

Tribune

The Gory Dawn of the New World Order

US War in the Middle East

Mansoor Hekmat
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Judging by what is being done in the Gulf, and by what we are told about it by the media, we must all be thankful for the fact that this is a world of hypocrisy, selective morality and double standards. Just imagine the chaos if all United Nation resolutions were to be enforced with equal rigour and resolve. Just imagine how many thousands of tons of bombs would have to be dropped, to start with, on Israel for its occupation of Palestinian land and its treatment of the Palestinian people, on South Africa for its denial of human status to the majority of its inhabitants, and on the USA itself for uninterrupted harassment of humanity for decades. Imagine the number of fighter and bomber 'sorties' and cruise missile launches that would be required to neutralise weapons of mass destruction stockpiled in the USA, USSR, China, Britain, France, Israel and all other states with enough cash to afford them. Imagine the kind of wars which had to be waged if we were to prevent monopolistic control of not just oil, but also grain, technology, vaccines, information, etc. Just think of the number of ships required to

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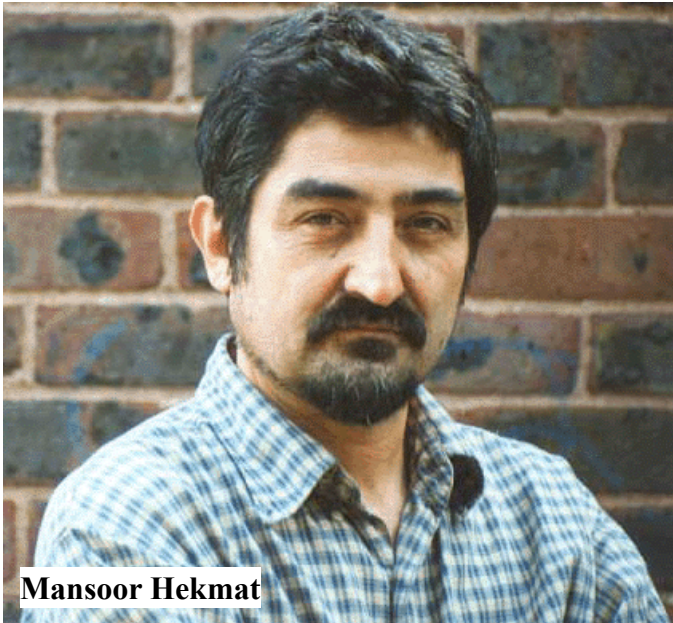
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Mansoor Hekmat

blockade all dictatorships; the number of judges and courtrooms needed to try all war criminals regardless of race, creed, nationality and table manners; the environmental cost of trying to tame all trigger-happy global and regional superpowers. And just think of the cost of it all - no Japan or Saudi Arabia could possibly cough up that much money. It would be a nightmare. Let it be. It is just safer as it is. Let us join the parade of self-deception and Euro-American jingoism. Let us share in the juvenile excitement of our overpaid 'objective journalists' and TV panel 'experts' over their real life computer war games.

Or perhaps not. Instead, we must free ourselves from their assumptions and justifications. We must look at the real issues involved. This war is not over democracy and dictatorship. Killing and maiming Iraqi people in their thousands and destroying their homes, schools and factories is indeed a sick way of liberating them from political oppression. The war has nothing to do with preventing oil-starvation of the West. There is no point in owning more oil if you do not intend to sell it. This war is not for upholding international law. In the light of the past record of the law enforcers themselves, from Hiroshima and Vietnam to Grenada and Nicaragua, such suggestions cannot be taken seriously.

These are not the real issues. These are exactly what they are: war propaganda. The main clues for understanding the real causes of this conflict are to be found in Bush's seemingly harmless allusions to a 'New World Order' and Saddam Hossein's rejected demand for a 'linkage' (between the future of Kuwait and the resolution of the Palestinian question).

The New World Order

The conflict in the Gulf is merely one manifestation of the contradictions and uncertainties in the post-Cold War international relations. With the collapse of the Soviet bloc, the old international power structure, based on the military, political and, to a lesser extent, economic, opposition of the two power blocs of East and West, also disintegrated. While the mass media and political commentators in the West rejoiced over the so-called 'collapse of communism' and promised a future of peace and harmony under the unchallenged sway of the glorious market, it was evident to anybody with a sober mind that the post-Cold War world will be ridden with serious economic, political and ideological tensions and confrontations. Western political commentary is usually focused on the volatile situation in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe, the so-called North-South divide, the environment, regional conflicts and so on - i.e. problems which supposedly originate outside the boundaries of the 'democratic' and 'civilised' West. These are indeed part of the problems that face the '90s, however, the main challenge, and the central issue in any attempt to shape a 'New Order', lies in the West itself. The collapse of the East meant also the demise of the West as its opposite pole, as a defined economic, political, military and ideological entity forged to contain and defeat the Soviet bloc after the Second World War. The old West, both as a concept and as a politico-economic reality, was erected on the basis of the hegemony, or the so-called 'leading role', of the United States. The preservation of this role, or even its extension, in the radically

transformed world of post-Cold War politics, is the essence of the American vision of the 'New World Order'.

Prior to the recent crisis in the Middle East, such a vision appeared to lack practical venues for self-realisation. The rise of Japan and West Germany as formidable economic powers, the march towards European unity and the actual reunification of Germany, the political shift in Eastern European countries in favour of the pro-market Right and, last but not least, the political and economic opening of the Soviet Union itself to the West, undermined every aspect of the old West. Not only the leading role of the US, but even the actual institutions that embodied and safeguarded US hegemony, such as NATO, appeared to become increasingly redundant. The whole American foreign policy lost its focus. Even some of the most hawkish Cold War warriors on the extreme right of American politics turned into advocates of isolationism. The crisis in the Gulf presented the US government with an opportunity to try to reverse these trends. In a recent speech to a gathering of Religious Broadcasters, George Bush spelled out US intentions in the war with astonishing clarity. The aim was to 'restore the leadership' and 'reliability' of the United States. Once this was achieved, said Bush, international problems such as the Palestinian question, could be resolved with the US 'taking a leading role'.

The United States seized the opportunity created by Iraq's invasion of Kuwait to reassert itself as a superpower. With a massive campaign of propaganda and provocation skilfully carried out by the high-tech bootlicker journalism in the West, itself a product of mass political apathy of the 80s, a new 'Evil Empire' was created overnight. A Third World country of no more than 17 million people, indebted, totally dependent on its oil exports to the West, and worn out after eight years of war with the neighbouring Iran, was portrayed as a global menace. A regional issue that would under other circumstance be

dealt with by the usual political and diplomatic pressures and gestures was blown out of all proportions into a life and death challenge for the 'civilised world'. Continental Europe hesitantly fell in line. Kohl and Mitterrand, figures of an assertive united bourgeois Europe, were pushed to the sidelines by Bush and Baker, symbols of American omnipotence. The Japanese giant was reduced to an obedient cashier. Europe was reminded of the indispensable 'leading role' of the US in the capitalist new world order.

While Iraq is the theatre of war, the central issues that are to be settled by this war lie primarily in the West. USA's show of force and 'leadership' in the Middle East is to ensure it a commanding position vis-à-vis its allies, and rivals, in the post-Cold War West; a precondition, also, for a global US supremacy. But USA's endeavour runs against the political and economic logic of the present-day capitalism, which calls for a fundamental revision of the old balance and the emergence of a new bourgeois economic and political configuration. The fragile nature of the 'Coalition', in contrast to the cohesion displayed for decades by the Western alliance in their confrontation with the Eastern bloc, underlines the historical limits of the American endeavour.

The Linkage

In the opposite trenches we find not Iraq, as a country or a political regime, but Arab nationalism as a regional force - another contestant in the struggle for shaping the New Order. This is not the old populist, anti-colonial Arab nationalism, but the banner of the post-OPEC Arab bourgeoisie. It derives its militancy not from the desperation of the Arab poor or the plight of the Palestinian people, but from the material possibilities opened to Arab bourgeois states to improve their standing in the regional and international power structure and the world economy. For long these aspirations were thwarted by the

old East-West confrontation and balance. Western influence in the Middle East rested on Israel and Iran as pillars of the policy of containment of the Soviet Union. Even pro-West Arab countries, Jordan, Saudi Arabia and later Egypt, found themselves unable to affect the same level of economic and political integration with the West that was enjoyed by Israel and Iran under the Shah and was essential for capitalist development and



technological advance. Moreover, long before its eventual collapse, it had already become evident that the Eastern bloc could not offer any framework for economic growth in the countries within its sphere of influence. But Arab states, with a total population 50 times that of Israel and vast economic resources, oil and labour, could not find a correspondingly strong voice in the world economy and international politics, as long as broader global considerations tied the West to Israel.

And here is the undeniable linkage - whether or not Arab statesmen care an iota about the plight of the Palestinian people (which they generally don't), the Palestinian question has become an index of USA's and the West's attitude toward the Arab world. Israel and the Palestinian question stand in the way of full economic and political integration of the Arab world with the West. Arabs want to be with the West 'not as slaves, but as partners', says

Arafat. Egypt attempted to achieve this objective by distancing itself from the Pan-Arabic cause and attempting a separate accommodation with Israel. The strategy failed. Militant nationalism hopes to achieve the same objective by show of strength. It is fighting the West in order to join it on more favourable terms. The initial occupation of Kuwait was a straightforward military act on the part of Iraq for its own national interests. For Iraq the best scenario would have been a quiet annexation without immediate regional repercussions. But once this was forcefully resisted by the West, exactly because of its real linkage with the future of Israel, and once a US military intervention against an Arab state became imminent, the aborted Iraqi act was embraced by militant Arab nationalism as a contribution to the broader regional cause.

It is not difficult to see why for Arab nationalism the field of action appears to have widened and why even a destructive war may still count as a political advance. The collapse of the Soviet bloc has undermined the strategic significance of Israel for the West. Sooner, rather than later, the economic and demographic realities in the region are bound to impose themselves on Western policy. The old political geography of the world is bound to be revised, as is already evident from developments in Europe, the Soviet Union, Yemen and Korea. Moreover, the international division of power between bourgeois states must be revised to take account of the new economic and political poles that have emerged outside the boundaries of the advanced capitalist zones as a result of post-war technological advance and internationalisation of capital. The rigid balance imposed and maintained by the old East-West polarisation has broken down. Emerging regional forces can hope to influence their destiny through resolute action.

Some of the objectives of militant Arab nationalism have already been realised.

Whatever the military outcome of the war, a dramatic change in the region to the detriment of Israel is already in progress. Improvements in US-Israeli relations, symbolised by the delivery of cash and missiles to Israel, will prove hard to sustain. The end of the war will also intensify Western, or at any rate European, pressures on Israel. Arab nationalism has already managed to force upon the West a recognition of the economic and political weight of the Arab world. Already the West has committed itself to far greater concessions on the Palestinian issue than it ever had. There have also been fringe benefits. In the Arab world, nationalism has regained the initiative from Pan-Islamism. Islam has been forced back to its secondary role in Arab politics, as a tool for mass mobilisation for the essentially nationalist political action. Even in Iran, the recent conflict has helped to seal the fate of the Pan-Islamic Hezbollah faction. For Iraq, it is mere survival, after having put up a respectable military resistance, would be a political, and in the long term even military, victory. US occupation of Iraq or long term American military presence in the region will definitely backfire and turn the current war into a second Vietnam for the USA, a development which is likely to lead to a split within the new Western alliance and the isolation of US from Continental Europe. Short of this, however, the position of Iraq as a leading state

in the Arab world will be consolidated after the war.

The War must be Stopped

This war must be stopped first and foremost for the barbarity that it represents. It has already claimed thousands of innocent victims. The whole idea of 'surgical' bombing is a myth. A whole country is bombed to the ground. Adults and children are killed by bombs and missiles and die of lack of water, electricity, medicine and sanitation. The horrors of this war for innocent Iraqi civilians cannot be hushed up by the Western media for long. When the facts emerge, as is gradually happening, the whole humanity will be put to shame.

This war must be stopped for the political, cultural and moral retrogression it imposes on the world as a whole. The signs are already here. Superpower military interventionism, colonial mentality, national chauvinism, racism, patriotism, religious prejudice, terrorism, and lackey journalism are some of the dark forces already unleashed by this war on both sides of the conflict. These are the real features of the so-called New World Order that is in the making.

*From Worker Today No.10, February 1991
Originally in English*

Read Mansoor Hekmat's articles here:

www.hekmat.public-archive.net

www.m-hekmat.com

Commemorating Mansoor Hekmat

(June 4, 1951 - July 4, 2002)

July 4th is anniversary of Mansour Hekmat's death. Mansour Hekmat has played a decisive role in the communist movement. His memory is always alive in our hearts and minds.



Mansoor Hekmat's bust statue in Highgate Cemetery,
Swain's Lane, London N6 6PJ

Part of Azar Majdi's speech at the "Marx-Hekmat Association" in June 2004

"The Marxism of Mansour Hekmat is different from the Marxism before him. Not only in theory in the specific sense of the word, but in general outlook and emphasis. An important achievement of Mansour Hekmat is the removal of bourgeois and petty-bourgeois distortions from Marxism, distortions that had been running wild in the society for decades. Mansour Hekmat put his finger on the main essence of Marxism: human, human liberation, human dignity, human authenticity and the excellence of human society. These are keywords. The program of "*A Better World*", which is the manifesto of worker communism, starts from here. It doesn't start with capitalism, it doesn't start with imperialism, it doesn't even go straight to the class struggle. The starting point of "*A Better World*" is human happiness and the historical hope of mankind to achieve happiness. It refers to this historical hope and ideal of mankind and immediately points to the role of mankind in changing the world. This is the essence of Mansour Hekmat's Marxism. "*Worker communism belongs to the hope and belief of countless people and successive generations that building a better future, a better world, is necessary and possible by man himself.*" "

"And finally, anyone who has had a close encounter with cancer will tell you that it sends this person on an intellectual and spiritual journey for a few days. As though your eyes are opened, your feelings and thoughts are unlocked and you once again explore all the alleys of the world and your life with amazing speed. I went thorough this journey. It was educational: re-evaluating myself and may be getting slightly closer to the truth and meaning of life. I would like to write my travel journey especially for those hundreds of dear people who embraced me and my family close by or from afar. For now, I just sincerely thank them all."

Mansour Hekmat

International Weekly No. 55, May 25, 2001

Masks are torn!

Ex-Muslims from Frying Pan to Fire!

Azar Majedi, Homa Arjomand

Maryam Namazie, Council of Ex- Muslims of Britain, (CEMB) has written a propaganda piece entitled “Azar Majedi and Homa Arjomand’s Islamist Propaganda and Morality”! The title sounds more like a right wing leaflet (from Reform Party) than a political debate, a rational critique, as one would expect from a secular, atheist organisation who claims to have left Islam on the basis of reason, rationality and science. The bigger the lie, the easier to swallow! We all know this infamous saying; a good piece of advice for the ruling class and its servants.

Let’s dwell a bit on Maryam’s claims, better characterised as accusations. “Azar Majedi and Homa Arjomand’s recent criticisms of feminists, secularists and ex-Muslims under the guise of defending the Palestinian people are worrying given their use of Islamist and pro-Islamist Left propaganda.”

Before getting into the content (I use that term loosely), let’s dissect the language and the tone: “Under the guise of defending the Palestinian people,” This sounds very conspiratorial. It’s been suggested that all our efforts, be it minimal and a drop in the ocean, are a conspiratorial plot to promote Islamism. This is what Maryam Namazie has the audacity of articulating.

They are unable to comprehend that there are still some human beings who act according to their conscience; who still have a human cause; who still act from compassion; who have still not sold their soul.

Maryam has simply gone too far. This is completely outside the “accepted” norms and rules



of political debate. This is only a piece of propaganda. We must warn her that this has already caused a great deal of backlash and will be even more damaging to her organisation, public standing and claims.

Why has Maryam Namazie lost all sense of proportion, reasoning and logic? Why has she stooped so low? The only plausible answer is that she must have felt an existential threat. Desperate times call for desperate measures. 8 months into a genocide which has been watched in real time by millions around the world on their mobile phones, Ex-Muslim had not even whispered a word against this genocide, never mind condemning it, while intensifying their usual anti-Islamic shows and

events. This is a thin rope they're walking on. People are not idiots, particularly at the time of great awakening that we are experiencing in the world. This propaganda piece is the result of a desperate act to save not only their face, but their existence.

Azar and Homa have been accused of having turned into Islamist mouth-piece apparently for using "Islamist propaganda" in their critic of Western secular entities and feminists for their total silence with regard to Gaza genocide, Israeli mass murders, bloodshed and apartheid Jewish state.

In an Open Letter, we have criticised the hypocrisy and double standards of secular institutions in the West. We have exposed that their secularism and criticism of religion is focused on Islam. Not a word against Judaism; a religion just as backward, reactionary, misogynist, anti-liberation and full of superstition. (We will definitely be met by "anti-Semite" name-calling tantrums.) We have criticised their double standard for condemning only one kind of religious state; they only condemn the Islamic state, but not a word about the Jewish state of Israel, that Netanyahu expresses with so much pride, "the only Jewish State." Even when the army of this Jewish state murders and maims Palestinian children with the words of Torah, we hear nothing! (This is not "anti-Semitism," as Maryam has accused us of being. These have been shown and expressed in Israeli TV channels and filmed by Israeli soldiers and been proudly posted on social media.)

We stated that these secular entities call themselves humanitarian, progressive and freedom-loving, promoting a free and humane society, but in the face of a historic genocide and ethnic cleansing, they have remained completely silent; some have even gone as far as condemning only Hamas and expressing sympathy for the Israelis. We called out secularists and feminists for their hypocrisy and lies; we exposed their empty

and hollow words in defence of humanity and justice. Double standard is not acceptable. Crime, oppression and injustice must be condemned in any form and shape; it is not optional. For these solid reasons, we stated that these movements and organisations lack any political, social and moral principles.

We leave it to the fairness of our readers' minds to judge whether this statement is Islamist, pro-Islamist movement and regime. But such accusation, to state the truth, has brought both laughter, as it sounds so comical; and grief to us, as it is always sad to see people fall, especially so low. (Our Open Letter to the Secular Entities of the West is published in this issue.)

Moreover, Homa Arjomand has criticised Ex-Muslim for organising a secularist conference in December 2023, two months into the genocide in Gaza carried out by a Jewish state, with total silence over the genocide in Gaza. No mention of Judaism or the Jewish state, only Islam, Islamic movement and regime were on the agenda. Not even a word of compassion or a minute of silence for Palestinians in this international secularist conference. Maryam pretends not to have understood the point of criticism.

We have also exposed the hypocrisy of Richard Dawkins, who has been risen to the image of God of the godless, who is openly promoting Christian culture and expresses gratitude for Christian missionaries who fight Muslim missionaries in Africa. Is it unfair to say he's promoting a modern crusade? It should be mentioned that Dawkins is one of the main funder and moral supporter of Ex-Muslims.

You can't save your conscience from the shame and your ruined reputation by throwing accusations. After eight months of twenty-four-hour genocide in Gaza; After the killing of about fifty thousand people, more than fifteen thousand of whom are children; After maiming and orphaning thousands of children; After completely destroying Gaza, hospitals, universities, schools

and any urban infrastructure; After famine and water cut off nearly two million people; After all international "human rights" organisations condemned Israel's genocide; After millions of people around the world took to the streets for eight months; After an international movement for justice and freedom for the people of Gaza and the Palestinians and the condemnation of Israel and its Western allies led by the United States, has come to the fore, you finally mentioned the word genocide and condemned it; but within the context of the Western/Israeli narrative. Supposedly this is "a religious –ethnic war" fought between Israel and Hamas." (The Central Council of Ex-Muslim has refused to use the word genocide. Their position is similar to the position of Netanyahu or Anthony Blinken's office.)

CEMB has been silent for eight months and now that a significant part of the ruling class in the West and a part of Netanyahu's own cabinet have started criticising him, putting up a show of "moderation", getting ready for throwing Netanyahu under the bus when the time comes, it has entered the scene with the narrative of these opportunistic critics of the genocide. The false narrative of Hamas and Israel are involved in this war and it is apparently "an ethnic-religious war"! This analysis is completely irrelevant to history, truth on the ground, and humanity. It is in fact Ex-Muslims who have hidden themselves under the monster of political Islam and are spreading the narrative of Israel and America about this genocide for the benefit of Israel.

Moreover, if you claim that this is an ethno-religious war, do you agree that Israel is a religious regime that has been imposing ethnic and religious apartheid on the Palestinian people? Or does the ethnic and religious aspect only apply to the Palestinians that you have so generously handed over to Hamas? You must certainly be aware that in America and Canada in recent months several real estate meetings have been organised at the Israeli Embassy or Jewish

Synagogues for the sale of seized land in the West Bank? The meeting is only open to white western Jews. One such meeting was held just some days ago in a synagogue in Los Angeles, where a large demonstration was organised in front of it, which was met with brutal violence by the police and pro-Israeli thugs. (This is not "anti-Semitism!" The news is accessible for those who have not buried their heads in the sand.)

We criticised Ex-Muslim for its position not only with regard to Israeli genocide, but also about their *raison d'être*. Ex-Muslim has been created to serve as a weapon against Islam and what is classified as "Islamism" in the hands of Western state terrorism and Israel; a piece of puzzle of the "Clash of Civilisations". This is why they were created and this has been their project from their inception.

Fuel for Extreme-Right

At present, Ex-Muslim is playing in the hands of right wing and fascist movement, in the latter's anti-immigrant, anti-refugee, and anti-Muslim propaganda. It is adding fuel to their hatemongering propaganda at the time of a surge in extreme-right and fascist movement, by calling to protest against the threat of Islamic terrorism in the West after a policeman was killed in Germany by a young man from Afghanistan. Azar Has been called a mouthpiece of "Islamist", a scaremonger and deceitful for warning against the threat of rise of fascism in Europe, the threat against immigrants, refugees, Muslims and people from the Middle East. Azar has warned that this time fascists will go after Muslims.

We don't have to look far to feel the threat of fascism in Europe. Look at the EU parliamentary election, Netherland, Portugal and UK; already in Italy and Sweden fascists are in the government. Most Eastern European countries are under far right governments with an extremely racist culture. The attack on civil liberties in the past years is incredibly alarming. The shift to the right is so strong and so obvious. Just look at the way refugees are treated all over Europe! Don't you

find these alarming? It's incomprehensible as why one would deny this naked truth. Is it Islamist to point to the threat of fascism in the West? Is it Islamist to say the hatemongering climate of today can create Muslim Ghettos in near future? Name calling is all there is: "Islamist, anti-Semite!"

Balance of Power or Blasphemy

Maryam Namazie has stated that we consider "US-led militarism to be a greater threat" than Islamists, and have judged this as an "alarming position." First, we have never formulated or proposed such a position. Our position is that the Western state terrorism under the leadership of the US is the greatest danger to the world peace, prosperity and humanity. In the past 30 years, the US, the West and Israel have practically ruined the Middle East; killed millions, displaced millions more; have wiped out any sign of civility in big parts of the Middle East, not to mention Africa and Latin America.

The West with Israel have created the Islamic terrorist movement and unleashed its monstrous force on the people of the region*, and then under the pretext of "war against terror" (the terror that they created themselves) have bombed the region to ruins. And this war is going on, and the new phase of it is the genocide in Gaza, with the aim of total cleansing of Gaza of its native Palestinian population; and probable expansion of the war.

It is documented that Islamic regime came to power in Iran as a result of regime change led by the US, in the discourse of the time, creation of a green belt against the Soviet Union; Mujahideen in Afghanistan, Taliban and Al-Qaida were created by the US; Hamas by Israel; later ISIS by US, UK and Israel.

But the question is why does judging the Western state terrorism as a greater threat, sound alarming to you? Do you really believe that Islamic terrorism has the same weight and power of state terrorism in the international geopolitics?

Let's assume, for the sake of the argument that the whole Islamic movement is standing with the Islamic regime of Iran, against the so-called "US-led militarism"; is the power of this Islamic alliance comparable to the power of NATO? Put this statement in front of a teenager who is new to politics and they will laugh.

Look at the wars and destructions, genocides and massacres, tons and tons of bombs dropped on a whole country, and murderous sanctions imposed on a whole population, in the last thirty years; compare the destructive and criminal power of these two poles. A sense of proportion is a good thing to have. To fight the enemy, you don't need to present it more powerful than it really is. The crimes of the Islamic Republic and the Islamic Movement do not need aggrandisement. In order to bring down the Islamic Regime, to organise a socialist revolution, we do not need to make the Islamic Republic look bigger and stronger than it is. This tactic will backfire.

Are such positions due to ignorance about the political situation in the world, the history of the war in the Middle East and the formation of Israel, the history of 100 years and especially the last seventy-five years of the Palestinian question and the occupation, repression and genocide committed by Israel? Is it due to ignorance about what happened in the Middle East in the past 30 years, not even further back, and the complete destruction of Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Libya, and Palestine and more widely in Africa? Or, is there a political agenda behind these absurd statements and right-wing propaganda? Obviously the latter is the reason for this nonsensical piece of propaganda.

We have been accused of belonging to Islamic movement, simply because we disagree on the size and scale of two political forces. We consider the Islamic movement to be weaker than what Ex-Muslim presents them to be. They believe that political Islam is a greater danger than state terrorism. Hamas is apparently more dangerous than Israel. We disagree with this opinion.

Therefore, we have been accused of supporting political Islam.

It is ridiculous! On the one hand, the Islamic movement is so weak that it can be pushed back by protesting naked, drinking alcohol, dancing and singing in front of places attributed to Islam.



And on the other hand, it is stronger than Western powers, Israel, America, and NATO. Thus, a greater threat to the world, the West and the region!

This perception and analysis simply doesn't make any sense. The process by which they have reached such conclusion is totally unclear. This is a baseless statement and their action is contradictory to their statement. Unfortunately, the entire writing and all that is presented as facts and arguments are incoherent and full of contradictions.

Moreover, in a world without superstitions and free from certain material and political interests, the issue of the weight and power of a certain movement can be the subject of a logical dialogue. This political disagreement can be discussed; the strength and weight of this force can be disputed. God's word has not been

violated, blasphemy has not been committed. But since Ex-Muslim's aim is defending Israel, this analysis about the weight, power and real extent of the danger of the Islamic movement in the West in the current situation has turned into an accusation. Such a position completely negates any wisdom and logic. It expresses superstition.

The real meaning of superstition is the denial of science and logic and holding beliefs without a scientific or real basis. They have swallowed so many superstitions, propaganda and false narratives of Israel and Western ideologues that they don't seem to realise their own contradictions and double standards.

What about Hamas?

Since we do not condemn Hamas in the Gaza genocide; (Just as we did not condemn Palestinian forces in the previous Israeli genocides in Palestine, for example PLO, despite our deep criticisms of the organisation) we have been accused of supporting political

Islam. This is what Netanyahu, Joe Biden, George Schultz, Rishi Sunak and Emmanuel Macron say. This is what the mainstream media, CNN and BBC and German and French TV are parroting; Israeli and American spokespersons such as Piers Morgan and Ben Shapiro and famous secularists, such as, Richard Dawkins, Sam Harris and Bill Marr shout.

There is no depth in this argument, because there is no analysis behind it. It is a false narrative of the historical facts. Such an argument cannot be taken seriously, especially from such an organisation. Resorting to such low and superficial methods is an expression of desperation more than anything else.

We have talked a lot about the role of Hamas in Palestine and the relationship between Hamas and Israel. (In Persian, with which Maryam is

familiar.) However, it is necessary to explain our position for those unfamiliar with it.

Hamas is a reactionary, cruel and corrupt organisation that has been created by Israel with the aim of dividing the Palestinian resistance movement. Following the motto of “divide and rule”, Israel funded and helped create Hamas in 1987, 3 years after the Washington conference on Islamic terrorism, organised by Netanyahu. Ever since its creation, Hamas has received millions and millions of dollars from US-backed states such as Qatar. There are recordings of Netanyahu as late as 2019 that he insists on financial support for Hamas as a security tool for Israel. There are so many documents, recordings from Israeli and US politicians who state how Israel and US have kept Hamas alive and kicking.

As far as 7th of October is concerned, first, Egypt had informed the Israelis some time before of the plot; second, Gaza is a concentration camp under 24 hour complete surveillance, so not a bird can fly in Gaza without being detected, and it is said that the 7th October operation was being prepared for a year; how is it possible for the Israeli security service not to have discovered the plot? Third, some of the released hostages and some Israeli servicemen have given testimony to the fact that some of the hostages were killed by Israeli army; the recent evidence exposed in Israeli TV, reveals that Israel has been aware and complicit from the beginning.*

Besides, according to International laws, Israel does not have the right to defend itself against Gaza, as Gaza is an occupied land. Military actions from Gaza against Israel are considered self-defence against occupation.

Therefore, not only us, but also the international laws don't condemn Hamas for the genocide in Gaza. Hamas was elected as the government of Gaza in an internationally supervised and manipulated election. So, as the government of an occupied land Hamas, Islamic or otherwise, has the right to defend itself. This is International

Law, not our invention. In a similar way, the left, the progressive movement of the time never condemned actions taken by ANC during the apartheid era.

However, we condemn Hamas for crime and repression against Palestinians, for its corruption and theft, for siding and aiding the force of oppression and murder. Hamas is a reactionary and brutal organisation, and it should be exposed for its crimes which does not include genocide.

Acts of terrorism against the civilian population has always been condemned by us, from whatever organisation for whatever purpose. But this does not mean that you condemn the resistance movement for the crimes of the occupier, the oppressor.

Double standard

When CEMB are criticised, for their silence in regard to Judaism (versus other religions) and the Jewish state of Israel, and when their double standards are exposed, they throw a tantrum and call us “anti-Semites”. This is hypocrisy, pure and simple. Apparently, criticizing Judaism, the Jewish religious establishment and Israel is an anti-Semitic act. This, coming from supposed Secularists. What does this remind you of? The deafening and disgusting propaganda of the BBC, CNN, Western governments, Biden and Blinken, George Schultz and Rishi Sunak and Starmer, Piers Morgan and Ben Shapiro. These tactics are all used to demonise and shut down discourse and legitimate support for Palestinians (what Maryam calls a guise).

When CEMB is told that their provocative tactics, such as naked protests and drinking alcohol in front of places attributed to Muslims, not only provoke Muslims, but also demonises and degrades them, they reply that Azar and Homa stand with the Islamic Republic and “use the propaganda and moral ethics of Islamists”. Why does our mere criticism of their superficial protests become equal to Islamist support? Have

the realms of political discourse become so diluted and reactionary or are we again face to face with Maryam's inability to form a coherent argument of any substance.

It is interesting that after a lesson about freedom of speech and the right to criticise religion in any form, Maryam calls Azar an anti-Semite for revealing horrifying actions of a synagogue **. Maryam again cannot pick and choose where criticism of religions and their institutions is free speech.

In criticising the call to Iranians for an anti-Islamic march, Azar Majedi has criticised Mina Ahadi (Founder of the Council of Ex-Muslims) for targeting the Afghan society. Azar stated that this call will not only make the atmosphere very difficult and dangerous for the people, especially young Afghan men and the people of the region, in Germany, but it will also have destructive and dangerous effects on the situation of Afghans in Iran. We warned about the harsh and brutal situation of Afghans in Iran and the violence and oppression of the Islamic regime and anti-Afghan racism inherent in Iranian nationalism. If we apply Maryam and Ex-Muslim's method of arguing, their action coincides with the actions of the Islamic regime with regard to the Afghan community.

Freedom of Speech, Freedom of Criticism

Maryam Namazie writes: "Azar says she is in favour of unconditional freedom of speech, but (the same famous but) don't provoke people." Azar has always stated that she defends the unconditional freedom of expression. This is a principle of the programme of "A Better World", our programme. The right to unconditional freedom of speech is a legal-political relationship between the citizen and the state, not two citizens. This states that you should be entitled to an unconditional freedom of speech and expression without the state and police interference; and Azar has the right to criticise your words and deeds without the intervention of the state and the police. Azar is exercising her

right here: criticizing your provocative and hostile methods, humiliating and demonising a part of society, jeopardising their status and security of life.

We sincerely ask: Do you really think about the effects of your "fast defying" protest techniques during month of Ramadan on the children and youth of the Muslim community? When you protest Ramadan and Islam by drinking alcohol and smoking in front of places that are associated with Muslims and Islam, what effects do you think you may have on these children and youth? When you put alcohol and cigarettes as alternative to fasting, what education do you give to these teenagers and young people? How do you enlighten them to a better belief system or ideology? How do you help them question their superstition and reach reason and rationality? What superstition do you break and what truth or wisdom do you replace it with?

These are real questions. Have you ever thought about them? As a person who believes that she has left Islam due to knowledge, reason and wisdom and wants to enlighten other ignorant people, these questions should be deeply thought of and analysed before making any move. But, following the pattern of Maryam's thought and reasoning in her writing, it is clear that these questions have not even crossed her mind. The only motivation is the love for provocation.

The irony is that if you put drinking and smoking in comparison to fasting, not only in front of every doctor and healthcare practitioner, but in front of every person with common sense, they will be surprised that someone finds drinking and smoking wiser, more beneficial, rational or reasonable choice compare to fasting. Now do you realise how superficial your campaigns, analyses and propaganda are, without a bit of reflection and sometimes very harmful?

In the end, we regretfully announce that Maryam's article is an outstanding example of inability to analyse, apply logic and reasoning, and respect for facts and truth. It is a political propaganda piece. During the genocide in Gaza, Ex-Muslims have

come under extreme scrutiny for their silence and words, inactions and activities, especially from the Iranian community, one of their main areas of influence, because of their Iranian origins.

Ex-Muslims' situation is very precarious; because in order to be effective and to influence opinions and socio-political climate, they have to enjoy a degree of credibility as an authentic organisation which presents a "progressive voice" against Islam. They have been exposed. The masks have been ripped. The left, progressive, humane, freedom-loving individuals and organisations regard them as a mouthpiece of the Western ruling class and their agenda. The shame of defending Israel in genocide will never be washed away.

And we'll finish it with a sincere message: You have the power, we have the people. One chooses their path either for material gains, or according

to their conscious. You're on the wrong side of history.

*Just as the article was being published an important fact was exposed by Israel daily Haaretz English. Haaretz has published leaked documents that prove what some independent journalists were stating all along, that Hannibal act was implemented by Israeli army on 7th of October; meaning many of the hostages or Israeli soldiers were killed by Israel.

**Her references for fact checks are mainstream media that have lied through their teeth about the genocide in Gaza and defended Israel unwaveringly. So many facts that were regarded as conspiracy theories by the ruling class have now been proven and found their way into mainstream media. These references might be convincing for those who lack any sense of questioning and critic, those who swallow whatever the ruling class, including the mainstream media tell them, but has no relevance to our discussion. Just mention in passing that you don't need to look too far to find out the truth about Soros. He was a Jewish Nazi collaborator in Hungary, during the war. Even The Jerusalem Post has reported it.

War on Gaza: Death toll from Israeli assault could exceed 186,000, Lancet warns

Letter published by experts in the British medical journal estimated that some 10,000 people could still be buried in the rubble in Gaza



Do We Stand on the Side of Justice or Genocide?

History will judge us all!

25 January 2024

There are moments in history that actions and words become epoch making; and let me add to that our silence becomes so poignant that it pierces our hearts and minds. Today is that moment. As all humane, freedom-loving, compassionate and principled people have spoken loud and clear against the genocide in Gaza, and condemned unequivocally Israel and its Western allies, the secularist movement in the West at best has said nothing or at worst only defended Israeli's lives.

If in the 1930s one could claim they were unaware of the genocide being carried out; there is no such excuse for us now, as for the first time in history we are watching genocide unfold on our screens in real time. There's no excuse.

How can one who claims to defend "a freer and fairer society", and believes that secularism is "a vital principle that upholds freedoms and protects human rights and fosters a fair and open society" watch the murder of small children in real life on screen and say nothing, do nothing. This is the worst form of hypocrisy! So blatant that it has ripped off the veil of civility, fairness, humanity completely.

How can one who prides oneself on fairness, reason and compassion watch a whole society crumble to rubble; watch hospitals being bombed and babies left behind in incubators; 350 schools and 4 universities bombed to smithereens, and say nothing and do nothing. It is now over 100 days where 30,000 people, 10,000 of whom are children have been shot, bombed and starved yet you still say nothing. This is so self-defeating. You have lost all credibility.

How can you as a secularist only criticise or attack one religion but not the other, one religious movement and not the other, one religious state and not the other? What happened to the fairness you are promoting? Your allegiances are clear and obvious.

In the past 2 decades hundreds of pages have been written and hundreds of speeches have been made criticising Islam and shredding it to pieces. Islamic movements and their terrorism have been condemned over and over. The Islamic states the same. That is definitely positive. However, not one criticism of Judaism has been made or of the Jewish state of Israel and their murdering of Palestinians with the words and symbols of the Torah as the guiding motivation. None whatsoever.

How can one explain this discrepancy, this double standard, but to call it what it is? It's hypocrisy and a fabricated narrative for a clear political and ideological agenda. The genocide in Gaza has exposed all these movements and institutions that were wearing a mask of humanity and progressive values as frauds who were only actors in the US led Western state terrorism which now after more than 2 decades has been responsible for millions of deaths, millions more injured and disabled and millions displaced in the Middle East. Not to forget that all these monstrous Islamic movements which are tearing the region apart are creations of the US and the West; from the Islamic regime in Iran to Mujaheddin, Taliban, Al Qaida, Hamas, and Daesh.

One needs just to move back and look at the bigger picture to see how this narrative works and how it's been part and parcel of the 21st century destruction of the Middle East. The point of consistency that we as Secularists should all abide by is that we cannot be all guns blazing and rightfully condemn one side whilst remaining completely silent in the face of the other. The face of Genocide staring us in the eyes every single day.

Azar Majedi- Chair of Organisation for Women's Liberation

Homa Arjomand- Coordinator of the International Campaign for One Secular School System & Coordinator of the International Campaign Against Sharia Court in Canada

Tarnishing well-known Communists

The depth of desperation of the Islamic regime

On the falsification and distortion of Azar Majdi's interview

Azar Majdi

April 10, 2024

www.azadizan.org

Pro Islamic regime's journal in Iran, "Mashreq" has made a crafty one-minute clip, in which it has put together two different parts of my interview with Mahmoud Ahmadi, Didar TV, aiming at distorting my words and intention for their own ends. The TV interview was with Jalil Behrooz and myself about the conference "Genocide in Gaza, Where Does the Women's Rights Movement Stand?"

The Islamic regime has tried to insinuate that I accuse the left, workers movement and the women's liberation movement in Iran of receiving financial aid from Western governments and "democracy" institutions. This is completely false. If one listens to the original interview, these two pieces belong to two different places and the donation piece is related to feminist and secular organisations in the West.

This farce only shows the misery and desperation of the Islamic regime against the left, workers, women's liberation and progressive movements which are fighting against the regime and have gained great momentum. The regime has lost control over the situation to such an extent that it is fabricating documents to both use a well-known revolutionary communist and an atheist to disrepute the left revolutionary movement in Iran and to tarnish the good name of revolutionary communists.

The regime is mistaken. Its malicious intentions are clear for everybody to see, its desperation obvious and its misery comic.

This is not the first time that the Islamic regime has falsified my words. A few years ago I took part in a BBC Persian TV programme about the concept of "overthrow" and the Islamic regime. In this programme, the Berlin conference and Akbar Ganji were discussed. I announced that Akbar Ganji is a partner in the crimes of the Islamic regime and must be tried for crime against humanity. (he was a leading member of the Islamic regime since inception. In the era of reform talk, he assumed a quasi- opposition figure. He later came abroad.) After broadcasting the programme, BBC faced Akbar Ganji's protest and censored this piece of my talk. Saeed Arman from Partow TV interviewed me about this censorship. The regime broadcast the censored part of my talk and a part of Saeed Arman's interview with me on TV, with a clear intention of ridiculing its right wing opposition.

Another time, a part of my speech at the conference of the Women's Liberation Organization in Sweden about the women's liberation movement, in which I mentioned Masih Alinejad and her role, first as the stooge of the Islamic regime and now as the stooge of the Western powers as a tool of regime change, was broadcast on regime's TV. In these both cases, Islamic regime is trying to use the words of a well-known left activist to expose its right wing opposition.

These three episodes only show that the worker-communist movement is rooted in Iran. Communism is popular. If our words had no listeners; if our words did not touch the hearts; if our faces did not bring hope to people, the Islamic regime would not have thought of falsifying our words. The Islamic regime is by nature shrewd and cunning. However, it is now stuck in a bad predicament and beats its head against the wall. With this distortion, the Islamic regime has shot itself in the foot. Using a communist, (whose enmity with the Islamic regime is well-known) to crush people's protest movement, will be detrimental to the regime.



Pro Islamic regime's journal in Iran
"Mashreq"

A snap shot in history!

Let's get to know the Council of Ex-Muslims Germany

Susan Lari



5 "freedom heroes"



Mina Ahadi with Heiko Maas, German Federal
Minister of Foreign Affairs



Mina Ahadi with Richard Grenell US ambassador in
Germany



Mina Ahadi and Vitali Klischko, Mayor of Kyiv-

The Council of Ex-Muslims portrays itself as defender of freedom. It claims that taking part in conferences and occasions organised by governments and the mainstream media is part of its activities in order to highlight the plight of people in Iran. It sides itself with right wing organisations and political figures. What it conceals is that the western governments, ambassadors, and mass media welcome Ex-Muslim's policies because it is in alignment with their values.

Mina Ahadi, Founder of the Council of Ex-Muslims in Germany, together with 4 other people were honoured as "*Freedom Heroes*" by the German BILD newspaper and the German state, in September 2019.

A look at what "BILD", the German government and the national and international "dignitaries" celebrated in 2019, reveals a lot about how the Ex-Muslim is playing in the hands of the West. The occasion in Germany, celebrated 5 activists and their achievements. All 5, although engaged in different political areas, have one thing in common: The support

of Western governments for their political goals. As far as the Ex-Muslim's aims are concerned, one can ask these questions: What would you ask the US ambassador in Germany to do regarding the struggle of people in Iran? Why would the US ambassador care about people of Iran? What demands would you have from the German minister for foreign affairs? One could be optimistic and argue that any pressure from these governments would advance people's struggle. However one would be transparently ignorant to use this argument to hide the fact that these governments and mainstream media have their own agenda of possible "regime change" in Iran. Any points or reliance given to the Western or other governments and institutions weakens the revolutionary struggle of the people in Iran.

A snap shot in history reveals the dangerous route the Ex-Muslim in Germany has been taking. One needs to open ones eyes!

Let's examine who these 5 "Freedom Heroes" were:

1- Mina Ahadi, Founder of the Council of Ex-Muslims Germany

2- Vitali Klitschko, Mayor of Kyiv-Ukrain, Member of "International Republican Institute" linked to the US Republican Party and US government.

3- Raed al-Saleh , the head of "White Helmets", Syria Civil Defence founded in 2013. Members of this organisation were militarily trained in Turkey by James Gustaf Le Mesurier, a previous captain of the British army. He worked with United Nations operations in Kosovo and was advisor to the US embassy in Bagdad. The training of the "white Helmets" by Le Mesurier was funded by US, British and Japanese governments. According to Aaron Mate, a reputable journalist who has won awards, "White Helmets also partnered with sectarian death squads in Syria, including Al Qaeda, which both the US and Israel armed." "The White Helmets were also heavily implicated in the staged Douma chemical attack, and other fake chemical weapons allegations against the Syrian government."

4- Joshua Wang, political activist who had a meeting with Nancy Pelosi (Speaker of the US House of representatives) in 2019 to demand US government to ratify "legislation on human rights and democracy in Hong Kong.

5- Michael Khodorkovsky, Capitalist and oligarch industrialist opposing Putin.

One thing especially was proved by the Commune, viz., that "the working class cannot simply lay hold of the ready-made state machinery, and wield it for its own purposes."

Preface to the 1872 German Edition of the Communist Manifesto



Report:

www.wrmagainstgenocide.com

Campaign:

“Genocide in Gaza, Where Does the Women’s Rights Movement Stand?”

An online conference entitled *"Where does the Gaza Genocide Conference and the Women's Rights Movement stand?"* was held on 25th March 2024, with the participation of 12 women's rights activists from the countries of Syria, Lebanon, Iran, Algeria, Palestine-West Bank, Sweden, Caucasus, Canada, and France. **Evelyn Accad** the founder of shelter for homeless mothers and children, resident of Lebanon; **Homa Arjamand**, the International Coordinator of Campaign for One Secular School System from Iran, resident of Canada; **Chafia Outerbah** feminist Laique- Secretary General of INSERM, resident of France, **Soad Baba Aissa**, feminist Laique from France; **Aoucicha Bekhti** women's rights activist from Algeria, **Helale Taheri**, the executive director of Middle Eastern Women and Society Organisation from Iran, who lives in England; **Dalala AbdelGani**, Palestinian writer who lives in Sweden; **Buthina Canaan Khoury** Palestinian filmmaker who lives in the West Bank; **Keto Kurtskhalis**, the head of the Caucasus Feminist Institute, **Azar Majedi**, the head of the Organization for Women's Liberation from Iran; **Maria Hagberg**, writer and activist for women's rights - Sweden

Buthina, one of the Palestinian activists of the campaign has sent us this report:

Greetings to friends and comrades

I am Buthina, one of the campaign activists from the West Bank of Palestine. I help 31 families in the Gaza Strip with different needs. So far, with great difficulty, together with other activists, we have been able to deliver materials such as flour, dry beans, clothes, dry milk, sanitary items and medicine to the families.

We initially started with a mother named "Masia" who has 2 children and her children needed diapers and milk, but soon we were introduced to "Sam" a father with 4 children. His sick daughter was in dire need of medicine and it was not possible to get it in Gaza. Then a third family was added to this list, a grandfather named "Mahir". He is now the guardian of his five grandchildren. He lost his son and his son's wife in two rain bombs and could not provide food and clothes for his grandchildren. The surviving five-month-old grandson urgently needs formula milk, diapers and medicine. Then the fourth family was introduced to us. He is a 30-year-old young man named "Omar" who takes care of his 68-year-old mother and sister. They lost their house due to bombings and were forced to flee to the south. They need a tent to sleep in and basic necessities such as a plastic container to drink water. In addition to this, the fifth family, who live in one of Philip's 2 churches,

while fleeing from the soldiers, his mother fell to the ground and broke her hip. Now she is on the ground with a lot of pain. He urgently needs money to take her to the hospital for treatment. The price of flour reaches \$1,200 for each 20 kg bag. It is impossible for people to have bread let alone paying 5000 euros for medical treatment.

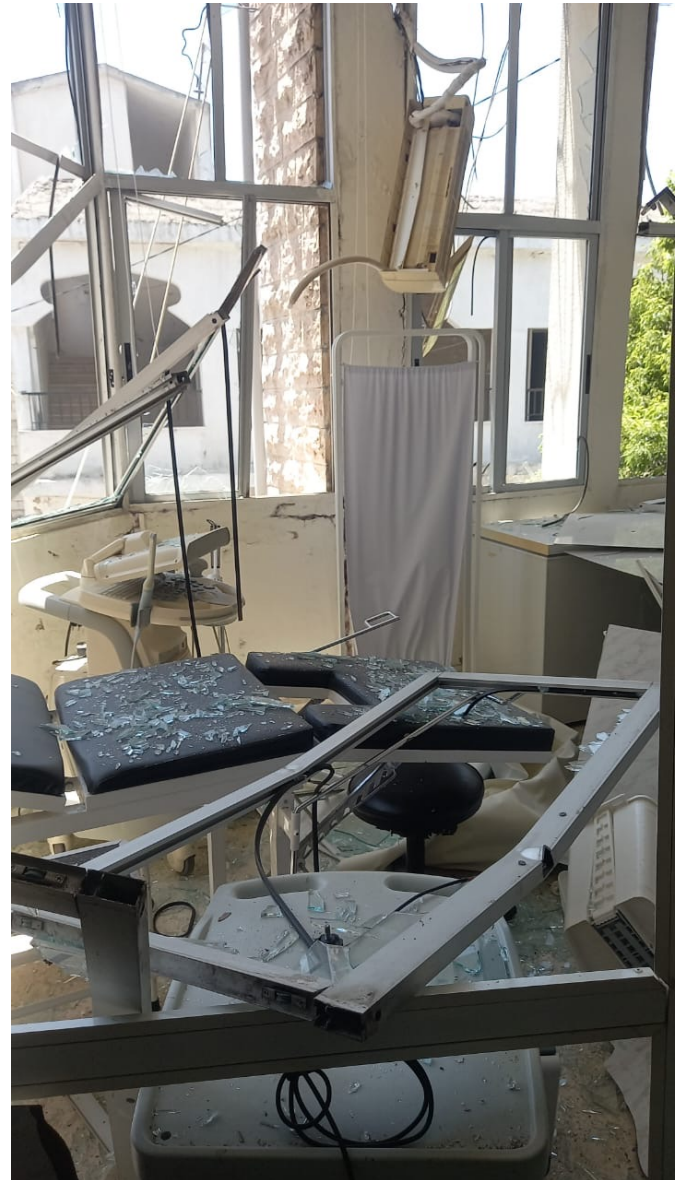
The families in need visit us more and more every day. But our facilities are very limited. From which family should we say, from the young pregnant woman who gave birth to her baby while running away from the city of Rafah and wrapped him in her bloody and flowery clothes? or from the three children who are hungry and thirsty without a guardian, tired and worried? From those from north Gaza who have been given shelter with us, with the help of Dr. Ahmed? It is better to end my report to dear Homa with Dr. Ahmad's biography. He worked for free in one of the northern hospitals during the whole period of the genocide and could not see his three children during this time. He could not prepare food for them. He roughly knows how many times his children have fled from one place to another along with his wife. Even another doctor cannot help his children. He says that the entire north of Gaza is in complete famine. Any donation, no matter how small, is better than nothing.



www.wrماغainstgenocide.com

A report from one of the activists of the campaign in Lebanon:

Dear Homa, I am sending you a message that I recently received from our outstanding humanitarian friend, Dr. Kamel Mohanna, President and Director of Amel International Association, General Coordinator, Réseau des ONG libanaises et arabes. He was in charge of two health institutions in the south of Lebanon, but unfortunately these two institutions were identified by Israel and were bombed. Photos below show the devastation.



Solidarity with people of Palestine

A statement sent to the Campaign from SI COBAS, Italy



www.cobas.it

Dear brothers and sisters from Palestine,

SI Cobas, a rank-and-file union in Italy, which organises mostly immigrant workers, many from Arab countries, is participating in, and organising marches and events in solidarity with the Palestinian people, against the genocidal attack on Gaza by the Israeli army, against the Italian government's support to the Zionist government, and for the end of the three generations-old oppression on your people.

We support your appeal to boycott the delivery of weapons to Israel, which would be used against the Palestinian people. According to SIPRI, Italy is the third major supplier of arms to Israel, the main such supplier being the government-controlled Leonardo military group.

Being a major union in the logistic sector, SI Cobas workers will oppose any shipping of weapons to Israel which they become aware of.

We are convinced that a just solution of the Palestinian question will not come from the big powers or the capitalist governments of the region, but can only come from the joint struggle of the workers of the Middle East, all ethnicities and religions included, with the support from the workers of the whole world.

When this united struggle comes, it will be *“a lever for the liberation of all dispossessed and exploited people of the world”*.

Milano, 17 October, 2023

SI Cobas

International Solidarity Committee



The statement of the Campaign published in weblog of SI CABS sister feminist organisation, Pungolorosso, Italy

Report of SI COBAS

At the Port of Genoa Against Rearmament and Genocide

Paralysed port, traffic jams, enormous damage and delays for shipowners and terminal operators: a day of struggle that points the way for class opposition to rearmament and war economy. Yesterday, Tuesday 25 June, the port gates San Benigno, Albertazzi, Etiopia and Lungomare Canepa in Genoa, Italy's most important port, were simultaneously blocked for almost 10 hours with endless queues of lorries, while other hundreds of people headed towards Terminal Messina (de facto blocked by the anti-riot police trucks) completely paralysing the already jammed traffic with a resolute procession that crossed the Sampierdarena and Cornigliano city districts and then expressed all its justified anger outside the offices of Leonardo SPA, the main Italian arms manufacturer.

This initiative succeeded in causing real damage to the bosses directly responsible for supporting Israel's genocidal apparatus, to the owners of the ships that transport death between Genoa and the ports of Haifa and Ashdod, to the terminal owners who called for and supported Italian military intervention in the Red Sea.



Demonstration and blockade in Genoa

Along with the GPIs (the Young Palestinians' association), the Arab and Palestinian communities, the dockworkers, the students who have animated the encampments and university occupations in recent weeks, and the hundreds of other anti-militarist and anti-capitalist comrades present, there were also many Si Cobas logistics workers on strike yesterday 25 June for the renewal of the National Contract.

While other warehouses throughout Italy were being picketed and in Naples the demonstration pushed its way into the police-guarded City Council in solidarity with the workers of the Thermal Spa who have been without pay for months, it was important that a strong working-class component also participated in the Genoa initiative, to link the workplace struggle to the opposition to imperialist wars, from Ukraine to the Middle East, and to the Meloni government, the expression of a concentric and relentless attack on the proletariat and on the viability of social struggles: SI Cobas delegations came to Genoa from Turin, Milan, Pavia, Modena, Bologna, Rome and Naples (with the latter also the 7 November Unemployed Movement).

When we say that 'the enemy is at home' or that 'the war starts here' we mean that the war must be sabotaged consists in acting concretely - attacking the profits of the Italian bosses and blocking the neuralgic centres of production and logistics in our country.

Yesterday's successful initiative in Genoa is not meant to remain in the annals of the movement but must become a practical indication of battle and hard, determined struggle.

At a brisk pace, forward!

SI Cobas - Italy



Oil workers on strike in Iran

Jalil Behrooz
10 July 2024



More than 20,000 oil and gas contract workers, from about 123 companies, have been on strike since 20th June 2024 in several oil refineries in south Iran.

The struggle and basic demands of the workers known as the 14-14 campaign are: Increasing wages, reducing working hours, 14 days of work for 14 days of rest, improving working conditions and safety, ending the horrible situation of dormitories, eliminating discrimination and safeguarding job security.

Workers are demanding the dismantling of the contract system and that they be employed by the companies rather than agencies. The workers spend weeks at the work place in remote areas away from their families. Some dormitories where workers live for long time before taking time off to see their families, have no air-conditioning and are dirty. At some sites the contractors have threatened to fire striking workers. Job insecurity is at its lowest even when there are no strikes. Now, workers are faced with even more risk of losing their jobs.

Islamic regime of Iran has implemented the policy of agency work and privatisation in the oil industry. It has contracted out parts of production

and services to private companies. Workers are recruited by agencies that take no action about working conditions. The employers, have free hand in sacking workers or inflicting harsh working rules and conditions. By adopting this policy, the oil, gas and petrochemical industry workers (called contract project workers) are forced to take their grievances to the agencies instead of the direct employers. Workers are pushed in a position not to unite for their rights. Lowering wages and work instability is the order of the day for many project workers.

Despite all the rules and imposition of harsh employment and work conditions, workers have gone on strike.

Your full support is needed for oil and gas projects contract workers. This is our duty to support workers who strive and fight for a better and decent human life!

Undoubtedly, every step forward for the oil and gas contract project workers is a step forward for the whole working class in Iran.

It is the duty of the whole society to support the strike and the rightful demands of oil and gas project workers in every possible way.

Julian Assange is free!



Tribune
July 7, 2024

After five years and two months of imprisonment in the most secure prison in England, in a medieval dungeon, and seven years of sheltering in the Embassy of Ecuador, Julian Assange, the Australian journalist who has exposed US crimes in Afghanistan, Iraq, Guantanamo Bay and in the Middle East, was released.

The irony of history is where criminals walk freely and rule the world; Not only were they not punished for their crimes, they were also rewarded. But the one who disclosed the crimes was persecuted, harassed and imprisoned. They planned to give him 175 years in prison in America. But an international movement for the release of Julian Assange was formed. In the last five years that Assange has been in prison, this movement has become much wider and more militant. Finally, facing this movement, especially in the current dangerous situation and the presence of a huge movement against the genocide in Gaza, America decided to back down. They made a deal with him. Assange accepted the crime of espionage and since the punishment for this crime is five years, Assange was practically released.

It is a dirty and upside down world. The whistle-blower goes to prison instead of the perpetrator. The role of Julian Assange and WikiLeaks was crucial and decisive in exposing the crimes of America and the West in the Middle East, in a situation where the mainstream media practically censors the facts of the crimes committed by the United States, the West, and NATO. As a result of this movement, many eyes were opened to the facts of the war in the Middle East. The facts about the Islamic movement and Islamic terrorist organisations were revealed.

As Julian's wife, Stella Assange, said: "Throughout the years of Julian's imprisonment and persecution an incredible movement has been formed. People from all walks of life from around the world who support not just Julian, not just us and our family, but what Julian stands for; truth and justice."

We congratulate the release of Julian Assange to Stella, to Julian's family, to all those who campaigned for Assange's release, and to all freedom loving in the world. Assange's freedom is very important, especially in this sensitive and dangerous period of history, in the midst of a genocide and massacre, in a situation where not only the mainstream media is heavily censored, but social media is also under censorship and in an unprecedented situation of suppression of political freedoms in Western countries.