

The next Viva Palestina convoy to Gaza has been brought forward from September to the first week of August; the question is, what are the real aims of the convoy, that on the face of it appears as being to carry 'aid' to Gaza? we say that it is the opposite of what the public claims are. The 'convoy' aims to prop up the legitimacy of the antiworker Egyptian regime, to prop up imperialism and to demobilise the world proletariat by misleading us all into believing that the Gaza siege has been broken; further, it turns the masses eyes away from the necessity of confronting imperialism, the ones who are behind the 62+ year siege against the Palestinians, through working class methods such as general strikes, etc.

Every tablet or bag of flour is handed over either under the control of the Egyptian regime or of the fascist Israeli regime; in other words world imperialism still controls the fate of the Palestinians; in the last Galloway convoy it travelled under the direct support of the regional governor of Egypt in Sinai, who even offered to cover some (or all) of the convoy costs.

What has forced the partial relaxation of the siege of Gaza has been protests and actions of millions of workers around the globe, not least in the imperialist centres; what is significant was the 1-2 week blockade of Israeli goods by scandinavian transport workers; what is significant is the mass revolt in Turkey against the complicity of their regime in the massacre of 9 Turkish activists (When the Israeli troops boarded the Mavi Marmara they knew the cabin number and names of all the people on board; information they could only have received from the Turkish government); further the 8 general strikes in Greece, the revolt and burning of parliament in Kyrgyzstan are all factors which point to a turning point in working class resistance to the current imperialist onslaught. Imperialism has tried everything to divert the attention of the proletariat away from its own power in forcing a partial opening of the siege against Gaza; one after another, many imperialist agents have suddenly realised that the siege of Gaza is 'not sustainable'; even the UN organs make strong noises against the siege. The complicity of the Egyptian regime as one of the main pillars of imperialism in maintaining the siege against the Palestinians, is now even more stark; workers revolt against the Egyptian regime is on the rise; imperialism cannot afford another Kyrgyzstan- the whole Middle East could go up in flames. Under these conditions comes the Galloway convoy, a veritable Trojan horse, giving legitimacy and saving the face of the Egyptian regime, and at the very time that imperialism is launching major attacks on the British working class, the actions of the working class is reduced to acts of charity, rather than a general strike against the UK imperialist regime. Thus by lulling the world working class into passivist actions, the Galloway convoy is really about sustaining the imperialist siege against the Palestinians.

Charity from Turkey is covering the face of their bloody regime that drowns everyday the Kurds in a river of blood, that has for years strangled the resistance of the masses in northern Iraq in the fight against the occupation by US imperialism. The discovery of huge Lithium deposits in Afghanistan shows why the German and US-UK imperialism dispute so fiercely for control of the region; what is needed is world mass working class mobilization for the defeat of imperialism in Afghanistan, not a charity collection that keeps the working class off the streets. In this light the decision by the ITUC to elect a member of the Histadrut onto their executive, and to oppose any working class action to break the siege against the Palestinians, can only be seen as

criminal and showing that the leadership of the ITUC are lackeys of world imperialism.

The 48th Antiwar assembly in Japan is considering a proposal from the FLTI to send workers brigades to Egypt, to side by side with the working class in Egypt, to tear down the Rafah border and to unite with our Palestinian brothers and sisters. In the imperialist centres we need to mobilise for an international general strike against fascist Israel; the world working class needs to unite in action to defeat imperialism, to defeat the zionist forces; open the way for the for the walls and checkpoints that keep Palestinians in concentration camps, to be destroyed; open the way for the immediate unconditional return of all Palestinian refugees, open the way for the immediate release of all Palestinian political prisoners. In South Africa, the Palestine Freedom of Movement Campaign has been formed with these central demands in mind.

It is in crucial battles such as these that we say that we need to set up an organizing committee for the refounding of the Fourth International.

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