

workers power

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CEASEFIRE NOW: END UK SUPPORT FOR GENOCIDE

Appeal for a National Assembly for Palestine

AFTER MONTHS of providing Israel with military and diplomatic support for its genocidal war in Gaza, Joe Biden is trying to present itself as the peacemaker.

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.

Only a real threat to sanction the Israeli state or military could force Netanyahu to risk breaking with the fascist settler parties that his government relies on.

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

WORKING CLASS ACTION

Ending Israel's oppression of the Palestinians means forcing the Western powers to end their unconditional support for the Zionist state. 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.

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

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.

APPEAL FOR A NATIONAL PALESTINE ASSEMBLY PASSED BY LEEDS PSC

● The historic Gaza solidarity movement has unleashed a huge wave of grassroots organising, from campuses to workplaces, religious organisations to union branches, coordinated by local campaigns in towns, cities and regions across the country. We have mobilised a million for Gaza and convinced the majority to support a ceasefire and oppose selling weapons for Israel's genocide.

● But the Palestine movement faces real obstacles: a timid bureaucracy in the trade unions, a Labour leadership determined to block meaningful action against Israel, the genuine fears of victimisation in the education and transport sectors and the workplaces linked to Israeli arms and goods. We can tackle these more effectively if our movement can focus and coordinate its action nationally.

● We believe that while continuing the national demos and our local and regional campaigning, the local campaigns and national organisations should call a national assembly for Palestine. It should be educational, but its key purpose should be organising—breaking down by sectors and agreeing national actions, it could gather delegates from local groups and assemblies, trade union branches and campus campaigns as well as national pro-Palestine organisations and groups to unleash a wave of national action.

● We are circulating this proposal to all these bodies and groups for their opinion, support, and if there is significant agreement to call a meeting to begin organising such an assembly.

If you agree with this appeal, pass it in your encampment, trade union, student union or solidarity campaign—and let us know!

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.



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