Tens of thousands to protest war criminal Netanyahu's visit to Washington, DC
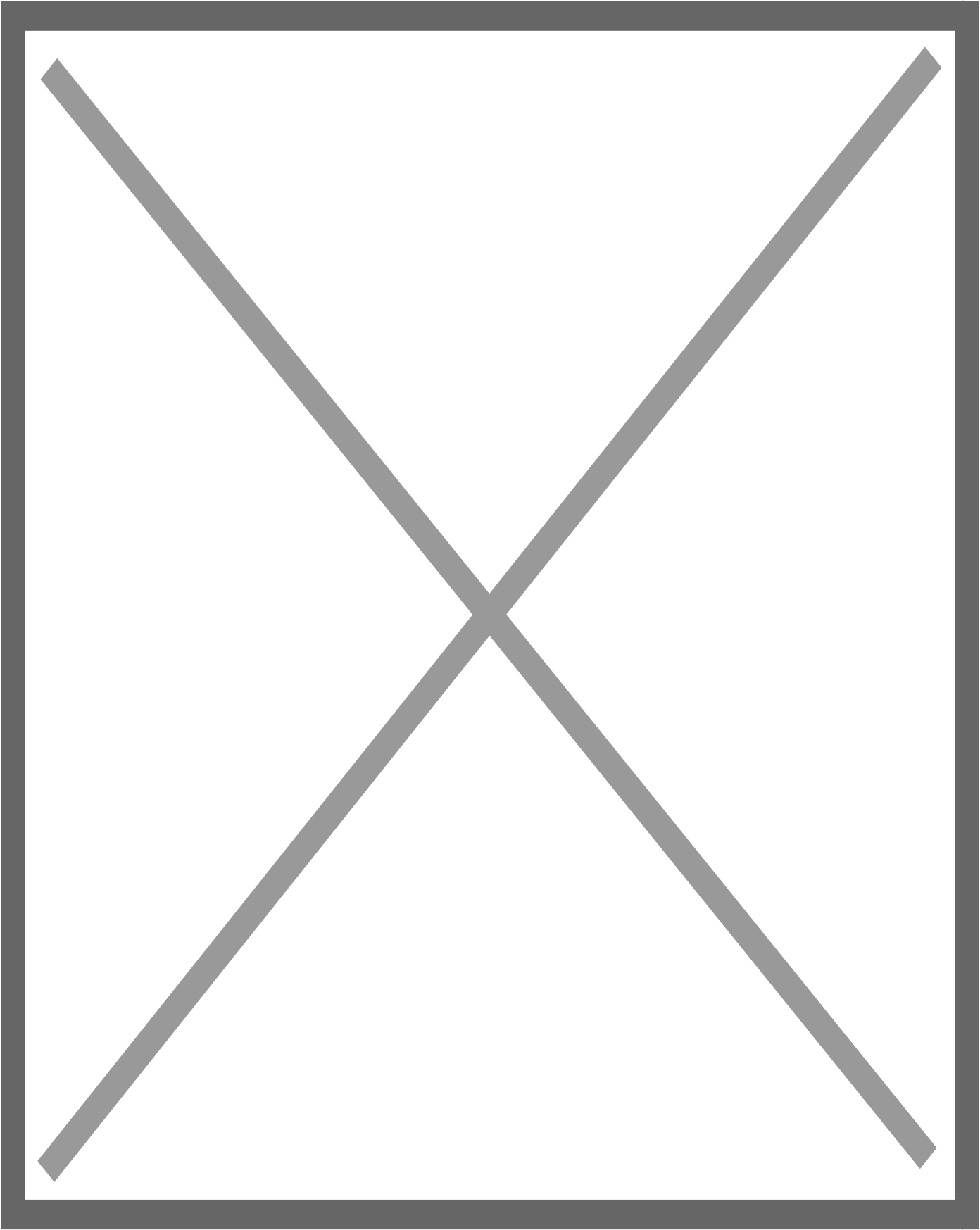
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Washington, July 21 (RHC)-- Tens of thousands of activists are gathering in Washington, DC to protest the U.S. support of Israel's genocide, and this time, the visit of Benjamin Netanyahu.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is set to speak on Wednesday, July 24th, in front of the United States Congress following an invitation by leading politicians from both mainstream parties.

Netanyahu is considered a war criminal internationally, with the ICC expected to issue a warrant for his arrest within the next two weeks -- however, he is completely safe in the United States, which is not a state party to the Rome Statute of the ICC.

Both the Israeli Prime Minister and Defense Minister Yoav Gallant are wanted for "war crimes and crimes against humanity." In May, Chief ICC Prosecutor Karim Khan applied for arrest warrants for the two officials, which are expected to be issued within the next two weeks.

In response to Netanyahu's scheduled visit, a mass mobilization, which is set to surround the U.S. Capitol building, is being organized by several grassroots organizations including American Muslims for Palestine, the Palestinian Youth Movement, the People's Forum, ANSWER Coalition, the Palestinian Feminist Collective, the Arab Resource and Organizing Center, Al-Awda: The Palestine Right to Return Coalition, US Palestinian Community Network, US Campaign for Palestinian Rights, International Jewish Anti-Zionist Network, Palestinian American Organizations Network, American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee, the Palestinian American Women's Association, CodePink, Jewish Voice for Peace, Palestinian Assembly for Liberation, and Writers Against the War on Gaza.

"July 24th will be remembered as a dark stain on the legacy of the 118th Congress. Inviting a war criminal to speak in our legislative halls while he is committing genocide is a new low for this body," said Mohamad Habehh, Director of Development at American Muslims for Palestine. "Schools, hospitals, houses of worship, and residential neighborhoods have been leveled by relentless Israeli bombardment. Since the announcement of this speech, we have seen the bombing and killing increase. Congressional leaders have supported this genocide in Gaza in both word and deed. Not only have they excused the atrocities Israel is committing, they have passed billions of dollars in funding to enable them. This has empowered Netanyahu to continue committing these crimes and, by inviting him, Congress is sending a clear message to the American people and the rest of the world, that criminals will be rewarded and red carpets will be rolled out for them."

"Netanyahu and the members of Congress he will be addressing are partners in crime," said Hatem Abu Dayyeh, National Coordinator of USPCN.

"Israel's killing spree in Gaza would not be possible were it not for the constant stream of weapons being provided by the US government," Abu Dayyeh continued. "These missiles, bullets and bombs are funded through acts of Congress and delivered by the Biden administration. We are gathering to express our outrage not only with Netanyahu, but also with the US political elite who are indispensable to Israel's ability to massacre Palestinians."

According to Brian Becker, National Director of the ANSWER Coalition, "The majority of people in this country want a ceasefire. But instead, Netanyahu and his friends in Congress are threatening to expand the war with an invasion of Lebanon."

"The U.S. corporate media always portrays Israel as the victim, but the reality is that the fighting along the Israel-Lebanon border is a result of the genocide being committed in Gaza." Becker stated. "The only way to ensure that a devastating regional war does not break out is for Israel to immediately end its attack on Gaza and withdraw its troops."

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