

CPD 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. 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.

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

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.

SELECTED NAMES FROM THE 1200+ SIGNERS THAT HAVE COME IN TO DATE
Ervand Abrahamian, Janet Afary, Stanley Aronowitz, David Barsamian, Phyllis Bennis, Norman Birnbaum, Jeremy Brecher, Roane Carey, Noam Chomsky, Ariel Dorfman, Martin Duberman, Carolyn Eisenberg, Daniel Ellsberg, John Feffer, Bruce Gagnon, Arun Gupta, Nader Hashemi, Chris Hedges, Adam Hochschild, Doug Ireland, Tony Judt, Kathy F. Kelly, Assaf Kfoury, Mark LeVine, Mohammed Mamdani, Dave Marsh, Scott McLemee, David McReynolds, Ali Moazzami, Charlotte Phillips MD, Katha Pollitt, Danny Postel, Sonia Robbins, Matthew Rothschild, Sonia Shah, Adam Shatz, Wallace Shawn, Alice Slater, Norman Solomon, David Swanson, Chris Toensing, Reginald Wilson, Marilyn B. Young, Stephen Zunes

To add your name, contribute to publicizing the statement, or see the full signer list, go to the Campaign for Peace and Democracy website, www.cpdweb.org or write to CPD, 2790 Broadway, #12, NY, NY 10025.