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To

All the Zonal /Divisional /State /Regional Units

Stop this Genocidal War on Gaza
Implement the UN mandated "Two States" Solution

It is one month since Hamas carried out a brutal attack in Israel killing around 1400 civilian and military personnel and taking over 200 as hostages. In retaliation Israel has been raining down bombs on Gaza causing unimaginable death and destruction on its civilian inhabitants in collective punishment of an entire population for the brutal act of Hamas. The death toll has already crossed 10,000, including that of around 5,000 children. With food, water and electricity supplies to Gaza cut off by Israel, the Palestinians are facing the worst form of collective punishment. The western imperialist powers are defending this genocide on the ground that Israel has a right to defend itself against terrorist attacks. The western understanding is that Hamas is a terrorist organisation and it is using the civilians as human shield; naturally therefore some civilians will die in the war against the Hamas. It is another matter that Hamas is not designated as a terrorist organisation by the United Nations and it is common knowledge that it was supported and encouraged by Israel as a counter to the Palestinian Authority. To kill innocent civilians even in hospitals and refugee camps, in the name of fighting terrorism, is utterly inhuman.

THE BACKGROUND OF THE CONFLICT

The narrative of the western powers and corporate media does not make any mention of the imperial game plans and decades long Israeli occupation and subjugation of the Palestinian people. Britain took control of the area known as Palestine following the defeat of the Ottoman empire in World War one. The land was inhabited by a Jewish minority and Arab majority then. Tension between the two peoples started growing when colonial Britain's foreign secretary Arthur Balfour promised the Jewish community in 1917 "the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people" by way of the infamous Balfour Declaration. The colonial hypocrisy can be seen from the fact that a European power promised the Zionist movement a country where Palestinian Arab natives made up more than 90 per cent of the population. Subsequently, the British facilitated mass Jewish immigration into Palestinian lands during the 1920s to 1940s. The persecution of the Jews at the hands of the Nazis led by Hitler gave a fillip to the process of immigration. In 1947, the UN voted for Palestine to be split into separate Jewish and Arab states. However, unable to settle the problem, Britain withdrew from the region in 1948 and the Jewish leaders declared the creation of the State of Israel forcing nearly a million Palestinians out of their homes and land. Over the years, Israel started controlling most of the territory.

Israel took over whatever was left of Palestinian territory in the six day war of 1967. It occupied the West Bank (including East Jerusalem) and the Gaza strip apart from the Syrian Golan Heights and the

Egyptian Sinai Peninsula. For the past 56 years these are under Israeli occupation. These settlements are held to be illegal under international law. Israel did not even comply with the UN resolution “for a just and lasting peace in the Middle East” by way of “withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied during the conflict”. Israel not only did not withdraw; on the contrary, it aggressively expanded Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. The result is that today there are around 7,50,000 Israeli Jews as settlers in 250 settlements in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem. Moreover, not that Israel is bombing Gaza now in response to the Hamas attack. It has bombed Gaza earlier also; in 2008, 2012, 2014 and 2021 killing thousands of innocent Palestinians in the process. Unfortunately, these killings did not evoke any outrage like they did this time after the Hamas attack. The fact is that six million Palestinian refugees now live in refugee camps in the neighboring countries of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt. In Jerusalem and Gaza strip, Palestinian families are evicted by force and their homes occupied. Israel has imposed a blockade of Gaza strip for the past 16 years. So much so, Gaza has become an open air prison for the last 16 years.

NETANYAHU HEADING A GOVERNMENT OF EXTREME RIGHT

The situation has gone from bad to worse during the reign of Benjamin Netanyahu. The Oslo peace process of 1993, based on the Camp David Accord of 1978, gave limited recognition to the Palestinians. But even that was sabotaged by Netanyahu because he refused to withdraw and did not even agree to the “Two States” resolution plan.

Benjamin Netanyahu is an unpopular and polarizing leader in Israel. With only 23.41 per cent of the votes polled in the national elections in November 2022, his Likud party heads the most ultra-right coalition in the history of Israel. Having ruled Israel on and off for 17 years, Netanyahu’s popularity was at its lowest ebb. Hardly a couple of months ago, tens of thousands of Israelis including the opposition leaders, former officials in Israel’s military, intelligence and security services, former chief justices, military reservists including air force pilots were on the streets against his policies. His decision to unleash the genocidal war against Gaza and the Palestinians is but a last ditch effort to regain some lost political ground.

Israel is not only carpet bombing Gaza. It is dehumanizing an entire people. Senior Israeli officials have gone to the extent of describing the Palestinians as ‘human animals’. One of its Ministers has openly declared that dropping an atom bomb on Gaza is an option. Unfortunately, the big powers- the self-proclaimed champions of democracy and human rights- like the US have been playing an utterly partisan role. The US has been supplying lethal arms to the Israeli army. This is understandable given the fact that the US has eight million influential Jews accounting for 2.4 per cent of the population. No American administration can afford to ignore this powerful lobby. Along with Biden, British Prime Minister Sunak and French President Macron also trooped in to express solidarity with Israel. India unfortunately echoed the US position by expressing solidarity with Israel. India also abstained from voting in the UN General Assembly on a resolution calling for a humanitarian truce. While claiming to be the leader of the Global South, India in fact did not stand with the Global South on this issue. Historically, India has always stood by the Palestinian people since the days of the national movement under Gandhiji’s leadership. Belatedly the Prime Minister and Indian External Affairs ministry officials have been speaking about the

need to address the grievances of the Palestinian people. Unfortunately, the Indian media as well as social media have tried to turn the struggle of Palestinian people for a homeland as a Muslim issue and are supportive of the move to cleanse the Palestinians from their homeland. That is why protests against the Israeli aggression and in support of the Palestinian people are being suppressed.

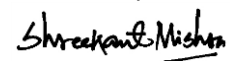
WORKING CLASS ACROSS WORLD DEMAND END TO WAR

A heartwarming feature however is the growing worldwide support of the working people to the cause of the Palestinian people. The workers in Europe and United States have refused to load and unload ships that are supposed to carry arms to Israel. The workers realise that capitalism wants to reap profit from any human disaster. They see that the military industrial complex of US and other imperialist powers are the huge beneficiaries of the war and United States wants the world to be perennially at war. Therefore workers are also surrounding the factories that manufacture the deadly weapons in many places in US and Europe. The world has already seen the massive human suffering caused on the pretext of finding weapons of mass destruction in Iraq. Imperialism has weaponized lies to wage wars.

The war on Palestinian people has to halt. There are protests and anger across the world. This has clearly shown that governments across the world are out of sync with global public opinion. The most noteworthy feature is the significant participation of the Jewish community in these protests. The American Jews had occupied a Congress building and Central Metro Station demanding an end to war and making it clear that the Zionist regime of Israel cannot kill the women and children in Gaza in their name. The progressive forces within Israel are raising the demand for end to this inhumane aggression and a dialogue with Palestinians to work for a peaceful solution. There are powerful demands within Israel for Netanyahu to resign. Insurance employees join millions of workers worldwide in demanding an immediate stoppage of the genocidal war and implementation of the UN mandated "Two States" solution with East Jerusalem as the Capital of the Palestinian State with pre-1967 borders and a right of return to the Palestinian refugees as also the right of Israel to exist.

With Greetings,

Comradely Yours



General Secretary