



Peoples' Senate Newsletter

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Combatting the Genocide Against Black, Brown, and Indigenous Peoples

Spiritofmandela.org/intro-peoples-senate

Movement Grows to Use the Vote to Denounce Genocide

by Kathleen Chandler

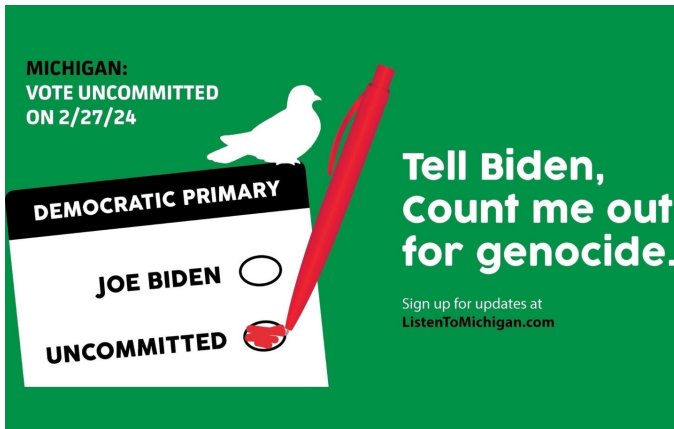
Across the country, organizations are uniting and mobilizing to use the vote to express their stand against genocide in Gaza and Genocide Joe’s refusal to secure a "Ceasefire Now!" and end military aid and political support to the Israeli Zionists. Biden has sent 2,000-pound bombs that wipe out city blocks; the unlimited arming, funding, and unconditional political support all show that the US is also guilty of genocide in Gaza.

mitted.” Autoworkers, youth, Muslims and Jews, Arabs and Black people, those from all walks of life joined in saying “Count Me Out for Genocide.” The organizing was done in a brief amount of time by a force that is multiracial, multifaitth and multi-generational.

The movement spread across many states, including seven of the Super Tuesday states, then Washington, and on April 2, Wisconsin and New York. In Minnesota more than 45,900 voted uncommitted, or about 20 percent. In North Carolina it was 12.7 percent, more than 88,000 votes; Alabama, 11,213; Tennessee, 10,450; Colorado had 43,439 and Massachusetts, 58,462 votes. Most states got between 7 and 10 percent. In Hawaii, 29.1 percent voted against genocide.

Washington saw nearly 90,000 vote uncommitted, with the demand to end funding for Israeli war crimes prominent. Missouri had more than 11.7 percent say no to genocide, with 36 percent of voters in St. Louis doing so. Wisconsin had more than 48,000 and New York more than 40,000, about 12 percent.

(Continued on page 3)



For the protest during the primaries, Michigan set the tone, with more than 101,000 people voting against genocide by marking their ballots “uncom-



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*Please share the Peoples' Senate Newsletter with your organization
and circulate it widely to your friends and comrades.*

The goal of this publication is to be an organizing tool to aid in building the Peoples' Senate and other kinds of coalitions or projects on a national, regional, and local level. We are projecting a quarterly publication schedule. We invite members and supporters of the Peoples' Senate to submit articles (with photos if possible), poetry, artwork, letters, thoughts, etc., to help establish a clearer understanding of the organizing being done in particular regions, strengthen our coalitions and our resolve to struggle against genocide, and strategize about next steps. Please email your submissions to:

PSNewsletter@spiritofmandela.org.

Peoples' Senate Newsletter editorial committee: Ashaki Binta, Steve Bloom, Kathleen Chandler, Sophia Williams. Proofreading: Betsy Mickel

Editorial:**Build the Peoples' Senate
as an Electoral Alternative in 2024**

Across the country, through persistent demonstrations and more than 500,000 people voting “uncommitted,” saying “count me out for genocide,” the anger with the current electoral set up and candidates is widespread and growing. To further build this movement, Peoples’ Senate has joined many others in a campaign of #NoVotes4Genocide and #Opt Out to provide an alternative that works toward putting decision-making power in the hands of the people. We ask that all concerned, whether voting or not voting, join in building the opposition to genocide and impunity, in Palestine and at home, by promoting #NoVotes4Genocide/#OptOut.

We also recognize and have experience with the fact that our struggles cannot be limited to voting, as those elected commonly do not represent us or defend our rights. Peoples’ Senate is not only an

alternative for the elections in the year 2024—an alternative you can help to build whomever you might choose to vote for, or if you choose not to vote at all. The Peoples' Senate is, even more, an alternative to a system that breeds inequality and injustice, as working people experience every day. The problem of genocide is not limited to Palestine, but also continues to take place against Black, Brown, and Indigenous peoples, as documented at the International Tribunal organized by Spirit of Mandela in October of 2021, through inequalities in health care, environmental racism, mass incarceration, police killings, missing and murdered women, and more. Elections are a time to unite together and take our stand by organizing for our rights and our own alternatives, for a democracy where the people decide. ■

Follow #NoVotes4Genocide and #OptOut on social media:

In recent weeks a campaign has been growing on social media based on these two hashtags. Here is how the effort is described: "Show up and vote on November 5, 2024, but do NOT vote Biden, Trump, or any other candidate who supports Israel’s genocide campaign. Vote for any nongenocidal option, or use the write-in space to declare: OptOpt or NoVote4Genocide."

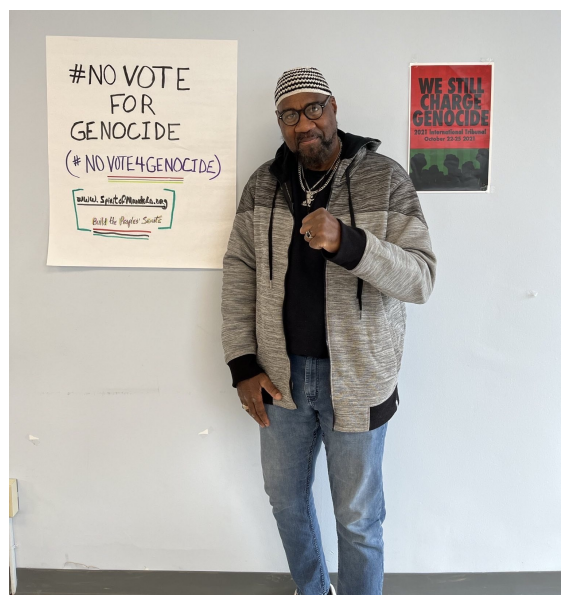
We urge readers of the Peoples Senate Newsletter to follow and help promote this effort.

(Votes to denounce genocide, continued from page 1)

Mobilizing in the many states involved is going forward. The main demands for Gaza remain "Cease-fire Now!" "End the Siege, Stop Military Funding and Provide Humanitarian Aid" as part of organizing for an anti-war, pro-peace agenda.

What stands out is the firm commitment to combat genocide and the anger with a continuing US/Israeli impunity to carry it out. Many are rejecting the existing electoral set-up that produces such hated candidates that stand against the demands of the majority. Large numbers of people are looking for alternatives, and Peoples’ Senate is helping to provide one by supporting the campaign:

#NoVotes4Genocide!/ #OptOut! ■



What Is Going On in Haiti?

by Black Alliance for Peace



[The following is an excerpt from the introduction to a pamphlet titled *The Crisis of Haiti Is a Crisis of Imperialism*, published by the Black Alliance for Peace. The entire pamphlet is available, along with other resources, online at blackallianceforpeace.com/haiti.]

Western nations, led by the United States and supported by Canada, Mexico, the Dominican Republic, and the Caribbean Community among others, are at the forefront of the push for another foreign military intervention in Haiti. Through a global public relations campaign, they are justifying invasion by pointing to a “humanitarian crisis” (including a new cholera outbreak) that has come about as a result of “gang violence.”

Much of what we hear about Haiti today is a distortion—or outright fabrication—of Haiti's social and political reality. Much of it lacks historical context, especially when it comes to the unrelenting meddling of the foreign agents and institutions, for understanding the Haitian situation. Much of it is based on a deep racism that presumes that Black people are ungovernable while resenting the implications of Haiti's historical commitment to

Black freedom.

The Black Alliance for Peace, in alignment with the wishes of the Haitian masses and their supporters, absolutely stands against any foreign armed intervention in Haiti, and continues to demand an end to the unending meddling in Haitian affairs by the United States and Western powers. ■



Haiti meeting in Brooklyn, April 3, sponsored by Black Alliance for Peace and Peoples' Senate NE

The Peoples' Senate project is inspired by the work of the **Spirit of Mandela Coalition** and the October 2021 **International Tribunal**, at which a distinguished panel of international jurists found the USA to be still “Guilty of Genocide” against Black, Brown, and Indigenous communities.

The **five specific counts** of the indictment were for crimes related to:

- Police racism and violence
- Mass incarceration
- Political prisoners and prisoners of war
- Environmental racism
- Public health care inequities

For more information, visit spiritofmandela.org/international-tribunal.

Palestine Genocide Watch:

Colombia and Ireland Join South Africa in Case Against Israel's Genocide in Gaza

News reports inform that Colombia and Ireland have joined the case South Africa brought before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on December 29, 2023. Colombia and Ireland are signatories to the 1948 Genocide Convention and therefore have the right to intervene in this process. Both can present information concerning violations of the Genocide Convention but they are not entitled to make any requests of the court for additional provisional measures. It is the duty of all states that are party to the Convention, including the US and Canada, to promote and ensure, by all means available to them, respect for its provisions

and to prevent its violation by any other state.

Colombia's "Declaration of Intervention," sets forth the norms of the Convention that are at issue in the case. Colombia is convinced that the international community must act and support the right of the Palestinian people to exist, which is threatened by Israel's actions, also that in the present circumstances this is tantamount to defending the validity of international law and the convention against genocide, one of the great legal and moral conquests of humanity. Colombia decided that the best way to hold Israel accountable was to join with South Africa's case.

At the political level, the

government of Colombia said it wishes to support South Africa's courageous action in taking Israel to the International Court of Justice for the genocide it is committing in Gaza.

The Irish government has also decided to intervene in South Africa's case charging Israel with genocide. The Irish cabinet will begin to frame a "Declaration of Intervention" to be submitted in the next few months. ■



Bogotá, Colombia, March 3, 2024.



Ventura, California: Palestine Land Day

We continue our spotlight on Palestine and the Israeli genocide by highlighting four developments since the publication of our Winter 2024 issue (#3) as they were covered by The Electronic Intifada and Intercept websites. We offer headlines and lead paragraphs followed by links where you can find the full articles:

How World Central Kitchen Serves Israel's Genocidal Agenda

Ali Abunimah, 5 April 2024

Israel's precisely targeted attack on a convoy of vehicles, killing seven personnel from World Central Kitchen, has generated global outrage and sympathy for the nonprofit whose stated mission is to feed people in dire circumstances.

(Continued on next page)

(World Central Kitchen, continued from previous page)

There can be no justification for Israel's murder of these individuals and they and their families deserve the same accountability and justice owed to the tens of thousands of Palestinian victims of Israel's ongoing genocide.

An immediate effect of the attack is that several humanitarian groups suspended operations in Gaza, a move aimed at ensuring the safety of their personnel, but which can only exacerbate the deliberate famine caused by Israel.

A reasonable assumption is that this was Israel's goal: to make sure that no one in Gaza eats, in line with Tel Aviv's announcement right at the beginning of its genocide that it was imposing a total siege, blocking all food, water, medicine and other means of sustenance to the 2.3 million people Israeli defense minister Yoav Gallant called "human animals."

Yet Israel's relationship with World Central Kitchen is more complicated—and gives rise to a great deal of reasonable suspicion among Palestinians.

Full article at: tinyurl.com/about-wck



Chicago, Illinois

Leaked Cables Show White House Opposes Palestinian Statehood

by Ken Klippenstein and Daniel Boguslaw

Ahead of the United Nations Security Council action to consider the Palestinian Authority's application to become a full member of the international body, the United States is lobbying nations to reject such membership, hoping to avoid an overt "veto" by Washington. The lobbying effort, revealed in copies of unclassified State Department cables obtained by The Intercept, is at odds with the Biden administration's pledge to fully support a two-state solution.

In 2012, the UN General Assembly passed a resolution granting Palestine the status of a non-member observer state.

The diplomatic cables detail pressure being applied to members of the Security Council, including Malta, the rotating president of the council this month. Ecuador in particular is being asked to lobby Malta and other nations, including France, to oppose UN recognition. The State Department's justification is that normalizing relations between Israel and Arab states is the fastest and most effective way to achieve an enduring and productive statehood.

Full article at: tinyurl.com/genocide-Joe

The week of April 1-7 was marked by the celebration of al-Quds Day in Gaza, the West Bank, and worldwide. Millions of people participated in al-Quds Day protests around the world to express solidarity with the Palestinian people and their courageous resistance and to denounce US/Israeli atrocities and aggression against them. Since 1979 al-Quds Day has been celebrated as an international day in support of Palestine and to end the occupation. "Quds" or "al-Quds" is the Arabic name for Jerusalem and al-Quds Day is celebrated on the last Friday of Ramadan with actions this year taking place on Friday, April 5, and into the weekend of April 6 to 7.



Leaked *New York Times* Gaza Memo Tells Journalists to Avoid Words “Genocide,” “Ethnic Cleansing,” and “Occupied Territory”

by Jeremy Scahill and Ryan Grim

The *New York Times* instructed journalists covering Israel’s war on the Gaza Strip to restrict the use of the terms “genocide” and “ethnic cleansing” and to “avoid” using the phrase “occupied territory” when describing Palestinian land, according to a copy of an internal memo obtained by The Intercept.

The memo also instructs reporters not to use the word Palestine “except in very rare cases” and to steer clear of the term “refugee camps” to describe areas of Gaza historically settled by displaced Palestinians expelled from other parts of Palestine during previous Israeli-Arab wars. The areas are recognized by the United Nations as refugee camps and house hundreds of thousands of registered refugees.

Full article at: tinyurl.com/nyt-gaza-memo

UN Report Lauanders Israel’s Fraudulent “Mass Rape” Propaganda

by Asa Winstanley and Ali Abunimah

Just as Israel’s long-running propaganda campaign alleging a strategy of “mass rape” by Palestinians on 7 October was unraveling at high speed, a United Nations official stepped in this week to try to stick it back together.

The Israeli government is grateful to the official, Pramila Patten, who released a high-profile report on alleged sexual violence at a press conference in New York on Tuesday.

It came after a two-week visit to Israel between January and February by Patten and her team.

This is key timing for Israel. Since December, the most important proponent of the propaganda narrative has been the *New York Times*.

But as The Electronic Intifada has been reporting, the *Times* is embroiled in a growing scandal over the veracity of its reporting on the issue.

Full article at: tinyurl.com/mass-rape-fiction

Poems:

Farid Bitar



Alive

Not gone yet
Don't know how
Don't know why
I am still not dead

Should have been many times over
In the first Intifada of 87
I survived a pointed M-16 at my forehead
When my mother started wailing hysterically
I survived interrogation of IDF soldiers
At the checkpoints of the West Bank
When I hid a poor soul in my basement of a job
About 5 soldiers insisting that the man is hiding inside

Now this exodus of Gaza
In the aftermath of October 7th
Brings back memories of the ugly past
Watching children melting from white phosphorous
Bombing civilians for 30 days and counting

A friend calling me from Rafah
Asking me to pray for his entire family of 17
While talking to him,
The sound of the bombs dropping in the background
Another friend calling from Gaza city
Telling me his house is gone
And his son is almost gone
Telling me this is the worst it's ever been
His head bandaged
His spirits in tatters
Don't know what to say to console him

I cry daily nonstop and light a candle
I am so beyond words
My nerves are shot
My wisdom is gone
I am still alive
Not the civilians in Gaza.
October 7th, 2023 and beyond.

Steve Bloom



**New Year, Gaza
2008/2009**

Call out the names of the dead
so that we may mourn.

Call out the names
of the dead.

Call out the names of their killers
so that we may rage
as we mourn.

Call out the names
of their killers.

Call out the names of those
who march in protest
So that we may give thanks
as we rage
and mourn

Call out the names
of those who march in protest

Call out the names "Peace,"
"Justice," "Freedom," "Palestine"
so that we may hope
as we give thanks,
rage,
and mourn.

Call out the names
"Peace," "Justice,"
"Freedom," "Palestine"

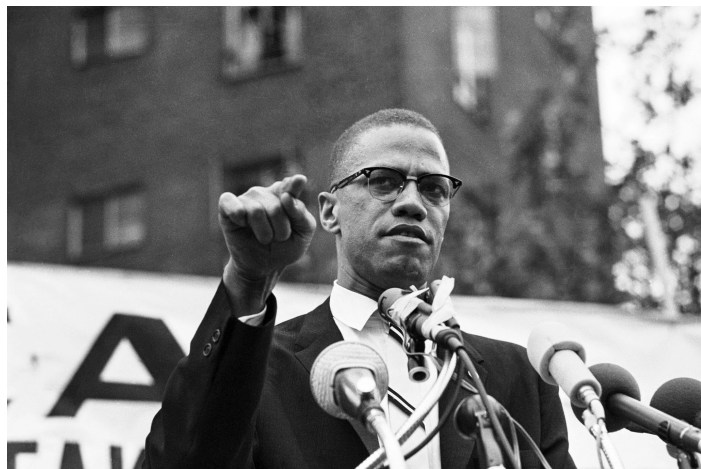
And when the time has come
to call out the names
of all who remain silent
as we are calling out these names
let us pray that yours
will not be among them.

Malcolm X Family Initiates New Lawsuit in '65 Assassination

By Raven Finn

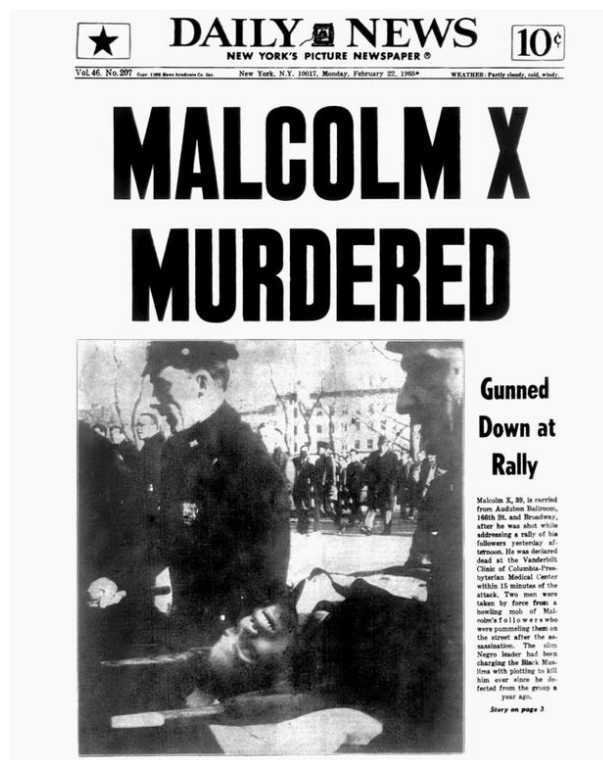
On February 21, 2024, Ilyasah Shabazz, one of the children of Malcolm X (El-Hajj Malik el Shabazz), announced that the family and their supporters will be suing the NYPD, FBI, and the CIA for their role in covering up evidence in Shabazz's murder. Not only was evidence withheld, but police agencies also coerced false testimony from witnesses and ultimately helped the real killers escape justice.

Malcolm was murdered on February 21, 1965, in the Audubon Ballroom (now the Malcolm X and Betty Shabazz Center) in Harlem, New York. Three members of the Nation of Islam (NOI), Muhammad Abdul Aziz, Khalil Islam, and Thomas Hagan were soon arrested and later convicted of the murder. In 2021, however, Aziz and Islam were proven to be innocent. The question the lawsuit poses today is: Who really killed Malcolm X, and why? The State still won't release all of the files it has on this case.



When the alleged murderers were released in 2021, the New York DA admitted that they were wrongfully convicted and that the NYPD and FBI withheld evidence at the time of the crime, creating a basis for more cases to be filed to figure out the truth. Fifty-plus years later and we still don't know for sure; they still won't tell the truth.

As far back as 1977 Mujahid Abdul Halam (Thomas Hagan), stated that the other two arrested



and tried along with him were not guilty, and that four men from the Newark, New Jersey, chapter of the NOI had actually been involved in the effort to assassinate Malcolm. Yet Aziz and Islam were not exonerated until 2021!

Only a week prior to his assassination, Malcolm's home was firebombed, and only a few days before that, two members of his security detail were arrested on trumped-up charges, leading to a security vulnerability that fateful day. According to what documents have been released, Malcolm X had been surveilled since 1953, and in 1964 J. Edgar Hoover, then the head of the FBI, sent a telegram with the message: "Do something about Malcolm X."

Since his assassination, it has been 59 years, and still some of those who were involved in this murder roam free. Hundreds, if not thousands, of pages of documents and evidence about wrong-doing, surveillance, detentions, charges, slander, accusations, all lie dormant in some office building, unavailable

(Continued on page 14)

Building Peoples' Senate in the Northeast Region

by tag harmon



Bronx "Genocide Convention"

The winter months brought further growth in terms of capacity and reach in the Northeast region, which consists of CT, NJ, NY, and PA. February 3, half a dozen Peoples' Senate NE core members connected with one of the comrades at Brotherhood Sister Sol for a walk-through of their dynamic community garden space in Harlem. Bro/Sis brings city youth to the soil through a slate of cultivation-related programs and activities, distributing the produce they grow to the broader community free of charge. Check for more on this and related collaborative efforts in upcoming issues as these developments concretize.

February 15, PeepSen Northeast cohosted what we called a "Genocide Convention & Community GiveBack" on Laconia Aveue in the Bronx, where the Peoples' Senate's rallying cry of resistance against ongoing genocides targeted toward Black, Brown, and Indigenous peoples in the US was welcomed with enthusiasm and widespread recognition. Peoples' Senate comrades broke down our aims and objectives regarding nongenocidal alternatives to the current "genocide-for-profit" model of US corporate "governance" alongside an array of community members and organizers who

touched on issues we all face—from nurses organizing around food sovereignty and dietary awareness, to internationalists in solidarity with Indigenous struggles in Peru, to Bronx organizers establishing a local newspaper to combat the "colonial press" and their ever-encroaching disinformation campaigns. While logistical difficulties kept us from distributing all of the clothes and toys we accumulated, we will have another opportunity soon to continue those efforts when we next engage that space with a follow-up program being planned for the spring.

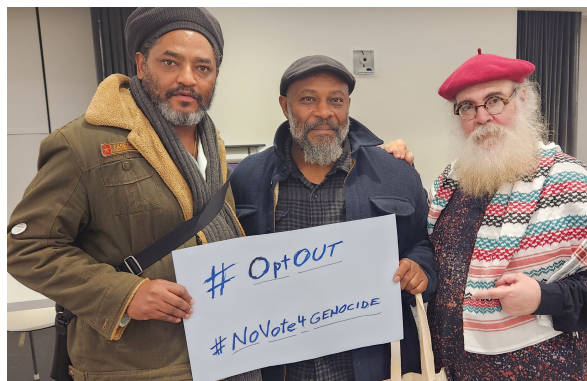
On March 13, the About the People (AtP) broadcasting collective hit the red carpet for the first time at the 11th annual Socially Relevant Film Festival, which screened AtP's special feature "Who Is Mumia?" at the Maysles Documentary Center on Malcolm X Boulevard in Harlem. Like the Peoples'



About the People Collective at Maysles

Senate, About the People emerges out of Spirit of Mandela coalition, which successfully convicted the US for its serial acts of longstanding and ongoing genocides in a historic October 2021 International

(Continued on next page)



From left to right: Shaywall Amin, Vice President Service Employees International Union Local 1199; Kali Akuno, Cooperation Jackson; and Matt Meyer, Coordinating Committee member of the Spirit of Mandela coalition. Photo taken at a book signing on April 5 at the 1199 headquarters in New York City for *Jackson Rising Redux*, edited by Meyer and Akuno.

(Peoples' Senate Northeast continued from previous page)

Tribunal. The Peoples' Senate Northeast and AtP have deepened intracoalitional bonds in recent months, as all of the Spirit of Mandela forces seek new ways to collaborate and build, so as to better carry forward the counter-genocidal mantle passed on by those giants and grandcestors—from Claudia

Jones to Sekou Odinga and beyond, across the board—upon whose sturdy shoulders we continue to stand. Keep eyes for the still-in-progress extended film on Mumia slated to drop later this year—AtP's 2nd full installment, following 2023's "Camp Muntaqim." ■

Public Transit Must Be Liberated

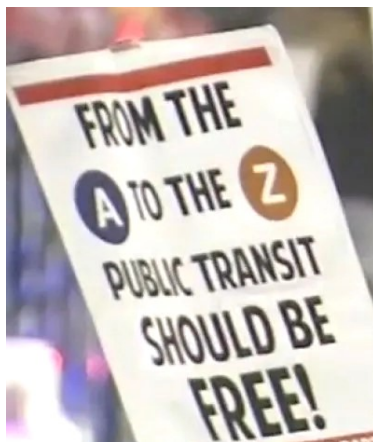
by Ashoka Jegroo

The subway is a site of struggle. The forces of oppression themselves make this clear. So, therefore, it is also clear that public transit must be liberated.

In March, New York Governor Kathy Hochul and New York City Mayor Eric Adams sent the National Guard, state troopers, and even more NYPD cops into the subway. They had already sent more cops into the subway back in 2022, despite subway crime being at historic lows. Just the overtime costs for those extra cops amounted to \$155 million.

And what was the result?

Major crime dropped by a mere 2 percent while tickets and arrests for fare evasion skyrocketed. The vast majority of those ticketed (82 percent) or arrested (92 percent) for fare evasion were Black or Brown. None of this



made anyone safer. Instead, poor and working class Black and Brown people were subjected to incarceration and immiseration.

The main function of NYC's public transit system is the transportation of workers and customers to and from the places they work and shop. It is infrastructure that primarily benefits corpora-

tions and the rich, the bosses and owners. So why shouldn't they pay for it?

The fare is just a tax on the poor and working class. It is how the costs of transporting workers and customers are imposed on the workers and customers themselves rather than on the corporations and capitalists who benefit most from the public transit system.

The fare and its enforcement are unnecessary, unjust, and unsafe. Fare evasion is justified resistance against this. The abolition of the fare, on the other hand, is both pragmatic and ideal. It would make public transit more accessible, run smoother, and safer for both transit workers and riders, particularly Black and Brown riders. It would be a victory for the forces of liberation. ■

Joining the Peoples' Senate

Joining the Peoples' Senate is a formal, but easy process. You do not give up your autonomy or your organizing strategies. Please visit spiritofmandela.org/peoples-senate-join. There you can fill in the "Interest Form" so we know who you are. Then click the box that says "Peoples' Senate Membership Agreement" (PSMA), which you can also fill in and sign at the bottom.

Those who sign the PSMA "agree to work with other member organizations and individuals in upholding the Vision & Mission Statement of the Peoples' Senate." Each signer "also agrees with and supports the political position and outcome of the 2021 International Tribunal, which found the US guilty of five counts of genocide against Black, Brown, and Indigenous peoples."

The Peoples' Senate is a multiracial, intergenerational coalition that welcomes all individuals and organizations prepared to join the work and our efforts to bring forward the voice and leadership of Black, Brown, and Indigenous peoples.

Peoples' Senate Northeast Supports Homeschooling Initiative

by Newsletter Correspondent

The Peoples' Senate is organizing to provide alternatives, for governance and for education. As part of this, we spoke with several parents who are homeschooling their children, addressing why it is needed and how Peoples' Senate can assist.



Homeschoolers in class, learning from nature.

One parent spoke to the problems in public schools, where what is being taught is what the rich want students to know. She said, youth need to know about history, and not just of New York and the US; real history, not just what's approved by existing institutions. Children need to know where they come from, in her case, having grandparents from Costa Rica. The existing schools want you to be the same, but they don't treat students in the same way.

She emphasized that she wants her children, when they are adults, to say I am a man, a woman, or whatever sexual orientation applies, but not property of the state. This means knowing about rights, who we are, about how different levels of government operate. We have to provide that education, including dealing with sports, art, music. Our efforts are revolutionary because we are teaching the next generation who they are and how to affirm their rights.

Peoples' Senate, can assist in helping our communities have more creativity on homeschooling and overcoming the obstacles people face, including organizing to have a homeschooling center and free educational resources.

Another mother talked about how the content of the International Tribunal finding the US guilty of genocide could be used as curriculum. The five charges deal with civic engagement with the law and governance, sociology of urban communities, cultural dynamics, Eurocentric culture vs. Afrocentric culture, and more. Issues like police killings, where a traffic stop leads to death, need to be looked at. Why is there aggression instead of conversation by police? People need to know their rights and how to hold those who do not uphold these rights accountable.

Mass incarceration is a serious problem. In the Bronx, police sweeps meant many people were put in jail without having committed a crime. Men of color were rounded up, no explanation, no right to communicate with parents or lawyers.

People contending with mental health or suicide issues need to be helped, not beaten or injected with tranquilizers and killed. This doesn't have to happen. There are medical deserts, with no health care for miles. Revolutionary politics for homeschoolers means knowing and teaching why laws need to be changed and why genocide happens, causes for it. Rights and responsibility, cultural dynamics, civic engagement, and law need to be taught, and the Tribunal "guilty" verdict provides a lot of information for doing this.

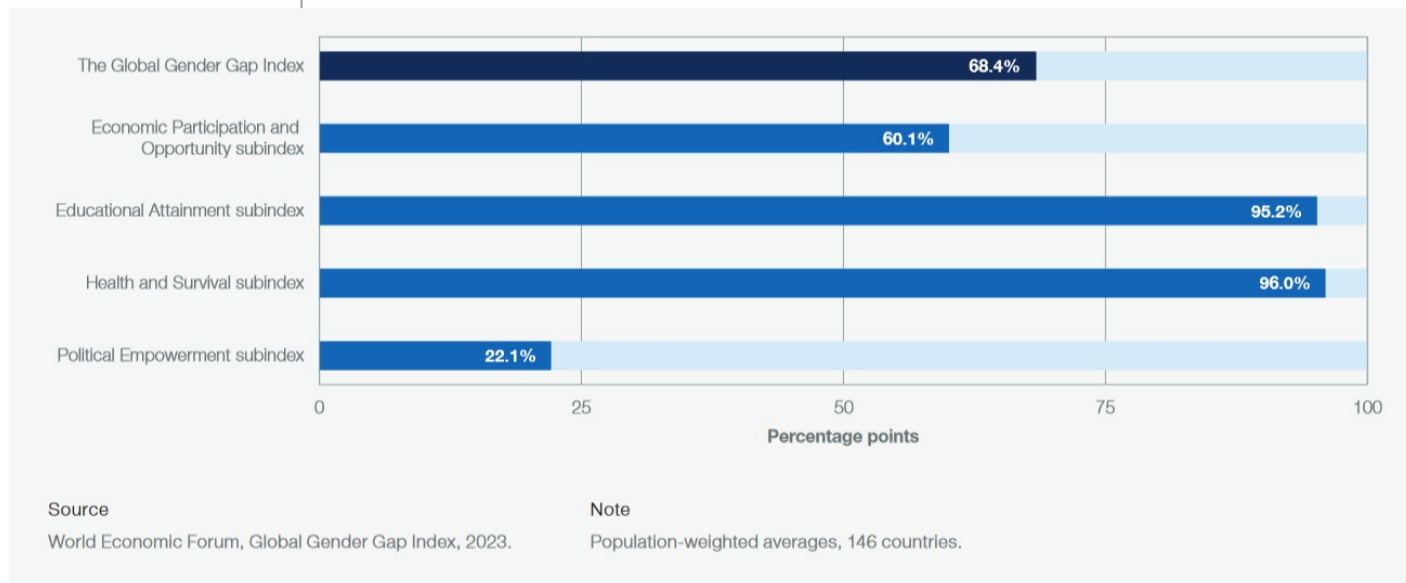
Another parent talked about the difficulties New York State imposes to keep parents from taking up homeschooling, like not allowing homeschoolers to get a Regents diploma. Homeschooling with revolutionary parents as teachers means we advocate radical change and apply that to quality education, she said. We are trying to build collectives to support homeschooling and ease difficulties for parents, and Peoples' Senate can support that.

(Continued on page 15)

Two Programs for International Women’s Day 2024 Spotlight Women’s Parity, US Elections, Cop Cities, and Palestine

by D. Johnson

FIGURE 1.2 The state of gender gaps, by subindex
Percentage of the gender gap closed to date, 2023



The annual international recognition of the struggle of women against the universal forms of gender oppression that women particularly face is commemorated on March, 8 each year. This year marks the 3rd annual commemoration of International Women’s Day for Women United Against Genocide (WUAG) and more than 30 years for the Black Workers for Justice (BWFJ) Women’s Commission Working Group (WCWG). Both organizations led programs with important but differently focused examinations of gender oppression as well as the anticapitalist and anti-imperialist struggles of today.

The BWFJ-WCWG convened two panels of women speakers—in Greenville, NC, and via zoom—who examined current

conditions facing oppressed nationalities inside the US and internationally. One panel dealt with the proliferation of Cop Cities across this country as a growing problem and highlighted the Refund Raleigh (NC) Campaign, formed in the wake of the George Floyd police murder, which calls for a refocus of the city budget away from militarizing the police to more services meeting the needs of the poor and oppressed. The second



panel addressed both the question of Palestine and the US elections, highlighting the powerful organizing of Arab and other oppressed communities in Michigan who voted “uncommitted” during the Democratic Party primary election in protest of the Biden administration policies supporting the genocide in Palestine. Speakers included Mary Hooks from the M4BL, Noor Hillou from the Palestinian Youth Movement, and Bree Newsome from Refund Raleigh among others from the BWFJ-WCWG.

Women United Against Genocide (WUAG) convened an international webinar dealing with the status of women worldwide in the 21st century and the issues of oppression and powerlessness

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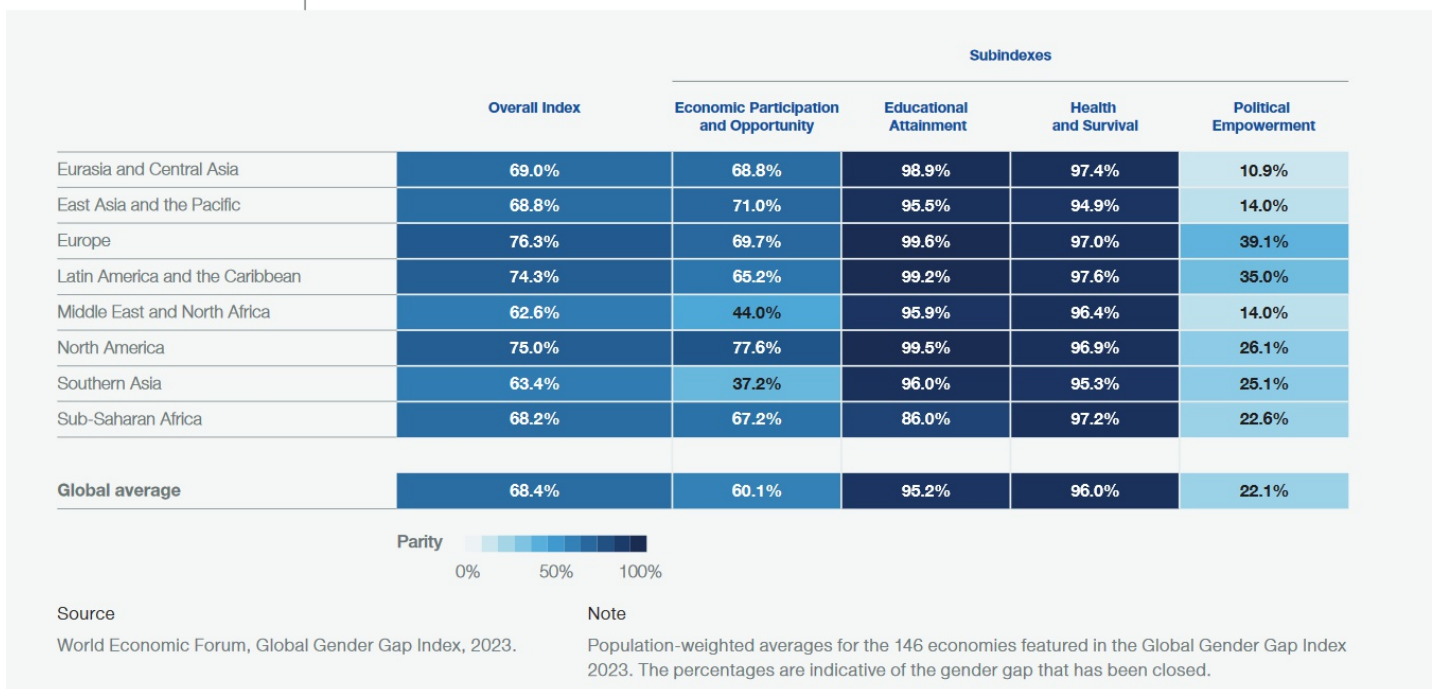
(International Womens' Day, continued from previous page)

women face in nearly every country in the world. South African gender leader and activist Bernedette Muthien joined the webinar as a special guest speaker on women's oppression along with Professor Barbara Alice Mann, a Seneca, Iroquois historian from Ohio who has studied the distinctive Iroquois culture of women's leadership and ma-

triarchy among the Iroquois people historically. Ashaki Binta, WUAG organizer and member of the Spirit of Mandela and the Black Workers for Justice reviewed some of the available data on the state of women worldwide. Her presentation reviewed the role of women's leadership in the historic national liberation struggles of the 20th century and the

need for a new paradigm in the 21st century that emphasizes parity and growing collective leadership of women in the central decision-making bodies of future struggles for national liberation and self-determination now reemerging across the globe from Palestine to Haiti and within the borders of the US imperialist state. ■

FIGURE 1.6 | Regional performance 2023, by subindex



(Malcolm X, continued from page 9)

to the public. These documents, including the evidence withheld in the trials surrounding his assassination, would help to clarify not only the story of Malcolm X's death, but also the story since then. How have they covered it up? How many people have they paid off? How many times have they silenced someone who wanted to come out?

Muhammad Aziz is also currently in the process of suing the state and federal governments for his wrongful conviction. ■



(Homeschooling, continued from page 12)

A single father emphasized the importance of reversing the impacts of genocide and raising children to be conscious about conditions and causes, like various chemical and biological warfare in communities. He said part of our revolutionary efforts are assisting parents in being able to teach their

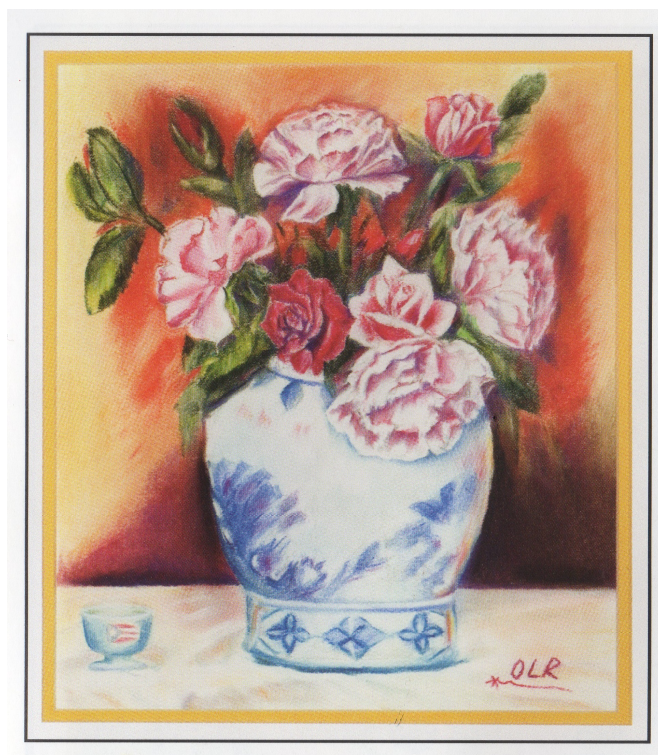
children about these problems and come together to build collectives of homeschoolers.

Peoples' Senate salutes the efforts of parents and children involved in homeschooling and is organizing to strengthen collective efforts, including providing educational materials, like speakers, videos, and written materials. ■



"Dennis Banks" by Leonard Peltier

"Vase with Flowers" by Oscar López Rivera



Calendar of Events:

- April 24—Political Prisoner Birthday: Mumia Abu-Jamal
FreeMumia.com



- May 5, and the first Sunday of every month, 1 pm—Northeast Region Peoples' Senate monthly general meeting (in person and Zoom). For more information, send an email to PSNortheast@proton.me.
- May 27—Political Prisoner Birthday: Grailing Brown (Kojo Bomani Sababu)
tinyurl.com/free-kojo.
- May 2 and first Thursday of every month (unless otherwise notified), 8 pm ET—Women United Against Genocide monthly meetings (for women only). WUAG webinar dates will be scheduled and announced. Webinars are open to all interested. For more information write info@womenunitedagainstgenocide.org.
- May 12—Political Prisoner Birthday: Alvaro Luna Hernandez (Xinachtli)
FreeAlvaro.net.
- June 8, New York City—Memorial Tribute to Sekou Odinga. Save the date. For more information, watch for news on spiritofmandela.org.

The **Spirit of Mandela** website maintains a broad movement calendar in News/Events at spiritofmandela.org. If you would like to submit an event for this calendar, please do so by filling in the form at: tinyurl.com/SoM-calendar.

Links and Resources:

Spirit of Mandela webpage: spiritofmandela.org

Peoples' Senate webpage: spiritofmandela.org/intro-peoples-senate

October 2021 International Tribunal verdict and information: tribunal2021.com

Peoples' Senate Webinar video (February 18, 2023): youtu.be/c0bXzBFbYIg