

Booklet
of Panel
discussion

Israeli **war** on Gaza

& the Palestinian issue!



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introduction TO BOOKLET

The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees (IFIR) held a panel discussion addressing the Israeli war on Gaza. The meeting took place via Zoom on Saturday, 16th December 2023. The panel aimed to address the Palestinian issue. The meeting was organized to mark World Human Rights Day. The panel discussed Israeli aggression, the roles of the United States, Western countries, the region, and the global movement supporting the Palestinian people. We invited individuals from different groups and organizations from around the world to discuss the situation and arising issues caused by the conflict. In this booklet you will find the speeches of all the panelists. Also, a joint declaration was agreed by the panel and other organisations. The final article in this booklet is the first IFIR statement released at the beginning of this conflict.

On behalf of IFIR I would like to personally thank the panelists and attendees and everyone who sent apologies but supported the aims of the meeting.

Dashty Jamal

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1) Karen Johnson the Chair opened the meeting calling for one minutes silence for all those innocent people killed in the war, both Israeli and Palestinian.

Karen introduced Dashty Jamal a well-known political and human rights campaigner with 31 years' experience. He has been involved with, and led and organized many campaigns promoting and protecting both refugee rights and worker rights. As well as political campaigns helping women who have experienced domestic violence. Dashty helped found the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees in 1993 and is now the secretary.

Karen invited Dashty Jamal to welcome the panel and attendees to the meeting

2) I warmly welcome you all to this meeting on behalf of The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees -IFIR. Thank you to all the speakers for accepting our invitation, and for participating in this panel discussion, addressing the Israeli war on Gaza.

In light of recent events, our panel aims to address the Palestinian issue to mark 10 December World Human Rights Day.

At this meeting we will discuss the following issues Israeli aggression, the role of the United States and Western countries as well as countries located in the region, and of course the global movement supporting the Palestinian people.

At the end of the panel discussion, I will present an agreed joint declaration on behalf of IFIR and the panel participants.

I Would also like to inform you that this meeting will be recorded both the panel speeches and the discussion. IFIR plans to produce a booklet of the meeting which will focus on the panel's speeches and following discussion.

We have invited many Trade Unionists and political parties from across the world including Australia, Scandinavian countries and of course from the Middle East. Unfortunately, we have received a large number of apologies including from UK Labour Party MP's.

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I will now pass over to Karen Johnson the chair of this meeting. Karen is a Trade Union activist of many years within the civil service. I hope you enjoy the meeting.

Dashty Jamal

General Secretary of International Federation of Iraqi Refugees (IFIR)

Speech by Comrade

MOHAMAD ALOSH

member of the Political Bureau of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front



Dear comrades

I greet you in the name of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front, and in the name of the comrade, the Secretary-General, Dr. Ahmed Majdalani, who was unable to participate in this symposium with us today, because he was on an official mission in Algeria, and I convey to you the greetings of my comrades and comrades, members of the political office and the central committee, and all the female and male activists of the Front.

We extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to you as you hold this important international meeting to strengthen your solidarity and your standing by the just Palestinian cause and the right of our people to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital.

The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees represents a true face of sincere international solidarity with the justice of the Palestinian cause and the legitimacy of the Palestinian national struggle in the face of the brutal Israeli occupation. We exchange with our Iraqi comrades and with all progressive, labor and communist forces with common goals and struggle and bearing the shared responsibility to defend the destinies of our peoples, their issues and their rights. Fair and reject all attempts to write off, cancel and exclude.

Greetings to you from Palestine... from Gaza, from Ramallah, and from every inch of the land of our homeland, which we have no other

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homeland. We remain here and will not leave, and our great people will continue the struggle in all available forms to achieve freedom and independence and establish our free and independent state, and from this place and through this great platform. We extend our great greetings to all the peoples of the world for their positions, support and support for the Palestinian cause, as the popular masses in all countries of the world came out to affirm their support for our afflicted and tortured people in Gaza, who are groaning under the strikes of American and Western imperial planes, missiles and bombs in this terrorist war.

The war of genocide, ethnic cleansing, and state terrorism organized by the fascist and racist Israeli government against our defenseless Palestinian people continues in our occupied Palestinian land, as the chapters of the tragedy unfold in the Gaza Strip, which is exposed to the ugliest barbaric war of aggression by the terrorist Israeli occupation army, with the support and cover of the coalition. Western imperialism led by the United States of America.

We are subjected to an unprecedented aggression in the history of humanity, as the occupation army committed hundreds of horrific massacres and massacres against innocent civilians among our people and our Palestinian working class. So far, there are nearly 20,000 martyrs, more than 70,000 wounded, and nearly one million seven hundred thousand displaced people in the Gaza Strip, the majority of whom are victims. This criminal war includes women and children, with more than 70% of the number of martyrs, in addition to the great material damage that affected all cities, villages, camps, neighborhoods and residential buildings as part of the war led by the enemy government as punishment. Collective attack on our people after this occupation failed in direct confrontation with the resistance forces, despite the unequal opportunities between the occupation army, armed with American, British and Western weapons, and the resistance forces that express the will of our people and the determination of our people to cling to the land, face the fateful challenges, and reject displacement and apartheid projects and all attempts at displacement and uprooting that The occupation is working to achieve this through its

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frenzied, barbaric war machine, which continues for the seventy-first day in a row.

All this war and all these sacrifices will not undermine the steadfastness of our people, which has demonstrated the highest form of legendary steadfastness in the face of the bloody chapters of this Nakba to which the workers and people of Palestine are subjected, and which is experiencing chapters of a new Nakba that is more bitter than the Nakba to which our people were subjected in 1948.

The occupation is terrorism, and it is the true expression of neo-fascism and Zionist and religious terrorism practiced by its occupying army and the Zionist terrorist colonial settlement gangs and militias that practice their thuggish aggression against our defenseless people and against the safe people in their villages and towns, especially in those areas close to settlement blocs and illegal and illegal settlements established on... Our Palestinian land is in flagrant violation of international and humanitarian law and all international norms and conventions.

The occupation's aggressive racism is evident in its criminal treatment of Palestinian male and female workers at the checkpoints and in the work sites from which the occupation expelled them without any rights, in violation of all international labor agreements, as it killed in cold blood a number of our workers since the seventh of October, and thousands of workers were arrested from The people of the Gaza Strip who were subjected to physical and psychological torture and were placed in its cells and detention centers in an inhumane manner. A number of them were deported to the Gaza Strip in light of the continuation of the war, where they were subjected to all forms of humiliation and abuse by the police and soldiers of the occupation army. This was also accompanied by the continuous persecutions and arrests of our workers in the West Bank. The occupation implemented what it calls a policy of collective punishment and price tags against our workers, which led to horrific social and economic conditions as a result of poverty and unemployment, as the number of unemployed reached approximately 45,000 Palestinian workers. The numbers are likely to rise as the unjust war on our people continues, as the Interna-

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tional Labor Organization and other relevant parties, including labor unions, including our union - the Palestinian Labor Struggle Union, the labor arm of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front - have expected that the poverty rate will reach high levels, perhaps reaching To 40%, as well as an increase in the unemployment rate among workers to approximately 600,000 workers from the Palestinian labor force.

We are facing a fateful and difficult circumstance that requires international and Arab positions rejecting the genocidal war and Israeli aggression. We demand the rejection of double standards, and we call on international institutions, the Security Council and the United Nations to put real pressure on Israel to cease fire, and to allow the opening of safe corridors for the entry of humanitarian and relief aid, especially medicines and water. And food and fuel, and to provide urgent support to restart hospitals that were not spared from the crimes of the occupation and from the bombing by its planes and missiles that struck 36 hospitals and completely destroyed them, including the sick, wounded, and medical staff, as the occupation killed more than 280 doctors and workers in the health sector, destroyed ambulances, and bombed them. Places of worship and UNRWA schools where displaced people took refuge in various areas in the Gaza Strip.

We do not just want to denounce and denounce, we want serious positions, and we want words to be accompanied by deeds. The time has come to curb this evil war and hold the occupation and its leaders and generals accountable for the heinous crimes they have committed against humanity. The only place for these people is the international courts and the criminal court, which must do its duty and its role. Far from trying to close its eyes to these ongoing brutal massacres in Gaza and the occupied Palestinian territories.

We are steadfast and will not accept displacement, and we will not accept harm to our rights and national constants. We look forward to a true and serious peace - comprehensive, just and balanced - that guarantees our people their right to self-determination and the establishment of our independent Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital. Hence, we demand the convening of an international peace con-

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ference to resolve the Palestinian issue in accordance with resolutions. Relevant international legitimacy, an international and multilateral conference that ends American hegemony, which is not fit to be a sponsor of the peace process. The American administration has proven in word and deed its true and full-fledged partnership with the occupation government in its barbaric war against humanity in Palestine.

We salute you and the positions of your struggling union, and the positions of the parties participating in this forum today, in which we must all join our joint efforts to build an international front against imperialism, fascism and Zionism to restore respect for true international solidarity by the progressive components that are alive and active and have a real influence in directing public opinion and the struggle to build A new international order on foundations that guarantee the rights and status of all peoples without discrimination, without hegemony, without wars, without any interference in the internal affairs of any country, and rejecting existing subordination, guardianship, and exploitation.

May you live, free people.

May you live in the struggle

Long live our common struggle.



Barry Weisleder

spoke to the IFIR hosted Conference on Palestine held on December 16, 2023. He advocates labour solidarity, independent working class political action, and revolutionary socialist politics. Barry is the federal secretary of Socialist Action Canada.

Greetings to all the comrades and friends around the world. This is a very impressive gathering of likeminded groups and individuals who work together for a better world.

Sadly, it is clearer than ever, that the Zionist state aims to drive hundreds of thousands of Palestinians out of Gaza and the West Bank. This is violent ethnic cleansing on a scale reminiscent of 1948 and 1967. The UN Security Council held a special vote in the demand for a ceasefire in Gaza, but the US vetoed it. That left Washington in total isolation, which is quite instructive about the relationship of class forces in the world today. And Palestinians were left in total cataclysm. Justin Trudeau the Canadian prime minister just found a way to utter the word ceasefire. He couldn't say it up until now, but he voted for a non-binding Ceasefire resolution in the UN General Assembly. But what does Trudeau emphasize? He emphasizes the requirement that Hamas lay down its arms -- not that the IDF leave Gaza. Not that there be a halt to Zionist settler pogroms in the West Bank, and not that the thousands of Palestinian political prisoners be released immediately. The IDF for its part says the current bombardment and ground war will continue for months.

The most massive anti-war movement in generations is mobilizing millions of people. Our task is to participate vigorously in these ac-

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tions while seeking support in all working class organizations for the demand to end the occupation, and for boycott divestment sanctions against the Zionist state and economy. We, for our part as a revolutionary socialist organization, say “No two-state solution, only permanent revolution.”

This weekend, there are actions for Palestine being held around the world including in Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver and other Canadian cities. The story of Israel is a story of successive waves of expansion 1956, 1967, 1974, plus the invasion of Lebanon in 1982 and the fascist massacre at Sabra and Shatila refugee camps supervised by Ariel Sharon. Along the way, the Arab regimes were complicit with Zionism, most egregiously when Jordan’s monarchy carried out a slaughter of insurgent Palestinian forces in September 1970, known thereafter as Black September.

On top of this is the repression of the First Intifada, December 1987 to 1991. The prevalence of torture in Israeli prisons, the case of nuclear weapons whistleblower Mordechai Vanunu, summary arrests and murders by Shin Beit, the so-called Security Service, the daily illegal brutalities that include the bulldozing of Palestinian homes, destruction of olive groves, shootings, maiming, strafing and bombing, leading to the genocide in Gaza today. What more should be said about the so-called two-state solution?

The Oslo accord starting in 1993, based on the Camp David Accords of 1978, did not constitute a break with Zionist policy, much less a break with the character of the Zionist state, acting in close alliance with Washington and its partners in Ottawa and across Europe. Also, it was a policy of containment and an attempt to coop the Palestinian revolution. Yasser Arafat’s PLO regime was thoroughly corrupt, anti-democratic and repressive. It proved to be completely powerless and subordinate to Israel and the US. Al Fatah, the conservative nationalist movement in the Palestine authority currently led by Mahmoud Abbas is isolated and despised by poor and working class Palestinians. It is it is paid by Israel to police and repress West Bank residents. What exactly are they doing today to defend the residents of Janin and other West Bank towns?

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Even if Arafat or his successor could have gained control over Jerusalem, the Palestine question would remain unresolved. Hamas and Hezbollah gained popularity by filling a political vacuum created by capitulation to Washington. The Zionist state favoured Hamas over the PA because the message of the Islamic fundamentalist is repugnant to most working class Israelis. In the face of new atrocities committed by Zionism the Palestinian resistance continues to rise again and again. What are the tasks of socialists and progressives in relation to the Palestinian resistance today? The primary task is to educate and mobilize public opinion to oppose Israel's military aggression against the Palestinians, it is necessary to confront and expose the myths about the Zionist state. Do not submit to intimidation by the pro-Zionist organizations and media. Defend those who the capitalist state and rulers seek to silence.

Oppose Canadian government and business complicity with U.S. domination of the Middle East, and specifically with the crimes of the Zionist state. UN resolutions which condemn Israeli aggression but impose no sanctions on the aggressor are clearly inadequate. But to vote against such motions is worse than inadequate. It is an act of imperialist contempt for the oppressed and an act of abject submission to Washington and Wall Street. Which is worse: the Liberals' hypocrisy in Canada, Ottawa's abstention in the UN vote for the ceasefire now, on the first round, or the labour-based NDP, expelling Hamilton Center member of Provincial Parliament Sarah Gemma from its caucus in the Ontario legislature, because she spoke up strongly in solidarity with the Palestinian movement after October 7? The fact that the federal NDP now calls for a ceasefire, albeit blaming both sides in the conflict equally, is a product of pro-Palestinian pressure on the streets and inside the union-linked NDP in which the Socialist Caucus played a significant role. Equally important is the task of forging principled unity and mass action on the basis of a concrete program of democratic demands. These include: Stop the violent attacks on Palestinians, remove Zionist forces from the occupied territories now, and arrest and try Israeli soldiers, police and civilians accused of murder and assault.

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By the way, that IDF admits that they killed three of the people held by Hamas very recently, and they killed a cameraman from Al Jazeera just yesterday. Dismantle the Israeli settlements, lift restrictions on Palestinian freedom to travel and to work in Israel and the occupied territories, tear down the apartheid wall. Recognize and facilitate the right of return of all Palestinians to their homeland. Strike down all laws that discriminate against Arabs and Muslims in Israel. Advance the campaign for Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions against the Zionist state and economy. Needed is a broad political movement for social justice in Palestine. On this basis, we can we can build such a movement even larger than the present historic global movement. Currently, many unions across Canada, including CUPE Ontario, OP-SEU, Unifor and postal workers are joining with students, feminists, seniors, environmentalist and international solidarity organizations to demand a permanent ceasefire. This is an important step forward because it challenges the Zionist rationale for the war; that it is defensive. It relies on the mobilization of working people and our allies, not on the government or the business elite. Needed is a mass movement that welcomes believers and non-believers alike and which is democratic and open. Socialists have a further responsibility to present a cogent, coherent analysis of the current conflict in its global context, taking into account the decline in American hegemony and to advance a program in the interests of the worldwide working class. We are pledged to do that, which is the purpose of this conference. Onwards to victory. Build the international movement of solidarity for the Palestinian people. Smash the Zionist apartheid state. For a democratic, secular Palestine.



Hinada Seishi

International Coordinnator

MDS (Movementt for Democratic Socialism)

1.

Hello, my name is Hinada Seishi, international coordinator of MDS (Movement for Democratic Socialism), Japan. Thank you for inviting us to this international meeting on Gaza. First, let me introduce a bit about MDS. MDS is a Japanese leftist political organization, which was founded in the year 2000, working for democratic socialism as the alternative to the corrupt, unjust, and destructive system of capitalism. We spent about a decade on reexamining why the world socialist system collapsed and the Soviet Union was dissolved in the early 1990s. Based upon the reexamination, we reached democratic socialism. Comrade Samir Adil of Worker-Communist Party of Iraq is a longtime friend of ours. He has visited us in Japan many times at the invitation of ZENKO, which is a grassroots organization affiliated with MDS.

2.

Now, I will talk about the East Asian situation. NATO-ization of the Asian-Pacific region, by which I mean creating NATO-like military alliances in this part of the world, has been rapidly in progress. At the center of it is the trilateral military alliance JAKUS (J,ROK,US). Japanese PM Fumio Kishida, South Korean President Yoon Suk Yeol, and the US President Joe Biden met at Camp David in August this year, and announced Camp David Joint Statement.

3.

In it they declared: we will enhance strategic coordination between

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the U.S.-Japan and U.S.-ROK alliances and bring our trilateral security cooperation to new heights, and: Our three countries announce today that we intend to hold annual, named, multi-domain trilateral exercises on a regular basis to enhance our coordinated capabilities and cooperation.

4.

By fully exploiting the war in Ukraine, Kishida doubled our military budget, and Yuun promised to promote nuclear-based military alliance with the US. The number of joint military exercises dramatically increased. They conducted JAKUS air force military exercises alongside the Korean Peninsula in October 22. A US strategic bomber and Japanese & Korean fighter jets demonstrated that they are ready to attack DPRK (North Korea) at any time.

5.

Their main target, however, is China. This is a map of the area. Japan and the US are now militarizing small islands in so-called 'the 1st Island Chain' that extends from the mainland Japan to Taiwan. In the center of the archipelago is Okinawa island. They are provoking by a fake concept of 'Taiwan Contingency,' stoking 'China Threat' and trying to interfere in the internal affairs of China.

6.

This year alone, Resolute Dragon, Iron Fist, and other large-scale military exercises have taken place in Japan. The US-Pilipino military exercises conducted the East China Sea in October were joined by Japan, UK, Canada, and Australia. Provocations are daily, and mutual military build-up will heighten the level of tensions in this area.

7.

Thus, islanders in the 1st Island Chain, including Okinawa, are put on the front line of military confrontations vis-a-vis China. These islands are inhabited by around 1.5 million people. Now that Japan and the US have built missile bases on these islands and are now deploying long-range missiles, which are capable of reaching main cities of China, the whole islands are becoming the military targets from the adversary. Being surrounded by the sea, people living on these islands of Ryukyu Ark have no place to escape in the event of war. The sce-

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nario of Taiwan Contingency and Okinawa War will certainly lead to dire consequences for the islanders.

8.

Setting up missile bases on small islands where residents cannot escape blatantly goes against the "principle of separation" between the military and civilians. This principle was established by international humanitarian law. Airports and ports, in dual use, also become targets during wartime, and residents are unable to evacuate to anywhere. The "international humanitarian law" mandates the protection of civilians during times of war. Protocols additional to the Geneva Conventions stipulate that you should avoid placing military facilities that may become military targets near densely populated areas. It should be repeatedly emphasized that to transform the islands of Okinawa into missile bases is a clear violation of the protocols.

9.

Now I will turn to Middle East. Japan officially opened its first overseas military base in Djibouti in 2011, and now 400 soldiers, two P3C anti-submarine patrol planes etc. are stationed. They are there in the name of counter-piracy enforcement. But in reality, they are there to maintain Japan's military presence to protect overseas interests, and they are waiting for a chance of military intervention. In fact, after October 7, Japan deployed 3 sky freighter military planes to Jordan and Athens, Greece, using Djibouti base as a foothold. The deployment is said to have been to help evacuate the Japanese nationals. But civil airplanes suffice for evacuation.

10.

Let me touch upon the bilateral relationship between Japan and Israel. In 2014, Netanyahu visited Japan and in return, then PM Shinzo Abe visited Israel in the following year. They agreed on bilateral research endeavor in the field of defense technology. In 2017, both countries signed on Mutual Investment Agreement. Ever since then, meetings of high-ranking officials and military officers have frequently been held.

11.

At the same time, Israeli military companies are selling their weapons.

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DSEI (Defense Security Equipment International), which is a trade fair of weapons, are being held in Japan. In 2019, three Israeli military companies, Elbit Systems, IAI (Israel Aerospace Industries), and Rafael participated. In March this year, 14 Israeli companies attended. They are boasting that the efficiency of their weapons have been proven in real combat! Japanese military trade companies like Japan Aircraft Supply, Itochu Aviation, and Aspiration are helping Israeli companies to succeed in selling their products. We have to boycott related companies.

12.

On November 23, 10000 people gathered in the island of Okinawa to raise voices of their opposition to militarization of the islands, saying never make Okinawa a battlefield again! All the international conflicts should be resolved not through military means but through diplomatic channels.

13.

Since October 7, demonstrations against genocide in Gaza have taken place intermittently all around Japan. Osaka, Tokyo, Hiroshima, and other places. In Okinawa, on December 23, in the main street of the prefectural capital, a rally is now being prepared.

14.

All these actions are part of the international efforts to stop the massacre in Gaza. We should give more pressure to the respective governments to clearly denounce the genocide, collective punishment being carried out by Israel for their blatant violation of International Humanitarian Law.

15.

Let us get united more solidly and internationally than those war mongers and stop them from continuing these unprecedented crimes against humanity!

Thank you for listening!



Toma Hamid

**Member of central committee in the
worker-communist party of Iraq-WPI**

First point I want to make is that, what has been going on in Gaza following October 7 is not a war between two in anyway equal forces and not a “war on Hamas” as the Israeli and the Western governments and media try to portray, but it is collective punishment, genocide and ethnic cleansing motivated by desire to revenge against millions of Palestinians with aid of the West. The US is an active party to this war.

It is difficult to find a silver lining for these terrible events and the massacre committed against the population in Gaza following October 7, but if there was one, it is the fact that most of the humanity around the world has become aware about the apartheid, terrorist, and criminal nature of the state of Israel. It has become clear that the policies and actions of the state of Israel over the last seven decades have been brutal, criminal, genocidal and amount to ethnic cleansing. These events have brought to the surface the crimes committed against Palestinians not only since October 7 but over last 75 years.

The hypocrisy and double standard of the Western governments and the mainstream media have also become very clear to most around the world. It is clear, that this genocide is being carried out with the financial, military, and propaganda support from the Western governments led by the USA. It has become clear that the Western mainstream media is a machine for spreading lies, justifying crimes and wars. However, this propaganda machine which was so effective in past has stopped been so.

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The West will support Israel regardless of the nature of the crimes it commits. This support is not about Israel “security” and “Israel’s right to self-defence” but it is about having a military outpost in the Middle East to keep this region unstable and divided so it can be subjugated politically, militarily and economically.

These issues are becoming clear partly due to the scale and scope of the crimes committed this time and partly because the mainstream media can not control the images and stories coming out and cannot control the narrative like what happened even in recent history including the criminal blockade on Iraq during 1990s, Gulf war of 1991, invasion of Iraq in 2003, occupation of Afghanistan and destruction of Lybia and Syria

The other point I want to stress is that many have put hopes on Iran, Turkey, Arab governments, Russia and China to come to the aid of the masses in Gaza. I believe this a false hope. This does not mean that there is no risk of the war widening but these regime and forces are opportunistic and what govern their actions is not the rights of the masses in Palestine. In fact, many regimes in the region have used the Palestinian issue to justify oppressing their own population and stamp out any descent. This issue is used to gain political, military, and economic privileges in the region and as a bargaining chip and a lever in dealing with each other.

In my opinion, the only hope for the masses in Palestine is the progressive, freedom loving people and the working class worldwide. This is especially true during this juncture while the capitalist world is transitioning to multipolarity and there is an intense competition among capitalist powers and therefore there is no logic ruling the international affairs, no international capitalist rule of law, the international institutions like UN and its security Council are powerless to certain degree at least until now. Only under the pressure of the working class and progressive people, the Western government will back down, the UN and its bodies will force Israel and its backers to put an end to these atrocities.

We already have seen practical examples ranging from enormous demonstrations in various cities around the world to industrial action

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against production of weapons and transporting them to Israel, to issuing statements and appeals, participating in discussion, launching campaigns and petitions and so on.

Unfortunately, the Palestine question and the injustice against Palestinians has been exploited first by the Arab nationalist movement and later by political Islam movement for various goals that has nothing to do with justice and the rights of Palestinians.

Now this question must become the question of the progressive and socialist movements. We need to build an international front from progressive people. We need to reach out to activists worldwide, on Palestinian side and activist from Jewish background and we have many examples like Katie Halper, Max Blumethol, Arron Mate, Lee Camp and many others.

It must be clear that large section of the masses in Israel seek peace, safety and to live free of fear and sizable minority is against the crimes committed against Palestinians. We need to reach out to those to.

The role of the working class is extremely important. The working class can bring the war machine to standstill. We have seen some examples of working-class taking actions against the war machine including workers of arm industry, docks and shipping workers in many countries.

The issue of Palestine must be solved.

I believe the two-state solution is still the most plausible and practical solution.

The balance of glass power does not make socialism a possible immediate solution for this issue.

The conditions for one state solution are not there. This requires a state in Isarel that is secular, and non-ethnic. It requires overcoming decades of hostilities and animosities. Establishing a progressive state in Israel that treats everyone as equal citizens and where everyone co-exists regardless of their nationality, religion and language depends on the balance of power inside Israel.

The right wing and far right forces are very strong in Israel. The nature of the state of Israel is ethnic and religious. The prospective of a

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powerful progressive movement inside Israel that can marginalize the right, change the nature of the state and its laws is not there. In other words, the balance of power inside Isarel does not favour a progressive state. In fact the current conditions and remaining the Palestinian issue unsolved strengthen the right. The left and progressive movements will become stronger only if this issue is solved.

Moreover, even if such a state was established in Israel, the Palestinian masses still have the right to their own independent state.

The two-state solution enjoys support by public worldwide, many governments and international organizations. Israel and its backers can be pressured to agree to a viable and equal Palestinian state. The 700,000 settlers that live now in the occupied territories of the Palestinians based on borders of 1967 can live as citizens of the Palestinian state or move to the state of Israel. Without the support of the West, Israel has no choice but to accept this solution. It can be isolated in the region and globally. The pressure is amounting on Israel and the West but much more needs to be done.

The independent state of Palestine would not only stop the Israeli war machine and ethnic cleaning and injustice against innocent Palestinians but will also end the terror that the masses of Israel endure. It will affect the political situation and remove a lot of tensions in the region and reset the political, economic equations in the Middle East. It will strengthen secularism, will push the whole region to the left and marginalise the extreme right-wing forces. It will make the class struggle much clearer in this region. Therefore, we should concentrate on realizing this solution.

However, all efforts should concentrate on ending Israel's military campaign immediately.

Thank you



Jamal Mohsin

Member of the politburo in the Worker-communist Party of Kurdistan and represents the party in the panel. He has been the editor-in-chief of Socialist Outlook, a seasonal journal of the party, from 2015 to 2021. He has a Master's Degree in English literature (Post-colonial literature) from the University of Oslo and has been a lecturer at the University of Sulaimani for about three years. Now he lives in Norway, Oslo.

Hello everyone:

This is Jamal Muhsin, a member of the Politburo of Worker-communist Party of Kurdistan. Thanks to Dashty Jamal, head of the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees, for inviting us to this important debate about one of the warmest issues humanity is experiencing.

We have previously announced, together with Worker-communist Party of Iraq and Hekmatist Party (official line), our policy towards the war and genocide in Gaza. We all stand for that the genocide against innocent people in Gaza must be stopped. In this opportunity today, we are going to frame our speech around some questions and we would like to find solutions and answers to them. The questions can be summed up us: 1. Why does the war continue? 2. What is the future of Gaza and Palestine in general? 3. Aiming to mention the two-state solution, what is the solution to the Palestinian issue? 4. What can the international working-class movement do for that solution?

We all know that the US and Israel are keen to continue this war, and the questions is why? As far as Israel is concerned, the internal bourgeoisie is facing a serious crisis, economically, politically and so-

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cially. The wings of the bourgeoisie are unclear what to do. They do not have a clear perspective to get out of that crisis and have no solution. One of their aims is to change the face of their internal crisis into the on-going war. The second point to mention here is that it is connected to the international or global situation. As we know after the war in Ukraine, the bourgeois super powers' multi-pole are trying, through this war, to re-divide the world according to their interests. For Israel, it is important to have a better position in the rearranged areas in the Middle East. The USA's main objective is to be the first super power when establishing a new security system in the Middle East, having the total control and hegemony in the area. That is why it is crucial for both the USA and Israel to guarantee such a position, something that can be gained by war.

As we witnessed when Israel accepted the ceasefire, it was for a special purpose. They wanted to "buy time" to get more readiness in gaining their target, aiming at dismantling Hamas and having the entire hostages home. It is historically known that Israel has never ever done such a thing in a peaceful way; but through perpetual wars and warmongering.

To look at the European countries and their stances, we see how different they are. We can definitely realise that there is a split between them and the US and Israel. Europe does not and cannot be compatible with the US and Israel policy. We have seen that in the last resolution from the UN concerning the "humanitarian ceasefire". The US and Israel were isolated because there were only 10 members who said "no" to it, including them. The European countries are under the pressure of the working class and people. The modern and freedom-loving people in Europe and the world have shown that they would not accept the policy of the US and Israel, as the latter would do that only through atrocities, gruesome crimes and killing innocent people in Palestine. In that way the goal that the Israeli authority calls for, which is eliminating Hamas, will come true only through massacres and genocide.

So there is another scenario from Europe. They request that there should be ceasefire and a so-called peace conference and go back to

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Oslo agreement. However, it is clear that neither the US nor Israel would approve that, although some Arabic countries have accepted it as a solution. It is apparent that the US wholeheartedly wants to keep its allies in the Arabic countries, but whether it can do that or not is disputable. The US is more isolated than ever before.

There is another scenario from some Israeli and American forum, which cites that Gaza must be displaced and evacuated and there should be a no fly zone there. This is an unacceptable scenario because the working class and normal people in the world would understand it as a continuation of the same atrocities of today.

The last scenario is by us, communists, socialists and the working class and that is two-state solution. Briefly said, we have to put an end to the historical issue and problem that has brought many lives to death. This can only be done through establishing two states side by side. So long as we do not have such a socialist movement, neither in Israel nor in Palestine, to build up an equal socialist society in the area, we have no other solution than the recognition of two states having the equal rights. To halt the genocide committed in Gaza, to stop all the carnages against innocent people is our main aim now. But to find a solution to the historical background behind this bloodbath is our duty. The working class that has shown its power from Spain, Italy, Greece, the UK, many Arabic countries... and so on, can be dominant to impose its solution, the two-state solution to the Palestinian issue, which can bring about peace in Palestine, Israel and the whole area.



The Decline of "Western Democracy" in the Palestinian Context

Speaker: Fuad Abdullahi

**member of the Central Committee of the Worker Communist Party of Iran - Hekmatist
(Official Line)**

In a brief address during the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees meeting on December 16, 2023, the speaker shed light on the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict, framing it as the protracted result of 70 years of systematic oppression, genocide, and collective punishment by the Israeli apartheid state. This state, backed by the US and other Western allies, has violated international norms and universal human rights, committing various crimes, including war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide in Gaza.

The speaker contends that Israel's actions have not only undermined global US hegemony but have also challenged the foundations of "Western democracy" and the "Free Market" established after World War II. Israel's impunity in Palestine, breaking principles of war, has weakened the ideological and political standing of the US, disrupting its claim to global leadership. The speaker argues that the orchestrators of these crimes extend beyond Israel, with key advisors in Washington, London, Berlin, and Paris playing a significant role.

However, the speaker notes a shift in the geopolitical landscape, highlighting Israel's increasing isolation and the weakening of the US po-

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sition among its allies. This is evidenced by the UN's reluctance to issue a resolution for a ceasefire and Western countries' proposal of changes to the Security Council structure. The speaker attributes this isolation to a global civilised movement advocating for justice, an end to genocide, and recognition of the independent state of Palestine.

The speech's central message is that the sun is setting on Western democracy as the public in Western societies awakens to the reality of "Western democracy" suppressing social justice, the right to protest, and freedom of expression. The speaker underscores the responsibility of the civilised movement, especially Worker Communism and the working-class movement, in resolving the Palestine issue. The speech highlights the efforts of the working class in various countries to oppose arms shipments to Israel and protest against weapons factories.

The speaker concludes by outlining urgent demands for peace in the Middle East, emphasising the need to end the genocide, lift the siege on Gaza, open roads and crossings for humanitarian aid, and require Israel to withdraw from occupied territories. The speech concludes with a call for Worker Communism to bridge the Enlightenment era with socialism in the 21st century amid the sunset of "Western democracy."



Pubudu Jayagoda CC

**member and the educational Secretary of
Frontline Socialist Party (based in Sri Lanka).**

We vehemently condemn the aggression and genocide in the Gaza Strip with utter disgust by Israel with full patronage of the United States of America and the European Union imperialist. This action threatens Palestine areas, but the whole Middle Eastern Region is posed with a genocidal war yet again. To achieve their Global Capital ambitions, the capitalist powers create eternal wars where they can invade economically, strategically, and politically substantial hunting grounds. The present State of Palestine is such a classic example. They intended to create a Non-Arab State in the Middle East to use as a pawn to use rich petroleum and other mineral resources and patronise the Middle East that is strategically important in political warfare. Due to this heinous Imperialist strategy, today Palestine is only limited to the West Bank and Gaza Strip, witnessing frequent wars and massive human massacre. Significantly, the United States supporting Israel officially and unofficially putting pressure on the Palestinian people. The Palestinian people have succumbed to enormous pressure and oppression in the face of the imperialist's power fight. The residents of the Gaza Strip are deprived of essential medicines and building material due to prolonged economic sanctions imposed. Evicting residents from their own home and killing children reported regularly. The ignition of the recent conflict was the tension created by the Israel Police when they attempt to suppress the Palestinian protesters. The countering Imperialist strategy of putting pressure on Palestinian peo-

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ple by leaning towards religious fundamentalism is not a solution but exacerbating the damage. Finding a lasting solution for the existing conflict is not by resorting to racist and religious fundamentalist policies of the rulers of both countries, but a broad and lasting unity of working people. Our Party stands for the rights of the people of the Middle Eastern Region, who were oppressed by the bloody war, plead working people of Israel and Palestine, unite finding a lasting solution and put an end to imperialist genocidal war. We urge the working people of Israel and Palestine not to fall trap into the agendas of Zionist and Islamic Fundamentalist ruler's and other organisations of both counties and unite to safeguard the just rights and a just solution for the Palestinian people. We stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people against imperialism and imperialists powers deploying war waging policies worldwide to plunder Economies to achieve their political ends. We appeal to all democratic forces to create a global scale of people's power against indiscriminate genocidal wars and pledge the cooperation of the Lankan people to Palestinian people in the face of oppression. Moreover, cooperation with all revolutionary forces in the region and in the world becomes sacrificed for the sake of the interests of the imperialist powers. The liberation of the Palestinian people, which cannot be realized without the overthrow of the occupying state of Israel and the racist apartheid regime of the bourgeois political forces that link their existence to this colonial state, will only be possible through the united struggle of the peoples aiming for full equality, voluntary unity and socialism. We call on the working class and oppressed of the world to unite in the anti-imperialist struggle against the aggression of the Zionist state of Israel, against the bourgeois regimes in the region that prevent the solidarity of the peoples and sow the seeds of enmity, for the freedom of the peoples living in Palestine and for a Middle East where all nations and all faiths can live freely.

Thank you.

4) Joint Declaration:

Debate Panel on Humanitarian Intervention in Gaza

In response to the invitation extended by the International Federation of Iraqi Refugees (IFIR), a collective of 39 representatives hailing from various political parties, campaigns, and organizations across 40 nations has convened today. As members of the global community advocating against the ongoing atrocities and genocide inflicted upon the Palestinian people, our assembly, on this day of December 2023, seeks to engage in substantive discussions and exchange of perspectives.

Introduction: The situation unfolding in Gaza transcends the conventional paradigm of warfare; it represents a collective punishment and systematic genocide against the innocent populace, effectively confined within what is now recognized as the world's largest open-air prison. Orchestrated by the Israeli military and government, with unwavering support from the United States, Britain, and the European Union, this calculated campaign has manifested itself as one of the most egregious and ruthless massacres in human history. The urgency of addressing this humanitarian crisis is underscored by the escalating flames of tragedy that engulf Gaza each passing day.

Our collective endeavours are directed toward redressing historical wounds inflicted upon the Palestinian people: a legacy of injustice, humiliation, occupation, imprisonment, torture, and suppression.

In this pursuit, we, the participants of this panel, align us not only with the fundamental human rights of the Palestinian people but also with the imperative of terminating this ongoing tragedy and preventing its recurrence.

The historical Palestinian issue and continuous massacres against Palestinian people must end.

Drawing strength from the global movement defending Palestinian people, and cognizant of the need for independent intervention and political pressure on major powers, governments, and parliamentary entities, we hereby articulate the following demands:

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1. Immediate and sustainable ceasefire, halting the continuous bombardment of the Gaza Strip.
2. Complete and immediate withdrawal of the Israeli military and forces from Gaza.
3. Immediate cessation of the economic blockade imposed on the people of Gaza.
4. Expedited dispatch of essential hospital equipment, medical aid, food, and fuel to Gaza, along with the swift rescue of survivors.
5. Removal of global censorship in defence of the Palestinian cause.
6. Immediate and unconditional release of all Palestinian prisoners from Israeli penitentiaries.
7. Unconditional release of all Israeli hostages.
8. Immediate evacuation from occupied territories and the safe return of Palestinians to their places of residence and employment.
9. Immediate demilitarization of the region.
10. Comprehensive reconstruction efforts in Gaza, supported by international assistance for the return of its inhabitants to their cities, villages, and homes.
11. Any decision regarding the future of Gaza and Palestine beyond the will of the Palestinian people is unacceptable and has no legitimacy.

This unified declaration underscores our commitment to rectify the humanitarian crisis unfolding in Gaza and emphasizes the urgency of global intervention to bring an end to the suffering of the Palestinian people

1) Mohammad Alosh

Member of the politburo of the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front

2) Hinada, Seishi

International Coordinator MDS (Movement for Democratic Socialism)

3) Toma Hamid

Member of central committee in the Worker-Communist Party of Iraq- WPI

4) Barry Weisleder

Federal Secretary of Socialist Action / Ligue pour l'Action socialiste in the Canadian state.

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5) Jamal Mohsin

Member of the politburo of the Worker-Communist Party of Kurdistan

6) Fuad Abdullahi

Member of the Central Committee of the Workers -Communist Party Hekmatist (official Line).

7) Pubudu Jayagoda CC

Member and the educational Secretary of Frontline Socialist Party (based in Sri Lanka).

8) Sawsan Salim

Director of Kurdish and Middle Eastern Women's Organisation -KMEWO

9) Karen Johnson

Public and Commercial Services Union- PCS activist.

10) Dominic Parsons UNITE Union activist.

11) Dashty Jamal

General Secretary of International Federation of Iraqi Refugees IFIR.

5) Stop the massacre in Gaza!

Statement made by IFIR on 13/10/2023

Freedom-loving and peace activists!

Human rights and humanitarian organizations!

After the Palestinian Hamas Movement and Qassam battalions' military forces launched a surprise air, land, and sea attack on Israeli territories on the 7th of October, under the name of Al-Aqsa Storm resulted in the killing, wounding, and kidnapping of several soldiers and tens of civilians, Israeli government has launched a military operation dubbed Iron Sword against the Palestinian people in the name of revenge against Hamas. In violation of all human principles, it has laid tight economic and military blockade on Gaza. Its army is engaged in mass killing and destruction in Gaza using military jets, helicopters and rockets where thousands of women, children and elderlies have already lost their lives, thousands of people have been displaced and hundreds more trapped under military fire. Thus, Netanyahu government is committing atrocities and creating a humanitarian disaster in Gaza. The innocent workers and toilers of Israel and Palestinian whose lives and security have been endangered for years, are victims of both backward and murderous parties. Therefore, the situation re-

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quires a quick reaction from the freedom-loving and civilized people of the world. This situation requires an urgent action by the freedom-loving and civilized people of the world. To confront this situation and its catastrophic consequences, libertarians, human rights organizations, working class, socialist and progressive people must come to the fore to stop Israel's violations and the destructive military campaign which has been launched with the US and Western countries' support. People in Gaza need our urgent support and solidarity.

In this regard, International Federation of Iraqi Refugees is calling on the freedom-loving and civilized people of the world to act immediately to stop this war and prevent its consequences by demanding:

1. Immediate stop of the war and bombardment of the civilians' homes of both sides.
2. Stop the occupation, ethnic cleansing, and mass punishment of the Palestinian people.
3. Immediate lifting of the economic blockade on the Gaza Strip and allowing the United Nations and human rights organizations to come to the rescue of the wounded and displaced people.
4. Stop the US and other countries military mobilization in the region and stop any military and technical assistance to both sides of the war.
5. Immediate release of both parties' prisoners of war.

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The International Federation of Iraqi Refugees (IFIR) held a panel discussion addressing the Israeli war on Gaza. The meeting took place via Zoom on Saturday, 16th December 2023. The panel aimed to address the Palestinian issue. The meeting was organized to mark World Human Rights Day. The panel discussed Israeli aggression, the roles of the United States, Western countries, the region, and the global movement supporting the Palestinian people. We invited individuals from different groups and organizations from around the world to discuss the situation and arising issues caused by the conflict. In this booklet you will find the speeches of all the panelists. Also, a joint declaration was agreed by the panel and other organisations. The final article in this booklet is the first IFIR statement released at the beginning of this conflict.

On behalf of IFIR I would like to personally thank the panelists and attendees and everyone who sent apologies but supported the aims of the meeting.



Published by International Federation of Iraqi Refugees-IFIR