

Stop the slaughter now!

by our Arab Affairs
correspondent

While millions upon millions take to the streets throughout the world demanding an end to the Israeli onslaught against the Palestinian Arabs in the Gaza Strip, Israeli forces continue their ground and air attacks on targets including hospitals and other medical facilities. The US media say that Hamas is ready to release captive Israeli women and children in exchange for Palestinian children currently held in Israeli jails.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has broken ranks with his NATO allies to condemn Israel as a "terror state" committing war crimes and violating international law in Gaza. And in Moscow, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov told the media that the badly needed ceasefire in Gaza has to be followed by a genuine effort to implement it. The crisis needs to be resolved within the UN-backed framework of a two-state solution but Washington's refusal to put any restrictions on Israel stands in the way of reining in the bloodshed.

Palestinian commandos are continuing to fend off

the Zionist invaders in the streets of Gaza. The Palestinian enclave is now virtually cut off from the rest of the world. All power has been cut off. No deliveries of food, water and fuel can get through. Over 11,000 people have died since Israel invaded – including 4,650 children. This week Gaza's Al Shifa hospital was stormed by Israeli troops, who say Hamas has its headquarters burrowed deep beneath the medical complex. Both Hamas and the health ministry in Gaza deny Israel's accusation, calling it "an attempt to mislead and incite in preparation for the destruction of hospitals and the killing of patients". The hospital, the largest in the Strip, is no longer operational, with doctors describing the situation for those still inside as "catastrophic".

Meanwhile reports are coming in of a deal brokered in Qatar that could lead to the release of around 75 Israeli women and children held by Hamas in exchange for over 200 Palestinian women and children held in Israeli prisons.

ABC, the American

Broadcasting Company, citing an unnamed Israeli official, reports that significant progress had been made, and that the release of hostages and prisoners could take place within the next few days. This was backed-up by the Israeli Kan 11 TV channel, which quoted "two sources privy to the details of the talks" as claiming that a deal might see abducted Israeli children released from captivity in Gaza and Palestinian children currently held in Israeli prisons freed as well.

Israel and Hamas are currently trying to agree on the exact number of hostages to be freed, the names of Palestinian inmates to be released, as well as the stages in which the process would be conducted, Kan 11 claimed. The Israeli TV station also alleged that the Israeli authorities would likely agree to a ceasefire as part of the deal, although its duration is still under discussion.

Palestinian communists are now calling on the world movement to redouble their efforts to end the fighting. "Given these dire and dangerous

circumstances and due to the stubborn refusal of the fascist occupation to heed international appeals from organisations like the Red

Cross, the United Nations, and others to allow the necessary medical supplies into hospitals" the Palestinian Communist Party "calls upon all freedom-loving individuals worldwide and all communist and workers' parties globally to rally and demonstrate outside the embassies of the fascist occupying state, and the embassies of the United States of America. This is to pressure their governments to sever ties with this fascist occupation and form a global alliance to halt aggression, lift the siege on Gaza, and allow all humanitarian and medical aid without conditions."



FUND

The November appeal starts with £646 in the bag, including £21 raised by comrades at their stall at the solidarity meeting held by International Ukraine Anti-Fascist Solidarity in London last weekend.

All over the country people are taking to the streets to stand by the defiant Palestinian Arabs to demand a halt to Israeli aggression. All over the world people are standing up to imperialism – a world which will eventually be free from the chains of neo-colonialism. A world in which the will of the masses, the workers, the toilers, the people who work in the factories and farms, is carried out in the people's democracies in Asia and the Caribbean. A world in which those who produce the entire wealth of the globe get the fruits of their labour.

A socialist society where there are no slums, poverty or racism. A society where there are no classes, no exploiters, no bigotry and no war. A new and better world is already being built in the socialist countries of today. It is being fought for in every continent and every country. This is the world we work for. The voice of the *New Worker*, the only communist weekly in Britain, is heard up and down the country. Make sure it's heard on your street by supporting the fighting fund.

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