

Delay of Freedom Flotilla is illegal, facilitates genocide of Palestinians

written by Melinda Butterfield

April 27, 2024



The PAL Law Commission and Worldwide Lawyers Association (WOLAS), joined by lawyers and legal organizations globally, alongside U.N. Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, demand the immediate release and safe passage of the Freedom Flotilla which is the first humanitarian mission to Gaza carrying aid sufficient to meaningfully and substantially alleviate the food and medical supply shortage in Gaza.

Each moment of delay of the flotilla is illegal and causes life-threatening harm to Palestinians, and helps escalate the pace of Israeli genocide in Palestine. As the Office of the High Commissioner stated, “Israel’s siege and genocidal violence, including an unprecedented starvation campaign...created famine.”

Yet the Israeli government, supported by the U.S. government, continues to flout its legal obligations and has delayed the Gaza Freedom Flotilla by four days. First by issuing illegal threats to physically harm the ships and engaging in training exercises to prepare for a procedurally illegal and violent boarding. In the same threat, the Israeli government admitted its intelligence confirms that the flotilla is carrying 5,500 tons of humanitarian aid.

And now, after failing to pressure multiple governments from stopping the aid flotilla, and failing to scare away passengers, the Israeli government resorted to pressuring Guinea Bissau to further delay the flotilla, using the pretext of an

inspection requirement by the flag country, although the flotilla has passed a thorough scrutiny and inspection by the Turkish State Port. Guinea Bissau has capitulated to that pressure and intends to potentially cause further life-threatening delay in the receipt of life-saving supplies.

It is clear that Israeli government actions are intended to obstruct, steal, and destroy aid—this is expressed in their illegal threat to board and intercept the flotilla and evidenced by their prior practices wherein Israeli forces destroyed aid live on camera, killed World Central Kitchen workers, and killed Mavi Marmara passengers. All pretexts the Israeli government offers are just that: pretexts intended to continue their illegal and genocidal agenda in Palestine, and must be rejected as such by all governments and agencies.

All tenets of international law require that the provision of humanitarian aid be unimpeded and rapid. The San Remo Manual Article 102 and the Fourth Geneva Convention Article 70 expressly require lifesaving supplies to be rapidly distributed. The requirement of rapid aid is intended to prevent and redress the humanitarian atrocities caused by aggression, an aggression that has been declared a genocide by human rights experts and organizations globally and as plausibly so by the International Court of Justice, which has twice ordered the unhindered delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza, as has U.N. Security Council Resolution 2728, which are binding on all States under the U.N. Charter and the Vienna Convention.

The flotilla is the only party meaningfully acting to execute the orders of the ICJ, the UNSC, and international maritime and human rights law. The Israeli blockade is inherently and *prima facie* illegal as it has grossly exceeded any ostensible claim of proportionality by being preliminarily found to be genocidal, thus depriving the Israeli government of all defenses and justifications for the blockade. Delay, obstruction, interception, and diversion of the flotilla violate the requirement for delivery of unhindered and rapid aid and are equally illegal acts in furtherance of

war crimes as defined by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, whether undertaken by the blockading party or other parties, and subjects all actors, the Israelis and those complicit with them, to clear, and indefensible, liability.

As stated unequivocally by the U.N. Office of the High Commissioner, "The Freedom Flotilla has the right of free passage in international waters and Israel must not interfere with its freedom of navigation, long recognized under international law."

We demand an immediate end to all delays, obstruction, and impediments of the flotilla, as such delays and obstructions are gross breaches of international law and are leading to the death and suffering of Palestinians in Gaza.

The PAL Law Commission, WOLAS, and Shabnam Ebrahim Mayet are legal, strategy, and diplomacy advisors to the Flotilla Law Commission.

THE GLOBAL LEGAL ALLIANCE FOR PALESTINE (GLAP)

International Commission to Support Palestinian Rights (HASHD)

Young Muslim Lawyers Association (Nadeem Mahomed)

Lawyers for Palestine (Pablo Araya Zacarias)

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PFLP: Solidarity with student protesters in U.S.

written by Struggle - La Lucha

April 27, 2024

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) condemns the repressive practices of the administrations of universities in the United States, and affirms its support for the struggle of the student movement in support of Palestine.

At a time when the genocidal war against our unarmed Palestinian people in the

Gaza Strip continues, and the brutal zionist practices in Al-Quds and the West Bank, executed by the zionist occupation army in partnership, support, and complicity with the U.S. administration and Western colonial countries, aligned with all the forces of evil and tyranny in the world, when the occupation army has been committing massacres and brutal crimes for over 200 days now, the likes of which human history has never witnessed before; and at a time when all lovers of peace in the world stand by the Palestinian people in their just struggle to reclaim their usurped rights, the ugly face of zionist racism clearly appears.

While our students in American universities were looking forward to support and solidarity from the university administrations, which prioritized their interests, profits, and investments over noble human values, they have undertaken a number of punitive measures against students, faculty, and staff, threatening and extorting them for nothing but standing by the Palestinian people and supporting their just struggle for freedom and human dignity. These administrations prioritize their interests over Palestinian blood and human values and engage in hate speech against Arabs and Muslims, canceling student organizations' licenses, deluding themselves that by doing so, they can suppress our students' struggle in the universities within the United States.

We in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, along with all our people, the honorable of our nation and the world, confirm our steadfast support for the struggle of the student and youth movements, Students for Justice in Palestine (SJP) and the Palestinian Youth Movement (PYM) at universities such as Columbia, Rutgers, Yale, and Stanford, among others. We call for enhancing the unity of students and their struggle to divest American universities from the zionist entity and cut all forms of relations with it.

As we highly appreciate the positions, movements, and struggles of our students in American universities, and call for the escalation of their struggle against aggressive

policies, and the rejection of compliance with the policies biased in favor of the occupation, we also call for the strengthening of ranks and enhancing the unity of students. We highly value the supportive and solidary positions for the struggle of our people in various American universities and around the world, and all the strugglers for freedom, justice, and human dignity.

Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine

Central Media Office

April 23, 2024

Source: [Resistance News Network](#)



When Che Guevara came to Gaza

written by Struggle - La Lucha

April 27, 2024

Since the explicit Israeli colonization of historic Palestine in 1948, supported by colonialist and imperialist powers, namely Britain and the US, the Palestinian struggle has become a global cause. Resistance was a natural response to the invasions and incursions better known as “the ethnic cleansing of Palestine.”

Even before then, as the military occupation entrenched itself at the hands of pre-state Zionist militias and paramilitary units, massacres and forceful expulsion were committed, leading to the 1948 *Nakba*, the catastrophe of the loss of the Palestinians' homeland. The 1967 *Naksa*, or "set back," followed with the defeat of Arab armies.

Displaced indigenous Palestinians were forced to live in refugee camps in makeshift tent cities in Gaza, the West Bank, Lebanon, Syria, and Jordan, relying on food hand-outs provided by UNRWA.

At first they assumed that they would one day return to where they had been driven out by force. During the Nakba, some 500 towns and villages were wiped off the map as they were looted. Today, 70 years later, the displaced and dispossessed are still waiting for the implementation of that dream – "the right of return."

Amid all the developments at the time, a sense of revolt began to emerge among Palestinians to defend their land.

"*Fedaeyeen*" – the Arabic term for "freedom fighters" – began to assemble and carry out reprisal attacks against occupying Israeli forces. Some fighters infiltrated the security border fence from neighboring Arab countries.

Horrendous massacres followed, most notably in 1953, 1955, and 1956, in which hundreds of Palestinians were killed at the command of Ariel Sharon, then a hawkish army general charged with uprooting the *Fedaeyeen* and punishing the refugees for supporting them.

Revolutionary spirit in Egypt

Egypt, known then as "The United Arab Republic", had administered the Gaza Strip between 1948 and 1967 and lost dozens of its soldiers, police, and security officers, especially in south Gaza's Khan Younis and Rafah towns during a triple-pronged

offensive against Egyptian forces by Britain, France, and Israel in 1956, following Nasser's decision to nationalize the Suez Canal.

The spirit of revolution was running high in Egypt under leader Gamal Abdel Nasser, the godfather of pan-Arabism, who was known for his anti-imperialist and anti-colonialist stance. Nasser, who dominated Arab politics and the imagination of the Arab masses at the time, extended an invitation to none other than Ernesto Che Guevara, the Latin American revolutionary, to visit Cairo.

It's not known if visiting Gaza was on Che's agenda, or if it was Nasser's idea. But the timing of the visit was of great importance for the Palestinian national movement, which was comprised of *Fedaeyeen*. The movement drew inspiration from guerrillas in Latin America, Vietnam, and Algeria.

The ideology of the Palestinian *Fedaeyeen* was mainly left-wing nationalist, socialist, or communist, and their proclaimed purpose was to defeat Zionism and liberate Palestine through armed struggle to establish it as "a secular democratic state."

The idea of liberation gained momentum as Palestinians had never achieved any form of real national independence in their homeland, and a few years later, in 1964, the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was formed and led by Ahmad Shukeiri. Yasser Arafat became the PLO's chairman in 1969 until his death in 2004.

Che Guevara in Gaza

After accepting Nasser's invitation, Guevara was sent to the region by Cuba's Fidel Castro on a three-month tour of 14 countries. A one-day visit was dedicated to Gaza which was then under Egyptian rule. Guevara landed in Gaza wearing his dark military fatigues on 18 June 1959 after traveling about 450km from Cairo.

He received a hero's welcome from the Egyptian *de facto* governor of Gaza, General-

Lieutenant Ahmad Salim, as well as from Palestinian officials and heads of municipalities and many ordinary people.

During his short visit, he toured several Palestinian refugee camps including Al-Buraij camp, where he was welcomed with chants from the Cuban revolution. Cuba went on to welcome the founding of the Palestine Liberation Organisation, making official contact with it in 1965.

One of Che's goals for a visit was to support Arab and Palestinian national liberation and revolutionary movements against Western imperialism and colonization.

Zulfiqar Swirjo, an official affiliated to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, stated during a previous interview that his father was there during that historic visit that aimed to share Guevara's beliefs and revolutionary ideas with Gaza's fighters. They had wanted to put together a strategic plan for a popular struggle to fight the Israeli forces using guerrilla warfare tactics.

Gaza

The Gaza Strip is a small slice of the eastern coastline of the Mediterranean Sea in the southern part of historic Palestine. It borders Egypt to the southwest and Israel to the east and north. At 45km long and between 5 and 12km wide, it has a total area of just 365 square km—around the same size as the city of Bakersfield, California (pop. 380,000).

Today, two-thirds of Gaza's two million inhabitants are refugees, ethnically cleansed from their original homes.

According to Palestinian researcher Salman Abu Sitta, after Guevara's visit to Gaza, Cuba gave scholarships to Palestinian students, granted citizenship to stranded Palestinians and held many conferences in support of Palestine. And as Palestine has become a symbol of struggle against colonialism, it's no surprise that India's first

prime minister and anti-British colonialist Jawaharlal Nehru also visited Gaza in 1960 and met with the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF), whose presence was to protect the old armistice line between Israel and Egypt.

The Argentinean revolutionary leader was summarily executed by Bolivian forces in October 1967, nearly four months after the “six-day war”, when Gaza was annexed from Egyptian control and came under total Israeli occupation.

Che became an icon of resistance, especially for leftist Palestinian resistance movements such as The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, The Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Palestinian People's Party.

His legacy endures, and, for many Palestinian activists, he remains a source of inspiration, as a popular icon of rebellion against imperialism, colonialism, and military occupation.

Yousef al-Helou is a freelance Palestinian journalist.

Source: [Resumen](#)



New atrocities revealed at Nasser Medical Hospital: unimaginable genocidal crimes

written by Struggle - La Lucha

April 27, 2024

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) confirmed that the revelation of new atrocities committed by the occupation at Nasser Medical Hospital are genocidal crimes that exceed imagination and fall within the framework of the zionist doctrine based on committing massacres, murder, destruction, and displacement.

The Front considered the announcement of the [discovery of hundreds of martyrs' bodies](#) in mass graves, executed in cold blood by the occupation inside the Nasser Medical Complex in southern Gaza Strip, and the documented evidence of organ theft from some bodies and the presence of headless bodies, as a reaffirmation that this occupation indulges its appetite for killing and satisfying its vengeance by committing the most horrific massacres and crimes unprecedented in history, under

the shelter of the international community's complicity, the absence of accountability and international trial, and in the shadow of the completely involved U.S., which is the main sponsor of genocidal crimes and has always been the basis and support for the occupation's practices.

The Front added that the U.S. and its allies are fully responsible for these massacres and the horrific genocidal operations committed by the zionist entity against the Palestinian people, which have reached the extent of violating the sanctity of martyrs and stealing organs from their bodies, confirming that the false and shiny human rights slogans touted by the international community in response to the zionist genocidal war aim to divert attention from the reality of the ongoing battle and to conceal the extent of atrocities committed against the Palestinian people.

The Front called on the free people of the world and the solidarity movements with the Palestinian people to continue their daily activism to intensify pressure on relevant international institutions to pursue the leaders of the occupation, the U.S. and everyone involved in the aggression on Gaza, and to prosecute them as war criminals in international courts.

The Front concluded its statement affirming that the crimes and atrocities practiced by the zionist gangs with direct U.S. and Western support will not succeed in undermining the resilience of our people and their determination to continue clinging to their land and resistance, and our people will continue to play their combative role until this aggression is repelled and expelled from our land.

Source: [Resistance News Network](https://www.struggle-la-lucha.org/palestine/page/20/)



Columbia crackdown fuels national student protests for Gaza

written by Struggle - La Lucha

April 27, 2024

April 19 — Columbia University students continue their “Gaza solidarity encampment” on the main lawn of the New York City campus, defying a heavy police crackdown, with 122 arrested. The action, coordinated by various student organizations, including Columbia University Apartheid Divest, Columbia Students for Justice in Palestine, and Columbia Jewish Voice for Peace, has persisted for over 48 hours.

Inspired by the Columbia students’ actions, students at the University of North Carolina and Miami University in Ohio have staged their own encampments in solidarity. National Students for Justice in Palestine issued a “call to action” for students nationwide to “seize the university and force the administration to divest, for the people of Gaza.” A large crowd has also taken to the streets outside Columbia University in support of the encampment.



The voice of Israel's defeat; a confession by Israeli newspaper Haaretz

written by Struggle - La Lucha
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One of the leading Israeli media confesses that they are losing the war despite military superiority and genocide.

A few days ago, Haaretz – one of Israel’s most influential Israeli newspapers – published an extraordinary article. Under the revealing title “Saying what cannot be said: Israel has been defeated, a total defeat,” the author presents an absolutely pessimistic picture of Israel’s war in Gaza and its overall situation. As this is not an “opinion piece” but written by the newspaper’s “Political Correspondent,” it is fair to say that this paper represents the viewpoint of Haaretz.

Let us first reproduce the most important parts of this remarkable article.

“We have lost. The truth must be told. The inability to admit it sums up all that needs to be known about Israel’s individual and mass psychology. There is a clear, clear, and predictable reality that we should begin to probe, process, understand,

and draw conclusions from for the future. It is no fun to admit that we have lost, so we lie to ourselves.

[...] We can't say it, but we have lost. People have a tendency to believe for the best and be optimistic, hoping that tomorrow everything will be fine and that we will be in a process that will be more successful in the end. That is the most fundamental flaw in human thinking: the notion that the direction we are going is good, that we simply have to get there now, that in a little more time, with a little more effort, the hostages will be returned. Hamas will surrender, and Yahya Sinwar will be killed. After all, we are the good guys and good will triumph.

It is the same mentality that leads to the notion that "the Iranian regime will soon implode" and other notions that have more to do with Hollywood scripts than with life itself. They are not the truth and relate to something that is uncomfortable. After all, it is uncomfortable to tell the truth to the public.

[...] No cabinet minister will restore our sense of personal security. Every Iranian threat will make us tremble. Our international standing suffered a severe blow. The weakness of our leadership was revealed to the outside world. For years, we managed to fool them into believing that we were a strong country, a wise people, and a powerful army. In reality, we are a village with an air force, and that is on condition that they wake up in time.

[...] Rafah is the latest bluff the spokesmen are plotting to fool us into thinking that victory is only minutes away. By the time they enter Rafah, the real event will have lost its significance. There may be an incursion, perhaps a small one, sometime, say in May. After that, they will peddle the next lie, that all we have to do is _____ (fill in the blank), and victory will be on the way. The reality is that the war aims will not be achieved. Hamas will not be eradicated. The hostages will not be returned through military pressure, and security will not be restored.

The more the spokesmen shout that “we are winning,” the clearer it is that we are losing. Lying is their trade. We need to get used to that. Life is less secure than it was before October 7. The beating we took will hurt for years. The international ostracism will not go away. And, of course, the dead will not return. Neither will many of the hostages. For some of us, life will return with the petrifying fear of an imminent repetition. And for some of us, life will not get back on track. Those people will walk among us like the living dead. That’s what we voted for. That’s the way it is. We need to get used to the sad reality of our homeland.”

Basically, the article acknowledges that Israel has lost the war. Of course, Israel’s armies have not been eradicated. But in a war between the world’s fourth strongest official army against the guerrilla forces of the Palestinian resistance in the tiny enclave of Gaza (population 2.3 million), the standards for success are different.

It is true that Israel has “succeeded” in committing genocide against the Palestinian people in Gaza, massacring tens of thousands of people, destroying most of the homes, and displacing most of the population. But despite all these horrible war crimes and despite the fact that Israel is waging the longest war in its history, it has not been able to defeat the heroic Palestinians!

In fact, Israel’s all-powerful army – with total superiority in air, sea, and land, with artificial intelligence-driven killer programs, the latest missiles and bombs, and with unlimited financial, political, and military support from US imperialism – failed to conquer the strip, failed to defeat the resistance forces and failed to bring back their hostages. What a remarkable achievement for the resistance forces, as my comrade Yossi Schwartz, an anti-Zionist Jew in Israel and a Trotskyist for six decades, pointed out some time ago.

Not only this: never before has Israel been so isolated in international politics, it has become a country hated and despised by the masses of people all over the world. The genocidal war of the Zionists has provoked an unprecedented pro-Palestine

solidarity movement that continues to mobilize relentlessly against the Apartheid and Terror State. Several trade unions have already taken active boycott actions against military and economic supplies to Israel.

Under pressure from the masses, an increasing number of bourgeois governments feel compelled to criticize and distance themselves from the Zionist entity. The same pressure has pushed the ICJ to open an investigation into Israel's genocide in Gaza, and even the UN Security Council felt obliged to vote in favor of a cease-fire against the furious resistance of Israel and its US masters.

This is not to deny all the difficulties and dangers ahead, not at all, as the murderers will continue to kill, and the traitors will continue to betray. Still, it is fantastic to see the heroic Palestinian people inflict a political defeat on the Zionist state!

Unity - Struggle - Victory

Source: [Cuba en Resumen](#)



Statement from Google workers with the No Tech for Apartheid campaign on Google's mass, retaliatory firings of workers

written by Struggle - La Lucha
April 27, 2024



This evening, Google indiscriminately fired over two dozen workers, including those among us who did not directly participate in yesterday's historic, bicoastal 10-hour sit-in protests. This flagrant act of retaliation is a clear indication that Google values its \$1.2 billion contract with the genocidal Israeli government and military more than its own workers. In the three years that we have been organizing against Project Nimbus, we have yet to hear from a single executive about our concerns. Google workers have the right to peacefully protest about terms and conditions of our labor. These firings were clearly retaliatory.

On the contrary, our bosses called the police on its own workers, the Nimbus Nine, who were arrested and taken into custody last night. Today, they punished all of the workers they could associate with this action in wholesale firings, through a dragnet of in-office surveillance. Google cited “bullying” and “harassment” as the reasons for workers’ firing. If there has been any bullying or harassment at the company, our Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim colleagues [have been the recipients](#).

Google claims that protesters “defaced property” and “physically impeded the work of other Googlers.” This excuse to avoid confronting us and our concerns directly, and attempt to justify its illegal, retaliatory firings, is a lie. Even the workers who were participating in a peaceful sit-in and refusing to leave did not damage property or threaten other workers. Instead they received an overwhelmingly positive response and shows of support.

Google continues to lie to its workers, the media, and the public. Google continues to claim, as of today, that Project Nimbus is “not directed at highly sensitive, classified, or military workloads relevant to weapons or intelligence services.” Yet, reporting from [TIME Magazine](#) proves otherwise: **Google has built custom tools for Israel’s Ministry of “Defense,” and has doubled down on contracting with the Israeli Occupation Forces, since the start of its genocide against Palestinians in Gaza.** By continuing its lies, Google is blatantly disrespecting and disregarding consumers, the media, as well as, most importantly, its workers.

Google claims that the protest involved people who “largely” do not work at the company. This is not just untrue, it’s insulting. Thousands of our colleagues have joined our call for the company to drop Project Nimbus, supporting the [dozens of brave workers](#) who have spoken out publicly about how the contract is impacting their health and safety on the job. Most of all, it is insulting to those of us you just threw out of the company for voicing our concerns about Project Nimbus, as

well as for the well-being of our Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim colleagues [facing](#) Google-enabled racism, discrimination, harassment, and censorship.

Sundar Pichai and Thomas Kurian are genocide profiteers. We cannot comprehend how these men are able to sleep at night while their tech has enabled 100,000 Palestinians killed, reported missing, or wounded in the last six months of Israel's genocide — and counting.

The truth is clear: Google is terrified of us. They are terrified of workers coming together and calling for accountability and transparency from our bosses. They are choosing to reveal the falsity of Google's "open culture" in order to get rid of a threat. The corporation is trying to downplay and discredit our power.

These mass, illegal firings will not stop us. On the contrary, they only serve as further fuel for the growth of this movement.

Make no mistake, we will continue organizing until the company drops Project Nimbus and stops powering this genocide.

Source: [No Tech For Apartheid Campaign](#)



Germany buries the evidence of complicity in genocide: Nicaragua exposes it

written by Struggle - La Lucha

April 27, 2024

On April 11, Dr. Ghassan Abu-Sittah, the British-Palestinian war surgeon, gave his first address as [the newly-appointed rector of Glasgow University](#), chosen in recognition of his work at al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza. The following day, he flew to Berlin, where he had been invited to address a major conference about Palestine. On arrival, he was taken away by police, interrogated for several hours, and eventually told he had to leave Germany and wouldn't be allowed to return until at least the end of April. Any attempt to speak to the conference via Zoom could result in a fine or even a year's prison sentence. By the time he was released, he couldn't have taken part in the conference anyway since it had already been invaded by at least 900 police and closed down. Berlin's mayor [said that it was 'intolerable'](#) that the conference was taking place at all.

Speaking about his experience afterward, Dr. Abu-Sittah referred to the fact that Germany had – also last week – been defending itself at the International Court of Justice against charges by Nicaragua that it is an accomplice to genocidal war. ‘This is exactly what accomplices to a crime do,’ he said. ‘They bury the evidence, and they silence or harass or intimidate the witnesses.’

Watching the live feed of Germany’s lawyers at the Hague a few days earlier had been an odd experience. They gave the impression of being affronted that Germany had been accused of such crimes, especially by a small country which, they argued, had no stake in the case. Also, Israel could not yet be said to be committing genocide because the ICJ has not yet determined the case brought against it by South Africa, which Germany had supported Israel in contesting. Because Israel was not party to the new case, it should simply be thrown out.

Some research might have given them a better appreciation of Nicaragua’s credentials to bring the case. Its mutual solidarity with Palestine goes back a long way. It also has more experience at the Hague than Germany, including its pioneer action against the US in 1984, when it won compensation of £17 billion (that was never paid) for the damage done to Nicaragua by the US-funded Contra war and the mining of its ports. Carlos Argüello, who led the case last week and many of its previous cases, said that Nicaragua offered its expertise to Palestine and it had already joined in with South Africa’s action. It had decided to target Germany, the second biggest supplier of arms to Israel, because the US, the biggest supplier, is outside the court’s jurisdiction on this issue.

Argüello [explains](#) that the object is to create a precedent with wider application – that countries must take responsibility for the consequences of their arms sales to avoid them being used in breach of international law. Germany’s argument that legal action cannot proceed before South Africa’s earlier case is resolved is nonsense since countries have an obligation to prevent genocide, not merely wait until it is

proven to be happening. In any case, Germany must have been aware of the numerous warnings from senior UN officials of the imminence of genocide in Gaza, which began as early as October 9.

Germany claimed that it has a “robust legal framework” in place to ensure its arms exports are not misused and that sales to Israel are now restricted to non-lethal equipment. But any supplies being sent to a genocidal army are helping to sustain its criminal actions, Nicaragua replied.

Much was made of Germany’s historic obligations due to its Nazi history, but Argüello argues that these should relate to the Jewish people, not the Israeli state. He adds that Germany’s past might also oblige it to help prevent genocide wherever it might occur. Its government spokesman on the South Africa case had claimed that Germany is ‘particularly committed to the Genocide Convention’.

The economist Yanis Varoufakis was also banned from speaking in Berlin. He planned to conclude his speech by telling German politicians that ‘they have covered themselves in shame’ through their unflinching support for Israel’s atrocities. Carlos Argüello echoes this point when asked whether a decision by the ICJ can actually be enforced: we have to mobilize shame; he says, “...that’s the hope with this. Perhaps being too idealistic, but it’s the only weapon we have.”

Source: [Resumen](#)



Iran attack puts Israeli Rafah invasion on ice: Report

written by Struggle - La Lucha

April 27, 2024

Israel was on the verge of launching a ground offensive on the Gazan city of Rafah but delayed the campaign after Iran launched a massive retaliatory attack on Israel over the weekend, CNN [reported](#) on 15 April.

Citing Israeli sources, CNN reported that the Israeli Air Force was set to begin dropping leaflets on parts of Rafah on Monday in preparation for a ground offensive into Rafah - Gaza's southernmost city where more than 1 million displaced Palestinians are sheltering from Israel's six-month bombing campaign.

Those plans were allegedly halted after Iran launched an attack of some 300 missiles and drones toward Israel late Saturday. Most were intercepted by Israeli anti-missile systems, but several missiles successfully penetrated Israel's vaunted defenses and hit a key military base and intelligence collection center.

Israel's war cabinet spent Sunday and Monday debating a possible response to the Iranian attack, which was in retaliation to Israel's bombing of the Iranian consulate in Damascus two weeks ago, which killed a top Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) general.

CNN wrote that according to one Israeli official, "Israel remains determined to carry out a ground offensive in Rafah, although the timing of civilian evacuations and the coming ground offensive remains unclear at the moment."

The Israeli military declined to comment.

IDF calls up two brigades to Gaza as Rafah operation looms

'Gaza and the Rafah problem is taking a secondary phase now and Israel is going all out to take care of the Iranian problem' Brig. Gen. (Res.) Hannan Geffen tells @GuyAz pic.twitter.com/MQ1rbC33F

— i24NEWS English (@i24NEWS_EN) [April 15, 2024](https://twitter.com/i24NEWS_EN/status/177431110333110000)

Netanyahu has publicly threatened to invade Rafah for months, claiming it is necessary to dismantle Hamas's remaining battalions. UN officials and aid workers have warned an invasion of the border city would result in a "bloodbath" due to the roughly 1.4 million civilians concentrated there, including many living in tents and with no safe place to flee.

Israel's ongoing war on Gaza, which has killed over 33,000 Palestinians and is widely viewed as genocide, is influencing the war cabinet's discussions about a potential response to Iran's attack.

Opening another war front with Iran would require moving attention and resources away from Gaza, where Israel seeks to defeat Hamas, ethnically cleanse the 2.3

million-strong indigenous Palestinian population, and establish Jewish colonies.

Source: [The Cradle](#)



On International Workers' Day: Urgent appeal from the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions

written by Struggle - La Lucha

April 27, 2024

The call below was issued in March by the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions.



الاتحاد العام لنقابات عمال فلسطين - قطاع غزة
Palestine General Federation of Trade Unions - Gaza Strip

Brothers and Sisters of unions and other labor organizations in the United States of America:

In the midst of pain and blood, in the displacement camps, amidst the rubble and the ruins of our homes, workshops, factories, stores and institutions destroyed by the “Israeli” occupation, using U.S.-made weapons, in the name of the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions (PGFTU), we call on you for solidarity.

Instead of celebrating with you on May 1, International Workers’ Day, we are busy shrouding dozens of people who are being killed around the clock in the middle of a genocidal war against our people — in every sense of that word. This has led to the destruction of everything in the Gaza Strip (hospitals, health centers, schools, universities, streets, water purification, sewage and other infrastructure, factories, shops, cultural centers, mosques, churches and even unborn children), none of which were spared by the occupation’s bombs, missiles and shells (including internationally banned weapons, like white phosphorus).

We are living through wholesale slaughter and forced dislocation — ethnic cleansing — committed against us. This devastating war and its catastrophes have forced upon us in the PGFTU in Gaza great responsibilities to collect the broken bodies and even pieces of our people, healing the wounded and trying to ease their pain (without anesthetics, antibiotics or other medicine), dealing with the psychological trauma (especially of the children), while trying to convey the truth of this suffering and the humanitarian and environmental catastrophe to the world.

Since the beginning of the aggression, we in the PGFTU have considered ourselves an integral part of our people — not separated from their reality. We have suffered and lost thousands of members, union offices, facilities and other institutions.

Despite our efforts to provide relief to our people with the limited support we have received and to raise the voice of our people loudly in international forums, we have

encountered shocking silence and neglect by the international labor movement. However, we recognize there have been some exceptional examples of unions, clearly demonstrated in leading protests denouncing the Zionist war of genocide being waged on the Gaza Strip.

Dear comrades in the American unions,

Several actions have come to light during the aggression, which must be closely observed and exposed, most notably:

First, U.S. unions need to expose the extent of the war crimes and genocide committed against our people and the biased American position and complicity in enabling the aggression. This must be confronted and continue to be protested to exert pressure against the export of U.S.-made weapons to the occupation. Pressure must be increased on the U.S. administration to abandon these hostile actions against the Palestinian people.

Secondly, there is the Israeli decision to suspend or terminate the contracts of thousands of workers in the Gaza Strip by local, Arab and international institutions in connection with the war of extermination, depriving employees of their rights and compensation. It would have been better for these institutions to strengthen the workers' economic security by implementing support packages instead of firing them from work. This issue must be at the core of your concerns and struggle.

Third, the international labor movement, including the International Federation of Trade Unions, retreated to verbal positions without taking measures on the ground or pressuring the decision-makers to stop this war of extermination, limiting union activities to conferences and statements and not delving deeply into the need to guarantee humanitarian aid or influencing international public opinion to expose the truth about Zionist crimes and the practices of the allied countries that continue to support Israel.

Among these steps is the struggle to ban the occupation's trade unions internationally, as they are partners in the war of genocide. In particular, we call on American unions to boycott these unions to protest their complicity in this genocidal war.

Fourth, unions can play an influential role in the United States to provide relief for hundreds of thousands of workers' families whose homes and workplaces have been destroyed, leaving them to shelter in tents without any work or income. You can contribute to financial projects and relief funds for workers and temporary social security through coordination with the International Trade Union Confederation to alleviate the suffering of thousands of our people.

Dear comrades,

We call on you to be our voice and advocate inside and outside America. What our people are experiencing and what workers and unions in particular are exposed to is the most horrific catastrophe known to humanity in recent decades. We ask that you convey our message and give voice to the suffering of hungry, starving workers and their families — not just to the American people, not just to your unions but to the entire world.

We are a people enduring bombardment, hunger, disease and all forms of suffering, but we are determined to live, to stand firm and to rebuild from this destruction with our blood and many sacrifices.

Thank you for your efforts, and happy new year on International Workers' Day. We will certainly carry the banner of victory despite the killing and destruction.

From your comrades/trade and professional unions in Gaza

Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions

Signatory: Basheer Al-Sisi, Member of the General Secretariat of the Palestinian General Federation of Trade Unions – City of Gaza

