

The Palestinian Authority Helps Cover Up Israeli Atrocities

The December, 2008, Israeli military assault on the people of Gaza carried Israeli brutality to extremes. The brutality was encouraged by the Israeli religious establishment, which like all religious establishments is used in the interests of nationalism and repression, and which called for the Israeli military to “show no mercy”. The Israeli military shot civilians at close range (outright murder, in other words) and bombed them with white phosphorous, among other criminal acts.

The Israeli military’s war crimes were so blatant and so egregious that they threatened to undermine any credibility for the “Jewish state” worldwide. Aware that ultimately capitalist policies must have some sort of popular base, a wing of the capitalist class moved through their diplomatic channels to disassociate themselves from and to rein in Israel. They did this through the United Nations and its Commission on Human Rights. A special investigation was set up, headed by South African Judge Goldstone, himself a lifelong Zionist with direct family ties to Israel.

Understanding full well what was in the making, the Israeli regime refused to cooperate with the Goldstone Commission. In part, this was to maintain support within Israel for the regime’s policy of expansionism and brutality.

The Commission’s report condemned both Hamas and the Israeli military for war crimes. However, because Israel’s military is so much more powerful than Hamas’s that it is not even comparable, and because the Israeli regime is the aggressor in this situation, Israel’s war crimes were also so much comparably greater. The Goldstone Report reflected this, indicating that Israeli war crimes may be escalated to the level of “crimes against humanity.”

The consideration of this report was to have been taken up at the United Nations. If it were considered, then the possibility that some Israeli officials could be threatened with being tried as war criminals could not be ignored. This would be little more than an inconvenience, since they would have to travel to certain countries outside of Israel to be apprehended and brought up on trial. However, once again, such a situation would also serve to put the brakes on Israeli expansionism and rein in their brutality. While some forces in the capitalist world would see this as the safer route, other forces, including the dominating sectors of US capitalism, would see this as weakening their domination of the region as a whole. At a time of increasing competition with China and other powers for raw materials and for world influence, this was a major consideration for US capitalism.

Thus, a way had to be found to prevent UN consideration of the report. A way was found. Under intense pressure, the Palestinian Authority (PA)– official “representatives” of the Palestinian people at the UN – voted to “delay” considering this report. How as this success for US capitalist diplomacy achieved?

The PA was set up through the Oslo Peace Accords. It was largely funded by western imperialism, and its purpose was to serve as a buffer between the aroused Palestinian

masses and US/Israeli imperialism. That the PA only has control over 18% of the West Bank (Area “A”) and little or no control whatsoever over 60% (Area “C”) shows that it is at best a fig leaf. The problem was that in Gaza these same masses rejected this buffer and voted Hamas into power. This was not acceptable to the major forces of Arab and Palestinian capitalism, which continued to bolster Fateh and Abu Mazen (Abbas). His role has clearly surfaced through this PA vote.

Reportedly, Israel played tapes for him of previous discussions they had had with him curing the Israeli assault on Gaza. According to these reports, Abu Mazen had actually encouraged Israel to continue the attacks, saying that the Gazans had gotten themselves into this mess (by voting Hamas into power) and now it was up to them to get themselves out of it. Israel reportedly threatened to publicly reveal these conversations if the PA did not vote to delay consideration of the report.

There was also reportedly another factor: The cell phone industry is one of the mainstays of the Palestinian economy in the West Bank. A new cell phone company called “Wataniya” had been formed by some Kuwaiti and Qatari capitalists, along with the son and other associates of Abu Mazen to set up a cell phone network in the West Bank. However, Israel was refusing to assign radio frequencies to this venture, thus denying these capitalists their profits. According to reports, it was implied that they might grant permission for this network if the PA voted to delay consideration.

If there are any doubts about the role of the Palestinian capitalist class, one should consider the case of Ahmed Qureia, the so-called Prime Minister of the PA, who has been selling cement to the Israelis to be used to build the Apartheid Wall. In other words, this “representative” of the Palestinian people is directly profiting from the oppression and ethnic cleansing of these very same people.

There is a long history behind the construction of a capitalist class in the imperialized world – a task undertaken by imperialism in order to establish a base for their rule. This history is clearly shown by the infamous *Macaulay's Minute on Indian Education* in which the same Macaulay wrote in 1835: We must at present do our best to form a class who may be interpreters between us and the millions whom we govern; a class of persons, Indian in blood and colour, but English in taste, in opinions, in morals, and in intellect”.

There should be no illusions in Hamas, either. As one Palestinian commentator stated, *“And the Hamas opposition and its alternative leadership has little more to offer in the long run other than resistance for the sake of resistance, which is not, in itself, a blueprint for freedom and justice, and in any case has nothing to offer to Christian or secular Palestinians (and hardly much more than that to offer Muslim ones either, for that matter).”* This is the best that can be said of them. In fact, they are corrupted by the same class – the capitalist class – only by capitalists who are currently rivals to US and Israeli capitalism (namely, a wing of the Arab capitalist class).

There are direct lessons to be learned from this criminal role played by the Palestinian capitalist class. US capitalism, under the leadership of President Obama, has recently committed itself to spending billions of dollars in “foreign aid” to Pakistan. But who will receive this aid and how will they spend it? It will be controlled by the Pakistani counterparts of the Palestinian capitalist class – in this case the Pakistani capitalist class. This aid is nothing but a bribe to help ensure that the Pakistani capitalist class has an undivided loyalty to US capitalism versus its rivals. It will be used to strengthen this class in Pakistan, just as US/Israeli support for the PA is used in Palestine. Nor does the religious/nationalist opposition (Muslim, in this particular case) offer any alternative. At best, they offer a struggle without an end, as the commentator points out in regards to Hamas. In reality, they can no more be relied upon than can Hamas; in the past, these very same forces were allied with the US’s CIA. Should the unlikely circumstances arise in the future that make such an alliance opportune, they will do so again. And even if they should ever come into power, they will exploit the Pakistani masses just as is the Palestinian capitalist class today.

It is only the working class of the underdeveloped world, allied with the rural masses as well as with the working class of the world, and in opposition to all forms of nationalism and chauvinism (including that based upon religion) that can offer any solution to national oppression as well as exploitation and poverty.