

# GAZA: THE NIGHTMARE CONTINUES



# FOR MASS STRUGGLE TO END ISRAELI STATE TERROR

**F**or four weeks the population of Gaza have faced a barbaric onslaught by the Israeli state. Close to 2,000 Gazans have been killed, 80% of whom - according to the UN - were civilians. Half a million people have been forced to flee their homes, many of which have been destroyed. Over 60 Israelis have also been killed, including three civilians.

It now seems that that the bombing is continuing, but even a longer term ceasefire - while it would be a welcome relief for the population of Gaza - would not solve the nightmare they face. Gaza remains under siege: the world's largest prison camp. The destruction of the war has

dramatically worsened an already appalling situation. Mass homelessness, hunger and the threat of disease are acute problems.

Even in periods of ceasefire Israeli governments have, for decades, subjected the Palestinian Authority (PA) areas to brutal repression and effective occupation. This has been accompanied by determinedly developing Jewish settlements in East Jerusalem and across the West Bank. It has also been interspersed with periods of terrible bloody onslaughts such as the world has just witnessed.

**Continued over**

- **End the siege of Gaza. For the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli Army from the Palestinian territories**
- **For a mass struggle of the Palestinians, under their own democratic control, to fight for genuine national liberation**
- **For independent workers' organisations in Israel and Palestine**
- **Fight for the establishment of governments of the working class and poor, which would end oppression, defend democratic rights for all - including minorities, and break with capitalism and imperialism**
- **For a struggle for democratic socialism in Palestine, Israel and throughout the Middle East**

## PUBLIC MEETING GAZA, WAR AND IMPERIALISM

**HOSTED BY LONDON SOCIALIST PARTY - ALL WELCOME**  
**25 Red Lion Square, London WC1R 4RL**  
**Wednesday 13 August**  
**7.30pm**

**Speaker: Tony Saunois, CWI secretary  
and author of Che guevara - symbol of struggle**

see  
[www.socialistparty.org.uk/whatson](http://www.socialistparty.org.uk/whatson)  
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## CAN PALESTINIANS WIN LIBERATION?

There is huge sympathy for the Palestinians among ordinary people. Hundreds of thousands have taken to the streets in solidarity in London and other cities worldwide. However, the outrage at the Palestinians' plight felt by the majority is not matched by the attitudes of the world's ruling elites.

Western leaders like Obama and Cameron initially expressed solidarity with the Israeli government, only being forced to tone down their verbal support in the face of public outrage. Their solidarity is not limited to words; the US gives over \$3 billion a year to Israel, around three quarters of which is used to buy US military equipment! Britain is also a major seller of arms to the Israeli Defence Force.

The Palestinians will never win liberation by appealing to the imperialist powers which have always been motivated by defending their own economic and strategic interests in the region - particularly oil.

Neither can the UN - which is dominated by the major world powers - offer a way forward. Hundreds of UN general assembly resolutions have condemned actions of the Israeli regime, but they are simply ignored by the US and Israel, unless they happen to suit their purposes.

### NO TO US AIR STRIKES ON IRAQ!

Nor do the imperialist powers offer any way forward for workers across the region. It was the US and UK-led invasion of Iraq that has led - as socialists warned it would - to the nightmare now facing the Iraqi people. Renewed US intervention will not solve the humanitarian crisis, but make the situation worse. Read more: [socialistworld.net](http://socialistworld.net)

Nor can the Palestinians look to the reactionary Arab regimes, which propagandise in favour of the Palestinians but have no interest in doing more. Left to the capitalist politicians on both sides of the national divide the cycles of bloodshed will go on.

### MASS RESISTANCE VITAL

While international solidarity is important every important gain made in the history of the Palestinian struggle has been the result of the active mobilisation of the mass of Palestinian people themselves. This was demonstrated particularly in the first Intifada and more recently by the mass offensive by Gazans which broke the Israeli siege for eleven days in 2008.

The recent heroic demonstrations in the West Bank - in the face of vicious Israeli Defence Force brutality, show the potential for a new mass uprising, as did the large demonstrations of Palestinians inside Israel in response to the increased repression they face.

The only way of realising a genuine Palestinian state, along with peace and security is not from deals at the top, but from mass action and organising at grassroots level. Workers and poor in the PA areas can only rely on building their own democratically-run, independent organisations, to organise defence against repression - including armed defence - and mass actions to further their interests.

The rocket fire from Gaza reflects the desperation of Palestinians in the strip, but is no deterrent to the Israeli regime with its overwhelming superiority of firepower. In fact they are counter-productive because their indiscriminate nature spreads fear among the Israeli popula-

tion; which the Israeli regime is able to exploit to whip up support for their barbarous policies.

### CHALLENGE ISRAELI STATE TERROR

Israel has built an enormously powerful military machine, estimated to be around the tenth strongest in the world. But this does not mean that the Israeli elite are all-powerful. On the contrary, their social base has been progressively undermined. Just as in many other countries the working class has faced austerity and has fought back via strikes and protests. In 2011, inspired by the Arab Spring, hundreds of thousands of Israelis took part in a movement for decent housing, services and pay.

Israeli workers need to build independent, working class organisations. Such organisations could be won to supporting the national liberation for the Palestinians, which is the only basis on which Israeli Jewish workers will ever achieve peace and security.

Socialist Struggle Movement, the CWI in Israel-Palestine ([www.socialistworld.net](http://www.socialistworld.net)), is involved in supporting workers' struggle in Israel and the PA, as well as participating in joint demonstrations of Arabs and Jews against the occupation and the important recent anti-war demonstrations in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and other Israeli cities.

Socialist Struggle Movement argues for socialist ideas, and the building of new mass movements and workers' parties that can challenge and remove the capitalist parties. That would create the basis to build democratic socialism in Palestine, Israel and throughout the Middle East, with guaranteed rights for all minorities.

If you agree - why not join us. Go to [www.socialistparty.org.uk/join](http://www.socialistparty.org.uk/join) or text 07761818206



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