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PRESS RELEASE
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AMAZON WORKER INTIFADA: Organizers Flyer Amazon's Bellevue Rekognition Office, Demand Amazon Stop Scanning Palestinian Children

BELLEVUE, WA — On November 23rd, the Amazon Worker Intifada (AWI) distributed flyers and raised a banner outside Amazon's Dynamo office in Bellevue, home to 28 of the 50 engineers developing and maintaining Rekognition. The action came in direct response to a Guardian report exposing "israel's" use of Amazon Rekognition to scan 3.5 million Palestinian faces to surveil and target them throughout the “israeli” genocide in Gaza. We came to raise awareness among the Rekognition team and neighboring teams of Amazon's collaboration, and of how Amazon used their labor without their consent to facilitate "israel's" genocide, which continues today as Palestinians face bombardment, displacement, and starvation by the IOF.

Ahead of the action at 1:21 pm PT, AWI emailed the Rekognition team directly, inviting them to come downstairs and meet us.

At 4:30 pm PT, as we handed out flyers, we discussed the recent revelations. Workers reacted with shock and expressed support for our petition demanding Amazon cut facial recognition services to "israel." One worker said "you guys are doing great, I will join you," while another exclaimed "I support Palestine!"

A contingent of organizers split off from the main group and went down into the office's parking garage, tucking flyers under the windshield wipers of each car. As workers exited the elevators, AWI members handed them flyers and stickers before being escorted out by Amazon security.

When a shuttle bus arrived to take workers back to Seattle, a community member boarded and placed a flyer on every seat.

The Guardian report is only the latest glimpse into Amazon's long history of collaboration with "israel," materialized through billion-dollar contracts and secret agreements like

Project Nimbus and Project Sirius, and acquisitions of “israeli” companies like Annapurna Labs and Decart. As the IOF itself has admitted, including in the Guardian report, the genocide in Gaza was made possible using Amazon's technology. AWI will continue to escalate, refusing to let business as usual continue, until Amazon meets all our demands, including stopping sales of Rekognition to the IOF.

The Amazon Worker Intifada is a grassroots, worker-led movement organizing to pressure Amazon to stop providing "israel" with the technology key to sustaining its genocide in Gaza and maintaining its occupation, ethnic cleansing, and apartheid of Palestine.

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