

No More Blank Check for Israel!

CAMPAIGN FOR PEACE AND DEMOCRACY STATEMENT ON THE CRISIS IN GAZA

The statement below was written in early January, during Israel's savage attack on Gaza. At this writing there is a fragile cease-fire, but even if it holds, the statement retains its relevance and urgency. Israel may have won a kind of military "victory," insofar as it has re-asserted its military dominance, but the worldwide outrage at its shocking massacre of innocent people constitutes a political and moral defeat of immense proportions. And even though major fighting has stopped, for the time being, the economic blockade — a deadly and flagrantly illegal collective punishment of Gaza — continues. It must be lifted. CPD rejects Hamas's reactionary social agenda, but that has no bearing on our determination to oppose Israeli aggression and end U.S. complicity. There will be no peace, either for Palestine or Israel, until the Israeli occupation is ended and the Palestinian people win their right to independence and security. For this to occur, we must end the U.S. military and political support that facilitates Israel's cruel — and ultimately self-destructive — policies.

To add your name, to contribute to publicizing the statement, or to see the full list of signers and more discussion of the issue, go to the Campaign for Peace and Democracy website, www.cpdweb.org

—Joanne Landy, Thomas Harrison,
Stephen Shalom, Jesse Lemisch,
Campaign for Peace and Democracy,
January 29, 2009

IN ITS MASSIVE MILITARY attacks on Gaza, Israel has again engaged in actions contrary to morality, international law, the cause of peace, and to the long-term best interests of the people of Israel. And, once again, the United States government has been the enabler of Israeli actions:

- The bombers that unleashed death and destruction on Gaza were U.S.-supplied F-16s.
- The attack helicopters were U.S.-supplied Apaches.
- The government that blocked international demands for an immediate cease-fire was Washington.
- And the source of more than \$3 billion a year in tax-payer funded military aid to Israel has been the United States.

No country should have to face rockets fired at its citizens,

and we condemn Hamas's launching of rockets into Israeli civilian areas. But the solution is not raining bombs and missiles down on one of the most densely populated sites in the world, making massive civilian casualties inevitable, and which, apart from its immorality, guarantees only another generation of hatred towards Israel.

The solution — as the Israeli peace movement, human rights groups, and the United Nations have urged — is to lift the economic blockade imposed on Gaza and end the Occupation.

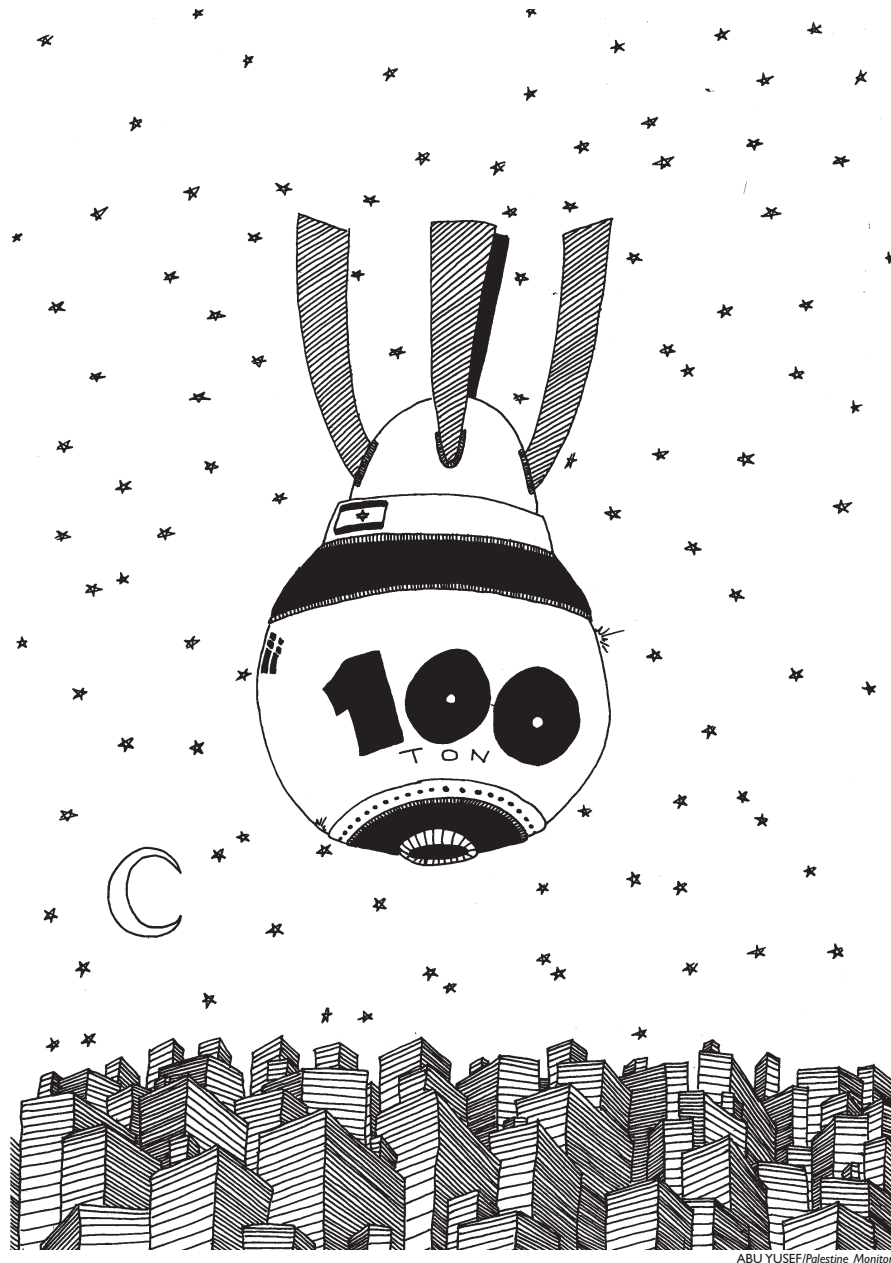
This blockade holds one and a half million Palestinian civilians hostage, and creates a horrendous humanitarian crisis. Malnutrition is rife, people have died from being denied the right to travel for medical care, and electricity and clean water are scarce. Meanwhile the 40-year Occupation not only continues, but is also strengthened by increased settlements.

We condemn the policies of our government that support the ongoing oppression and murder of the Palestinian people.

We urge the Obama administration to refuse to give Israel the U.S. blank check it has long enjoyed.

And we call on everyone to join in telling the President and Congress that we want an immediate end to U.S. military aid to Israel. We do not want our tax dollars or the leaders who speak in our names to continue supporting the attacks on the Palestinian people.

This statement is being sent to President Obama, Secretary of State Clinton, and Middle East envoy George Mitchell.



ABU YUSEF/Palestine Monitor

SELECTED LIST OF SIGNERS FROM THE 1200+ SIGNATURES THAT HAVE COME IN TO DATE

(for the full list as it evolves, go to www.cpdweb.org)

Ervand Abrahamian, Janet Afary, Jean-Christophe Agnew, Michael Albert, Kevin Anderson, Bettina Aptheker, Anthony Arnove, Stanley Aronowitz, David Barsamian, Rosalyn Baxandall, Phyllis Bennis, Michael Bérubé, Norman Birnbaum, Eileen Boris, Philip Bosco, Jeremy Brecher, Stephen Eric Bronner, Vinie Burrows, Roane Carey, Noam Chomsky, Bogdan Denitch, Manuela Dobos, Ariel Dorfman, Martin Duberman, Carolyn Eisenberg, Hester Eisenstein, Jethro Eisenstein, Zillah Eisenstein, Daniel Ellsberg, Gertrude Ezorsky, Samuel Farber, John Feffer, Bruce Gagnon, Irene Gendzier, Jill Godmilow, Arun Gupta, Thomas Harrison, David Harvey, Nader Hashemi, Howie Hawkins, Chris Hedges, Michael Hirsch, Adam Hochschild, Nancy Holmstrom, Doug Ireland, Tony Judt, Jan Kavan, Alice Kessler-Harris, Kathy F. Kelly, Assaf Kfoury, Joanne Landy, Jesse Lemisch, Sue Leonard, Mark LeVine, Nelson Lichtenstein, Zachary Lockman, Mohammed Mamdani, Betty Mandell, Marvin Mandell, Dave Marsh, Scott McLemee, David McReynolds, Ali Moazzami, Claire Moses, Molly Nolan, David Oakford, Carl Oglesby, Bertell Ollman, Martin Oppenheimer, Rosalind Petchesky, Christopher Phelps, Charlotte Phillips MD, Katha Pollitt, Danny Postel, Vijay Prashad, Peter Rachleff, Sonia Robbins, Gordon Rogoff, Matthew Rothschild, Jennifer Scarlott, Jay Schaffner, Jason Schulman, Sonia Shah, Stephen Shalom, Adam Shatz, Wallace Shawn, Alice Slater, Stephen Soldz, Norman Solomon, Stephen Steinberg, David Swanson, Peter Tatchell, Chris Toensing, Lois Weiner, Thomas Weisskopf, Naomi Weisstein, Reginald Wilson, Lawrence Wittner, Kent Worcester, Michael Wreszin, Marilyn B. Young, Stephen Zunes

CPD Campaign for Peace and Democracy

- Please add my name to the list of signers to the CPD "No Blank Check for Israel!" You may use my name when the statement is published.
- Please add my name to the list of signers for the CPD statement "No Blank Check for Israel!"
- I am sending a tax-deductible donation of \$_____ to help disseminate the statement.

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Only name and affiliation or city will be made public.

For further information, to sign on-line, and to see evolving full list of signers go to www.cpdweb.org

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