

AWARE ~ The Anti-War Anti-Racism Effort of Champaign-Urbana ~ 20 July 2014

ISRAEL'S MURDERS IN GAZA - OBAMA'S RESPONSIBILITY, AND OURS

After two weeks of airstrikes the Israeli army (IDF) has invaded Gaza, the 140-square mile territory - with 1.8 million people - that it surrounds and controls. (Hamas is the party that won a free election in the territories occupied by Israel in 2006.) More than 300 Palestinians have been killed, and two Israelis.

“Israel invades Gaza because it can. ... Israel has total military superiority, an air force which can knock and then bomb, a navy which can shell Gazans from miles off shore, an army which can roll tanks into Gaza nonstop. Gazans have no army, navy, or air force with which to defend. Israel, as any nation, has a right to defend itself, but it confuses offense with defense. It is on the offensive in Gaza.

“Israel, with its overwhelming military strength, is attacking and invading Gaza in violation of international and U.S. law. Its construction of settlements violates the Oslo agreement. Its Central Bank dries up the Gaza economy and blocks payments to Gazan civil servants. Its total control brings the Palestinians to utter subjection and total despair.

“Israel will go door to door in Gaza in the hunt for Hamas, which comprises the government of the Palestinians and is therefore a necessary party to any peace talks. It is axiomatic that if you kill your partner for peace, you will have no partner for peace.” – from **Dennis Kucinich**, in Huffington Post:

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/dennis-j-kucinich/israel-invades-gaza_b_5598535.html

“... What is needed now is an immediate ceasefire. The Egyptian ceasefire proposal of July 15 met Israel's needs but utterly failed to meet the needs of the people of Gaza. Israel was consulted before the proposal was announced; Hamas was not.

“The proposal involved a return to the status quo with calm for Israelis but with the people of Gaza continuing to live under a crippling siege. Hamas demands an end to Israeli aggression, the easing of the blockade by Israel and Egypt, and the release of recently rearrested prisoners. It refuses to return to the status quo ante because it is intolerable.” – **Avi Shlaim**, Oxford University

Who is responsible for the Israeli military assault on Gaza? Many can be blamed for Israel's committing what the Nuremberg Tribunal called “the supreme international crime - launching aggressive war” - but the final responsibility lies with the President of the United States.

Without the support - economic, military, political, and diplomatic - that the U.S. government provides, Israel's crimes would not be possible. But the U.S. does not provide this support because of undue influence from the government of Israel or the Israel lobby. The U.S. government supports Israel - and its oppression of Palestinians - because Israel is America's “stationary aircraft carrier” in the Mideast.

Most Americans think of U.S. war in the Mideast as beginning after 9/11/2001, with the American invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, but in fact our government has been killing people in the Mideast since the Second World War to secure control of what the U.S. State Department called then “the world's greatest material prize,” Mideast gas and oil. The U.S. government demands not just access to Mideast energy resources but control of them, because a strangle-hold over world energy flows gives the U.S. the advantage over its economic rivals in Europe and Asia, notably Germany and China.

President Obama fails to stop Israel's ongoing murders in Gaza - as he could, with a word - because it's been the policy of all U.S. administrations for two generations to allow the Israelis to continue their oppression of the Palestinians so long as Israel supports and participates in the crimes of its U.S. master.

It's time for Americans to say no to the child-killers in the U.S. and Israeli governments.

Contact the President (202-456-1111) and our Congressional representatives (202-224-3121), or on line at:

President Obama - <<http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/submit-questions-and-comments>>
Senator Durbin - <<http://www.durbin.senate.gov/contact.cfm>>
Senator Kirk - <http://www.kirk.senate.gov/?p=comment_on_legislation>
Representative Davis - <<https://rodneydavis.house.gov/contact/email-me>>