

# Worldwide rallies in solidarity with Palestine

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
October 16, 2023



Over 12,000 marched in the streets of New York City in solidarity with Palestine.

Hundreds of thousands of people around the world have taken part in protests against the war crimes of the U.S.-Israeli war machine.

Over 12,000 people filled **New York's** Times Square from 42nd Street to 36th Street on Oct. 13 in solidarity with the people of Palestine. They marched to the Israeli mission and the United Nations despite an army of police and a racist campaign of lies and intimidation by the corporate media and corporate politicians, including the governor and the mayor, who attacked the right to protest.



Marching to the United Nations in New York City, Oct. 13. SLL photo: Bill Does

On Oct. 14, over 15,000 protesters shut down the streets of **Chicago**.

Other protests have taken place in **Atlanta; Baltimore; Dearborn**, Michigan; **Denver; Los Angeles; New Orleans; San Diego; Washington, D.C.**; and dozens of other cities.





Hundreds rally outside CNN in Atlanta. SLL photo: Lizz Toledo



Baltimore, Oct. 13. SLL photo





Dearborn, Michigan



Denver, Oct. 14. SLL photo





Los Angeles



New Orleans. SLL photo



San Diego 'All OUT FOR GAZA!' protest, Oct. 15. SLL photo: Gloria Verdieu

Earlier in the week, protests were staged at colleges and universities across the country.

The University of California-Los Angeles, Rutgers University, the University of Virginia, the Ohio State University, the University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Kent State University, New York University, the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the University of Illinois, the Arizona State University in Tempe, and Purdue University are among the schools actions were staged, reports, the National Students for Justice in Palestine.

### **In Europe, Africa, Asia**

Around the world, mass protests were also seen in the French cities of **Paris** and **Marseille** and the British cities of **London**, **Sheffield**, **Birmingham**, **Manchester**, and **Brighton**. Protests were reported in **Jakarta**, Indonesia; **Edinburgh**, Scotland; **Toronto**, Canada; **Sydney**, Australia; and cities in **South Africa**.

Demonstrations in support of Palestine also took place in **Geneva**, Switzerland; **Turin** and **Rome** in Italy; and **Dublin**, Ireland.

Rallies were also reported in **Albania**, **Austria**, **Belgium**, **Chile**, **Finland**, **Germany**, **Greece**, **Mexico**, **Netherlands**, **Philippines**, **Portugal**, **South Korea**, **Spain**, **Turkey**, and **Venezuela**.

### **In Iran, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Yemen**





Massive numbers in Yemen in solidarity with Palestine. Photo: Al Mayadeen English

[Al Mayadeen English](https://www.almayadeen.com/) reports:

Several cities around the world saw rallies and demonstrations in support of the Palestinian people amid the ongoing Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip.

Hundreds of thousands of people in countries like **Iran, Lebanon, Jordan, Iraq, Yemen**, and various Arab and Islamic nations have held protests to denounce the Israeli occupation aggression on Gaza and express solidarity with al-Aqsa.

Tehran, the capital of Iran, saw a significant turnout in these demonstrations, which were organized by Palestinian Resistance groups. A notable aspect of the protests in Tehran was the participation of the Iranian mobilization forces, who appeared in their military attire to express support for Palestine.

In addition to the rallies, numerous cities in Jordan saw protests on the day dubbed “Friday of Al-Aqsa Flood.” Mass crowds headed to the border with occupied Palestine to express their condemnation of the ongoing atrocities in Gaza and the renewed attempts to displace the remaining residents.

Jordanian security forces increased their efforts to control the demonstrators. Video footage was circulated online, depicting protesters getting out of their vehicles due to traffic congestion and proceeding on foot.

Likewise, Yemen saw significant gatherings expressing solidarity with Palestine and its Resistance against the occupation’s crimes. A statement issued by the organizers indicated that the Yemeni people are fully prepared to actively participate and are willing to dispatch hundreds of thousands of fighters to defend Palestine.

In response to the Resistance’s call, thousands of Iraqis gathered in Tahrir Square to protest and condemn the occupation’s actions in Gaza.





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# Gaza, the truth by name

written by Struggle - La Lucha

October 16, 2023

No medicine, no water, no electricity, no fuel. Hunger and desperation as a political weapon. “We are fighting animals and we act accordingly,” said Israel’s Minister of Defense, Yoav Gallant, when announcing the total encirclement against the Gaza Strip.

There is a thread of steel linking the genocidal rhetoric of the Israeli commander with the architects of the U.S. blockade against Cuba. Lester Mallory, undersecretary of the State Department, made similar arguments in 1962, as Joseph Goebbels had done before after visiting the Lodz ghetto in 1939: “These are no longer men, they are animals. That is why this is not a humanitarian task, but a surgical one.

The Nazi Minister of Propaganda wrote in his diary: “We must make radical incisions here, and radical ones at that”.

Gallant’s threat is serious.

Euro-Med Monitor, a Geneva-based organization, recorded in the first four days of declared war the death of 880 Palestinians, 59 percent of whom were civilians, including 185 children and 120 women. Around 5,000 more people have been injured and hundreds remain trapped under rubble along the border areas. Israel claims to be focusing on military targets, but is hitting residential buildings, hospitals and mosques, where there are no shelters and no way to protect against the unannounced shelling that has already killed entire families.

The new escalation began this time with the Hamas attack, but the revanchist and vengeful mood that now reigns in media and networks, and which naturalizes the conception of Palestinians as animals worthy of being led to the slaughter, completely forgets that Israel has been adding fire to the pressure cooker for years and it finally burst last Saturday. Foreign Policy in Focus has compared the current situation in Gaza to the Attica, New York, prison riot in 1971, which ended in a bloodbath: “If you put prisoners in a cage and torture them, they will revolt.”

The deafening noise in favor of Israel in this war has buried, along with the Palestinian victims, the history of that people, the tragedy they have lived through for decades and the grotesque irony that the original and legal owners of Israeli land live in Gaza today. The only explanation for the strip’s existence is that the Palestinians were dispossessed of their land in 1948, when Israel was created. They – or their children and grandchildren – are among the 2 million Palestinian refugees crammed into the most densely populated territory on the planet, where 80 percent of its inhabitants come from families who lived in what is now Israel. Most of the people in Gaza are not from there. They are refugees who have been victims of dehumanization for far too long now.

“It is the most terrifying place I have ever seen,” wrote the intellectual Edward Said, after one of the countless bombings of Gaza in 2001. “It is a horribly sad place because of the despair and misery in which people live. I wasn’t prepared to see the



refugee camps, which are far worse than anything I saw in South Africa.” It was not a leftist intellectual, by the way, but Amnesty International, who declared a few months ago that “the scheme of domination of the Palestinians by Israel constitutes a system of apartheid,” and that it is “a crime against humanity.”

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, issued a statement on Tuesday in which he reiterated that “the imposition of sieges that endanger the lives of civilians by depriving them of goods essential to their survival is prohibited by international humanitarian law”.

It should only be added that the blockade has not appeared now as a result of this war. It has been going on for decades. It is the long prologue to the punishment and forced dehumanization of a people in order to create the perfect alibi leading to their annihilation. We Cubans know it very well. In this particular case, there are layers upon layers of pain for the kidnapping of thousands of Palestinians who were taken away by Israeli soldiers without a trace, for the desolation and helplessness of hundreds of thousands of ordinary people who have tried to survive among ruins, for the electricity and water cuts, for the endless curfews, for the shortage of food and medicine, for the wounded bleeding to death, for the systematic attacks against ambulances and humanitarian personnel, for the teenagers attacked with dogs of Tel Aviv’s army, for the murdered children. ..

The truth by name. It is genocide and it comes from afar.

Source: [La Jornada](#) translation [Resumen Latinoamericano - English](#)



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# Gaza, la verdad por su nombre

written by Struggle - La Lucha

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Ni medicinas, ni agua, ni electricidad, ni combustible. El hambre y la desesperación como arma política. “Estamos combatiendo contra animales y actuamos en consecuencia”, dijo hace nada el ministro de Defensa de Israel, Yoav Gallant, al anunciar el cerco total contra la franja de Gaza.

Hay un hilo de acero que une la retórica genocida del comandante israelí con los arquitectos del bloqueo de Estados Unidos contra Cuba. Lester Mallory, subsecretario del Departamento de Estado, esgrimió argumentos similares en 1962, como antes lo hizo Joseph Goebbels tras visitar el gueto de Lodz, en 1939: “Éstos ya no son hombres, son animales. Por eso no se trata de una tarea humanitaria, sino quirúrgica.

Hay que hacer incisiones aquí y enteramente radicales”, escribió en su diario el ministro de Propaganda nazi.

La amenaza de Gallant va en serio.



Euro-Med Monitor, organización con sede en Ginebra, registró en los primeros cuatro días de guerra declarada la muerte de 880 palestinos, de los cuales 59 por ciento eran civiles, incluidos 185 niños y 120 mujeres. Alrededor de 5 mil personas más han resultado heridas y cientos permanecen atrapadas bajo los escombros a lo largo de las zonas fronterizas. Israel afirma centrarse en objetivos militares, pero alcanza edificios residenciales, hospitales y mezquitas, donde no hay refugios ni forma de protegerse de los bombardeos sin previo aviso que ya han provocado la muerte de familias enteras.

La nueva escalada empezó esta vez con el ataque de Hamas, pero el revanchismo y el ánimo de venganza que reina ahora en medios y redes, y que naturaliza la concepción de los palestinos como animales dignos de llevar al matadero, olvida por completo que Israel ha aumentado por años el fuego a la olla de presión y ésta finalmente reventó el sábado pasado. El Foreign Policy in Focus ha comparado la situación actual en Gaza con el motín en la cárcel de Attica, Nueva York, en 1971, que terminó en un baño de sangre: “Si metes a los prisioneros en una jaula y los torturas, se rebelarán”.

El ruido ensordecedor en favor de Israel en esta guerra ha enterrado, junto con las víctimas palestinas, la historia de ese pueblo, la tragedia que ha vivido durante décadas y la ironía grotesca de que los originales y legales propietarios de la tierra israelí viven hoy en Gaza. La única explicación de que exista la franja es porque los palestinos fueron desposeídos de sus tierras en 1948, cuando se creó Israel. Ellos -o sus hijos y nietos- están entre los 2 millones de refugiados palestinos atiborrados en el territorio más densamente poblado del planeta, donde 80 por ciento de sus habitantes proviene de familias que vivieron en lo que ahora es Israel. La mayoría de la gente de Gaza no es de ahí. Son refugiados que han sido víctimas de la deshumanización desde hace ya demasiado tiempo.

“Es el lugar más aterrador que he visto”, escribió el intelectual Edward Said,

después de uno de los innumerables bombardeos contra Gaza, en 2001. “Es un lugar horriblemente triste a causa de la desesperación y de la miseria en que vive la gente. No estaba preparado para ver los campos de refugiados, que son mucho peores que cualquier cosa que vi en Sudáfrica.” No fue un intelectual de izquierda, por cierto, sino Amnistía Internacional, quien declaró hace unos meses que “el esquema de dominación de los palestinos por Israel constituye un sistema de apartheid”, y que se trata de “un crimen contra la humanidad”.

El alto comisionado de la ONU para los Derechos Humanos, Volker Türk, ha emitido un comunicado este martes donde reitera que “la imposición de asedios que ponen en peligro la vida de civiles al privarlos de bienes esenciales para su supervivencia está prohibida por el derecho internacional humanitario”.

Habría que añadir solamente que el bloqueo no aparece ahora a consecuencia de esta guerra. Lleva décadas. Es el largo prólogo del castigo y la deshumanización forzada de un pueblo para crear la coartada perfecta que lleve a su aniquilación. Lo conocemos muy bien los cubanos. En este caso en concreto, hay capas sobre capas de dolor por el secuestro de miles de palestinos a los que los soldados israelíes se llevaron sin dejar huella, por la desolación y el desamparo de cientos de miles de personas comunes y corrientes que han intentado sobrevivir entre ruinas, por los cortes de electricidad y agua, por los interminables toques de queda, por la escasez de alimentos y medicinas, por los heridos desangrados hasta morir, por los ataques sistemáticos contra ambulancias y personal humanitario, por los adolescentes agredidos con perros del ejército de Tel Aviv, por los niños y las niñas asesinados...

La verdad por su nombre. Es genocidio y viene de lejos.

[La Jornada](#)





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# Rally around the Palestinian armed resistance

written by Struggle - La Lucha

October 16, 2023

*From Marco Valbuena, Chief Information Officer, Communist Party of the Philippines*

The Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) calls on all revolutionary and democratic organizations in the Philippines and around the world to rally around the Palestinian people as they mount armed resistance to drive away the fascist occupying forces of Israel from their land.

Together with the revolutionary fighters of the New People's Army (NPA), the CPP welcomed news of the armed offensives launched by the Hamas and the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades from the besieged city of Gaza. These armed offensives are punctuated by the launching of five thousand missiles against Israeli military targets, the use of drones to drop bombs on Israeli tanks, the capture of tanks and other military hardware, and other important victories.

These offensives initiated by the Hamas are all an expression of the ardent desire of the Palestinian people to put an end to the 75-year U.S.-supported Israeli war of aggression against Palestine, the occupation of Palestinian territories, including the continuing siege of Gaza, and attacks against communities in the West Bank including East Jerusalem (territories recognized as part of the Palestinian state).

The Palestinian people are determined and roused to fight back, incited by the worsening crimes committed by Israel, including the killing of Palestinians and their children in the streets, torture of Palestinian prisoners, the tightening siege of Gaza, raids on people's homes, preventing refugees from returning, attacks on mosques and so on.

The armed conflict has been grossly lopsided in favor of Israel. Wars of aggression mounted by Israel against Gaza over the past 15 years have caused more than 6,400 deaths on the Palestinian side, with Israel suffering just above 300.

The armed offensives have been declared as "Operation Al-Aqsa Flood" to underscore their call to mobilize the entire Palestinian people to liberate their country.

The Hamas is one of the leading political organizations which advances the struggle of the Palestinian people. The Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades is its military organization. Whoever vilifies the armed resistance of the Palestinian people as "terrorism" is in league with the U.S. imperialists and all its cohorts. To establish its hegemony and control of oil in the Middle East, the U.S. imperialists colluded with the Zionists in Israel to obscure and downplay the just aspiration of the Palestinian people for freedom and self-determination.

We have read information how various organizations representing broad sections of the Palestinian people are now taking action in line with calls for carrying out a comprehensive war and using all available weapons to fight Israeli occupation. The

Palestinian people are drawing inspiration from the blood of their martyrs who have fought through many years of resistance.

The Filipino people and revolutionary movement in the Philippines are in solidarity with the armed resistance of the people of Palestine. Like the Filipino people who are fighting for genuine national freedom from the clutches of the U.S. imperialist giant, the Palestinian people are up against the Israeli goliath armed by and in collusion with the U.S..

The CPP join peoples around the world who have expressed and manifested their solidarity with the Palestinian people. The CPP calls on the Filipino people to manifest their support to the Palestine resistance in the streets and in all possible ways.

In supporting the Palestinian people, the broad masses of the Filipino people must also condemn Israel and its U.S.-supported military industry for the sale of drones, bombs, and artillery to the Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP) that are being used in the campaign of aerial bombing and shelling in the Philippines, especially in the rural areas.

Compared to the massive armory of Israel, the weapons of the Palestinian people are mere slingshots. Even now, emboldened by U.S. support, Israel has mounted heavy counterattacks causing brutal destruction on Palestinian soil, hitting at homes and civilian infrastructure. In doing so, however, Israel is further isolating itself internationally and further rousing the Palestinian masses to fight even more valiantly.

With all out unity and fierce determination to fight, they can drive away the aggressors, end the occupation, and finally free their land.

Source: [Philippine Revolution Web Central](#)





# **Struggle □ La Lucha PDF - October 6, 2023**

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GAZA, la verdad por su nombre ▶ GAZA, the Truth by Name



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# Stop the genocide in Gaza! Palestinian lives matter!

By Stephen Millies

An immense war crime is being carried out by the Israeli apartheid regime that occupies Palestine. Over a million people in northern Gaza have been ordered to evacuate within 24 hours or face being exterminated by a military invasion.

This isn't a Hollywood movie with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu telling the inhabitants to "get out of Dodge." Netanyahu wants to carry out another chapter of the 1948 Nakba — meaning catastrophe in Arabic — during which 15,000 Palestinians were murdered, and 531 Palestinian villages were destroyed by Zionists.

In the village of Deir Yassin, the Irgun and Stern Gang Zionist militias killed at least 107 Palestinians on April 9, 1948. Children and the elderly were murdered.

Some victims were burned to death, others were stood up against a wall and killed by machine guns. Many bodies were thrown down a well.

This was no different than Nazi atrocities like those that wiped out the village of Lidice in the Czech lands or Oradour-sur-Glane in France.

Zionist leaders want to do the same to Gaza, which is the biggest ghetto on earth with 2.2 million inhabitants. Half of them are children under 18.

Half of the Gazans in this immensely crowded prison have now been ordered to flee to the southern



Thousands flooded into Times Square, NY on Oct. 13

portion of the ghetto within 24 hours.

Already a third of a million people have been made homeless, and over 2,000 people have been killed by Zionist bombs. Entire families have been buried in rubble. The Jabalia refugee camp, home to 116,000 people, was destroyed.

These war crimes are in revenge for the Al-Aqsa Flood uprising that showed that the apartheid regime is not invincible. The Zionist state is carrying out collective punishment, which is banned by international law.

## Hospitals turned into morgues

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant called Palestinians "human animals." That's the language of genocide.

Gallant announced on Oct. 9 a "complete siege" of Gaza, which has a population of over 2 million. He de-

*Continued on page 10*

- ▶ Trans activist urges:  
All out for Palestine!
- ▶ Time for Zionism to fall
- ▶ Resistance isn't terrorism
- ▶ Habash on the  
Palestinian revolution
- ▶ Popular Front for the  
Liberation of Palestine
- ▶ Biden lied
- ▶ Demonizing  
the oppressed
- ▶ December 12 Solidarity



- Stop the genocide in Gaza!
- Trans activist urges: All out for Palestine!
- No U.S. intervention in Palestine! The time has come for Zionism to fall.
- Victory to Palestine! Resistance isn't terrorism
- George Habash on morality and the Palestinian revolution
- PFLP: U.S. aid to Israel aims to undermine Al-Aqsa Flood
- D12: In solidarity with the Palestinian right to resist
- Biden lied about seeing photos of beheaded Israeli children
- Demonizing the oppressed from Kenya to Palestine
- Gaza, the truth by name
- Gaza, la verdad por su nombre



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# **Demonizing the oppressed from Kenya to Palestine**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
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A deluge of racism against the Palestinian people goes hand-in-hand with the

missiles fired by Israel in revenge for the Al-Aqsa Flood uprising. Israeli defense minister [Yoav Gallant](#) called Palestinians “human animals.”

There’s nothing new about Zionist officials dehumanizing Palestinians. Back in 2014, [Ayelet Shaked](#), who later became the Zionist state’s justice minister, posted an article on Facebook that referred to Palestinian children as “little snakes.”

Israeli bombs are now killing hundreds of Palestinian children in the Gaza ghetto.

Apartheid Israel is a colonial settler state, and defending colonialism requires racist



falsehoods. One whopper was President Joe Biden’s lying statement — which had to be retracted — that he saw pictures of Israeli children who had been beheaded.

Another one was the gruesome picture being shopped around by Israeli Prime Minister [Benjamin Netanyahu](#) of a burnt Israeli baby, which was actually created by artificial intelligence (AI).

The conquistadors that pillaged the Americas claimed the inhabitants were cannibals. Both Indigenous and African peoples were considered “subhuman,” or as the Zionist Gallant put it, “animals.”

One of the biggest lies — in an attempt to deny centuries of genocide— is that the area now occupied by the United States was barely populated by Indigenous nations. Charles C. Mann debunked this falsehood in his book “1491: New Revelations of the

Americas Before Columbus.”

Similarly, a favorite Zionist slogan was “a people without land for a land without people.” This implied that Palestine was uninhabited.

Former Israeli Prime Minister [Golda Meir](#) declared in 1969 that “there was no such thing as Palestinians.” She lived in a house stolen from a Palestinian family.

The oppressor always lies about the oppressed. Hundreds of Hollywood movies featured “innocent settlers” in wagon trains being attacked by “merciless Indian savages.” The actual massacres of Indigenous peoples were rarely mentioned.

Those whose land was being stolen had the right to resist by any means necessary. General Custer had it coming.

### **Demonizing the ‘Mau Mau’**

Seventy years ago the most notorious “terrorist” — as labeled by the U.S. and British media — was not a Palestinian, an Arab, or a Muslim. The person demonized was Jomo Kenyatta, who became the first president of independent Kenya.

At the time, Kenyans were fighting for their freedom from British colonialism. Queen Victoria’s stormtroopers seized Kenya in 1895.

British aristocrats stole the land, with Lord Delamere alone grabbing 160,000 acres. Africans were forced at gunpoint into “native reserves,” modeled on Indian reservations in the United States.

Palestinians were similarly driven from their land during the founding of Israel in 1948. Called the [Nakba](#) — meaning catastrophe in Arabic — 15,000 Palestinians were murdered, and Zionists destroyed 531 Palestinian villages.

Oppression sparks resistance. On May Day in 1950, the East African Trade Union



Congress issued a call for independence and majority rule.

One hundred thousand workers joined a general strike to protest. Nairobi was paralyzed for nine days. It took a mobilization of the British army and colonial police to crush this uprising.

Freedom demanded that an armed struggle be launched. Kenya's Land and Freedom Army was born. The capitalist media called it the "Mau Mau."

Kenya's colonial governor, Evelyn Baring, responded by declaring a state of emergency on Oct. 20, 1952. The governor's family-controlled Barings Bank was founded in 1762 by the slave trader Francis Baring.

Baring ordered the colonial police to frame up Jomo Kenyatta and other independence fighters. There was no jury.

According to Caroline Elkins' Pulitzer Prize-winning book, "Imperial Reckoning," Baring guaranteed a conviction by paying Judge Ransley Thacker a 20,000-pound bribe. That's worth nearly [710,000 pounds](#) or [\\$874,000 today](#).

Baring hoped Kenyatta's frameup would demoralize Africans. Instead, it ignited years of guerrilla warfare.

Mau Mau fighters liberated weapons and ammunition from the colonialist army and police. Mau Mau-supporting blacksmiths made hundreds of guns.

Britain mobilized 55,000 soldiers and cops to fight the freedom fighters. Caroline Elkins estimated that the colonial forces threw 300,000 Kenyans into concentration camps and forced another million into 800 "emergency villages" built with the Africans' own slave labor.

The media helped this genocide by printing lurid stories about alleged Mau Mau

atrocities, like Netanyahu's awful baby photo. Typical was [Time magazine's](#) description of a former Land and Freedom Army leader as "one of the Mau Mau's bloodthirstiest killers."

## **Zionists wanted Uganda**

Theodor Herzl — the "father" of the Zionist movement — proposed in 1903 that a Zionist state be built in Uganda, which was then a British colony.

British colonial secretary Joseph Chamberlain, whose empire held a quarter of humanity in chains, was in favor. The [British government agreed](#) to establish a "Jewish territory" in East Africa.

Joseph Chamberlain was the father of British Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain. The younger Chamberlain's appeasement of Nazi Germany in the 1938 Munich Agreement was telling Hitler to go east and invade the Soviet Union.

Much of the proposed Zionist settlement was actually in present-day Kenya. If Herzl's Uganda project had taken place, 50 years later, Zionist settlers would have been fighting Mau Mau freedom fighters.

Zionism was always a colonial project, not a liberation movement. In 1902, [Herzl wrote to Cecil Rhodes](#), seeking support.

Rhodes was one of the war criminals who carved up Africa for himself and other European and U.S. millionaires. Rhodes founded the De Beers' diamond monopoly and invaded Zimbabwe, which he renamed "Rhodesia."

The people of Zimbabwe waged a decades-long liberation war, or Chimurenga, against the white settler state. Just as they slandered Kenya's Land and Freedom Army, U.S. and European media called the Zimbabwe freedom fighters "terrorists."

The U.S. State Department kept [Nelson Mandela](#) on its “terrorist watch list” until 2008.

Nelson Mandela [defended Palestine](#). In a 1997 speech on the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People, he declared, “We know too well that our freedom is incomplete without the freedom of the Palestinians.”

From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free!



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## **In Boston: Strategies against the blockade of Cuba being built**

written by Struggle - La Lucha

October 16, 2023

Oct. 14 — They came to Boston, the capital of Massachusetts, from all over the country on their own resources. Some paid for overpriced plane tickets to this region of New England, some took buses, but regardless it was worth it because “Cuba is

calling us,” as a young activist from Virginia told me.

Representatives of now 70 organizations (13 new groups joined at this meeting) are gathered here for the U.S. National Network of Solidarity with Cuba’s (NNOC) annual conference to analyze, develop, and come up with new strategies. It also provides a renewed impetus to their main objective, which is to lift the economic, commercial, and financial blockade imposed for more than 60 years by both Democratic and Republican governments on the largest of the Antilles.

The meeting – under the slogan Victory in Unity – was also extended to those who could not attend in person through virtual participation from different U.S. cities.

The weekend events kicked off on Friday night with a Pan-African Forum coordinated by the African Studies Department of the University of Massachusetts, where the conference was hosted.

The meeting began this morning with a powerful intervention from the island by Fernando González, president of the Cuban Institute of Friendship with the Peoples (ICAP), who, in his words, recognized the value of the friends in the US who are committed to the struggle to lift the coercive measures that try to suffocate our people.”

“We have to do everything we can to defend our Cuban family,” said activist Gail Walker, a co-chair of the NNOC, speaking on a panel at the event that kicked off this morning and runs through Sunday at the University of Massachusetts Boston.

The executive director of the Interreligious Foundation for Community Organization (IFCO) highlighted the health internationalism of this Caribbean nation by saying, “We owe Cuba for the efforts it has made to train thousands of young people from 120 countries as doctors, who are not just any doctors. They are doctors trained in Cuba.”



The meeting was attended by officials of the Cuban Embassy in Washington, D.C. Diplomat David Ramirez, who thanked the solidarity of the U.S. people who are in favor of the elimination of that unilateral siege that has lasted more than six decades. He stressed how the continuity in the current Democratic administration of the policies of Republican Donald Trump has exasperated the accumulative effect of shortages and the resulting misery to the Cuban people.

Ramirez pointed out the impact of those measures of asphyxiation against Cuba has on the number of people leaving in the last three years.

Before the business part of the meeting began, support for the cause of the Palestinian people in their historic struggle against the occupation of their lands by Israel and the horror of what is transpiring in Gaza was raised.



“Cuba is an example of true brotherhood with Palestine, shown especially through

its medical internationalism,” said Calla Walsh, co-chair of NNOC.

Hundreds of Palestinians have studied to become doctors at the Latin American School of Medicine in Havana since the beginning of the century, the young activist recalled.

“They tell us that Cuba’s example of surviving more than 60 years of blockade and siege by the most powerful country in the world gives them hope that Palestine will also survive and live on,” she said.

Walsh quoted Professor Tony Vandermeer, who at the Pan-African Forum denounced the devastation caused by the current Israeli siege of Gaza, which has already left more than 1,600 dead and more than 7,000 injured since the escalation Israel unleashed, with all its U.S.-provided weaponry, against the Gaza Strip after the surprise attack by the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas) into Israeli held territory on October 7.

Its open war against the Palestinian people has resulted in the daily bombardment of the Gaza Strip and a total blockade that aggravated the humanitarian crisis in this coastal enclave. Israel has now cut off water, electricity, and fuel services, as well as the entry of food and medicine, while now threatening to kill anyone who does not leave Gaza. This despite the fact that the people of Gaza have nowhere to go.



The Let Cuba Live campaign to gather a million signatures against the blockade and the convening of the next international tribunal to be held in Brussels, Belgium, to denounce that hostile policy towards the Caribbean nation are some of the initiatives discussed by the delegates in the Saturday session.

The conference concludes on Sunday in this coastal city in the New England region, famous for its key role in the revolution for U.S. independence, with the NNOC coming out of it stronger, more united, and more determined.

As Cheryl LaBash, a co-chair of the NNOC, pointed out in a previous statement to

Prensa Latina, if President Joe Biden listened to the voice of the American people, he would lift the economic, commercial, and financial blockade against Cuba because the majority of the people in this country are against it, along with the overwhelming majority of the people of the world

This is being concretely demonstrated by the 106 resolutions approved throughout the country by organizations representing more than 55 million people. LaBash concluded by saying, “We condemn Biden’s inhumane starvation strategy. He owns this cruelty now, not Trump.”

Source: [Resumen Latinoamericano - English](#)



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# **December 12th Movement: In solidarity with the Palestinian right to resist**

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
October 16, 2023





October 10, 2023

Only history can place the October 7th Palestinian military action in Israel in its proper context – an act of self-defense in response to a steadily increasing, all-encompassing Israeli assault on Palestinians in the occupied territories, in general, and the “open-air prison” of Gaza in particular. The December 12th Movement International Secretariat strongly supports the Palestinian people in the righteous exercise of their internationally-guaranteed human rights..

### **Why Black people should be concerned**

Black people cannot allow ourselves to be misguided by the U.S.

government/mainstream media narrative of what is going on in the Middle East.

As with much of U.S. history, Israel began with a myth – “A land without a people, for a people without a land” – to justify its 1948 creation as a settler-colonial state. In many ways, the Palestinian struggle for liberation reflects our struggle in the U.S. Just as the U.S. government’s domestic policy has historically perpetrated and profited from Black people’s forcible oppression here. Its foreign policy does the same around the world, but particularly clearly in Palestine. The U.S. was instrumental in Israel’s establishment and the forced displacement of the Palestinians who lived there. It has unqualifiedly backed it with money, weapons, intelligence, aid, propaganda, and political cover ever since. Israel is the U.S.’s “eyes, ears, caretaker and bodyguard” in a critical oil-rich, non-white, non-European, geo-economic-political area.

Israel has now declared a “complete siege” on Gaza and has cut off water, electricity, fuel, and food to the already impoverished area. Israel has held Gaza in a state of siege for the last 17 years since Hamas began governing. Israel said that it will “exterminate” Hamas. Hamas is the government of Gaza, not simply a military force. Hamas is an integral part of the 2.4 million people of Gaza, an area the size of Detroit (population 620,000) and one of the most densely populated areas of the world. Israel cannot separate its extermination of Hamas from the people of Gaza. Nevertheless, President Biden “has Israel’s back.”

When the entire world has united to condemn Israeli atrocities, the U.S. “has its back.” Between 1972 and 2021, the United States vetoed over 53 UN resolutions against Israel. [i] Major international human rights organizations have accused Israel of being an apartheid regime.[ii] And this is not surprising as Israel was one of the few open supporters of the South African Apartheid state. Nevertheless, the U.S. “had its back.”

So, we must pay close attention to what is going on in the world, even if it seems unrelated to us. Malcolm X said if we fail to do so, we'll treat our friends as enemies and our enemies as friends.

The Palestinian people are our friends.

We must:

- Demand that the CBC support the Palestinian people's right to self-determination and self-defense
- Condemn the Israeli State and colonial violence against the Palestinian people
- Demand that the U.S. end all aid to Israel
- Defend the Palestinian Movement and community in the U.S.
- Demand the Release of all (5000) Palestinian prisoners (including 1350 being held without charge or trial)

[i] UN Security Council Veto List; Newton, Creede, "A History of the U.S. Blocking UN Resolutions against Israel," Al Jazeera, 5/19/2021

[ii] Amnesty International Report, "Israel's Apartheid against Palestinians: a cruel system of domination and a crime against humanity," 2/1/2022

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# The lies and secrets of French imperialism

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
October 16, 2023



The coups in sub-Saharan Africa have opened a new era for the African peoples rising against French imperialism. It is not going to stop and will impact all of Africa and the wider world. The African people, particularly the youth, have had enough of



the neo-colonial yoke under which France has kept their countries for more than 60 years after the so-called “decolonisation.” They now want to rule their own countries themselves and start to develop their economies.

The trigger for this [second wave](#) of the African revolution was the total failure of the Barkhane Operation, which was supposed to get rid of terrorism in the Sahel, itself a direct product of the destruction of the Libyan state by the NATO intervention in 2011. But instead of solving it, terrorism spread from Mali to Burkina Faso and Niger with terrible human consequences for the local populations.

It is not only the Western military occupation of the Sahel that Africans want to get rid of but also the whole Françafrique system, which has been stifling their countries for 60 years.

Their example will undoubtedly inspire the people of other African countries, which are bound to rise up. The tide has changed in their favor. Colonialism is over, and neo-colonialism needs to end too.

After the independence wave of the 1960s, France kept control over its ex-colonies through a system of hidden relations. This article will concentrate on the French people’s ignorance about what really happens in Françafrique. This ignorance explains the virtual inexistence of any anti-imperialist movement against it.

### **French so-called ‘decolonisations’**

After WWII, [in which many colonial troops were sacrificed and sent to the front line to defend France], demands for an equal liberation from the yoke of French oppression inevitably emerged in the colonies. In its wake, a colonial massacre, still officially not recognized, took place in 1944 in the barracks of Thiaroye, Senegal. Hundreds of West African soldiers who demanded their military pay on their return from France were machine-gunned.

On May 8th, 1945, a demonstration to celebrate France's liberation from Nazism in Setif, Algeria, developed into demands by Algerians for their own liberation from France. In total, 40,000 Algerians were killed.

In WWII, France claimed to be fighting for liberation against fascism and national oppression by the Nazis. However, they denied the same rights to their colonies. This attitude extended across the political spectrum, including the left, into post-war France.

François Mitterrand was the real pioneer of Françafrique. As the Minister for Overseas Affairs, he considered the war in Indo-China was at an impasse for French imperialism and advocated a focus on Africa. He promoted the idea of autonomy rather than independence. He wrote in 1952, in a similar way to the socialist leader Jules Ferry in the late C19th, who favored colonization: "France will be African, or it won't exist."

For his part, General De Gaulle was absolutely against autonomy, not to mention independence. The French Empire in 1954 had to face up to the French military defeat at Diên Biên Phu in Vietnam and the beginning of the Algerian Revolution. Imperialism also started to be shaken by the colonial revolution. De Gaulle finally had to admit, in the late 1950s, that it was better to grant power to the colonies rather than be forced to lose them. But he made sure it was independence only on paper.

De Gaulle was a full-blooded colonialist at heart. In 1959, he said, "Indigenous people are not yet mature enough to govern themselves." His concern was maintaining France's position in the world, i.e., preserving the French empire in a world split by the Cold War between two superpowers.

So when the colonies got their formal independence from France, they had to sign the [Agreements of Cooperation](#), which preserved France's economic, monetary and

military domination. Independence was emptied of its meaning. France, behind the scenes, kept managing the governments, the police forces, and the intelligence and maintained its military bases. Importantly, these agreements allowed France to intervene to “restore internal order militarily.” Also, France had its secret police and mercenaries.

De Gaulle designed the 1958 French constitution, which gave birth to the 5th Republic. According to it, the president is in charge of foreign affairs. Matters of war or a military intervention are not decided by ministers and even less by parliament. They are worked out in “the African cell” (la Cellule africaine) linked to the president at the Elysée. De Gaulle’s unofficial councilor, Jacques Foccard, built a whole network of personal relationships with the heads of African states and other key persons, which through corruption, tied them to French interests. Secrecy was the rule. The Foccard network is still intact and has been active with all the subsequent presidents, whether from the left or the right. Even though since Sarkozy, they all declared that “Françafrique was over.”

### **A culture of secrecy and silence**

The proportion of what is told and what is hidden about Françafrique is like an iceberg: 10% visible and 90% illegal and unspeakable. In 1998, François Xavier Verschave, who disclosed the system of Françafrique, wrote a book calling it “the longest scandal of the Republic.” Françafrique amounts to a complete denial of sovereignty. French interference in many areas involves manipulations, clandestine committees, repression, African coups, and assassinations of Pan-Africanist leaders. All of this is hidden, distorted, and kept secret. Many archives have still to be declassified, like the French collusion in the Rwandan genocide, torture in the Algerian war, or the assassination of Thomas Sankara.

In exchange for letting France plunder their own countries, African dictators have financed the election campaigns of many French politicians: Chirac, Sarkozy,

Mitterand, and others. The dozens of suitcases of cash recently found in Gabon President Ali Bongo's son's house after the coup in Gabon are not an abnormality but have been a common practice for decades.

Freemasonry was also used to build the French administration in the colonies. Here again, it is a secretive network that distributes positions not only in the institutions but in the economy, like Total, Elf, Bouygues, or Bolloré. Under the 3rd and 4th French Republics, twenty-eight ministers of the Colonies and Overseas ministries were freemasons. Freemasonry claimed to be based on so-called ideas of "progress, humanism and brotherhood," aiming at "civilizing" the whole world and developing the colonies. Many African heads of state on independence were former Freemason MPs in the French National Assembly.

The vast majority of the French population is ignorant of all those dirty deals. There is indeed a battle of communication. It is not only that Pan-Africanists and anti-colonialists such as Frantz Fanon have been ostracised in France, but the media has also been prevented from exposing evidence. For example, the journalist Pierre Péan, who revealed the diamonds offered by CAR dictator Bokassa to Valéry Giscard d'Estaing and later on in the 80s denounced the secret networks of Françafrique, narrowly survived a murder plot.

Control over information and its manipulation is part and parcel of French strategy in Africa. At the beginning of the 20th century, France launched newspapers to praise its actions in Africa. Any paper that criticized colonization was, of course, banned.

The justice system has also failed to correct the record of assassinations in France: notably, the murder of Outel Bono, an opponent to the Chadian regime, in Paris in 1973 or Dulcie September in 1988 in Paris. Both ended up with dismissals (non-lieu). Later, Bernard Borrel's death in Djibouti was disguised as a suicide. Bob Denard, France's favorite mercenary for 40 years, was accused, among other things, of

murdering the Comorian President in 1989 but was later acquitted.

## **Colonialism and racism in France**

This new rise of anti-imperialism, culminating with the threat of military intervention in Niger, was met with hardly any support in France, with some exceptions, such as comments by Jean-Luc Melenchon. Only the West African diaspora has been mobilizing, particularly the Senegalese, around the arrest of the opponent Ousmane Sonko.

How do we explain the absence of solidarity towards Africa, the backyard of French imperialism?

Beyond the lack of information, there is disinformation. When a French-backed African dictator is interviewed, even from “left-wing” papers, he is never asked questions about his crimes or the looting of his country. In 2008, the army in Cameroon shot demonstrators, killing more than a hundred. It was reported in the French media as hunger riots when it was against a change in the constitution.

Along with that, racist and colonialist ideologies are widespread in France. [Toussaint Nothias](#) notes that the Western, particularly the French, media narratives about Africa are full of colonial clichés. The events are not covered as political; the focus is usually inter-ethnic rivalry and the role of local leaders. Not only is it racist, but it is also infantilizing. They conclude by blaming Africans for what has been done to their continent by external powers.

In 2005, the right-wing party UMP proposed an amendment to a bill on education, saying that the “positive rôle of colonisation” should be taught at school. It provoked such an outcry that Chirac turned against the majority in his party and successfully requested the constitutional council to rule the amendment unsustainable.

The institutional racism which is so deeply rooted in France must be related to its



foreign policy. The police attacks in the quartiers populaires belong to the long history of imperialist domination. Since 2005, the police have been using methods against the black youth, such as curfews like during the Algerian war in Paris against their great-grandparents. New techniques have been added, like drones. Islamophobia, once again raging through the government with the banning of the abaya at school in September, was also a war tool to humiliate Muslim women during the Algerian revolution. Ceremonies were organized where they were forced to unveil publicly. The abaya affair must be linked to the very severe repression which fell on the black youth, often very young, after the massive uprisings following [Nahel's Merzouk's murder](#). The appalling way the French state treats the [undocumented workers](#) to exploit them, which amounts to “modern slavery,” is part of this post-colonial and racist management of the populations on becoming French ex-colonies.

France has never treated Africans as equal human beings, whether they live in Africa, have moved to France, or are descendants of former migrants like the youth in the suburbs. When the coup happened in Niger two months ago, the French elite reacted by saying: “we are going to lose Niger,” as if Niger was still part of France.

Macron is the proud offspring of this colonialist mentality. His arrogance knows no limit. In 2017, he humiliated the then-Burkinabe president at a [speech](#) in Ouagadougou. In 2020, in the paper Jeune Afrique, he repeated the old neo-colonial phrase: “between France and Africa it must be a love story”. This attitude does not work anymore. Africans won't accept being lied to. They are not children to whom one talks, appealing to feelings. They want equality and to build their continent with their own hands.

## **Towards the end of an epoch of French imperialism**

France conceived neo-colonialism as a prolongation of colonialism, a source of eternal exploitation. It has fiercely been clinging to its old empire when, in fact, it

was more and more losing ground.

The decline of the French empire is reaching its final point. The [book](#) entitled, “An Empire Which Does Not Want to Die, a history of Françafrique” spells it out clearly. Economically, France has lost its control over Africa, although militarily, it reinforced it through its presence in the Sahel. This is precisely what triggered the three coups in Mali, Burkina, and Niger. Instead of eliminating terrorism, ten years of imperialist military occupation of the Sahel has led to its extension in the three countries. This explains why the people massively supported the coups. The people aspire to self-determination and sovereignty. It means deciding not only what type of society and economy they want to build, i.e., one that responds to basic human needs, but also which partners they will trade and cooperate with.

They also understand that African unity is the key to reaching their goals. First, in defending their countries from potential imperialist attacks, France will certainly not give up the idea of military intervention. To be militarily ready is, therefore, absolutely necessary. In the last week of September, a coup was foiled against Ibrahim Traore, president of Burkina Faso. Mali, Burkina, and Niger, aware of this risk, had already signed a military pact a month earlier.

Fundamentally, these countries are now able to escape dependence on France. An alternative has been building up for two decades, with China at the economic level and Russia militarily in the last decade. A multipolar world is underway, especially more recently with the strengthening of the BRICS. Africa has a role to play in this new world in transition.

Undoubtedly, imperialism will put as many obstacles as possible, but as Ibrahim Traore put it: “Africa’s time of slavery to Western regimes is over, and the battle for full independence has begun... either homeland or death”.

“Africa’s time of slavery to Western regimes is over, and the battle for full

independence has begun.” – Ibrahim Traore (President of the Transition of Burkina Faso)

Source: [Britain @SocialistAct](#)



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# Stop the genocide in Gaza! Palestinian lives matter!

written by Struggle - La Lucha  
October 16, 2023

An immense war crime is being carried out by the Israeli apartheid regime that occupies Palestine. Over a million people in northern Gaza have been ordered to evacuate within 24 hours or face being exterminated by a military invasion.

This isn't a Hollywood movie with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu telling the inhabitants to "get out of Dodge." Netanyahu wants to carry out [another chapter of the 1948 Nakba](#) — meaning catastrophe in Arabic — during which 15,000 Palestinians were murdered, and 531 Palestinian villages were destroyed by

Zionists.

[In the village of Deir Yassin](#), the Irgun and Stern Gang Zionist militias killed at least 107 Palestinians on April 9, 1948. Children and the elderly were murdered.

Some victims were burned to death; others were stood up against a wall and killed by machine guns. Many bodies were thrown down a well.

This was no different than Nazi atrocities like those that wiped out the village of Lidice in the Czech lands or Oradour-sur-Glane in France.

Zionist leaders want to do the same to Gaza, which is the biggest ghetto on earth with 2.2 million inhabitants. Half of them are children under 18.

Half of the Gazans in this immensely crowded prison have now been ordered to flee to the southern portion of the ghetto within 24 hours.

Already a third of a million people have been made homeless, and over 2,000 people killed by Zionist bombs. Entire families have been buried in rubble. The Jabalia refugee camp, home to 116,000 people, was destroyed.

These war crimes are in revenge for the Al-Aqsa Flood uprising that showed that the apartheid regime is not invincible. The Zionist state is carrying out collective punishment, which is banned by international law.

### **Hospitals turned into morgues**

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant called Palestinians “human animals.” That’s the language of genocide.

Gallant announced on Oct. 9 a “complete siege” of Gaza, which has a population of over 2 million. He declared, “No electricity, no food, no water, no fuel – everything is closed.”

That means when hospitals run out of fuel in a few days, babies will die in cut-off incubators. So will the elderly and disabled who are attached to life-saving machines.

The International Committee of the Red Cross said that hospitals will turn into morgues. Israel refuses to allow anyone to escape.

The Zionist regime intends to kill thousands in Gaza and drive the rest into Egypt. This is part of a long-standing plan to expel all Arabs — the Indigenous inhabitants — from Palestine.

None of these crimes would be possible without the Pentagon's support and [\\$158 billion in U.S. aid](#). This wasn't charity. Israel is a Ku Klux Klan ready to intervene to preserve Big Oil's rule in Western Asia.

For Wall Street as well as older colonial powers like Britain and France — whose immense wealth began with the African Holocaust — Israel represents the open colonial rule that they want to restore.

Humiliated by Niger and other African countries, France is supporting the Zionist settler state and banning demonstrations in defense of Palestine. Fox News and other ruling class elements want to do the same in the United States.

We won't let them! Poor and working people in the U.S. have no interest in propping up the racist state of Israel.

We need to come out in larger and larger numbers to support the Palestinian people.

Stop the genocide in Gaza! Palestine will win!



