

Defend the people of Gaza from Israeli slaughter and starvation!

For nearly six months the IDF (Israeli Defense Forces) has been waging a criminal war in the Gaza Strip. It has bombed neighborhoods, schools and infrastructure into rubble. After ordering people to leave their homes, IDF snipers have murdered civilians carrying white flags. It has murdered journalists, ambulance drivers, aid-truck drivers and water-truck drivers whose vehicles were plainly marked. It has arrested and murdered doctors. It has used starvation as a weapon of war, and murdered desperate people trying to get food from the rare aid trucks that are let through the Israeli blockade. So in civilized ways like these the IDF has so far killed over 32,000 Gazans, with thousands more reported missing. And the majority of the victims have been civilians, with roughly two-thirds of them being women and children.

And if that weren't enough, the IDF is closely working with the Israeli settler land-grabbing in the Palestinian West Bank, which Israel radically stepped up after October 7. More than 440 Palestinians had been killed there before the end of February, mainly by the IDF, and thousands more were arrested.

Biden's dilemma

Under both Democratic and Republican administrations, the United States has always supported Israel, with the U.S. supplying around 70% of Israel's weapons imports for decades. This is because along with supporting the reactionary governments of Egypt, Jordan and

Saudi Arabia, supporting Israel is a pillar of the U.S. imperialist strategy to enforce order in the strategically located (e.g., Suez) and oil and gas rich Middle East. But after Hamas slaughtered 766 civilians and took hostages in its surprise October 7 raid into Israel, a global mass movement has developed against Israel's much larger revenge slaughter. And the pressure of this movement has been an important factor in why Canada, the Netherlands, Japan, Spain and Belgium have now suspended arms sales to Israel, and why Ireland's Senate has unanimously called for sanctions against Israel, including an international arms embargo and prevention of U.S. weapons to Israel passing through Irish airspace and seaports.

Meanwhile, in this country, alongside the months of street demonstrations, national polls consistently show about two-thirds of Americans support the call for an immediate ceasefire. This has put Biden in a bind. So he continues to arm Israel to the teeth, while publicly warning Netanyahu of Israel's growing international isolation. Biden also publicly opposes an Israeli ground invasion of Rafah, a city of 300,000 people that is now packed with perhaps one million additional people who've been forced from the rest of the Gaza Strip.

What is more, while shedding tears over Israel's starvation of the Gazans, Biden has been helping cause it, and not just by giving Israel arms. First, based on Israel's undocumented claim that 13 out of 13,000 employees of the

U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) – the main agency responsible for administering aid to the strip – had been involved in Hamas's October 7 attack, Biden first suspended U.S. funding, and now has signed this into law. Secondly, rather than demand that Israel open the gates to Gaza for massive aid deliveries, the U.S. (along with several other countries) has been participating in airdropping small amounts of food. Additionally, the U.S. has begun building an expensive temporary pier and floating dock on the Gaza coast so that ships can deliver aid. But it may be one to two months before it's completed, while famine doesn't wait. So although airdropping and pier construction may look good on television or in press photos, Biden is avoiding seriously dealing with the Israeli-made starvation, and is complicit in it. That is, Palestinian lives don't matter, but the U.S. imperialist alliance with Israel does. Fortunately, there's a big global movement that thinks otherwise.

Against Israel's conflation of Hamas with the Palestinian people

Hamas takes part in the just resistance to Israeli oppression, but it is led by fundamentalist reactionaries who seek an Islamic state, not a democratic one. Moreover, its October 7 murder of hundreds of Jewish civilians plus dozens of Bedouins and at least 50 Asian migrant workers was both a crime against its victims, and a betrayal of the Palestinian liberation struggle. Hamas's actions killing civilians damage the Palestinian movement in a way that Israel's wars alone cannot, i.e., they drive a wedge between the

Palestinian cause and the mass of working people around the world, including inside Israel. All this doesn't negate that Israeli apartheid is the vicious oppressor of the Palestinians, and the just struggle of the Palestinian people deserves the utmost support. But Hamas's actions can't be ignored without harming the interests of the working people, Palestinian, Jewish, and others.

No one is free until Palestine is free

In this time of bitterness and outrage against the rightward shift in global and domestic politics, identification with the oppressed Palestinians has been propelling large numbers of people to turn out for Palestinian solidarity actions all over the world. This is very encouraging, and as is shown by several countries suspending arms sales to Israel, the solidarity movement is beginning to have an effect on events. But with the IDF continuing its daily atrocities in the Gaza Strip, with Netanyahu continuing to promise a ground offensive in Rafah, and with Netanyahu having released a plan for Israeli troops to be in Gaza for 10 years in December, it's obvious that the Palestine solidarity movement has more work to do. Lastly, identification with the oppressed Palestinians by many tens of thousands of demonstrators in this country bodes well for the struggles of the people here at home. Indeed, standing up for a free Palestine goes hand-in-hand with standing up to free everyone from exploitation and oppression.

*An injury to one is an injury to all!
No more aid to Israel!*

Detroit/ Seattle Workers' Voice email list

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Demonstrate! PNW regional march to commemorate Palestinian Land Day
Saturday, March 30, 2:00 pm at Lake Union Park, 860 Terry Ave. North

Seattle Workers' Voice, March, 27, 2024