

Defend the Palestinian People

Protest Israeli Terror in Gaza

As the U.S. continues to prosecute its criminal war and occupation of the people of Iraq, the Bush administration has given its blessing and full support to an Israeli invasion of Gaza. The occupations of Iraq and Palestine are both part of the same strategy of U.S. domination in the Middle East. Both are characterized by extreme human rights violations. And both are financed by our tax dollars

The Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) launched a brutal assault on the entire population of Gaza in the early morning hours of June 28. U.S.-supplied F-16 fighter-bombers destroyed the main power station in Gaza and destroyed bridges on the only major roads linking the northern and southern sections of the region. Round-the-clock Israeli artillery shelling is taking place. Most of the people of Gaza are now without water and electricity – Palestinians are dying. The use of U.S. planes and other military equipment against illegally occupied land is a violation of both international and U.S. law. In a further act of colonial aggression, the IOF has arrested a third of the members of the Palestinian Authority governing body.

While a great outcry is heard in the mass media about one captured Israeli soldier, the same media pays no attention whatsoever to the 9,000 Palestinian political prisoners being held illegally under terrible conditions in Israeli prisons. All of them were abducted by the IOF. At least 335 of these prisoners are children. Palestinian prisoners are systematically tortured by Israel, the only country in the world that has legalized torture.



Deliberately attacking the civilian population, with the intent of causing maximum suffering, is clearly a crime against humanity. What we are witnessing today in Gaza is collective punishment -- a war crime under international law -- against the entire population.

Israel's racist apartheid system and the latest assault on Gaza is supported by the Bush regime, Congress and the corporate media, because of Israel's vital role in Washington's project of Middle East domination. Israel receives more military and economic aid from the U.S. -- over \$3 billion annually -- than any other country. Without that aid and support it receives from Washington, Israel could not carry out its crimes against the Palestinian people.

End the Siege of Gaza!
End All U.S. Aid to Israel!
Boycott Israeli Goods!

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Go to chicagoanswer.net to make a donation to support the movement in solidarity with Palestine.

10 things you need to know...

A fact sheet about Palestine

1. On June 28, U.S.-supplied Israeli fighter-bombers deliberately destroyed the main power station and the main bridges in Gaza.

2. Most of Gaza's 1.4 million people are now without water and electricity.

3. Punishing the Palestinian people for their election of Hamas in January, Israel, the U.S., and the European Union have cut all aid to Palestine, resulting in severe shortages of many basic necessities of life.

4. Israeli forces have arrested and are detaining approximately one-third of the democratically elected Palestinian Authority government officials, including mayors and members of Parliament.

5. Deliberately targeting a civilian population is a flagrant violation of international humanitarian law.

6. By some estimates, unemployment is over 60 percent in the Gaza Strip, while about 80 percent of the population are living under the poverty line, according to the UN. The standard of living on the West Bank and Gaza is 1/15th of what it is in Israel

7. Over 9,000 Palestinian political prisoners are being held illegally in Israeli prisons. At least 335 of these prisoners are children.

8. More than six million Palestinians are refugees, dispossessed and denied the right to return to their homeland.

9. Israel is building a 400-mile wall through Palestine, which severely constricts Palestinians' movement throughout the country. Palestinians refer to this as an "apartheid wall."

10. Israel is the greatest recipient of U.S. aid, taking in \$3 billion per year in economic and military aid. That's \$3 billion in U.S. tax-payer dollars.



A bridge on a main road in Gaza, destroyed by Israeli forces on June 28. (Photo: AP)