

*From the Detroit/Seattle Workers' Voice list*  
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## **Supported by the U.S., Israel is Committing Mass Murder!**

by Tim Hall, *Detroit Workers' Voice*

After starving Palestinians in northern Gaza had waited all night February 28-9 for trucks bearing flour, the Israeli army opened fire and killed around 100. More were killed in the chaos caused by the attack. Israeli tanks and trucks ran over many. Over 700 were wounded. The Israeli government despicably blamed the deaths on the Palestinians themselves "stampeding." U.S. imperialist news sources, the *New York Times* among others, wrote that there was much blood shed, but also disgustingly blamed the Palestinians for "stampeding." Evidently, if you are being shot you are blamed if you "stampede!" This was simply a mass murder by Israel, supported by the U.S.(1)

With this massacre, Israel has now killed more than 31,000 Palestinians since the Hamas attack on October 7, 2023. Countless others are buried in rubble, as bombers have destroyed most of the buildings of Gaza.(2) And Israel is threatening the lives of over a million more Palestinians massed in Rafah with a military assault there. Meanwhile a food, water, sanitation and medical crisis deepens throughout Gaza, now approaching actual famine.

Israel's onslaught on the Palestinians has vastly exceeded the brutality of Hamas' uprising of October 7. Negotiations so far have produced a lot of words about reduction of violence and increase of aid, but the Netanyahu government and Hamas are at loggerheads, each unwilling to halt the fighting without coming out on top. To date they have not been able to agree on a cease-fire and exchange of hostages and prisoners.

The U.S. imperialist government has continued its long-term wholehearted support for Israel. While Biden claims to sympathize with the Palestinians, he refuses to cut arms and financial aid to Israel. Over \$3 billion is about to be sent. Biden is also pressing Congress to give Israel an additional \$14 billion, with the Republicans wanting more. Trump is saying Israel has to "finish the problem" in Gaza. Meanwhile, since October 7 the Biden administration has approved more than 100 weapons sales to Israel that do not require congressional approval.(3) Biden is genocidal Israel's best friend.

The White House is now floating the idea of "considering" cutting military aid, but when pressed on this, a White House spokesperson reiterated that Biden was sticking with talk, not action.(4)

In recent weeks Biden told Netanyahu not to launch a ground assault on Rafah without evacuating the Palestinians there first. But Netanyahu continues to bomb and prepare for a Rafah assault without any visible attempts to evacuate large numbers of people. He is demanding military control of the entirety of Israel proper, Gaza and the West Bank.

A regional war with Hezbollah in Lebanon and with Iran is possible. Exchanges of rocket fire between Hezbollah and Israel are keeping the border hot.

There must be a cease-fire and massive aid before the situation degenerates even further or explodes.

There was talk of accomplishing a cease-fire before Ramadan, but Ramadan began on March 10 and the war rages on.

Apart from deaths at the hands of the Israeli military, Palestinians face a gravely and rapidly-deepening humanitarian crisis.

Nearly all of the population of Gaza, just over 2.1 million, is exposed to the winter elements, and is suffering from starvation, lack of water, disease and destruction of health care. Rafah, a city of 300,000 at the very south of Gaza, now houses 1.3 million uprooted Palestinians, driven there by bombings and attacks elsewhere in Gaza, finding no refuge from the Israeli bombing.

Men, women and children are crowded together under the winter rains, with only tents or nothing to protect them. In “normal” times Gaza is a trapped enclave that must be supplied from outside; now the difficulties are multiplied exponentially..

Before the war, 500 trucks of humanitarian aid a day were entering at Rafah, but Israel cut them to 100. Then Israel accused a handful of employees of the UNRWA, the main U.N. aid channel, of helping Hamas. The U.S. and many other donors to UNRWA immediately suspended funding for the UNRWA, sharply cutting further flow of aid. Some donor countries have resumed donations, but harassment by the Israeli inspections still reduces this aid to almost nothing, amid a sea of desperate Palestinians. Trucks that now manage to get through are surrounded by crowds of Palestinians.

Everywhere potable water is in short supply; people have to resort to waste or partly-salty water. In Rafah there is one toilet available for every 700 people. Disease is spreading. People are eating grass, leaves and animal feed. Palestinian children are now starving to death.

This catastrophic situation has aroused worldwide condemnation. Huge, continuing protest demonstrations have broken out all over the world, demanding a cease-fire and condemning both Israel and U.S. imperialism for crimes against humanity. Even in Israel, despite the blood frenzy whipped up by the Zionist leadership, a small anti-war movement mustered demonstrations of a few thousand in Tel Aviv and Haifa in January, calling for an end to the war.(5)

Palestine was selected by the Zionist movement as a refuge for the Jews from their oppression in Europe in the late 19th and early 20th centuries; migration there escalated as Jewish oppression intensified and then 6 million Jews were slaughtered by the Nazis during World War II. The racial and theocratic state of Israel was created by war and the dispossession of 750,000 Palestinians. Had there never been a Holocaust there never would have been this monstrous Zionist state of Israel dispossessing and killing the Palestinians. But being the victim of one immense crime cannot justify committing another.

This crisis will greatly worsen. Netanyahu may delay the assault on Rafah, but the Palestinian masses are still his targets. Biden has been conducting air-drops of humanitarian supplies, but the amount of aid this brings is minuscule. A threat by Biden to cut off military aid could lead to more trucking, a much more efficient method of supply, which Israel has all but blocked. But Biden has consistently refused to block aid to genocidal Israel. And now, rather than cutting off military aid, Biden is having the U.S. Navy build a new port at Gaza in a weak effort to increase humanitarian aid to the Palestinians. If Netanyahu could be forced to allow trucking supplies in, conditions would rapidly improve. Biden's cockamamie port scheme will take as much as 30 to 60 days merely to construct a temporary pier, while a whole slew of complex problems may threaten the whole operation.

Meanwhile Palestinians starve and die and a possible murderous assault could take place on Rafah. Biden's new scheme will use trucking from the port while the obstacles Israel puts up to trucking are extreme, so that is not solved. This port scheme is just an elaborate cover-up, an attempt to make the U.S. government look like it's concerned for the plight of the Palestinians.

## Footnotes:

1) \* [“‘Massacre’: Dozens killed by Israeli fire in Gaza while collecting food aid: More than 100 killed and about 750 wounded after Israeli forces fired at Palestinians trying to get flour for their families as famine stalks the Strip”](#), *Al Jazeera*, 29 Feb. 2024, updated Mar. 1, 2024.

\* [“Israel’s killing rage: A familiar pantomime plays out in the shocking residue of the massacre of more than 100 desperate Palestinian aid seekers,”](#) by *Al Jazeera* columnist, Andrew Mitrovica, 29 Feb 2024.

\* [“As Hungry Gazans Crowd an Aid Convoy, a Crush of Bodies, Israeli Gunshots and a Deadly Toll,”](#) *New York Times*, by Hiba Yazbek and Aaron Boxerman, Feb. 29, 2024.

2) [“Gaza's death toll now exceeds 30,000. Here's why it's an incomplete count”](#), *NPR*, Aya Batrawy, February 29, 2024.

3) [“US uses loophole to keep 100 arms sales to Israel under the radar amid Gaza war – report Biden administration not required to disclose sales below set dollar amount, in addition to public shipments worth over \\$573m,”](#) *The Guardian*, by Julian Borger, March 6, 2024.

4) [“If Israel invades Rafah, Biden will consider conditioning military aid to Israel,”](#) *Politico*, by Alexander Ward and Jonathan Lemire, 03/11/2024.

5) The following URL's lead to articles on the anti-war movement in Israel:

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\* [Israeli Apartheid: Racial Discrimination In Israel](#)

\* [“Israeli police repressing anti-war protests with ‘iron fist,’ say activists”](#), Jan. 24, 2024, +972 *Magazine* article.

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\* [“Daily Briefing Jan. 19: Day 105,”](#) *The Times of Israel*, January 19, 2024.

\* [And, more recently: From Wikipedia](#) (later part of article, section “Anti-War Protests”) :

### Anti-war protests

On 9 November, Israeli police arrested former MK Mohammad Barakeh in Nazareth for attempting to organize an anti-war protest.[44][45] In an interview with *Time Magazine*, Barakeh described Israel's crackdowns on free speech as fascist.[46] On 18 November, Israel held its first permitted anti-war protest in Tel Aviv.[47] Two activists in Haifa were arrested for quietly protesting against the war.[48]

On 27 December, protesters from northern Israeli border towns protested in Tel Aviv,

demanding to know when they would be allowed to return home.[49] On 17 January 2024, a peaceful anti-war protest in Tel Aviv was broken up by police for "harming the feelings of the public". [50] Palestinian and Jewish Israelis held a protest calling for the end of the war on 20 January.[51] One protester stated, "The government and the police in particular have done everything in their power to prevent [Jews and Arabs] from coming together." [52] The protest was allowed after the organizers took it all the way to the Supreme Court.[53]

Oren Ziv, a journalist for *+972 Magazine*, posted a video on social media showing police confiscating an anti-war banner on 27 January that stated "stop the genocide".[54] On 14 February, protesters demonstrated outside Israel's Defence Ministry, calling for a ceasefire and the protection of children in Rafah.[55]

## **Additional Material**

Bisan Owda, a Palestinian woman, has been producing videos showing her walking through the ruins of Gaza and interviewing Palestinians. Here are three. The latest is a week old, telling of the difficulty of posting videos.

\* ['It's Bisan From Gaza, And Israel Is Trying to Push Us Into The Desert](#)

\* ['It's Bisan From Gaza, And Children Are Starving To Death'](#)

\* ['It's Bisan From Gaza, And It's Getting Harder To Share Videos'](#)

\* ['It's Bisan From Gaza, And We're Living Next To Garbage'](#)

\* ['It's Bisan From Gaza, And I'm Fleeing For The 7th Time'](#) <>

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