

REVOLUTION

socialist youth movement

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GLOBAL INTIFADA MUST STOP ISRAELI MASSACRE



A special issue of REVOLUTION

• Israel bombs school • Our own government does nothing • Thousands take to streets • Support the Gaza resistance

a word from the editor

The Christmas break sees usually sees us take a bit of time out from work, school, uni or college, spend some time with our family, and generally relax and rejuvenate ready for the year ahead.

This year was different as we woke on the morning of 27 December and turned on the television to scenes of absolute carnage. Buildings had turned to rubble, children were being placed in body bags and Israeli spokespersons were threatening more of the same.

And it was a promise they kept. The bombing continued, then the ground assault began. Tanks, F16 jets, helicopter gunships and soliders armed to the teeth with the most advanced weaponry in the world were sent to kill men, women and children who have suffered from years of malnutrition of similar levels to the poorest regions of Africa.

Making it worse was the refusal of our own government to take any action against Israel. On Channel 4 news David Miliband Foreign Secretary even refused to describe Israeli force as "disproportionate".

Barack Obama who captured the hope of so many wanting change has been deafeningly silent. He will still not condemn the Israeli state for their actions.

So it is not with pleasure that we present this special issue of REVOLUTION magazine at a time when imperialism is again showing the worst brutality.

But the size and frequency of demonstrations in solidarity with Palestine all over the world must be of immeasurable help in supporting Gaza people at this time. All over the world we must make this movement the start of a global intifada that in 2009 nails imperialism into a permanent coffin.

...One solution... REVOLUTION!

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REVOLUTION NEWSWIRE

REVOLUTION has set up a brand new Newswire service so you can find out about what socialist youth are saying as soon as we say it. All you need is an email address and to sign up on our website at <http://www.worldrevolution.org.uk>.

Getting the message out that there is an alternative to the capitalist system of war, poverty and exploitation is one of the most important things socialists do - so make sure you do your part by getting your friends to sign up too.

We are always looking for new writers - the more the better! We want to know what is happening in your area, demonstrations and protests. Has something angered you that you think we should know about? Or is it something you saw on the news that you think we need to cover? What ever it is, get in touch! info@worldrevolution.org.uk



Thousands take to streets in solidarity with Gaza on January 3

JOHN REPORTS FROM LONDON

Over 50,000 people and perhaps even 75,000 took to the streets of London on Saturday against Israel's brutal attacks on Gaza. The immense size of the demonstration became clear as moving around the demo start point, Embankment became almost impossible due to the thousands of protesters.

REVOLUTION chanted alongside many young people who had come from all over the country at a few days notice to attend the demonstration. Sharing the megaphone around we shouted "Free free Palestine!" and "Victory to the intifada!"

The demonstration route was actually very short and it wasn't long before we reached Downing Street.

Police tried to move protesters along as they shouted "Gordon Brown – terrorist!" Many protesters and speakers at the rally afterwards at Trafalgar Square spoke of their outrage at the silence of our own government and soon-to-be American President Barack Obama. Hundreds of shoes were thrown at the US embassy – symbolic of the protest of an Iraqi journalist against the US occupation of his country.

The packed rally at Trafalgar Square made a mockery of the police "estimate" that the demonstration was 10,000 in size. Overall it was a great success and the largest march Britain has seen for years – let alone at this short notice. In particular, we noted the number of youth. For many, this was probably their first demonstration. In addition,

chants caught on quickly, making for a vibrant, lively but angry march.

After the march, there was a demonstration planned at the Israeli embassy in Kensington. Again, this turned out to be a very young demonstration with lots of chanting, Israeli flag burning and tons of energy. A turnout of over 5000 made moving around very difficult! Some protesters climbed up onto shops and lampposts flying the Palestinian flag.

The demonstration was repeatedly attacked by riot police trying to clear the area close to the embassy. As the movement grows we must expect more police violence and be prepared to organise to defend ourselves and our right to demonstrate.

REBECCA REPORTS FROM LEEDS

One thousand demonstrated in Leeds yesterday against Israeli attacks on Gaza. The protest had been called at a rally held on Tuesday evening of about 300 people, making it clear that as the attacks continue this protest movement will gain momentum.

As people gathered outside the Art Gallery and began to sign a long sheet of wallpaper with messages of solidarity with the people of Gaza, Leeds Coalition Against the War welcomed everyone to the protest and started to introduce the speakers. The list was much more restricted than the previous Tuesday which unfortunately made

it much whiter and older but it was excellent to hear anti-imperialist messages from prominent trade unionists like John McDermot. A number of speakers linked the attacks to America's War on Terror and their imperialist ambitions in the Middle East.

After every speech there were chants of 'Free Free Palestine!' until it was announced that we would march down one of the main roads in the city centre. The march was fast-paced, loud and vibrant, with chants of 'From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free' and hundreds of people taking up our chant of 'Baghdad, Beirut, Kabul, Gaza - vic-

tory to the intifada!'. Lots of shoppers took the League for the Fifth International statement on the Israeli attacks and between them and the demonstrators themselves we handed out hundreds of these.

The news that in Bradford there were 2,000 people marching and in London there were 50,000 spread through the protest and at the end it was announced that we would meet again next Saturday will swelled numbers to continue to oppose the Israeli oppression and violence against the Gazans and show our solidarity with their resistance.

War crime

Israel bombs school killing 40

*** BY MIKE & SAMMY * LEEDS ***

On January 6 2009, at least 55 were wounded and 40 killed in Gaza after the UN-run al-Fukhara school in the Jabaliya refugee camp was bombarded by Israeli tanks.

The total number of Palestinians dead is now standing at 650 with a further 3,000 wounded.

Israel's 11-day old offensive is the latest and most bloody onslaught against the people of Gaza since the Zionist state broke a ceasefire with the democratically-elected party of Palestinian resistance Hamas in November. The truce was broken by Israeli airstrikes on November 4, killing 5 and injuring many more. The response by militants in Gaza was rocket fire.

Israel is using this resistance as a justification for more attacks, this

time by claiming such brutal actions against innocent Palestinians, including many children, are a response to 'hostile fire' from the school. This latest atrocity makes one thing clear - Israel is deliberately targeting civilians in this war and is willing to kill children.

Israel claims that Hamas have used civilians as human shields. There is no evidence whatsoever to warrant such a claim, which is used simply to justify indiscriminate warfare against innocent Palestinians on the densely populated Gaza strip.

The conditions for Palestinians are worsening day by day, with 75% of Gaza's electricity cut off, including a hospital in Gaza city completely without electricity and sewage spilling out onto the streets. Even British Foreign Secretary David Milliband is calling

the situation a 'humanitarian crisis' but choosing not to point fingers in either direction, instead merely calling for humanitarian aid to be sent to ease suffering rather than put a decisive stop to it.

The racist Israeli state is a tool in the hands of US imperialism which continues to seek complete economic and political control of the Middle East. The Israeli government and military wishes to drown the Palestinians' struggle for an independent homeland in blood. The resistance of the Palestinian people, including the actions of the 'terrorist' organisation Hamas, will continue to gain momentum and solidarity worldwide as more and more people see the reality of Israel's coercive regime of 'divide and rule' in Palestine.



UK government does nothing as Israeli butchery continues

★ BY DAN ★ LEEDS UNI★

Israel's invasion and air assaults on Gaza have now left 600 dead. So what is our own government, in one of the most powerful countries in the world doing about it?

The Gaza strip has long been bullied and battered by the Israeli state, which is determined to crush any opposition to their policies of ruling Palestine with an iron fist, denying Arab refugees and former Palestinian residents the right to return, and occupying a country they have no legal right to. The current attacks demonstrate the contempt Israel has for the Palestinian people, and its lack of concern for civilian life or political independence in Palestine.

In addition to the current series of aerial bombings, attacks from the sea, assassinations, kidnappings and now even ground incursions, Israel and its old friend Egypt have been blockading Gaza since 2007. This had already created one of the worst humanitarian crises the Middle East has seen, as Palestinians did not have enough food, clean water, electricity or even medical supplies. This has only been worsened by events of the recent fortnight.

The British government has refused to out and out condemn Israel's actions. Gordon Brown has made vague liberal sentiments about

how both sides are in the wrong and how Hamas' rockets need to stop falling on Israel for peace to come about. Wishy-washy meaningless shit.

Israel is in the wrong. It launched its attacks on the Palestinian people against international law, with no regard to civilian casualties, with the aim of crushing a democratically elected resistance movement. Yet the governments of the West refuse



to condemn their most reliable ally in the Middle East as a murderer and an occupying force. Ex-Prime Minister Tony Blair's new job was supposed to be Middle East Peace Envoy. His silence has also been deafening. Then again what would you expect from a man who spent

almost his entire term in office occupying Iraq and Afghanistan.

Venezuela has just expelled their Israeli ambassador in solidarity with the Palestinians. We should demand all Israeli diplomats are sent back to Israel and that the Israeli embassy in London is shut down. The government should withdraw any aid that is given to Israel and demand that the United States stops the flow of the \$2 billion per year it gives to Israel in military aid. Economic aid should also be stopped immediately.

Almost immediately after the Israeli invasion, protests began on a global scale. 50,000 marched in Egypt, 25,000 here in the UK and 10,000 in Israel itself. The workers and young people of the world are horrified by Israel's actions. We need to force our 'democratic' governments to condemn the attacks by Israel and lay the blame where it truly lies, instead of constantly calling on the Palestinians to lay down their arms and accept their fate as cannon-fodder for Israel's war machine.



FIGHT BACK AGAINST ISRAEL'S INVASION

* REVOLUTION INTERNATIONAL STATEMENT *

After bombing the city of Gaza, one of the most densely populated areas of the world, for one week the Israeli army went for a ground invasion, starting this Saturday. We call on all socialist and progressive forces to stand in solidarity with the resistance against this murderous and reactionary attack.

Israel's ground invasion marks an escalation of the violence against the Palestinian people. After a one-sided ceasefire, during which no Israelis were killed by Palestinian forces at the same time as 24 Palestinians were killed by the IDF, and during which Israel continued to worsen conditions in Gaza through the tightening of the economic blockade, Israel had not managed to bring down the democratically elected Hamas-government. Showing no respect for the will of the Palestinian people whatsoever it has now turned Gaza into a nightmarish warzone in an attempt to physically crush the resistance to its occupation.

The result so far has been devastating. When producing this statement close to an official number of 600 Palestinians have been killed and close to 3 000 injured. The real numbers is probably much higher. The IDF has bombed everything housing areas, mosques, radio stations, drug-stores, university buildings and other civilian infrastructure. On Monday the 5th of January a rocket blasted a vegetable market killing 20 and injuring

many more. Whole families are repeatedly being wiped out as the high tech-army of the IDF makes use of its American weapons against an almost unarmed population. Add to this Israel's conscious hindering of food and medical supplies, the rocket strikes against ambulances and the cutting off of electricity and water and



you get the real character of what the head of the Czech government and current chairman of the EU, Mirek Topolánek, shamefully called a defensive war, a war directed against all the 1.5 million Palestinians living in Gaza.

The hypocrisy of the democratic imperialist powers in the West has once again come into full light, as the one after the other refused to take a clear stance against Israel's attacks. The US has consistently refused to call for a ceasefire and has

given tacit support to Israel throughout. In Britain, the government has not adopted the same uncritical line as it held during the Lebanon war where it shamefully refused to call for a ceasefire and has insisted there is no military solution. Still nothing is being done in reality to prevent Israel from going on with its offensive. Foreign ministers of the European Union government called for an immediate ceasefire from both sides without acknowledging the totally one-sided nature of the ensuing conflict. In fact, it has come to light that these attacks on Gaza were planned five months ago.

The tacit support of the US reflects the simple fact that Israel plays such an important role for American imperialism in the Middle East. It is funded to the tune of billions of dollars in military aid every year and in return it plays the role of America's watchdog - a heavily armed, indeed a nuclear, power with military plans and missiles aimed at key targets in Iran, Iraq and Syria. Israel's role as a guardian for imperialist interests is also the reason why the imperialist powers of the EU refuse to take action. Many of them feed from selling huge quantities of military equipment to Israel, and only recently did the EU struck a new trade agreement with Israel.

Anyone who thinks that Israeli would allow an independent, viable Palestinian state to exist peacefully

VICTORY TO THE GAZA RESISTANCE

on its borders should look at how it has treated the Gaza strip in the last eighteen months. Denied any controls of its borders, denied any territorial waters of its own, denied any access to goods or trade, Gaza has been treated by Israel not as an independent state but as an open-air prison. According to Oxfam this blockades have led to a 95% closure rate of the factories in the Gaza-Strip, left 80% of all families living under the poverty line and meant a massive decline in energy availability. At the moment hospitals are operating with emergency generators that are running out of fuel now.

Take action!

We must take action now. We call for demonstrations in solidarity with the people in Gaza and demand that the attacks cease immediately. The siege must be lifted now - Gaza should have control of its own oil, water and food supplies. We must continue to target Israeli embassies around the world with protests and direct action and boycott Israeli goods. Israel is a racist apartheid state just as South Africa used to be: and must be turned into an international pariah.

Though it should not come as a big surprise it is a shame that the reformist leaders of the different Labour movements do not make calls for direct action directed against the occupation and Israel's war. All progressive forces, and in particular the working class, have an interest in the victory against this racist and murderous apartheid state. We continue to encourage all workers to raise calls on their leaders to act - but also to take action themselves, with or without, and when necessary against, these leaders.

Taking Gaza street by street,

house by house, has not proved to be an easy mission for Israel and it is already clear that the Palestinian masses are prepared to fight. While they can commit terrible massacres and inflict horrendous damage to infrastructure, Israel is ultimately fighting an un-winnable war.

We stand in complete solidarity with the armed resistance against the IDF. We welcome every dead IDF-soldier, every blown up Israeli tank or bulldozer, and every action that hurts the Israeli offensive. A victory for the Palestinian resistance is a victory for all the oppressed, not only in Gaza but all over the world. We have a lot to say about the Islamist politics of Hamas - we think they represent a dead end for the Palestinian people - but in the here and now we stand completely by its side in solidarity as



its militia bravely fights the IDF in the streets of Gaza. Hamas should encourage further organisation of all those Palestinians willing to fight into militias and self-defence units in order to achieve victory.

We also demand from the Arab regimes, which claim friendship with Palestine but ultimately serve the interests of the United States, to send arms and weapons to the resistance. But most important, we must

encourage all workers and oppressed in the Middle East to take mass action in solidarity with Palestine and fight against every regime that refuse to take action against Israel. Also the antiwarmovement in Israel has to take action. It has to make the Israeli state responsible for all problems in the region and side with the Palestinian resistance. In addition to that we call on the Israeli working class movement to take strike action and organise boycotts against military material in order to weaken the murderous Israeli forces.

A nation that oppresses another can never be free. Every act of Israeli aggression will ultimately only strengthen the hand of those, whatever their politics, who are willing to fight the oppressor state. Israel will only have its security when its

ceases to be Israel: when it ceases to uphold the forced exclusion of five million Palestinian refugees from their homeland, so that the Israelis Jews can be a majority in a racist state.

- Victory to the Gaza resistance!
- For an immediate and unconditional end to the Israeli offensive!
- For a secular, socialist state of Palestine for people of all faiths and none!

BUILDING THE NEXT DEMO

1) Tell everyone you know – ASAP!

Use calls, texts, email and sites like Facebook and Myspace to tell everyone you know as soon as possible. The sooner you tell them the more likely it is they will be able to come. Millions of people are shocked and appalled by what is happening in Gaza so don't be afraid to tell even people you don't know very well to get active and come to the demonstration to show their support for Gaza. Make sure you tell everyone you speak to contact everyone they know as well!

2) Take politics to the streets!

Download posters for the demonstration, or make your own. You should be able to get some from the REVOLUTION website, Stop the War or PSC. Get hold of some blu-tac and head down to your local shopping area. Many shops, takeaways and cafes will be happy to put them up inside or even in the windows free of charge. Put one in your own window and ask your friends to do the same. Universities have plenty of space to advertise events. If you go to school or college, ask a friendly teacher where you can put one

up. They might even be able to put one in their staff room.

3) Find other activists!

Take a petition round your school, college, uni or workplace. Take email addresses and phone numbers then send them information about the demonstration and the latest news from Gaza. If anyone seems particularly interested in coming, ask them to help publicise the demonstration with you. Better still, add them to the REVOLUTION Newswire where regular news, reports and event information is sent out.

4) Book transport

Call your local Stop the War or Palestine Solidarity group for information on transport to the demonstration. Most of them will provide transport at a very cheap rate for youth and the unwaged. They might even reserve places for you and your friends and let you pay on the day. You can see if they will give you a few tickets to sell to other people.

For more email info@worldrevolution.org.uk

WHAT WE STAND FOR

The Independent on Sunday got it right in an "expose" of REVOLUTIONs involvement in organising May Day 2001. It said: "REVOLUTION wants to build a revolutionary socialist mass movement and overthrow capitalism." Exactly right. We are opposed to capitalism and the misery, alienation, war and environmental destruction it creates.

We fight all forms of discrimination and oppression, whether on grounds of sex, race, nationality or sexuality.


Capitalism is a global system, so we have to fight it globally. We want to smash the borders and divisions of nations and move forward to a truly global and united humanity, without bigotry, war and class division. We stand shoulder to shoulder with our sisters and brothers in the Third World struggling to break free of the trillion dollar debt, the IMF, WTO and NATO.

We are socialists - we want to abolish capitalism and replace it with a planned economy. But we do not believe that the capitalist elite will allow their wealth and privilege to be voted out of existence. We believe it will take force to take the power and property away from the few and redistribute into the hands of the many - that means a revolution!

REVO wants young people to participate in radical politics and organise themselves. Young people can be very radical and militant, the anti war movement proved that. They should take a lead in the movement that will shape the struggle for the future.

We believe a mass movement must be built based on the support of the majority of the people - the working class. It is the working class that produces all the wealth in this society. The working class has no interest in keeping capitalism going. Only the working class has the power, the size and the traditions of organisation to bring this rotten system crashing down.

JOIN US!



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