

Stop bombing Gaza!

After the pause in fighting in order to exchange prisoners for hostages, Israel has now intensified its bombing of the Gaza strip. As of this writing, at least 16,000 Palestinians have been massacred by Israeli airstrikes and shelling since October 7. Thousands more are missing and feared buried in rubble. And some 70% of those killed are women and children. Further, nearly 80% of Gaza's 2.3 million people have been forced to abandon their homes with only the clothes on their backs. First, the Israeli military told them to move south, mainly on foot, but it bombed the south too. Now it tells them to move closer to the Egyptian border and the Mediterranean coast, but it still bombs them. No place is safe. Moreover, Israel began cutting off desperately needed food, water, fuel and medical supplies some two months ago. All of this is criminal, and the bombing must be stopped!

Meanwhile, prior to October 7 the Jewish settler land-grabbing had been increasing in the West Bank, with the settler population reaching 1/2 million. Now, with the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) supplying the settlers with rifles and often directly participating in their atrocities, 248 Arab-Palestinians have been murdered in less than two months.

Zionism means racism

Before the 20th Century, Jewish Palestinians (then a small minority) had lived peacefully with their Arab neighbors for centuries. But then, centered in Europe, the Zionist project to establish a Jewish state in historic Palestine arose, and it soon gained the backing of Britain and other imperialist powers.* But to establish such a state the majority Arab population had to be driven out and replaced with Jewish settlers

from eastern Europe and elsewhere. Thus, in 1938 David Ben Gurion, who would become Israel's first prime minister, said, "I am for compulsory transfer; I do not see anything immoral in it." That is, nothing immoral about using military force to expel at least 750,000 Arab Palestinians, destroy over 530 of their villages and massacre 15,000 of them in order to set up a Jewish state in 1948, from this Zionist standpoint. Nor is there anything immoral about Netanyahu's Likud Party program saying that "between the Sea and the Jordan there will only be Israeli sovereignty"—which on the ground means a huge system of apartheid separation walls; a segregated road system in the West Bank, where Arabs are only allowed to use certain roads and must stop at armed checkpoints; discrimination against the Arabs within Israel itself, where they make up 21% of the population. There is also racial discrimination against immigrants from the Horn of Africa, and violent repression of their protests by the police and gangs of Zionist thugs.

For one secular and democratic state in historic Palestine

This simple democratic demand has been raised by the Palestinian national movement ever since the 1930s, with the demand that the refugees have the right to return added after the 1948 Nakba (catastrophe). It's what Yasser Arafat—when he was still a revolutionary democrat—advocated in his famous 1974 speech to the UN General Assembly. And it has won the support of consistent democrats around the world, including anti-Zionist Jews in Israel itself.

But Biden opposes such solution

Alongside arming Israel to the teeth and

hugging Netanyahu, Biden has been posturing as a man of peace by reviving the dead, i.e., the two-state solution to the Palestinian national question that would supposedly come out of the 1993 Oslo Accords. But while the Zionist leaders agreed to talk about peace with the Palestine Liberation Organization, they were never going to agree to letting the refugees return to Israeli soil, nor were they going to agree to having any kind of viable Palestinian state, that is, peace only on the condition of Palestinian dependency and acceptance of Zionism.

And Hamas opposes Palestinian Liberation

It is led by fundamentalist-reactionaries who won the 2006 election with 44% of the vote, but there has not been another election in 17 years. They're now corrupt, they send the police to crush protests, and they try to force their morality onto the Gazan women, LGBTQ people and youth. Meanwhile, while resistance to occupation is justified, Hamas's strategy has been to indiscriminately lob missiles into Israel that usually killed civilians. The October 7 Al-Aqsa Flood raid continued this strategy, but this time Hamas murdered hundreds of innocent Jewish-Israelis, dozens of Arab-Israelis, and at least 50 migrant workers, most of whom were from Thailand. It also took at least 242 civilians hostage.

So what Hamas did on October 7 was a crime, and the fact that the Israeli crimes are bigger should not be used to justify it. What's more, this crime acted to push Israeli Jews into the arms of Netanyahu and the worst ultra-Zionists, who conflate the entire Palestinian national struggle with Hamas, and who use this to to

justify their present slaughter in Gaza.

Join and help build the movement in solidarity with the Palestinian people!

This movement has exploded globally since October 7, with really huge demonstrations in several countries. It identifies with the Palestinian cause, e.g., the chant “in our millions, in our billions, we're all Palestinians!” And since “Genocide Joe” Biden is giving Israel billions of dollars in military aid, including the two-thousand pound bombs now being dropped on the Gazan masses, demonstrators in this country are demanding “Not a penny, not a dime, for Israeli war crimes!”

* For more on the history of the Zionist project, see <https://www.comunistvoice.org/31cZionism.html>.

Demonstrate every Saturday at 2:00 pm at the Westlake Center (4th & Pine)! Look for other pro-Palestinian events at <https://www.facebook.com/people/Falastiniyat/100081689528945/> and <https://www.facebook.com/SuperUw/>.

Spread the word!

Detroit/ Seattle Workers' Voice email list

For more about the struggles of oppressed peoples, the workers' and anti-racist movements, the environmental crisis, and the crisis of the radical left, subscribe to the *D/SWV* list. To subscribe, which is free, send a request to mail@www.comunistvoice.org. Also see the Communist Voice Organization website at www.comunistvoice.org

Seattle Worker's Voice, December 7, 2023