

NEW JERSEY **SOCIALIST ACTIVIST**

NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIALIST PARTY OF NEW JERSEY

JANUARY 2009

END TORTURE / CLOSE GUANTÁNAMO

The Socialist Party has joined in the “100 Days to Close Guantánamo and End Torture” campaign.

The campaign kicked off on the seventh anniversary of illegal detention, torture and abuse at the Detention facility, with actions in Washington DC organized by *Witness Against Torture*.

Members of the Northern New Jersey Socialist Party supported the DC action by calling a march and vigil in Montclair immediately after the Northern NJ Local meeting on January 11th. The local was joined by members of the



SP and Montclair Peace Vigil members on Jan 11th in Montclair Friday Montclair peace vigil at the event.

The 100 Days campaign officially kicks off on January 20th and there will be ongoing actions, forums, films and other events. For more info. check out www.100dayscampaign.org

HONOR MLK JR. AND BLACK HISTORY



Martin Luther King Jr. recognized that war, racism, and poverty all have roots in the economic system of capitalism. This system, where the few who have the most wealth make the economic decisions, would have to be replaced by a more democratic political framework. He was also aware of the intertwined history of Socialism and the civil rights movement.

The Socialist Party honors MLK Jr. this winter as we continue to struggle to fight racism, war and poverty.

END THE MASSACRE IN GAZA – NO SOLUTION THROUGH VIOLENCE

Statement of the National Action Committee of the SPUSA

The Socialist Party USA unequivocally condemns the ongoing Israeli military offensive against the people of Gaza. We call for an immediate cessation of hostilities on all sides and an immediate end to the blockade of the Gaza strip. We encourage US citizens to assist the process of peace in the region by demanding that the US government end all military aid to Israel and other Middle Eastern governments.

The Israeli military is involved in a massacre of the people of Gaza. More than one million people are trapped in the region, penned in by the Israeli Defense Forces on one side and the Egyptian military on the other. Over the past few days, more than 400 people have been killed and thousands more injured as a result of Israeli military aggression. This has resulted in a massive humanitarian crisis which has put the entire population of Gaza at risk. Today, Gaza City is a squalid ghetto under attack by overwhelming military force intent on the inflicting collective punishment on the Palestinian people “to the bitter end.”

The present humanitarian tragedy in the Gaza Strip is only a one moment in a history of Israeli state terrorism directed at the Palestinian population. Features of this conflict include arbitrary seizures of Palestinian land, destruction of homes, and the criminalization and physical expulsion of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians. This process must be ended immediately. The Socialist Party USA believes that the resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict cannot be reached through violence. The politics of terror and militarization tend to reduce the social space available for popular movements to develop. The Socialist Party USA therefore supports Israelis and Palestinians who are working toward a peaceful, equitable solution and we encourage collaborative organizing across national and ethnic borders.

The Socialist Party USA also believes that the US government is directly responsible for funding the militarization of the region and giving political cover to the overwhelming use of force by the state of Israel. Many of the tanks, planes, and helicopters, being used against the Palestinian people have been paid for with US taxpayer’s money. Indeed, tens of billions of dollars has been delivered to the state of Israel and Egypt in the form of military aid.

Socialist Activist is the newsletter of the Socialist Party of New Jersey. You can contact the SPNJ at PO Box 8622 Saddle Brook, NJ 07662 www.njsocialistparty.org

continued on page 2

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 17: Socialist Party Social - Folk music with a conscience. Featuring: David Rovics, Darren Deicide and Old Man and His Po' Buckra. FREE! - 7:00 pm @ 339 Lafayette St. 3rd Fl. (no elevator, sorry.) NYC
Info: 718-869-2279 or socialistpartynyc@gmail.com

January 22: NJ Peace Action Launches its 2009 Agenda for Peace – 7:00 pm @ Lakeland Unitarian Universalist Fellowship at 231 Parish Dr Wayne, NJ

January 24-25: Socialist Party USA National Committee Meeting - 673 Bloomfield Ave. Bloomfield, NJ. **For info.** e-mail Greg at info@njsocialistparty.org or 201-803-7574

January 26: Bergen County Peace & Justice Monthly Membership Meeting – for time/location contact Greg at gpason@bergenjustice.net or 201-803-7574

Feb. 5: Author Jeffrey B. Perry discusses "Hubert Harrison: The Voice of Harlem Radicalism" 7:00 pm @ Montclair NJ Public Library, 50 South Fullerton Ave., Montclair, NJ. The Northern NJ Local will meet in the Library "coffee shop" at 6:45 pm. Call Greg at 201-803-7574 for info.

(tentative) Feb. 15th: Art of Resistance: An art & culture event sponsored by the Northern New Jersey Socialist Party. Time/location TBA. Info will be posted on www.njsocialistparty.org. E-Mail us at info@njsocialistparty.org for up-to-date info.

Feb 19th: Help organize for Single-Payer- Meeting of Northern NJ Healthcare-Now! – 7:00 pm @ Teaneck Ethical Culture Society 687 Larch Ave. Teaneck, NJ

For more events and up-to-date info check out the SPNJ website at: www.njsocialistparty.org

Gaza continued....

The US government has provided political support in various international organizations, including the United Nations, for the Israeli state regardless of the illegality or illegitimacy of its actions. Added to this, is the continued occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan by the US military which has resulted in a massive death toll and has served to justify the use of military force.

The Socialist Party USA believes that residents of the United States have an important role to play in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. We have a responsibility to build popular movements which aim to end the US government's "special relationship" with Israel and which call for an end to the occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan. All forms of non-violent protest should be employed in this effort including divestment campaigning which features boycotts of corporations that openly support Israel. Internationally, the Socialist Party USA seeks to support popular forces throughout the Middle East who are working towards building democratic secular societies. Democratic Socialism, with its emphasis on international solidarity and human rights, offers the possibility of moving beyond the occupier's logic of violence, criminalization and oppression.

No to Israeli Military Aggression!

End the Siege of Gaza!

Free Association of all Peoples' of the Middle East!

End the Occupation of Iraq and Afghanistan!

Report Back From NYC March Against The Gaza Massacre

By Dave W. (Northern NJ Local)

It was a December afternoon with spring like temperatures. However, while many in the Tristate area were experiencing an impromptu spring people in Gaza were experiencing a winter of bombings and many deaths. While so many New Yorkers came outside to enjoy the warmth so many other New Yorkers took to the streets in outrage at the Massacre in Gaza. A diverse group of organizations were adequately represented. From Palestinian nationals, Arab American groups, and students to Socialists, Anarchists, and even Hasidic Jews outraged at the blood shed being committed in their name by ultra religious nationalists.

The March Began at 50th Street and proceeded down 5th Avenue and ended at the Israeli Consulate. Chants included "while you're shopping bombs are dropping" directed towards passers by, "Palestine will be free from the river to the sea" and my personal favorite "Damn Damn Israel Shame Shame USA". However, the march was not without its small share of tension because of the diversity of view points on other matters. For example a traditional Arab American verbally displayed his distaste with many people wanting to see socialism in Palestine's future. Though I do not support his conservative outlook I understood where he was coming from in letting the Palestinians as a whole determine their own destiny. But whether that destiny be a progressive socialist state, a conservative religious one, or somewhere in between the Palestinian people will not have that power to decide until this administration and many others world wide discontinue funding to Israel and hold Israel accountable for their crimes against humanity.
THE STRUGGLE CONTINUES. - FREE PALESTINE NOW!

SUBSCRIBE TO THE SOCIALIST



1 year subscription: \$10
Send check/money order to:

The Socialist/ SPUSA
339 Lafayette St. #303
New York, NY 10012
or subscribe on-line at:

www.socialistparty-usa.org/socialist/



Socialist Party of New Jersey
PO Box 8622 Saddle Brook, NJ 07663
www.njsocialistparty.org

Socialist Party USA
339 Lafayette St. #303 New York, NY 10012
www.socialistparty-usa.org