

A call to the workers and masses in the Middle East- Help stop the genocide against the Palestinians

The case of the Jordanian monarchy

The Jordanian monarchy has been professing to be critical of Israel, yet it imports weapons from them and also received \$3.2 Bn in weapons from the USA since 2000. Annual trade between Israel and Jordan is \$500 million. Jordan also hosts US military bases. If it was so committed to the Palestinian cause why did the regime not close the US and Israeli embassies and expel all the US troops? Why did they continue to trade with Israel? While Gaza was blockaded, trade with Israel continued as normal and their land was used as a means to bypass the solidarity actions of the Yemeni masses. Jordan was used a conduit for trade for Israel while Gaza was kept in starvation.

The Jordanian regime is a puppet of US imperialism. The masses in Jordan need to set up shura/workers' councils and a new interim government to replace the monarchy.

The case of the Erdogan regime in Turkey

The 2022 trade between Israel and Turkey amounted to a massive \$10 bn. There is also a huge tourism trade of \$128 million per annum, showing that the middle and upper class from Turkey love to go to Israel. This means that they parasite on the oppression of Palestinians. Turkey exports raw materials such as raw iron bars to Israel. No doubt some of the Israeli prisons are built with these bars. Ironically Turkey's major import from Israel is \$1.03 Bn annually of refined petroleum. They should have imported it from the Arab states but no, they prefer to import from Israel which has no petroleum at all. So, Israel imports crude oil from the Arab states and exports it to Turkey, making a huge profit off the masses in Turkey and the masses who produce the oil. Israel also shows that it is a master of the Arab oil states too. Turkey also receives more arms from the US than Israel does. So, the Turkish regime is not only a slave to imperialism but a slave to the Israeli capitalist class too. Interesting that both Egypt and Turkey are major suppliers of toilet paper to Israel- this demonstrates they slave role of cleaning the backsides of the Zionist capitalist class.

Turkey also hosts a huge number of US military bases, showing that the regime is totally under the control of US imperialism.

In practice, the Turkish regime is an ally of the Zionist state despite the huge opposition by the masses. The rhetoric by the Turkish regime is just to fool the masses while keeping them under control in a semi-police state. The Turkish regime play an important role in dividing the masses in the region, suppressing the Kurds and isolating the Syrian revolution after 2011, often aiding the implosion from within the ranks of the Syrian masses.

In January 2024, as a reward for maintaining links with Israel and keeping trade going with it, US imperialism sold \$23 billion in weapons to Turkey, old F-16 planes and contracts for maintaining them.

The masses need to form workers' councils across Turkey, uniting irrespective of nationality. It is time to remove the Erdogan regime and replace it with a direct democracy that will in practice cut all ties with Israel and US imperialism, shutting all their military bases there. This is the most practical aid that the masses in Turkey can give.

Erdogan dishes out billions of dollars to US imperialism while the regime cannot even maintain proper safety standards in buildings in an earthquake-prone region.

The case of the Sisi regime in Egypt

The annual trade between Egypt and Israel is \$1.5Bn with Egypt importing \$1.24 bn in gas from Israel annually. From 1980 to 2010 Egypt bought \$33.3 bn of weapons from the US. After Mubarak was deposed and US imperialism imposed a coup against Morsi, installing General Sisi, Egypt once again bought weapons from the US, spending over \$ 8 bn up to 2017. Purchases of weapons have continued to this day from the US. Yet Sisi ridicules the Egyptian masses, saying they are not even a country. Yet, while the masses are starving and little development takes place, every year, the Egyptian regime spends at least \$1bn on weapon purchases from the US and hosts hundreds of US soldiers. From 2007 up to now Egypt has maintained the siege on Gaza, allowing themselves to be dictated by US imperialism and its Zionist allies. During the current genocide, Egypt has not only kept the Palestinians in starvation, they are charging extortionate prices for anyone who wants to leave. They have even cleared some land which the Zionist might even use to slaughter the Palestinians in the open air. The seriously injured struggle to be allowed to leave to get adequate medical treatment, especially now that all the hospitals in Gaza have been destroyed by imperialism.

There is no democracy in Egypt. Sisi has become another Mubarak, just another repressive agent of US imperialism. They could easily have sent trucks and aid directly into Gaza through the Rafah border but they choose not to, despite their obligation to do everything to prevent genocide.

It is time for workers' councils/ shura to be set up in Egypt, setting up an interim government that will end the rule of Sisi and open the gates to Gaza. Expel the US troops and cut all ties with the Zionist regime.

US imperialism and its control in the Middle East

Besides Turkey, Egypt, Israel and Jordan there are a number of regimes in the Middle East that receive weapons from the US. By far the biggest is Saudi Arabia that has received over \$105 bn in weapons from US imperialism since 1970. This is more than Israel. The other major recipients of weapons from the US, including hosting military bases or a military presence are UAE, Qatar, Kuwait, Iraq, Bahrain, Morocco, Oman, Tunisia. There are daily flights from Qatar to Israel of Boeing cargo planes that have enabled the widespread bombing and destruction of Gaza.

The way forward

We should learn to take a position on the political structures by their actions not by their glowing words. Are they taking practical steps to end the genocide against Palestinians? Yes or no. We should also be mindful that imperialism is behind the genocide in Sudan and the DRC too. The UN has never stopped any genocide; they have always enabled them.

It is important to remember that imperialism set up Israel as large military base to police and control the masses in the Middle East. Imperialism also controls a number of regimes in the region through which they exercise further control.

The Zionist regime can only be defeated through a combination of local and international struggles which challenges the political power in the Middle East as well as in the imperialist centres.

The case of Aaron Bushnell and now Larry Hebert (a serving airman who is currently on an indefinite hunger strike since 1st April 2024 outside the White House) show that there is a split in the armed forces of imperialism. This is very significant as already there is a strong sense of rebellion in their armed forces against the military industrial complex that controls their Congress and Senate. This is shown by the thousands of soldiers who belong to Veterans for Peace.

While we rise against our own regimes we should always reach out to and encourage a united front of anti-genocide organizations in all the imperialist centres too.

13.4.2024

Issued by Workers International Vanguard League