Gvir, who are threatening to bring down his government over the deal.

Netanyahu started the genocide to eradicate Hamas and drive the Palestinians out of Gaza. He will be keen to take any opportunity to restart the killing.

## Finish the job

The continuation of the ceasefire deal is supposedly guaranteed by Donald Trump.

But this is the same man who has presided over massive arms sales to Israel all year, told Netanyahu "to finish the job" and who threatened Hamas with "hell" if it didn't bow to his will. Trump has consistently backed Israel's aim of completely wiping out Hamas.

Hamas has praised "the efforts of US President Donald Trump aimed at definitively stopping the war and the complete withdrawal of the occupation from the Gaza Strip".

But Trump has no interest in the fate of the Palestinians.

Because of the resistance movement in Gaza and the pressure from

the worldwide Palestine solidarity movement Trump has been forced to retreat from his original plan of expelling the Palestinians and turning Gaza into a resort.

His 20-point plan now rules out Israel annexing Gaza and says that Palestinians can remain on their land.

But Gaza will be run as a colonialist enclave, with power exercised by a committee headed by Trump and including the former British Labour prime minister and war criminal, Tony Blair. This would have only a fig leaf of Palestinian participation, guaranteeing it would simply be a tool of Israeli domination.

There is no place in this scenario for Palestinian freedom and self-determination—Netanyahu has made that clear.

Israel is the oppressor and the real threat to peace—it's Israel that should be disarmed and demilitarised, not the Palestinian resistance.

Ceasefire or not, Israel continues to be an apartheid state that oppresses Palestinians inside its borders and in the West Bank, and that bombs at will, from Lebanon to Syria, from Iran to Yemen.

Israeli military operations in the West Bank this year have left 30,000 Palestinians displaced. Settlers have increased their violent raids against Palestinian villages in an effort to steal more land, demolishing 1400 buildings this year alone.

The Zionist project has always been about ethnic cleansing and this will not stop. Our solidarity cannot stop either. Palestine will not be free as long as the Israeli apartheid regime remains.

# Pay cuts, no way! ASU fights for community sector workers

MEMBERS OF the Australian Services Union rallied around the country on 23 October against the threat of massive pay cuts for up to three quarters of social and community workers.

Proposed changes to their Award are also profoundly sexist, disproportionately affecting women and gender-diverse workers and destroying the improvements made under a hard-won 2012 Equal Remuneration Order.

As the ASU points out, the pay cuts would wreak havoc. Examples include:

- NDIS Disability Support Worker starting in the sector without qualifications—a cut of \$126.93 a week
- Mental health peer worker who supports trans youth—\$300.66 a week
- Aboriginal Case Worker supporting people in transitional housing as an alcohol and drug specialist—\$398.88 a week

The Fair Work Commission (FWC) says some workers will get an increase and existing workers will retain their pay rates. But given staff turnover, staff will soon be working alongside colleagues doing the same work for much less pay. If a worker moves jobs, they cop the pay cut.

Workers on enterprise agreements are not immune. Bosses will use cuts across the sector to attack the pay and conditions of workers on EBAs.

The ASU is blaming big business. Of course, the Australian Industry Group supports the cuts—it means more profits for its members.

But the attack is coming from the FWC itself. And the federal government wants to postpone pay rises for workers who might get paid more under the Commission's proposals.

As *The Australian* reports, the Albanese government is trying “to delay the start of pay rises of up to 35 per cent for 175,000 low-paid workers in female-dominated sectors until at least next July”.

The 2012 Equal Remuneration Order was won with a campaign that included rallies and marches on parliament. The National Day of Action needs to be the start of an equally serious campaign—not just to defend pay rates but to get job classifications that recognise qualifications and experience.

The collapse of NDIS businesses and redundancies at DES providers that didn't win new contracts show that the privatised care economy is failing workers and vulnerable



**Above: ASU members rallying in Melbourne** Photo: Solidarity

people—at a time when more people need care and support than ever.

Workers need to take the defiance of these protests back to their workplaces

and communities to fight the redundancies and restructures that are trashing workers' lives and undermining the services our communities rely on.

## Thousands of public sector workers rally in Adelaide

THREE THOUSAND workers, mainly members of the Public Service Association, gathered outside Adelaide's parliament house on 15 October to rally against the state government's proposed enterprise agreement. A smaller rally took place in Port Augusta on 9 October.

The last time the PSA even considered this type of action was back in 2017. Negotiations started in September last year and the previous EA expired on 9 December. But no new agreement has been reached.

The initial bargaining was led by the decades-old previous PSA leadership, headed at the time by general secretary Natasha Brown.

When the reform ticket PSA Change was launched, it used the union's mishandling of the talks as the primary point of attack. The new general secretary Charlotte Watson and her assistant secretary Celia Brougham are out to prove they will make good on threats of industrial action and organised buses to bring workers to the protest.

The South Australian public service remains the lowest paid in the nation. This includes not just admin officers but essential roles in child protection, corrections, the Country Fire Service (CFS) and rangers.

This diversity could be seen at the rally: Correctional Services officers were flanked by CFS workers and child protection officers, as well as the flags of other unions, such as Professionals Australia.

The rally, which went from only 12.30pm to 1pm, was full of energy, with chants of “stand up, fight back!”.

Speakers at the rally reflected the frustration, demanding the government provide a pay rise to match the standard set by other states.

The PSA leadership has been very public about their intention to organise further industrial action until the demand for an immediate 20 per cent pay rise is met. So far the SA government has offered just over 10 per cent over three years, an offer rejected by the majority of PSA members.

The response from the workers gave the PSA confidence to call a rally on Saturday 25 October, outside the ALP state conference.

Pessimism is now being replaced with a cautious optimism that change can be fought for. There is a lot of lost time to be made up for, but while the best time for this sort of action would have been decades ago when the subpar pay rates started, the second-best time to start is right now.

**By a PSA member**

**The 2012 Equal Remuneration Order was won with a campaign that included rallies and marches on parliament**



# Saving jobs not the reason for Labor's industry bailouts

By David Glanz

LABOR IS spending billions on propping up the metals industry, saying it's about saving jobs. But the government's main motivation is its drive to arm Australia for war with China.

In February, federal and South Australian Labor announced a joint rescue package for the Whyalla steelworks worth \$2.4 billion.

In August, Nyrstar was handed \$135 million by the federal, SA and Tasmanian governments to develop production of the rare earths antimony and bismuth, and germanium and iridium, at Port Pirie and Hobart.

In October, federal Labor and the Queensland state government chipped in \$600 million to support Glencore's Mount Isa copper smelter.

And the *Financial Review* reports that, "The bailouts look set to continue, with Rio Tinto reportedly lobbying for more than \$1 billion in support for its Tomago [NSW] aluminium smelter."

The closure of any of these operations would destroy jobs and devastate local communities. The McKell Institute says of Whyalla, "The steelworks underpin around half of the broader regional economy, directly employing 25 per cent of the Whyalla workforce and indirectly employing another 35 per cent."

The bailouts show that the government can intervene to save jobs—although at a cost of \$1 million each.

This is no thanks to the main union at the Whyalla plant, the Australian Workers Union, which has failed to organise any resistance to job losses. Its response to Labor's rescue package was to pledge industrial peace.

Meanwhile Labor is refusing to take equity in the businesses, let alone nationalise them, in return for the flow of public funds—money that would generate many more jobs in education or welfare. The reason for this flood of public subsidies is Labor's new focus on "sovereign capability".

## Supply chains

Sovereign capability is the ability for Australian capitalism to produce strategically important goods or materials, primarily but not only for the military.

As a government briefing document puts it, "Sovereign Industrial Capability Priorities are capabilities that are critical to Defence and must be developed or supported by Australian industry."

The aim is to avoid disruptions to



**Above: A steel blast furnace at the Whyalla steelworks** Photo: UVL Engineering/ Flickr

overseas supply chains or monopolisation of industry sectors by China.

Industry Minister Tim Ayres defended government subsidies as saving jobs but added, "It's also about a clear-eyed assessment about what is in Australia's national interest in strategic and economic resilience terms."

Whyalla manufactures three-quarters of Australia's domestic steel supply. Its output is important for the construction industry but also has an important role in military production.

*The Strategist* reports that, "Whyalla's steel is relatively free from impurities, meaning it has strategic importance for military manufacturing, including for the Benalla munitions plant."

Whyalla steel is also used for railways, which would have an important role moving soldiers and military supplies in war.

A University of Adelaide commentator put it this way, "Steel is a vital input for defence industries such as ship and submarine building. What could be said of a country's autonomy—or its sovereign capability—if it relies on others for the steel needed for its defence?"

The processing of rare earths by Nyrstar will provide materials needed for a range of technologies, including military functions.

## Critical minerals

Steel is important to Australian capitalism but rare earths may possibly play an even more important role in the future.

In 2023, Australia produced 49 per

cent of the world's supply of lithium, 9 per cent of the manganese and 24 per cent of the zircon.

Giving the US access to Australian rare earth deposits was key to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese's warm welcome in the White House in October.

A government briefing paper says, "Critical minerals are essential to modern and advanced technologies, including computers, heavy industry, defence and renewable energy. However, these commodities are exposed to risks of [overseas] supply chain disruption or bottlenecks."

One of the reasons the government stepped in to keep the Mt Isa copper smelter afloat was the role it plays underpinning mining developments in the region, which has a cluster of resources including cobalt and molybdenum.

Meanwhile the government is hoping to boost onshore processing and potentially manufacturing.

But the driver for all this spending is not human need—whether in terms of jobs or human services.

The government is keeping metal smelters afloat and encouraging rare earths production for the same reason that it's spending \$368 billion on AU-KUS nuclear-powered submarines—preparing for a future war with China.

We need to demand an end to the arms spending and the use of steel, copper and rare earths for homes, renewable energy, public transport and health and education technologies.

**The bailouts show that the government can intervene to save jobs—although at a cost of \$1 million each**

# Labor's Nauru deportation expands offshore detention regime

By Ian Rintoul

IN LATE August, Home Affairs Minister Tony Burke quietly visited Nauru to sign a \$408 million deal to allow Australia to deport potentially hundreds of migrants and refugees to the prison island. While official figures have not been revealed, media reports indicate Nauru has prepared close to 300 of the 30-year visas.

Australia will pay Nauru another \$70 million a year for 30 years to cover the costs of confining them to the island. Now the Nauru agreement has been triggered with the first non-citizen being successfully sent to Nauru on 24 October.

Nauru is already holding 105 asylum seekers intercepted and sent there by Australia, with the government paying a notorious US company MTC \$157 million a year for “garrison and welfare services”.

Labor's ICE-like deportation laws, first introduced in December 2024, have now been backed up with even more draconian measures that remove fundamental legal rights of review as Labor tries to speed up the deportation process.

Albanese ignored the Labor-dominated parliamentary human rights committee to ram the laws through relying on Coalition support. Its report, said bluntly “the government does not have a legitimate objective in denying fair hearings to those set to be deported to Nauru and could place Australia in breach of international human rights obligations.”

The committee went on, “Administrative convenience, in and of itself, is unlikely to be sufficient to constitute a legitimate objective for the purposes of international human rights law”.

In November 2023, the NZYQ High Court decision ended indefinite immigration detention. However, instead of welcoming the end of one of perhaps the most draconian and racist elements of the Migration Act, Labor has spent the last two years trying to find ways to subvert the decision.

Three hundred and fifty eight people were released from Australian detention by the NZYQ decision in 2023. All of them are now at risk of being re-detained and sent to Nauru. And the wording is so loose, that thousands of others on bridging visas are also vulnerable if the government chooses to expand the net.

Not only do the new laws remove



any right to procedural fairness from the decision to deport to Nauru, they also retrospectively “correct” any mistakes that Home Affairs had made in the past. This means that even if a mistake has previously been made in their cases, they have no right of review.

### Ripping away rights

The new laws mean that the government can completely ignore whether or not the people being removed have Australian citizen children, partners, parents or siblings.

There is also no requirement to consider the lack of medical treatment available on Nauru. A Federal Court case in May confirmed that an Iranian refugee, suffering from a severe asthma condition for the last 37 years, could be sent to Nauru even though the court accepted that “the medical services available in Nauru are inadequate to manage the applicant’s condition of severe asthma on an ongoing basis.”

Burke has told the media that up to 20 people have already been issued with Nauru visas. At least eight are currently in detention in Australia with legal processes in place preventing their immediate deportation.

In raids reminiscent of Trump’s ICE raids on migrants in the US, people are being picked up without notice, usually by Border Force raids

**Above: Rallying against the offshore detention system Labor is expanding again** Photo: Refugee Action Coalition

at 4am. Migrant families are being ripped apart overnight.

And Labor is keen to peddle the “Australian Solution” internationally. Burke was recently in London to meet UK Home Secretary Shabana Mahmood and other Five Eyes countries “to exchange tips and devise ways of stopping illegal migration”.

In a London interview, Burke said, “I start with the principle that we don’t refole people, so you don’t send people back to a place of persecution. The second principle is, if someone has no right to be in your country, they should leave, and a third country option becomes the only way of being able to do that.” But that is just an excuse for trashing human rights and implementing racist immigration law that allows non-citizens to be sent to offshore prisons.

The UK is now looking at a possible agreement with Kosovo to replicate Australia’s offshore deal with Nauru.

Labor is also vigorously implementing “Operation Sovereign Borders” with 13 asylum seekers reportedly being intercepted at sea in August and returned to their home countries.

With its massive parliamentary majority, Labor has no excuse for continuing the same border protection policies as the Liberals. It’s racism pure and simple and it has to be fought.

**Burke has told the media that up to 20 people have already been issued with Nauru visas**



# What's driving the 'Gen Z' revolts in the Global South?

By Liam McMullen

GEN Z revolts are sweeping the Global South as people take to the streets against corruption and deprivation.

The first Gen Z uprising was in Kenya last year.

Since then Peru, Morocco, Nepal, Indonesia, the Philippines, Madagascar, East Timor, Tunisia and Algeria have all seen mass street demonstrations, in some cases toppling leaders and forcing significant concessions.

Young people's prominence in the protests is no surprise. In Indonesia half the population of 280 million is under 30. Young people struggle to find jobs.

The legacy of colonial exploitation has been entrenched by neoliberalism, driving many countries deeper into the fold of a globalised, market economy with institutions like the IMF demanding the reorientation of economies towards exports.

In 2024, the IMF offered Kenya's President William Ruto an emergency loan of \$941 million. But this was conditional on raising taxes on basic goods, triggering the first wave of protest in Kenya.

Slowing economic growth in the Western world and in China is deepening the crisis. Trump's tariffs have heavily impacted export-focused economies. David Leonardi, boss of a textile factory in West Java, has laid off more than 1000 people. "If these tariffs continue, we'll be facing a 20 to 30 per cent decline in exports to the US," he told the ABC.

## Class divide

In late August, "After the protests started [in Jakarta] the police ran over Affan Kurniawan, a motorcycle delivery driver," Neysia from the Socialist Youth Organisation in Indonesia told *Solidarity*. This police brutality alongside revelations of politicians pocketing huge new housing allowances fuelled wider protests.

Kurniawan was among the 56 per cent of workers in Indonesia employed in the exploitative informal sector, with some people working 15-18 hours a day. Yet the four richest men in Indonesia have more wealth than the poorest 100 million.

In Nepal and Philippines too, the behaviour of the "Nepo Kids", often the children of politicians who flaunt their wealth online, was a catalyst.

While social media provides a platform to organise and share



**Above: Protests in Morocco outside parliament buildings** Photo: Mounir Neddi/Wikimedia Commons

information, the Gen Z rhetoric surrounding the uprisings risks trivialising these movements. It can invoke a caricature of naïve young people impulsively taking to the streets in response to social media posts.

This ignores the conditions which are driving masses of people of all ages to resist. Ordinary people are collectively raging against corrupt elites who hoard enormous wealth, in an outpouring of class anger.

State repression has been a characteristic of each of the uprisings.

In Madagascar the crackdown turned deadly, with at least 22 people killed. President Andry Rajoelina fled the country after failing to satisfy the demands of the movement.

The elite army unit once allied to the president, CAPSAT, defected and declared it would join forces with the protesters against the government. Military leader Michael Randrianirina seized control.

This is one example of the way the movements risk being co-opted by reformist politics that offer no way out of the crisis.

Randrianirina named businessman Herintsalama Rajaonarivelo as prime minister. The BBC reports the protest leaders rejected the appointment as made "without consultation" and "run[ning] contrary to the desired structural change" the movement was seeking.

Like Madagascar, the Philippines is one of the most vulnerable countries in the face of intensifying climate disaster. This year has seen severe storms and flooding.

There has been rage as politicians were discovered diverting bags filled with cash meant for flood control

projects into their own pockets.

Across the Arab world the memory of the 2011 revolutions persists. Despite the brutal counter-revolution, the prospect of revolt remains.

The Middle East and North Africa have the highest rate of youth unemployment in the world. Nearly one-quarter of people aged between 15 and 24 are out of work.

A new uprising has rocked Morocco since late September. Graduate unemployment is approaching 20 per cent and nearly one-fifth of women in labour force are unemployed. Insaf Elouarda, a student from Marrakech, said that, "People are in the streets for many of the same reasons as 2011".

The uprisings are extraordinary in scale and militancy. But the movements, so far dominated by the informal working class and unemployed, need to draw in the social power of organised workers to pose an alternative to simply replacing one face of the system with another.

There are embryonic examples of this happening. In Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, the organisation representing informal minibuss workers entered an alliance with the transport union.

Last month a general strike in southern Tunisia brought the city of Gabes to a standstill. Tens of thousands were demanding the closure of a phosphorus plant which has caused widespread cancer and respiratory illnesses alongside destroying ecosystems.

The Global South is bearing the brunt of an accelerating ecological, economic and imperialist polycrisis.

We need to stand in solidarity with all those across the world struggling against the brutality of the system.

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**Ordinary people are collectively raging against corrupt elites who hoard enormous wealth**

# ISRAELI GENOCIDE AND TRUMP'S NEW PLANS FOR GAZA

**James Supple** looks at whether the ceasefire can last and what the last two years of genocide and resistance show about the prospects for Palestinian liberation

ISRAEL'S GENOCIDAL war has seen Gaza all but obliterated. The ceasefire has delivered a pause in the daily slaughter but the situation for the two million Palestinians there remains a horror.

Its cities are piled with rubble and unexploded bombs, with hardly a building left standing. The basic requirements for life hardly exist—with little running water, sewerage or electricity services and still nowhere near enough food.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has been forced to agree to a pause, for now, in his genocidal campaign. Trump's "peace plan" has seen him accept that there will be no mass ethnic cleansing through forced expulsions from Gaza.

Despite talking to countries including Sudan, South Sudan and Somalia about accepting large numbers of Palestinians, Israel has been unable to find anywhere that will take them.

After supplying the weapons to carry out the genocide, Trump has decided he wants an end to the war, declaring that there will be an "enduring peace".

The worldwide movement for Gaza, and Israel's growing international isolation, has played an important role in forcing the ceasefire.

Trump says he told Netanyahu that "the world's against you" and that "you can't fight the world".

But both Trump and Israel remain thoroughly committed to disarming Hamas and eradicating it as any kind of force in Gaza.

Trump himself has insisted that "If they don't disarm, we will disarm them and it will happen quickly and perhaps violently."

The ceasefire has produced a new wave of propaganda both from gov-

ernments and the mainstream media demonising Hamas and trying to paint it as responsible for the killing in Gaza—and as the main threat to the peace deal.

The media seized on Hamas' execution of gang members in an attempt to show that it was brutal and barbaric.

They failed to mention that Israel has armed these gangs in an effort to target and kill Hamas members and create chaos inside Gaza.

Hamas has also been accused of refusing to return the bodies of hostages from Gaza—despite the ceasefire deal explicitly acknowledging that some were so deep under the rubble it would need assistance to recover them all.

Hamas has not and is not likely to agree to disarm.

This would mean delivering Israel a total surrender and repudiating the movement's basic reason for existence—resisting Israel's brutal military occupation and achieving a Palestinian state.

Hamas is a Palestinian national liberation movement that uses the same methods of armed struggle as other elements of the Palestinian movement before it since at least the 1960s.

In this it is no different from the other national liberation movements including the South African ANC or the Algerian and Vietnamese independence movements.

It is not going to lay down its weapons while Israel continues to occupy Gaza and the West Bank, subjecting Palestinians to a regime of daily terror and oppression as it continues to try to steal more land.

Nor should Hamas have to disarm. Palestinians have a right to resist Israel's illegal occupation under inter-

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**Both Trump and Israel remain thoroughly committed to disarming Hamas and eradicating it from Gaza**

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national law.

The last two years have shown the reality of Israel's genocidal intent. Israel's policy towards the Palestinians both within its 1948 borders and all the occupied territories swings only between apartheid and genocide. And as long as this continues Palestinians will continue to resist.

Israel has subjected Gaza's whole population to hell on Earth, with even Israel's military admitting that 83 per cent of those murdered were non-combatants.

There are countless orphans and families with dead relatives and children who will burn with rage against Israel's monstrous crimes.

Israel is the source of all the violence in Gaza.

Yet far from calling on Israel to demilitarise and disarm, the world's most powerful countries continue arming it to the teeth.

## Imperialism

It's estimated the US has spent between \$31 and \$33 billion arming Israel since October 2023.

This is the result, not of the Zionist lobby, but of the role Israel plays as a watchdog state for US interests in the Middle East.

Israel's key role as a US garrison state also explains Anthony Albanese and the Australian government's enthusiastic support for Israel.

US power is the centrepiece of the world order Australia's rulers want to maintain.

Australia is an imperialist power itself that works under the umbrella of US global dominance.

As Albanese put it during his visit to Washington to meet Donald Trump, the US "sees our role in the Pacific as being critical", with Australia working to counter China around the island



states of the south Pacific.

Australia's clout in the local region and the security of the trade and economic interests of Australian corporations and billionaires rely on US backing. There are enormous sums of wealth and power at stake that Australia's rulers will stop at nothing to defend.

And Albanese is working to ensure continued US support through spending hundreds of billions of dollars on the AUKUS nuclear-powered submarines, missiles and warships, and expanding the US military footprint here.

Backing Israel is another part of the bargain.

So while Albanese, under the pressure of the mass movement for Palestine at home, agreed to symbolically recognise a separate Palestinian state, he has been right behind Israel's aim of wiping out Hamas from the beginning.

Albanese lavished praise on Trump's ceasefire deal, calling it an "extraordinary achievement" while his Foreign Minister Penny Wong laughably labelled it the "biggest contribution to peace in the Middle East for a generation or more".

If Trump and Israel decide they need to restart the killing to finish the job on Hamas, Albanese will be right behind them.

The last two years have proven again how important Israel's service to US imperialism is.

After the US's disastrous wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, its hold on the Middle East faced increased challenge.

Iran in particular emerged strengthened, with growing influence stretching across Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Yemen. Hezbollah also inflicted a significant defeat on Israel in the war of 2006.

But since October 2023 Israel has turned the balance of power in the region back decisively to the advantage of US imperialism.

It was able to focus on pulverising Hamas in Gaza for almost a year while Hezbollah and Iran largely held their fire.

Then Israel moved to inflict serious blows against Hezbollah, forcing it into a punitive ceasefire agreement. After that it set back Iran's nuclear and ballistic missile programs in turn and showed that it could withstand Iranian missile barrages with relatively minor damage.

Not only has Hamas itself suffered major blows, reduced to



**Above: Donald Trump and Benjamin Netanyahu meeting in the White House**  
Photo: White House  
Photo/Daniel Torok

fragmented guerrilla operations, but any hopes that the Iranian regime and its "axis of resistance" might come to its aid have been comprehensively dashed.

### Resistance

The continued Palestinian resistance despite decades of Israeli savagery has inspired workers and the poor across the region who face their own poverty and oppression because of imperialist domination.

But on their own the Palestinians do not have the power to defeat the armed might of Israel and the US military machine that stands behind it.

The focus on armed struggle has always involved alliances with other regimes in the region to deliver arms and financial support. For decades the Palestinian Liberation Organisation upheld a policy of "non-interference" in the affairs of other Arab regimes such as Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Egypt.

It sought both funding and diplomatic support to establish a "government in exile" as a step towards its own state. Drawing support from these regimes has meant the Palestinian resistance is forced to side with the rulers against popular revolts from below.

Relying on regimes like Iran to aid the Palestinian struggle is a result of the same logic. Iran is a regime that not only brutally represses its own population but has shown that its main priority is preserving its own power

and wealth.

But there is an alternative to this.

It lies in mass struggles to topple all the regimes across the region that collaborate with imperialism—including in states like Egypt and Jordan that border Palestine.

The Arab rulers have all lined up behind the demands for Hamas to disarm.

The *Washington Post* revealed in October that Bahrain, Egypt, Jordan, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the UAE had been expanding military co-ordination with Israel right through its genocide in Gaza. Regular meetings have been held whose main purpose was to co-ordinate action against Iran.

Revolutionary movements, especially in countries with a large working class such as Egypt, are the key to end imperialist domination and the most important ally for the Palestinian movement.

In 2011 the anger at the poverty and repression in the Arab world spilled over into a wave of revolutions that toppled regimes. There are sure to be similar revolts in the future.

The mass strikes in Italy and Greece in recent months show how support for the Palestinians can inspire millions of workers to move into action.

If this kind of workers' revolt spreads into the Middle East it has the power to mount a genuine challenge to imperialism and Israel, and make it possible for Palestine to finally win liberation.

# THE SACKING OF A LABOR PM FIFTY YEARS SINCE THE WHITLAM DISMISSAL

In 1975 the ruling class in Australia conspired to subvert parliamentary democracy and sack the Labor government. **Jean Parker** discusses why they did it and the response

FIFTY YEARS on, 11 November 1975 remains one of the most controversial and turbulent days in Australian history.

It's the day Gough Whitlam, the leader of a reforming Labor government that had, since being elected in 1972, formally ended White Australia, ended conscription, founded Medicare and introduced free university education, was sacked by the unelected representative of the Queen of England—the Australian Governor-General, Sir John Kerr.

The Dismissal of the Whitlam government showed that the ruling class is prepared to dispense with democratic institutions when they feel their power and wealth is threatened. Three tools were harnessed to get rid of the Labor government—the media, the Senate, and the Governor-General.

Historians and political pundits are obsessed with the story of the Dismissal from above—how Kerr kept Malcolm Fraser hidden in Government House while he handed Whitlam his letter of dismissal. What (then) Prince Charles knew of Kerr's plans, and whether the CIA had a hand in events (it didn't).

But the hidden history from below is essential to understanding the events surrounding Whitlam's sacking. It shows how events that became a severe blow to the left and the working class could have been so very different.

Whitlam's reforms were only possible because of the preceding tide of social movement and union power that brought him to office. Whitlam legislated equal pay for women, no-fault divorce, created the Racial Discrimination Act, the NT Land Rights Act, removed all university fees, ended military conscription, built childcare centres and sewerage systems to western Sydney, and granted independence to PNG.

Whitlam's reforms changed the

lives of millions of working people. The contrast with the neoliberal wasteland of Albanese's agenda could not be starker.

The 1960s and 1970s saw the explosion of struggles for Aboriginal rights, women's rights, and mass movement in solidarity with the Vietnamese resistance and against US imperialism. Whitlam's reforms were only possible in a society where campaigners and militant unions—from those that led the Clarrie O'Shea general strike to those that organised the Vietnam Moratoriums—had spent decades organising.

Although sections of Australia's elite never fully accepted the legitimacy of the new Labor government, overall, the ruling class regarded Whitlam's reforms as a necessary release-valve after the stifling conservatism of 23 years of Liberal Party rule and the social conflicts of the period.

This had changed by 1975. The 1973/74 OPEC "oil shock" saw oil prices rise by 300 per cent. This was the catalyst for a recession that doubled unemployment as bosses shed workers and threatened factory closures. Inflation also doubled to 13 per cent.

For the first time in 30 years, instead of expanding global markets and assured profits, the corporate elite panicked as they faced gluts, sell-offs and closures.

The recession signalled the end of the global post-war boom, and the beginning of a neoliberal era of declining profit-rates, financial instability and chronic economic crises.

Australia's corporate leaders looked to Canberra desperate for a government that would muzzle the unions, and cut back public spending to maintain their profits.

## Constitutional crisis

Whitlam was re-elected in 1974, but

**For the first time in 30 years, the corporate elite panicked as they faced recession and closures**

the ruling class became determined to get Labor out. The trigger would be using the Senate to block supply, thereby cutting off the money supply to the government—for the first and only time in Australian history.

After first refusing to pass the budget in August 1975, on 16 October, Liberal leader Malcolm Fraser announced that the Liberals were committed to blocking supply; the appropriation bills would never be passed. This meant Whitlam had just 30 days' funding before the public sector would grind to a halt. The constitutional time-bomb was ticking.

The media whipped up a sense of crisis that backed up the Liberals. Rupert Murdoch's media empire, which had supported Labor's election in 1972, now waged an unrelenting destabilisation campaign and began to agitate for Whitlam's sacking by the Governor-General.

John Kerr had been appointed Governor-General by Whitlam himself. But with the crisis over supply and growing speculation about the constitutional ability of the Governor-General to break the impasse, Kerr feared that Whitlam might dismiss him. To prevent this Kerr prepared to act in concert with Fraser to sack Whitlam.

Despite warnings, like a deer caught in the headlights, Whitlam continued to act as if parliamentary conventions would be upheld. Once sacked, Whitlam accepted that Fraser was now the caretaker Prime Minister and new elections would be held.

## Could Whitlam's government have been saved?

While the ruling class used the media, the limitations of Australia's parliamentary system and the constitution to trash the elected government, the working class saw the attack both as an attack on *their* elected government and more fundamentally on their own



rights and conditions.

By the start of 1975 Whitlam was not only hated by the bosses, he was also increasingly unpopular with workers and the left. His government had moved sharply to the right after the 1974 Labor Conference, which has been described as a “pro-business orgy”. Labor planned to dramatically cut budget spending and mounted an ideological attack on “dole bludgers”.

Labor governments had always set out to serve capitalism. But this rightward shift marked the beginning of a fundamental break from any commitment to deliver significant reforms towards accommodating to and managing the system; an approach that has characterised every Labor government since.

Despite Whitlam’s shift to the right, workers recognised the class nature of Fraser’s sabotage campaign. From the day the Liberals first blocked supply, 16 October, mass protests and strikes began across the country. Starting with thousands of public servants and other unionists gathering outside Parliament House, the next day saw walk-offs from Brisbane construction sites and a 5000-strong rally.

The following week saw more union action and demonstrations; 15,000 in Melbourne on 20 October, 10,000 in Sydney on 24 October, and a 24-hour strike on the Fremantle docks. Within ten days 50,000 workers had attended rallies across the country, and over 100,000 had taken strike action in defence of the government. And Whitlam had not even been sacked yet.

As the industrial action and mobilisation escalated, public opinion began to shift, putting real pressure on the Liberals to pass supply. A poll taken on 30 October showed that 70 per cent wanted the Liberals to pass supply, including 41 per cent who had voted Liberal at the last election. Whitlam’s popularity had also grown by 10 per cent whereas Fraser’s fell from 64 per cent in July to 34 per cent in November.

The ruling class had tossed aside the accepted norms of parliamentary democracy and come for Whitlam by replacing Labor Senate seats vacated by retirement or death with conservatives, blocking supply and a wild propaganda campaign. But the working class response of strikes and demonstrations held the very real possibility of escalation into a social crisis that challenged the existing power structures.

Grassroots struggle created a



**Above: Gough Whitlam outside Old Parliament House on the day of his Dismissal** Photo: National Archives of Australia

pole of united political action among workers that regarded Fraser as a class threat in a way that Whitlam and his ministers could never do. Workers’ action pulled the professional workers and the middle class behind them, and they created fear among the reactionary small and big business owners that the unions would paralyse society.

The threat of further escalation upending the status-quo was so powerful that several Liberal Senators later revealed that, under pressure from their constituents, they were on the verge of crossing the floor to pass Labor’s budget. Only one vote was needed to break the deadlock. But Fraser kept them in line with the Governor-General poised to act.

As news of the government’s sacking spread on 11 November, workers spontaneously downed tools across the country. Thousands walked out in Canberra and converged at Parliament House looking for direction on how to reverse the coup and restore their government. But none came.

Across the country there were more strikes, demonstrations and calls for a general strike. But “Save your anger for the ballot box” was the message coming from Whitlam and the ACTU. This determination to plough the militancy of supporters into a “business-as-usual” election campaign meant that the grassroots momentum was squandered.

Off the streets and isolated at home, workers were subjected to a relentless media campaign that blamed Labor for the chaos and disruption. John Kerr and the Liberals had trashed the idea that governments were elected by the people.

Democracy itself was being

pushed aside by an unelected Governor-General. However the message from Labor was not to mobilise the working class power to challenge the system, but to wait for another election! Fraser won the 1975 election in a landslide.

The experience has left Labor permanently scarred. While lip-service is paid to the Whitlam government and Albanese still waves his green Medicare card, the universal understanding was not about the limitations of parliamentary democracy, but that Whitlam had gone “too far, too fast”, and that should never be repeated.

Despite the odd slogan—Kevin Rudd called climate “the great moral challenge of our generation”; Anthony Albanese says “no one will be left behind”—every Labor government since Whitlam has been concerned to manage Australian capitalism, not reform it.

Fifty years later the rules and traditions of liberal democracy are fraying internationally as sections of the ruling class look to more authoritarian forms of rule.

In Whitlam’s Dismissal we can see how easily the ruling class can set aside the constitutional and parliamentary systems that normally serve them. But the hidden history of Whitlam’s Dismissal also teaches us how workers can create a counter-power that can ultimately overcome the power of the media and the bosses.

It also teaches us that if such power is to be effective, revolutionaries need to create the networks that can take people beyond the limits of union and parliamentary leaders and offer a way forward in times when millions move into struggle.



**Strike Fraser Out: How workers rose up to defend the Whitlam government** A Solidarity pamphlet By Phil Griffiths \$7 Buy online at shop.solidarity.net.au

# 30 YEARS SINCE STRIKE THAT HALTED ANTI-UNION DRIVE HOW WORKERS AT WEIPA DREW A LINE IN THE SAND

A defiant strike at the Weipa mine against individual contracts sparked a nationwide strike wave that halted a push to deunionise the country, writes **Jacob Starling**

ON 13 October 1995, 78 CFMEU workers at Weipa, a remote mining town in Far North Queensland, began a defiant strike that would become a nationwide flashpoint.

Unionists dramatically blockaded the wharves with their tiny fishing boats, demanding that they receive the same pay as non-union workers. Five bulk ore carriers were forced to anchor offshore, unable to load \$6 million worth of bauxite ore.

Their employer, Comalco, a subsidiary of mining giant CRA (now Rio Tinto) had a ruthless record of deunionising workforces. However, when they tried to deunionise their bauxite mine in Weipa they were met with fierce resistance from a militant minority of workers.

Within weeks, the dispute had become a national industrial campaign, triggering a thousands-strong strike wave in solidarity.

Thirty years on, the story of the Weipa dispute is a powerful demonstration of how rank-and-file workers can win against corporate Goliaths through determined resistance.

The strike at Weipa was sparked by the bosses' attempts to replace union-negotiated awards with individual contracts. This was part of a decades-long bosses' offensive against the right to organise collectively for better wages and conditions.

Union agreements rely on the combined power of the workers to push up wages and protect workers from cuts.

Individual contracts are negotiated between bosses and individual workers. They are designed to fracture the workforce with different wages and conditions. This makes collective struggle harder.

The pro-business policies of the Hawke-Keating ALP government, and the decision of union leaders to go along with them, weakened union strength and encouraged businesses to try to introduce individual contracts.

In 1993, Prime Minister Paul Keating promised a round table of company bosses that he would replace awards with enterprise bargaining agreements (EBAs).

These would be negotiated collectively with unions, like awards, but at an individual company level instead of across an industry. They were designed to bind workers' wages to productivity instead of the cost of living.

In effect, this meant that workers' wages were dependent on delivering bosses higher profits. Pay rises would require trading away conditions or accepting job cuts. Enterprise bargaining also placed severe restrictions on the right to strike, limiting industrial action to narrow bargaining periods every few years, making it much harder to defend wages and conditions.

This attack on workers' rights was justified by appeals to the "national interest", code for the rights of Australian capitalists to maximise profits. The Australian Council of Trade Unions (ACTU) leadership eagerly promoted the EBA framework, arguing for cooperation between bosses and workers.

By accepting the need to improve business competitiveness, the ACTU and the ALP made it easier for companies to go one step further and try to get rid of unions altogether.

## Deunionisation

CRA-Rio Tinto had been working to deunionise their sites since the mid-1970s. They argued that individual contracting was needed to cut costs, and workers would have to give up their union card if they wanted their employer to stay in business.

This started in earnest in 1986, when CRA began a five-year restructuring program on its New Zealand aluminium smelter. Non-union workers were offered higher wages and voluntary redundancies, bypassing the

**When Comalco went to the courts to try to break the picket line, maritime and coal workers answered the workers' call for solidarity**

union entirely. The union leadership refused to take industrial action and, by 1991, the union there had all but collapsed.

CRA repeated this process at Hamersley Iron in the Pilbara, and at its aluminium smelter in Bell Bay in Tasmania. Despite the strong tradition of militancy at both sites, the union leadership again refused to take industrial action.

By the end of 1993 at Hamersley 90 per cent of workers had signed individual contracts and by July 1994 only 22 workers out of 430 were still unionised at Bell Bay.

## Weipa

Comalco's bauxite mine at Weipa was next in CRA's sights. Comalco had already cut training and overtime pay in 1991. They also made a deal with the AWU, marginalising the more militant CFMEU. In 1994, Comalco began negotiating individual contracts with workers, offering them up to \$20,000 above the union rate.

Workers "were starved onto them", Nigel Gould, a worker at Weipa, explained. Getting any pay rise following the cuts to overtime pay effectively relied on accepting individual contracts.

Instead of going on strike, the AWU appealed to the Industrial Relations Commission for a pay rise. Their legal strategy failed and union membership collapsed. As a result, 80 per cent of the workers at Weipa left the union and signed individual contracts, attracted by the pay rise and additional benefits.

Non-union workers were promised better superannuation, extra annual leave, subsidised medical benefits and assistance for their children to receive a university education. However, without a union to hold them to account, the bosses at Comalco now had free rein to chip away at workers' conditions.

There was a serious threat that



companies nationwide would copy their example, decimating union membership and opening the way for a frontal assault on wages and conditions built up over generations.

It was a small, die-hard group of rank-and-file unionists who took up the campaign for equal pay. The 78 workers who walked off the job on 13 October were a minority of the workforce, but they were able to cause serious disruption to Comalco's operations and galvanise the union movement nationwide.

When Comalco went to the courts to try to break their picket line, demanding that the union pay for the company's losses, maritime and coal workers answered their call for solidarity.

On 8 November, 2000 unionists at the Blair Athol and Tarong coal mines in Queensland launched a 24-hour strike. Maritime workers on the *River Embley*, one of the bulk carriers held up by the workers' picket at Weipa, stopped work for 24 hours.

By 10 November, 3000 workers were on strike at CRA's coal and coke facilities across Queensland. Port workers nationwide refused to touch CRA coal. Five days later, the CFMEU announced a nationwide coal miners' strike in solidarity with the Weipa workers. It was a fantastic demonstration of the power of strike action to shut down the country through the kind of solidarity action needed to win.

Weipa striker Nigel Gould said that they were "overwhelmed" with support. "Mining communities in every state and territory, and refineries, have sent letters and money. They're supporting us all the way."

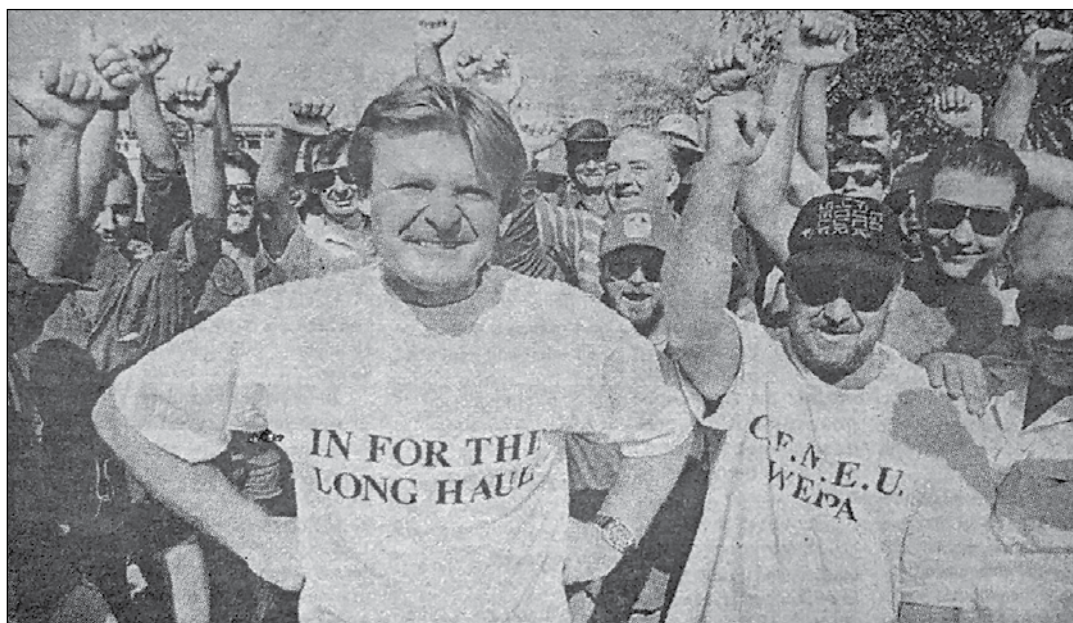
The Wik people, local Indigenous Traditional Owners, backed the strikers, and gave them permission to launch their fishing boats from sacred sites.

Weipa also received a solidarity message from the Bougainville Freedom Movement, where CRA had the huge Freeport copper mine.

The surge in support forced the ACTU leadership to take a stand, announcing that unions in other industries were also preparing to take action against CRA.

ACTU Secretary Bill Kelty announced that he was drawing a "line in the sand" against individual contracts. However, despite the tough rhetoric, the ACTU offered to negotiate a settlement with Comalco instead of giving full support to the fight from below.

The strike wave reached its peak in mid-November. There was a nation-



**Above: Russell Rowse during the Weipa strike with fellow strikers, who made t-shirts declaring they were "In for the long haul"** Photo: Socialist Worker (Australia)

wide strike of maritime workers and two days later 25,000 coal miners went on strike. There were 2000 miners so enthusiastic to support the workers at Weipa that they walked off the job 30 hours early.

Meanwhile, as soon as the ACTU got a whiff of a possible settlement, it called off the solidarity strikes. In late November they pressured the strikers at Weipa to go back to work and allow the ACTU negotiate on their behalf.

When the striking workers declared that they would not return to work until they had a written agreement from CRA promising equal pay, the ACTU threatened that they would be left on their own.

Very quickly, the IRC ruled in their favour. The Weipa workers won equal pay for equal work, back pay and the right to negotiate collective agreements through the unions. The government forced Comalco to drop its damages claims against the union.

A year later, when Comalco tried again to introduce individual contracts, the workers were ready. Unionists immediately went on strike, forcing management to withdraw the demand after just two days.

### Legacy

The victory at Weipa shows that it is possible to fight and win against the bosses with a rank-and-file, militant approach.

Unionists were able to resist the pressure towards individual contracts. It was the courage and resilience of the workers themselves that won equal pay for equal work at Weipa, not the ACTU's legal strategy.

When the Liberals under John Howard took power in 1996, they moved to make it much easier for businesses to use individual contracts. The Liberal's Australian Workplace Agreements left a terrible legacy but they were never able to be used to break unions as initially intended.

Since then the acceptance of enterprise bargaining and the failure to fight to maintain wages and conditions has enormously eroded union strength. The right to strike is strictly limited, with massive fines for taking the kind of nationwide solidarity strikes that erupted to support workers at Weipa.

Labor continues to crow about the "national interest" and the importance of protecting profitability for the bosses. Its attack on the CFMEU was designed to weaken a union prepared to defy the anti-strike laws to win better wages and conditions for its members.

In the Pilbara, workers are still fighting to undo the damage wrought by 30 years of individual contracts. The anti-strike laws today mean the shackles are tighter on the unions than they were 30 years ago.

But the unionists should not give up. Unions have launched an effort to reunite the mines in the Pilbara and have had some successes at BHP.

There was a setback in July when the FWC ruled that the Western Mine Workers Alliance had failed to demonstrate that a majority of workers supported unionisation at Rio Tinto as required.

But the success of the Weipa dispute is proof that individual contracts can be beaten through collective, militant action. Rio Tinto has been beaten before and it can be beaten again.



# TRUMP'S BULLYING AND DEPORTATION RAIDS MEET RESISTANCE



By Adam Adelpour

THE TRUMP administration has escalated its racist migrant deportation campaign as the US President's approval ratings trend downwards.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents have been deployed in major cities like an invading force, from Chicago, to LA to New York. In a number of cities Trump has sent in National Guard troops, armed to the teeth, to quell protests, intimidate the population and reinforce ICE.

The brutal ICE raids have become a symbol of the Trump administration's racist cruelty.

Images of screaming mothers torn from their families in residential streets, savage violence and thuggery from masked agents and ambush raids in supermarkets and workplaces have all flooded social media and the news.

The largest National Guard mobilisation saw 4000 deployed alongside 7000 marines in LA in June. Hundreds of National Guard troops were also sent to Washington DC to respond to what Trump called a "situation of complete and total lawlessness" and the National Guard has also been deployed in Memphis in smaller numbers.

Most recently Trump has tried to launch a racist immigration blitz in Chicago, but any National Guard deployment has been delayed by the courts.

In July the US Congress passed a massive \$260 billion funding injection for immigration and border enforcement activities. Trump wants to hire 10,000 new ICE officers and 3000

**Above: Millions marched across the US in "No Kings" protests in October** Photo: SOPA Images Limited/Alamy Live News

Customs and Border Protection agents this year. Department of Homeland Security recruitment ads have used racist, far-right and white supremacist language and imagery, screaming slogans like "Defend your culture!"

Trump's racist onslaught comes against the backdrop of a political deadlock in the Congress. According to *The Economist*, Trump's net approval rating sat at a dismal -17 per cent at the time of writing. Trump came to power promising to fix inflation. But since his "Liberation Day" tariffs were announced in January his net approval on the issue of "inflation and prices" has nosedived to less than -30 per cent.

The Federal government has also been shut down for weeks as Democrats refuse to pass Trump's budget measures.

The focus of the shutdown is the extension of healthcare subsidies that would see millions lose health insurance as well as cuts to Medicaid. Even though the Republicans have a majority in both the House and the Senate, Senate rules require three-fifths of senators to vote in favour of "ending debate" so Bills can proceed to a vote. This has enabled the Democrats to dig in.

## Resistance

Trump is on an authoritarian rampage. It was truly appalling to see Anthony Albanese grinning next to Trump during their meeting in Washington. Albanese was in the US to cement the AUKUS nuclear subs pact and sign a critical minerals deal with the far-right President.

But the mass resistance to Trump

in US has been a ray of hope.

In October, an estimated seven million people hit the streets for "No Kings" protests against Trump's authoritarian policies.

A quarter of a million poured into the streets of Chicago and an estimated 200,000 flooded Washington DC, where large numbers of workers have been "furloughed" due to the government shutdown. Unions and unionists joined the protests in big numbers. Victor Fernandez, a migrants' rights organiser reporting from LA, told *Socialist Worker*:

"The United Teachers of Los Angeles have a feeder march of a couple of thousand. And the California Teachers Union and the United Healthcare and the Service Employees International Union public sector union have contingents."

The politics of the protests were mixed. There is huge righteous anger against Trump's far-right agenda. But Democrats have sought to co-opt the anger and channel it into the midterm elections. Even the likes of Hilary Clinton re-tweeted about the protests.

The mass resistance to Trump has also opened the space for radical organising that isn't tied to the Democrats.

In Chicago residents have come out onto the streets to confront ICE and defend their neighbours. In LA large numbers have joined community patrols of workplaces like Home Depot targeted by deportation agents. ICE was driven off the streets in part of LA during explosive protests in June.

Trump's popularity has taken a big hit—militant mass action can push him back.

**Brutal ICE raids have become a symbol of Trump's racist cruelty**

# Solidarity