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**Palestine**    **filastin**    **فلسطين**  
*Special Edition*    *tabeat khasa*    *طبعة خاصة*

## The Palestinian Spirit is Unbreakable

*Like the Phoenix Gaza will Rise from the Fire*

*Ronnie Kasrils.*



The aerial bombardments of Gaza's most crowded refugee camp Al Jabalya piles on one massacre after another. It signifies Israeli barbarism and a fascist inability to understand the heroic human spirit to resist repression. History has shown that bombing of civilians from the Basque town of Guernica in 1937 to Soviet and British cities in World War 2, from America's destruction of Vietnam, Iraq, Afghanistan, to the massacre of Gaza today, strengthens the determination to resist.

Zionist outposts in my own country, South Africa - shamelessly ignoring the disproportionate blood bath Israel has visited on Palestinians.

Announcing the onset of a "total war" Israel's Defence Minister, Yoav Gallant, declared in words that will shame Israel for all time: "I have ordered a complete siege of the Gaza Strip. There will be no electricity, no food, no fuel... We are fighting human animals." I do not say this lightly but it is a plain fact that these words could have come from the mouth of a Nazi exterminator.

As the Israeli state's inhumane attack on Gaza continues, with the ground zero onslaught grinding forward, civilians are being killed at a terrifying rate - the ghetto reduced to rubble with thousands buried beneath. By the first days of November 10 000 of the 2.3 million people packed into the walled sliver of land have been killed. The lives of 4 000 children have been taken, with women and the elderly accounting for most other deaths. Entire families have been wiped out. Over 20 000 people have been wounded, many with life threatening injuries. A Palestinian child is being killed every 10 minutes. More children have been butchered in October than in all the world's conflicts since 2019.

People across Gaza are in unspeakable pain and anguish. People across the world are reeling from television images of frantic parents rushing bloodied infants through shattered hospital wards or people digging through collapsed rubble with their bare hands in search of loved ones.

At this rate of slaughter, over 30 000 people will be killed by Christmas, 40% of them children, 30% women, and 150 000 injured. Netanyahu and his generals declare that their "war" could last months, so these statistics are not improbable. This is a war crime, a crime against humanity on an unimaginable scale. These crimes are backed by the likes of President Biden and Britain's Prime Minister Rishi Sunak and much of the Western media, including

Seared into collective memory is Gallant's chilling warning to the 1,1 million in the northern part of the ghetto giving them 24 hours to flee their homes. Thousands of women and children sheltering at Gaza City's Al Aqsa Hospital, are refusing to leave even under that deadline, for as at Al Jabalya, there is nowhere to go, no place to hide. The Gaza population under siege for 16 years, was already suffering borderline starvation with only 500 trucks allowed in each day prior to the current onslaught. After intense pressure, Israel has permitted a trickle of UN relief to deliver food, water and medicine to enter through the Rafah border crossing. No fuel has been allowed. The tiny amount of supplies permitted through Egypt's border allows Israel to claim it is providing basic necessities while denying sustenance to most people in practice

It is evident that many will die of thirst and hunger, bereft of care and medication. Already 16 of Gaza's hospitals have been destroyed and over 32 medical centres partially damaged or put out of service. This includes the Al-Ahli Arab hospital in Gaza City where 500 people died from a direct hit by an Israeli missile. Unlike the missiles used by Israel the rockets used by Hamas or Islamic Jihad don't have the power to destroy entire buildings. It's a typical Israeli fabrication that an arms cache below the building exploded. This was another Israeli war crime. Amidst this devastation there are an estimated 55000 pregnant women with

5 000 close to giving birth. There are 130 babies in incubators and 140 in ICU. In 1948, when Israeli fascists slaughtered 240 men, women and children in the Deir Yassin village near Jerusalem, its agriculture minister, Aharon Zisling, declared in horror: "We have behaved like Nazis and my whole being is shaken."

### Fascism

The great physicist Albert Einstein, and the philosopher Hannah Arendt, an expert on the Nazis, correctly labelled the architect of that massacre, Menachem Begin, a fascist. He later became Israel's prime minister. It is an undeniable fact that the government that is raining hell on the people crowded into the Gaza ghetto are proto-fascists driven by a racist myth: They are the chosen people and Palestine is their God-given land.

Israel is a settler colony, that has wholeheartedly adopted apartheid practices, and its crimes have been funded and legitimated by the West since its illegitimate birth as a state in the 1948 Nakba. The US has vetoed and undermined UN resolutions and international law from that time through the 1967 occupation of Gaza and the West Bank. Today the West colludes with Israel in its ethnic cleansing of Palestinians, war crimes and aggression against neighbouring states. The US currently provides \$3.8 billion per year funding for Israel's military alone. Biden has now announced a further \$14 billion in support for the Israeli military with not a cent of humanitarian aid for Palestinians. The US has despatched two aircraft carrier groups, with 2 000 marines, to "protect" Israel and has delivered more bombs and missiles for the "defensive" onslaught on Gaza. Israel likely requires an inventory of gas and flame throwers for the ground attack on the vast Hamas tunnel system now underway.

While Western support for Israel is driven by racism there are also more personal motives at play in some instances. Sunak's wealthy family has enormous investments in Israel as do many others on the Zionist bandwagon, including many Western corporations.

The claims made in support of Israel by most Western politicians and dutifully echoed by most of the Western media need to be rigorously assessed. Let's take the chorus of statements describing Operation Al-Aqsa Flood launched by

Hamas on 7 October as 'unprovoked' and declaring that 'Israel has a right to defend itself'. The two-billion-dollar

Gaza security fence was breached and 360 Israeli soldiers and 1 200 settlers killed by resistance fighters engaged in a liberation struggle against apartheid settler-colonialism - although eye-witness testimony has emerged that scores of Jewish settlers died by indiscriminate shooting from their own side. Those settlers died because the Israeli state failed to protect them from guerrilla fighters who had broken out of perpetual open-air imprisonment. The action of the *mujahdeen* takes place within the context of almost eight decades of brutal oppression, going back to the time of the dispossession of their grandparents. The Israeli towns, villages and kibbutzim that they raided were built on land stolen from their very own families in the 1940s, during the Nakba that had cast them into refugee limbo. Indeed, two-thirds of the residents of Gaza are refugees, many from those same destroyed villages.



**Palestinian loss of land 1947 to 2023.** Solid green map of Palestine on the left years earlier, and speckles of green on the right depicts systematic dispossession of Palestinian land by Israel. Graphics: REDDIT

### Western hypocrisy

Western media commentary has been awash with 'fake news'. The claim that forty babies had been decapitated has been debunked, and it has emerged, as already stated, that many settlers died owing to frenzied shooting by IDF soldiers, operating under the military's 'Hannibal doctrine' that death is better than being taken captive by the Resistance.

When the West and its servile media claimed that this attack was 'unprovoked' no reference was made to more than the 75 years of ethnic cleansing, incremental genocide and collective punishment; the 16 years siege of Gaza; the five deadly onslaughts on Gaza since 2008, including the cold-blooded assassination of 220 protestors - 42 children among them - and injuring of 36,000 in the peaceful March of Return of 2018-19. Settlers from nearby Sderot ate popcorn and cheered

**Continues on page 3**

## Ho thakgolwa Phaphama Book Festival Mangaung

Ho sa tswa thakgola mokete wa dibuka nakwana e fetileng. Sepheo sa mokete e ne e le ho; kgothaletsa lerato la dingolwa, thjesehelo ya ho bala, ho ruta ka nalane ya thlabollo ya Afrika, le ho fana ka monyetla ho dingodi tsa dibuka, haholo-holo tse ntseng di thuthuha, hore di bapatshe le ho rekisa dibuka tsa tsona.

Mokete o tshwaretse Mangaung ka 26 le 27 kgwedding ya Mphalane, 2023. Mokete ona, o tsejwang ka lebitso la PHAPHAMA Book Festival, o ne o keteka buka ya morao-rao ya Zakes Mda, eo sehloho sa yona eleng: *AROLA - A Journey into 10 Ancient African Civilizations*. Buka ena e ruta batho ka history ya Afrika e tobaneng haholo-holo le dikatleho tsa Afrika pele ho mehla ya bokolone le bokgoba eleng dinnete tse sa kang tsa rutwa bana dikolong nakong ya ho feta le kajeno.



Mof. Nthutsoa Maharaswa, Mokamedi wa St. Francis Productions o hlalosa ha batjha ba lokela ho nka monyetla e hlahiswang ke dinako tsa kajeno

Sepheo se seng sa ho tswara mokete ona e ne e le ho thakgola letsholo leo mohoo wa lona e leng "Books for all" leo ka lona buka ya AROLA e tla atolosetswa pokellong tsa dibuka ho baahi ba se nang bokgoni. Sena se tla etswa ka thuso ya bafani.

Moeti wa bohlokwa-hlokwa moketeng ona e bile yena mo-Professor Zakes Mda ya tsebahalang ka ho ngola dibuka tse fetang mashome a mararo tseo bongata ba tsona di fetolelsweng dipuong tse fetang mashome a mabedi, botaki le boqapi ba dipina. Mda o tlotlilwe ka kgau ya Ikhamanga ke mmuso wa Afrika Borwa. Lethathamo la mokete le qalile Sekolong sa Trinity Primary School le St Bernard High School, moo barutwana ba ile ba qoqa le Zakes Mda, ba natefelwa ke pale ya

kalaneng e itshetlehleng ka buka ya AROLA le mmimo wa bothjaba.

Ha re qotsa mantswe a ntate Zakes Mda puisanong ya hae le Motheo FM, taba e mo kgahlileng haholo ka PHAPHAMA Book Festival ke hore e kopantse mekgwa yohle ya ho pheta

dipale le ho kgothaletsa ntshetso-pele ya sechaba. Mda ore "Ha motho a fuwe talenta ya ho taka, a take, ha a fuwe ya ho ngola, a ngole, ha ele ya ho qapa, a qape, ya ho bina, a bine, mme ya di fuweng kaofela a di sebedise kaofela" jwalokaha le yena a etsa."

Mokgahlelong wa bobedi barutwana ba dikolo tse phahameng tsa St Michaels School for girls, Lereko High School le Tsoseletso High school tlasa tataiso ya Ntate Monyane Tekateka, bai le ba tswara dingangisano ka bohlokwa ba ho baballa ditsebo le mahlale a bo-Africa. Karolo ena ya lethathamo la mokete e pepesitse boiphihlelo ba barutwana ba ho tshetleha dintlha, boikemelo le boitshepo ha ho rarolla taba.

Sehlohlolo sa PHAPHAMA Book Festival ebile moketjana wa mantsiboya moo teng mekgatlo ya dibuka, diroki, dingoli, babadi, bahlahisi ba di filimi le baphatlalatsi ho tswa Afrika Borwa le Lesotho ba fumaneng monyetla wa ho buisana le Zakes Mda tsamaisong ya Dr Maboreng Maharaswa.

Mda ke mongodi ya tummeng lefatsheng ka bophara. Tse ding tsa dibuka tseo di ngotseng di akga; *The Madonna of Excelsior*, *Ways of dying*, *The heart of redness*, *Justify the enemy* le *We shall sing for the Fatherland*.

Mookamedi wa St Francis Productions, Mofumahatsana Nthutsoa Maharaswa, o hlalositse a le motlotlo ka tjantjello eo setjhaba se tshheditseng PHAPHAMA Book Festival,

mme o tshepisitse hore ka 2024, ha Aforika Borwa e keteka dilemo tse mashome a mararo a tokoloho, mokete ona e tla ba wa semetletsa. O bile a kgothaletsa bathja ka ho kgetholoha hore ba fadimehele monyetla ya kgwebo eo ka yona ba ka iphedisang.



Mo-Professor Zanemvula Kizito Gatyeni "Zakes" Mda o qoqa le Dr Maboreng Maharaswa ka buka ya hae e ntjhantjha, *AROLA - A Journey into 10 Ancient African Civilizations* bomameding ba baeti' bao le bona hamorao ba tshwaetseng puisanong eo.

Mokete o ne o hlophisitse ke St Francis Productions, ka tsebedisano, Charmza Literary Club le Rotary Club Thabure.

St Francis productions ke kgwebo e thehilweng ka selemo sa 2014 ka sepheho sa ho fana ka ditshebeletso tsa bophatlalatsi, likgokahanyo, ho hatisa dibuka, ho hlahisa di-filimi (Multi-media and ICT) le kwetliso e ipapisitseng le ditsebo tse hlokalalang ho ntlafatsa moruo wa naha.

Phaphama Book Festival ke mohlala feela wa manane a fanwang ke St Francis Productions. A mang a kenyeletsa thlabollo ya batjha ka dikwetliso tse kang Film and Television Production, Technical support le 3D Animation. St Francis e bile e fana ka ditshebeletso tsa ho nka ditswantsho ka mokgwa wa *drone*.

## COSATU's Statement on the 2023 Third Quarter Unemployment Figures

*Special Note: Happy 37th Anniversary to COSATU. Formed December 1985*

The Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) welcomes the latest decrease in the expanded unemployment rate from 42.1% to 41.2% in the 3rd Quarter of 2023 and a net increase of 399 000 new jobs. Any decrease in the unemployment rate is welcome relief. An additional 399 000 jobs in a fragile economy is positive news.

Given the levels of loadshedding and the crises facing Transnet that have had a massive impact upon our jobs intensive mining, manufacturing and agricultural sectors, an increase in jobs provides relief for those workers and their families and is further boost to demand in the economy and taxes to the state.

This progress follows the previous quarter where unemployment fell as well. We hope this may signal a return to the progress made last year when we saw decreases in unemployment of 1% per quarter for the first three quarters of 2022.

Whilst we appreciate any decrease in unemployment, we must remain alarmed when 4 out of 10 South Africans and 6 out of 10 youth cannot find work to feed themselves and their families. No society can sustain itself with a 41.2% unemployment rate.

We welcome this important decrease in unemployment, but we cannot afford to be complacent. This breathing space must be seized and efforts to turn the economy around and slash unemployment redoubled.

Government needs to move with speed to fix the obstacles hindering economic growth, in particular to ramp up Eskom's maintenance programme and efforts to bring on board new generation capacity. Much more needs to be done to secure our railway network and modernize our ports which are key to ensuring mining, manufacturing, and agricultural products reach their destinations and workers can get to work on time.

The pending retrenchments of at least 3 500 and possibly 34 000 mine workers over the next few months is deeply alarming and should sound the alarm bells at the highest levels of government and business that urgent interventions are needed to secure the mining industry and rebuild Transnet.

Interventions are urgently needed to ensure municipalities and public service departments provide the services that the economy needs to grow. The deterioration of infrastructure and revolving door leadership in many of our municipalities is embarrassing and alarming.

Whilst we seek to rebuild the state and grow the economy, it is critical that support be provided to the unemployed. Key to this must be to extend the SRD Grant to the Food Poverty Line and link its recipients to skills and employment opportunities. Government also needs to increase

the Presidential Employment Programme that has provided work opportunities at the minimum wage and badly needed experience and skills to 500 000 young people. This valuable Programme should be expanded to accommodate 1 million unemployed persons by the Budget Speech in February and 2 million participants by the October Medium Term Budget Policy Statement.

To make a dent in unemployment and close the growing levels of inequality, we need an activist government and a democratic developmental state that is capable of intervening effectively to transform our economy into one that provides decent work for all. What we cannot afford is a business as usual approach.

**Issued by COSATU**

Matthew Parks, Acting National Spokesperson & Parliamentary Coordinator, Cell: 082 785 0687

**From Page 1**

Israeli snipers as they mowed down defenceless people.

Around the world people of conscience remember and celebrate the courage of the Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto who rebelled, guns in hand, against Nazi incarceration, prepared to die on their feet rather than passively await death like sheep. Although South Africans were declared to be terrorists when we took up arms against apartheid the armed struggle was widely recognised as wholly legitimate. Armed resistance against military occupation and tyranny is recognised as a universal right in international law and as a moral right in the theory of just war.

Hamas is a national liberation movement, engaged in an anti-colonial struggle. Israel, the USA and the wider West seek to delegitimize Hamas by conflating it with ISIS but this is a wholly bogus comparison. Hamas, unlike ISIS, is a political organisation emerging from an occupied and oppressed people with the aim of ending colonial occupation.

The hypocrisy and racial double standards of the West and much of its media has become crudely evident in the difference in the response to the situations in Ukraine and Gaza. The European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen, often praising her grandfather who was a Nazi general, has declared that: "Russia's attacks against civilian infrastructure, especially electricity, in Ukraine is a war crime. Cutting off men, women, children from water, electricity and heating with winter coming – these are acts of pure terror. And we have to call it as such." However, when Israel does all these things, and worse, it enjoys the enthusiastic support of the West.

**Israel's end game**

We should recall that when Zionism's 19th Century founder, Theodor Herzl, sought support from European powers, he promised that a "Jewish state" in Palestine, would build a wall "against Asian barbarism". He was offering to securing Western imperialist interests against the Arabs and eastwards, by a European colonial settlement in what for centuries had been a flourishing land called Palestine. Along with racism this explains much of the financial, military, diplomatic and servile mainstream media support for Israel. It is an extension of Western imperialism. Oil and gas, including the recent discovery of vast reserves off the coast from Gaza to Lebanon, have compounded the West's willingness to sacrifice the Palestinian people in its support for a loyal settler colony with shared economic interests.

As Israel rains death and destruction on Gaza we need to ask what its end game is. To answer this question, we must go back to the origins of Zionism, and its desire for great lebensraum at the expense of the Palestinian people – who had cultivated the fields, developed agriculture, trade and towns, and created a thriving culture, from the times of the Canaanite Kingdom. Herzl explained that "Once in power, we will spirit the penniless Arabs across the borders." This was the basis for ethnic cleansing of the indigenous people begun by Ben Gurion in 1948 when 750,000 people – three-quarters of the Palestinian population at the time who vastly outnumbered Jews – were forced into exile as refugees. Gaza and the West Bank, seized in Israel's 1967 war of expansion, created more refugees. It seems clear that Israel's

objective in levelling Gaza and terrorising the population is to force the survivors out into refugee camps in the Sinai Desert where they will become Egypt's responsibility. Along with realising the avarice for Gaza's offshore oil and gas fields.

The extreme nature of the crisis in Gaza must not overlook that the West Bank and East Jerusalem are in turmoil. Since the 1993 Oslo Accords, and its mirage of a solution, Zionist expansionism has seen settlers increasing from 250 000 at that time to 700 000 today. This makes the two-state solution impossible. The desecration of the sacred Al-Aqsa Mosque, with the mob attacks on worshippers and residents of East Jerusalem peaking this year, has compounded the worsening situation. The pogroms launched by illegal settlers screaming "Kill the Arabs" and laying waste to the town of Huwara have shown the fascist character of the settlers.

Almost 2 000 West Bank Palestinians have been injured and more than 135 killed since 7th October, with 200 murdered in the preceding months this year. Those attacks were met by courageous armed resistance in towns such as Jenin, Nablus and Hebron, which has challenged the military occupation. As popular resistance increased prior to 7th October, numerous IDF battalions were transferred from Gaza to the West Bank and the number of Palestinians imprisoned (or taken hostage) by Israel has almost doubled to over 6,000, including 200 women and children as young as twelve. Some 1 600 have been detained without charge or trial. The Israelis being held by Hamas are being offered in exchange for the freeing of those prisoners, held under abominable conditions, and many for longer than Nelson Mandela's 27 years' imprisonment.

Israel's policy is not to negotiate a prisoner exchange. This has been exposed by Qatari and Egyptian mediation for the four women released by Hamas. All indicated they had been well treated although the experience had been traumatic. Another woman, Yasmin Poral, held hostage in kibbutz Be'eri on 7th October, explained on Israeli TV that many Israelis had been killed by indiscriminate fire from their own soldiers. She clarified that the house she was sheltering in was destroyed by IDF tank fire. The badly burnt corpses would have resulted from that type of assault. The interview was swiftly removed from online platforms.

**Anti-fascism is not anti-Semitism**

It is not at all difficult to understand the hatred harboured by Palestinians for Israel given the barbaric treatment they have endured for generations. Any credible analysis of the situation would understand this. However rational analysis is often made very difficult by the deeply cynical response of declaring criticism of the Israeli state and the settlers it supports as 'anti-Semitic'. It is deeply offensive for Israeli proto-fascists to misuse the historical oppression of Jews to justify the oppression of Palestine. Nonetheless this tactic has successfully suppressed reasoned discussion in a number of societies and organisations.

In contrast, many Jews, including some courageous citizens of Israel, are deeply opposed to Zionism and to the Israeli state. In the United States, large numbers of younger Jews have turned against Israel. International anti-Zionist Jewish networks have been proclaiming that Palestinians have every right to resist, declaring that Israel does not speak in their name. This is an important rebuttal of Zionist propaganda, claiming that Israel represents all Jews across the world.

Righteous people mourn the loss of life of all the civilians that have died, Jews and Palestinians. This is a basic point of moral decency. Yet decency also requires the recognition that the losses on both sides are incomparable and vastly disproportionate where 95% of dead and wounded, and thousands of children, are Palestinians. Palestinians had no hand in the Nazi Holocaust but have been made to pay the price for a crime of European fascism. They have lost their land and rights as victims of a colonial project, and are the ones suffering unspeakable brutality. Throughout history slave uprisings have targeted slave owners and their families as well as the system of slavery. These uprisings were just. We must regret all loss of civilian life, especially war crimes, but that regret cannot be misused to deny the justice of the Palestinian cause and the moral and legal right of Palestinians to armed resistance.

**Whither Gaza – Whither Palestine – Whither Israel?**

The gravity of the situation for Gaza, and all Palestinians, looks bleaker than ever. Or could there be a twist in the tale?

As horrendous as the situation is, Israel's plans might not be as unchallenged as expected. It is never wise to deploy military force on the scale involved in an emotive knee-jerk reaction, with no clear military and political objectives. Apart from the lack of a clear strategy, at the tactical level, the prospect of the ground invasion having to contend with the vast tunnel system the resistance fighters have developed over the years would be daunting for any military.

Attacking in urban conditions, with rubble and collapsed buildings creating problems for tanks, against a formidable opponent, is the most difficult and dangerous of all military operations. Hamas has demonstrated extraordinary mastery of guerrilla tactics as illustrated by the lessons it dished out to the IDF on 7th October, and in previous Israeli assaults on the territory.

The IDF cannot afford to face any further calamities. The Israeli public will not readily forgive the political elite and a military whose inadequacies have already been so rudely exposed - in part owing to racial hubris and complacency; in part because it has become a glorified police force dealing with stone throwing teenagers.

An occupation force of a corrupt and decrepit state, despite all its boasting, cannot produce sustained high morale, especially when up against a highly-motivated opponent, contemptuous of death, with a deeply-felt cause. Hamas knew that a ground force invasion would inevitably follow an operation such as Al-Aqsa Flood and would have carefully prepared much more than the anticipated booby-trapped tunnels. Who knows what surprises there are in store for the invaders?

Moreover, Israel has to maintain considerable force on its northern front with Lebanon, and its feared opponent, Hezbollah. Skirmishes have already been occurring there as guerrilla fighters probe Israel's defences. Likewise, the West Bank resistance is likely to register a potent response, along with possible flare-ups within Israel itself. Guerrilla fighters throughout the region have developed impressive operational capacity and daring, and demonstrate a far greater threat to Israeli military prowess than the conventional Arab armies that Israel contended with in 1948 and 1967. The IDF deployment is already greatly stretched; as will be Israel's economy and military call up of its reserve force over a protracted period. The Israeli families of those Hamas captured, are becoming extremely impatient with the Government's reluctance to negotiate a prisoner exchange.

The release of some captives with Western citizenship, through outside intervention, is placing enormous pressure on Netanyahu and his ilk. As possible prisoner exchanges like those take place, the obduracy of the Israeli state will become more objectionable. Recall that in 2011 the IDF soldier Gilad Shalit was exchanged for over 1 000 Palestinian prisoners. Hamas is holding a very strong card. And its support will grow.

Furthermore, the US-Israeli objective of propping-up the Palestine Authority (PA), of dividing Palestinians between the West Bank and Gaza, between Fatah and Hamas, has long rendered Mahmoud Abbas a lame duck with no credibility, the two-state solution as futile, and the notion of only peaceful forms of struggle as inadequate. Current events have put paid to those plans or the idea that the PA could be brought in to govern the Gaza Strip. Gaza is uniting the determination and belief of Palestinians everywhere – in the occupied territories, within Israel itself, in the refugee camps of the region, in the prisons and in the diaspora.

That's not the only headache for Western objectives. Both the USA and Israel are fretting at the possible setback to the Abrahamic Accord and Israel's normalisation with its neighbours, which Netanyahu was only recently boasting about in his UN General Assembly address in September. As spineless and even treacherous as most Arab governments have been regarding support for the Palestinians over the years - Algeria, Syria and Yemen Houthi's, along with Hezbollah, are among exceptions - the unprecedented Palestinian resistance has galvanised the Arab masses as reflected in the huge protests in the Middle East and beyond, and is bound to create a dilemma for those regimes. The last thing the USA wants is a quagmire in the Middle East, with mass uprisings against vulnerable US regimes such as Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia. The US simply cannot afford this at a time when their proxy war in the Ukraine is unravelling, the Kiev counter-offensive grinding to a halt, and Russia gaining the upper-hand. The US has recklessly generated tensions with China. At the same time the alliance between China and Russia is strengthening. They are being less stand-off in their dealings with Israel and would most likely support Iran if needs be, leading to a regional test of strength with the West.

Given such factors, Israel could find that there are limits to the backing it will receive from the US and Western Europe in a volatile situation. Moreover, while buildings might be reduced to rubble, and thousands killed, Palestinians have exhibited the most extraordinary resilience and steadfastness (sumud) over decades.

Ben Gurion once said that after the 1948 Palestinian generation, 'the old will die, and the young will forget'. These hopes were in vain. Palestinians have not forgotten, and they have not accepted permanent oppression as their fate. Hamas and the other resistance groups in Gaza and the West Bank are part of the people, not alien entities. This is a key tenet in successful guerrilla struggles. Much depends on how Hamas contains the ground invasion and forces the IDF into something of an impasse. Much also depends on international reaction.

It is vital for progressive forces for peace and justice do everything possible to forestall the slaughter, and through the power of international solidarity enable and strengthen UN's role, and apply pressure on the US and Western Europe, to support an immediate ceasefire. Most important of all is People's Power - direct action in the streets worldwide as never seen before; along with the intensification of the BDS campaign to completely isolate Zionist Israel.

The indiscriminate bombing of civilians deepens resolve and invokes resistance. The Palestinian spirit is unbreakable. Like the mythical phoenix, defiant and heroic Gaza will rise from the fire.

*Ronnie Kasrils  
Former South African Government Minister of  
Intelligence Services, and struggle veteran  
Johannesburg*

Le ha mmuso wa Israel o ka beha baiphehi ba balwang ka dikete-kete Gaza le dikarolong tse ding tsa Palestina, hoo ho ke ke ha hlakola hore mobu ke wa beng ba ona!

Ntwa e etsahala ha dihlopha tse lwantsanang di feletswe ke mokgwa wa ho rarolla diphapang ka mokgwa wa dipuisano. Ke moo lehlakore le leng le fellwang ke mehopollo, maqheka le maano a ho hlola kapa ho tiisa tharollo ka dipuisano le nkang dihloho ho lwantsa lehlakore le leng.

Lehlakore le e latang letailane kapa le leqhoko ha ngata ke lona le hlotseng ke ditaba le ho haellwa ke maqheka a ho hlola ditaba ka dipuisano.

Ke taba e totobetseng hore boteng ba ma-Palestina bo ke ke ba hanyetswa, jwalo feela ka boteng ba ma-Juta. Ho a tsebahala hape hore karolo ya lefatsheng kapa mobung oo ma-Palestina a leng ho ona ka mengwahangwaha ke mobu kapa naha e bitswang Palestina. Ke naha eo ma-Palestina ka bongata ba ileng ba dula le ho phela ka kgotso le merabe e meng e ho kenyeletswa le ma-Juta(Jews).

Ho a tsebahala hape hore karolo e kgolo ya lona lefatsheng lena la Palestina, ke moo ho thehilweng naha e na e bitswang Israel, eo e neng e le siyo ka makgolokgolo a dilemo.

Ke taba e tsebahalang hape hore ka mengwaha e mengata ditjhaba tsa Europa di ne di sa rata morabe wa ma-Juta, hobane hantlentle ba ne ba nkwa e le melata dinaheng tsa bophirima. Lehloyo lena le ile la tota nakong ya mahareng a mongwaha kgolo o fetileng, moo ditjhaba tsa Bophirima di ileng tsa baka le ho phethahatsa Dintwa tse pedi tsa Lefatshe. Lehloyo lena le ile la totiswa hape ke ma-Jeremane (Germans) ba neng ba dumela hore ma-Juta ke ona a ba ekileng

## Mobu ke wa Ma-Palestina, ha ho se ka hlakolang nnete eo!



Tshehetso boitsekong ba Palestina e bonahala lefatsheng lohle ka bophara. SACP Lebatoweng la Caleb Motshabi le yona e ile ya hlophisa mohwanto mafelong a Mphalane ho eketsa mohoo wa tshehetso ho batho ba Palestina

le ho ba hlodisa Ntweng ya pele ya Lefatshe.

Boetapeleng ba Adolf Hitler sena se ile sa eketsa lehloyo ho ma-Juta. Jeremane le dinaha tse ding tse neng di kgemammoho le yona e ile ya bolaya ma-Juta a dimilione tse 6 tsa Ma-Juta.

Borithane (Britain) e neng e hape Paletine pejana e ile ya fuwa matla ke Lekgotla la Ditjhaba (League of Nations) kamorao ho Ntwa ya Pele ya Lefatshe ho ba le taolo ho Palestina. Mme hamorao Borithane e ile ya tshepisa ho fumanela ma-Juta a neng a salla, a tlaetswe ke naha le ho hloriswa bodulo ka ntle ho Europa. Tumellanong Phatlalatsong ya Balfour (Balfour Declaration) ho ile ha etswa qeto ya ho

sehela ma-baphaphathehi ba ma-Juta, ba tumelo ya Zion (Zionism) ho tswa Europa le dibakeng tse ding lefatsheng sebaka Palestina.

Sena e bile qaleho ya qaka le mathata ho beng ba naha le baphaphathehi ba ma-Juta. Ho ile ha qaleha meferefere, boipelaetso diqhebesano le dintwa.

Le ha ho le jwalo mmuso wa Manyesemane o ile wa tswela pele ka qeto ya ho thusa ho thehela baphaphathehi naha naheng ya Palestina. Naha ena e ile ya bitswa Israel. Ha e sa le ho tloha nakong eo ya theho ya yona naha ena e ile ya eba nthatuwa ya dinaha tsa Bophirima, haholoholo Borithane le Dinaha tse Kopaneng tsa Amerika (USA).

Di tsheheditse ho tloha nakong e oho filha kajeno naha ya Israel ka mekgwa e mengata ho kenyeletswa le tshehetso ya dibetsa.

Bonamodi ba Mokgatlo wa Matjhaba a Kopaneng bo fokola haholo hobane Lekgotla la Tshireletso la mokgatlo ona dinaha tse pedi tsena ke tse ding tse ka sehlohong mme di na le tshwaetso e kgolo ho diqeto tse nkhang. Ke ka hoo Israel e iketsetsang borata hobane e ke nthatuwa wa dinaha tse matla tsa Bophirima. Mmuso wa Israel boetapeleng ba Benjamin Netanyahu ha ena thahasello ya kgotso le phedisano mmoho le ma-Palestina.

E ke ke ya e ba taba e lokileng hore mmuso wa Israel, ma-Juta a dumellanang le ona, le ditjhaba tse ding tsa lefatsheng, ba ka hlalolang ditokelo tsa ma-Juta a amohelang mmuso wa Israel le ditokelo tsa bona ntle le papiso le netefatso ya ditokelo tsa ma-Palestina.

Lefatshe le lokela ho ema ka maoto ho tshireletsa ma-Palestina kgapong ya naha ya bona le polaong e sehloho ho tswa ho batho bao boholo e leng baphaphathehi (ma-Juta) ho tswa dinaheng tse ka ntle.

Bona ma-Israel (ma-Juta) ho tswa bophaphathehi ba lokela ho hopola tshotlo le bosoto ba ma-Jeremane. Lefatshe le ile la ema ka maoto ho nyatsa polao ya bongata ya ma-Juta. Ka tsela e jwalo lefatsheng le lokela ho ema ka maoto le kajeno ho tshireletsa baahi ba Palestina.

Le ha Israel, Amerika le baetsana ba yona, ba ka bolaya le ho hleka beng ba mobu, ma-Palestina, sena se ke ke sa hlakola nnete ya hore lefatsheng leo le tsohle tse ho lona ke la batho ba Palestina. Ha ho dithunya le diqomane tse tiang ho thiba mehoo ya batho ba Palestina le bohle lefatsheng ba ratang toka le nnete ho lwanela ditokelo tsa ma-Palestina.



*Ho batswa-sehlabelo bohle ba ma-Palestina ba kgethiteng ho nehelana ka maphelo a bona ho sireletsa lefa leo ba le sietsweng ke bahotoloholo, ho se ho se hokae, dillo tsa bahlolohadi le masea di tla fela, Ditopo tse hasaneng hokhe di tla patwa le ho etsetswa mekolokotwane ho ba hopola ka tlhomphe e kgolo!*

## What positive signals does the China-U.S. summit meeting send?

*Editor's note: Saud Faisal Malik is the founder and CEO of The Daily CPEC, a news website focusing on the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor. The article reflects the author's personal opinions and not necessarily the views of CGTN.*

It is hard to overstate the importance of this meeting, which extends beyond the bilateral relationship between the two countries. People across the world have been focusing on the conversation between the two leaders. The signals sent by this summit are positive, abundant and weighty enough to drive the whole world forward.

### China-U.S. summit meeting is the climax of a series of previous positive interactions

As we all know, in recent years, the world's two biggest economies have had a tough time in terms of bilateral ties. However, rational decision-makers would not let the bilateral ties go adrift. To reverse the pessimistic trend in bilateral ties, both sides need to readjust their perceptions of each other. Before the summit meeting, there had already been noticeable high-level visits between the two countries. Top officials from the two countries have exchanged ideas, engaged in conversations and

which set sought common interests, a benevolent atmosphere for this four-hour-long meeting. In general, the successful holding of the summit meeting produced worthwhile and practicable diplomatic efforts.

### China-U.S. summit meeting brings bilateral ties back to healthy development track

Xi laid out "five pillars" that will foster a new vision of China-U.S. relations. As introduced by Chinese Minister of Foreign Affairs Wang Yi, China and the U.S. have reached common understanding on more than 20 issues including high-level exchanges, military cooperation, technology, business and cultural communications. In addition, both China and the U.S. have sent their top officials to San Francisco, which suggests that this is a comprehensive and sincere meeting. These achievements are of vital importance to enhancing trust, reducing misunderstandings, managing divergence and contributing to collaboration.

### China-U.S. summit meeting is filled with "human kindness"

The personal friendship between Xi



China's President, Xi Jinping and U.S. President, Joe Biden shake hands at the summit meeting. Photo: Gettyimages/AFP

and Biden is an important driver of China-U.S. relations. As a traditional form of interaction between the two countries, "garden diplomacy" provides a platform for private communication, serving as a catalyst for resolving serious political issues.

The exchange at Filoli estate showed that the meeting is collaboration-oriented. Bringing China-U.S. relations back on track is not only a state-level matter, but a reflection of the eager anticipation of the countries' leaders.

China-U.S. summit meeting marks

a new start for bilateral relationship. The dialogue between the two leaders is going to bring one of the world's most important bilateral relations forward in the foreseeable future. Xi and Biden agreed to further promote high-level dialogues, which indicates that China and the U.S. are interested in and capable of working together to meet challenges. What the two leaders have agreed on and announced can be regarded as a blueprint for the sound, steady and sustained growth of China-U.S. relations.

The friendly signals sent by this summit will linger on in the comprehensive collaboration between China and the U.S. in the long term. The most important implication is probably the need for China and the U.S. to have accurate perceptions of each other. Biden posted on social media after the meeting, "There are critical global challenges that demand our joint leadership. And today, we made real progress."

Of course, it is not easy for China-U.S. relationship to remain on the right track. But as long as both sides keep in mind the principle that "dialogue and cooperation is the only right choice for the two countries," the vast Pacific Ocean will not be flooded by petty and selfish confrontations anymore. **CGTN**

## COMMENT



The Independent Electoral Commission is hard at work preparing for next years elections hoping they too, like all previous ones will also be successful,

But it too, there is a concern that people should not avoid registering and not voting as a form of protest.

We must go out in our numbers to register and confirm our details, especially if we have moved our residences and we stay elsewhere. The defence of democracy is all our responsibility because we are better off choosing public representatives and their political parties, than have these imposed on us.

Let us continue the battle to clean our ranks of all wrong doings and carry forward the dreams of those who left them in our hands to realize. It is not for nothing that it is called *The long walk to freedom*. Let us not loose our patience. The difficulties we are facing are challenges to strengthen our resolve and come out victorious at the other end.

It is our duty to protest the increase in the cost of living, especially for the unemployed, underpaid and still discriminated against; such as women, the disabled and the illiterate.

Organizing to grow our own food is an important battle against hunger and poverty, and the wellness of our children and grandchildren who perform badly, poorly in the absence of nutritious food in schools, in sports and in almost every sphere of life. Every conceivable piece of land must be accessed properly and enriched for young and old to pride ourselves of growing our own nutritious food - *Re kgaba ka diratswana*.

The American government is playing a dirty role for supporting Israel all these years - it has been aggressively pursuing its expansion beyond acceptable boundaries, the brutal crime against humanity must stop. The people of the world, including in American cities showed their support for peace and support for Palestinians, and their just cause!

**Free Palestine! Free Palestine!**



## NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



## NATIONAL ASSEMBLY ADOPTS MOTION TO SUSPEND DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

**Parliament, Tuesday, 21 November 2023** –The National Assembly has adopted a motion calling for the South African government to close the Israeli Embassy in South Africa and suspend all diplomatic relations with Israel with an approved amendment by the ANC.

The motion brought by the Economic Freedom Fighters (EFF) comes as a response to the ongoing human rights violations in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Reading out the amendment to point nine of the original motion, the Chief Whip of the majority party, Ms Pemmy Majodina, made certain additions.

With the amendment, the motion reads: “That the House – calls upon the government to close the Israeli Embassy in South Africa and suspend all diplomatic relations with Israel until a ceasefire is agreed to by Israel and Israel commits to binding United Nations-facilitated negotiations whose outcome must be a just sustainable and lasting peace.”

Members debated the original motion in the National Assembly last Thursday and political parties were today afforded an opportunity to make declarations on the amendment.

The motion was passed with the support of 248 votes to 91 with no abstentions.

The new motion was carried with 248 votes to 91 – also with no abstentions.

**\*Explanatory note on Motions adopted by the National Assembly:**

When the National Assembly adopts a motion, it becomes a resolution of the House.

Resolutions adopted by Parliament play a crucial role in the functioning of a democratic government. They are a means by which the legislature, representing the will of the people, expresses its views, concerns, and recommendations on various matters.

Once a resolution is adopted by the House, it becomes an official expression of the will of Parliament. The Speaker of the House has the responsibility to formally bring this resolution to the attention of the President and the relevant or affected government department. This serves as a formal communication channel between the legislative and executive branches of government.

Resolutions adopted by Parliament are generally not binding on the government and this is rooted in the doctrine of the separation of powers. Parliament, as the legislative branch, may express its views through resolutions, but it cannot dictate executive decisions. The only way its resolutions may be binding, in this context, is through a piece of legislation.

While resolutions are not legally binding, they hold significant importance in the democratic process. They represent the collective voice of the elected representatives of the people and reflect the concerns and aspirations of the citizenry. The government, therefore, must take resolutions seriously, considering them as valuable input into policy-making and governance.

Although resolutions may not be binding, they should not be ignored by the government without reasonable justification. Ignoring a resolution without justification can lead to serious

concerns about accountability and transparency in government actions. Parliament's role includes overseeing the executive branch, and resolutions are one of the tools used for this purpose.

For the government to ignore a parliamentary resolution, there must be compelling justification. Such justifications may include constitutional or legal constraints, national security concerns, or practical reasons that make it infeasible to implement the resolution. It is essential for the government to account on these justifications transparently to maintain trust and accountability.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

## NCOP

**Passes Prevention and Combating of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Bill**

**Parliament, Wednesday, 15 November 2023** – The National Council of Provinces (NCOP) today during its hybrid plenary sitting, passed the Prevention and Combating of Hate Crimes and Hate Speech Bill. The Bill was passed by the National Assembly in March this year and sent to the NCOP for consideration.

Introduced in Parliament in 2018, the Bill marks a significant step towards the protection of all people in South Africa against hate crimes and hate speech, particularly those based on race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, or any other form of discrimination.

Section 3 of the Bill defines a hate crime as an offence committed where the offender is motivated by prejudice or intolerance towards the victim of the crime because of specified characteristics or perceived characteristics of the victim or another person associated with the victim. These characteristics listed as grounds that could constitute a hate crime include age; albinism; birth; colour; culture; disability; ethnic or social origin; gender or gender identity; HIV status; language; nationality, migrant or refugee status; occupation or trade; political affiliation or conviction; race; religion; sex, which includes intersex; or sexual orientation.

In Section 4 of the Bill, hate speech is defined as the intentional publishing or communicating of anything that can incite harm or promote hate based on grounds, including, among others, age, sexual orientation and race.

The Bill also provides for penalties such as fines, imprisonment, or both for those who are convicted of the offences.

The NCOP passed the Bill with proposed amendments and the Bill will be sent back to the Portfolio Committee on Justice to consider the Council's proposed amendments.

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## FOCALpoint

### ANC 2019

#### Elections Manifesto

##### General Observations - Brief overview

By Sonwabile Ngxiza



**T**he ANC Manifesto ahead of the 2019 General Elections was inspired by the vision of building a Freedom Charter society. It noted the progress made since 1994 in terms of social transformation and restoration of dignity to the previously oppressed and marginalised majority.

The fulcrum of the manifesto was essentially the imperative of structural economic transformation for sustainable growth and development in order to serve the poor. The main thrust of this objective remains breaking monopolies, supporting SMMEs and cooperatives, land reform and intensifying Broad Based Black Economic Empowerment.

It is critically important to recognise that the Manifesto was developed under vastly different conditions and its implementation or efficacy thereof was impacted upon by several devastating occurrences including the outbreak of Covid – 19, the July 2021 unrest, the crippling energy crisis and the damaging floods that engulfed certain provinces such as KwaZulu Natal, Eastern Cape and North West to mention a few.

#### Fundamental Structural Economic Transformation

The Manifesto committed to creating decent jobs to curtail rampant unemployment, in particular youth unemployment, and therefore reduce poverty as well as gendered and racial inequality in South Africa. In the main, the manifesto targeted specific wide-ranging interventions to ensure absorption of youth into the main stream economy by eliminating experience as a requirement for young people and creating job opportunities including intention programmes etc.

In terms of ensuring access to economic opportunities for the youth the manifesto also stressed the importance of education and skills as well as enabling youth entrepreneurship in order to participate in the economy. In this respect, the Manifesto stated the necessity to: "Scale-up support for micro, small and medium enterprises, co-operatives and township and village enterprises, including through the rapid implementation of measures contained in the Competition Amendment Bill. Support for these enterprises will include enterprise development, public and private procurement and access to funding and enterprise development" (pp. 20).

The objective of creating decent jobs and boosting entrepreneurship for economic growth depends on meaningful investment in the productive sectors of the economy. As a key priority, the Manifesto committed to: "Work tirelessly to increase the levels of investments by R1,2 trillion over the next four years as part of our plan to grow the economy and create jobs. We are

within reach of our target. These investments will help diversify the economy in sectors like mining, forestry, manufacturing, telecommunications, transport, energy, water, agro-processing, consumer goods, pharmaceuticals, infrastructure and financial services" (pp. 21). Investment in economic infrastructure is critically important to enable industrial growth as an integral part of state led infrastructure and manufacturing based industrial development which South Africa as a developmental state requires.

With respect to broadening ownership the Manifesto placed emphasis on supporting and upscaling Small Medium and Micro Enterprises as well as cooperatives as engines of growth and development. The manifesto indicated the need to: "Develop a policy framework to support the distinct and vibrant social and solidarity economy which is based on addressing social and environmental needs rather than profit maximisation. This sector includes co-operatives, community-based enterprises, trade union based enterprises, informal enterprises and non-profit organisations" (pp. 29). What has been lacking is an exact assessment in concrete terms of the progress in terms of supporting cooperatives and assisting their participation in the value chains and international markets.

In addition, the Manifesto committed to prioritise worker ownership by committing to: "Introduce legislation for the extension of company ownership to a broad base of workers through an employee ownership scheme and similar arrangements to supplement workers' incomes and build greater partnerships between workers and owners to build these businesses. Social partners (government, labour and business) will put together the minimum thresholds and conditionalities to govern the establishment of worker-ownership funds, paving the way to empower millions of workers across the economy" (pp. 29). It would be interesting to have an evaluation of the progress on this critical area in terms of worker-owned enterprises or share equity schemes.

It is worth mentioning that the South African economy faces a number of binding constraints which serve to trap the economy on a trajectory of increasing unemployment because of the high skills, low growth paradigm. Compounding the problem further is the increasing hegemony of the financial sector or put differently the financialisation of the South African economy. The financial sector which includes banking and insurance services are increasingly dominant in the economy. This sector is highly monopolistic and severely concentrated in terms of ownership patterns and overall control. Ironically, this dominant economic sector has been shedding jobs over the past few years due to the digital revolution in the main.

Another main economic development potential is the Digital or 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution. In this respect the youth skills programmes are advocated as well as embarking on e-commerce in terms of government services and other industries. Skills and technological innovation are key signifiers of development in the digital revolution arena and therefore the role of education and training institutions becomes paramount.

#### On land reform

An important pillar of rapid economic transformation is the question of radical land reform programme. On this question, the manifesto committed to: "Use our land reform programme to build productive assets for our people, unlock agricultural productivity, secure food security and address the persisting reality of apartheid spatial separation" (pp. 30).

South African cities are largely unequal and spatially segregated and ANC committed to use well located land to provide housing for the working class to live closer to economic opportunities. This area requires interrogation as the RDP approach tended to reinforce apartheid spatial distortions rather than reverse it.

One of the key instruments of land reform highlighted in the Manifesto is the Expropriation Bill. The Bill was passed by the National Assembly by a simple majority in September 2022 and referred to the NCOP however it has not been formally passed by the NCOP owing to public participation processes.

#### Social transformation

##### Education

In brief, on education the Manifesto highlighted the critical importance of early childhood development and the eradication of pit-latrines in schools through replacing, "Inappropriate school structures and sanitation facilities" (pp. 40).

There was a stated commitment to amend the curriculum to equip learners with relevant resources and capabilities for the age of the 4<sup>th</sup> Industrial Revolution. colleges and SETAs were given specific responsibilities to boost skills and technological know-how targeting the youth in order to unleash their creativity for the Digital Revolution.

##### Quality Health

The most notable factor on the question of social transformation specifically as it relates to health is the aspect of the National Health Insurance (NHI). The National Health Insurance Scheme has been piloted in several provinces and more recently the National Assembly has passed the NHI Bill and referred it to the National Council of Provinces.

The Manifesto highlighted the importance of primary health care provision. It committed to: "Expand the primary health care system by absorbing over 50,000 community health workers into the public health system. Within five years, the number of community health workers will be doubled and deployed in our villages, townships and informal settlements to serve our people" (pp. 42).

The Manifesto also committed to: "Consolidate nursing colleges into one major nursing college with satellites in each province and orientate their curriculum towards more practical work at the patient's bedside" (pp. 42). Once again, these undertakings need to be evaluated in terms of implementation and progress since.

Another significant programme which was highlighted in the Manifesto is the Mandela/Castro Medical Training Collaboration. In this respect the Manifesto recognised the importance of the need to: "Strengthen and expand the Mandela-Fidel Castro Programme to supplement the production of much-needed medical practitioners and other health professionals. At the same time, local universities must be expanded with new infrastructure, equipment and personnel to increase the intake of medical students for local training" (pp. 43). This programme has grown significantly over the years however, there is no legitimate justification for the Western Cape not to participate in this programme which would enable the disadvantaged learners in the Western Cape to benefit from this programme.

#### Continues

## Register to vote and realise the power of your vote!

accountable for the exercise of public power and policy decisions and actions.

It is important therefore that citizens register to vote - to increase the number of eligible voters. A greater numbers of registered voters contributes in deepening democracy while a low voter turn-out threatens the democratic system, socio-economic stability and prosperity.

It is therefore important that *unregistered eligible voters* must seize the opportunity presented by the voter registrations periods to register.

The will of the people is expressed through elections, which is an integral part of a representative and participatory democracy. Voting should neither be regarded as a symbolic flourish nor a procedural exercise, but rather a substantive practice in depth and content because it represents prospects of improvement of quality of life.

The right to vote is regarded as the 'first generation' human rights because it is fundamentally a civic or political in nature and is a cornerstone of a democratic system.

The right to vote is enshrined in the Bill of Rights in the Constitution under fundamental political rights. According to section 19 of the Bill of Rights asserts that every citizen has a right to make a political choice including ;actively participate in political activities and choice of belonging and or forming a political party.

Citizens are entitled to free, fair, regular and democratic elections; and also stand to be elected into political office.

Citizens have a right to vote for a government of their choice that will advance their aspirations which simultaneously allows them to participate in the decision-making process and administration of their affairs.

Citizens elect their representatives who must stand for their interests with fidelity with the obligation to account to the public on their mandate. Exercising the right to vote renders the elected government legitimate and gives a mandate to implement policies to improve the lives of the citizens. Equally citizens have, a right to hold the government of their choice

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## ISRAEL AND US IMPERIALIST CONNECTION

By Dr Lehlohonolo Kennedy Mahlatsi

The 1945 US State Department document on Middle East oil described it as "...a stupendous source of strategic power, and one of the greatest material prizes in world history." Imperialism is constant for capitalism. But it passes through various phases as the system evolves. At present the world is experiencing a new age of imperialism marked by a U.S. grand strategy of global domination. One indication of how things have changed is that the U.S. military is now truly global in its operations with permanent bases on every continent, including Africa, where a new scramble for control is taking place focused on oil.

The goal of the new U.S. imperial grand strategy is to use this unprecedented military strength to pre-empt emerging historical forces by creating a sphere of full-spectrum dominance so vast, now encompassing every continent that no potential rivals will be able to challenge the United States decades down the line. This is a war against the people of the periphery of the capitalist world and for the expansion of world capitalism, particularly U.S. capitalism. But it is also a war to secure a "New American Century" in which third world nations are viewed as "strategic assets" within a larger global geopolitical struggle. What is certain is that the U.S. Empire is being enlarged to encompass parts of Africa and Middle East in the rapacious search for oil and other mineral resources.

U.S. militarism was not simply or even mainly a product of the Cold War competition with the Soviet Union, by which it was conditioned. Militarism had deeper roots in the need of the United States, as the hegemonic power of the capitalist world economy, to keep the doors open for foreign investment by resorting to force, if necessary. At the same time, the United States was employing its power where possible to advance the needs of its own corporations—as for example in Latin America where its dominance was unquestioned by other great powers. Not only did

the United States exercise this military role on numerous occasions throughout the periphery in the post-Second World War period, but during that period it was also able to justify this as part of the fight against Communism. Military production helped prop up the entire economic edifice in the United States, and was a factor holding off economic stagnation.

Not only has the United States repeatedly intervened militarily in the Middle East, beginning with Iran in 1953, but it has also continually sought to promote its control over oil and the interests of its oil corporations in the region. Israel, which the U.S. has armed to the teeth and which has been allowed to develop hundreds of nuclear weapons, has long been part of this strategy of controlling the region. From the first, the U.S. role in the Middle East has been openly imperialistic, geared to maintaining control over the region's oil resources. Only an analysis that reduced economics to commodity prices and royalty income while ignoring the political and military shaping of economic relations—not to mention the flows of both oil and profits—could result in such obvious errors. Indeed, prior to 1989 and the breakup of the Soviet bloc, a major U.S. war in the region would have been almost completely unthinkable.

This left U.S. dominance in the region significantly constrained. The 1991 Gulf War thus marked the beginning of a new age of U.S. imperialism and expansion of U.S. global power. It is no mere accident that the weakening of the Soviet Union led almost immediately to a full-scale U.S. military intervention in the region that was the key to controlling world oil, the most critical global resource, and thus crucial to any strategy of global domination. It is essential to understand that in 1991 when the Gulf War occurred the Soviet Union was greatly weakened and subservient to U.S. policy. At the same time the United States was still in a position where it had lost economic ground to some of its main competitors and hence there was a widespread sense that its

economic hegemony had seriously declined, limiting its course of action. Imperialism has tremendous strengths. In the midst of the carnage on the battlefields and misery on the home front, Lenin pointed out that capitalism was squarely to blame for the horrors unfolding across Europe. Capitalism could not exist without war. It therefore had to be overthrown not just to end this war but also to prevent future wars. For those fighting colonialism, Imperialism gave some theoretical underpinning to their struggles. Imperialism had tremendous predictive value. Lenin argued that unless capitalism was destroyed, any peace agreement between the imperialist powers to end the Great War would only give way to more wars in the future. And that is exactly what happened. Just two decades after the 1918 armistice following the First World War, the world was plunged into a new world war that proved even bloodier and which was genuinely a world war, with whole areas of the Asia-Pacific drawn into the fighting.

The control of the Middle East is certainly a cornerstone of Washington's project of global hegemony.

The war of 1967, planned in agreement with Washington in 1965, was in pursuit of several goals: to start the collapse of the populist nationalist regimes; to break their alliance with the Soviet Union; to force them to reposition themselves on American terms; and to open new grounds for Zionist colonization. In the territories conquered in 1967 Israel set up a system of apartheid inspired by that of apartheid South Africa. It is here that the interests of dominant capital meet up with those of Zionism. A rich, powerful, and modernized Arab world would call into question the right of the West to plunder its oil resources, which are necessary for the continuation of the waste associated with capitalist accumulation. Therefore, the political powers in the countries of the triad—all faithful servants of dominant transnational capital—do

not want a modernized and powerful Arab world.

The alliance between Western powers and Israel is thus founded on the solid basis of their common interests. This alliance is neither the product of European feelings of guilt for anti-Semitism and Nazi crime.

In the current war crimes committed by the apartheid Israeli against the people of Palestine, the US is not simply standing by, failing to prevent or punish genocide against Palestinians - it is actively enabling and supporting the gravest crime under international law, making the US complicit. Israeli warplanes are entirely US-sourced and the munitions killing Palestinians in the Gaza Strip are overwhelmingly American-made weapons. When confronted with the widespread and systematic Israeli military attacks against an overwhelmingly youthful civilian population in Gaza and the routine unlawful killing of Palestinian children in the occupied West Bank, the Biden administration has responded with unconditional support to Israel.

The previous failure of the international community to hold Israeli officials accountable for war crimes, and, maybe even more importantly, to sit back and not challenge the United States' unconditional support for Israel, has exacerbated the situation.

The role of the United State was succinctly described by José Ramón Machado Ventura, First Vice-President of Cuba's Council of State and Ministers, in his speech to the general debate of the 63rd session of the United Nations General Assembly, New York, on September 24, 2008. He cogently observed that:

"The wars of conquest, the aggression and illegal occupation of countries, military intervention and the bombing of innocent civilians, the unbridled arms race, the pillage and usurping of the Third World's natural resources and the imperial offensive to crush the resistance of the peoples who are defending their rights, constitute the greatest and most serious threats to peace and international security."

"Concepts such as limitation of sovereignty, pre-emptive war or regime change, are an expression

of the desire to mutilate the independence of our countries.

The so-called war on terrorism or the false promotion of their freedoms, are an excuse for aggression and military occupation, for torture, arbitrary arrests and the denial of the right of self-determination of peoples, for unfair blockades and unilaterally imposed sanctions, for the imposition of political, economic and social models that facilitate imperial domination, in open disdain for history, cultures and the sovereign will of the peoples."

Joe Biden does not represent the overwhelming majority of the Americans and this was demonstrated by the mass protest in US and globally in protesting against Israeli genocide. He is a puppet of big business and financial sector whose interests are best served by the imperialist agenda. At least 100 officials in the U.S. State Department and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have signed onto a memo demanding that the government immediately push for a ceasefire in Gaza and accusing President Joe Biden of "spreading misinformation" while Israel commits war crimes. The State Department dissenters argue that Israel's actions "all constitute war crimes and/or crimes against humanity under international law," but rather than acknowledging that, Biden instead spreads "misinformation" about the nature of the war, especially by "questioning the number of deaths in Gaza." The dissent cable that leaked early this month said the U.S. must reverse course and pressure Israel for a ceasefire. It pointed the finger at Biden, arguing he must also criticize Israel for the atrocities it commits rather than just repeating condemnations of Hamas alone.

The mismatch between Biden's words and the reality on the ground in Gaza, the first memo said, "contributes to public perceptions that the United States is a biased and dishonest actor, which at best does not advance, and at worst harms, U.S. interests worldwide." "We must publicly criticize Israel's violations of international norms such as failure to limit offensive operations to legitimate military targets," the message stated, spelling out exactly what the White House has failed to say. "When Israel supports settler violence and illegal land seizures or employs excessive use of force against Palestinians, we must communicate publicly that this goes against our American values so that Israel does not act with impunity."

The lessons of history are clear: attempts to gain world dominance by military means, though inevitable under capitalism, are destined to fail and can only lead to new and greater wars. It is the responsibility of those committed to world peace to resist the new U.S. imperial grand strategy by calling into question imperialism and its economic taproot: capitalism itself.

Dr Lehlohonolo Kennedy Mahlatsi  
SACP Free State PEC Member  
Writes in a personal capacity



**Disproportionate military power by Israel against Palestinian civilian population is not new. It has been relentlessly meted out with impunity for a long time, supported by their ally, the USA. In this file photo the irony of Israel's military might against defenceless women, the aged and children is evident.**

**The USA, claimed world Human Rights guardian and an antidote of terrorism by commission and omission collaborate and sponsor acts of terror in Palestine by Israel.**

Photo: GettyImages



# Re kgaba ka Diratswana



## Mapotso Kena, Ph.D., Plant Pathology

O re fa dikeletso tsa tjalo e atlehileng ya meroho le dijalo tse ding diratswananeng tsa hae.\*Ditaba tsena di fetolwetse le ho ngolwa ka Sesotho e le tsela ya ho ntshetsa pele le ho kgothaletsa ho bala puo ya Sesotho.O re ngolla mona boemong ba hae.

### Mokgwa o bobebe wa ho hlahloba mobu ka pele bakeng sa mobu o boetseng madulong mme o phetse hantle diratswaneng tsa meroho

Di tswela pele ho tswa kgatisong e fetileng ...

#### 4. Mohato wa 4: Kaheho ya mobu

Hlahloba sebopeho sa mobu ka ho ntsha makote a m malwa a m o b u . Hlahloba bokantle ba ona ka ho a pshatla e le ho sheba hore na a na le masobana a moya ka h'ara ona.



- Mobu o phetseng hantle o bonolo le ho thueha ha bobebe mme o bopehile ka makote a boholo bo fapaneng a dulang a le sebopehong sa ona le ha a le metsi. Masobana a teng makoteng ana a dulella moya le metsi ho tsamaya ka hara ona (makote). Masobana a sebediswa ke diphedi tsa mobung ho fata ka hara mobu. Diphedi mobung di eketsa masobana ha di ntse di tsamaya ka hara mobu, mme masobana ana a sebediswa ke metso ya dijalo ho hola le ho fumana metsi le moya.
- Mobu o fokolang o haellwa ke bophelo le diphedi tsa mobung, sena se etsa hore ho be thata hore masobana a be teng mobung. Sena se bolela hore ho monyela ha metsi mobung ho a fokola mme metsi ha a kgone ho monyela mobu empa a matha ka pele feela hodima mobu e be ha a kgone ho kenella mobung.



#### Mohato wa 5: Sebopeho sa mobu

Hlahloba sebopeho sa mobu ka ho ngwatha mobu ka seatla, mme e be o o kolobisa ha nyane, mme e be o etsa sebopeho sa moqomo wa nama (sausage shape).

#### \* Mobu o loketseng

kgolo e ntle ya dijalo o na le letsopa le lehlabathe ka ho lekana - ho kgomarelana ho etsa sebopeho se moqomo. Mobu o tjena ke selokwe O loketse ho jala dijalo hobane o letsopa le lehlabathe ka ho lekana, esita le diphedi tse mobung tse lekaneng ho tshwara mongobo o lekaneng bakeng sa ho sebediswa ke dijalo.

- Ha mobu o le letsopa haholo o ka kgona ho etsa sebopeho sa sedikadikwe ka sebopeho sa moqomo. Mobu o letsopa haholo o tlala metsi ho feta tekano (o ba motlepere), mme ho boima hore dijalo di hole ho ona.
- Mobu o qhalanang ha ha o bopjwa ho etsa moqomo o lehlabathe. Mobu o lehlabathe o hloka bophelo ba mobu le dijo mme o om aka pele. Mobu o tjena o hloka dijo tse ngata hore o be sebopehong se bonojwana se kgonang ho monya metsi ka tekano.



#### Mohato wa 6: Mongobo mobung

Hlahloba mongobu mobung ka ho ngwatha mobu ka letsoho e be o o bipa (penya) ka seatla.

- Mobu o ommeng haholo: Ha ho mongobo ha o bipa mobu e be o o qalana ha o o tlohela bakeng sa ho kgomarelana. Mobu o tjena o hloka ho fumantshwa dijo (bophelo/monontsha) hore o tle o tshware mongobo e le ho dumella dijalo ho ka hlaha le ho hola hantle.
- Mobu o mongobo: Ha ho metsi a

tswang ha o penya mobu, empa o utlwahala o le metsi. Ona ke mobu o loketseng hantle ho jala.

- **Mobu o metsi: Ha eba metsi a a tswa ha o penya mobu, ho bolela hore mobu o metsi haholo. Hona hotla baka hore metso ya mobu e bole.**

#### Mohato wa 7: Bophelo mobung

Hlahloba bophelo mobung ka ho etsa mokotjana o mo holwanyane mme e be o sefa ho sheba e ba hon a le diphedi.

- Mobu o phetseng hantle o na le dinonometsane, dikokwanyana le dipheditse ding.
- Dinonometsane le diphedi tse ding di thusa ho bodisa dijalo hore dijo tse dijalong tsena di boele mobung. Di thusa hape ka ho etsa masobana mobung, a thusang ka ho monyela ha metsi le moya mobung
- Dinonometsane tse ngata, diphedi tse ding tsa mobung, mmoho le podiswa ke sesupo sa hore mobu o na le le diphedi tse nyenyane (microbes). Diphedi tsena di nyane haholo hoo o ke keng wa di bona ka mahlo, empa di bohlokwa ka ha di kgutlisetsas dijo mobung. Diphedi tsena di ka thusa dijalo le ho lwantsha mahloko a mang a mangata mobung. Diphedi tsena tse nyenyane di thabela mobu o mongobo hobane di hloka metsi ho tsamayaka di sela le ho ja podiswa.



#### Keletso ho etsa mobu o phetseng hantle

- Tshela podiswa le manyolo a mangata mobung.
- Tshireletsa mobu ho letsatsi le moya ka ho kwahela ka mahlaku a shweleng a dijalo/dimela
- Tshireletsa mobu ho thatafala ka ho thibela ho tsamawa ke batho kapa diphoofolo.

Mohlodi: : Permaculture Association UK's Soil test handbook.

**Re ngolle;** ho phehisa, ho botsa dipotso kapa ho batla tlhakisetso dintlheng tse kgatisong ena kapa kgatisong tse fetileng:

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