

The Committee for 2 States: Palestine alongside Israel

Israel Out of the Occupied Territories!

We are calling on trade unionists and other campaigners to support the statement below, to work with the Committee for 2 States and to raise the demand for “Two states: Israel out of the occupied territories” within your own organisations.

Please put your name to the statement and join the Committee for 2 States.

Please sign the statement and return it to the Committee for 2 States at: P.O. Box 823, London SE15 4NA. 07950 978083. www.links-not-boycott.org.uk.

• We stand together in opposition to the brutality of the Israeli occupation in the West Bank.

- We oppose the destruction of political and economic life in the Occupied Territories.
 - We are for the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli state from the Occupied Territories.
 - We also oppose the targeting and killing of innocent Israeli citizens by Palestinian activists.
 - We oppose the Islamist suicide bombers who kill themselves and Jewish civilians; politically we oppose Hamas and Islamic Jihad who are fighting not just against Israeli occupation, but for the destruction of Israel and the creation of a theocratic state.
 - We are for the creation of a fully independent Palestinian state - on the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem - alongside Israel.
 - We for a generous Israeli settlement with Palestinian refugees - a mutually agreed, compromise between the two peoples.
 - We are against a view common on the British left which attempts to present a “reasonable” case for the destruction of Israel - by the creation of a single (Arab) “democratic secular state”.
 - Such a state could only be created by the forcible subjugation of the Israeli Jews. This is neither desirable, nor reasonable.
 - A coming together of nations - in the future a democratic federation across the whole region - is to be desired. But such a relationship can only happen through the voluntary agreement of the peoples involved - i.e. on the basis of recognising that the various peoples have the right to their own states and the right not to be forcibly incorporated into another state.
 - We are for two states for the two peoples because this is the best, most equitable, most democratic solution possible. It is the only conceivable arrangement which could bring to an end the Israeli Jewish-Palestinian Arab conflict.
 - We are for peace, reconciliation and compromise. We oppose chauvinism and bigotry.
 - We stand against anti-semitism and anti-Muslim hatred.
- Join our Committee. Help us.

Stop the assault on Gaza and Lebanon!

Once again senseless small-scale provocative guerrilla action by the militias of Hamas and Hezbollah against Israel has triggered an enormously disproportionate response. In Gaza and in Lebanon, Israel has deployed brutal military strikes with considerable civilian casualties.

The Israeli government acts as if it wants to make any agreed settlement impossible. It hopes to get through force what it could not get through negotiations: the annexation of a sizable part of the territory it captured in the war provoked by Egypt and others in 1967, and the reduction of any future "Palestinian state" to a collection of disjointed territories.

The Israeli government is attempting to exploit the opportunity given to it by Hamas's victory in the Palestinian elections. The Israeli escalation started soon after Hamas had semi-recognised Israel, backed down in face of Palestinian president Mahmoud Abbas' s proposal to call a referendum in the Occupied Territories on the recognition of Israel and a "two-states" policy. Did the Israeli government fear that Abbas' s success would put it under pressure to negotiate?

The Israeli government wants to act unilaterally to reduce any "Palestinian state" to a series of patches of land surrounded by Israeli military positions - to make impossible an independent Palestinian state. Conversely, Hamas could not have doubted the reaction it would provoke by the capture of an Israeli soldier. But Hamas would rather play with the lives of Palestinian people than pursue the achievement of a Palestinian state. Why? Hamas's explicit long-term aim is to destroy Israel and establish an Islamic State run under sharia law. This reactionary and fantastic aim, if acted upon with sufficient power, would mean genocide on Israeli Jews.

Hezbollah, the Islamist movement in Lebanon, came to the support of the diehards in Hamas by kidnapping Israeli soldiers! Once again the Israeli government responded with a hugely disproportionate assault on Lebanon, with large and predictable civilian casualties among the Lebanese population in general.

The victims of this offensive have been the people of Lebanon and Gaza; working-class Israelis; and the people of the occupied West Bank, who see the risk of an imposed Israeli carve-up of their territory increased.

Syria and Iran bang the drums in support of Hezbollah and expose themselves as the regional imperialists they are. But the decisive power here to destroy, or to keep alive, possibilities of peace, lies with the Israeli government.

We support the peace movement in Israel and its demonstrations against this new war. We support the secular, democratic forces in the Occupied Territories and in Lebanon who resist the Israeli assaults in the name of a settlement which would allow every nation in the region - Palestinian Arabs as well as Israeli Jews - the right to self-determination in peace.

Israel out of the Occupied Territories! Two Nations, Two States! Let the Palestinians have their own independent state, alongside Israel!

End the attacks on Gaza and Lebanon! No to Islamist terrorism, no to Israeli state terror! For a free and independent Palestinian state alongside Israel!

Committee for 2 States: www.links-not-boycott.org.uk.

Name

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Address

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Union/ organisation

Email

Phone