



Stop the genocide in Palestine

Since last October 7, the world has been witnessing atrocious actions by the Israeli government and army that have exposed, in the crudest way imaginable, what was always the intention of the Zionist movement: the extermination of the Palestinian people. In eight months of military operations, the so-called Israel Defense Forces (IDF) have killed 36,284 Palestinians and injured at least 82,057 in the Gaza Strip alone, with an excuse no one believes anymore: eliminating the Hamas militia. Most of the victims are children, teenagers and women. In the West Bank, where Hamas does not have a significant presence, the death toll rises to at least 550. In Gaza more than 70 percent of public buildings and hospital, educational, communications and service infrastructure (water, electricity) have been destroyed as well as the population's means of subsistence. Hundreds of thousands of homes, mosques, churches, historical monuments no longer exist. In the West Bank, the IDF has devastated roads, burned homes, crops and vehicles, while encouraging the insane fury of armed Zionist settlers who expel Palestinians from their lands and block access to humanitarian aid trucks. They do use their children as human shields. Likewise, the Zionist government has allocated considerable financial, military and propaganda resources to hinder or outright prevent the work of humanitarian organizations operating in Gaza, mainly the United Nations Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

The right to defense statement repeated *ad nauseum* by the Zionist government headed by Benjamin Netanyahu and his cabinet of zealots, such as Yoam Gallant, Itamar ben Gvir or Bezalel Smotrich, has only served to reveal the terrible crimes, lies, manipulations, Israel's threats and traps, its flagrant violation of international laws and human rights. For decades, in absolute impunity. Not only in the occupied territories. In many other parts of the world. Israel is, today, clearly, a pariah state.

The latest example of Zionist barbarism was the massacre of Al Nusairat, a refugee camp in central Gaza, carried out with the aim of freeing 4 Israeli hostages. In the operation, which had logistical support from the US government, at least 274 people were killed, including three other Israeli hostages, and 698 others were injured. We agree with Francesca Albanese, United Nations special rapporteur for the occupied Palestinian territories: Israel could have recovered all the captives alive and intact

eight months ago, when the first ceasefire and the prisoner exchange [thanks to which 113 Israeli citizens were released]. However, "the Zionist government refused to continue destroying Gaza and the Palestinians as a people."

None of this would have been possible without the complicity of the United States government, the main supplier of weapons and military aid to Israel, and other Western powers such as Germany, Italy, Great Britain, France, the Netherlands, Canada and Australia, all of them also responsible for the tragedy that the Palestinian people have suffered for decades at the hands of their executioners. Ignoring the crimes against humanity that Israel has committed throughout its history, they all do big business with the Zionist entity, the 17th largest military power in the world. The West Bank but especially Gaza continue to be the experimental laboratories of the global arms industry, not just Israeli. Anyone who denounces, protests or exposes these atrocities is at best labeled as anti-Semitic, a term as unfortunate as it is perverted, if we consider that the founders of Israel were not of Semitic origin, as most of its rulers have not been either. The Palestinians, by the way, are Semitic.

By contrast, the countries of the global south are doing something to stop Zionist barbarism. On December 29, South Africa filed a lawsuit before the International Court of Justice (ICJ) against Israel for the crime of genocide. Over the subsequent months, other nations have joined the African country in the process: Egypt, Turkey, Nicaragua, Colombia, Mexico and Chile.

For the above reasons, in FRIENDS OF THE EARTH LATIN AMERICA (ATALC, by its acronym in Spanish):

- We express our most absolute repudiation of the genocidal and ethnic cleansing policies implemented by the Zionist government and concealed by its allies.
- We recognize the inalienable right of the Palestinian people to have a State in their historical territory and decide their own destiny.
- We join the voices of civil society, intellectuals, artists, social and opinion leaders, students, journalists and analysts, organizations and social movements that have turned the *kufiya* into the garment of universal resistance, painting in red, green, black and white squares all around the world and shouting for "Free Palestine!"
- We strongly reject the brutal repressive measures that Israel's allies have taken against these protests, especially those carried out by young university students.
- We strongly support the work of UNRWA and other humanitarian aid organizations and demand that the Zionist government immediately cease the aggressions against them.

- We denounce the murder of more than 140 journalists at the hands of the Zionist army, as well as the torture and murder of hundreds of Palestinian prisoners, including children and women, in Israeli prisons.
- We demand guarantees for the physical integrity of medical personnel, journalists, human rights defenders and staff of international organizations who are still in Gaza and the West Bank.
- We demand the cease of hostilities and persecution, both in Israel and in the powers allied to the Zionist entity, of analysts, historians and all those critical voices that seek truth and justice.
- We repudiate the publicly expressed support of the governments of the United States, Germany and Great Britain for the war crimes committed by Israel in the Al Nusairat refugee camp.
- We support the claim of South Africa, Egypt, Turkey, Nicaragua, Colombia, Mexico and Chile before the ICJ, as well as the position of Bolivia, Venezuela, Brazil, Ireland and other nations that have forcefully demanded an end to the genocide.
- We welcome the decision of the governments of Ireland, Spain and Norway, and of all countries that have done so before, to recognize the Palestinian State. Without detracting from it, this is however clearly insufficient. For this recognition to have a real and not just symbolic impact for the Palestinian people, it is essential that governments take other kind of actions, such as:

1. To immediately stop trade of all kinds, especially arms, with Israel.
2. To break up relations with the Zionist entity, as a justified and legal measure of pressure, in order to force it to unconditionally comply with the international framework.
3. To pressure the United States government and Israel's other allies to stop the criminal complicity that has enabled and even encouraged Israel's genocidal actions.
4. To join the claim of South Africa Egypt, Turkey, Nicaragua, Colombia, Mexico and Chile before the ICJ.
5. To force the immediate departure of the IDF from Gaza and the West Bank as well as the dismantling of Zionist settlements in these territories.
6. To contribute to the immediate reconstruction of Gaza and the West Bank.

With the tons of bombs thrown against the unarmed Gazeti population, the victimizing discourse of the Zionists and the hypocrisy of their allies is also fallen, exposing the horror story behind the creation of Israel. The brutality and barbarity that we are witnessing leaves no space for neutrality or indifference. Nor arguments that justify it.

THAT'S WHY FROM ATALC WE WILL NOT STOP TALKING, WE WILL NOT STOP REPORTING, DEMANDING, PRESSURING. WE WILL NOT

**STOP SCREAMING FROM THE RIVER TO THE SEA... PALESTINE
WILL BE FREE!!!**

Amigos de la Tierra América Latina y el Caribe

@atalc

Junio 14 de 2024