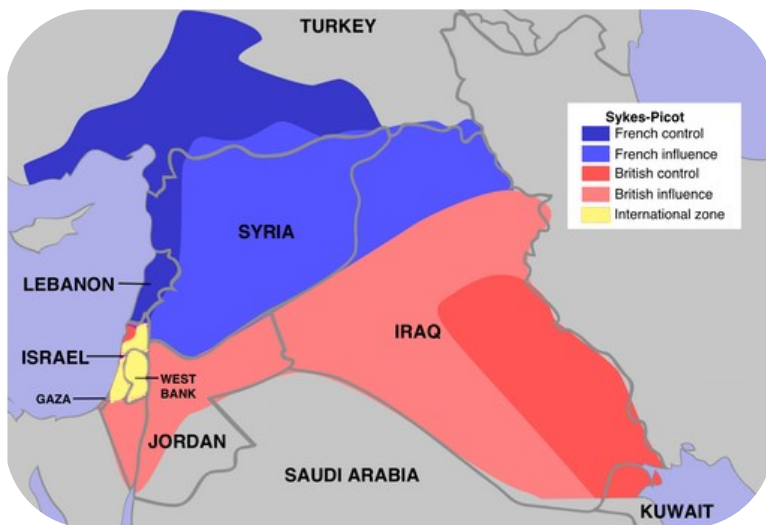




COMMUNIST PARTY OF IRELAND PÁIRTÍ CUMANNACH NA hÉIREANN



Sykes-Picot & the Balfour Declaration

Even before the defeat of the centuries-old Ottoman Empire, France, Britain, Italy, and Russia were already strategising how best to split it up. During World War I, to garner support for an Arab revolt against the Ottomans, the British promised Husayn Bin Ali Sharif, the Emir of Mecca, and his Arab nationalist supporters, independence and vast swathes of land that would have stretched from Aleppo to Yemen’s port of Aden. The British got their revolt on June 10th, 1916, and soon after sent in troops, an advisor in the form of T.E. Lawrence, and weapons to prop it up.

In the background the British and the French were making deals that would ensure not only that the promises of a united Arab kingdom would never materialise, but King Husayn would not even maintain all the land his troops had occupied during the course of the war. He ended up with a much smaller nation that stretched from Jordan to Mecca known as the Kingdom of the Hejaz. While King Husayn’s forces moved Northwards the British issued the Balfour Declaration in November 1917, announcing their support for setting up a Zionist state in Palestine. And secretly, only weeks after Husayn’s uprising, with the Sykes-Picot Agreement, the British were already dividing up the Middle East into French and British spheres of influence, including some of the same territories they had promised the to the Arabs.

INTERNATIONAL NEWSLETTER



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When King Husayn heard the news of the Balfour Declaration he was disturbed. Commander Hogarth of the Arab Bureau was dispatched to Jeddah at the beginning of January to mollify the king. He gave the king "on behalf of the British Government... an explicit assurance that 'Jewish settlement in Palestine would only be allowed in so far as would be consistent with the political and economic freedom of the Arab population'." As noted by the Arab historian George Antonius, this phrase "represents a fundamental departure from the text of the Balfour Declaration which purports to guarantee only the civil and religious rights of the Arab population."¹ Husayn had been tricked, and the settlement of European Jews in Palestine would have very little to do with respect for Arab rights and welfare.

After the war, it became clear that everything Husayn had been promised in correspondence with the British the Sykes-Picot Agreement and the Balfour Declaration took away. These problems led to Husayn refusing to ratify the Treaty of Versailles. The British viewed Husayn's signature as important as they thought it would be viewed as an endorsement from Mecca. The British tried everything. They sent T.E. Laurence to negotiate with him, they bribed him and threatened him, all of which didn't work. Husayn was clear, he simply wanted the promises the British made him to be fulfilled. Still by 1924 Husayn was asking for independence for Palestine; however, by September of that year, the British-backed Nejd, which was the precursor to Saudi Arabia, had invaded Hejaz and Husayn was forced to abdicate and live the rest of his life in exile.

The Balfour Declaration promised to create a Jewish homeland in Palestine to garner Jewish support. The Zionist movement had been looking for an imperialist sponsor for decades.

Both David Ben Gurion and Moshe Sharett believed it would be the Ottomans who would grant them this homeland, but they were rejected. The reason for settling in Palestine was twofold, for Jews it was always seen as the "holy land" and for Britain, it would gain a staunch ally in the Middle East, an imperialist tool to control a strategic region in the Middle East, in particular because of the Suez Canal at that time. They would be a sort of Jewish Ulster as the people would be loyal to the British for giving them something a section of Jewish people had longed for since the destruction of the first temple in 586 BC and the exile from Babylon².

Of course, the big problem with creating this new Jewish homeland was that of the overwhelming Arab population. In 1918 the Jewish population of Palestine was 60,000 which was only 8.1% of the whole population. Edward Said said it best when he said of the Balfour Declaration: "The declaration was made (a) by a European power, (b) about a non-European territory, (c) in a flat disregard of both the presence and the wishes of the native majority resident in that territory, and (d) it took the form of a promise about this same territory to another foreign group, so that this foreign group might, quite literally, make this territory a national home for the Jewish people."³ Or in the words of Arthur Koestler, here was one nation promising another nation the land of a third nation.

The Balfour Declaration was one of the main catalysts of the Nakba in 1948 when Zionist armed groups - whom the British trained - forcibly expelled more than 750,000 Palestinians from their homeland. Today it is still impossible to look at the internet or the television and not see harrowing news about the ongoing Israeli genocide in Gaza. This is all due to the imperialist powers making promises they could not keep for land they had no right to control.

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**Brigadier General
Yahya Sare'e,
spokesperson for
the Yemeni Armed
Forces**

Ansar Allah, Yemen's war & the Axis of Resistance

At the time of writing, Yemeni resistance forces have targeted 49 cargo and military ships in the Red Sea and surrounding waters headed for Israel. These manoeuvres are an attempt by Ansar Allah and the coalition government in Sana'a to blockade Israel in solidarity with Palestine in response to the genocidal Israeli aggression against Gaza. The demands of Ansar Allah are plain. They would halt their attacks if Israel's crimes in Gaza stop and food, medicines and fuel are allowed to reach its besieged population.

The bravery of the Ansar Allah, commonly referred to in the media as "the Iran-backed Houthis", is nothing new; they have been fighting against outside influence, neo-colonialism and for the sovereignty of Yemen for nearly 40 years.

The Houthi movement, originally led by Hussein Al-Houthi, came about in the 1990s. They built resistance to Ali Abdullah Saleh who had been president of North Yemen since 1978, and reunified Yemen since 1990. Saleh was a willing partner of USAID, the IMF, and the World Bank, and for 30 years subjected the people of Yemen to neoliberal reforms and exposure to predatory global markets. Saleh and his allies became notoriously rich on

corrupt deals facilitating international capital's plunder of Yemen's rich store of resources¹. The Houthis resisted IMF "structural adjustment" arrangements that threatened grazing lands and water rights. Saleh was collaborating with Saudi Arabia in 2000 to redraw boundaries so that some of Yemen's best farming, grazing lands and water resources go to the Saudi Kingdom. This confirmed the belief among the North Yemenis that Saleh was in betrayal of Yemen². Saleh branded the Houthi movement as foreign agents (often with reference to Iran) and therefore terrorists. Meanwhile, Saleh was positioning Yemen as a key US ally for their "war on terror". So the West looked the other way when Saleh inflicted increasingly intense state violence on pockets of resistance to neo-colonial plunder in his own country under the guise of battling "Islamic terrorism"³. This collaboration led to the assassination of Hussein Al-Houthi in September 2004.

Opposition to the repression, corruption, and expropriation came to a head in 2011 with the march of the so-called Arab Spring. Demands for Saleh to step down mounted, but the existing order was preserved through a quiet counterrevolution. Obama and the Gulf Monarchies ensured that power was rotated to

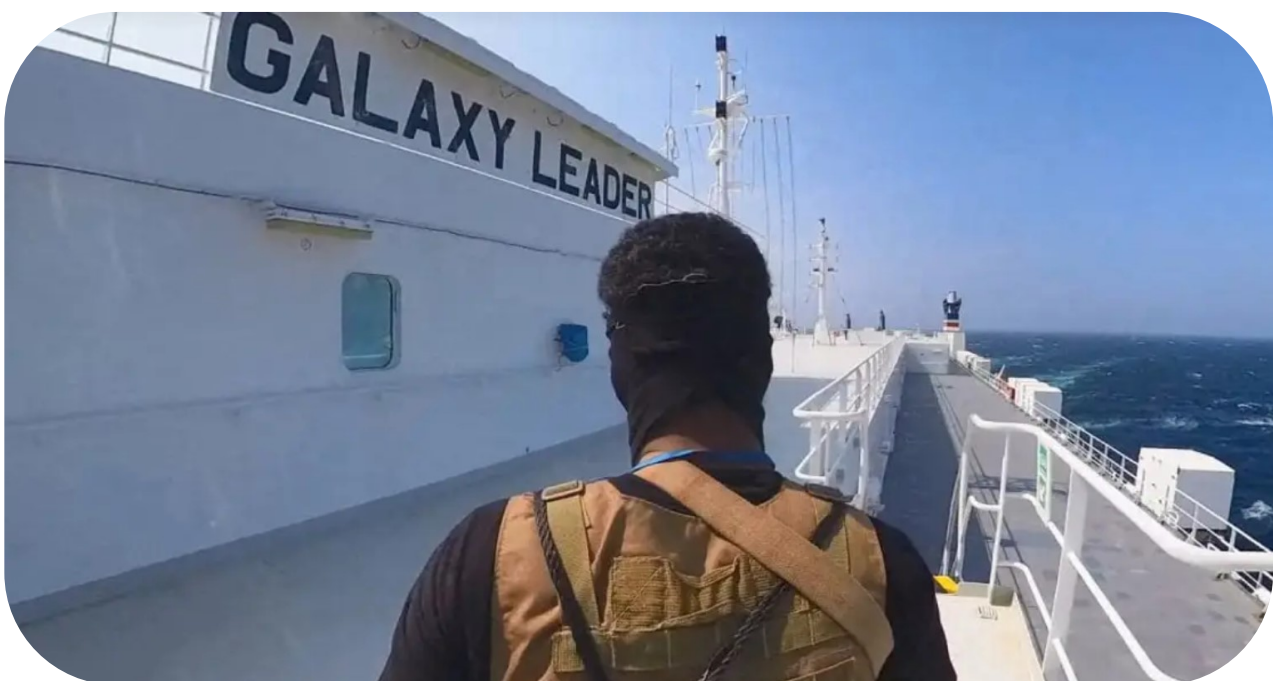
a collection of establishment figures in a transitional government structure⁴. Players who were, to quote Isa Blumi, *"long profiteers from a regime that linked global demands to "liberalise" the national economy and sell off its best assets to "market" forces, these free agents of empire picked the right time to abandon the personally sinking ship of Saleh and his closest confidants."*⁵ Saleh was replaced by his long-time vice president Abd Rabbu Mansur Hadi. His mandate was to restore confidence and prepare for elections. Instead, he launched Yemen into the World Trade Organisation⁶, and set out on an unprecedented round of neoliberal structural adjustment and economic liberalisation, imposing austerity, privatisation, and facilitating land grabs by foreign investors.

Losing patience with Hadi's continuation of Saleh's policies, a coalition of forces allied with Ansar Allah occupied the capital Sana'a in August 2014. In September they established committees and agreed demands for securing a timeframe for elections, a halt to the firesale of Yemen's assets, and a review of the wide-ranging laws enacted by the Hadi government. On September 21, 2014, with the assistance of Jamal Benomar, the appointed UN envoy to Yemen, interim President Hadi signed the Peace and National Partnership Agreement with Ansar Allah and

leaders from all the major political parties⁷.

In the following months, Hadi, the US embassy, the Saudis, Qatar, and political parties close to them sabotaged the negotiations. The UN envoy Benomar lamented how close they were to an agreement, but Hadi had been dragging his feet and exhausted the patience of everyone. On February 6 Ansar Allah announced a so-called "constitutional declaration". This dissolved parliament, formed a five-member presidential council, and a Supreme Revolutionary Committee would run the country temporarily⁸. Hadi was released on the grounds that he and his US and Saudi backers would come back to the table with constructive dialogue about how to go forward. Instead, he was spirited away to Saudi Arabia from where his illegitimate government in exile called on Saudi Arabia to bomb his own country.

In March 2015, the Saudi-led coalition went to war to stop the prospect of peace, power sharing and independence in Yemen. With crucial US and British assistance, and barely a word from the usual human rights defenders, they killed hundreds of thousands of Yemeni people. The genocidal bombing and terror campaign systematically destroyed health, agriculture, sanitary and water infrastructure in an attempt to kill off the population through famine and disease.



Over the course of the war of resistance and to this day, Ansar Allah is a party in the ruling coalition, the National Salvation Government, that sits in Sana'a. The coalition has representatives from many of the political parties that existed before the war - Saleh's General People's Party, the southern separatists Hirak, the Yemeni Ba'athist party, the Nasserists, Socialists, and Communist parties of Yemen. This coalition has overseen heroic resistance to a US-led war of aggression against one of the poorest countries on earth, while doing what they could to maintain ports, hospitals, and the

ministries that add up to a functioning state. They have defended their sovereignty. While Yemen is a pillar of the axis of resistance, sharing tactics, training, and technology with Iran and Hezbollah, and showing deep solidarity with the people of Palestine today - to characterise the government in Sana'a as simply "Iran-backed Houthis" completely disregards the origins of the resistance movement in Yemen, their accomplishments and sacrifice in holding out against imperialist onslaught, and their collective demands and plans for the future of an independent and sovereign Yemen.

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IRAQ: Sacrifice & Resistance

At the recent World Economic Forum, Iraq's Prime Minister, Mohamed Shia Al-Sudani, said that US and allied troops must leave his country, calling it a "a necessity for the security and stability of Iraq." We can add that ALL US and allied troops should leave their bases abroad, since wherever they go they leave a trail of death and destruction.

Currently, there are (officially) 2,500 US troops in Iraq, with nearly 1,000 in Syria, ostensibly as part of an anti-IS coalition put together in 2014, but in reality, there to protect US

interests. In 2020, the US assassinated Iran's Qassem Soleimani, a key figure in the support for Iran's allies in the country who were fighting against IS, along with the commander of the Iraqi Popular Mobilisation Forces, Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis. After their assassinations, the Iraqi parliament voted to expel NATO troops from the country. In flagrant defiance of Iraq's sovereignty, they still haven't left.

Those forces have used their presence in Iraq to carry out military strikes against so-called Iranian proxies, such as the Popular

Mobilisation Forces. However, it should be pointed out that these forces are Iraqi, their members are those who grew up amid US occupation and the resistance to it. In fact, the PMF itself was made a part of Iraq's armed forces for its role in the fight against IS, being a semi-official militia group.

On February 2nd, US strikes on Iraq killed 16 members of the PMF. The PMF is a part of a coalition called the Islamic Resistance, which has carried out attacks on US bases which are working with the Zionist regime in its genocidal attacks against Gaza. While Western media outlets stick to a simplistic 'Iran proxies' narrative about these groups, they never refer to Israel's military as a US proxy. Neither do they refer to the US proxies in Iraqi Kurdistan as being proxies.

What is clear is that the US War on Iraq never really ended, just as it did not really begin in 2003. The roots of imperialism's claims on Iraq go back to the then US support for Saddam Hussein in the brutal Iran-Iraq war, and the subsequent turning on their former ally after the war in Kuwait. Nothing can better sum up the role of the US in Iraq than the infamous Highway of Death where US bombing murdered hundreds of civilians.

US sanctions laid the groundwork for the future military invasion of Iraq, with sanctions decimating the public health and education systems. Women and children paid a disproportionate price with over half a million children murdered as a direct result of US economic sanctions. When asked in public whether the deaths of half a million Iraqi children was worth it, US Secretary of State



Madeleine Albright stated directly that "*I think this is a very hard choice, but the price—we think the price is worth it.*"

The First Gulf War also saw the parroting of the infamous "incubator babies" propaganda lie, where Iraqi troops were reported – without evidence – as throwing babies out of incubators to die. How similar is this to the Israeli narrative about Hamas's supposed atrocities on October 7th, used to justify the murder of children in Gaza? It would seem that Israel has copied its patron's own tactics.

It is not surprising that those who grew up amidst devastating sanctions, ferocious NATO bombing, massacres, the sell-off of Iraq's sovereign public wealth, would side with the people of Gaza, and take concrete steps against the forces who act as the biggest backer of the current genocidal onslaught.

As an article in PBS states, "*the presence of American forces in Iraq makes it more difficult for Iran to move weapons across Iraq and Syria into Lebanon, for use by its proxies, including the Lebanese Hezbollah, against Israel.*"

As Iraq faces internal instability, a public health crisis caused by US sanctions and the US-led invasion of Iraq – where the health service was privatised and handed over to private capital – and climate breakdown leading to hunger across the country, its people have made clear they stand with the Palestinians. It is because of that the US continues its war on the Iraqi people, and indeed, all the people of West Asia.

As the Iraqi Communist Party points out:

"The escalation of Palestinian popular resistance came as a legitimate response to the heinous crimes that Netanyahu's fascist government, the occupation forces and settler gangs continued to commit against the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza".



The Axis of Resistance includes Iran, Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq, Syria, and Palestine

Syria, the Uprising, imperialist intervention & the Axis

In 1946 Syria won its independence in a victorious anti-colonial war that drove out the French forces. The post-colonial government followed a socialist path in pursuing development and self-reliance in the 1950s and 1960s. This was followed by a move away from socialism under Hafez al-Asad, and the full embrace of neoliberal reforms in the 2000s.

In the decades following independence Syria's socialist policies tackled illiteracy, improved healthcare, and carried out significant land reform and redistribution programs. After the fall of the Soviet Union, Syria shed the last of its socialist policies and fell in line with the advance of global neoliberalism. By 2010 the implementation of neoliberal reforms and privatisation by Syria's state and elites meant that the economic structures that had previously supported the basic needs of the population were coming apart at the seams, and political stability along with it.

In 2006-2007, following advice from the IMF and the World Bank, Bashar al-Asad introduced a raft of wide-ranging liberal economic reforms that had a drastic effect on workers income, as well as cutting subsidies, and undermining credit and trade policies that facilitated

indigenous industries like cotton and textile production. The seeds of social unrest were steadily being sown.

Ali Kadri and Linda Matar argue that the Syrians that were implementing the reforms, letting down the nation's political and economic safeguards, were not Syrians in working class or national terms. *"They were bourgeois subordinates within the same imperialist class, headed by US-led financial capital."* That "Syria - the real home of culturally diverse working people - underwent an imperialist assault before and during the Arab Spring to tear it asunder."¹

The uprising in 2011 very quickly escalated primarily due to excessive use of violence by state forces. The protestors were outraged by the murder of their comrades by security forces and widespread anti-regime mobilisation aimed at the removal of the government occurred through 2011 and into 2012. Yet the ruling elite did not fracture, and a substantial proportion of security forces stayed loyal to the establishment. Both sides dug in their heels. To quote Raymond Hinnebusch, *"the spilling of blood happened so quickly on such a significant scale that compromise was soon rejected on both sides."*² The violence



provoked the turn to armed insurgency by the opposition and the government in turn engaged in counter-insurgency warfare. The escalation led to substantial defections from state forces, and the safe haven provided by Turkey and the huge volumes of support and arms being funnelled into the country by Turkey, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the West allowed for the creation of the "Free Syrian Army". At the same time, large numbers of non-Syrian militants were ferried into the country which contributed to the empowerment of jihadist groups like Ahrar al-Sham, Al Qaeda-linked Jabhat al-Nusra (later known as Hayat Tahir Al-Sham) and ISIS. As early as 2012 Obama initiated a covert arm and equip programme operating out of US bases in Turkey and Jordan, by 2013 the administration was talking openly about sending large flows of weapons to the opposition³. The civil war very quickly became a proxy war where the Western backed opposition was dominated by far-right extremist Salafist jihadist forces. As Jake Sullivan famously wrote to his State Department boss Hilary Clinton in February 2012, "AQ [Al Qaeda] is on our side in Syria."⁴

Either Bashar al-Asad's cards were marked, or he saw the writing on the wall when he decided to take a harsh ideological position against the 2003 US occupation of Iraq,

supported the Iraqi resistance, and consolidated power while he put forward an image of Syria as a bastion of stability in a region succumbing to chaos as a result of imperialist intervention. He moved closer to Iran and Hezbollah to shift the calculus for any potential US plans for regime change in Syria. After the 2006 six-week war between Israel and Lebanon, Syria moved into position as one of the main pillars of the new formation known as the "Resistance Front". Through increased integration of Syrian, Iranian, Hezbollah, and Palestinian Hamas military structures the calculation was to increase the cost of further Israeli aggression in the region. And when push came to shove, Iran and Hezbollah were integral to the defence of the Syrian state from the US-backed proxy war.

In Libya, NATO's imperialist regime change war threw the country into chaos that has expanded across the region. Multiple instances of open-air slave markets have been documented, as corrupt militias rule and fight over the ruins of a once prosperous state⁵. This would likely have been Syria's fate if the US-sponsored jihadists had not been defeated by the Syrian Arab Army. The Syrians who resisted the imperialist intervention know they are on the right side of history. To quote Matar and Kadri, "Progressive forces have always been

perfectly aware of the shortcomings of the Syrian ruling class. They have also been perfectly aware that nothing justifies siding with US-led imperialism in a war of national liberation led by the Syrian Arab Army.”⁶

Today Syria is still at war. Roughly a third of the country is occupied by Israel, Turkey, the US, and their proxies. Its developmental levels have been knocked back 70 years, and brutal unilateral US and EU sanctions are strangling the country. Malnutrition is endemic, access to water and electricity is

insecure, hyperinflation is out of control. The country is continuously being bombed by the US and Israel. The people of Syria are being criminally punished for the successful resistance to the prolonged US-backed dirty war. And Syria survives to pose a challenge to US-Israeli domination in the region. A fact reconfirmed in one of the first acts of the Israeli genocidal offensive on Gaza - the simultaneous bombing of the Aleppo and Damascus airports on October 12th⁷.

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Iran, the Hijab & Imperial Feminism

One of the most insidious aspects of the geopolitical world order is the co-opting of popular struggles to prop up US hegemony. This could not be truer than in the conflict between the shallow liberal feminism of the West and the decolonial and anti-imperial feminism in the global south and indigenous people's movements. We see the language of liberation used to justify imperialism.

The US has an extensive history of manipulating "human rights" as a pretext for regime change. The Islamic Republic of Iran has long been accused of gross human rights violations by the US, with a particular focus in recent years on the oppression of women. Following the tragic death in 2022 of Mahsa

Amini, a Kurdish Iranian woman, after being detained by the Gasht-e-Ershad – labelled the "morality police" by the West, but more suitably translated as the "Guidance Patrol" – Western media was flooded with news of a popular women's uprising against the mandatory Hijab dress code. But as Sharminé Narwani writes: "*The hijab is a 'symbol' of the Islamic Republic, and symbols – as we have seen in countless hybrid wars conducted in West Asia and beyond – are the first and easiest targets for external provocateurs.*"

The chauvinist notion entrenched in liberal feminism is that Western ideas of equality should form the basis of the global women's liberation movement, which has led to the

focus of the movement, emanating from the US, on the Hijab as a symbol of oppression. In the case of Iran, the narrow focus of liberal feminism ignores the decades long sanctions imposed by the West which ultimately punish working-class women through high inflation, unemployment, limiting access to medicine, etc.

The concern of the United States was and is its desire for regime change in Iran to revive the imperialist domination it once enjoyed under the Shah by weaponising women's liberation to destabilise the incumbent Islamic regime. The Islamic Republic and its material support for the Axis of Resistance actors present an obstacle to US foreign policy interests in the region more broadly and its declining influence stemming from its unconditional support for Israel in its ongoing genocidal war in Gaza.

The fact remains that the US has no concern for human rights violations, being one of the world's leading perpetrators of such violations, and even less concern about women's rights. This blatant disregard has been on full display to the world for over 140 days as it funds and arms the Zionist entity perpetrating a genocide in the Gaza strip, where the majority of victims have been women and children. US government representatives – from Joe Biden to Hillary Clinton – continue to repeat the unverified IOF claims of "mass rape" on October 7th, despite Israeli media reports which have

concluded that there is little evidence to support these claims. Contrast this with a UN finding that there is credible evidence that Palestinian women suffered sexual abuse and assault while detained by the Occupation Forces, with this failing to make headlines in any Western media. The silence from the West's feminist movements is also deafening. Arab and Muslim women are the wrong kind of victims for liberal feminism in this genocide.

The protests in Iran have subsided with neither change to the regime or the mandatory Hijab dress code. With liberal feminism in the West now completely disengaged from the greater class struggle, it has become a useful tool to maintain US hegemony and the capitalist system. As Janna al-Kadri writes: "*The US concocts many identities bereft of class to undermine working-class unity.*"

Women's rights are borne from the greater class struggle and must be rooted in decolonisation and anti-imperialism if they are to be genuinely emancipatory. The dominance of modern liberal feminism – more appropriately termed 'imperial feminism' – can only be overcome by re-establishing the women's liberation movement in the broader class struggle, which is internationalist, anti-capitalist, and anti-imperialist. **Ní saoirse, go saoirse na mban.**



The Axis of Resistance – Palestine & Lebanon



When Hamas and other resistance fighters launched the Al-Aqsa Flood operation on October 7th, one of its objectives was targeted at another ally of imperialism in the region: Saudi Arabia. The Saudis were on the verge of diplomatically recognising the existence of Israel as a state, following on from the other Arab collaborators, Egypt, Jordan, UAE (which has followed the Saudis in their war on Yemen), Bahrain (whose monarchy was saved a decade ago by Saudi military intervention), Morocco (which occupies Western Sahara), and Sudan.

We must be clear that the full picture of what happened on October 7th has yet to be fully revealed and is swamped with propaganda. What is clear, however, is that it happened after Palestinians have lived under apartheid for decades, have been ethnically cleansed and forced to live outside their homeland in refugee camps without a right of return. The members of Hamas's military wing, al-Qassam Brigades, grew up amidst Israeli airstrikes on Gaza, with

a Palestinian Authority increasingly weak and devoid of any real authority in Gaza.

Despite the murdered Palestinians now numbering in the tens of thousands since October 7th, there has never been a safe time to be Palestinian. The fascist settler movement continued to colonise areas of the West Bank, moving closer to Gaza itself, and Palestinian areas in Jerusalem, including religious sites such as the Al-Aqsa Mosque. Tens of thousands of Palestinians languished in Israeli prisons. Children were regularly being murdered by the Israeli military in Gaza. The Palestinian Authority in the West Bank was, and is, acting as a security force for the Israelis. The 2021 Great March of Return was met by massacres. Journalists were, and are, routinely murdered.

The actions – not words – of the Arab states show the truth behind the Zionist lie that Israel is surrounded by hostile neighbours. Jordan was the first to collaborate with the Zionists. As for the rest, Sharmine Narwani writes that:

"The Saudis called for support by hosting Arab and Islamic summits that were allowed to do and say nothing. The Emiratis and Jordanians trucked supplies to Israel that Ansar Allah blocked by sea. The mighty Egypt hosted delegations when all it needed to have done was to open the Rafah Crossing so Palestinians can eat. Qatar – once a major Hamas donor – now negotiates for the freedom of Israeli captives, while hosting Hamas 'moderates', who are at odds with Gaza's freedom fighters. And Turkiye's trade with the Israeli occupation state continues to skyrocket."

In this context, we must recognise, as the Chinese government recently did at the International Court of Justice, the right of colonised and oppressed people to resistance. In fact, among Palestinians themselves, support for Hamas has increased three-fold since October 7th in the West Bank, according to the Palestinian Centre for Policy and Survey Research.

The different factions of the Palestinian resistance comprise Islamic groupings such as Islamic Jihad and Hamas, as well as Marxist groups such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine. Elements of secular Fatah have also joined in the resistance as have new groupings such as the Lion's Den in the West Bank. National liberation is a broad church, unlike the Zionist colony itself, where the far-right Likud party has cemented an increasingly authoritarian state which has banned parties from parliament for opposing genocide and has shut down all attempts at a two-state solution.

Another site of the resistance is Lebanon. Israel is currently bombarding areas of Southern Lebanon and preparing them for future annexation. The Lebanese Hezbollah, along with other forces, including the Lebanese Communist Party, have directly joined the resistance. Again, this is a result of

Lebanon's suffering under the Israelis, in the original Zionist military intervention in support of the fascist Phalange faction in Lebanon in 1978 - which resulted in the Sabra and Shatila massacres - its assault in 2006 and up to the present. To mention nothing of the continuous Israeli assassinations and bombings of Beirut.

According to recent polls, Yemen is the most favoured regional country at 80% approval. The lowest is Saudi Arabia at 5%. Hezbollah itself is 50/50. One further point is that Palestine has made the sectarian disunity among Arabs breakdown, since it is the Shia-majority Ansar Allah, Hezbollah, and PMF in Iraq which have contributed the most to the resistance of the majority Sunni Palestinian people.

The struggle of the Palestinian people is not just an Arab struggle. It encompasses a key battleground in the struggle against imperialism. The Chinese support for Palestine, coming at the same time as growing multipolarity in the world order, cannot be underestimated. Neither can the growing numbers on streets in Ireland and abroad who are making a stand against the settler-colonial state, its allies in the US, Britain, the EU, thus also resisting imperialism. **The old world is dying and the new world struggles to be born, now is the time of monsters.**

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