Local advocacy groups organized a march Friday outside of Rep. Ro Khanna's office in Santa Clara to protest Khanna's alleged lack of support for the people of Palestine.

Khanna represents the 17th Congressional District of California, which includes some cities in Santa Clara and Alum Rock counties, according to his website.

About 10 people attended the march, which was organized by members of advocacy groups Human Empowerment and Radical Optimism (HERO), Party for Socialism and Liberation (PSL), and United Against War and Militarism.

The goal of Friday's event was to raise awareness and push people to be "more involved" in the protest against Khanna's "contradictory actions" toward anti-war efforts in Palestine, according to the event flyer posted on the HERO Tent Instagram account.

Dayton Andrews, United Against War and Militarism organizer, helped facilitate the protest in solidarity with the people of Palestine.

"We came out here today, brought some handmade signs, invited folks to come out and we gave speeches hoping to publicize and really encourage people to get involved," Andrews said.

Portia Lazkani, a protestor protected against Khanna for allegedly having "anti-war progressive" views, said she came out to this protest to have a "democratic discussion" with protesters around Khanna's office building, saying Khanna "maintained a progressive stance in American politics to support Palestine."

"After an attempt to open the locked front entrance of Khanna's office building by tugging at the door handle, Robbins and protesters continued to express their personal reasons for marching."

"I'm an immigrant and so I'm fully aware of the displacement and destabilization that the United States government does on other countries," Robbins said.

"In Palestine, I can feel for them, and I think we need to be in solidarity with all oppressed people in the world," Khanna has described himself as "progressive-capitalist" and has taken "progressive stances" on climate change and the economy, according to a May 16, 2019 Fox Business article.

Robins said she believes Khanna has appeared publicly to make himself appear progressive, but doesn't actually do "anything substantial."

"He didn't do this pathetic little press release where he stated with two Palestinian girls, which is ridiculous because he supports the government that has displaced these women," Andrews said.

Khanna announced in a Feb. 17 Twitter post that he traveled to Palestine and spoke with students about international growth and an increased investment in Palestinian education and jobs.

"We have a right to be here and make our demands, it puts more pressure, Khanna needs to listen to us," Lazkani said.

Lazkani led a chant, which protesters loudly recited through Khanna's office building parking lot.

"Not another nickel, not another dime, no more money for Israeli crimes," Lazkani said.

Dayton Andrews
United Against War and Militarism organizer

Khanna expressed his opposition towards the BDS movement in 2019 when he voted for House Resolution 246, which condemned the movement in a bipartisan majority according to congressional records.

Legislation
The absence of Khanna's signature on a House of Representatives Bill (H.R.2396) was another one of the protesters' main grievances during their speeches.

The bill, named "Defending the Human Rights of Palestinian Children and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation," was introduced on April 15, 2021.

The legislation would limit U.S. assistance to Israel, and prohibit the Israeli government from using U.S. grant funds to support military detention or interrogation of children, according to the text of the bill.

The bill has approximately 32 co-sponsors excluding Sanctions movement
Several protesters raised concerns about Khanna's perceived lack of participation in the Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions movement.

"Anything else is like he can't do enough, it's controversial, but simultaneously participating in the Boycott movement means standing with the Palestinian people," Nazly Elbeshir, Party for Socialism and Liberation and Families Living Under Israeli Military Occupation, added.

The Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement promotes the boycotting of Israeli-produced goods, divestment from the Israeli economy, and government sanctions on Israel to force Israel to comply with international law and cease its oppression of Palestinians, according to the BDS website.

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By Joaquin De La Torre

Bright, complex and unafraid to reference her pop predecessors, English singer-songwriter Charli XCX's fifth studio album "CRASH" is both an anthological review of pop music and a push into its future.

Critics of the genre frequently dismiss the artistry that goes into creating a pop album with the tired "rockism" argument that pop is inauthentic and inferior to other genres, according to an April 17, 2015 Washington Post article.

Charli XCX cheekily retorted on her Twitter account, according to an April 16, 2021 tweet that numeros pop powerhousehouses from the '80s, '90s and early 2000s era of pop music and a few contemporary artists inspired her new album.

This list includes Janet Jackson, Britney Spears, according to an April 17, 2015 Billboard article.

Charli also said in an interview with The Fader that the process of putting together her new album was similar to building a house.

Her arms are stretched towards the veiled windshield as she goes into the car as if she is getting ready to claw through the glass with her black stiletto nails. The title track "Crash" is an electrifying introduction to the album and features a classic '90s Jackson stare drum that can be heard in songs by the artist including "Control.”

"I'm about to crash into the traffic, Gonna take you with me," Charli sings in a robotic cadence that breaks up almost every other syllable. "I'm high voltage, self-destructive.”

The first few of the five '80s-inspired songs include co-writing "You’re like an ocean breeze, Better, Faster, Stronger” sound.

"Lighting" was co-written by Rami Yacoub, whose accolades include co-writing "Baby One More Time" for Britney Spears, according to the November 11, 2015 Billboard article.

Despite the song's irresistible flow and excellent use of high-hat drum beats, it's one of the weaker tracks on the album. With a high energy sample like "Cry For You," the producers did the song a disservice by slowing it down to an almost ballad-like level when it had the potential to be a club anthem.

Charli redeems this misstep later with the track "Cry For You" by Swedish Europop artist September, and is the first single on the album to give listeners the early 2000s pop sound.

"Beg For You" plays into the overall album's themes of love and power and what it feels like to lose control.

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"You're like an ocean breeze, coming and going just as you please." Sawayama sings. "Separated by a degree, hesitating, please," Sawayama sings.

"Cry For You" was produced with a sample of Daft Punk 2001 song "Blaster," Better, Faster, Stronger” sound.

"Lighting" was co-written by Rami Yacoub, whose accolades include co-writing "Hit Me Baby One More Time" for Britney Spears, according to the November 11, 2015 Billboard article.


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"You're like an ocean breeze, coming and going just as you please." Sawayama sings. "Separated by a degree, hesitating," I'll lose you so far out of reach."
The song has an infectious beat that can transform any room into a dimly lit club, where the sweat of strangers is dripping down the walls.

The hairs on my neck stood up when the music faded out and a word with the same set of letters, "Can't help", blared from American Idol. "It's a yes from me, dawg."

March 17

"Used To Know Me", which features a sample of the '90s hit "Used To Know Me," by American singer-songwriter Cyndi Lauper.

On the track "Used To Know Me," Charli understood the assignment perfectly. The song has an infectious beat that can transform any room into a dimly lit club, where the sweat of strangers is dripping down the walls. This certified club banger tells the story of a person freed from a toxic, controlling partner and gives vibes similar to "Girls Just Want To Have Fun" by Cyndi Lauper.

"Hold me back, tied me up inside a cage. Had to change my life 'cause I knew you'd stay the same," Charli sings in the song.

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Sunken ship serves as sealife shelter

By Saumya Monga

In 1915, Captain Ernest Shackleton and his crew embarked on a harrowing journey no one ever dared to go on before: a land crossing of Antarctica. As they were traveling to Antarctica, his ship the Endurance got stuck in ice and sank in the Weddell Sea. From there, Shackleton and his crew escaped on a life raft to a nearby island.

As interesting as the story of Shackleton’s voyage was, the story of the Endurance ship was even more intriguing. The ship was thought to be “long gone” considering it sank in one of the most difficult regions to search for a wreck, the Weddell Sea. The Weddell Sea is densely packed with ice which has made exploration of the region difficult, according to Brittanica.

Remarkably, the shipwreck was found on March 9, about 108 years since the ship sunk, after a month-long search organized by the Falklands Maritime Heritage Trust, according to a March 15 New York Times article.

“It’s 10,000 feet deep in the area, the Antarctic that’s always covered in sea ice. And so it’s just a very inhospitable environment to go trying to search for a shipwreck,” said Scott Hamilton, professor of ichthyology at San Jose State University’s Moss Landing Marine Laboratory in a phone call.

Despite the temperature ranging from 50 to 28 degrees Fahrenheit, non-profit environmental advocacy group Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition (ASOC) webpage.

Artificial reefs can provide a structure for invertebrates to grow on to develop communities that are little functioning ecosystems, and that is one of the benefits, if you will, of putting structure on an otherwise flat, relatively flat, sea floor.

Richard Starr
Moss Landing Marine Laboratory researcher

With the Endurance’s structure in pristine condition, the ship acted as an artificial reef and attracted an abundance of marine life, some of which included species that had never been seen in the Weddell Sea.

Artificial reefs can provide a structure for invertebrates to grow on to develop communities that are little functioning ecosystems, and that is one of the benefits, if you will, of putting structure on an otherwise flat, relatively flat, sea floor.” Starr said. “Because of the structure, they get them up off the bottom, where they might be smothered by sediment movements and keep them in relatively clean, clear, ocean water.”

One of the invertebrates, organisms that don’t have a spinal column, found living off the shipwreck were sea lilies, organisms with thin stalks and hair-like structures resembling flowers, according to a March 9 Vox article.

The most important part of artificial reefs is that they provide a bunch of nooks and crannies for a bunch of different things to start hiding and then once those things are there, then they form the base of the food chain and then bigger fish start eating them and then bigger fish start eating the smaller fish,” Bri Sotkovsky, a grad student at the Moss Landing Marine Laboratory, said in a phone call.

“The life first to colonize the shipwreck, you know, that attracts more and more life to it… So yeah, I think the shipwreck grows on to develop communities that are little functioning ecosystems, and that is one of the benefits, if you will, of putting structure on an otherwise flat, relatively flat, sea floor.”

“Ocean acidification is mostly affected by the higher the temperature of the ocean gets the less dissolved oxygen in the West, the warmer that the ocean gets, the less oxygen it can hold.” Sotkovsky said. “And so there’s less and less oxygen being able to be dissolved in the water, and so less creatures can live there as well.”

Hamilton said marine life is threatened by climate change which is detrimental to humans because much of the oxygen humans breathe comes from the ocean.

Approximately 50% of oxygen comes from the oceans, according to the U.S. National Ocean Service webpage.

The National Ocean Service provides data, tools and services that support coastal economies, according to its webpage.

In the icy Antarctic waters lies the Endurance which has surely endured a lot and because of its ability to preserve its structure the sunken ship has allowed marine life to flourish, giving us all a chance to breathe more deeply.

“We just want our children and our grandchildren and everyone to continue to see life,” Sotkovsky said. “It’s just… it’s pretty impossible for one creature like humans to live healthily in an unhealthy ecosystem.”

Follow Saumya on Twitter @MongaSaumya