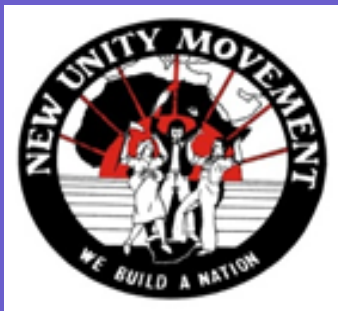


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We fight Ideas with Ideas

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ISRAEL: A FESTERING SORE IN THE MIDDLE EAST

Kristallnacht versus the Nakba

The Holocaust Industry goes to great lengths to keep the horrors of Kristallnacht alive in the social consciousness, even while the state of Israel goes about committing worse atrocities against the Palestinian people.

Kristallnacht ("Night of Broken Glass") occurred in 1938, when Nazi forces throughout Germany ransacked Jewish homes, hospitals and schools, and attackers demolished buildings with sledgehammers. Against this, we must counterpose the Nakba.

"Nakba" means "catastrophe," and refers to the ethnic-cleansing raids by bands of Zionist thugs who conducted deadly assaults against Palestinian towns and villages in 1948 to clear the land

for Jewish settlement. Some four hundred Palestinian villages were destroyed; hospitals, school and homes were razed to the ground, and the world's largest refugee population created.



**Cde Usuf Chikte addressing the crowd at
Parliament House after the pro-Palestinian**

The story of the village of Deir Yassin is particularly tragic: Nearly everyone was killed, women raped and homes burnt.

Writers Sumaya Awad and Brian Bean tell us that prior to 1948 Palestine was a flourishing society with a long-standing history and culture. There were more than a thousand villages, thriving towns, abundant citrus and olive groves, irrigation systems, crafts and textiles.

The Nakba has never ceased; it continues to this very day. The murderous events of May 2021 are just the latest in an ongoing horror-story for the Palestinian people.

Thanks especially to social media, millions of ordinary people across the world this month witnessed with shock and outrage to what unthinkable depths of viciousness the Israeli Defence Force (IDF) and marauding gangs of Zionist terrorists can sink. These killing machines had only one thing in mind: to annihilate. It started off with troops storming into Al Aqsa, desecrating one of the holiest sites in all of Islam. It happened during prayers on one of the holiest days in the month of Ramadan. Worshipers were attacked with noise bombs, tear gas, rubber-coated steel bullets and stun grenades. At the same time, bands of far-right Israeli thugs were attacking Palestinian residents in several parts of Israel, and forcefully expelling them from their homes. Within hours, the IDF was bombing multi-story buildings in the Gaza Strip.

Within an eleven-day spell of merciless airstrikes by the IDF on Gaza, 243 people (including 66 children



The Cape Town Pro-Palestinian March

and 29 women) were killed, with some 1 910 people injured. The Gaza Strip is the most densely-populated piece of land in the world, and is often referred to as the world's largest open-air prison. In what has to be regarded as war crimes, the IDF targeted hospitals, housing apartments, roads and other infrastructure. This was not "war" or "self-defence." This was murder. This was genocide.

Settler-Colonialism: The Zionist Project

The settler-colony that is Israel was born in blood in 1948. Like every other colonial project throughout history, it involved the violent seizure of the land and the murderous expulsion and subjugation of the indigenous people. Vladimir Jabotinsky, one of the founding fathers of Zionism, wrote in 1923 that "Zionism is a colonizing adventure and therefore it stands or falls by the question of armed force." Every Israeli

regime without exception has been true to Jabotinsky's definition.

With the active connivance of Western imperialism (initially, mainly England and France, then later, America) the Zionist movement created the fake state of Israel, attempting to legitimise it as the God-given



Cdes Mickey Titus, Anton Lategan & Julian Shortles at the Cape Town Pro-Palestinian march

land of Palestine. As Moshe Machover observed

It implies that the nation state of Jews anywhere is not determined by their place of birth, or long residence or citizenship, or personal choice, but willy-nilly is the Zionist state, which claims to represent all Jews and act on their behalf, whether they like it or not.

Yet, the historical record shows that vast numbers of Jews supported the revolutionary socialist movement in Europe, and actively opposed Zionism, arguing that the fight against antisemitism – not Zionism – was central to the struggle against capitalism.

Israel: A Festering Sore in the Middle East

At a public lecture sometime in the nineteen-seventies, RO Dudley referred to Israel as a *festering sore* in the Middle East, and described its role there as that of defending Western capitalist interests – as an outpost of imperialism located in the heart of a strategically critical (read oil-rich) part of the world.

In Israel, the US has secured for itself a strategic asset in the Middle East region – a watchdog, which could be relied upon to crush any risings or other initiatives inimical to Western interests in the region.

Each year the US provides \$3.8 billion in foreign military aid to Israel, and an additional \$8 billion in loan guarantees; almost all US aid to Israel is now in the form of military assistance, while in the past it also received significant economic assistance.

In April 2021, President Biden approved a proposal to sell \$735 million worth of precision-guided weapons to Israel. This says it all. US and Israeli/Zionist interests have totally converged. The United States has served as a critical sponsor for Israel financially and politically. And Israel has played an invaluable role in helping the United States to dominate the Middle East. It is arguably the case that without US sponsorship the state of Israel would not exist.

In terms of Zionist ideology and aims, the goal has always been to expropriate Palestine *in its entirety*, and this explains the ongoing attacks launched with barbaric frequency and intensity over the years against the enclaves of Gaza and

the West Bank – with America's total complicity. Each attack has resulted in hypocritical hand-wringing on the part of all the major capitalist regimes – and at the same time, the incorporation of additional tracts of Palestinian land into the state of Israel.

The Struggle Continues

After eleven days of warfare against the Palestinians, there is talk of a ceasefire. But peace talks will not be about ending Israeli settler-colonialism. In the past, talks have always been about the terms of oppression and occupation of Israel over the Palestinian territories, and about Israel demands to keep its dogs of war at bay.

But for freedom-loving people the world over, the Palestinian cause is not for Palestinians only. It is a cause for all oppressed and exploited people everywhere. The liberation of Palestine is part of the struggle against the global capitalist system. As Sumaya Awad and Brian Bean said in a recent article

Our bonds with others are not based on borders or nationalities but on the shared interest of workers and oppressed peoples in resisting oppression and exploitation by ruling classes worldwide.

The Nakba is not a thing of the past. Its impact is felt by every single Palestinian, and its memory shields against the systematic attempt to whitewash the violence and bloodshed that characterised Israel's birth more than seventy years ago and sustains its apartheid regime today.



New Unity Movement



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STATEMENT: 2021/05/14

THE NEW UNITY MOVEMENT CONDEMNS THE APARTHEID ISRAELI STATE'S ASSAULT ON INNOCENT PALESTINIANS

The members of New Unity Movement, condemn in the strongest terms the latest atrocity by the Israeli state visited upon innocent Palestinians living in Jerusalem. Worshippers attending prayer services were attacked by heavily armed Israeli police inside the Al Aqsa Mosque. We similarly strongly condemn the harassment of families living in the Sheik Jarrah section of East Jerusalem who are facing forcible ejection from homes that had been occupied by Palestinians for generations.

Through these acts the Zionists have shown themselves to be no different from the racist

rulers of the Apartheid state that existed in South Africa prior to 1994.

The bitter irony is that the brutality of these Israeli fascists is little different from the same levels of hatred and brutality shown by Hitler's Nazis against **their** forebears.

We join with all peace-loving people in condemning these atrocities and call upon the International Community to implement UN resolutions that identify Israel as an Apartheid state.



In 2021—72 years of oppression. The Israeli walls of apartheid must come down.

New Unity Movement



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NUM STATEMENT 2018/05/18

MASSACRE OF PALESTINIANS BY THE ISRAELI DEFENCE FORCE

The killing of 61 Palestinians by the state of Israel during a demonstration to demand the return of their Israeli-occupied country is a callous act of violence which is condemned outright. Civilised governments do not shoot demonstrators with live ammunition. This was a barbaric act but it is not an isolated one. Palestinians are regularly attacked and manhandled by the Israeli defence force. Over the last 4 weeks 169 have been killed and 4000 injured. Palestinians suffer daily humiliation by being denied to live as free citizens in their homeland.

What imperialist countries call the "Palestinian Question" is in fact the struggle of Palestinians to claim back the country where their forebears were born and lived for centuries. Towards the end of World War 1 the imperialists (via the League of Nations) ASSIGNED the land of Palestine to the British to administer - Palestine became a British Mandated Territory. Under pressure from Zionist Jews, Britain in 1917 via the Balfour Declaration, publicly declared their support for the establishment of a Jewish Homeland in Palestine.

This declaration was made without canvassing the views of the Palestinians whilst the Jews living in the area totalled a mere 3 - 5% of the population of Palestine. The British then incorporated the Balfour Declaration into their official British Mandate for Palestine in 1923, at the same time promising to protect the rights of the Palestinians. They soon reneged on this promise when they surrendered their Palestine Mandate with the establishment of an Israeli State in 1948. Palestine was GIVEN to the Jewish nation by the British, this after unsuccessfully trying to GIVE British-ruled Uganda to the Jewish people as a homeland in the early 1900's.

The colonial countries of the time had no right to

ASSIGN or GIVE the Palestinian Homeland to anyone. This gift and further landgrabs by the Israelis resulted in the Palestinian people becoming refugees in their own country. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were driven out of Israel and the draconian laws drafted by the Israelis to curb the movement of Palestinians are akin to the Apartheid-era policies of the racist National Party regime in South Africa. The Israelis have taken this a step further by encasing the Gaza area where the Palestinians live with an 8 - 12 meter wall and fence and strictly and brutally controlling the movement of people into and out of Gaza.

Ever since, the Palestinians have been struggling to regain their motherland. They termed the day of the formation of the Israeli State as "Nakba", meaning the "Catastrophe". Every year Nakba is commemorated to motivate Palestinians to continue their claim for the return of their homeland. The United States of America callously chose to inaugurate their American Embassy in Jerusalem on this very day in May this year, showing no sensitivity to the hurt the Nakba has caused to so many people. They did this to legitimise the occupation of Palestinian land by Israel, despite international law declaring the city open to all the Abrahamic religions of the world. This act was unforgivably provocative and inflamed emotions and tempers. The attitude and support of Donald Trump's America has emboldened the criminal Netanyahu regime which had openly, arrogantly and defiantly resorted to murdering innocent protesters. This total disregard for global public opinion by Israel should galvanise the struggle to rid the world of imperialism and their barbaric capitalist system.

We support the Palestinian people in their rightful demand for the return of their homeland as well as their right to protest and their efforts to bring their issues to the attention of the world.

THE RIVER CLUB DEVELOPMENT – DISPOSSESSION BY THE RICH FOR THE RICH

The land question in South Africa remains a burning issue for the mass of urban and rural poor, and is arguably the single biggest obstacle in the way of justice and social redress in this country. After more than 25 years in power, the ANC-government has shown little appetite for addressing even the slightest reforms, let alone overturning the whole structure of ownership and usage of land.

According to government audits, 79% of the land in South Africa is in private ownership, 14% by the state and 7% unaccounted for. More than 70% is owned by citizens classified as “White” – that is, by groups who were historically privileged by colonial, segregationist and apartheid legislation.

As is well-known, the constitution protects the capitalist system, so any “solutions” adopted by the ruling parties (the ANC and DA) will be in line with the imperatives of private property and the market system. This applies as much to rural as to urban land, and is well-demonstrated in a current struggle being waged over a highly-disputed tract of land in the suburb of Observatory in Cape Town – The River Club.

In April 2021, the DA-run City of Cape Town (CoCT) approved a R4 billion private commercial project for the establishment of a huge “mixed development” complex on the land at the confluence of the Black and Liesbeek Rivers. This land is of immense historical and spiritual significance for the indigenous Khoi peoples, as well as being a sensitive environmental precinct including a threatened wetland and biodiversity hotspot.

Notorious US retail giant Amazon, which is well-known for its hostile labour policies, is to be the complex’s anchor tenant. The development will include space for retailers, a 200-room hotel, gym, restaurants, and conference facilities. It will generate billions of rand in profit for an influential and highly connected consortium of financiers and property developers.

The land lies on a flood plain and will require hugely intrusive engineering works to elevate the development out of the flood line. It will place 18 buildings on a 14 hectare site, ranging from 20-to -46 metres high, and a total floor space of 150 000 square metres. This is an incredibly dense and huge development which will sit at the apex of the Two Rivers Urban Park, a designated conservation area, which is also slated for inclu-

sion in the National Heritage Liberation Trail and a possible UNESCO nomination. The adjacent South African Astronomical Observatory (SAAO) is already a National Heritage Site and more than 60 First Nation Groups, NGOs and Civic Associations have applied for the areas to be graded as a Provincial Heritage Site.

This is modern-day land theft.

What can the ordinary people of Cape Town expect from this development? According to Mayor Dan Plato, this development will boost the economy and create jobs. Yet, we know that for every one job Amazon creates, two or three are lost. It can also be expected that a number of small business operators in the area will face closure.

But for the wealthy elite, mega-profits are in prospect. Consider this: the land in question was once public land, owned by PRASA but sold off in 2015 to a private entity for R12 million (that is, at well below market rates). Within a few months, the same property was sold for R100 million.

More than 60 social groups, NGOs, housing activists and civic associations are mobilising opposition to the development, mainly on the grounds that it violates “first nation/heritage” rights, and will do irreparable damage to the environment. The group plans to drag the CoCT and the developers before the courts, in a bid to halt the development.

In addition to the widespread opposition from civil society, there is also a considerable body of opposition from professional and scientific agencies against the development.

While developments like the River Club continue apace, so does the growth in homelessness and squatter camps throughout Cape Town and the rest of the country. As in the rest of the country, in Cape Town the multiple disparities between a miniscule wealthy elite and a growing mass of urban and rural poor continue to widen. There is no

way that the current political and economic systems will change this.

At the beginning of 2017, parliament passed a motion to review the constitution and possibly change it to allow for land expropriation without compensation. This unleashed a chorus of condemnation from various threatened minority-groups. For example, thousands signed a petition asking US president Donald Trump to enable "White people" in South Africa to emigrate to the United States on an emergency basis. Yet, as Ben Morken points out in an article in March, 2018:

This is hypocrisy of the highest order. Land expropriation without compensation is nothing new in South Africa. The indigenous ... people have been brutally expropriated and robbed of their land through wars of dispossession and conquest for hundreds of years ... This robbery was then legalised by passing a whole series of acts of land dispossession during the colonial period and the apartheid era ... This process of

dispossession has been happening uninterruptedly for the past 400 years. There were no outcries about compensation at any time during this period. But now that there are suggestions of directing this process in the opposite direction to redress this crime, there is an unparalleled outpouring of hysteria and doomsday prophecies.

The working poor cannot look to parliament for any meaningful change. The role of parliament is to protect and promote the interests of the rich. What is needed is a "movement from below," in terms of which – by their own efforts – the masses across the length and breadth of the country will unite in "people's power," and bring about the transformation of society.

Developments like the River Club must be strongly opposed. Let's mobilise in support of the Campaign to prevent it from becoming a reality. Let's mobilise to take the anti-capitalist struggle forward.

POINT SEVEN OF THE TEN POINT PROGRAMME: A TRANSITIONAL PROGRAMME INCLUDING MINIMUM DEMANDS FOR THE LIBERATION OF SOUTH AFRICA'S PEOPLE

7. THE AGRARIAN REVOLUTION AND REVISION OF SYSTEMS OF LAND UTILISATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE OBJECTIVES IN POINT 6 ABOVE

7.1 The state shall protect the living environment for all its citizens and for future generations.

7.2 The land shall be utilised for the economic benefit of all, in particular to eliminate malnutrition, starvation, poverty, and unemployment. A new division of the land in conformity with the existing rural population living on the land and working on the land is the immediate task of a socialist state and parliament. Absentee landlordism, the non-productive use of land, rack-renting and the encouragement of squatting shall be ended and be declared illegal.

7.3 For the agrarian revolution, which is central to the liberation of South Africa and its people, to materialize and succeed, the land shall be nationalised. All land-barons, who hog ownership of land for personal profit, and multi-national companies which increasingly dominate agriculture, shall be expropriated without compensation. In addition, local food production will be encouraged to reduce dependency on imported products.

7.4 The land, as a vital economic resource, shall be held in trust by the state on behalf of the entire population of South Africa. Individual land tenure would be considered for personal use; no exploitative labour will be permitted in such instances.

7.5 All mineral rights, mining concessions and exploration rights (land and marine) shall revert to the state to be used for the benefit of all.

7.6 A planned economy must have a balanced approach to the preservation of the environment and to the utilisation of all land and its resources: water, rivers, dams, lakes, fishing resources, game farming, tourism, etc., in all their ecological aspects so as to enhance the whole South African environment as a habitat for its people and its fauna and flora. Thus, energy generation through the use of fossil fuels and nuclear power must be phased out and replaced by renewable power sources.

7.7 Food and water security will be the right of all people.

7.8 In practice, industrial agriculture will be replaced by an agro ecological approach to the production of use values on the land.

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