



# Criminal Israel



Rally for Palestine in Perth.

Anna Pha

**Israel is carrying out collective punishment, committing the most barbarous and cruel atrocities on an unarmed civilian population who are confined to a small area with no means of escape. Collective punishment is an internationally recognised war crime.**

Amir Weitmann, a member of the Israeli Knesset and Netanyahu's Likud Party set out the strategy behind the crime his government is committing: "There is currently a unique and rare opportunity to evacuate the entire Gaza Strip" and ship out "the entire Arab population" for good. To do that, it will be necessary to "flatten all the buildings in the Strip ... systematically from north to south, thereby pushing residents south until a humanitarian crisis arises that Egypt cannot ignore."

Dr Mohammed Eila, who works in Jabalia Refugee Camp in Gaza writes, "Israeli airstrikes have been relentless – often striking in residential areas in the dead of night while people are asleep in their homes – and resulted in a staggering number of casualties, with a heartbreaking emphasis on children

and older people. The local hospitals are overwhelmed with the wounded and deceased, and they are struggling to cope with the sheer magnitude of the unfolding events.

"The constant threat of airstrikes and prevailing insecurity have left me, along with many others, living in fear and anxiety. Our daily lives have been disrupted, with the basic routines and activities we once took for granted now a distant memory. The stress and trauma from the violence have taken a toll on everyone's mental and emotional health."

"The daily reality of life in Gaza is marked by extreme suffering and tragedy. This extends far beyond the loss of life as the misery is compounded by the destruction of critical infrastructure, including roads, schools, and hospitals.

"The displacement of families and the loss of homes and belongings are causing untold suffering, with more than 120,000 residential houses reduced to ruins. There is, tragically, no safe place to be found in Gaza," says Eila.

"The constant threat of airstrikes, the loss of family members is taking a huge psychological toll on the people of Gaza, with

children and older people experiencing the most profound trauma and fear."

The Palestinian people have the support of millions of people around the world as growing numbers take to the streets calling for an end to Israel's illegal and brutal assault on the people of the Gaza Strip.

Weekly actions with increasing numbers of participants are taking place around Australia. They passionately express solidarity with the Palestinian people. They strongly reject anti-Semitism and Islamophobia, while calling out Zionism and Israel's apartheid state. They condemn in the strongest terms the massacre of thousands of innocent Palestinians, the majority of whom are children, the elderly and women.

Algeria, the African Union, Brazil, China, Cuba, Indonesia, Iraq, Iran, Ireland, Kuwait, Morocco, Malaysia, Norway, Oman, Malaysia, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Syria, South Africa, and Venezuela are amongst the many countries that have raised concerns over Israel's actions or called for a cease-fire. Notable omissions are the leaders of the US, the UK, Canada, Ukraine, India, the EU, and the Australian Labor government and Opposition.

Israel directed more than one million

people in the north of Gaza to move south, in preparation for its ground invasion. It then bombed the south as well as the north. In the first two weeks the death toll reached 4385, including 1756 children and 967 women – in addition to 13,561 injured. Seventy per cent of the casualties are women, children, and elderly people.


As Israel permits a few token trucks of humanitarian aid to pass through the Rafah border crossing between Egypt and the Gaza Strip, the human toll and suffering continue to rise after weeks without adequate supplies of drinking water, food, medical supplies and power.

In addition, Israel has arrested some 4000 labourers from Gaza who were working in Israel and is holding them in military bases. It also arrested 1070 Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem.

## COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT

The bombings, massacres and destruction have not stopped since 7th October when Hamas forces breached Israel's barrier, killing some 1400 civilians, police and military and taking around 200 hostages.

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American fears of growing impotence

# Guardian

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## Silencing voices

It's common for people to say "it's a free country," meaning, go ahead, do what you like, say what you like.

Australia is a country where we have the right to speak up – except when we do not. Australians tend to assume that they have a right to free speech because they're part of 'the West.'

In fact, our freedom to express our opinions is strictly conditional. That freedom is going to be much more limited soon.

What silences our voices? The interests of our real masters.

Example one: action on climate change. Real action to reduce Australia's carbon emissions would involve seriously inconveniencing companies and people who are making eye-watering sums from making things worse. They donate a lot of money to political parties, and they have a huge presence in the media. Hence the laws in NSW, which Violet Coco felt the brunt of, being given the sort of sentence for blocking traffic on a bridge that would normally be handed down for violent assault. Have a look at South Australia, where the penalties for disrupting traffic went from \$700 to \$50,000 very quickly in the face of protests. You might also check out Victoria, where a VicForests, a government agency set up to manage logging used private detectives to harass activists. In WA police have used powers set up to tackle terrorism on journalists documenting the destruction of Aboriginal lands by mining companies.

If you're thinking "so what,? I'm not a greenie, this won't affect me," think again.

Example two: Palestine. The recent threats to use laws designed to stop race riots against peaceful protesters on Palestine, show another elephant in the room – the US. Australia works as a US franchise, and seriously getting in their way gets big smacks.

A young staffer working for Tanya Plibersek has been made to apologise for attending a pro-Palestine protest, after getting a blast from our coal-mine loving Environment Minister in person. Plibersek probably had an eye to the Australian media, a lot of which has been pushing the line that solidarity with Palestine equals anti-semitism. Coalition Senator James Patterson, normally a pro-freedom libertarian chimed in, saying that "no decent person" should have shown up to the demonstration. Patterson, and indeed his entire party, were missing in action when his leader lied about crime amongst Aboriginal people and Australians of African backgrounds.

Overseas, the most famous silenced Australian is Julian Assange, who has been in prison in one way or another for thirteen years for exposing US war crimes, and still looking down the barrel of a 175-year sentence in the US, despite our supposedly strong 'alliance' with that country.

There's going to be a lot more silencing when working people speak up against vested interests in this allegedly free country.

The Communist Party of Australia speaks up for working people and for the oppressed of the world. You can support us by donating to the press fund, by reading the paper, and by taking action.

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# Criminal Israel

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In the first week of bombing Israel destroyed 22,600 residential units and hit 20 ambulances and 19 medical centres. Others were partially operational due to shortages of supplies and fuel. 90 schools were hit as were refugee camps, killing hundreds more people.

70 industrial facilities have been destroyed. Most sewage pumping stations and four out of five wastewater treatment plants have stopped operating, causing sewage and solid waste to accumulate in the streets.

Euro-Med reports the destruction of 49 media and press offices.

## TOTAL DISPOSSESSION

Israel is carrying out the complete dispossession of the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and occupied West Bank.

Israeli Defence Minister Yoav Gallant told members of the country's Air force that the ground invasion of Gaza could take up to three months. "This needs to be the last [ground] manoeuvre in Gaza, for the simple reason that afterwards

there will be no Hamas," Gallant said.

Israel's objective is that after the 'manoeuvre' there is to be no Palestinians in Gaza.

"Determined not to let a crisis go to waste, some of the most militaristic elements of the Israeli political establishment are pushing a plan for the 'resettlement' and 'final rehabilitation' of the entire Gaza population to Egypt," writes C J Atkins in *People's World*.

"The scheme is being circulated among the Israeli policy establishment by the Misgav Institute for National Security and Zionist Strategy, a think tank headed by Meir Ben Shabbat. He was previously Benjamin Netanyahu's National Security Advisor and is a 30-year veteran of the Shabak, Israel's secret police agency."

Raphael BenLevi, a former Israeli Defence Force Intelligence officer, says in a paper distributed by the Misgav Institute, that the US can play a crucial role in pressuring Egypt, Turkey, and other nations to take the unwanted [in Zionist eyes] Palestinians and help justify the forced displacement as "self-defence" rather than the

war crime that international law says it is.

## US PARTICIPATION

The US is sending in billions of dollars of armaments to assist Israel – this is on top of previous military aid. To assist in planning the next steps, it has also sent military advisers, including a general versed in urban warfare.

The US has warships off the coast and is sending additional air defence systems to the region. It helped Israel to down missiles and drones.

The US is determined to do whatever it takes to protect Israel and strengthen its hand in the Middle East.

Israel is firing missiles into Syria and Lebanon in an apparent attempt to provoke a wider conflict in the Middle East involving Iran.

"I warn the US and its proxy Israel that if they do not immediately stop the crime against humanity and genocide in Gaza, anything is possible at any moment and the region will go out of control," Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian warned at a news conference in Tehran last week.

US and Israeli officials are reportedly conducting secret talks on the post-Hamas future of Gaza.

## SPEAK OUT!

This is a time for action. Join the protests, march in solidarity with the Palestinian people.

Write protest letters to the Israeli Embassy and Consulates.

Write to your MPs and Senators. Maximise your use of social media.

Write letters to the Editor and join radio talkback programs.

Call for a ceasefire and withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Israel must abide by the UN resolutions including the two-state solution.

It is urgent to intensify international solidarity with the Palestinian people, demanding an end to the Israeli occupation and the implementation of relevant UN resolutions.

In a statement the Communist Party of Israel said: "Today's events indicate the dangerous direction that Netanyahu and his partners in the government are leading the entire region toward. We emphasise that it is impossible to 'manage' the conflict or resolve it militarily. There is only one solution – striving to end the occupation and recognising the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people and their justified demands. Ending the occupation and instating a just peace is the clear interest of both peoples." ✪

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Join the campaign at **DEADLYDUST.COM.AU**

Sydney Vigil

**STOP  
USA BLOCKADE  
ON CUBA**

Join us in Sydney to demand that the USA stops the blockade on Cuba with the right to self determination. Also stop Venezuela & Gaza blockades.

**4:15 pm Friday 17th November – 50 Miller Street North Sydney**

# Communist Party of Australia members show up for Palestine

## NAARM/MELBOURNE

Over 15,000 people attended a rally and march under the slogan Free Gaza. On a show of hands, this was the first Palestinian solidarity event about 50 per cent of the crowd had attended. Union flags were flying, from the CFMEU, the NTEU and the ASU, along with national flags from many countries, including the Aboriginal flag. Speakers highlighted the links between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander and Palestinian struggles against colonialism and settler-state violence, as well as Israeli war crimes. Solidarity is worldwide, as people can see what is happening, hence flags from Lebanon, China, Poland and the Philippines. The refusal of many Jewish people to see Palestinians as the enemy despite huge pressure was highlighted.

## MEANJIN/BRISBANE

Members of both the Sunshine Coast branch and Brisbane branch both attended one of the many events in support of the Palestinian people during these devastating times, and to shun and call for action against the Israeli Apartheid State and the nationalist/colonial ideology that is Zionism.

Amongst the people it was a day filled to the brim of pure and raw emotion all the guest speakers brought to the table. One example was Binil Mohideen of Queensland Muslims Inc, who said he wasn't sure if he should have worn his skullcap so the conservative media would not portray him as just an angry Muslim. Mohideen agreed that he is angry and so happens to be a Muslim, angry over the genocide of the families of Palestine. (Note: Mohideen's prediction was correct as the

Murdoch press very own *Courier Mail* took this quote completely out of context just writing he said "I am Muslim and I am angry").

## BORLOO/PERTH

Two thousand protesters gathered in the Supreme Court Gardens in central Perth for the second such rally in just over a week. The rally was organised by Friends of Palestine WA and the MC for the event, Vashti Fox commenced proceedings by noting that the unrelenting war being conducted by the state of Israel against the Palestinian people in Gaza and other parts of Palestine was now in its thirteenth day. This had led to the killing of over 4000 Palestinians and is viewed by many people around the world as a new Nakba (catastrophe) with Israel calling on over one million Palestinians in northern Gaza to leave their homes or they will be bombed.

We stand in Australia against the brutal colonial occupation of Palestine by the Israeli government. "Not in our name, now or ever," added Vashti. The first speaker was Ayman Qwaider who in August 2021, visited Gaza to see his family and help children in the embattled city. He said there were no safe havens anymore as Israel was bombing schools, mosques, and even Palestinian Christian churches. Ayman said there had in recent months been an escalation of arrests, detentions and killings of Palestinian people which amounted to a collective punishment by Israel of Palestinian people. There is a policy of dehumanisation of the Palestinian people and a destruction of their housing and infrastructure by the Israeli state as an excuse to conduct their campaign against Hamas. ✪



## Condemning the blockade and solidarity with Cuba

**As the undersigning delegations, participants of the XXIII International Meeting of Communist and Workers Parties in Izmir, Turkiye, October 2023:**

We express our strongest condemnation of the unjust, illegal and inhumane economic, commercial and financial blockade imposed by the government of the United States on Cuba and demand, once again, its immediate and unconditional cessation.

We demand that the US government complies with the numerous UN General Assembly Resolutions condemning the blockade and demanding its elimination.

The blockade constitutes a

flagrant, massive and systematic violation of the human rights of the Cuban people and is the main obstacle to the economic and social development of the country.

We reject the intensification of this criminal policy, including the adoption of 243 measures during the administration of Donald Trump, aimed at worsening the financial asphyxiation and the commercial encirclement, which remain unchanged until now.

We reject the unjust inclusion of Cuba in the spurious list of countries allegedly sponsoring terrorism, which has an intimidating and dissuasive character in financial matters for Cuba.

We condemn all attempts to destabilise the internal situation in Cuba, using instruments of unconventional warfare, subversion and media campaigns that seek the destruction of the Revolution and the elimination of the example that this country constitutes for the world.

We ratify our strongest solidarity and commitment to the Cuban people, the revolutionary government and the Communist Party of Cuba to preserve the sovereignty and independence of the country and to maintain firmly the decision of constructing socialism.

Down with the blockade!  
Long live socialist Cuba!

### SolidNet Parties signing the Solidarity Statement

Communist Party of Australia  
Party of Labour of Austria  
Communist Party of Azerbaijan  
Democratic Progressive Tribune  
Communist Party of Belarus  
Workers' Party of Belgium  
Communist Party of Brazil  
Brazilian Communist Party  
Communist Party of Britain  
Communist Party of Canada  
The Progressive Party of the Working People  
Communist Party of Bohemia and Moravia  
Communist Party of Denmark  
Communist Party of Finland  
Communist Party of India (Marxist)  
Communist Party of India  
Tudeh Party of Iran  
Iraqi Communist Party  
Kurdistan Communist Party - Iraq  
Communist Party of Ireland  
The Workers' Party of Ireland  
Workers' Party of Korea  
Lao People's Revolutionary Party  
Lebanese Communist Party  
Communist Party of Mexico

Popular Socialist Party of Mexico  
New Communist Party of the Netherlands  
Communist Party of Macedonia  
Communist Party of Norway  
Communist Party of Pakistan  
Palestinian People's Party  
Palestinian Communist Party  
Paraguayan Communist Party  
Portuguese Communist Party  
Communist Party of the Russian Federation  
Russian Communist Workers' Party  
Communists of Serbia  
New Communist Party of Yugoslavia  
South African Communist Party  
Communist Party of Spain  
Communist Party of Sweden  
Communist Party (Switzerland)  
Swiss Communist Party  
Syrian Communist Party Unified  
Communist Party of Turkey  
Union of Communists of Ukraine  
Communist Party of Ukraine  
Communist Party of Uruguay  
Communist Party of USA  
Communist Party of Vietnam

## Action at imaging

**Community and Public Sector Union (CPSU) members who work in Canberra Health Services' Medical Imaging Department will be taking further industrial action, after pay and conditions negotiations failed to address key worker concerns.**

This will be the second round of industrial action taken by CHS Medical Imaging staff, with union members again undertaking a ban on overtime.

This action started on Friday 27th October and will end on Saturday 18th November.

Negotiations have been underway for nearly 18 months but have so far fallen short in delivering improvements to pay and conditions that would see critical allied health workers stay in Canberra.

This industrial action notification came shortly after damning figures were released showing the expanding surgery wait times in the ACT.

Medical Imaging staff play a critical and vital role in the delivery of surgeries. Radiographers are required for most, if not all surgeries in the ACT. From trauma cases, helping surgeons to understand the positioning of bones, plates and screws after a traumatic incident, as well as ensuring the placement of prosthetics are correct, avoiding further surgery.

Radiographers are critical in gastroenterology surgery, including cholecystectomy and appendectomy via keyhole surgery, ensuring that there are no gastric leaks or bleeds. Radiographers work hand in hand with neurosurgeons, including when operations include spinal surgeries, ensuring that the surgeon is working at the right level

within the patient as to not cause inadvertent damage.

These are just a handful of examples of how these workers play a critical role in theatre teams, providing a safe surgical experience for patients.

The CPSU said if the government does not listen, Allied Health workers will continue to leave to other jurisdictions where they have better pay, better conditions and work less hours.

Brooke Muscat, CPSU National President stated: "The ACT government and Canberra Health Services need to act fast."

"There are serious shortages of Allied Health professionals across the service, which if left unaddressed, will lead to more delays, unsafe work practices and services dropping below the standards expected by the Canberra Community."

"CPSU members don't want to take industrial action, but when the government gives staff nothing but radio silence, it's difficult for members to do anything else."

"Chief Minister Andrew Barr needs to step in – for our Allied Health workers and for the Canberraans who rely on them."

"Our members have three simple asks: a commitment to talking about safe staffing levels during the life of the Agreement; additional time off after working excessive shift work and overtime; and pay scales that allow for decent career progression."

"Our Allied Health professionals are telling Canberra Health Services and the ACT government what they need to stay local and deliver safe services here in Canberra, but are failing to listen". ✪

# Good riddance BHP – coal mine sale a great result for permanent jobs

Mining and Energy Union

**The sale of BHP's Daunia and Blackwater coal mines in Central Queensland to Whitehaven paves the way for hundreds of workers to transition from labour hire to permanent jobs.**

Whitehaven has assured the Mining and Energy Union (MEU) that workers at the mines will remain covered by existing Enterprise Agreements and that all workers employed through BHP's labour hire subsidiary Operations Services will be offered permanency on site EA conditions.

There are about 400 BHP Operations Services workers at Daunia and Blackwater out of a total workforce of approximately 2500 permanent, contract and labour hire coal mineworkers.

MEU Acting Queensland

District President Mitch Hughes welcomed Whitehaven's commitment to ending BHP's sham in-house labour hire model.

"We are delighted that Whitehaven has seen the nonsense of the Operations Services model and committed to ending it," said Hughes.

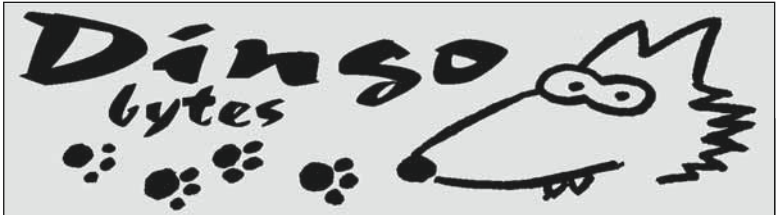
"Nearly four hundred OS workers and their families will be celebrating this news and can look forward to a substantial improvement to their pay and conditions. Meanwhile, the permanently employed workforce can rest assured that their existing pay and conditions will be retained. We will also be seeking permanent, secure jobs for other labour hire workers at the site.

"We are not surprised that Whitehaven has seen value in operating these great Queensland assets while still paying workers fairly.

"Blackwater and Daunia produce quality metallurgical coal that is in strong demand. Whether it's work laws or royalties, BHP is constantly threatening to pack up and leave if they don't get their own way. Well, they can go right ahead. If BHP doesn't want to mine Queensland coal, there are others ready and waiting.

"BHP's ruthless drive over many years to cut direct, permanent jobs and replace them with casual labour hire has caused real reputational damage to a company that was once an Australian icon.

"We look forward to continuing to represent the interests of coal mineworkers at Daunia and Blackwater mines while we continue fighting for fairer work laws to close the labour hire loophole pioneered by BHP," said Hughes. ✪



Thick smoke enveloped extensive areas of the Brazilian Amazon as the region grapples with a surge in wildfires and a historic drought. In Manaus, a city of 2 million, air quality ranked among the worst globally, leading to the suspension of college classes and the cancellation of various activities, including an international marathon. In the first 11 days of October, Amazonas state recorded over 2700 fires. This is already the highest number for the month since official monitoring began in 1998. Virtually all fire is human-caused, primarily for deforestation or pasture clearance. Over the past weeks, Manaus and other cities of Amazonas state have intermittently been blanketed by thick smoke, making it difficult to breathe. The city's air quality index fluctuated between unhealthy and hazardous levels, resembling the conditions in some major Asian metropolitan areas. The city's major universities cancelled all activities, while the city's marathon was postponed for two months. Normally, October marks the start of the rainy season. However, the warming of the northern Atlantic Ocean's waters has disrupted the flow of rain clouds. Another contributing factor is El Niño, a warming of the surface waters in the equatorial Pacific Ocean, which is expected to peak in December. Many of the Amazon's major rivers are currently at historically low levels, disrupting navigation and isolating hundreds of riverine communities. In Tefe Lake, the heated and shallow waters likely caused the deaths of dozens of river dolphins. Most were pink dolphins, an endangered species.

**CRIME OF THE WEEK:** Israel's war on the Palestinians has infallible eyewitnesses to the crime. The following is a message from Doctors Without Borders (Medecines Sans Frontieres) International President Dr Christos Christou on the crisis in Gaza

Mass killing of civilians is sickening and must be condemned in all possible terms. Horrific violence has been wreaked over the last 10 days. Thousands of men, women and children have been killed in Israel. Thousands of men, women and children have been killed in Palestine. The situation today in Gaza is catastrophic. Hospitals and clinics that are still running are overwhelmed and are barely functioning. They are running out of electricity and medical supplies. Surgeons in Al-Shifa hospital are now operating without painkillers. As a surgeon myself, this is unimaginable. Hospitals and clinics have been attacked. Others receive orders to evacuate – with just a couple of hours' notice – with impossible decisions to make. Patients – including those in critical condition – risk their lives either by moving, or by staying behind, in both cases perhaps to die without treatment. The bombing right now in Gaza is relentless. People have been killed while forced to move, looking for safety. People are trapped, unable to escape, with absolutely nowhere safe to go. They're deprived of essential needs – water, food, protected shelter, medicines. This is unimaginable. This is inhumane. The indiscriminate bombing must stop. The egregious level of collective punishment currently being meted out on the people of Gaza must end.

Adelaide

**Join Comrades at Fidel's to Celebrate**

**The Russian Revolution**

**106 Years of Inspiration for the Workers of the World**

**2 to 5 pm Saturday 4th November (SA Time)**

**66 Wattle Avenue, Royal Park**

Join an online link-up with Dr Hannah Middleton and the Port Jackson Branch in NSW in conjunction with the Adelaide Central and Port Adelaide Branches in SA. Hannah will be joined by Comrade Sally Mitchell and Comrade Michael Perth who both spent time in the Soviet Union and will share their insights into the benefits of the socialist way of life.

*Bar service and nibbles available!*

## Dairy workers stand strong

**A multinational's scrooge-like approach to paid emergency service leave for firefighting duties was being called out by regional Victorian dairy workers last week in the biggest dairy strike in living memory.**

More than 1400 workers from four major dairy companies took 48 hours of strike action in Victoria, calling on major multinationals for a wage increase to address the cost-of-living crisis.

Dairy workers are also claiming paid emergency service leave so volunteer Country Fire Authority (CFA) workers can address natural disasters when necessary.

"You can't run a dairy processing plant if all the dairy farms are burnt out," United Workers Union National Secretary Tim Kennedy said.

Kennedy said multinational processor Saputo's failure to come to the table on paid emergency service leave was a sign of a dairy corporation out of touch with the regional communities it depends on.

"Workers who have done significant volunteering with the CFA fighting blazes that have threatened local businesses have been forced to stop those activities because Saputo refuses to offer paid emergency service leave to its workforce," Kennedy said.

"Emergency service leave is one of the reasons these workers are on strike, because they know how important their volunteering during emergencies is to others in their regional community."

Dan Brown, a delegate from the Saputo Allansford site near Warrnambool, said: "We've had members of the emergency services who have pulled out of those services because when they have gone off to provide emergency and disaster relief they haven't been paid.

"They should be paid. They are out looking after our suppliers, looking after us in the community and they're representing Saputo."

Rob Lovell, a delegate from Fonterra Cobden, where Fonterra has made in-principle agreements about paid emergency service leave during the negotiations, said dairy workers at Cobden also volunteered with the CFA.

In 2018 fires near Cobden claimed milking herds and Fonterra Cobden was evacuated.

"In regional Victoria we're prone to bushfires, and emergency service leave is really important," Lovell said.

"A couple of years ago there actually was a bushfire

and they had to evacuate the site because there was smoke.

"I do believe paid emergency service leave is a good idea because it's about people looking after their own communities and having that support in their communities."

More than 1400 dairy workers across four processors and 13 sites expressed their solidarity as they ended the strike.

Dave Chapman, from Peter's Icecream in Mulgrave, said the fight for a cost-of-living wage increase would continue.

"For a long time we have been feeling left behind, neglected, not recognised by the company with what we have been offered," he said.

"A lot of these people have got young families, a lot have also got mortgages. So we've had 12 mortgage rate rises we've had to deal with plus it's also the price of food going through the roof.

"Everyone's doing it tough and we deserve a cost-of-living pay rise.

"This is the most united we have ever been. The message should get through to management that we're not being unreasonable and that we are united in what we are after."

Tim Kennedy said it was time for the companies to come to the table with a fair offer.

"Dairy workers have had enough of the disrespectful way these companies have been treating them, after workers agreed to low wages to help the companies out during the pandemic.

"After more than six months of negotiations the offers of these companies still fall far below cost of living increases.

"There will now be talks with the major dairy processors to see if they are finally willing to pay dairy workers what they need to keep up with the cost of living in their regional centres.

"As always, it will be up to members to decide what action to take next, and they have already voted for the option of rolling 24-hour stoppages in this dispute.

"From what we have seen from 1400 dairy workers walking off the job on this strike, they will not take it lying down if the bosses try to short-change them.

"As a sign of workers' resolve, mass meetings of dairy workers at every site this afternoon have endorsed taking further industrial action if their reasonable demands for a cost-of-living pay rise are not met." ✪

Find out more [www.cpa.org.au](http://www.cpa.org.au)

# WA confirmed as climate pariah



The open pit of the Greenbushes mine, Western Australia.  
Photo: Calistemon – Wikimedia Commons (CC BY-SA 4.0 Deed)

## Grassroots activists Lock the Gate Alliance have condemned the WA Cook government's release of thousands of square kilometres for oil and gas exploration across the state.

"At a time when WA should be transitioning to a renewable energy powered economy as quickly as possible, the Cook government is digging in its heels in support of fossil gas," said Lock the Gate WA spokesperson Simone van Hattem.

"The largest of these tenements is a staggering 7070 square kilometres in size – that's about three times the size of the ACT.

"Unconventional or not, gas projects are fueling the climate emergency. These projects will also industrialise rural and regional communities and harm the environment. In the Kimberley, Buru Energy has cleared tens of thousands of kilometres through the most intact savannah woodland in the world, all in pursuit of what it claims to be 'conventional' gas."

The new land release extends close to the spectacular Edgar Range, where scenic tourism flights are often conducted. No one is going to want to take a scenic flight over a gas development.

Unlike other states, the WA Cook government has no 2030 emissions reduction goals. This release of thousands of square kilometres to oil and gas companies indicates it has no plan to get with the 21st century and decarbonise.

"The severity of the climate crisis means governments must act now, or West Australians will face worsening severe weather events including unbearable heatwaves and unprecedented droughts," warned van Hattem.

Meanwhile in Queensland, authorities have been urged by Lock the Gate to keep a close eye on repeat offender Whitehaven Coal, with reports the NSW-based coal company is close to sealing the deal to buy two BHP-owned mines in the Bowen Basin.

The company is also trying to progress its Winchester South coal mine – a project that, if built, would mine 15 million tonnes of coal per annum, be responsible for millions of tonnes of carbon emissions, would use 155 million litres of water per year, and clear 2000 hectares of vegetation.

In the last 10 years Whitehaven has been found guilty or investigated for breaches of the law on more

than 35 occasions, many of them including multiple offences. The company has been prosecuted numerous times and has incurred more than \$1,497,500 in penalties to date.

Separately, Whitehaven is facing a shareholder backlash amid concerns from investors that pay rises for CEO Paul Flynn do not reflect the company's overall performance.

Lock the Gate Alliance coordinator Ellie Smith said, "As far as coal companies go, Whitehaven is bottom of the barrel. Whitehaven was found guilty of unlawfully taking one billion litres of water at the height of the worst drought in living memory at its Maules Creek coal mine.

"Right now, Whitehaven is in court over accusations its blasting was so loud, it damaged the hearing of workers at a neighbouring coal mine."

Smith noted that Whitehaven has been warned, fined, and prosecuted dozens of times for crimes committed at its NSW coal mines, yet has shown no signs of changing its behaviour, and that Whitehaven no doubt sees these penalties as just the cost of doing business.

"Whitehaven simply isn't worth it. Its Winchester South proposal must be rejected, and its attempts to gain a foothold in Queensland by buying up existing mines should be prevented."

Environmental Advocacy in Central Queensland director Dr Coral Rowston said, "It's a real shame BHP has refused to do the responsible thing here and leave the coal in the ground.

"BHP had a real opportunity to be a climate leader, but is instead flogging off its dirty assets to another company – one with a really bad criminal history.

"This sale is going to lead to more emissions at a time when the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and scientific experts are screaming at governments and companies to leave fossil fuels in the ground.

"A giant fire, made worse due to fossil fuel-driven global warming, is right now tearing through world renowned Carnarvon National Park and threatening neighbouring properties – and it's not even summer yet.

"Central Queenslanders can't afford the climate crisis to worsen. We can't afford any more coal."

Lock the gate 🗳️

## GREEN NOTES

### Bad governance

Anna Pha

The UN Special Rapporteur on Toxics and Human Rights, Marcos A Orellana, issued a damning report on his visit to Australia last month. Orellana drew attention to the disconnect between government narratives concerning chemicals and pollution, and communities, and civil society which denounces the capture of the State for the benefit of mining, oil, gas, agrochemical and other corporate interests.

"I have also seen a disconnect in the relations between companies and workers. There is a great distance between the work imagined by regulations and company policies, and the lived experiences of workers' exposure." Orellana raises the issue of multiple instances of exposures to hazardous silica dust. "More generally, it was brought to my attention that regulations in some states do not allow effective access to justice in cases of breaches of occupational health and safety standards, since only the regulator can prosecute them."

He notes shortcomings in the implementation of multilateral environmental agreements by Australia. For example, Australia is a party to the Minamata Convention on Mercury, yet its controls on mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants have been limited or at times non-existent. Australia is also a party to the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, but it has obtained exemptions for methyl bromide, a hazardous pesticide which does damage the ozone layer.

Orellana is critical of governance in Australia. "There can be no doubt that access to environmental information is critical to environmental decision-making and public participation. I am troubled to learn about significant delays in the processing of requests for environmental information under freedom of information laws. The issue of costs imposed on public interest organisations also stifles access to information."

He also draws attention to the troubling draconian restrictions on the right to protest in several states. "Peaceful protests are a legitimate exercise of the right to freedom of assembly, and they enable citizens to mobilise their concerns and make them visible to public authorities." Australia's judiciary is "strictly procedural" when it reviews government decisions. This can lead to negative environmental outcomes where political decisions do not reflect the best available scientific evidence.

The low penalties for violation of licence conditions are another concern. "[penalties] are simply absorbed as a cost of doing business, while the toxic harm is imposed upon neighbouring communities."

"Substantive environmental standards are key to protecting the right of every person to live in a non-toxic environment." Ambient air quality standards in Australia are less protective than in other member countries of the OECD and certain industries have received exemptions from compliance with relevant standards. "Where environmental standards are not robust, the outcome is legalised contamination." Communities have often paid the price with premature deaths, terminal illnesses, asthma and other serious health outcomes of coal mining and coal-fired power plants. Ash dams from coal combustion also pose threats to groundwater and drinking water of local communities. Arsenic and selenium in groundwater have been reported.

In Australia limited or no information on the use of pesticides is disclosed to the public. Similarly, there is a lack of monitoring of impacts on humans of pesticide exposure. Alarming, certain hazardous pesticides that are banned in their country of origin are still imported. "What's also clear is that the risks of hazardous pesticides involve not only occupational exposure of workers in the fields, but also air drift and contamination of water sources, all of which is adversely affecting local communities and aggravating the loss of biodiversity."

"... the world needs Australia to lead on a range of toxics issues. If Australia is unable to ensure that mining does not pose toxic threats, what can we expect from other jurisdictions lacking the institutional regulatory capacity that Australia has? The expected surge in demand of transition minerals for decarbonisation makes of this an existential question for many communities," Orellana notes.

"Similarly, the world needs Australia to succeed in its phase out of fossil fuels."

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# CEASEFI

## Save



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### Communist Party of Sri Lanka

**The Communist Party of Sri Lanka (CPSL) expresses unwavering solidarity with the Palestinian people during this period of increased resistance to Israel's criminal occupation of Palestinian territory.**

The CPSL place the full responsibility on the fascist right-wing government of Israel for the sharp and dangerous escalation that resulted in losing lives of many innocent civilians. At the end of a shocking week in early October, in which the settlers ran amok throughout the occupied territories under the auspices of Israel government and incidents around the Al-Aqsa Mosque lead to the very serious escalation.

The deaths of civilians and crimes against them on both sides must be avoided and condemned. However, it must be clearly understood that horrific crimes are perpetrated against the Palestinian people on daily basis by the Israeli military and state backed settlers.

The Communist Party of Sri Lanka strongly and unequivocally condemn the continued military bombardment upon Gaza which has resulted in the killing of scores of Palestinian civilians and injuring of hundreds more including children. Collective punishment of the people of Gaza is a war crime and must cease immediately.

Israel's brazen violation of international humanitarian law and international law has continued for

decades now, with the full support of imperialist forces, and without any meaningful intervention to address the core issue of the conflict.

The CPSL would like to emphasize that the core issue of the conflict will only be resolved by implementing the resolution adopted by the United Nations Security Council. The CPSL demands to end the criminal occupation and racial apartheid and implement a two-state solution. The CPSL express full and unwavering solidarity with the just struggle of the Palestinian people to establish an independent state within the recognized borders as they stood on June 4th 1967, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and the right of return for all Palestinian refugees according to the relevant UN resolutions.

We condemn the imperialist forces in the West for not only justifying Israeli actions against Palestinians, but also for deliberately escalating the situation.

The Communist Party of Sri Lanka urges both parties to deescalate the situation and end the current conflict.

The Communist Party of Sri Lanka declares that it will always stand by the Palestinian people and their legitimate demands for independence and sovereignty.

The occupiers will lose, the Palestinian people will win! ✖

### Tudeh Party of Iran

**We strongly condemn the horrific crimes of the apartheid regime of Israel in laying siege and bombardment of Gaza and the massacre of Palestinian civilians!**

In recent days, in the capital cities and towns, both large and small, all around the world, there have been magnificent demonstrations of admirable solidarity with the people of Palestine, who have been the target of relentless military aggression by the right-wing extremist Israeli government for over a week in the Gaza Strip. In these acts of solidarity with the Palestinian people, participants, with clear and resolute slogans, including "End the massacre of the Palestinian people," "End the occupation of Palestine," and "Stop the killings and violence," demanded an immediate end to the criminal siege of the Gaza Strip by Israel and called for the recognition of the fundamental rights of the Palestinian people.

The Israeli government, under the pretext of seeking revenge for attacks by Palestinian groups that targeted several border areas in Israel on 7th October, unleashed the continuous bombardments and destruction of Gaza over the past week, utilising jets, tanks, and warships. This military offensive by Israel has thus far resulted in the deaths of more than 2500 of Gaza residents and has made nearly half a million people homeless. The bombing of Gaza and the targeting of over two million Palestinian people residing in Gaza, who have been under Israel's blockade for years with no escape or sanctuary, are considered war crimes according to international laws. ✖

### Palestin

**An explanator**

Since the attack on 7th October and because of the support of America and the UK, France, Germany and the reactionaries in Israel is taking place in the name of cleansing and genocide in the Gaza Strip, and across the whole world, and the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip, armed by the fascist attacks against Palestinians have increased, and the Zionist occupation.

But recently the situation is not the same. In addition to the occupation, it began to force 1.1 million people to go beyond the Gaza Strip, demanded that Israel residents ... They are on the roads, but the Zionist response of being

# RE NOW!

## Gaza



Borloo/Perth



Tarpanya/Adelaide.

### ian Communist Party

**Statement issued by the Palestinian Communist Party on the situation in occupied Palestine.** The war on our people in the Gaza Strip began, the unparalleled support of the United States, the European countries, specifically Britain, France, and Italy, for the entity state, the silence of Arab regimes is the silence of graves over what the occupied Palestinian territories of ethnic genocide against people our people are in the full of this is happening before the eyes of the world these manifestations have begun to spread, where herds of extremist settlers have been fascist occupation government, where settler Palestinian villages and Bedouin communities as well as their attacks on the external roads in cities and all that. Being supported by the Israeli forces.

The war on our people has begun to take a new dimension to the daily massacres committed by the Israeli army waging a psychological and operational war on Palestinians to migrate from northern Gaza to the Gaza Valley. This matter created confusion and fear among the people, as to where to go. The United Nations Security Council has cancelled the evacuation order, and that the Israeli army cannot go south due to the destruction of the Gaza Strip. The Israeli response came, accusing the international community of being shameful. ✪

**The Independent and Peaceful Australia Network (IPAN) has called on the Australian government to condemn the Israeli siege of Gaza and to call for negotiations for an immediate ceasefire and withdrawal of all Israeli troops.**

“Prime Minister Anthony Albanese must call for the siege and bombing to end before more innocent families are killed,” said IPAN Spokesperson, Kathryn Kelly, also a member of Australians for Justice and Peace in Palestine (AJPP).

“Immediate measures must be put in place to address the current escalation of this historical conflict – including negotiations for an immediate ceasefire and withdrawal of all Israeli troops from Gaza,” said Ms Kelly.

IPAN acknowledges the brutality of the recent Hamas attack on citizens of Israel, but believes the current escalation in conflict was entirely preventable and is a result of the 16-year long blockade and Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, the enduring apartheid policies against Palestinians, and the continual expansion of Israeli settlements.

“For many years now, the United Nations and many human rights groups have urged Israel to lift its blockade on Gaza,” said Ms Kelly.

### Independent and Peaceful Australia Network

“For 16 years Gaza has been an open-air prison, and described as such by human rights groups and critics as well as former UK Prime Minister, David Cameron,” said Ms Kelly.

Over one million of the 2.3 million citizens are children. The economy is on the verge of collapse. The current blockade by Israel and Egypt has caused acute ongoing shortages of food, medical supplies, and necessary construction materials. This inhumane situation must not be allowed to continue.

“IPAN therefore urges the Australian government to call for establishment of a safe corridor for food, water, and medical supplies for the people of Gaza.”

Over the years, the UN General Assembly has condemned Israeli military massacres and fundamentalist settler land grabs against Palestinians – but recommendations for sanctions against Israel have been ignored by USA, Australia, and European military interests which support Israel. It is time that such calls for sanctions are heeded.

IPAN calls for leaders in the Middle East and across the world to work for an immediate end to hostilities and the withdrawal of all Israeli troops from Gaza and for urgent humanitarian aid to be provided to all who need it, with

assistance from UN Emergency Peacekeeping Forces. “In addition, it is imperative that the USA stop providing Israel with more than \$3 billion in military aid each year,” said Ms Kelly.

IPAN supports this call from Jews Against the Occupation: “It is time for our government and the world to insist ‘Enough is enough.’ Australia’s virtual endorsement of Israel’s ongoing criminal oppression and dispossession of Palestinians by asserting its ‘right to defend itself,’ is totally in defiance of international law and human rights.”

IPAN urges the Australian government to call for a peace conference of all parties, under the auspices of the United Nations, with the objective of working towards finding a just and peaceful solution for the people of Palestine and Israel.

IPAN also echoes the following call from Jewish Voices for Peace:

“We call on all people of conscience to stop the imminent genocide of Palestinians. We demand our government work towards de-escalation, that it immediately stop sending weapons to the Israeli military. A future of peace and safety for all, grounded in justice, freedom and equality for all, is still the only option.” ✪

# PEN Norway awards Julian Assange the Ossietzky Prize for 2023

The Norwegian branch of PEN, the international writers association has awarded the 2023 Ossietzky Prize, given for extraordinary contributions to freedom of speech, to Julian Assange in recognition of his critical journalism and his commitment to exposing the abuse of power and war crimes.

The jury's justification for the Ossietzky Prize 2023:

Julian Assange has, both as a publisher and editor, been instrumental in revealing severe war crimes committed by the United States and its allies in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the unlawful imprisonment and abuse of detainees at Guantanamo.

Julian Assange's publication of classified documents in 2010 contributed to important debates about the legitimacy and lawfulness of US military actions. The information provided a more accurate picture of the brutality and abuse of power, as well as gross violations of the laws of war by the United States.

The revelations formed the basis for news coverage worldwide and gave the public the opportunity to correct and prevent abuse of power and human rights violations, which is essential to critical journalism.

Without the leaked documents published by Julian Assange, we would not have had this insight.

Julian Assange's efforts for the right to information have come at a high personal cost. For the last five years he has been imprisoned in the British high-security prison Belmarsh, with limited contact with

his family and inadequate communication with his lawyers. His health has deteriorated significantly during his time in detention.

The treatment that Julian Assange has been and is being subjected to can amount to violations of the European Convention on Human Rights and the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which prohibit any form of torture and inhuman treatment.

Julian Assange faces the risk of extradition to the United States under the Espionage Act, which carries a maximum sentence of 175 years in prison. There is only one court hearing and one final chance of appeal that now prevents extradition.

The essence of investigative journalism is to systematically work to uncover truthful information, especially about reprehensible social conditions and abuse of power. According to US law/legislation, it is the publication itself that can provide grounds for prosecution/conviction under the Espionage Act, which also implies possible prosecution of the news media that disseminate leaked material. An indictment under the espionage statute would have serious consequences for press and freedom of speech worldwide and would undermine journalists' legal protections, also here in Norway. If Julian Assange is extradited to the United States, the very core of press freedom is under attack and could mark a significant historical setback for independent, critical journalism.

There are also significant challenges to legal protection when an Australian citizen can be arrested in a European country and

OSSIETZKY PRIZE

PEN Norway awards  
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Julian Assange is awarded the Ossietzky Prize for 2023 in recognition of his critical journalism and his commitment to exposing the abuse of power and war crimes.



Photo: Julian Assange

extradited for prosecution in the US for something published on the internet.

Citizens' right to information is a prerequisite for democracy. Without a democracy based on informed citizens, abuse of power and violations of the law cannot be corrected and changed. Julian Assange has defended

the core of democracy. Like several predecessors, Julian Assange has made public essential documents in this sensitive area, a role that is often criticised but will be recognised as highly significant when history is to be written.

PEN Norway ✪

## 100 years of 'the literature of the revolution'

CJ Atkins

**NEW YORK:** "The literature of the revolution is taking its prominent place in the English-speaking world." That was how *People's World* reported on the growth of International Publishers back in the 1920s when the company debuted its first full catalogue of books, covering everything from classical works of Marxism to developments in the US labour movement to the latest happenings in "the new Russia" – the Soviet Union.

International arrived on the scene in 1924, a time when almost no one was making the works of scientific socialism available to an American audience. It hasn't stopped since. As International's vice president, Tony Pecinovsky, told *People's World*, "International Publishers was not only one of the first Marxist publishers in the US, it is also one of the longest continually publishing Marxist publishers in the US."

Over the past century, the radical imprint has put out thousands of titles in copies numbering in the

tens of millions. The achievements of those 100 years of publishing will be the subject of an upcoming day-long seminar hosted at New York University's Tamiment Library on 26th October.

"This is an especially important time to celebrate and recognise International's history," Pecinovsky said. "With a new generation exploring socialism, we're celebrating IP's past, but we're also gearing up for our future."

While it's perhaps best known for its extensive selections of affordable paperback classics like *The Communist Manifesto* and *What is to be Done*, or the 50-volume *Marx-Engels Collected Works*, International's reach has gone far beyond works of philosophy and political strategy.

For the better part of the 20th century, it was the premier publisher of radical literature in North America – covering the struggle for socialism, the strategy and tactics of organising and mobilising the working class, the fights for African American equality and Black Liberation, women's liberation, peace, and international solidarity.

That's a point Pecinovsky

made as well. "We published books during the height of the McCarthy era that were deemed subversive and anti-American," he said, "and our founder, Alexander Trachtenberg, was put on trial and thrown in jail." He recalled that International "showed solidarity with world socialism and the national liberation movements then freeing themselves from colonialism and imperialism – something no other US-based publishing house can lay claim to."

All of that will be celebrated at the big birthday bash being planned at NYU, but it's not just International's past glories that are the centrepiece of the seminar—it will also be a glimpse toward the future that Pecinovsky believes is still ahead for the company. "This seminar is really a jumping-off point for a new, reinvigorated International Publishers," he said.

All the presentations and papers from the seminar will – of course – be compiled and released as a new book by International Publishers in spring 2024.

*People's World*  
Edited for reasons of space. ✪

## Israel to shut down critical media

**The Israeli government has approved a new regulation that will shut news channels which 'damage national security.'** The International Federation of Journalists (IFJ) has urged Israel to review its decision in the name of media pluralism and the public's right to know.

The proposed regulations, approved on 20th October, aim to prohibit news organisations from 'undermining national security, public order or serving as a basis for enemy propaganda.' While the regulation appears to be aimed at the operation of Qatari channel *Al Jazeera*, the IFJ fears they could also be used to shut down other media operating in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories.

According to the *Times of Israel*: "The communications minister – with the agreement of the defence minister – will be able to order TV providers to stop broadcasting the news outlet in question; close its offices in Israel, seize its equipment, and shut down its website or restrict access to its website, depending on the location of its server."

Media organisations and journalists have struggled to cover the Israel-Gaza war from its start on 7th October when the Hamas launched an unprecedented attack in southern Israel. In response, Israel retaliated with airstrikes over the besieged Gaza Strip and

formally declared war at Hamas. Foreign and local media are faced with numerous restrictions including safety threats, electricity and internet shutdowns.

At least 15 Palestinian journalists, 3 Israeli and one Lebanese journalists have lost their lives. The IFJ is verifying reports of other casualties in the Gaza strip. Several media workers have also been injured and others are missing. Many media offices in Gaza have been destroyed.

The latest decision of the Israeli government to restrict press freedom is another blow for the international journalism community and the public's right to know.

Anthony Bellanger, IFJ general secretary, said:

"We are deeply concerned at Israel's attempt to censor media coverage of the ongoing Israel-Gaza conflict using national security as an excuse to restrict critical media that do not confirm its narrative of the ongoing war. This is a clear attack on media pluralism and the public's right to know. The whole world must be allowed to see what is happening in the ongoing conflict and we urge Israel to review its decision."

National Union of Journalists,  
UK. ✪

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# Criticism of Israel and Zionism is not antisemitism

Graham Holton

**On 13th October SkyNews asked former Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett about the plight of Palestinians in Gaza. Bennett shouted back “are you serious? these people “are Nazis.” The use of “Nazis,” “evil,” “monsters,” and “human animals” demonises and de-humanises Palestinians, allowing Israel to carry out revenge with impunity. As Raz Segal writes in “A Textbook Case of Genocide,” in Jewish Currents, Israel is carrying out genocide on the Palestinian people: no food, no water, no power, and no hope. In a letter to the United Nations Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh wrote that “Israeli atrocities amount to war crimes.”**

As policy, Israel considers any criticism of its violent acts against Palestinians to be antisemitism. Antisemitism is discrimination against or hostility towards Jews. The US Anti-Defamation League (ADL) accuses critics of Israel of antisemitism in the following circumstances; all Jews are held responsible for the actions of Israel, Israel is denied the right to exist as a Jewish state, or when critics use antisemitic symbols and images. The ADL sees the Jewish people as having the right to self-determination, a universal right afforded to others.

However, the ADL also sees any anti-Israel comments as an extreme form of ‘anti-Zionism.’ Is that the same as antisemitism?

Zionism is a relatively modern Jewish political movement, which believes that all Jews are one nation, not simply a religious or ethnic community. Zionists hold that the only solution to antisemitism is the establishment of a Jewish state, Israel.

Israel equates anti-Zionism with antisemitism, based on three arguments. First, that opposition to the Zionist state is antisemitic because it denies a Jewish state the right to exist. Second, that anti-Zionism seeks to remove Israel’s right to statehood, thereby politically dispossessing its nine million citizens. Third, that anti-Zionists are always also antisemites. None of these arguments stand up to scrutiny.

Israel is a Zionist state that uses religious beliefs to justify its existence. During the 1973 Yom Kippur War, Israel occupied Egypt’s Sinai Peninsula. On 10th November 1975, the United Nations General Assembly passed the “Zionism is Racism” resolution, equating

Zionism with racism and apartheid. Criticising Israel, a Zionist state, for its inhumane treatment of Palestinians is not antisemitism.

Zionism is a form of ethnic nationalism, which denies equality to non-Jews who live under Israeli control. Israel’s claim that all peoples have a right to self-determination does not include Palestinians. Israel has a population of 1.9 million Arab Israelis (21 per cent of the population), who refer to themselves as Israeli-Palestinians. There are 5 million non-citizens, Palestinians, who live under Israeli control in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, without basic rights. If they all gained citizenship, the Jewish state would not have a Jewish majority.

A commission created by the Israeli government in 2003 described Israel’s handling of the Arab sector as “discriminatory.” For Palestinians, Zionism represents political dispossession. Palestinians are not anti-Zionist because they have a hatred of Jews. They are anti-Zionist because Zionism is behind their loss of their country.

To seek to replace Israel’s ethnic nationalism with civic nationalism, is not racist or antisemitic. In 2019 three Palestinian members of the Knesset introduced a bill to turn Israel from a Jewish state into a “state for all its citizens.” Jamal Zahalka, explained: “We do not deny Israel or its right to exist as a home for Jews ... The state should exist in the framework of equality, and not in the framework of preference and superiority.”

Anti-Zionism and antisemitism do not always go together. In 2018 Avrum Burg, former speaker of Israel’s Knesset, argued that the Jewish settlements in the West Bank had rendered the two-state solution impossible saying that “Israel must belong to all of its residents, including Arabs, not to the Jews alone.” Meron Benvenisti the former deputy mayor of Jerusalem, Gideon Levy the *Haaretz* columnist, and the Federation Movement, all Jewish, have all criticised Israeli Zionist policies towards Palestinians, but they are not antisemitic. There are also Ultra-Orthodox Jews who oppose Zionism for religious reasons.

Antisemitism is an irrational and abhorrent prejudice, as are all forms of racism. Anti-Zionism, like criticism of Israel, is being against an ethnonationalism and apartheid system which has caused serious harm to Palestinian people, and which will ultimately harm Israel itself. ✪

## For Palestinians, Zionism represents political dispossession.

## Union busting in Baltimore

18th October 2023 – Healthcare, USA

**America’s Catholic Bishops have long published a set of Ethical and Religious Directives covering Catholic health care. The seventh of these “ERDs,” as they are known in the industry, instructs a Catholic hospital to “treat its employees respectfully and justly” including “recognition of the rights of employees to organise and bargain collectively.” So what’s the problem over at Ascension Health?**

Ascension is one of the largest Catholic Health Care chains in the United States, with more than 140 hospitals and dozens of nursing homes. But whenever staff at

Ascension facilities begin to seek union representation, management comes down on them like a ton of bricks. We’ve seen this repeatedly over the past few years as nurses at multiple Ascension hospitals have organised to join National Nurses United. The nurses contend that systemic understaffing in Ascension hospitals is undermining both working conditions and patient care.

Recently we reported that the nurses of Ascension St Agnes Hospital in Baltimore had filed for a union representation election. Since that time, the nurses have repeatedly told Catholic Labor Network members that management has

retaliated against union supporters with unfair discipline and surveillance. The union has now filed Unfair Labor Practice charges with the National Labor Relations Board.

The decision to form or join a union belongs to workers, not their employer. Both Catholic Social Teaching and US law are clear on this point. The Catholic Labor Network has addressed a letter to the Ascension CEO urging him to investigate the labor law violations at St Agnes Hospital and ensure that local administrators are in compliance with both American law and Catholic Social Doctrine. ✪



## Global Briefs

**ARGENTINA:** Argentina’s Economy Minister Sergio Massa and the leader of the far-right Liberty Advances party, Javier Milei have advanced to the 2nd round of the Argentine presidential election. Massa received 36.5 per cent of the votes, Milei got 30.09 per cent after 94.54 per cent of the votes were counted. The second round is scheduled for 19th November. Last Sunday more than 35.8 million Argentines went to the polls to elect president, vice-president, 130 deputies, 24 senators and 43 representatives of Parlasur (the Mercosur Parliament). According to the country’s electoral laws, the presidency is won by whoever obtains 45 per cent of the votes or, alternatively, 40 per cent in case there is a difference of at least 10 points with respect to the second place. [Parlasur is the parliamentary institution of the Mercosur trade bloc. It is composed of 81 MPs, 18 from each member state of the bloc – Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay – and 9 from applying member Venezuela. Associate members – Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, and Peru – may have seats in the parliament, but with no voting power].

**INDIA:** Nearly 90 per cent of rough diamonds in the world are cut and polished in India. The western state of Gujarat accounts for more than half of the overall trade and around 10 million people are associated with the diamond industry. They are facing an ‘existential crisis’ in the wake of the G7 club of rich countries’ intention to restrict trade in diamonds originating from Russia as part of anti-Russia sanctions. Almost 30 per cent of the diamonds imported to India are of Russian origin. President of the Diamond Workers Union Gujarat said that around 2.5 million workers, most of them belonging to economically-weaker backgrounds are ‘directly associated with the cut and polishing trade.’ The shutdown of workshops has already pushed some workers to suicide.

**BRITAIN:** Labour trounced the Tories in two by-elections. A union organiser and a Greenpeace activist won seats in the Commons, overturning huge Conservative majorities. Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer said: “Winning in these Tory strongholds shows that people overwhelmingly want change and they’re ready to put their faith in our changed Labour Party to deliver it.”

**MIDDLE EAST:** The Chinese People’s Liberation Army has stationed six warships in the Middle East. The 44th naval escort has been in Oman for routine joint operations since May. The ships include a guided missile destroyer, an integrated supply ship, and a frigate. Meanwhile, the US has sent its ships to the region ‘to protect US interests there,’ according to John Kirby, National Security Council spokesperson. “The president as commander-in-chief is going to do what he has to do to look after [US] national security interests,” said Kirby. The Dwight D Eisenhower carrier strike group is on route to the region. The US Mount Whitney’s deployment was also announced.



Something to say?

Write to the Editor!

editor@cpa.org.au

## Film Review by Floyd Kermode

# Killers of the Flower Moon

Who's up for some three hours plus of cinematic awesomeness? Lots of people, that's who, even the ones who think that *Killers of the Flower Moon* really should have been a TV series. Martin Scorsese is a legendary director, widely revered since he made *Taxi Driver*, and his latest flick comes with big wraps.

Anyone who knows Scorsese's work will be expecting something dark, and they won't be disappointed. *Killers of the Flower Moon* is based on the true story of murder of indigenous people in the early 1900s in the US state of Oklahoma after oil was discovered on Osage Nation tribal lands.

Anyone who's heard anything about this particular Scorsese movie will know that it's really long – 206 minutes. No, there isn't a half-time intermission (this is usually the next question). You will also have heard that it's all good and that there isn't a wasted moment. This is true enough, although a lot of the time is taken up with Leonardo di Caprio playing against type, establishing himself as Ernest, a dim, but troubled character who slowly – tragically slowly – works out what's really going on.

What's going on is capitalism at its most rapacious and imperialist. The movie is set during an oil boom on Osage country in the early 1900s. Ernest has returned from the war in Europe and is immediately taken under the wing of his scheming uncle, William 'King' Hale, majestically played by Robert di Niro, who tells people to call him 'King'

**capitalism  
at its most  
rapacious**

with no irony at all. Hale's plan is to get as much of the Osage wealth as possible via marriage, violence, and murder.

Di Caprio is encouraged to marry an Osage woman for her wealth, as were many white men at the time. This intelligent movie shows the marriage to be a love-match as well as part of the systematic attack on Osage resources, and the romance between Mollie (Lily Gladstone) and Ernest.

Based on the book *Killers of the Flower Moon: The Osage Murders and the Birth of the FBI*, which describes what Dave Eggers called "a sickening conspiracy," gradually uncovered and defeated by the nascent FBI, with Mollie's courage and strength playing a major role.

With what we know about US history, the broad direction of the movie is hardly surprising, but what makes it memorable and worth watching is the respect for the Osage people that shines through.

*Killers of the Flower Moon* is categorized as a 'revisionist western' on its Wikipedia page, but that description doesn't do it justice. A lot of the revisionist Westerns have a perfunctory admission that the white guys weren't the good guys and that crimes were committed against the First Nations people of North America, before centering the white characters with the indigenous ones serving as a backdrop to white angst, much as supposedly mature US depictions of the war in Vietnam use the Vietnamese people as a scary setting. We're still waiting for a Vietnam war movie that isn't all about how unpleasant the war was for the US and their sidekicks.

In contrast, *Killers of the Flower Moon* is animated by the lively Osage culture and the strength of the Osage women without being exploitative. The Osage are victims in this movie, but they are not passive or anonymous victims.

Lily Gladstone, as Mollie, the Osage woman Ernest marries, is absolutely vital for the movie, and her relationship with Ernest really makes the film more than just another shocking true story.

As Australians know all too well, capitalism and imperialism aren't finished with First Nations people yet. The exploitation goes on, and Scorsese's movie finishes with a reminder that the exploitation includes culture as well as oil and land. ✪



## Book Review by Andrea Penman-Lomeli

# Class War: A Literary History

### by Mark Steven

***Class War: A Literary History* expands our understanding of class war but completely misses the role of ideology and organising in class politicisation.**

In his new book, *Class War: A Literary History*, literature professor Mark Steven reads a scene from Bertolt Brecht's adaptation of Maxim Gorky's *Mother* to show how workers come to an understanding of the term 'class war.' An instructor teaching metalworkers uses the word 'hat' in a spelling lesson. The students respond with the suggestion that they should be taught using useful words, like 'class war,' instead, to which the teacher responds with irritation, saying, "There's no such thing as class war."

For Steven this exemplifies a crucial point: class war generates a class consciousness. "Their teacher cannot grasp this, it seems, because a life of detached curiosity has rendered him unable to think concretely and experientially, only in rules and abstractions. The semi-literate metalworkers intuit something fundamentally alien to their teacher's learning." This moment demonstrates the need to learn in a language that appeals to the experiences of the student,

and generates their awareness as a class, and underscores the teacher's inability to grasp class without a bodily relationship to the extraction of value via manual labour. While this example shows that their bodily relationship and shared experience might empower them with a sense of their class position that could manifest in print, Steven argues that it is not enough to unite them as a class. According to Steven, it is only in the moment of mobilisation and armed struggle that a class comes together as such – not through the written word.

Throughout *Class War*, Steven surveys moments of class uprising by examining pamphlets, literature, songs, and more – the stuff of propaganda. He uses historical examples from the Haitian Revolution in 1802, to the Paris Commune in the late 1800s, to the Black Panthers mid-20th century in the United States to chart an ambitious and sprawling history of the letter in *Class War*.

Steven's interest lies primarily in moments that occur beyond traditional industrial workplaces and the nation-state and deal with questions of race, coloniality, and the extraction of value outside the space of labour. This book offers a viewpoint that sutures together

moments in history that are rarely placed in conversation together. This ambitious framing overlooks how some of these moments in history failed to achieve real economic change.

Steven's primary interest is showing how the working class came together as such. His literary trek reinstates workers as subjects who are radicalised by their role in armed struggle and not by the literature and propaganda they produce. Traversing literature to show instances of class war could be an opportunity to show the working class as capable of creating counter-hegemonic unifying discourse. Steven instead depicts the working class merely as subjects who respond to structural conditions through uprising, not as thinkers and writers that influence action or as architects of their own political programs. He avoids the crucial moments in which the working class formed new worlds without war.

His definitions of class war reveal how he views the working class. For him, class war is something more "militantly combative than class struggle or class conflict." It is "an affective catalyst ... at once a metaphor and a statement of fact." In this vision, class war is a form

of transmutation that forms the working class as a collective. He argues that this mobilisation raises class consciousness, teasing out the shared political-economic experience of a given group of people and binding a group together.

Armed struggle, according to Steven, is the privileged space where consciousness is raised: "This book seeks to show that a class is forged not only through exploitation and dispossession, but also through antagonism – and that through antagonism, class is made and remade into something revolutionary." (emphasis added) The working class is thus formed by a shared experience in war, not a successful forging of an alternative world.

For Stevens, literature aids in or records the ways war and conflict were used to unite a class, but is never responsible for generating class consciousness. That class solidarity arises from a moment of action and not ideology offers a depiction of mobilisation that emanates only from real experience. The political and social movements that are ideologically and deliberately constructed are reduced to purely physical, emotive, and immediate moments.

Counter-hegemonic ideology

generated by thinkers, leaders, and workers in the Global South like Álvaro García Linera, Augusto César Sandino or Aníbal Quijano is subsumed by "real life" and the supposed material experience of class.

Steven's argument that class is formed through war overlooks the various moments in history in which the working class or the subaltern formed their own world without war. From the most centralist forms of government like Salvador Allende's to the more anarchist community land movements in Latin America, people have formed socialist and communist communities without centering armed combat. These movements were rich in strategic, literary, and discursive material that formed the basis for their projects (and often used violence in defensive measure). Today, movements such as Brazil's Landless Workers' Movement (*Movimento dos Trabalhadores Rurais Sem Terra*, MST), have created their own robust internal economies and social structures.

Nacla.org (edited for reasons of space) ✪

# What does the Tony Blair Institute actually do?

Solomon Hughes

**The latest accounts for the Tony Blair Institute show that the consultancy run by the former UK prime minister (1997-2007) saw its income surge by 49 per cent to \$121 million last year.**

The institute made most of this money by advising foreign governments, including repressive Arab kingdoms.

Blair has cashed in on his political influence working for other nations but clearly wishes he could be involved again with running a British government.

I don't know why the institute, based in London, does its accounts in US dollars, but I suppose it reflects Blair's long-held belief in US hegemony.

The accounts say that in 2022 the institute was "operational in nearly 30 countries, with a total staff of 514, up from 337."

According to the accounts, the great majority of its income – \$110 million – came from "government advisory," which it says means "advising political leaders in countries worldwide."

The institute gives the appearance of transparency, with a long list of "our donors and funding partners." But when you read the report closely it makes clear the names on this list are just "examples" of clients, not the full list.

The accounts are keen to tell you that the institute is, for example, helping the government of Malawi with digitisation. But they certainly don't tell the full story.

So, Blair's annual report has never admitted that the institute continued working for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, even after the Saudis made clear just how repressive they are by luring Saudi dissident Jamal Khashoggi to their consulate in Istanbul, murdering him and dismembering his body.

The newspapers got the institute to admit this Saudi work, which was semi-disguised in the accounts.

You can get a better guide for which nations the institute is making money from by looking at its recent job advertisements.

Blair's institute has advertised for staff in a number of African nations, including Ghana, Kenya, Sierra Leone, and Ethiopia.

It has recruited directors in Singapore and the Philippines, and referred to its work on a "new large-scale project in Indonesia" – Blair is personally helping the Indonesian government's plan to build a new capital city, called Nusantara, in Borneo, to replace Jakarta as the seat of government.

Most strikingly, I have seen several job advertisements for consultants in Abu Dhabi in the United Arab Emirates. These advertisements note: "A core element of our advisory practice is our long-standing work in the Middle East."

I have also seen an advertisement for a senior adviser on "global energy transition," based in Manama, Bahrain.

At the Conservative Party conference, I also went to a fringe meeting and reception advertised as being held by Bahrain.

When I got there it turned out to be a joint meeting

with the institute, chaired by one of Blair's consultants and addressed by the ambassador of Bahrain.

It looks like Bahrain paid the institute to organise the meeting. Bahrain arrests dissidents and is accused of using torturing inmates to get them to confess to "terrorism" in death penalty cases.

This also strongly suggests Bahrain is one of the institute's clients. The institute's slides for the meeting were headlined "Understanding Regional Transformation and Strengthening Britain GCC Relations" (GCC here means the Gulf Co-operation Council, the alliance of Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, and the United Arab Emirates.)

There is a strong chance the institute is involved in "Bahrain 2030" – the economic "transformation plan" – as Blair was also involved in the parallel Saudi Arabian "Vision 2030," a "wide-ranging program of economic reform devised to boost tourism and reduce reliance on oil."

The institute makes a smaller sum – \$9.9 million, or 8 per cent of its income, from "policy futures," which is when it churns out think-tank-style political advice.

It gives a partial list of "donors" and "partners" supporting this work, including Asda, Lloyds Bank, and a bunch of rich people's foundations.

These include the Larry Ellison Foundation. Ellison is a tech billionaire, thanks to his Oracle corporation, who has entertained Blair on his yachts.

Ellison is a big-money Republican supporter in the US. He funded the presidential bid of Marco Rubio, one of the more right-wing Republicans who is backed by the "Tea Party" faction.

Ellison has not funded Donald Trump but did allow a Trump fundraiser to happen in his mansion while he was out of the house.

Most strikingly, using documents from a court case, the *Washington Post* reported that Ellison took part in a conference call in 2020 with Trump aides discussing strategies to challenge the legitimacy of the vote in Joe Biden's victory over Trump.

Ellison, through his Oracle corporation and its subsidiary, health-tech firm Cerner, is heavily involved in government digital outsourcing – which may help to explain Blair's obsession with GovTech policies.

Blair is the chair of the institute, but does not directly take a salary or other money from his firm – he uses it to build his influence and reputation, rather than his fortune.

This year the institute expanded its political presence, holding dozens of meetings at both Labour and Tory Party conferences. Clear indication Blair wants to return to more direct influence in domestic politics.

But the institute's political initiatives are rather lacklustre. It trades as the Institute for Global Change, but its conference meetings were rather more "stay the same."

Blair's "Future of Britain" project hasn't really gripped even the centrist imagination.

However, if Labour is elected the Tony Blair Institute is likely to get very big behind-the-scenes influence guiding Labour's corporate-friendly "reforms."

*Morning Star* ✪



## Sex work and surplus value

Across the Left, the idea that sex work is liberatory for women has become mainstream, so much so that it has become taboo to call for its abolition. It has not always been this way. It used to be very common in the women's movement to decry sex work as a blight on women's rights and society as a whole. With calls for the banning of temporary migrant workers from the sex industry, it is necessary to revisit this topic and understand why one view has become so dominant.

The arguments for sex work being liberatory originated with the liberal feminist movement, which believes that total women's liberation can be achieved under capitalism by removing barriers to women making their own life choices. For liberal feminists, the reason that women are oppressed in today's society is because they weren't given entry into the capitalist class at the beginning of capitalism, so if women are enabled to choose to become capitalists and parliamentarians, then every other choice that we make is without coercion. This would therefore make sex work liberatory as part of broader sexual liberation.

Many on the Left, while rejecting the notion that full liberation can be achieved under capitalism, have flipped this argument on its head with rhetoric that sounds socialist. The state routinely cracks down on sex workers, who also face discrimination in other areas such as social ostracism, employment discrimination, and rejection on the rental market and in social housing. They conclude that sex work should be normalised, using the slogan 'Sex work is work' in order to claim that the sex industry is no different to any other, and that sex workers are just like any other worker, where their exploitation is the same as the exploitation of any other worker.

The latter argument is convincing to many Marxists. The exploitation of workers is appropriation of their surplus value. Workers are paid less than the value they create, and are therefore being exploited, so shouldn't we agree?

The fundamental flaw with this is that it ignores the fact that the value of labour is derived from its being socially necessary. There is nothing socially necessary about sex work, so we cannot think in terms of surplus value. We instead have to understand that even things that do not have value can have a price. That reveals the true nature of sex work. Sex work is mainly done by women on the margins of society, largely poor women with no other options being treated as objects for the pleasure of people who are mostly men. There is no liberation in sex work, there are only the structures that exist under capitalism forcing women to surrender themselves to rape in order to survive. Immigrants are particularly vulnerable to this, as they often have their passports and visas taken by brothel owners, have little knowledge of Australian law, and face language barriers that prevent them from getting the assistance that they need.

So what needs to be done to help sex workers? It's true that full legalisation and anti-discrimination legislation needs to be adopted. We know from many studies that sex workers are safer when what they do is legal, and that discrimination against any oppressed group is detrimental to their well-being.

We should not, however, allow for the normalisation of sex work, and should instead adopt a full employment guarantee from the state with a wage that allows people to live comfortably in order to enable sex workers to exit their uniquely exploitative industry. We must not let a neoliberal view of sex work masquerading as a progressive view of sexuality prevent us from taking the action that is truly necessary for the liberation of the women involved, abolishing the sex industry through preventing women from being in the position where they have to degrade themselves to survive.

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# The Belt and Road Forum and American fears of growing impotence

William Briggs

**China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is now 10 years old. The Third Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation opened in Beijing on the 18th October 2023. The success of the BRI is of enormous concern to Washington. President Biden cynically described the initiative as a "debt and noose" agreement. America has built its economic hegemony on coercion, threat, and on foreign direct investment (FDI) that have always had strings attached.**

The United States has made an art form of coercion. Sometimes the carrot and sometimes the stick. It is by far the biggest investor in the Australian economy, and reminds Australian governments of this when it feels it needs to. In the dying days of the Trump presidency, US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made things clear. He suggested that the US might 'disconnect' Australia from its telecommunications, military, and intelligence networks if it made any arrangements with China deemed not to be in accord with US 'national security interests.'

In other words, play by our rules or else. Nothing has changed since Biden came to power.

By contrast, Xi Jinping in his speech at the Forum, spoke of the spirit of the Silk Road in terms of peace, cooperation, openness and inclusiveness, mutual learning, and mutual benefit. 'Win-win' is one of the most-used phrases when describing the Belt and Road. Xi was also clear in emphasising the point that ideological confrontation, rivalries and economic or political blocs, sanctions and economic coercion are the polar opposite of the motivations behind Belt and Road.

The Chinese message is being heard. Xi's keynote speech at the Forum, 'Building an Open, Inclusive and Interconnected World for Common Development,' was delivered to representatives of 140 countries and 30 International Organisations. The fact is that the world is recognising where its economic interests lie. The Global South is aware that

there is not much to be gained simply by 'working for the Yankee dollar.'

The Chinese leader outlined an eight-point plan for the BRI. The US and their faithful band of followers are alarmed because, among the eight points is a pledge to support an open world economy, the promotion of green development, and the advancement of scientific and technological innovation in the world. Why have US feathers been so ruffled? These promises can only advantage global trade, the environment, and future economic development – all things that Washington supposedly promotes. The real sticking point is that it is China that is promoting this agenda.

Ideological warfare is very much to the fore in American thinking. China's road to socialism and its continued economic growth in the face of a global economic slump and crisis makes the US and its propagandists work all the harder. While the Forum was underway, our media was focusing on a meeting of 'intelligence chiefs' of the USA, Britain, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand – the 'Five Eyes.'

The media was full of lurid claims that "China has long targeted businesses with a web of techniques all at once: cyber intrusions, human intelligence operations, seemingly innocuous corporate investments and transactions" and that "every strand of that web had become more brazen, and more dangerous." The timing of these allegations is hardly accidental. Fewer and fewer countries outside the immediate orbit of the USA are paying any real attention.

The 140 countries that sent delegations to the Belt and Road Forum attest to the fact that global focus is shifting away from the fading hegemon. The growing economic power of the BRICS countries is further testament to this. The BRICS states of, Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa now account for 32 per cent of global GDP. That can only grow as more nations align themselves with the BRICS group.

The USA and its allies are fighting on two fronts. There is the drive to war, but also the ongoing attempt to curtail Chinese economic



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growth. The economic war is a brutal one. Stephen Bartholomeusz, an inveterate anti-China economics writer with Nine newspapers states that, "hardly a week that goes by without the US or Europe imposing ... fresh trade restrictions on China. This week, the US announced additional limits on sales of semiconductors, tightening the restrictions it imposed last year in a move that could stop all sales of advanced chips to China ... Europe is targeting China's electric subsidies ... and the US and Europe are trying to negotiate a deal that would see tariffs slapped on China's steel and aluminium exports."

China is not going away. Its rise continues. It is one of the very few states registering strong economic growth. The Belt and Road Initiative, despite the best efforts of the anti-China brigade, is thriving. Part of the appeal that the BRI has for economies, both developed and developing, lies in the concept, so clearly lacking in the economic

imperialist tactics of the USA, of a 'win-win' outcome that is without coercion and bullying.

These nations are rejecting the ultimatum to live by the rules established by US capitalism. They are not seeking to 'take sides.' They are seeking a chance for economic development that best suits all parties involved. This is intensely threatening to US capital.

President Biden is fond of saying that he would "bet on the United States" to lead the world economically this century. He also says "It's never a good bet to bet against the United States."

Against these threats we have the growing strength of the BRICS economies, the growing strength of the Belt and Road initiative, the continuing rise in China's economic power and its development of a socialist economic and social base. All this will continue to haunt the fading capitalist hegemon. ✪

## UN Security Council rejects Gaza ceasefire resolution

**On 16th October, the UN Security Council (UNSC) failed to adopt a resolution demanding an immediate humanitarian ceasefire in the Israeli war in Gaza. The US and its allies in the UNSC voted against the move, dashing all hope for relief for millions in the besieged Palestinian territory.**

The draft resolution prepared by Russia condemned all "violence and hostilities directed against civilians and all acts of terrorism," and demanded "an immediate, durable, and fully respected humanitarian ceasefire" in Gaza.

Speaking before the vote, Palestinian Ambassador to the UN Riyad Mansour appealed to the countries

in the council to be guided by the principles of international law without exception.

"Do not dare say Israel is not responsible for the bombs it is dropping on their heads," Mansour said. He denied Israeli claims that Gaza is a military operation instead of a full-scale assault on innocent civilians.

The resolution received just five votes, with China, Russia, Gabon, Mozambique, and the United Arab Emirates voting in favour. Three permanent members, all of them NATO members, the US, the UK, and France voted against the resolution along with Japan. Six other countries abstained.

The US, France, and the UK

have endorsed the Israeli "right to self-defense" and are completely backing its war in Gaza.

Globetrotter ✪



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