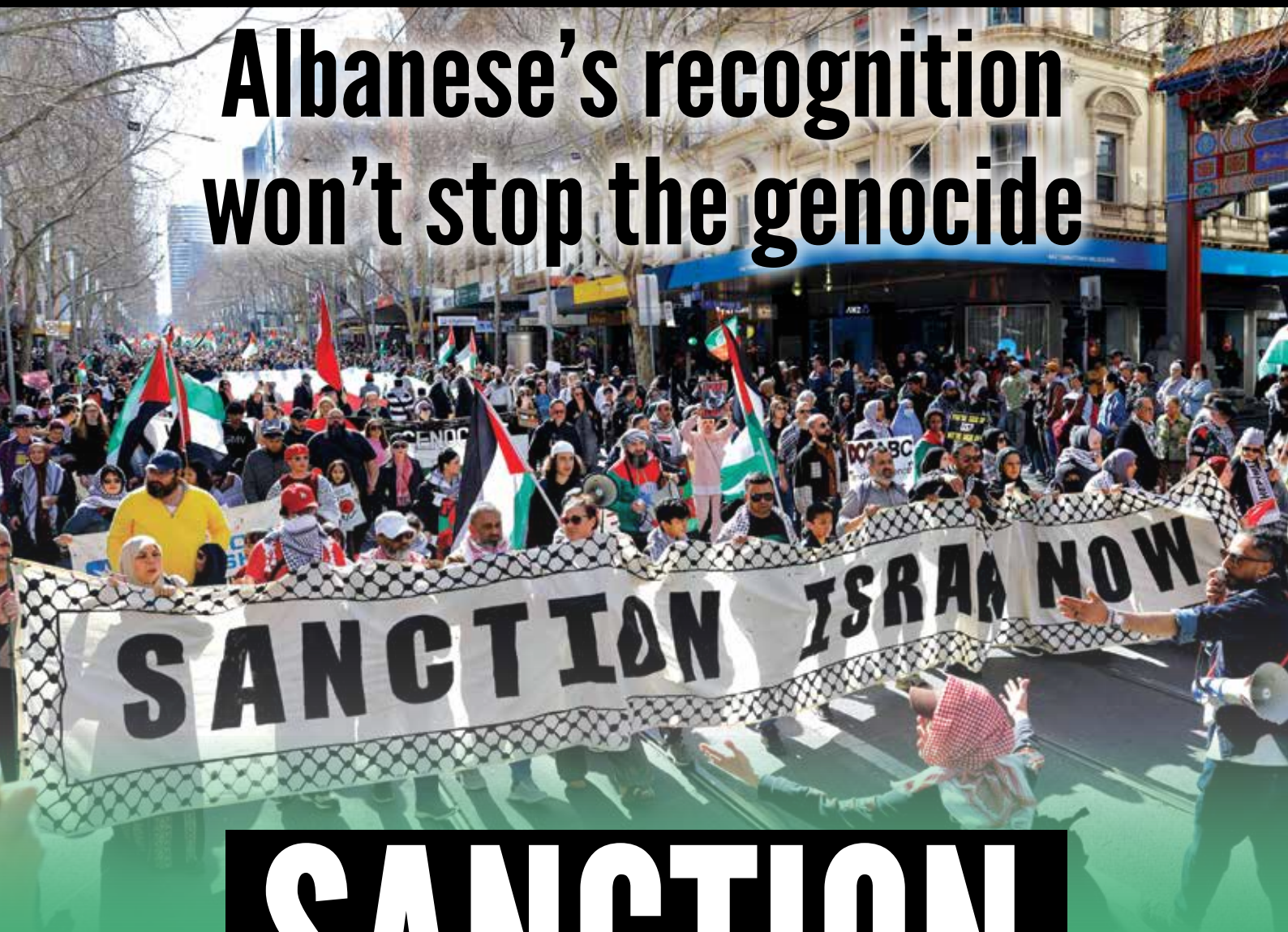


## Albanese's recognition won't stop the genocide



# SANCTION ISRAEL NOW

### RACISM

March for Australia and  
fighting the far right

### PALESTINE

What would sanctions  
on Israel look like?

### SECOND WORLD WAR

Imperialism and the myth of  
liberation in the Pacific

# Solidarity WHAT WE STAND FOR

## Capitalism is a system of crisis and war

Capitalism is a system of competition, crisis, and war based on exploitation of workers, producing for profit not human needs. Although workers create society's wealth, they have no control over production or distribution. Through environmental degradation and climate change capitalism has become a threat to humanity's future and life on earth.

## Workers power and socialism

The working class has the power to challenge the existing system and create a better world. We stand for socialism, a society based on democratically elected workers councils which would control and plan the economy to produce for human need. The authoritarian states like Russia and China are not socialist but forms of state capitalism where workers have no power.

## What about elections and parliament?

Parliament, the army, the police and the courts are institutions of the capitalist state that maintain the dominance of the ruling class over the rest of society. The capitalist state cannot be taken over and used by the working class, it must be smashed. Workers need to create their own state based on workers councils.

While parliament can be a platform for socialists, real change doesn't come through parliament. It is won by mass action in strikes, protests and demonstrations.

## We are internationalists

The struggle for socialism has no national boundaries. We oppose everything that turns workers from one country against those from another; we campaign for solidarity with workers in other countries.

We oppose borders and immigration controls, and welcome migrants and refugees.

We oppose imperialism and support all

genuine national liberation struggles. We oppose Australian nationalism.

Australia is an imperialist power established through genocide on stolen Indigenous land. We support the continuing struggles of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people for land, justice and self-determination.

## Oppression and liberation

We oppose sexism, racism, homophobia and transphobia. We fight against all forms of discrimination and the oppression of women, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, migrants, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people. We oppose discrimination against Muslims and people from the Middle East.

## Linking up the struggles

We are active building movements for environmental and social change and economic equality. We are active in our unions and work to build the organisation and self-confidence of the rank and file. We work to bring activists together to strengthen each movement and build a common struggle against capitalism.

## Educate, agitate, organise

Socialism cannot be introduced from above, by parliament or parties. The emancipation of the working class is the act of the working class itself.

Solidarity is an organisation of activists, anti-capitalists and revolutionary socialists committed to socialism from below. We are part of the International Socialist Tendency.

A democratic revolutionary party is necessary to deepen resistance to capitalism and to build a movement to overthrow the system. Solidarity members are beginning to build such a party out of today's struggles against the system.

## SOLIDARITY MEETINGS AND BRANCHES

### Sydney

Meeting 6.30pm every Thursday  
Brown St Hall, 8-10 Brown St  
Newtown  
For more information contact:  
Adam on 0400 351 694  
sydney@solidarity.net.au

### Melbourne

Meeting 6.30pm every Thursday  
Kathleen Syme library and community  
centre, 251 Faraday St, Carlton  
For more information contact:  
Jason on 0456 624 661  
melbourne@solidarity.net.au

### Brisbane

Contact Mark on 0439 561 196 or  
brisbane@solidarity.net.au

### Perth

Contact perth@solidarity.net.au

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Or check fb.com/soliaus/events

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## Things they say

**We think that we're going to settle this one way or another, certainly before the end of this year.**

Trump's special envoy Steve Witkoff, when asked if Israel should be occupying Gaza City

**Gaza City should be exactly like Rafah, which we turned into a city of ruins**

Eli Cohen, Israel's security cabinet member

**We want all of the Gaza Strip. Now our soldiers are there, conquering the territory, and Jewish settlement is a must. That's the reality.**

Shlomo Karhi, Israel's Communications Minister, in a social media video from a pro-settler march.

**Do I think too many innocent lives have been lost? Yes, I do.**

Anthony Albanese avoids the question when asked whether he thought the Israeli government and Netanyahu had broken international law.

**Why the hell are we worried about talking about what the threat is? The struggle is on, and we ought to be candid about it.**

Former Republican National Security Advisor John Bolton on China

**I may say, 'Lots of luck, keep fighting.' Or I may say, 'We can make a deal.'**

Donald Trump about his meeting with Russian president Putin to settle the war in Ukraine

**Progress isn't linear. It's dynamic, sometimes dissonant and always demanding.**

Microsoft CEO Satya Nadella, announcing another 9000 job cuts

# CONTENTS

## ISSUE 199 SEPTEMBER 2025



### Horror in Gaza, sanctions and Albanese's complicity

**6** Union members at Sydney Uni organise for Palestine

**7** Nationwide marches extend support for Palestine movement

**11** Ethnic cleansing ramps up in West Bank

**16** Recognition and the two state illusion

**20** Israel begins razing Gaza City as starvation continues



### Australia

**9** Anti-racist response needed to March for Australia and far right



**8** Fight to stop ANU cuts as pressure grows

**8** Resistance to CFMEU Administration needed

**10** Savage course cuts at UTS but union fighting back



### 14 The case for sanctions against Israel



### 18 The Second World War and the myth of liberation



### International and features

**12** Ukraine negotiations prepare imperialist carve up

**13** Why reform is not enough to win change

## Immigration still wrongfully locking people up

THE DEPARTMENT of Home Affairs wrongly threw 11 people in immigration detention between 1 July 2023 and 30 June 2024, the Commonwealth Ombudsman has revealed.

One person was held for a year and a half while others spent just days in detention.

Only one of the 11 took any legal action, with the rest left unaware of their rights.

The report blamed an attitude of “act first, check later”, saying the same mistakes continue to be made since it began monitoring wrongful detention in 2005.

This followed the shocking cases of Cornelia Rau, a German and Australian citizen with mental illness detained for ten months in 2004 and 2005 and the unlawful deportation of Vivian Alvarez Solon, a Filipino-born Australian citizen in 2001.

The department also refuses to offer any form of compensation or redress for wrongful detention.

## Unis taking millions from fossil fuel companies

A TOTAL of 26 out of Australia’s 37 public universities are taking money from fossil fuel companies, according to the Australia Institute.

They fund a total of 24 separate research centres including the “Centre for Natural Gas” at the University of Queensland, a “Future Industries Institute” at University of South Australia and the “Monash Energy Institute”.

This risks universities pumping out biased research and greenwashing the work of polluting companies like Santos and Woodside.

There is also tens of millions of dollars in grant funding provided through Australian Research Council grants from groups such as the Australian Coal Association.

As the Australia Institute’s Rod Campbell put it, “Coal and gas companies should not be funding science in the 2020s”.

## Iran blamed for orchestrated antisemitism crisis



ALBANESE HAS blamed Iran for orchestrating at least two of the antisemitic attacks late last year, after ASIO claimed it had tracked responsibility back to Iran’s Revolutionary Guard.

It says they directed the firebombing of the Adass Israel synagogue in Melbourne and a Sydney restaurant, and possibly other attacks.

There are still questions about this given Iran would surely have understood that antisemitic attacks here would play into the hands of Albanese and supporters of Israel. Iran has, however, organised attacks overseas before.

The government’s swift expulsion of the Iranian ambassador also highlighted its failure to act against Israel. The Israeli government is carrying out far worse crimes in Gaza yet its ambassador still sits comfortably in Canberra pumping out lies to defend the genocide.

But the admission a foreign state was responsible puts the lie to claims at the time that the wave of antisemitism was due to the protests for Palestine. Albanese’s antisemitism envoy said the protests were “intimidatory”, and claimed without any evidence that they were “attacking the Jewish community”.

But the antisemitic attacks were carried out by petty criminals who were paid for the work and directed from overseas. None of those arrested for their involvement in Sydney were motivated by antisemitism, NSW police deputy commissioner David Hudson has admitted.

Yet in NSW Premier Chris Minns responded with new anti-protest laws that banned rallies near religious institutions and targeted hate speech. Albanese blamed supporters of Palestine for threatening “social cohesion”.

The movement for Palestine is a movement against genocide and racism—and has never tolerated antisemitism. The smears against it now have less credibility than ever.

## Don’t underestimate CEO pay gap

MOST AUSTRALIANS underestimate the gap between ordinary wages and what CEOs are paid, a new study reported in the Nine Papers has revealed. The average CEO of companies listed on the stock exchange makes more than 50 times as much as the average full-time worker.

That equates to about \$5 million a year. Some get far more—with Victor Herrero of Lovisa Holdings on \$39.5 million and Macquarie Group’s Shemara Wikramanayake \$29.8 million last year. Most people guess that they earn only seven times as much—and think they should only get about three times the amount.

## Qantas still profits from sackings despite massive fine

QANTAS HAS been fined \$90 million for illegally sacking 1820 ground handlers during the pandemic in 2020 and outsourcing their jobs. That’s 75 per cent of the maximum possible fine.

The sackings were an opportunistic effort to achieve the company’s long held anti-union agenda and get rid of the workers before enterprise bargaining began and they were able to strike. “This was a carefully planned and executed union-busting operation,” Josh Bornstein, the lawyer for the union representing the workers, the Transport Workers Union, said.

The workers remain sacked but will share in another \$120 million of compensation. Together with the costs of the court action this means the outsourcing scheme has cost Qantas \$240 million. But it has already saved the company an estimated \$500 million.

Justice Michael Lee lashed Qantas for attempting to present misleading evidence, deliberately ensuring there were no records of CEO Alan Joyce or senior executives’ involvement, and concocting a decision making process designed to shield it from legal accountability.

Weeks later the company posted a \$2.39 billion profit, sending its share price soaring.

## AI set to rule on IR

INDUSTRIAL DISPUTES in Britain could be decided by AI if the state-funded conciliation body has its way. It hopes to use chatbots to weigh up rival claims between bosses and workers.

“Wouldn’t it be lovely if the two parties could submit their claims against each other in writing and the machine made the decision?” the government’s Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service’s chief Niall Mackenzie said.

The body is looking to cut costs in the face of a rising number of cases, and thinks the technology could be ready in three to four years. But with the government industrial relations body responsible for writing the software, don’t expect a neutral umpire.



# EDITORIAL

## Labor's failures are fuelling racism and the far right

THOUSANDS OF people joined the racist March for Australia rallies around Australia on 31 August. In Sydney and Melbourne openly Nazi speakers addressed the rallies. In Melbourne, Nazi thugs went on to brutally attack an Indigenous protest camp.

The rallies were a stark warning of how discontent over Labor's failures to address housing or cost of living issues can be pulled in a racist direction. Labor's failure to stand up to Trump, its attacks on the Palestine movement and its capitulation to anti-immigrant racism has created fertile ground for them.

The far right is also taking inspiration from the anti-immigration politics of Donald Trump, Nigel Farage's Reform UK and the flag protests there. The organised Nazis are a small minority of the March for Australia crowd but that's no reason for complacency.

There is an urgent need to fan the flames of resistance and take up the fight against Labor's austerity and the racist lies that blame migrants and refugees for increasing rents or the lack of services.

Broad anti-racist rallies uniting unions, multicultural communities, Palestine activists, Greens and Labor members will be needed to explicitly put the blame for the cost of living crisis where it belongs—on Albanese and the rich.

It is struggle from below that is the antidote to the despair of the Nazi and far right elements that are trying to capitalise on the discontent and pain of the cost of living crisis.

### Sanction Israel now

Only six weeks ago, Albanese was insisting that recognition of a Palestinian state was not imminent. After 300,000 marched across the Harbour Bridge, that changed. Just days later, Albanese announced Australia would recognise a Palestine state in September.

But Anthony Albanese's decision is an empty gesture from a government that is committed to continuing to support the Israeli apartheid state and aid its genocide. His move to "recognise" Palestine while completely opposing sanctions on Israel has only increased the anger at Labor's complicity.

The boycott of the Bendigo Writers Festival by more than a third of the participants, in protest against the organisers' attempt to silence support for Palestine, was yet another indication of the growing willingness to take a stand.

But the most significant develop-



ment in the movement, alongside the numbers of people that marched in the August nationwide rallies for Palestine, was the official union contingents in Melbourne and Sydney.

For the first time Victorian Trades Hall organised a 2000-strong contingent, assembling at Trades Hall and marching to the rally. Individual unions called on members to join the rallies.

Even the more conservative Unions NSW endorsed the rally and belatedly called for unionists to march behind a "Unions for Peace" banner. ACTU Secretary Sally McManus marched in Sydney and President Michele O'Neil marched in Melbourne. It was a tribute to the organising in the unions that has taken place so far, and an indication that organising in the rank-and-file can push reluctant leaders to take a stand over genocide.

It was a glimpse of the power that can be mobilised to impose sanctions that can actually hurt Israel.

The government is lying that Australia doesn't supply weapons to Israel.

Parts for Israel's F-35 fighter jets that are bombing Gaza have been exported in recent months directly from Australia to Israel. Defence Minister Richard Marles admitted "We're an F-35 country" but hid behind the claim that parts in the supply chain are "organised by Lockheed Martin in the United States and have multiple suppliers".

In fact Lockheed Martin itself says that "Every F-35 built contains some Australian parts and compo-

**Above: The teachers contingent on the nationwide march for Palestine in Melbourne was a result of the kind of organising in unions needed**

Photo: Teachers and School Staff for Palestine Victoria

nents." Australian companies including Quickstep in Sydney, Ferra Engineering in Brisbane and Rosebank Engineering in Melbourne all boast of being the only suppliers for crucial parts.

The movement needs to organise to deepen the understanding within unions and other networks of the scale of Albanese's complicity and to step up the demand for "Sanctions now". Unions in France, Italy and Greece have imposed bans on handling weapons bound for Israel.

Demonstrations outside factories like Quickstep and Bisalloy have highlighted the Australian connection with genocide, but now for the first time the Maritime Union is considering "bans on any cargo being used to perpetuate the genocide against the Palestinian people."

Netanyahu is determined to escalate the genocide, in both Gaza and the West Bank. But sanctions can boost the campaign, isolate Israel and help force an end to the genocide.

Every supporter of Palestine needs to get behind the 10 September union rallies in Sydney and Melbourne. There is time to move resolutions and leaflet workplaces to build make sure the next national day of action on 12 October has even bigger union contingents.

Fighting for Palestine and fighting racism goes hand in hand. March for Australia wants to fly Australian flags not Palestinian flags and their bully boys attacked two Palestinian activists on a Sydney train.

Linking the struggles together will help build more powerful movements to fight Labor and the system that creates racism and war.

**Organising in the rank-and-file can push reluctant union leaders to take a stand over genocide**

# Mass defiance and arrests meet ban on Palestine Action UK

By Lorna MacRitchie

THE BRITISH government's decision to ban direct action group Palestine Action has triggered widespread anger and defiance. The group has been declared a terrorist organisation and any support for them made illegal.

Palestine Action's main target since their inception in 2020 has been Elbit Systems: an Israeli weapons company.

The government's decision was made following Palestine Action's break in at the RAF Brize Norton base where they sprayed red paint on two planes. They targeted this base because of its daily flights to the RAF base in Cyprus, the launch pad for British surveillance flights over Gaza. The British government has been providing aerial assistance and intelligence to Israel in their ongoing occupation of Palestine and genocide of Palestinians.

Home Secretary Yvette Cooper claimed that Palestine Action had caused "millions of pounds" worth of damage since 2020 and that this warranted banning the group. They have not harmed a single person.

Notably, in May 2024 a court in Leicester acquitted two Palestine Action activists accused of damage to an Elbit Systems factory in 2021. Co-founder Huda Ammori stated, "This action and legal victory shows it's not just a moral obligation to dismantle Israel's weapons trade, but also a legal one."

The move against Palestine Action follows a wider crackdown from the Labour government on the right to protest, giving the police more power to break up demonstrations.

This is part of its effort to silence opposition to the UK's complicity in Israel's genocide in Gaza, having approved over a \$1 billion worth of arms exports contracts to the IDF since 2015.

Hundreds of protesters gathered in Parliament Square on 9 August to protest the ban. It was a peaceful protest where individuals sat on the grass holding signs that said "I oppose genocide, I support Palestine Action". Metropolitan police made 522 arrests including many elderly people and one blind man in a wheelchair. However the police were unable to arrest everyone who took part.

The widespread opposition to the ban amongst the public and the mass arrests have emboldened sympathy for protesters and for Palestine. Another



**Above: Hundreds of people gathered in London to defy the ban on Palestine action and risk arrest** Photo: Socialist Worker UK

action is planned for 6 September in Parliament Square with numbers expected to increase dramatically. This kind of defiance can make the law

unenforceable and defeat the government's attack on the right to protest. A judicial review of the ban is scheduled before the end of the year.

## USyd staff fly the flag as unionists back defiance

ON THURSDAY 28 August, a University of Sydney NTEU meeting of 140 people voted overwhelmingly to defy the five new speech policies introduced by management in June this year.

The policies restrict the rights of staff and students to send "bulk emails", to display banners without approval, engage in public commentary, fly flags, and outright ban students from making lecture announcements in class.

These policies are in addition to the Campus Access Policy which requires staff and students to seek approval before holding a rally or handing out leaflets.

The motion of defiance noted the seriousness of the threat and called on members to defy the policies, while also committing the NTEU to use its "full authority" to support members facing disciplinary action. Although NTEU branch president Peter Chen and NTEU legal staff said they could not condone actions that might result in staff losing their jobs, members argued from the floor that we should engage in organised and collective defiance to break the policies and make them a dead letter. The members' arguments won out.

The Campus Access Policy

has been regularly and successfully defied by staff and students, but management is becoming more belligerent. History lecturer David Brophy had a Palestine flag forcibly removed from his office window last month, and the University's digital notice board "Viva Engage" is being heavily moderated. But despite staff receiving warning letters at least four new flags are currently flying out of office windows.

Union activists are now distributing flag flying guides, encouraging more staff to act together to defy the policies.

On 10 September NTEU members will join a "Leave Work Early for Palestine" day of action, rallying at 4pm demanding that USyd cut ties with the Hebrew University, divest from defence and weapons companies, and rescind the anti-free speech policies.

While this will not be industrial action, union activists will do our best to encourage staff to act together to make the action a success.

After our 4pm rally we will march to UTS, joining other NTEU branches ahead of a "Sanction Israel" Union Solidarity rally at Defence Department Plaza initiated by the NSW Division of the NTEU.

**Matte Rochford**

**The move against Palestine Action follows a wider crackdown on the right to protest**



# Nationwide marches extend spread of Palestine movement

By David Glanz

THE NATIONAL day of action for Palestine on 24 August was a resounding success, mobilising not just the largest nationwide protest for Palestine to date but broadening the movement's reach into the unions and the Labor Party.

The 300,000-strong march across the Sydney Harbour Bridge showed the depth of anger over Israel's genocide. This time there were rallies in 40 separate towns and cities.

The rallies sent a clear message to Prime Minister Anthony Albanese that the Palestine movement will not be fobbed off with meaningless "recognition". Marchers were calling for full sanctions on Israel, including an end to two-way military trade.

The turnouts ranged from 4000 in Hobart to many tens of thousands in Brisbane, Melbourne and Sydney.

It was a stunning rebuff to supporters of Israel in the media and in parliament who have tried to write off the Palestine movement as unrepresentative and marginal.

## Union solidarity

The union mobilisation was among the largest since October 2023. Calling the protests at three weeks' notice meant there was time to pull together significant contingents.

In Melbourne, 2000 union members formed up at Trades Hall for a feeder march called by the Victorian Trades Hall Council.

They marched to the main rally with contingents from the CPSU (both state and federal), NTEU, ASU, UWU, MUA, CFMEU, HACSU, VAHPA, MEAA and AMWU.

It was a significant step forward in broadening the social base of the movement—and drawing in the working class power needed to win.

The turnout by teachers was particularly impressive. One AEU activist reported, "At peak we would have had at least 200-250 teachers and school staff from across about 30 schools marching in our contingent."

Teachers and Schools Staff for Palestine (TSS4P) activists relied on independent rank-and-file networks to build.

The activist said, "The teacher contingent was almost all mobilised through our network in TSS4P. We rang our members asking them to mobilise a group from their workplace.



**Above: Tens of thousands joined the Sydney march for Palestine on 24 August**

"The endorsement by Trades Hall and the AEU helped put the feeder march on the map and gave union reps licence to promote it at work. But the notification buried in the members' bulletin and a late social media post did nothing to actually organise people into coming.

"Our union leaders ignored our resolutions in regional meetings to organise phone banking. So TSS4P AEU members called up schools in our regions and asked to speak to sub-branch reps about the rally.

"Union organisers were telling people not to bring their school sub-branch banners that name the school because of a repressive email sent from the Department of Education. So it was great to see the 16 sub-branch banners, including some that had been hand-made for the rally."

In Adelaide, SA Unions also called a feeder march with about 50 union activists. On the main march, unions including the NTEU, MUA, ASU, CEPU, UWU and CPSU flew flags.

In Sydney ACTU Secretary Sally McManus joined the Secretary of Unions NSW Mark Morey to lead a contingent of 50 from various unions. Both the Teachers Federation and the NTEU had separate contingents. Three local Teachers Association branches in Sydney passed motions to email their members about the rally.

Addressing the crowd, NSW Teachers Federation President Henry Rajendra denounced the "genocide, starvation and now famine" and declared that "our members educate for peace not war". He reaffirmed

the union's support for the ACTU statement on Gaza, and "the call for the Albanese government to impose immediate sanctions on Israel".

A number of Labor MPs also broke ranks to join the protests. Four Labor MPs marched behind the SA Labor Friends of Palestine banner, Victorian Labor MPs Bronwyn Halfpenny and Matt Hilakari marched in Melbourne, NSW MPs Anthony D'Adam and Sarah Kaine in Sydney, two WA Labor MPs in Perth as well as Queensland Labor MP Bisma Asif and Tasmanian Labor MP Ella Haddad.

This follows the move by a dozen NSW Labor MPs to defy Premier Chris Minns and join the march across the Sydney Harbour Bridge. The movement needs to seek to widen the cracks inside Labor into a broader rebellion against Albanese.

The horror at Israel's deliberate starvation and massacres now runs right across society. But with the government continuing to lie about not sending weapons to Israel, we still need to carry the argument for sanctions deeper into workplaces and local communities.

Building the kind of rank-and-file organisation seen among Victorian teachers to pressure union officials to do more is of particular importance.

That means bringing delegates together to discuss action against Israel and campaigning within the membership for the need for industrial action against the slaughter.

The genocide isn't stopping and neither should our organising—on the streets and in the workplaces.

**In Melbourne, 2000 union members formed up at Trades Hall for a feeder march called by the Victorian Trades Hall Council**

# As pressure mounts on ANU, fight to stop the cuts

By Finnian Colwell

ANU MANAGEMENT is facing a crisis of legitimacy over its \$250 million proposed cuts. On 20 August Vice-Chancellor Genevieve Bell announced there would be no future forced redundancies under the Renew ANU cuts and has delayed implementing some already-announced job cuts.

On 25 August ACT Senator David Pocock introduced a bill in parliament calling for financial transparency. He has also called for increased funding for higher education.

Education Minister Jason Clare has referred a letter from Pocock to the Tertiary Education Quality and Standards Agency (TEQSA), beginning a review into ANU's leadership.

ANU is nonetheless determined to force through cuts. Former staff member of ANU Council Liz Allen testified to the Senate that the Chancellor Julie Bishop verbally abused her and physically blocked her from leaving meetings. The student union president revealed that Bishop refused to hold a vote within ANU Council to pause the cuts.

Labor and Liberal have backed the university's ruthless management by voting down Pocock's bill demanding ANU release the finances for each College at the university. Transparency would have likely undermined Bell's claims that cuts are necessary due to the scale of the budget deficit.

Over the past 40 years, from 1989 to 2019, government funding as a percentage of university revenue has more than halved, going from 89 per cent to 35 per cent. It is no surprise that Labor and Liberal are supporting a vice-chancellor managing their underfunding through staff cuts.

Pressure from the likes of Pocock must be supplemented by a fighting campaign of students and staff. Pocock spoke at a student rally on 21 August, which marched to a staff BBQ where Liz Allen spoke of her determination to keep fighting management.

This followed a 70-strong rally on 12 August, where student contingents from Linguistics, English, Art & Design, Music and the Society for Arts and Social Sciences joined to display cross-campus opposition. Students rallied for seven hours, staging an evening speak-out outside Bell's offices.

Much more sustained disruption on campus will be necessary to stop the 120 job cuts currently planned.



Above: A student day of rage against the ANU cuts Photo: SOAD Collective

**ANU management is determined to force through cuts**

## CFMEU members must still organise to resist Administration

DESPITE CONTINUING rank-and-file anger among CFMEU members, there is now widespread resignation about the Administration of the union imposed by the Labor government.

Following the High Court's decision upholding Administration in June, key supporters of the removed officials are no longer willing to fight it. A proposed wildcat strike of at least five sites in Melbourne in late June was hosed down by Victorian organisers days before it was due to happen.

Some are still hoping that legal action can frustrate the Administrator's plans. Demoted ACT branch Secretary Michael Hiscox has launched another court case to try to reverse Administration's removal of him from his position.

Court documents have revealed the thuggish language used by Michael Flinn, the Administrator's Chief of Staff, to Hiscox after he pushed back on Admin's demand for more money from the ACT branch.

Flinn allegedly told Hiscox that you are "bringing on yourself consequences that you can't even imagine", that "you are playing with fire" and asked why he was "determined to run a campaign of opposition that will only end badly for you?"

In late August, Admin released a financial declaration for the year ending 31 March 2025.

It revealed that Administration paid \$1.1 million to KordaMentha accountants to "forensically" exam-

ine the CFMEU's accounts.

Legal fees increased by over six times from \$266,246 to \$1,669,664.

Some of these lawyers' fees are being used to fight a Victorian woman organiser's unfair dismissal case, after her sacking by Administration last November.

Admin's employee Zach Smith, the National Secretary and the Victorian Executive Officer, is being paid for his "services", as the document puts it, \$364,825 a year.

He is among the leading CFMEU figures and Administration employees who are arguing that all that's possible is to "do our work as a union" and re-emerge when Administration ends.

This is at least two more years and possible four years away. All that time Administration will hamstring the CFMEU from organising as a union to defend safety and conditions.

Already, on some Victorian sites, word is circulating that the tame-cat AWU is attempting to poach traffic control work from the CFMEU, with the Administration willing to hand over members.

Administration wants to turn the CFMEU into a compliant union that accepts all the anti-strike laws and allows the bosses to run all over it.

Members need to start organising at a rank-and-file level independently of the Administration to stop the bosses taking advantage and resist the attacks inside the union.

Tom Orsag



# Anti-racist response can push back racist rallies and the far right

By David Glanz

THOUSANDS OF racists joined anti-immigration marches across the country on 31 August. It was a sobering reminder of the urgent need to organise in defence of migrants, refugees and Indigenous people.

There were some 6000 on the racist rallies in Sydney and Melbourne and thousands more in Brisbane, Perth and Adelaide.

Australian flags were everywhere, with chants of “Aussie, Aussie, Aussie”, “Albanese out” and “Send them back”.

There were counter-rallies in most cities, with 5000 in Melbourne facing off against the far right despite heavy policing that included the use of cap-sicum spray and flash bangs.

In Sydney, a community anti-racist rally of 200, organised in direct response to the racists, marched to the weekend Palestine rally, which had been billed as a rally against genocide and fascism.

## Housing crisis

The racists are riding on the back of mainstream scare campaigns about migration.

In April, then Liberal leader Peter Dutton promised to slash annual immigration by 100,000, falsely linking migration to the housing crisis.

Rather than challenging this, Labor promised to cut net immigration “quite considerably”. Universities are facing job cuts because Labor has already cut international student numbers.

Now the Albanese government has legislated to make it easier to deport non-citizens and announced it would pay \$400 million to Nauru (and \$70 million a year) to take at least 280 deportees.

Every time “respectable” politicians call for cuts to migration or for deportations, it fuels the far right.

So our response to the racists can’t just be against their rallies—we need to organise against government policies that demonise migrants and refugees.

The racists are seeking to turn anger against Anthony Albanese’s failure to act on housing prices and the cost of living against immigrants.

We need to target the governments and the rich who are really responsible and encourage every ounce of a real fightback for jobs, wages and conditions.

The anti-migration rallies tried to



**Above: Anti-racists held counter-rallies in most cities, such as this march in Sydney** Photo: Penny Howard

claim they were simply organised by “nationalists, patriots and everyday Australians”. But many of the known organisers were linked to far right and fascist groups, such as Sydney organiser “Bec Freedom” and Melbourne organiser Matt Trihey, both affiliated to the fascist National Workers Alliance.

The rallies themselves also promoted white nationalist politics, saying they were “a stand for the people, culture, and nation that built Australia”.

The National Socialist Network (NSN) claimed it had initiated the rallies although they made up only a tiny proportion of the crowds—20 or so in Sydney, maybe 30 in Melbourne.

Other organisers played down their involvement, but made it clear the Nazis were welcome. In Melbourne, NSN leader and convicted criminal Thomas Sewell spoke at Parliament to cheers. His thugs later attacked Camp Sovereignty, an ongoing First Nations presence on the edge of the CBD, injuring several people.

In Sydney, NSN activist Jack Eltis addressed the racist rally during an open mic session. In Adelaide, the event ended in chaos when an NSN member tried to speak and sections of the crowd objected.

## Conspiracy theorists

The Nazis will take heart from the rallies. But most rally-goers were not with the NSN. In Melbourne there was a banner for Jesus and a sign against “demonic Freemasons”. Many in the crowd were anti-vaxxers and conspiracy theorists—all united by suspicion of government and rejection

of migrants.

*Solidarity* spoke to an Australia Post worker who resented the outsourcing of work to contractors and blamed migrant “cheap labour” rather than bosses’ greed.

A CFMEU member endorsed sovereign citizen theories and hinted that Jews were running the world.

But a member of the RTBU rail workers’ union said he had no issue with multiculturalism. “We have all sorts at work and we organise together. I’m here because I don’t like what the government is doing.”

The challenge for anti-racists will be to drive a wedge between the open Nazis of the NSN and the softer racists to prevent the far right from growing.

Anti-racists now need to organise to show the depth of opposition to the racists. Getting union backing and involvement will be key.

We need to build broad, united anti-racist mobilisations in every city.

The Victorian Trades Hall Council ran a social media campaign to discourage workers from attending the racist rally. The Maritime Union put out a national statement against the use of the Eureka flag and the Merchant Navy flag by the anti-migrant marchers.

Union activists should be moving motions in their branches calling on unions to go further and back anti-racist mobilisations.

The racists are punching down on migrants, refugees and Indigenous people. We need a movement that fights Albanese and punches up at the billionaires.

Fighting racism and fighting the bosses must go hand in hand.

# UTS makes savage cuts to courses—but union power is growing

By Paddy Gibson

IN AUGUST, UTS management announced a suspension of new enrolments for more than 100 courses, leaving staff, students and community stakeholders reeling.

As *Solidarity* goes to press, SafeWork NSW has ordered UTS to pause the release of its “change proposal” once again, due to inadequate planning around psycho-social risk.

The proposal is expected to name 150 academics targeted for redundancy.

The suspended courses and targeted academics undertake valuable public interest teaching and research and must be defended.

Some areas such as Public Health, Education (teacher training) and International Studies have had virtually all course offerings suspended. Others affected include Maths and Physics.

This is the latest move in management’s attempt to implement the “Operational Sustainability Initiative” (OSI), a savage program of job cuts and course cuts.

The initial OSI discussion paper, committing UTS to \$100 million in cuts, was released in November, with a follow-up announcement that 150 academic and 250 professional staff would be axed.

A dynamic, member-driven response from the National Tertiary Education Union (NTEU) has seen 200 people join the union this year and meetings opposing OSI routinely attract more than 300.

Management wanted to release its first formal change proposal in June. But the NTEU brought a dispute, arguing UTS had failed to meaningfully consult with staff, as mandated by the enterprise agreement. Management had to pretend its course suspensions were not related to OSI, calling them a “temporary pause”.

The delay has created time and opportunity to build momentum behind a fightback. This also pushed the release of the change proposal closer to a new period of enterprise bargaining—when staff can legally go on strike.

## Public interest

The struggle at UTS is over the fundamental question: should universities serve the public good or run on commercial logic?

A freedom of information request by the NTEU revealed that UTS had



**Above: Union members at UTS protest at the university’s Open Day in August** Photo: Solidarity

contracted major consulting firm KPMG at a cost so far of \$7.5 million.

The consultants assessed courses and academics based on how much funding each brings into the university and sketched out cuts accordingly. UTS is now ruthlessly implementing these plans.

A statement from Public Health staff, read to an NTEU rally on 19 August by Indigenous academic Jacintha Manton, summed up what’s at stake:

“The core reason for a university is not profit, but to teach, to research and serve society in areas that matter most.

“[Cutting Public Health] sends a message that prevention does not matter, that Indigenous health does not matter, that the passion of our students to make positive change does not matter.”

As Isobel Creely, a lecturer in Education, wrote in *The Guardian*, “If preparing teachers for NSW during an ongoing teacher shortage is not in the public good, what is?”

Regressive federal government policy has pushed universities down the corporate path. Public investment in tertiary sector research declined from 2.25 per cent of GDP in 2009 to 1.68 per cent in 2022, much less than the OECD average of 2.7 per cent.

We need to fight for more public funding. But university bosses have adopted the ideology of commercial management with gusto and must be fought head-on.

UTS announced OSI in response to Labor’s plans to cut international student numbers. But when the cuts did not materialise, management continued to pursue \$100 million in sav-

ings to return UTS to budget surplus.

The pursuit of a big surplus is totally arbitrary. Senior managers want discretionary funds to pursue their own priorities and earn a reputation in the corporate world for ruthless commitment to the bottom line.

## Union fightback

Fair Work action has held up management’s plans and we should continue to challenge UTS using available clauses. The SafeWork decision also buys more time.

But the arbitration system is rigged in favour of the bosses—it will never challenge their fundamental power to make cuts.

Recent large protests and mass members meetings in response to OSI show the potential power of staff acting collectively.

UTS is now obliged to consult on the future of suspended courses and named staff. We should not cede a single course or job and take every opportunity to mobilise the outrage being felt across campus and the wider community.

We need all staff attending meetings to become union activists—signing up their workmates, organising area meetings to plan the campaign and bringing more people to events.

We need to be ready to strike as soon as bargaining opens and show UTS we will not accept their austerity agenda. The cuts being felt at UTS are happening across the sector. The NTEU needs to co-ordinate action across campuses and fight hard for public-interest teaching and research.

**A dynamic response from the NTEU has seen 200 people join the union this year and meetings routinely attract more than 300**



# Israel's ethnic cleansing in West Bank rules out Palestinian state

By Maeve Larkins

ISRAEL IS accelerating its genocide and annexation not just in Gaza, but also in the Palestinian West Bank.

Since 7 October 2023, Israel has annexed more land there than in the past 20 years. Violent attacks by Israeli settlers and the IDF, endorsed by Netanyahu's regime, have killed over 1000 Palestinians and wounded more than 8000.

"In the first half of this year, settlers have unleashed over 750 attacks on Palestinians and their properties, an average of nearly 130 per month, the highest on record," a Palestinian activist from the West Bank told *Solidarity*.

In July, 20-year-old Palestinian-US citizen Saif al-Din Musalat was beaten to death by Israeli settlers after trying to prevent their seizure of his family's farmland.

A Palestinian farmer described how after seizing his land, "The settlers guard it with weapons. They can shoot us at any time, they have permission from the authorities."

## Occupation

Israel has occupied the West Bank and imposed military rule over Palestinians living there since the Six Day War in 1967. After the Oslo Accords in 1993, the building of Israeli settlements massively expanded.

The Accords split the territory in Areas A, B and C. Area C is under full Israeli military rule and comprises 60 per cent of the West Bank.

Before the Oslo Accords, the settler population was around 100,000. Today, it numbers more than 700,000, making up 10 per cent of Israel's total population.

Israeli settlements are often built near Palestinian neighbourhoods and Palestinians are ruthlessly prevented from entering them.

The Palestinian refugee camp near Jalazone, for instance, is overlooked by an Israeli settlement, Beit El.

"They use the camp as a dump," a Palestinian from the area told *Solidarity*. "The soldiers in the watchtowers, when they get bored, they point their lasers at us and make us run ... they post it on Tik Tok."

Israel's occupation throttles the Palestinian economy and access to basic services, while funnelling resources to the Israeli settlements.

"In the camp, there is only access



to water twice a week, while the settlement has water all the time."

She described how Israeli settlers release wild boars into Palestinian olive groves, which destroy the crops and endanger Palestinians trying to harvest their olives.

Recently, Israeli settlers destroyed over 10,000 olive trees, some more than 100 years old, as part of the three-day siege of a Palestinian village in the West Bank, al-Mughayyir, after an Israeli settler was reportedly attacked.

In the West Bank, Palestinians are continually monitored. Their movement between areas is throttled by 849 checkpoints, where Israeli soldiers can search and detain any Palestinian.

The activist's mother's dental practice in Ramallah was unable to operate for almost a year after 7 October 2023 due to Israel closing the checkpoints connecting Ramallah to neighbouring towns and villages.

Israel's occupation aims to make life intolerable for Palestinians, while expanding their annexation of Palestinian land. It is a systematic attempt at ethnic cleansing, as in Gaza.

## Expansion

Earlier this month, Israeli Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich announced that Israel's parliament, the Knesset, had approved plans for further annexation. This involves seizing a 12-kilometre strip of land east of Jerusalem, in an area designated "E1" by Israel.

**Above: Palestinian women observe an illegal outpost settlement in the West Bank near the village of Jalud**

Photo: Peter Biro/EU/ECHO

This new settlement will sever East Jerusalem from the rest of the West Bank and cut Palestinians in the north of the West Bank off from the south.

Smotrich explained that this new settlement, "Buries the idea of a Palestinian state," and that "Whoever in the world is trying to recognise a Palestinian state today will receive our answer on the ground. Not with documents nor with decisions or statements, but with facts. Facts of houses. Facts of neighbourhoods."

In May, Israel announced the construction of 22 new settlements, the largest single settlement expansion since 1993.

The Israeli cabinet has been toying with the complete annexation of the West Bank for months, passing a symbolic motion in the Knesset in July which declared its ultimate intent to take full control of the territory.

As recently as the start of September, the Israeli cabinet was reportedly "tossing up" plans to incorporate the whole of Area C into Israel.

But the takeover of the West Bank is already occurring every day. Israeli settler violence, seizures of farmland, house demolitions and raids on villages are a daily occurrence.

This rapid expansion of settlements exposes that the genocide in Gaza has never been simply about fighting Hamas—it is part of a broader aim of seizing complete control of historic Palestine and cleansing the area of Palestinians.

**The takeover of the West Bank is already occurring every day**

# Ukraine talks are an imperialist carve up not peace

By James Supple

DONALD TRUMP said his meeting with Russian leader Vladimir Putin in Alaska was a step towards ending the war in Ukraine. Putin, however, is stalling on further negotiations as he continues to bombard Ukrainian cities.

Ukraine's exclusion from the meeting shows that this is an imperialist proxy war where the US and Russia are calling the shots. It follows Trump's humiliation of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky at the White House in February over his reluctance to negotiate a deal with Russia.

Zelensky joined a parade of European leaders who headed to Washington for talks with Trump in the aftermath of the meeting with Putin.

European leaders welcomed Trump's suggestion the US could help provide "security guarantees" to Ukraine alongside European nations to deter Russia from resuming the war. However, Trump has ruled out committing US troops on the ground.

The US is still pressuring Ukraine to accept punitive terms in exchange for peace.

Trump has floated the idea of Ukraine giving up control of more territory to Russia through "land swapping". Putin is demanding that Ukraine hand over the rest of the eastern Donetsk province, of which Russia has seized 75 per cent.

In part this is an acknowledgement that Russia has the upper hand in the war. Since the failure of Ukraine's counter-offensive in late 2023 Russia has been slowly taking territory.

Russia's war economy and much larger population means it can continue feeding troops into the fighting—and Putin is prepared to see thousands die for any advantage.

But Trump also wants to extricate the US from funding weapons and aid to Ukraine after three and a half years of war. This is not because he is pro-Putin, as some claim.

Trump has threatened "massive sanctions or massive tariffs" against Russia if Putin stalls on peace negotiations. He has already imposed secondary sanctions on India for buying Russian oil.

Trump's actions are driven by imperialist motives. He sees China as the US's key adversary, both in economic and military terms, and wants to focus



**Above: Donald Trump and Vladimir Putin before the meeting in Alaska**  
Photo: Daniel Torok/  
White House Photo

all his efforts there. That means reducing US spending on wars in Europe and the Middle East and shifting more of the burden onto allies.

European states have now agreed to nearly double their own military spending to 3.5 per cent of GDP and to pay for continuing to arm Ukraine.

Trump has also insisted that Ukraine needs to repay the US for its aid during the war, extracting a deal for that would give the US the right to control new mining developments including rare earth metals, oil and gas.

His administration also hopes to draw Russia away from its alliance with China through offering an end to economic sanctions. Putin, however, has little interest in abandoning China.

## Imperialist motives

Trump is an imperialist bully. But US support for Ukraine has been driven by imperialist interests from the beginning. Ukrainian resistance has been funded and largely directed by the US and NATO in a proxy war against their Russian adversary.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine had no justification. But NATO and the US have been happy to use Ukraine to weaken Russia and boost their own power—at the expense of an estimated 400,000 Ukrainian lives.

Back in 2007 Putin made it clear that Ukraine and Georgia joining NATO was a "red line", with the possibility this would put US missile systems right on Russia's borders.

But President Joe Biden refused to discuss any guarantee on preventing Ukrainian NATO membership even as Russia threatened to invade.

From 2004 the US spent millions to influence Ukrainian politics and topple pro-Russian governments. After Russia seized control of Crimea and parts of the Donbas from Ukraine in 2014, the US put another \$2.5 billion into arming and training the Ukrainian military.

Shortly after the invasion began Ukraine was close to a peace deal with Russia where it would accept neutrality and agree not to join NATO, according to David Arakhamia, a senior figure in Zelensky's government. But then British Prime Minister Boris Johnson urged Zelensky to reject the offer and "make war" instead.

European leaders are using Russia's invasion of Ukraine to justify their massive escalation of military spending. This is not about defence but advancing the US and NATO's power in Europe.

Anthony Albanese has not ruled out sending troops to Ukraine as part of any settlement and has spent \$1.5 billion sending weapons. This only fuels the slaughter, wasting money that could be spent on housing, health or education.

We need to oppose Australian support for the war and demand an end to the US alliance and the hundreds of billions going on nuclear submarines, missiles and new military bases to support the US's other drive to war with China.

**US support for Ukraine has been driven by imperialist interests from the beginning**



# Why struggle from below is needed to change the system

The fight for reforms has to be directed towards challenging the state rather than seeking to reform it if we are to win real change

THE IDEA that you can change society for the better by working through existing parliamentary institutions is one of the ideas hammered into everyone's head by the educational system and the media.

Its influence is particularly strong when big movements are still too weak to transform society from below. It is all too easy then for people to believe the only "practical" way forward is to look for saviours from on high to deliver.

The clever parliamentary manoeuvre becomes the substitute for working to build strength from the bottom upwards.

Activists are often pulled in two directions—either towards the belief that isolated single movements are the solution or, when this proves inadequate, towards putting their faith in working through existing institutions.

What begins as resistance from below can end up as reformism from above. Yet reformism from above leaves the system intact and can only end up producing disappointment and bitterness as capitalism rolls on.

Revolutionaries cannot afford to turn their backs on those who believe in reform. Any change that improves ordinary people's lives is worth fighting for. And also the best way to win a political argument with someone is to pursue it patiently while working alongside them for aims you both agree on.

## Reform or revolution

The revolutionary Rosa Luxemburg argued that socialists shouldn't abandon struggling for positive reforms. But the choice you make between reform and revolution has implications for how you organise and what you demand in the struggles.

If you believe you can produce permanent improvements through pressure on the existing state, the logic is to direct the workers' movement upwards and to find allies who can influence the state.

By contrast, if you understand that at some point the movement will have to confront the ruling class and its state, you have to emphasise building from below and breaking people from deference to the powers that be.

Every part of the state is geared



**Above: The revolutionary socialist Rosa Luxemburg wrote about the division between the struggle for revolution and reform**

**Every part of the state is geared towards running capitalism and helping corporations and bosses**

towards running capitalism and helping corporations and bosses.

A vast tangle of laws legitimises capitalists' right to own property and make profits. Industrial relations laws serve to divert workers' discontent into court hearings and restrict the kind of strike action that can win workers serious gains and challenge bosses' profits.

The police, the army and the security services enforce these laws and protect capitalists and the rich.

These bodies are filled with unelected officials who share broadly the same interests as the bankers who'll try to break a left-wing government through economic blackmail.

And when fighting for reforms means confrontation with the full might of big business and the state, what do workers have to do to beat them?

We must win the argument that confrontation with the state must be the centre of any socialist strategy. A reformist view isn't about defeating the state but seizing hold of it and using it to build a better society.

The problem is that this makes controlling the state and keeping it intact more important than everything else.

This leads parties like Labor, but also more left-wing parties like The Greens, to make compromises and concessions just to hold on to office or to get elected. Labor in power rules for the rich and powerful; its policies maintain the profits of big business and

boost militarism. Any moves to the left are dealt with ruthlessly.

Just look at the way Fatima Payman was driven out when she spoke out for Palestine, and the mainstream media's hostility to The Greens. In Britain, the media and right-wing sections of the British Labour Party set out to destroy Jeremy Corbyn's leadership, while in the US the Democratic Party establishment set out to block Bernie Sanders from running for President.

Trying to accommodate to these forces rather than stand up to them means struggle outside of parliament is subordinated to parliamentary manoeuvres. The trade union leaders' connection with the Labor Party leads them into this trap again and again.

After the French state destroyed the uprising that made the Paris Commune of 1871, Karl Marx wrote, "The working class cannot simply lay hold of the ready-made state machinery and wield it for its own purposes."

He meant that workers couldn't transform the state—it had to be smashed and replaced with workers' power.

It is the power of resistance by ordinary people outside parliament, in their workplaces and in the streets, that is the real power for change—to fight for reforms and to fight against the capitalist system itself.

**Adapted from Socialist Worker UK**

# SANCTIONS NOW! WHAT THEY MEAN AND WHY THEY CAN STOP ISRAEL

**Adam Adelpour** explains how sanctions work, what difference Australian sanctions would make and how they would hit Israel's ability to continue the genocide in Gaza

ISRAEL'S GENOCIDE in Gaza is reaching unprecedented depths with relief agencies declaring a descent into famine has begun as Israel calls up 130,000 reservists for a major new offensive.

In response to the worsening horror there are growing calls for the Albanese government to sanction Israel. The demand for sanctions was central to the national day of action for Palestine in August and is being echoed increasingly widely.

It has been a key part of the Palestine campaign since 170 Palestinian civil society organisations launched the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions movement in 2005.

Sanctions can isolate and materially impact Israel and help make it the pariah state it deserves to be. But what would sanctions on Israel look like and how would they be effective?

According to the Department of Foreign Affairs, trade sanctions are "measures not involving the use of armed force that are imposed in situations of international concern". This usually involves a regime of restrictions on trade, commercial and financial activities as well as travel directed at a particular country.

Australia currently has more than 1500 sanctions on Russia in response to the invasion of Ukraine. These include everything from bans on exporting arms and aluminium ore because it can be used for military purposes to bans on the export of Australian fine wine. Iran also faces over 700 Australian sanctions.

Australian sanctions are monitored by the Australian Sanctions Office and severe penalties apply for breaching them. Individuals can face ten years imprisonment and/or a fine of up to \$825,000. Bodies Corporate can face fines of \$3.3 million or three times the value of their illegal transactions.

Yet despite the horrific genocide

being perpetrated by Israel, its economic and military ties to Australia remain intact.

## Not a major player?

Albanese has claimed Australia is not a "major player" in the Middle East in response to calls for action against Israel. But Israel benefits immensely from trade, arms trade, intelligence sharing and diplomatic relations with Australia.

Arms exports to Australia are profitable for both the Israeli state and the Israeli arms companies supplying weapons for Israel's genocide. One of the most egregious examples is the \$917 million contract the Defence Department signed with Israel's Elbit Systems in 2024. Every cent of this contract funds Israel's killing machine.

Elbit Systems is a major Israeli arms manufacturer and made the drone that killed Australia aid worker Zomi Frankcom. Its technology has killed countless Palestinians in Gaza.

Australia also supplies weapons to Israel, despite the Albanese government's desperate attempts to deny this. One of the most important examples is Australia's supply of parts for the F-35 fighter jet program run by the US. In March this year three new F-35s arrived at Nevatim airbase in Israel bringing their total fleet to 42.

Australia supplies parts which go into a "pool" which all participating countries, including Israel, draw on. More than 75 Australian companies are involved.

RUAG Australia is the sole supplier of the F-35's "uplock actuator system" that opens the bomb bay doors of the F-35. Sydney company Quickstep boasts that every F-35 has more than \$400,000 in parts from its factory in Bankstown.

Wong and Albanese have tried to argue they only export "non-lethal"

parts for F-35s. But there is no "non-lethal" part to a killing machine.

Australia has even been caught sending these parts directly to Israel. Documents leaked to Declassified Australia show that an F-35 part was sent from Sydney International Airways to Thailand on a Thai Airways flight. From there it went straight to Tel Aviv in Israel.

It has also been exposed that the Dronesield MK4 drone gun manufactured in Australia has been exported to Israel, as well as the EOS R400 lethal weapons system manufactured in Canberra.

Wong, Albanese and Defence Minister Richard Marles have tried to evade calls to halt arms shipments to Israel. They initially claimed there had been no arms exports to Israel for at least five years. Now the Defence Department has admitted it decided to uphold 35 defence export permits granted before 7 October, 2023.

There are a litany of other military and military-related exports to Israel as well, from armoured steel from Bisalloy in Wollongong, to drone and vehicle parts. In 2024 the bulk coal carrier Captain Veniamis travelled from Newcastle in NSW to the Israeli port of Hadera carrying Australian coal for Israel.

Australia also imports hundreds of millions worth of products from Israel, from medical instruments to machinery parts.

## The impact of sanctions

Sanctions can have a significant economic and military impact. This is especially the case for a small country like Israel that is dependent on key strategic imports and foreign military support.

The ability of Western states to impose vast sanctions when they want to can be seen in the case of Russia following the invasion of Ukraine.



According to Castellum, a compliance firm, the US and Europe have imposed sanctions on over 16,500 Russian targets since February 2022. They have targeted Russian oil exports, stopped the export of many goods to Russia and cut off Russia from much of the global financial system.

Despite the dramatic scale of the sanctions, Russia has weathered the storm. It has been able to export its oil to India and China. The International Monetary Fund anticipated Russia's GDP would shrink by over 10 per cent, but in October 2024 it estimated its GDP output had increased.

But Israel is far more vulnerable to sanctions than Russia. It is a small country and suffers from acute dependency on strategic imports like the coal it uses to generate energy. And its weapons stocks can be replenished only by the United States and its key allies.

### Sanctions and the working class

Despite the strong case for sanctions on Israel, there is usually reason to be critical of sanctions. They are a tool used by imperialist powers to weaken their rivals. Sanctions also harm the working classes of the countries targeted and do not usually lead to progressive change. Iran and Russia are cases in point.

Socialists look to the power of the working class to overthrow oppressive regimes and stop brutal imperialist wars waged by their governments. Sanctions can dampen class conflict by giving the ruling class of the targeted country an easy way to blame all hardship on foreign powers.

But Israel is not a normal state. It is a settler-colonial garrison propped up by huge imperialist subsidies, particularly weapons from the United States. These subsidies, the militarisation of Israeli society and its permanent conflict with Palestinians and the region help weld the Israeli working class to the apartheid state. This means they side with the state rather than overthrow it.

In these circumstances the usual criticisms of sanctions do not apply. This fight to impose sanctions on Israel is a fight to sever the arteries of imperialism that feed the apartheid state. This can strengthen the hand of Palestinians and the Arab working class in their struggle against it.

### Sanctions from below

The demand for sanctions must be central for the Palestine solidarity movement. A growing list of coun-



**Above: Rally outside Quickstep in Sydney calling for a ban on the export of parts for F-35 fighter jets to Israel** Photo: Solidarity

tries have now applied at least partial restrictions on arms exports to Israel.

Under pressure from the movement even Israel's close ally and second biggest arms supplier Germany has taken some measures to restrict arms exports. On 8 August German Chancellor Friedrich Merz said Germany is "not approving any exports of armaments that can be used in the Gaza Strip".

According to some reports Germany's arms embargo could impact Israel's ability to replace its Merkava tank engines, putting tanks out of action.

But we can't wait for Albanese to impose sanctions. We need to fight to impose our own sanctions from below now through boycotts and union bans. Workers in Greece and Italy have repeatedly refused to load arms for Israel. This example must be repeated from Port Said, to Jakarta, to Port Botany.

In May, the ACTU called for sanctions on military trade with Israel, giving unionists the green light to take up the issue.

The South Coast Labour Council in NSW has done research on how to defend workers who refuse work supplying Israel—and has committed to backing any union that takes action.

The MUA recently committed to working towards stopping exports and is consulting members on identifying shipments.

One of the most important boycotts has come from universities. Israeli universities are alarmed at the growing academic boycott and have established a task force headed by Emanuel Nahshon, a former senior official in the Foreign Ministry. The task force collected data showing in 2024 there were 200 boycotts of Israeli scientists and estimated in 2025 that it would be 700.

An employee tasked with monitoring boycotts at Tel Aviv University received 250 reports of boycotts. Nahshon says of the boycott, "It's strategic damage," and that "every good thing in Israel—the high-tech, the defence industry, the agricultural prosperity—has come out of the universities."

So the NTEU policy of academic boycott adopted at last October's national council is significant and there have already been examples of academics refusing work on this basis, although more needs to be done.

Campaigns have forced Sydney University's art school to cut ties with Bezalel Art Academy in Israel and UTS to end a ten-year memorandum of understanding with Technion, the Israeli Institute of Technology.

Inflicting this kind of "strategic damage" on Israel is critical. Sanctions from below must be spread everywhere there are ties with Israel. When asked if sanctions helped end apartheid in South Africa Nelson Mandela responded, "Oh, there is no doubt."

# RECOGNISING A PALESTINIAN STATE PLAN FOR TWO STATES IN PALESTINE A FRAUD

The prospect of a separate Palestinian state has been a ploy used to accelerate the dispossession of Palestinians and entrench Israel's apartheid, argues **James Supple**

ANTHONY ALBANESE'S decision to recognise a separate Palestinian state was a piece of useless symbolism. Australian Palestine Action Network's Nasser Mashni rightly described it as "a cynical political smokescreen" covering the government's refusal to sanction weapons exports and trade.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu may be enraged at Albanese and other leaders such as France's Emmanuel Macron over their moves towards recognition. The UK, France and Canada have all announced plans to recognise a Palestinian state in September at the meeting of the UN General Assembly.

But the move is actually designed to strengthen Israel, not end its terror and apartheid against Palestinians.

Albanese says it is meant to revive the push for a two-state solution, claiming this is the "best hope to break the cycle of violence in the Middle East".

For decades Western leaders have presented this as the pathway to peace. But it has always been a fraud. The two-state solution has been an effort to entrench Israel's apartheid state and Palestinian surrender.

Macron has argued that a two-state solution would benefit Israel, saying, "A lasting peace is essential to the State of Israel's security ... and to a shift towards normalisation" where the apartheid state is accepted as legitimate across the Middle East.

Albanese says he hopes it "isolates Hamas, disarms it, and drives it out of the region once and for all".

The idea behind this is that Hamas is somehow the obstacle to peace. This is nonsense.

Israel's actions over the last two years have unmasked the reality that it's a genocidal state. It has deliberately starved millions of Palestinians in Gaza, systematically bombed hospitals, universities and basic infrastruc-

ture and razed entire cities to the ground.

It is currently setting out to re-occupy Gaza City, forcing hundreds of thousands of Palestinians into the south in preparation for expelling them from Gaza altogether.

Netanyahu has declared his determination to "carry out the Trump plan" for total ethnic cleansing of the population. Israel's actions show it has no intention of allowing any peaceful settlement with the Palestinians.

Hamas has been offering a ceasefire deal to release all its remaining hostages since February—as long as it leads to a permanent end to the war. Netanyahu has continually sabotaged this because he refuses to end the killing.

Hamas rejected the initial peace process in the 1990s because it delivered nothing for the Palestinians. It has continued to resist Israel ever since.

But since 2006 it has made numerous approaches about negotiating a long-term peace and in 2017 even issued a new manifesto stating it would accept Israel's 1967 borders as the basis for a separate Palestinian state, the supposed goal of the peace process.

## Oslo Accords

In reality Israel has never been willing to accept a viable Palestinian state. Instead the promise of a separate state has been used for over 30 years to demand concession after concession from the Palestinians while Israel has continued to deepen their dispossession.

This began in 1988 when the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreed to recognise Israel's "right to exist" as a Jewish Zionist state and renounce the use of armed struggle. The US imposed these as conditions before there were any steps towards

negotiations.

This meant giving up the hope of Palestinians recovering the 78 per cent of their land Israel had stolen in 1948. Any Palestinian state would be limited to the illegally Occupied Territories of Gaza, East Jerusalem and the West Bank that Israel seized in the 1967 war.

In 1993 formal talks between Israel and the PLO began the official "peace process". But Israel was never prepared to offer a genuine Palestinian state and demanded the PLO give up both the right to return of Palestinian refugees expelled in 1948 and much of East Jerusalem.

Life for the Palestinians became even worse as Israel stepped up its oppression.

Over the seven years of negotiations Israel continued to expand settlements, with their population almost doubling.

They were deliberately positioned to divide up the West Bank so that Israel could cut off Palestinian communities from each other and control movement between them.

Settlers routinely unleashed terror against Palestinian civilians, as they still do today, carrying guns and setting fire to Palestinian homes, businesses and farms to drive them off their land.

Behind them stood the Israeli army, a military occupation force that oppressed and humiliated Palestinians.

The PLO was allowed to establish a Palestinian Authority (PA) and given limited control over small areas of the Occupied Territories. But this was on the condition that it acted as a police force for Israel to stamp out Palestinian activism and resistance to the occupying forces.

In 2000 negotiations collapsed and a spontaneous Palestinian uprising known as the Second Intifada began.

When the "peace process" started there were 110,000 Israeli settlers in



the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Today there are almost 750,000 living in 150 settlements, some of them small cities with tens of thousands of residents, as well as another 120 outposts.

Israel directly controls over 60 per cent of land in the West Bank, through settlements, military bases and infrastructure including Israeli-only highways, as well as the 700-kilometre concrete apartheid wall.

### New concessions

Albanese's push to recognise a Palestinian state is just another effort to force capitulations from the Palestinians.

Albanese says that the PA has to accept new conditions including demilitarising so any state would have no army. Israel, however, is not expected to disarm. The PA has also been told to end payments to Palestinian prisoners (many of them held in Israeli military prisons without charge for the crime of protesting Israeli occupation) and to hold new elections.

Western leaders like Albanese want to keep control of the Palestinian Territories in the hands of the collaborationist PA.

But its rampant corruption, repression of any dissent and collaboration with Israel against any resistance means it has little credibility left among Palestinians.

The PA routinely jails and beats its opponents, like Nizar Banat, a critic of the PA's corruption and co-operation with Israel who it murdered in 2021.

Earlier this year it even shut down Al Jazeera's media operations in the West Bank, raiding its office and banning its websites and TV broadcasts following criticism of a PA armed siege against the Jenin refugee camp.

Just 19 per cent of Palestinians in the West Bank approve of the PA's performance, according to a May poll for the Palestinian Center for Policy and Survey Research.

Hamas remains far more popular than the PA. Whatever its faults, it has rightly rejected the PA's capitulations and insisted on the need to continue resisting Israeli occupation.

The Palestinians are an occupied people who suffer daily humiliations and murderous onslaughts from the brutal Israeli state. They have every right to resist Israel's apartheid and military occupation.

### Israeli apartheid state

Israel is a racist Zionist state that privileges Jewish people above others,



**Above: A checkpoint outside Bethlehem in the West Bank** Photo: Josh Hough/Flickr

discriminating even against Palestinians inside its 1948 borders who are citizens of Israel.

Its origins are in the Jewish settlements in Palestine that were encouraged under British colonial rule after 1917.

It is a European settler-colonial project that from the beginning set out to carry out genocide against the Palestinians and dispossess them of their land.

It has become a watchdog state for Western imperialist interests in the Middle East, armed to the teeth by the US and its allies like Australia and reliant on their support.

Its efforts to dispossess the Palestinians and wipe out resistance to this process continue.

In May Israel announced a sweeping plan for 22 new settlements in the West Bank, in what Defence Minister Israel Katz described as “a strategic move that prevents the establishment of a Palestinian state”.

Since the genocide in Gaza began in October 2023, violent Israeli settler attacks on Palestinians have escalated, through vandalising and setting fire to businesses, homes and fields. Almost 1000 Palestinians have been murdered in near-daily attacks.

Any Palestinian state in this context would not deliver peace but only continued Israeli domination and oppression. Foreign Minister Penny Wong let the truth slip when she declared that soon “there will be no Palestine left to recognise”.

But a separate Palestinian state is

already essentially impossible.

Israel's parliament, the Knesset, overwhelmingly voted to reject any Palestinian state by 68 votes to nine a year ago, claiming that it was “an existential danger”.

Donald Trump has backed Israel. A Palestinian state is no longer an aim of US policy, its ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee said in June.

Israel is not willing to concede any return of Palestinian land and intends to continue escalating its murderous campaign against the Palestinian people.

Diplomatic support for a separate Palestinian state is one sign of Israel's growing pariah status globally. But justice for Palestine requires an end to the West's arming of Israel and serious sanctions.

It means an end to the apartheid state of Israel and requires a single democratic secular state from the river to the sea, with equal rights for both Jews and Palestinians.

This is only possible through a wider revolutionary wave across the region that sweeps away Western imperialist domination.

The Arab revolutions of 2011 showed how this is possible. The regimes in states like Egypt, Jordan and Saudi Arabia that collaborate with Israel and the US must fall.

Continued Palestinian resistance can help ignite such a movement. And the movement for Palestine here can play its own role through supporting that resistance and fighting to end our own government's complicity.

# THE SECOND WORLD WAR 80 YEARS ON THE PACIFIC WAR AND THE MYTH OF LIBERATION

Efforts across Asia to reimpose colonial rule at the end of the Second World War show that it was a struggle over the imperialist division of the world, argues **Luke Ottavi**

EIGHTY YEARS after the end of the Second World War imperialist tensions are again rising in the Pacific, with Australia boosting its military spending by hundreds of billions of dollars to acquire nuclear submarines for a US-led war on China.

The Second World War was a calamity that left 85 million dead across Europe and Asia. The myth that Australia and the Allies fought the war in defence of democracy and freedom is still widespread.

The war in the Pacific was an imperialist struggle over economic interests and colonies that were threatened by Japan's advance.

The Second World War, just like the first, was the result of the competition among the most powerful capitalist states—principally Britain, France, Russia, Germany, Japan and the US—to re-divide the world, its resources, and trading routes.

The Pacific war is often seen simply as the result of Japanese imperialist expansion. But US trade sanctions and competition for control of markets also triggered Japanese militarism.

The US responded to the Great Depression in the 1930s by enacting import controls that decreased Japanese exports by a quarter.

Japan invaded China's Manchuria region in 1931 to help save its economy. But this brought it into direct competition with the US, which wanted China's market for itself.

Japan lacked natural resources like tin, rubber, and crucially oil it needed to sustain its economy. But these could be found further south in European colonies like Malaya and Brunei.

In 1941, the US imposed a crippling embargo on Japan, cutting off all trade including supplies of oil, after Japan extended its invasion into China and then sent troops into French Indochina.

This was designed to force Japan to either capitulate to the US or declare war. As US Secretary of War

Henry Stimson wrote, "The question was how we should manoeuvre them into the position of firing the first shot without allowing too much danger to ourselves."

So the Japanese surprise attack on Pearl Harbour was not entirely a surprise to the US government. The attack brought the US formally into the war to determine whether who would control the Asia-Pacific.

There were strong hopes that the former European colonies in Asia would be granted national independence following Japan's defeat.

Such hopes were encouraged by the Atlantic Charter authored by US and Britain.

The charter said Britain and the US would "respect the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they will live" and expressed their "wish to see sovereign rights and self-government restored to those who have been forcibly deprived of them".

But at the end of the war the Allied powers, including Australia, sought to re-impose colonial rule on countries like Indonesia, Malaysia and Vietnam, suppressing national liberation movements and killing millions more.

## Vietnam

Japanese troops entered Vietnam from 1941. The Vietnamese Communist Party, led by Ho Chi Minh, established the Vietminh, the League for the Independence of Vietnam, to fight Japanese forces.

By September 1945 in the wake of Japan's surrender the Vietminh gained effective control of the country.

Ho Chi Minh and the Vietminh, following Stalin's instructions to the Vietnamese Communists, welcomed British troops when they sailed into Saigon. Wrongly, they hoped that the Allies would open negotiations to deliver independence.

Instead the British released French

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**There were hopes that former European colonies in Asia would be granted independence following Japan's defeat**  
.....

troops from the prisons, unleashing a reign of terror and re-imposing French colonial rule by December 1946.

The Vietminh retreated to the countryside and launched a guerrilla war lasting another ten years. Full independence did not come until 30 years later in 1975 after the final defeat of France's imperialist successors, the US.

## Indonesia

After Japan surrendered, British troops were also the first to arrive in Indonesia, preparing the way for the Dutch to reoccupy it.

Australia was an ardent supporter of re-establishing colonial rule. The Dutch colonial government in exile was hosted in Queensland and weapons were shipped from Australian ports to British and Dutch troops fighting Indonesian nationalists who had declared independence on 17 August 1945. Australian troops were directly responsible for restoring Dutch control on the Indonesian island of Sulawesi.

Trade unions in Australia, however, prevented arms shipments for the Dutch for almost four years, with a ban on Dutch shipping supported by local seafarers as well as Chinese, Malay, and Indian sailors.

Japan had encouraged Indonesian nationalists, which meant the British were met with fierce resistance when they arrived to re-impose Dutch rule.

The British brutally bombed Surabaya to crush nationalist resistance, killing thousands to take the city after three days. So much for the promises of the Atlantic Charter.

By November 1946, the British handed over control to the Dutch. The US helped equip 55,000 Dutch troops as they attempted to re-establish colonial rule.

Indonesia finally defeated the Dutch, winning full independence after four years of fighting on 27 December 1949. About 100,000



Indonesians had been killed and seven million internally displaced.

### Malaysia

Malaysia and Singapore were part of the British colony of Malaya before the war and Britain was anxious to re-impose control. It went about brutally crushing the democratic aspirations of the people of Malaysia.

Malaysians had fought the Japanese fiercely during the war-time occupation, organised through the Malayan People's Anti-Japanese Army led by the Communist Party.

As Britain moved to re-assert control, communists in Malaysia went to the hills, conducting guerrilla warfare against the British occupation. The Australian government sent thousands of troops to assist British re-colonisation, while Australian fighter pilots dropped 500-kilogram bombs to crush resistance.

Britain forcibly moved peasants to try to cut off support and supplies to the guerrilla fighters. Some 500,000 peasants were moved into concentration camps with "barbed-wire fences, heavily-armed police guards, curfews, and other prohibitive regulations". Australian troops patrolled the camps.

Malaya gained formal independence in 1957 but in essence continued as a British economic colony.

As in Indonesia, the aspirations of ordinary people to manage their own affairs did not figure in the calculations of the rulers of the crumbling British Empire or Australia's ruling class.

### Australian colonies

Australia itself wanted to take control of a series of Pacific territories at the end of the war. In 1943 the US ambassador reported to Washington that Australia wanted sovereignty over Fiji, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu.

Australia proposed to Britain that it be given responsibility for running the island nations of East Timor, West Papua as well as Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and share the "policing" of Vanuatu. It was rebuffed by Britain and the US who regarded Australia as too small an imperial player.

But Australia was already a brutal colonial power in the Asia-Pacific, administering the territory of Papua since 1906 and then annexing German New Guinea during the First World War along with Nauru.

Australian companies established plantations in PNG that exploited local villagers through virtual slave labour. The Australian administration jailed strikers on isolated coral islands if they dared to fight back.



**Above: Australian troops during the Aitape-Wewak campaign, June 1945** Photo: Australian War Memorial/Public Domain

The island of Nauru was destroyed by Australian business when its phosphate deposits were torn out of the ground, making four-fifths of the island uninhabitable.

### Why US dropped the bomb

The atomic bombing of Japan brutally brought the war in the Pacific to an end. Official history says that the nuclear attack was necessary to force a Japanese surrender and avoid an invasion of Japan.

US President Harry Truman claimed in 1945, "We have used the bomb in order to shorten the agony of war, in order to save thousands and thousands of young Americans."

This is a lie designed to justify one of US imperialism's most horrific crimes.

Japan's surrender was imminent and the US knew it. It had cracked Japanese communication codes and knew it had asked Russia to start negotiating an end to the war.

Japan's navy and airforce had already been practically eliminated, with the US having nearly complete control over the skies and seas, bombing whatever targets it liked and enforcing a blockade of the Japanese home islands.

Japan's capacity for war production had been shattered with the destruction of 600 of its major factories.

The US and Russia fought as allies in the war, with the US relying on Russia to defeat what was left of Japan's armies in China. But the US, Russia and Britain had met in Yalta in February 1945 to divide up the world between them. After the war, imperialist rivalries would re-assert

themselves and Russia would become the US's key rival.

The atomic massacre of over 200,000 Japanese in Hiroshima and Nagasaki was designed to show Russia that the US possessed a power that it could not match.

Sixty per cent of Hiroshima was wiped out instantly. Those who survived the initial blast were baked by radioactive material. For months afterwards, survivors continued to die of radiation sickness. They suffered bleeding, hair loss, purple spots on the skin and extreme pain.

The nuclear weapons dropped on Japan were the opening shots of the Cold War between the West and Russia that would lead to bloody wars in Korea, Vietnam and Afghanistan that saw millions more killed.

The US emerged after the war as the dominant power in the Pacific region. In the aftermath the US displaced Britain as Australia's key imperialist ally in the region.

For the first time since the Second World War, US domination is being challenged by China's rise as an economic and military power. The US and Australia are again claiming to stand for democracy and freedom against autocracy as they prepare for war on China.

This clash is driven by the same imperialist competition that produced the Second World War. US military bases are expanding in the Pacific. Asian nations like Japan and South Korea are re-arming.

In Australia, we need to oppose the billions being spent on missiles and nuclear submarines and the imperialist system that is once again risking millions of lives as it fuels the drive to war.

# ISRAEL BEGINS RAZING GAZA CITY AS ALBANESE STANDS BY



**Above: An aid  
airdrop above  
northern Gaza**  
Photo: Abaca Press/  
Alamy Live News

By Jacob Starling

ISRAEL'S GENOCIDE is entering a brutal new phase, as it continues to bomb hospitals and assassinate journalists with impunity.

On 25 August, Israel killed 20 civilians, including five journalists and several medical staff, in a double-tap air strike on Nasser Hospital. The initial attack killed one person but was deliberately followed by another nine minutes later, designed to kill rescue workers and media as they gathered to respond.

This followed the deliberate targeting of Al Jazeera's entire Gaza City bureau two weeks before, killing another five journalists.

In another massive escalation, Israel has now begun an effort to occupy and depopulate Gaza City. The operation will "raze Gaza city" to the ground, Israel's *Ha'aretz* newspaper reports, and could take more than a year. Already over 1000 buildings have been destroyed as the Israeli army sets out to demolish everything in its path.

It has called up 130,000 reservists for the operation, 60,000 of them set to deploy on 2 September. Israel has begun raining down bombs over the southern suburbs of Gaza City in preparation.

Thousands of Palestinians, many of whom have already been displaced multiple times, are being forced to flee to the south. Others, starving and exhausted, are unable to leave.

The plans for ethnic cleansing in Gaza are the latest example of Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu's ambition

to expand the Israeli apartheid regime far beyond its borders. During a recent interview on Israeli TV, Netanyahu announced that he felt connected with the idea of a "Greater Israel" encompassing not just Palestine, but also parts of Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon.

## Famine

Starvation is part of Israel's effort to "encourage" Palestinians to flee Gaza City. On 22 August the UN-backed hunger monitor confirmed famine conditions in Gaza City, affecting over 500,000 Palestinians. In a damning report, the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) made clear that Israel was directly responsible for this "entirely man-made" catastrophe.

The Israeli government has taken no meaningful action to relieve the famine beyond shameless publicity stunts. It has allowed a small increase in aid deliveries and airdrops of food aid over Gaza since late July in response to international condemnation. But these provide far less than the trucks Israel has blocked from entering the strip could. Not only do they fail to relieve hunger, they kill people, when stray airdrops hit civilians.

Control of aid by the US-backed Gaza Humanitarian Foundation continues to produce daily slaughter. Over 2000 Palestinians have been shot dead by Israeli soldiers and US mercenaries while lining up for food at GHF sites since late May.

## Protests in Israel

The new offensive on Gaza City has

sparked intense political controversy within the Israeli ruling class.

When the chiefs of the Israeli military expressed concern about such a massive operation given low troop morale, far-right National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir claimed that the army had been overrun by the "far-left". While these debates are full of sound and fury, both sides are united by a common hatred of Palestinians.

The escalation has also triggered the biggest protests in Israel since 7 October. Over one million Israelis have rallied against Netanyahu, demanding a ceasefire and a prisoner exchange instead of a new military offensive.

However, demonstrators are "not speaking directly on the suffering in Gaza, on the killings... on the starvation" or opposing the genocide but instead focused on the survival of Israeli hostages, journalist for *Israeli's +972 Magazine* Oren Ziv said.

Israel is a fundamentally racist state, and the overwhelming majority of Israelis support its genocidal actions against the Palestinians. A recent poll revealed that 76 per cent of Israeli Jews believe that there are "no innocents" in the Gaza Strip.

The force to free Palestine lies outside the borders of Israel, in the working class of the neighbouring Arab states and the global solidarity movement.

Despite these horrors, Albanese continues to supply Israel with weapons parts. We need to build the pressure on the Australian government to cut all ties with Israel.

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**Israel has  
now begun  
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depopulate  
Gaza City**

**Solidarity**