

Denounce the Israeli barbarism!

Stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people of Gaza!

Protest and blockade the Israeli ship visit on Aug. 20 and 22!

For seven years the Israeli government has imposed a land, sea and air blockade on the 1.8 million Palestinians of the small and crowded Gaza strip in order to “punish” them for electing Hamas in the 2006 Palestinian elections. And the new Egyptian military dictators, who hate Hamas for their own reasons, have tightened the blockade in the south. Now, Israel has carried out a brutal military assault upon these imprisoned people for the third time in six years. It's the worst yet: some 1,900 people killed, most of them civilians; 10,000 injured; a quarter of the population displaced; more devastation of their fragile infrastructure. A truce is now in effect, but the blockade continues, and the Zionist Israeli state is sure to commit more atrocities as long as it continues to exist.

What is Israel?

Israel is the product of the early 20th Century political Zionist project to set up a Jewish state on Arab land. This was accomplished through settler colonialism (supported by British imperialism) and UN's 1948 formal partition of Palestine: an undemocratic act supported by all the big imperialist powers, including the pseudo-communist (revisionist) USSR. Then, when the neighboring Arab states immediately launched a war on them the Zionists grabbed still more Palestinian land as they drove out some 800,000 Arab Palestinians. (*See <http://www.comunistvoice.org/31cZionism.html> for more on Israel's history.*)

66 years later these refugees and their descendants survive in camps all over the region, including in Gaza. The Zionists refuse to let them return because in order to have a Jewish state with democratic pretensions, Arabs must be kept as a minority.

Leading Up to the Renewed Slaughter

By creating facts on the ground, the Netanyahu government continues to pursue the Zionist vision Israel's “founding fathers” openly spoke of: a Jewish state that included *all* of historic Palestine. Thus, more and more Jewish settlements are being built in the West Bank, East Jerusalem and the Golan Heights, with the Palestinians of the West Bank slated to be divided into tiny enclaves while “Zone C” is completely taken by Israel, and while the residents of Gaza are to be permanently cut off from the rest of the Palestinians.

Meanwhile, Hamas has been thrown into financial crisis in large part because it could no longer tax goods brought

through the tunnels destroyed by Egypt. And from this weakened position, in April it made a unity pact with Fatah/PLO/PA. This is a shaky pact under which the PA has refused to pay some 46,000 Gazan civil servants formerly employed by Hamas, but it does place the separated territories of Gaza and the West Bank under a single governing body and calls for new Palestinian elections. The Israeli leaders didn't like this pact. Among other things, elections would bring out the just Palestinian nationalist and democratic aspirations which the Zionists must crush in order to accomplish their expansionist aims.

Then, when unknown elements kidnapped and murdered three Jewish-settler youths in early June, with no evidence Netanyahu shouted Hamas! With this pretext the military arrested hundreds of Palestinians--including most of Hamas' West Bank leaders--and killed several people, including in a targeted attack that killed six Hamas members. Only after all that did Hamas fire rockets. Their rockets are largely ineffective, but the Zionists then used this as further excuse to go on their murderous rampage.

The Palestinian People Stood Fast Against the Israeli Zionist Onslaught

But this has come at a political price for the Israeli government. 64 of its soldiers have been killed—not by rockets, but by the close-quarter resistance put up in Gaza! Palestinians in the West Bank and everywhere have mounted angry protests. There have been protests inside Israel, where some soldiers exposed and denounced IDF war crimes and reservists refused duty. And hundreds of thousands of people have taken to the streets globally.

In the United States we have a special responsibility to further build this global movement.

Israel as a Servant of U.S. Imperialism

The U.S. government also has Gazan blood on its hands. It is Israel's largest arms supplier, e.g., the F-16s and Apache helicopters used to bomb and strafe the Gazans. It also gives them loan guarantees and grants, plus diplomatic and other political support. In fact, tiny Israel is the largest cumulative recipient of U.S. aid since World War II. This is because along with the Egyptian military and the Saudi Royal family, the Israeli state serves as a pillar in the U.S. imperialist strategy of dominating the oil-rich region and its trade routes.

This is a bi-partisan strategy: e.g. the unanimous July Senate resolution supporting Israel; the near unanimous

early-August Congressional vote giving Israel more military aid right when it was massacring Gazans by the hundreds.

There Is a Solution to Never-ending Wars in the Middle East:

Replacing the Zionist state with one secular (non-religious) and democratic state for all of historic Palestine: right of return for the driven-out Arabs and one person, one vote!

This one-state solution is in the interests of not just the Arab Palestinians, but also the broad masses of Jews in present-day Israel. In a secular state they could still have synagogues and practice religion. But from Zionism they get nothing but militarism, endless wars and shame. Also,

like the capitalist states everywhere, in recent years the great Jewish state has been implementing an austerity program against the masses. This is driving many Jews into the kind of poverty they've never before known in Israel, while the rich only get richer.

In 2011 this situation gave rise to the largest protest movement in Israel's history, the "social justice" protests. But such movements are opposed by the Jewish state and dragged down by the racist poison of Zionism. To build them into something more powerful requires standing up for the rights and interests of the specially oppressed Arabs inside Israel (nearly 25% of the population), for the large number of super-exploited Asian and African workers in Israel (more than 300,000), and for the freedom of the Palestinian people now relegated to the "territories."

A secular and democratic state will not solve the class issue. It will reveal it more openly, thereby providing better conditions for the Arab and Jewish workers and other toilers to wage their class struggle. This will include the fight against continuing racism, oppression of women, and religious bigotry.

Solidarity With the Palestinian People!

The two-state "solution" opted for by the PLO a generation ago has proven bankrupt. The Zionists only dragged out the talks for years and decades as they continued to grab land, build walls, etc. And no matter

how much the Palestinian negotiators gave up, the Zionist were never going to allow the right of return. But Fatah/PLO did get the right to act as a Palestinian police force that helped Israel suppress Palestinian protests against Zionist outrages, and to collect taxes and feather their nests as Palestinian authorities. They acted this way because they had come to represent Palestinian bourgeois seeking an accommodation with the Zionists so they could get on with their business of making money.

Hamas also represents Palestinian business interests, and its Islamism is hardly liberating, especially for Palestinian women. Moreover, when Hamas spokesmen declare that "All Israelis [meaning Israeli Jews] have now become legitimate targets," (Abu Zuhri on July 3) this harms the Palestinian cause by driving Jewish working people into the arms of the Zionists.

But our solidarity is fundamentally with the Palestinian masses in their struggle to end Zionist oppression, not with Hamas or Fatah/PLO/PA. Indeed, we think special support should be given to secular and democratic groups which get organized independent of the Hamas and the PA grouping, and who struggle to find a way out of the impasse the movement has been in.

Meanwhile, at home, solidarity work is first and foremost a question of spreading the truths of what is going on in the Middle East among the workers and other oppressed people in this country. Boycotts, divestment and sanctions against Israel, direct actions, etc., are dependent on this political work.

This is part of stepping up our struggle against the common enemy we share with the Palestinians: the U.S. imperialist ruling class. While it sacrifices the Palestinians on the alter of the U.S. strategy for world domination, it sacrifices us on the altar of its domestic profit-making. Thus, speed-up in the work-places, wage-cutting and austerity; lack of rights for immigrants and deportations; racial discrimination and police murders; environmental devastation and more. In organizing our movements against these products of capitalism we should be thankful for the inspiration provided by the Palestinian people as they fight from one generation to the next. If they can do that, so can we.

A vessel owned by Zim Shipping, Israel's largest shipping company, plans to unload freight Aug. 20 in Tacoma and Aug. 22 in Seattle—both dates subject to change. But solidarity activists are determined to protest and stop them! For details, updates and car pool information, watch <https://www.facebook.com/events/1447374682195857/> and blocktheboatnw.wordpress.com.

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