

STOP THE ONSLAUGHT ON GAZA!

END ISRAELI STATE TERROR!

public meeting



The trapped, blockaded 1.8 million people in the Gaza strip have been viciously bombed from air, sea and land and now a brutal ground offensive is underway. The ferocity of the war on this densely populated coastal enclave of land is once again being viewed with shock and outrage by people worldwide.

The Israeli forces have hit over 1,600 'targets' in Gaza in the space of two weeks. The damage inflicted is horrific,

with the death toll of Gazans at over 240, 75% of them civilians, over 40 of them children. Over 1,850 have been injured and untold thousands traumatised. Extended families eating Ramadan meals after sunset have suffered unimaginable atrocities and many people are homeless having had their properties blown up. In one strike, 17 members of a family died. Even a care home for severely disabled people was hit. **Continued over**



- Stop the onslaught on Gaza! Step up the anti-war demonstrations globally! No to this war of the Israeli government of big business and settlements.
- End the blockade of Gaza. For the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli army from the Palestinian territories. The national conflict will not be solved by military means.
- For a mass struggle of the Palestinians, under their own democratic control, to fight for genuine national liberation.
- For independent workers' organisations in Palestine and Israel.
- For a socialist Palestinian state alongside a socialist Israel, with guaranteed democratic rights for minorities, as part of a socialist Middle East and regional peace.

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The Israeli government declared its bombardment to be 'defensive'. But not only is the balance of military forces massively disproportionate, that government and its predecessors have for decades subjected the Palestinian Authority (PA) areas to brutal repression and effective occupation.

Even in periods of 'ceasefire' Israeli army incursions into the PA areas haven't stopped, with regular assassinations and many detentions - over 5,000 Palestinians are in Israeli jails. This has been accompanied by determinedly developing Jewish settlements in East Jerusalem and across the West Bank.

The present cycle of bloodshed was triggered when three Israeli teenagers disappeared, who were later found tragically murdered. The Israeli military launched a collective punishment operation across the Palestinian territories and there were some nationalist far-right demonstrations and attacks in Israel which included the brutal killing of a young Jerusalem Palestinian. In response, widespread protests and riots broke out among Palestinians in a number of areas of Israel.

Fatah PA president Mahmood Abbas looks to the western powers to intervene; he has again been appealing to the UN to condemn Israel's actions, while western leaders like Obama, Hollande and Cameron - key players in the UN - have expressed solidarity with the Israeli government. The US gives \$3.15 billion a year to Israel, around three-quarters of which is used to buy US military equipment!

The Palestinians can't rely on their present leaders or the totally hypocritical imperialist powers to help their struggle. Neither can they 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.

The bouts of rocket fire from Gaza - much increased during the recent events - reflect the desperation of Palestinians in the strip, but are no deterrent to the Israeli regime with its overwhelming superiority of firepower. The rockets and other attacks on Israeli civilians, carried out by groups that aren't under democratic control, are counter-productive because they are met by stepped-up repression from the Israeli forces.

Also their indiscriminate nature spreads fear across Israeli communities - an Israeli civilian was killed by rocket fire last week - pushing Israeli workers towards the camp of their right-wing government, not helping to erode the majority support in Israel there has been for the onslaught on Gaza.

MASS ACTION NEEDED

Time and time again 'peace' talks have failed, fundamentally because it isn't in the interests of the Israeli ruling class for there to be a viable, independent Palestinian state next to Israel, with a historic claim on its land. 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 at grassroots level.

Workers and the poor in the PA areas can only rely on building their own democratically-run, independent organisations, to organise defence against repression - with the right to arms - and mass actions to further their interests.

In early 2008 a mass offensive by Gazans broke the Israeli siege, forcing open the Rafah crossing point into Egypt for a period of eleven days. Mass action could be carried out against land seizures, house demolitions, road blocks, the separation wall and many other aspects of the occupation.

Israeli workers also need to build independent, working class led organisations. They have had many attacks on their pay, conditions and welfare at the hands of their bosses and government and they too suffer from the constant insecurity.

Socialist Struggle Movement, the CWI in Israel-Palestine (www.socialistworld.net), is involved in supporting the workers' strikes and struggles that regularly occur in Israel and the PA, as well as participating in joint demonstrations of Arabs and Jews against the occupation - and the important anti-war demonstrations this month in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and other Israeli cities.

Socialist Struggle Movement argues for socialist ideas, and the building of new mass workers' parties and movements that can challenge and remove the capitalist parties. A socialist Palestine and a socialist Israel as part of a socialist confederation of the Middle East would be able to end the outbreaks of bloodshed once and for all.

If you agree - why not join us. Go to www.socialistparty.org.uk/join or text 07761818206



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