

On Martin Luther King Day -

Stand with the Palestinian People!

**Monday, January 15 at Garfield High School (400 23rd Ave.)
Martin Luther King Day Rally at 11:00 am and March at 12:30 pm**

The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) have now massacred close to 23,000 Palestinians in the small and densely populated Gaza Strip since October 7. Additionally, another 7,000 people are listed as missing, with a large number of them probably dead and buried in the rubble. Most of those killed have been civilians, with roughly 70% being women and children. Another 58,000 are estimated to have been wounded. Further, some 85% of Gaza's 2.3 million people have been internally displaced, i.e., they're homeless and cold. There is lack of food, clean water and fuel due to the Israeli blockade. And help for the sick, maimed and wounded? The World Health Organization reported that just nine out of 36 health facilities in Gaza were operating at the beginning of this year, all only partially and all in the south.

Collective punishment

The Israeli government justifies this revenge fest on civilians on the grounds that Hamas slaughtered 764 civilians in Israel on October 7—which Hamas indeed did, and which should be condemned. (1) But the reality is that Israel is using Nazi-style collective punishment of an entire population in response.

Moreover, Hamas didn't launch its October 7 killing spree from the Palestinian West Bank, yet Israel has subsequently stepped up its settler colonialism there, with the IDF and settlers killing 307 Palestinians, including 79 children, in less than three months. Furthermore, numerous Israeli politicians have been talking about forcing untold numbers of Gazans into Egypt or

elsewhere for months, and now there are reports that the Netanyahu government has been secretly trying to persuade Congo and some other countries to accept thousands of Gazans. They call this a “voluntary migration” plan, but after Israel has made most of the Gaza Strip uninhabitable by destroying its infrastructure and housing and by denying essentials, there would be little that is voluntary about it.

Zionism is racism and expansionism

Both Israel's creeping annexation of the West Bank and the idea of a “voluntary migration” of the Gazans to other countries flow from the original Zionist vision of establishing a Jewish state in Palestine by driving out the Arab population. (2) They often called this “transferring” the Arabs, and before the 1948 founding of the Jewish state, Israel's first prime minister, David Ben-Gurion, put it this way: “*The Arabs will have to go, but one needs an opportune moment for making it happen, such as a war.*” This happened in the 1948 war, wherein the Zionists killed 15,000 Palestinian Arabs, expelled at least 750,000 of them, and seized 78% of Palestine's territory in order to set up their Jewish state. This expansionism has continued. For example, in the 1967 Six-Day War, Israel seized Syria's Golan Heights, which it has kept ever since. And while the Israeli settler population in the West Bank was only 1,182 in 1972, today it's over 450,000 in the West Bank and over 220,000 in East Jerusalem. Racism also flourishes inside Israel proper, where Arabs (22% of the population) are discriminated against, and are now being repressed when they talk about

Gaza on social media. The 180,000 Beta Israel (or “Falasha”) Jews from Ethiopia are also discriminated against, as are other Africans, as are the roughly 138,000 foreign workers from Asia and elsewhere.

The difficult road to peace

Prior to the 20th Century, Jews (who then made up 7% of the population), Arabs and others had peacefully lived together in Palestine for centuries, and they can certainly do so again. In order to achieve this, the aim of the Palestinian national movement historically has been to achieve one state in historic Palestine, a secular (non-religious) and democratic state, with equality between Arabs, Jews and others. The zionists have always fought against this democratic perspective by denying the right of the expelled Palestinians to return, by branding their Arab opponents as terrorists and by inculcating Israeli society with Jewish supremacist ideas. And now, Hamas's October 7 murder of hundreds of Israeli civilians has further driven ordinary Jews into the arms of the zionists. (Meanwhile, Israel's massive revenge slaughter of as many as 30,000 Gazans has driven unknown numbers of Palestinians to support an anything-goes attitude toward Jews.) But what has the 75-year-old Jewish state gotten the masses of Jews? War after war. The most militarized society on Earth. Poverty amidst plenty. (3) Having to live lies. But anti-zionist Jews continue to struggle in Israel, where hundreds have turned out in protests against Netanyahu's criminal war. They represent a better future, and they deserve the support of progressive people everywhere.

Turn up the heat on Biden!

Israel has always been United States imperialism's watch-dog in the oil-rich and strategically located Middle East. Thus, both Republican and Democratic administrations have showered it with weapons, stood by it in the UN, etc. Biden continues this course by supplying

Israel with extra 2,000 pound bombs and thousands of tank shells for its current war. But at the same time, a huge global movement in solidarity with the Palestinian people has developed, and the U.S. and Israel are becoming increasingly isolated in the world. In this situation, Biden has persuaded Netanyahu to open a border crossing for a little aid to get into Gaza, and now U.S. officials are publicly opposing the Israeli talk of forcing the Gazans to leave for other countries. Fine, and this shows the need for the movement to continue to press the demand, “Not a penny, not a dime, for Israeli war crimes!”

1. See

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Casualties_of_the_2023_Israel%E2%80%93Hamas_war

2. See

<https://communistvoice.org/31cZionism.html>

3. See

<https://www.msn.com/he-il/news/other/israels-poverty-rate-is-among-the-highest-in-the-developed-world-new-report-shows/ar-AA1m9KQX>

Demonstrate in support of Palestine every Saturday! Watch

<https://www.facebook.com/people/Falastiniyat/100081689528945/> and <https://www.facebook.com/SuperUw/> for times and locations.

Detroit/ Seattle Workers' Voice email list

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