

workers power

8 JUNE 2024
NATIONAL MARCH FOR PALESTINE
workerspower.uk
@workers_power

CEASEFIRE NOW: END UK SUPPORT FOR GENOCIDE

After months of providing Israel with military and diplomatic support for its genocidal war in Gaza, US president Joe Biden has moved to force Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu into agreeing a new ceasefire.

The United States says the 'ball is in Hamas's court'—but the truth is that the proposed deal represents a trial of strength between the United States and its recalcitrant ally.

With Netanyahu caught between those in the Israeli opposition and war cabinet favouring a deal, and the far right parties propping up his government, the ceasefire's fate is in the hands of a genocidal regime that has never wavered from its principal war aim—the extermination of Hamas as a military-political force in Gaza.

ARSONIST TURNED FIREFIGHTER

The proposal, claimed to have the support of Hamas, Qatar and Egypt, follows the template of previous proposals that have foundered on Israeli intransigence. A six-week ceasefire would see the IDF withdraw from 'populated areas', an exchange of hostages and Palestinian prisoners, and the entry of 600 aid trucks per day. The second phase would see the exchange of remaining hostages, and a 'permanent end to hostilities', with the reconstruction of Gaza constituting the third phase.

Everything depends on how serious the Biden administration is—only a credible threat to sanction the Israeli state or military could force Netanyahu to risk breaking with the fascist settler parties that he depends on to avoid a political downfall likely to culminate in his arrest on corruption charges.

Any cessation of the bombing and the atrocities visited on the refugees would be a welcome relief. But a 'permanent end to hostilities' Bank is a fantasy while the IDF imposes its siege of Gaza and protects the settler gangs presently engaged in a bloody campaign of ethnic cleansing across swathes of the West Bank.

But ending Israel's oppression of the Palestinians means forcing the Western powers to end their unconditional support for the Zionist state. The solidarity movement can justly claim some credit for Biden's ceasefire gambit, which is motivated as much by concern for his re-election campaign, as it is over damage to the US' global prestige.

The movement needs now to go beyond protest and symbolic direct action, to measures that compel governments to end their complicity in the Third Nakba. This requires a social force with the necessary collective weight and organisation—the labour movement, and the working class generally.

So far, most trade unions have maintained official or unoffi-

cial boycotts of the demonstrations and occupations. Even trade unions that have spoken out clearly have done little to mobilise for a visible presence of the organised working class, something which could act as a powerful encouragement and impetus to the hundreds of thousands of other workers marching alongside.

WORKING CLASS ACTION

Our entire energy must be directed at bringing into the field of struggle the trade unions and political organisations which can direct action—strikes and boycotts—on a big enough scale, to impose a workers' boycott of Israel, ending the two-way flow of weapons, trade and propaganda.

The whole solidarity movement, with the active mobilisation of the working class, which alone has the power to force governments to change their mind, needs to use the coming days to escalate the pressure.

To concentrate our strength on a set of common goals, we need the Palestinian and anti-war campaigns, and the trade unions, nationally and internationally to convene assemblies of delegates to draw up a plan of action—boycotts, blockades, strikes and occupations of workplaces, government offices, schools and businesses, as part of a working class campaign to target the profits and normal functioning of the capitalists and governments complicit in Israel's genocide.

- For a permanent ceasefire and total withdrawal of all IDF forces from Gaza and the occupied territories. End the siege of Gaza.
- End the apartheid regime in Israel and the West Bank. Full equality for Palestinians in the Israeli state.
- End all arms sales, military and scientific collaboration. Cut diplomatic relations with the Israel and expel its ambassadors.
- Complete withdrawal of all Western military forces from the Eastern Mediterranean, Red Sea and Gulf.
- Prosecution of political and military leaders for war crimes and genocide.
- Recognition of a state of Palestine, with its sovereign government and territory to be the choice of the Palestinian people themselves, including the unconditional recognition of the right of return for refugees from 1948 on.

We appeal to trade union branches, students' organisations, working class parties, and the organisations of the socially and nationally oppressed to endorse a call on these organisations to urgently convene national and international assemblies to decide the way forward.

International Secretariat, 3 June 2024

PALESTINIAN LIBERATION: THE SOCIALIST CASE FOR ONE STATE

The inevitable and predictable outbreak of a genocidal Third Nakba, which has seriously disrupted US attempts to establish a form of 'order' in the region, as it seeks to limit Chinese and Russian interference, and turn its attention to the Pacific, has obliged the US to resurrect the prospect of negotiations for a two-state solution.

RECOGNITION

But although Spain, Norway and Ireland have joined 145 of 193 UN member states in recognising a Palestinian state, the US and its allies—the UK, Canada, Japan, France and Germany—do not. Despite their democratic pretensions, they recognise and support the oppressors, not the oppressed. By accepting Israel's jealously guarded veto over any kind of independent Palestinian state, they make themselves the co-sponsors of Zionist colonisation, ethnic cleansing and genocide.

They do so for the same reason that led them to help bring Israel into existence in the first place. Israel has been nurtured as a 'western' ally, simultaneously a military rampart on the Red Sea and Suez canal, and dependable opponent of regional powers that seek to challenge British, French and above all, US exploitation.

The Israeli state was constituted on the basis of denying the population of Palestine's right to self-determination, denying the right of refugees to return, and driving out the remaining population. It has no right to exist as a settler-colony

and ethnically defined apartheid state based on the national oppression of another people. But justice and national liberation cannot be achieved on the basis of expelling the Israeli Jewish population; a perspective that could only transform the Palestinians into the mirror image of their Zionist oppressors.

Neither Gaza, nor the West Bank statelet run by the Palestinian Authority, can be put forward as a legitimate expression of Palestinian self-determination. Without sovereignty over its borders and internal affairs—the litmus test that Zionism can never accept—the territories supposedly accorded to the Palestinians can never be more than bantustans existing, or not, at the whim of the Zionists.

A BINATIONAL STATE

The only democratic solution is a binational, secular state 'from the river to the sea', with equal rights for all peoples, and the right of return for refugees who wish to do so. That said, after seven decades of national struggle over a common territory, a just and equitable resolution can only be achieved on the basis of a socialist republic, in which the land, resources, hospitals, schools, and workplaces, are held as the common property of the state's workers and farmers.

Wherever it begins, such a social revolution will necessarily occur as part of a workers' revolution that uproots the entire colonial and despotic architecture of the region, with the goal of forging a free association of nations, a socialist federation of the Middle East.

WHAT WE STAND FOR

Behind the Tories and their billionaire backers lies the capitalist system. It is a system that puts millions on the dole, seeks to drive down wages and destroys the environment. It is a system that diverts attention from its crimes by bloody wars, and by dividing up the workers amongst themselves by promoting racism and sexism.

We want a socialist revolution to replace this system with one where production is guided by the needs of the many, not the profits of the few. That means taking the wealth of society, the banks and the major firms, into the hands of the working class and drawing up a democratic plan of production under workers' control.

To get this we have to break the resistance of the capitalist state: the police, courts, army and judiciary and replace it with a new kind of state based on democratically elected and accountable workers' councils.

The working class has the power to do this. It is rediscovering its potential to defeat the bosses through strike action. We think that power should be used to smash capitalism and build a new kind of society without poverty, oppression and war.

We fight for a working class unity and a revolutionary party based on a programme of action:

- A living wage, pension and social security for all, indexed to inflation.
- Controls on prices, rents and bills.
- Workers' control over all strikes and negotiations. For a rank and file movement to dissolve the bureaucracy and create fighting, democratic unions.
- Women's liberation: social provision of childcare and domestic labour. Abortion on demand; gender self-ID.
- No platform for fascists. A workers' self-defence guard to defend communities.
- Open borders: equal rights for all migrants and refugees from day one.
- No to war: Britain out of Nato. For national liberation against imperialism.
- A workers' government based on and accountable to councils of workers' delegates.
- Expropriate the fortunes of the rich to fund public services and a just transition.
- Nationalisation under workers' control of the major banks, transport, utilities, public services, manufacturing.
- A revolutionary party, united with socialists across the world in a new world party of socialist revolution—a Fifth International.

WORKERS POWER — 3 JUNE 2024

Agree with this bulletin? Want to get organised? Get in touch with our militants!

**SCAN THE QR
CODE TO GET
TELEGRAM
UPDATES**

