

Fight the mounting slaughter of the Palestinian & Lebanese peoples - No more aid to Israel!

October 7 marks one year since the Hamas-led murder of 796 Israeli civilians (including at least 17 Arab Bedouins) and at least 50 migrant workers, primarily from Thailand and Nepal. Hamas also abducted some 251 people to hold as hostages, including Bedouins and Asian workers as well.

Israel's response to this unjustifiable act led by fundamentalist reactionaries is the ongoing mass slaughter of Palestinians. In it the IDF (Israeli Defense Forces) has killed over 41,000 people in Gaza, most of them civilians. Thousands more are missing because they're buried in the rubble or were blown to bits by the IDF's U.S.-supplied 2,000 pound bombs. And in the course of this massacre, the IDF repeatedly orders the people to go to a supposed "safe zone" and then bombs them there...often while sleeping in their tents, and even on the beaches. But that's not all. The IDF has been consciously targeting and destroying Gazan schools and universities, hospitals, ambulances, water plants, aid convoys and anything else that benefits the people. This is genocide.

Moreover, giving lie to the story that Israel is some kind of innocent victim, the IDF is supporting increased Israeli settlement of the Palestinian West Bank, which is not ruled by Hamas, and from which the October 7 attack was not launched. More than 698 Palestinians have been killed there since October 7, and more than 10,000 arrested.

Indeed, the West Bank is where an IDF sniper murdered **Seattle activist Aysenur Ezgi Eygi** in cold blood on September 6. Ms Eygi was a graduate of West Seattle High School, Seattle Community College and the University of Washington, but she dared to visit the West Bank, where her capital "crime" was to be part of a weekly protest against an Israeli settlement near Beita. Her punishment was to be shot in the head by the "brave" sniper from a rooftop 200 yards away. Also that day, a 13-year-old girl was shot in the chest and killed by the IDF in a nearby village after settlers stormed the village, attacked homes by throwing stones and set nearby farmland on fire, and when the occupying Israeli soldiers opened fire on protesting villagers. The girl's "crime" was to be in a

room at home that time. She was given a mass funeral in the West Bank, while in Seattle, hundreds of people attended a march denouncing Aysenur Ezgi Eygi's murder as well as a commemoration of her life at Alki Beach. The message at these events was that the struggle against the genocidal Zionist state must continue!

And in Lebanon

Before early September, Hezbollah was rocketing Israel in order to force part of the IDF to the north, away from Gaza. Theirs was a measured war that killed 52 Israelis—majority civilians—because the Hezbollah leaders didn't want a full scale war. In response, the IDF killed some 1,247 Lebanese—civilians and Hezbollah personnel. But now this war is beginning to explode. The IDF massacred 558 Lebanese people on Sept. 23, and began to displace 100,000, which is monstrous. Then, on Sept. 27 the IDF assassinated fundamentalist reactionary Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah, other leaders of the group, and an Iranian general. Next may be a land invasion or regional war.

The world responds

In conditions where millions of people have filled the streets in protest, and with the oppression and slaughter being so bad, the bourgeois and imperialist countries are divided on what to do. Leaving aside Iran, which ineffectually launched drones and missiles at Israel in April, a large number of countries verbally condemn what Israel has been doing, and several have stopped or reduced their military aid. Also reflecting this division is the July 19 International Court of Justice ruling that Israel's occupation of the Gaza strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, is unlawful.

The dirty role of U.S. imperialism

Most of the American bourgeoisie backs Israeli apartheid and its oppression of the Palestinians. This is because Israel, along with several Arab states in the region, is a key component of the U.S. strategy of enforcing order in the petroleum rich and strategically located Middle East. And this explains why the United States has long been Israel's main arms

supplier, and why Congress easily approved giving this genocidal state some \$15 billion in unconditional military aid in April.

Palestine and the U.S. election

Kamala Harris and Donald Trump represent the stand of sections of the American bourgeoisie. Thus, Harris says she “will always ensure Israel has the ability to defend itself,” and Trump says “let Israel finish the job” in Gaza.

While in office, Trump gave the Executive Order that prohibited citizens from seven Muslim-majority countries from entering the United States—the notorious Muslim ban. He moved the U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, which was a direct affront to the Palestinians. Under the Abraham Accords, he presided over more Arab countries normalizing their relations with Israel, i.e., Israeli oppression of the Palestinians was accepted as normal.

Today, the Trump campaign is centered on stirring up a fascist mass movement against immigrants. He's said that he'll restrict people from the Gaza Strip, Libya, Somalia and Syria from entering the U.S. He's written that “illegal immigration is poisoning the blood of our nation” (all in capital letters). He's said, “We pledge to you that we will root out the communists, Marxists, fascists, and the radical left thugs that live like vermin within the confines of our country.” So imagine trying to organize mass support for the Palestinian people or for any other progressive cause with Trump and Vance in power, and with the Proud Boys, Oath Keepers and other racists and fascists backing them in the streets.

Thus, in the coming presidential election, no matter who wins, the U.S. will continue to support Israeli apartheid. So pressure must be maintained against both parties. But at the same time, one needs to oppose a Trump victory, because his victory would align the U.S. with the far rightist wave that exists in the world, cause mass suffering in the U.S., and increase the repression against the pro-Palestinian movement.

Join and build the Palestinian solidarity

movement!

This large and global movement has stood up against the slanders that the protesters are all anti-semites and/or are all Hamas supporters; against police and military repression in numerous countries; against firings of people who speak the truth about Israel, or who even wear Palestinian flag decals; and against the banning pro-Palestinian groups and activists from numerous college campuses (which there will be more of this fall). And it has helped force a number of governments to cut off their aid to Israel. But the movement obviously has more work to do, especially in this country, which is Israel's largest arms supplier. This includes:

- continuing to press for a ceasefire, while at the same time explaining that unless a settlement ends the ongoing ethnic cleansing and blockades and give rights to the Palestinians we'll go through the same thing again,
- preparing for protracted struggle, as even when the Gaza war ends, the struggle against ethnic cleansing, denial of rights, etc. will be necessary,
- bringing pressure on both parties, Democrats as well as Republicans, even while opposing a Trump victory in November, which would be a major disaster for American working people and no relief for Palestinians,
- opposing the fundamentalists like Hamas who damage the Palestinian movement and seek to destroy any democratic and internationalist trend. At the same time, opposing the imperialist hypocrisy of vilifying the Palestinian movement because of the influence of Hamas.
- finding ways to base the movement among the working masses in Palestine as well as around the world. Only the working people have a material interest in supporting a democratic solution, and only a democratic solution can start the healing of the hatreds which Israeli oppression has escalated in the region.

Seattle Workers' Voice, September 29, 2024

Demonstrate in support of the Palestinian and Lebanese people!
2:00 pm, Saturday, October 5th at Pier 62 on the Seattle waterfront

For more on Palestine and the history of the Zionist movement, see

<https://communistvoice.org/New.html>, <https://communistvoice.org/talk/viewtopic.php?t=202> and <https://communistvoice.org/31cZionism.html>