

## **'FROM THE RIVER TO THE SEA, PALESTINE WILL BE FREE'**

## Israel is a colonial project based on the racist Zionist ideology. It must be overthrown.

ISRAEL'S OCCUPATION of Palestine is committed in plain sight. It is the last acceptable settler-colony. For 75 years it has been defended by the USA and the UK because it acts as guarantor for western domination of the Middle East's trade routes and resources.

That is why Britain's ruling class supports Israel's attempt to slander the solidarity movement as 'antisemitic' for exposing its crimes. It's why Suella Braverman is urging the police to crack down on protests. Our rulers aren't motivated by sympathy with Jewish people, but by the solidarity of imperialist thieves with their regional clients.

Israel is not defending democracy or national rights. It is defending its 'right' to dispossess and expel the Palestinians from Israel and exploit the West Bank and Gaza as internal colonies within an Apartheid state.

The Palestinians have every right to resist this fate by any means necessary. As long as the Zionist state exists as a settler colony, there can be no justice and no peace in Israel-Palestine. That is why we say—from the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!

Demonstrations are a key first step, but with the war intensifying and the western powers standing by while Gaza is levelled, we need to step up the pressure. Every trade union branch should back the appeal by Palestinian trade unions to boycott Israel and refuse to handle its products. No co-operation with occupation!

Workers' action here has a vital role to play in weakening the axis of imperialism that has partitioned and subjugated the Middle East for over a century. Faced with the horrific suffering in Gaza, the widespread calls for a ceasefire and a 'political solution' to the conflict by recognizing a Palestinian state are understandable but misguided.

The Oslo Accords are dead. There can be no return to the status quo. The idea of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel was always a ploy designed to buy off parts of the Palestinian leadership while Israel blockaded Gaza and transformed the West Bank into an archipelago of en-claves under the guns of Israeli settlers.

The reality is there is already only one state between the Jordan and the Mediterranean. It is the apartheid Zionist settler state, which oppresses the Palestinian people and denies millions of refugees the right to return.

The only progressive solution is the fight to overthrow that state and replace it one that guarantees the democratic, national, and religious rights of all its residents. The right of return, democratic control of the land, and no privileges for any people demands the end of Zionist apartheid, private ownership, and imperialism.

That is why the Zionist state must be smashed, and capitalism overthrown and replaced with a socialist workers' Palestine.

## END UK SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL'S WAR: ORGANISE A WORKERS' BOYCOTT!

## Cut the supply chains, stop the factories and boats, end the funding!

PALESTINIAN TRADE unions have issued a call for solidarity from the international labour movement, calling on workers to refuse to build or transport weapons to Israel, to break links with companies complicit in the occupation, and pressure their governments to end military trade and funding to Israel.

Israel carries out the colonisation of Palestine and the collective punishment of those who resist under the cover of unconditional military, financial and diplomatic support from the western powers.

Faced with the UK's complicity with Israel's genocidal assault on Gaza, it is the duty of the British labour movement to act on the appeal for solidarity from our Palestinian sisters and brothers.

This takes on even more importance faced with the Labour party leadership's attempt to silence internal criticism of its pro-Zionist policy and ban public expressions of solidarity with Palestine.

A first step has been taken by young trade unionists who blockaded a subsidiary

of Israeli arms company Elbit in Kent on Thursday morning. Elbit has been the target of a long running campaign by direct action group Palestine Action in Leicester, Bristol and elsewhere.

The value of UK military exports to Israel is low compared to other countries. But the UK hosts an arms industry of world importance, providing access to skilled workers, a chain of production, and research, exchange and collaboration with Israel's two most important security partners, the US and UK. This gives the UK importance to the Israeli war machine well beyond the monetary value of exports.

All Israel-UK trade contributes to supporting or legitimising Israel's occupation. But Israel is now a developed capitalist country, exporting pharmaceuticals, luxury goods and industrial products. Consumer boycotts are ineffective because they can't really dent the bosses' pockets, and, more importantly, they limit solidarity to the sphere of individual acts of conscience, instead of opening the road of struggle for workers' control in the workplace.

What we need is a campaign of workers' sanctions to boycott the production, transport and sale of all trade with the Apartheid state. Transport, logistics and distribution workers and their unions have the power to exercise supervision and control over goods bound for and from Israel. No worker should have to take responsibility for propping up an Israeli economy based on the expropriation, exploitation and plunder of the Palestinians.

The anti-union laws make such 'secondary action' illegal. They are designed to prevent workers taking effective solidarity action, not just within Britain, but internationally. But mass action can render the laws unenforceable. Trade union leaders should support all unofficial action and call on the TUC to back workers' sanctions against the apartheid state. At a minimum, Labour affiliated unions should speak out and demand Keir Starmer retract his shameful support for Israel's genocidal war. If he doesn't, unions should withhold funds and support.

The fight for effective solidarity with Palestine shows how workers can make the idea that 'their struggle is our struggle' reality, not just a slogan. Effective action means defying an unjust law, but it also means breaking with the trade union leaders who, when the time comes for action not words, put legality, and loyalty to capitalism and the British state before international solidarity. To fight for workers' control over production and transport means fighting for workers' control over our unions.

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