

# Palestine solidarity under attack – Organise against imperialism! Speakers notes

These are speaker's notes for communists who want to hold public meetings to raise awareness of the continued repression of the Palestine solidarity movement, and to discuss how to get organised to fight back against imperialism and the British state.

Meetings should be held as soon as possible and wherever you can. Discussion should focus on planning local initiatives and activity to raise funds, get the word out via *The Communist*, and building the Revolutionary Communist Party.

## Introduction

- On Saturday 3 February, our comrade was arrested for holding a banner which said 'Intifada till victory' and selling a paper called '*The Communist*'.
  - Three other comrades were marked as 'wanted' by the Met Police in October.
- Immediate response from Western states everywhere to the Palestine Solidarity movement has been to come down hard on Palestine solidarity.
  - Suella Braverman called Palestine solidarity action '[hate marches](#)'; Macron and the French government banned [Palestine solidarity action](#); German crackdown on [wearing Keffiyeh](#)
- But why are they so intent on supporting a genocidal, imperialist regime thousands of miles away? Why do they ignore the thousands on the streets, calls for ceasefire etc?

## Why does Britain support Israel?

- It is shown clearly in the [media](#) what the interests of the British imperialists really are.
  - Hypocrisy between Ukraine and Palestine. Ukrainian flags everywhere, money and arms sent to Ukraine etc. Why is there this hypocrisy?
- The US has great interests in the Middle East and Israel acts as a bulwark of American interests dividing up the region. Britain is playing as the lap dog of US imperialism
  - Britain also has its own interests in the region – such as the free flow of commerce proven by the [strikes against Yemen](#)
- But from the point of view of Western imperialists they are in a difficult situation. Whatever they do, they only make the situation worse for themselves.

- On the one hand they cannot afford to be seen as weak in supporting a strong ally like Israel, especially in front of burgeoning imperialist powers such as Russia and China internationally
- On the other hand they cannot afford to have the British masses see further through the veneer of British imperialism and have all its horrors exposed, which is clearly happening with hundreds of thousands on the streets because of this!

## Mood of the masses

- But this is not just anger at Israel and British defence of it. It is a culmination of anger at the capitalist system generally which is only capable of producing misery and horror.
  - Trust in the British state and capitalist democracy has been falling drastically (Royal dramas, police murders, 3 unelected PMs in a row, Partygate and the handling of the pandemic, the media's lies around the strikes, the cost-of-living crisis)
  - Palestine is another nail in the coffin of the masses' view towards the British state.
- Despite the media's lies and efforts, there is a changing mood of consciousness. Their system is being exposed.
  - Half of British 18-24 year olds think Israel treats Palestinians as the Nazis treated Jews.
  - 1 million people came out on the 11th November in London and there have been protests every week across the country and in every major city.
- Keir Starmer's Labour Party is also being shown it is not a "lesser evil".
  - Massive school walk-outs in Tower Hamlets over Labour MPs not voting for ceasefire.
  - MPs have been suspended for stating support for Palestine, or calling Israel's actions a genocide
  - Ban on MPs attending demos as well. And consistent refusal to back a ceasefire, instead backing Israeli regime to the hilt.
  - Chants of 'shame on you Rishi Sunak, shame on you Keir Starmer' go down especially well at demos!
- All of this reflects years of pent up anger at British imperialism (Syria, Afghanistan, Iraq) plus years of general disenfranchisement at the capitalist system
  - Shows the instability of capitalism, in Britain and internationally. The imperialists cannot convince the masses of their lies and cannot get them to back their wars

## Role of Communists in Britain

- Ultimately, the British state is rotten to the core; we don't have any illusions in the 'rule of law', or capitalist democracy. We want to overthrow this system altogether. There has never been a greater cause than to fight capitalism and the imperialist British state.
- But it is a lamentable fact that the Palestine solidarity movement has been left to groups of activists, and kept largely confined to big demonstrations. While good we need more than this.
  - Where are the unions? Could back these demonstrations with strike action. Shutdown arms factories, even paralyse the economy with coordinated strike action in solidarity with Palestine. But they haven't. Unfortunately too timid to challenge imperialists properly.
- Clearly, there is no leadership worthy of the name. Cannot rely on Starmer's Labour, or the trade union leaders, or on demonstrations alone. We must build a leadership that puts forward a revolutionary programme to fight imperialism at home and abroad.
  - Why we raise the slogan of Intifada, from London to Gaza - need an international mass movement to rise up and overthrow the imperialists, whether in the Middle East or here in Britain. Only solution is revolution.
- Cannot just rely on attending weekly protests anymore. Need to build a strong, large force which can fight these horrors and overthrow British imperialism.
  - The British state has been responsible for deep horrors across the world, the greatest solidarity we can show is to build an anti-imperialist, revolutionary party in Britain.
  - Bringing down the British state and replacing it with a workers government would help end imperialism and show the way forward for the workers and oppressed of the world.
- That is what the Revolutionary Communist Party is all about. And if you agree then you must get to work.
  - Spread the word! Use *The Communist* paper to expose British imperialism on the streets and bypass the capitalist media's lies with our own worker's paper. This can be used to start conversations and find others ready to join the struggle.
  - Fund the revolution! Raising funds and collection donations for the Party to help fuel the fightback. Imperialists have all the money in the world, but we can only rely on ordinary workers to fund our struggle. Organise fundraisers, collect money from sympathisers etc.
  - Organise! Should be organising meetings in workplaces, campuses, communities and schools to discuss and explain the role of British imperialism in the atrocities in Palestine, and explain what can be done to fight back. Explain that the RCP is being built to overthrow this state of affairs and that people need to join and build it.