

Now, more than ever - **Stand with the Palestinian people!**

The Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) have now killed over 28,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip since October 7. The majority have been civilians, with roughly 70% being women and children. Another 7,000 people are missing. Additionally, some 85% of Gaza's 2.3 million people have been bombed or shelled out of their homes by the IDF, or ordered to leave them. And they suffer from hunger, lack of clean water, medical supplies and other necessities due to the Israeli blockade.

Now the Israeli government tries to win public support for this slaughter and starvation of Palestinian civilians by pointing to the fact that Hamas slaughtered 764 civilians in its October 7 raid into Israel (which Hamas did, and which should be publicly denounced), but it's really using Nazi-style collective punishment of the entire Palestinian population in response. And it is not finished.

Rafah

Bordering Egypt, Rafah is Gaza's southernmost city. More than half of the strip's 2.3 million people are now packed into it, where they're crowded into tents, apartment buildings and anywhere else they can find. The city has already been bombed, and Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu has asked the military to plan the evacuation of hundreds of thousands of people in preparation for a ground invasion. But with Israeli evacuation orders already covering two-thirds of the Gaza Strip, where can they go? And with the Gazans having already seen that when Israeli orders to evacuate are followed, the IDF may still bomb the escaping people, or shoot people carrying white flags with rifles, many may refuse to leave.

Zionism is the root of Israel's never ending crimes

The driving idea of the late 19th Century Zionist movement was to set up a Jewish state via settler colonialism. After the end of WW I, the British imperialists (who then controlled Palestine) saw that they could use this movement in their interests, and therefore gave it support. And beginning in the 1930s, with the Nazi-organized concentration camps and then the Holocaust, Zionism gained further support.

But at the beginning of the 20th Century Jews only comprised about 11% of Palestine's population. Thus, the Zionist leaders spoke of "transferring" the Arab population, e.g., in 1938, David Ben-Gurion—who would become Israel's first prime minister—said "*I am for compulsory transfer; I do not see anything immoral in it.*" And right before the 1948 founding of the Jewish state, Ben-Gurion put it this way: "*The Arabs will have to go, but one needs an opportune moment for making it happen, such as a war.*" So the 1948 war was the Zionists' opportune moment: at least 750,000 Palestinian Arabs were expelled from their land, 15,000 of them killed, and the Zionists seized 78% of Palestine's territory in order to set up their Jewish state.

This Zionist expansionism has continued. For example, during its 1967 war with the Arab states, Israel seized the Golan Heights from Syria; the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan, and Gaza from Egypt. And now the Jewish settler population of the West Bank has been increased from 1,182 in 1972 to around 490,000 today, while East Jerusalem now has a settler population of 220,000.

Biden and U.S. imperialism

Meanwhile, Biden has said that Netanyahu's plan for a ground invasion is "over the top," but at the same time he is pushing Congress to give Israel \$14 billion in additional aid, while the Republicans want to give Israel even more. Biden has also joined Israel's war of starvation against the Palestinians by suspending U.S. funding of the U.N. Palestinian refugee agency (UNRWA). The reason for Biden's murderous actions is that while the U.S. and Israeli leaders at times have differences, Israel has always played the overall role of being a U.S. imperialist

instrument in its struggle to dominate the oil-rich and strategically located Middle East.

Further build the solidarity movement!

All over the world, during the last four months a huge movement in support of the Palestinian people has developed. This is encouraging, but as the situation in Rafah shows, more work cries out to be done, particularly in this country. Don't stop talking about Gaza with friends, neighbors, fellow workers and students. Participate in and mobilize for the pro-Palestinian demonstrations and other actions.

Demonstrate Saturday, February 17 at noon at Westlake Park!

Watch <https://www.facebook.com/groups/128397930515336> and <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100081689528945> for more events.

Detroit/ Seattle Workers' Voice email list

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