



STOP the slaughter in Gaza



Mass
struggle
needed
for liberation

- Stop the military onslaught now! End the blockade and occupation
- Escalate the anti-war demonstrations and initiate workers' actions
- No trust in the world's capitalist governments or the United Nations
- For independent workers' organisations in Israel and Palestine
- For a struggle for democratic socialism throughout the Middle East

Socialist Party public meetings are taking place across Britain

For details go to <http://www.socialistparty.org.uk/latest/6727>

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Hell

GAZA IS now an unimaginable hell as a result of the slaughter being carried out by the Israeli army. The death toll is mounting towards one thousand. Gaza is one of the most densely populated places on earth – 1.5 million people crammed into a narrow strip of land – a prison camp. To carry out a full scale war in such a territory, as the Israeli government well knew, was bound to result in appalling death, injury and terror for the population.

Why is Israel carrying out this slaughter?

THE ISRAELI ruling class do not care about the Jewish working class inhabitants of the towns bordering Gaza, but uses their plight to justify this vicious war, which in reality is taking place for very different reasons.

The Israeli government feels humiliated by the war on Lebanon in 2006, and is beset by failure and scandal. Now they are trying to save themselves from defeat in next month's elections, by means of a wholesale slaughter of Palestinians. The Israeli government repeatedly broke the ceasefire, but it was the killing of 6 Hamas militants in November, which was a deliberate provocation aimed at bringing about this war.

The war also temporarily diverts attention away from the impact of the worldwide economic crisis as none of the main parties, which all support capitalism, have a solution that can guarantee jobs and living standards.

World powers complicit

THE BUSH government has backed Israel to the hilt, while Obama has remained silent. In addition, Obama's previous

statements on the issue are not positive. During his election campaign he declared strong support for the Israeli regime, said that Hamas should not be negotiated with, and he intends to send more US troops to fight in Afghanistan.

Nor are the other imperialist powers prepared take effective action against the slaughter. Brown belatedly called for a ceasefire, but why trust this call when he leads a government involved in slaughter in Afghanistan? Nor has Brown been prepared to stop Britain's arms industry selling weaponry to Israel. Neither can the United Nations end the bloodshed or offer a solution. Hundreds of UN general assembly resolutions have condemned actions of the Israeli regime, but these are simply ignored by the US and Israel, unless they happen to suit their purposes.

Arab league leaders

ABBAS, MUBARAK and the Arab league leaders condemn the massacre. But they were complicit in Israel's starving of Gaza's inhabitants by Israel's three year siege. These regimes willingly carry out the dictates of imperialism. Mubarak's regime in Egypt collaborates in the imprisonment of the Palestinians by preventing free movement of goods and people on Egypt's border with Gaza. Mubarak even met Israel's foreign minister Livni on the day before Israel's attack.

Socialists fully defend the Palestinians' right to armed resistance against the brutal occupation. Many Palestinians see the Hamas rocket attacks on Israeli towns as the best method of resistance available. However, these attacks cannot defeat the Israeli state. On the contrary, they will make it easier for the Israeli government to win the support of the Israeli population for the war.

Hamas doesn't have any viable strategy for defeating the occupation or for providing decent living standards for the Palestinian population, basing itself - as it does - on the continuation of capitalism with all the horrors that this system brings. Every important gain made in the history of Palestinian struggle has been the result of active mobilisation of the mass of Palestinian people. To be effective, this should be under the democratic direction of the wider population, organised through grassroots committees, rather than by secretive militia.

Mass resistance vital

SOcialists CALL for an immediate escalation in the demonstrations against the war, in the Middle East and internationally, including the development of workers' sanctions against, for example, arms imports to Israel. We call for mass action to destroy the borders that imprison Gaza - including by Palestinian and Egyptian workers to break down the Rafah border. We also call for Israelis to demonstrate on the Israeli side of border crossings against these latest attacks.

School students' action against war

IN 2003 school and college students, in Britain and worldwide, led the movement against the invasion of Iraq – with tens of thousands striking across Britain when the war began. This time, again, young people are to the fore of the movement against the slaughter in Gaza. If you are a school or college student and would like to organise action in your college contact ISR on 020 8558 7947 anticapitalism@hotmail.co.uk www.anticapitalism.org.uk

Israeli working class

THE ISRAELI working class could potentially develop into a powerful and decisive force against the Israeli ruling class, which must be defeated to solve both Israeli workers' own aspirations and those of the Palestinians.

In Israel there is a rapidly widening class divide, with the rich getting richer and a third of children now living in poverty. There is tremendous anger towards the government, on economic issues and over deteriorating security. Israeli Jews will never be free of the constant cycles of violence as long as they are led by capitalist politicians who regularly have an interest in resorting to national conflict.

Join Us

THE SOCIALIST Party is part of the CWI, an international organisation which struggles against the horrors of capitalism and for a socialist alternative. We organise activists in the Middle East and Internationally. The struggle against the slaughter in the Middle East and the struggle against Brown's capitalist government is one struggle. Join us!

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