

# END UK SUPPORT FOR ZIONIST STATE

Workers' boycott and fight for single state is way to show solidarity

**A**S THE ISRAELI military bombards defenceless Gaza, Zionist mobs are terrorising Israel's Arab population. We must make it impossible for our governments to continue propping up this apartheid regime.

The bombardment is supposedly in retaliation for rockets fired into Israel by Hamas, which have killed six Israelis. The disproportionate and indiscriminate attacks by the apartheid state are a form of collective punishment of Gazans for showing solidarity with Palestinian demonstrators beaten by police in the Old City and on the Temple Mount Jerusalem. But the roots of the latest flare up lie in a familiar story; the attempt to demolish Palestinian houses and change the ethnic composition of yet another district of the city.

## Evictions

For weeks, residents of the East Jerusalem district of Sheikh Jarrah have been resisting attempts by police to evict Palestinian residents from their homes in favour of Israeli settlers. Between 2004 and 2016, 685 Palestinian homes in Jerusalem were demolished. 2,513 people were made homeless. The occupation authorities plan to build 200 settlement units on land clearances in Sheikh Jarrah.

In another transparent provocation, right wing Zionist organisers of the so-called "Day of Flags" march, held to celebrate the 1967 capture of Jerusalem by Israeli forces, threatened to go through Palestinian areas of the city. The editorial of the liberal Israeli daily Haaretz says it is always "characterised by racist chants, hateful songs and violent assaults on

Palestinian passers-by and property". When Palestinian demonstrators tried to block its entrance into the Old City, police using stun grenades and water cannon injured dozens of protesters. Hamas claimed its first rockets were a response to this.

## Allies

Israel's Western allies, who prop up the state militarily and financially, have called for "de-escalation". But none of them will lift a finger to force the Israeli government to stop the illegal and bloody oppression of the Palestinian residents of Israel, let alone those living in the occupied territories.

Under the Donald Trump administration and its "Deal of the Century", Jerusalem was officially recognised as the capital of Israel. This was clearly an invitation to the Zionist government, authorities and courts, as well as right-wing settlers, to push ahead with the annexation of East Jerusalem, regarded by the Palestinians, and international law, as the capital of a future Palestinian state. But under Joe Biden, too, Washington is blocking a UN Security Council resolution as long as it contains criticism of Israel's bombardment of Gaza or any call for it to stop.

What is being concealed in Western media coverage of the "Israel-Palestine conflict" is who the aggressor really is. The relentless clearing of Palestinian homes in East Jerusalem is only a part of their systematic expulsion from their

ancestral homeland and the national annihilation of the Palestinians by a ruthless settler state. Those Palestinians who have not been driven across Israel's borders are second-class citizens in an apartheid state.

## Resistance

The struggle for Sheikh Jarrah and Al-Aqsa is the spark that could ignite a state-wide powder keg. In numerous cities in the West Bank, youth, workers, farmers and the impoverished masses have taken to the streets. In Nazareth, Kafr Kana and Schefar'am, riots have broken out. In Gaza, thousands marched to the hermetically sealed and highly militarised border, where more than 200 Palestinians were killed and 13,000 wounded by Israeli snipers during the Great Return March protests in 2018 and 2019.

Sporadic rocket attacks on Israel by Palestinian resistance organisations are desperate actions in an asymmetric war. They can be little more than a symbolic demonstration of the determination of the Palestinian people to continue to resist. The fact that rockets have reached not only Ashkelon but Tel-Aviv and Jerusalem, however, reminds Israelis that they are not completely invulnerable under the "iron dome", funded in large measure by the USA.

Palestinian resistance is legitimate in all its forms, and we clearly distinguish between the violence of the oppressors, the Israeli state and its army, and that of the oppressed. We stand in total solidarity with this resistance.

A new Intifada is in the air, carried out by a new generation of youth.

**REDFLAG**

## Leadership

The key questions are how can it spread, how can it win? The 700,000 illegal settlers in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, plus the Apartheid Wall, have made facts on the ground that it will be difficult to reverse.

Egyptian and Saudi collaboration with Israel has also put the Palestinians in an increasingly desperate situation and exacerbated the crisis of political leadership within the fragmented PLO, Hamas, the Palestinian left and the working class.

Though the Palestinian Authority and Hamas both declare their support for the resistance in East Jerusalem, the collaborationist PA remains an instrument of Israeli oppression of the Palestinians. Fearing a Hamas victory in the West Bank, it has postponed every election since 2006. But Hamas also has no strategy for victory and offers a reactionary, religious perspective hostile to women, youth, secular Palestinians and Jews.

Caught between the collaborators of Fatah and the dead-end of Hamas' Islamist guerillaism, a new generation of fighting Palestinian youth are taking up the challenge. They will need to forge a new leadership, one with a strategy to broaden the uprisings into a new intifada that includes a general strike in the workshops and in the fields and the cessation of any cooperation with the institutions of the occupation power.

## Working class action

The solidarity of the working class and oppressed in the countries of the Middle East will be critical in putting pressure on Israel and its military machinery through strikes and refusal to transport goods or carry out financial transactions. This, combined with mass solidarity demonstrations, will expose the reactionary Arab regimes in Egypt and Saudi Arabia, or the supposed friends of the Palestinians like Erdogan or Khamenei, and make the working class the leading force in the struggle against Zionism.

This pressure can also undermine the cross-class unity between capital and the Jewish working class in

Israel, opening up the perspective of a joint struggle of the Palestinian working class and peasantry with the Jewish working class against Zionism and for a common, multinational state that recognises the right of return of all Palestinians.

Finally, the working class and the left in Britain, the USA and EU and the other imperialist states should take to the streets in solidarity with the Palestinian people and increase pressure on Israel to stop the air strikes on Gaza and the repression in East Jerusalem through strikes and boycotts of transport.

The solidarity movement should expand its scope from boycotts of the illegal settlements to all aspects of the settler state. We need to reject the argument that anything that harms Israel is by that very fact antisemitic. Real antisemitism, even from "anti-imperialists and anti-Zionists", is an enemy of the Palestinian cause. But the growing number of Jewish supporters of the Palestinian cause proves the claim that Israel is "the state of the world's Jews" is a lie.

## One state

The bombardments by Israel, part of its cruel blockade and siege of Gaza and the remorseless increase of settlements in the West Bank have buried any hope for the so-called two state solution. In the face of the expulsion, aggression and intransigence of the Israeli governments, it is proving to be not only reactionary, which it always was, but also quite simply completely illusory.

The only possible democratic solution is the dismantling of the apartheid system and the racist basis of the Zionist state, granting the right of return for all Palestinians and the establishment of a bi-national state based on full legal equality for all, Muslims, Jews, Christians.

The imperialist states, such as the USA, Germany, Britain and the EU, must be forced to bear the costs of this return and the construction of the necessary infrastructure and housing. For this to take place without further

inflaming nationalist antagonisms, this democratic revolution must be combined with a socialist one, the expropriation of big capital and big landownership.

- End the occupation! End the siege of Gaza!
- Solidarity with the Palestinian resistance!
- For a binational state in which all citizens have equal rights, regardless of ethnic origin, language or religion!
- For a socialist Palestine as part of the United Socialist States of the Middle East!

## ABOUT US

**We are a revolutionary communist organisation fighting to replace capitalism with workers' power and international socialism.**

- Our goal is communism: a society liberated from exploitation, oppression and war through the abolition of the class system.
- We organise a **revolutionary tendency inside the Labour Party** in order to oppose its reformist leadership and promote an anticapitalist programme.
- We campaign to **democratise the trade unions through a rank and file movement** which dissolves the unelected bureaucracy, and fights for workers' control of production.
- **We oppose all forms of discrimination** based on race, age, disability, sex or sexual orientation. We oppose all immigration controls and support black self-defence against racist and state attacks.
- We **unconditionally support** all those fighting against imperialism or national oppression, while fighting for socialist, not nationalist, leadership of those struggles. We are for the immediate and unconditional withdrawal of all British troops from Ireland and overseas bases. Britain out of Nato. Replace the standing army with a workers' militia.
- Against the dictatorship of capital **we stand for a society based on common ownership and democratic planning**. The bosses will never allow their wealth and privilege to be voted away. **That's why we fight for revolution and workers' power.**
- At the core of our strategy is the building of fighting organisations of the working class - factory committees, industrial unions, councils of action, and workers' defence organisations.
- We are internationalists and members of the **British section of the League for the Fifth International**, an organisation fighting to build a new world party of socialist revolution.

**If you agree with what we stand for - join us!**

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