

PEACE AND SOLIDARITY

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SOLIDARITY ORGANISATION (AIPSO)



**REMEMBERING
SITARAM YECHURY**

Pallab Sengupta

**TRUMP'S VICTORY & THE MODUS
OPERANDI OF THE RIGHT-WING**

R. Arun Kumar

TIMELINE OF A GENOCIDE

Alan Paul Varghese



ONE YEAR OF GENOCIDE IN PALESTINE

REMEMBERING

PEACE AND SOLIDARITY

COMRADE SITARAM YECHURY

12 AUGUST 1952 - 12 SEPTEMBER 2024

**GENERAL SECRETARY, CPI(M)
FORMER PRESIDUM MEMBER, AIPSO**



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MESSAGE FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

PALLAB SENGUPTA

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Dear Friends & Comrades,

Peace and Solidarity, the journal of the All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation (AIPSO) restarts publication with this issue. In an increasingly turbulent world, where wars have reemerged as tools of imperialism affecting the majority of human population on the globe, the need of a consistent newsletter connecting the efforts at establishing peace and solidarity was being acutely felt. It is with this need in mind that the AIPSO National Committee has decided to bring issues of Peace and Solidarity as a quarterly and increase the frequency with time.

This particular issue covers some of the most significant developments of our times, especially the devastating war and barbarism in Gaza. Future issues will delve deeper on the current contradictions in the world order, the need for a recalibration of priorities with peace and solidarity as cornerstones of cooperation, while reporting on the activities of the All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation (AIPSO) nationwide. The Editorial Board will try its best to make Peace and Solidarity a sought-after journal with content in non-English languages as well.

The Indo-Vietnam Peace Festival was recently held in Vietnam. The next issue will feature its report along with other relevant and topical issues. For future issues, the Editorial Board requests all AIPSO units and contributors to send details/press notes of their activities and articles on peaceandsolidarity.aipso@gmail.com for better coordination. We will reach to you again with a new issue very shortly.

Thanking you,

Editorial Board
PEACE AND SOLIDARITY

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SITARAM YECHURY A STALWART OF THE PEACE MOVEMENT

**PALLAB
SENGUPTA**

President, World Peace Council

The world mourns the loss of Sitaram Yechury, a towering figure in Indian politics and an unrelenting advocate for peace, who passed away on September 12 at the age of 72. A lifelong Marxist, Yechury's profound contributions to the peace movement, both in India and internationally, stand as a testament to his unwavering commitment to justice and equality. As a tireless champion of progressive causes, labor rights, and social harmony, Yechury left an indelible mark on India's political landscape and the global peace movement.

I first met him in 1980, introduced by Nepaldeb Bhattacharya, then General Secretary of the Students' Federation of India (SFI). From 1982 onwards, after I moved to Delhi as part of the central leadership of the All India Students' Federation (AISF), our interactions became more frequent. At the time, I was overseeing the AISF magazine "Students' Action," while Sitaram was the editor of the SFI journal "Students' Struggle." From then on, we grew closer, working together through various responsibilities, from the student movement to party leadership. I recall many occasions where both of us played important roles in different international organizations. However, I wish to focus here on his significant contribution to the rejuvenation of the All India Peace and Solidarity Organisation (AIPSO), particularly after the collapse of the Soviet Union and socialist countries in Eastern Europe.

Yechury joined AIPSO in 1986 after the Bangalore conference as one of the General Secretaries and was re-elected at the national conference in Cuttack in 1991. During this time, he became more involved in the political work of the CPI(M) as a member of its Polit Bureau, yet he remained in touch with leaders like R.L. Bhatia, former deputy foreign minister, and Chitta Biswas, who were striving to keep AIPSO active.

In the meantime, I returned from Budapest, Hungary after fulfilling my responsibilities as General Secretary of the World Federation of Democratic Youth (WFDY) and joined the International Department of the CPI. In early 2002, I was invited by Chitta Biswas, then General Secretary of AIPSO, to attend a secretariat meeting at R.L. Bhatia's residence. Sitaram also attended this meeting. Later that year, during AIPSO's national conference in Delhi, Sitaram convinced the leadership to appoint me as one of the General Secretaries, recognizing my successful tenure in the International Union of Students (IUS) and WFDY. I was appointed General Secretary alongside Chitta Biswas and KM Khan, MP.

After the untimely deaths of Chitta Biswas and KM Khan, AIPSO faced challenges, at that time Nilotpal Basu MP joined as one of the General Secretaries, and we organized several programs in Delhi.



Sitaram Yechury being honoured with the Romesh Chandra Peace Medal by AIPSO in his last public appearance. Also seen are (from right to left) Pallab Sengupta, D. Raja, Yadav Reddy, Harchand Singh Bhat and Arun Kumar.

However, the organization still struggled to move forward. I had many personal discussions with Sitaram during this time, seeking his advice on overcoming the stagnation. His answer was clear: we needed to break the duopoly of the two left parties and bring in other democratic secular parties and forces into AIPSO. With the help of Romesh Chandra and D. Raja, we were able to make progress.

The national conference of AIPSO in Patna in 2007 marked a turning point, with significant participation from various political parties and forces. The opening ceremony was held at the packed Srikrishna Memorial Hall, with speakers such as Lalu Prasad Yadav, Mani Shankar Aiyar, Sitaram Yechury, and D. Raja. The contributions of Dr. Braj Kumar Pandey, Dr. Fanish Singh Advocate and Rajiv Ranjan were instrumental in organizing the open session and the two-day conference.

From the Patna Conference, AIPSO expanded significantly, growing from two state committees to 12, with a presence in 21 states. At this conference, Sitaram was elected as a Presidium Member of AIPSO, a position he held until the Trivandrum Conference in 2017.



One of his greatest contributions was shaping a deeper understanding of AIPSO's role. In nearly every meeting, he emphasized the need for broadening the organization, urging leaders to recognize that AIPSO was not a joint political platform for various parties, but an organization representing common Indian people committed to anti-imperialism, peace, democracy and secularism. He believed that India, with its size, diversity, pluralism and democratic institutions, could lead the global peace movement and promote a world of cooperation, stability and development.

After the BJP came to power, Sitaram stressed the importance of AIPSO taking the issue of secularism seriously. AIPSO did so. One of Yechury's most profound contributions to the peace movement in India was his unwavering defense of secularism and communal harmony.

Throughout his career, he stood firm against sectarian violence and the politics of religious division, consistently calling for unity among India's diverse communities.

Yechury's influence extended beyond national borders. In AIPSO, he advocated for nuclear disarmament, supported global efforts for climate justice, and promoted policies that prioritized human well-being over militaristic ambitions. His vision for a peaceful world, grounded in Marxist principles of class struggle, transcended ideological boundaries as he worked with various political and social movements for peace.



As we mourn his passing, we also celebrate the life of a man who dedicated every day to the fight for a better, more peaceful world. Sitaram Yechury's contributions to the peace movement, both in India and internationally, will continue to inspire future generations of activists, political leaders, and citizens committed to justice and peace.

In his own words, "Peace is not the absence of conflict; it is the presence of justice." Yechury's life and work embody this truth, and his legacy will continue to guide those who strive for a world where peace prevails.

Today, AIPSO is what Sitaram dreamed of. The best way to honor his memory is to carry forward his legacy. I am confident that AIPSO will continue to strengthen the peace and solidarity movement in India.



THE PLAYBOOK OF TRUMP'S WIN

R. ARUN KUMAR

General Secretary, AIPSO

MODUS OPERANDI OF RIGHT-WING

DONALD Trump was once again elected as the President of the USA. He won the election quite comfortably, proving many poll pundits, who predicted a close contest wrong. He defeated Kamala Harris of the Democratic Party by becoming the first Republican candidate in the last two decades to not only win the electoral college votes (312 to 226), but also the popular vote (74 million to 69 million approximately).

The victory of Trump should not surprise those who are closely following the recent electoral victories of the right-wing forces in many countries across the world. Their playbook is simple – feed on the fears of the working class and other downtrodden sections in the society; spread blatant lies and falsehoods; utilise the failures of the mainstream social-democratic parties and instigate racial and other divisive, separatist forces to break the unity of the people. In the process, they project themselves to be the saviours, who deliver results and bring back prosperity and happiness to the people. Prime minister Narendra Modi and the BJP, guided and led by the RSS has demonstrated the efficacy of this playbook repeatedly in our country. This was what Jair Bolsonaro did when he won the presidential elections in Brazil, what Giorgia Meloni did in her victorious electoral campaign to become the prime minister of Italy, what Javier Milei did in Argentina and through his victory Trump has demonstrated once again that this is an effective plan for electoral success.

There are many in the world who did not want Trump to win. Naturally, all of us are disappointed with the eventual victory of Trump. But given the manner in which the Democrats have been running the government whenever they were elected to the presidency, Trump's victory should not come as a surprise. Even the electoral campaign of Kamala Harris, ran with uninspiring messages, reflecting the overall changed character of the Democratic Party.

How did Trump Win His First Term?

Democrats were once considered as a party that reflected the concerns of the working class. Most of the trade unions aligned with the Democrats and it is on the basis of the Union support that successive Democrats won the presidency. All these started to change since the times of Bill Clinton. Clinton was the first Democrat to win the presidency after the consecutive terms served by Ronald Regan and George Bush (Sr). Clinton continued the same neoliberal policies that Regan vigorously implemented. This gradually erased the difference between the Democrats and Republicans.



Donald Trump and Kamala Harris: The two major competitors in USA elections 2024

The discontent on economic hardships benefited the Republicans. After Clinton completed his two terms, Bush (Jr) won the presidency. He was defeated by Barack Obama by a combination of factors. One, during the later years of Bush's term, the world was confronted with one of the deepest economic crisis that the capitalist system has faced, since the Great Depression of the 1930s. The 2008 global economic crisis, shook the world economic system and as it had its roots in the US, the country was badly affected with many banks and insurance giants declaring bankruptcy and closing down. All these developments had a tremendous influence on voters who were also enthused by the energetic campaign run by Barack Obama, a fresh face.

Obama could not do much to wriggle out the US economy out of the crisis. One of the important reasons is that he too did not differ much from the neoliberal economic policies. He weaved magic with his oratory but his actions did not inspire much confidence. As a result, disappointment soon set in among the voters and contributed to the first victory of Donald Trump in 2016.



The need for understanding this entire background of US politics is to trace the changes that have come about in the character of the two mainstream political parties – Democrats and Republicans. The Republicans were also considered to be conservative in their economic and social policies. So they were always looked as the party of the elite. But what had happened to the Democrats is something significant. As noted earlier, the Democrats who were strongly supported by the Unions and working class, lost this character since the times of Clinton due to their adherence to neoliberal economic policies. They slowly lost the support of the Unions and working class. They intended to overcome this loss by winning over the new sections of the middle class professionals, a small section which benefited from the neoliberal policies.

This change in the character of the Democrats was most visible in the support it had won from the Wall Street. Most of the big tech companies, financial institutions, investors started siding with the Democrats. This gradually erased the difference between the Democrats and the Republicans in terms of their economic policies. In this period, people slowly started feeling that both the mainstream parties are unconcerned about their problems and were frustrated. It is from this frustration that movements like the Occupy Wall Street had emerged as a progressive alternative reflecting the demands of the working class and the lower middle class. On the opposite side, to counter the influence of the progressive ideas, right-wing forces began consolidating under the banner of the Tea Party movement.



The victory of Obama, the first African-American to win the presidency was fully utilised by the right-wing to play on the economic frustrations by misdirecting their anger towards Obama's race. Trump was a product of the Tea Party movement and was a vocal critic of Obama. He questioned Obama's citizenship and his right to become the president. This gave rise to groups called 'birthers', who were together with Trump, doubting the citizenship of Obama. They also used the Muslim title in Obama's name, which he got it from his father. So, Trump effectively combined Obama's race and his relationship with Islam and launched a venomous campaign fueling racial and religious hatred. The existing Islamophobia in the society, particularly since the 9/11 attacks, were once again roused by Trump.

As there is no difference in economic policies of the two major parties, the Democrats and Republicans, people fell for the campaign of the right-wing and its racial and religious hatred. Trump won his first term on this basis. He defeated Hillary Clinton, who was always considered as close to Wall Street, carrying on the legacy of her husband, Bill Clinton. Trump also ran a misogynistic campaign against Hillary, which was often vulgar. He appealed to the raw instincts of machismo and patriarchal values of the American males. Here it becomes pertinent to look at the reasons why Trump was defeated by Joe Biden in 2020.

Joe Biden could defeat Trump in 2020 because he campaigned on an alternative economic platform and projected himself as a 'Union guy'. This was in complete contrast to the campaign run by Hillary Clinton in 2016. But during his four year term, Biden failed to understand the importance of addressing the economic hardships of the working class. He lived in an illusory world of self-belief. Biden and Democrats thought that since unemployment has come down and the Wall Street indices are looking good there is no economic discontent. But this was far away from ground realities.

Why did Trump Win Again?

During these four years of Biden's presidency, life has become hard for the average Americans. Many statistical reports of peoples' living conditions showed that evictions of homeless were up pre-pandemic levels, homelessness reached record-high, house rents have reached an all-time high, median household income fell to lower levels than the last pre-pandemic year, inequality has returned to pre-pandemic levels, and food insecurity and poverty grew by large double digits since 2021 and this included a historic increase in child poverty. This period also saw twenty-five million people being thrown off their public health insurance, many of them in some of the battleground states.

Across all the seven battleground states and nationally, many surveys predicted that voters viewed the economy as the most important issue in the election and they felt their personal financial situation was worse than before. These numbers in fact were significantly higher than they were in 2020. Harris and the Democrats failed to reach voters who have a negative view of the economy.

Almost 80 percent of the voters who listed the economy as their top issue and considered it to be worse voted for Trump. They voted for the person they thought was going to bring 'change'. Democrats and Harris were not identified as capable of bringing that 'change' as Harris could not convince them that she has a different economic agenda. Her close association with Biden, as the Vice-President and her failure to articulate an alternative economic policy, made voters shift from the Democrats.



Over and above it was the attitude of the two candidates on the two important questions confronting the US and also the entire world – the war in Ukraine and Israel's aggression over Palestine – that influenced the voters. Trump ran a campaign saying that he would immediately bring an end to the wars. How he would do it, he did not specify. But this was a position in stark contrast to that taken by Harris and the Democrats. She could not disassociate herself from Biden's policy of all-out support for Ukraine and Israel.

She failed to convince the large number of students, youth and people who are continuously protesting against the war on Palestine and demanding Biden to withdraw US aid. Harris in fact was viewed as a person who shares similar positions as Biden on these questions.

Failure of Harris to openly support the demand for ceasefire and peace, costed her the support of young and first-time voters, who were leading these protests. As they could not support Trump, they preferred to sit through and keep themselves away from campaigning and voting. That a substantial section of Arab-Americans too did not vote for Harris speaks volumes about the failure of the Democrats.

Kamala Harris campaign advocated right-wing economic and foreign policy, which deservedly failed to win the approval of the people. The only few positives in her campaign were her positions on abortion rights, democracy and vague proposals to protect and strengthen the health care system. These are issues that could not convince people to vote for her.

Donald Trump ran a campaign of lies and hatred. He bragged about his masculinity, demeaned women and immigrants. He promised to end wars and most importantly could rally people around him with the slogan, 'Make America Great Again (MAGA)'.

The Right-Wing Playbook

The manner in which Trump ran his campaign and succeeded is similar to many others who won the seats of power. One only needs to remember the manner in which the BJP and Narendra Modi ran their campaign of lies in our country in the recently concluded elections. Similarly, Meloni or Milie all of them ran a campaign of lies targeting immigrants, inciting racial and religious hatred. They effectively fed on the economic discontent prevailing in their respective countries and successfully diverted the resulting anger into racial and religious divisions.

The right-wing throughout the world is not bothered about truth or morality. Their only consideration is attaining and retaining political power. They spread blatant falsities and misinformation on many issues. As they do not threaten their economic interests, big corporations – both technical and financial – side with the right-wing. Many media houses also assist them in the spread of misinformation.

With the absence of major differences on economic policies between the mainstream political parties, people are easily influenced by false propaganda. They are brain-washed to look at the 'others' as responsible for their economic hardships. This is how the right-wing is gaining traction across the world.

The only way in which the right-wing ascendancy can be defeated is launching a vigorous campaign against their divisive policies. The right-wing has to be confronted from all sides – their economic policy has to be exposed as anti-people; their cultural and social policies have to be exposed for their divisive tendencies; their ideology of divisiveness and hatred has to be countered by spreading the message of unity and peace and politically they have to be defeated by bringing together all sections of the people. This is a task before us in our country and also a task for the people all over the world. Unless right-wing is comprehensively defeated we cannot expect an end to the prevailing social and economic inequalities. Without ending social and economic inequalities there cannot be lasting peace.



ONGOING GENOCIDE OF PALESTINIANS

A TIMELINE

1948 – October 07, 2023: Nakba, forced displacement, genocide, second-class treatment of Palestinians by the Zionist state of Israel with the support of US led capitalist camp.

October 07 2023: Hamas launches Operation Al Aqsa Toofan, unleashes violence in Ashdod, Ashkelon and Negev areas of Israel. Many people were killed and taken as hostages. Israel launched Operation Iron Sword in the name of retaliation.

October 08, 2023: US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin ordered the deployment of the USS Gerald Ford carrier strike group to the eastern Mediterranean. Israeli forces killed a Palestinian during confrontations at the northern entrance to Jericho, three Palestinians during clashes at the Qalandia military checkpoint and another Palestinian was shot dead during clashes in Hebron city. Subsequently a fourth Palestinian died from his wounds. Israeli forces killed a Palestinian during confrontations at Beita. OCHA confirmed that in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, "between 7 and 8 October, as of 21:00, 13 Palestinians, including a 12-year-old child, were killed by Israeli forces in various areas across the West Bank."

ALAN PAUL VARGHESE

National Council Member, AISF

October 09 2023: Israel Défense Minister Yoav Gallant orders a complete siege of the Gaza Strip. OCHA confirmed that in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, "between 7 and 9 October, as of 16:00, 15 Palestinians, including four children, were killed by Israeli forces in various areas across the West Bank.

October 10, 2023: The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) announced that four of its employees had died in airstrikes in Gaza. Advanced weaponry from the US arrived in Israel, its first such shipment of the war. OCHA confirmed that "Between 7 and 10 October, as of 16:00, 19 Palestinians, including three children, were killed by Israeli forces in various areas across the West Bank. An Israeli airstrike on a house in Deir el-Balah killed 18 people and injured 23 others including five children and three women.

October 11, 2023: Pope Francis called for the release of all hostages held by Hamas and expressed concern over Israel's "total siege" of Gaza. The Israel Border Police fatally shot two Palestinians in East Jerusalem. Israeli forces bombed the Gaza-Egypt Rafah Border Crossing.



October 12, 2023: An internal leaked US State Department e-mail advised senior diplomats to avoid three phrases in their public statements: "de-escalation/ceasefire", "end to violence/bloodshed", and "restoring calm. Gazans began fleeing to the south of the enclave (de facto beyond Wadi Gaza) after an IDF warning the day before of combat operations. The UN, warning of a humanitarian catastrophe, urged Israel to rescind its evacuation order as did Amnesty International. An evacuation route on Salah al-Din street was bombed. Vatican offered mediation but was rejected. 16 Palestinians have been killed by Israeli forces in the West Bank, for a total of 51 since October 7.

October 14, 2023: Israel and Egypt announced that the Rafah crossing would be opened to foreign nationals from noon to 5:00 p.m. The US authorized the departure of non-emergency personnel from its embassy in Jerusalem. Red Crescent ambulances in Gaza were struck by the IAF. The IAF bombed a building in southern Khan Yunis. UNRWA announced on Twitter that its shelters were no longer safe, deeming it an unprecedented situation. Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths said "the noose around the civilian population in Gaza is tightening.

October 16, 2023: Khan Yunis, a city of 400,000, was swamped by a million refugees. Hundreds of people are killed in a huge blast at the Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital in Gaza City. Israel attacked the Rafah border crossing. Israeli Minister without portfolio Gideon Sa'ar stated that "Gaza must be smaller at the end of the war"



October 18, 2023: President Biden arrived in Tel Aviv but a planned summit in Amman, Jordan with Jordanian, Egyptian, and Fatah leaders was cancelled due to the al-Ahli hospital bombing. The World Health Organization stated the situation in Gaza was "spiralling out of control. **The United States vetoed a UN resolution urging humanitarian aid to Gaza.**

October 19, 2023: The campus of the Greek Orthodox St. Porphyrius Church in Gaza was struck by the IAF. The IAF bombed around 100 targets in multiple airstrikes over the night of 18-19 October. Airstrikes hit the area around al-Quds Hospital. The Red Cross stated Gaza's entire health system was "on its knees".

October 20, 2023: Two UNRWA workers were killed in Gaza. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres visited the Rafah Crossing.



October 21, 2023: Hamas released two hostages to the International Red Cross following the mediation of Qatar.

October 22, 2023: Israel extends its attack over Khan Yunis and IAF conducted an airstrike on the Al-Ansar Mosque in Jenin, occupied West Bank.

On 27 October: the United Nations General Assembly passed Resolution ES-10/21 calling for an "immediate and sustained" humanitarian truce and cessation of hostilities.

October 29, 2023: Israel began an invasion of the Gaza Strip, launching a large-scale ground assault on the towns of Beit Hanoun and Bureij.

October 31, 2023: Israel launches an airstrike on an apartment building that kills 106 people. Israel launched an airstrike at the Jabalia refugee camp.



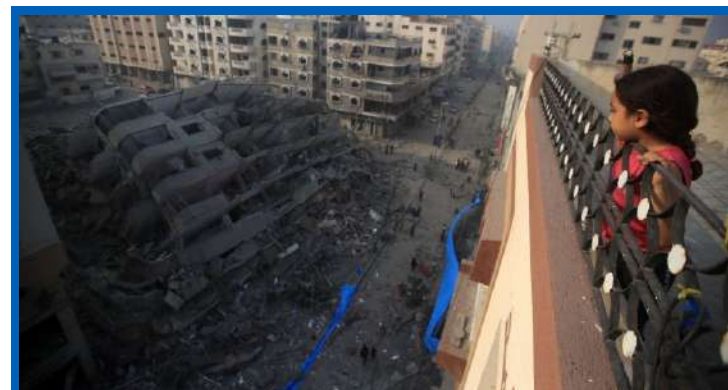
November 1, 2023: The IAF attacked the Jabalia refugee camp in the Gaza Strip, leading to massive casualties. IAF air strikes interrupted prayers at the Holy Family Church in Gaza. The director of the Turkish-Palestinian Friendship Hospital stated Gaza's only cancer hospital was "completely out of service" after it ran out of fuel to power its generator.

November 03, 2023 : The IAF attacked an ambulance column and the main gates of the Al-Shifa hospital. A bakery that was destroyed by an Israeli air strike along with other buildings at Nuseirat refugee camp in Gaza. The bakery was reportedly serving thousands at the refugee camp. 11 Palestinians were killed in the West Bank. Israel launched an airstrike at the Osama bin Zaid school which killed 20 people. Israel deported thousands of Gazan temporary workers back to the Gaza Strip, with an unknown number remaining in detention. Al-Quds and Indonesia Hospital were both hit by airstrikes. A medical convoy in front of al-Shifa hospital was destroyed by an Israeli drone missile.

November 15, 2023 : Israel troops attack Al-Shifa hospital in Gaza. **United Nations Security Council Resolution 2712, adopted on 15 November 2023, called for humanitarian pauses and corridors in Gaza during the 2023 Israel-Hamas war.**

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November 19, 2023: Houthi militants in Yemen hijack the Galaxy Leader, an Israeli-linked cargo ship, and take crew members hostage.

November 24, 2023: First ceasefire came into effect. 24 hostages, including 13 Israelis, 10 Thais, and one Filipino, were released by Hamas. Israel also released 39 Palestinian prisoners.

November 25, 2023: Three Palestinians, waiting for the release of their relatives near Ofer Prison west of Ramallah, were injured as a result of Israeli security forces fire. Suspected Houthi fighters seized an Israeli-owned, Malta-flagged freighter transiting the Red Sea. UNOCHA stated only four small hospitals in northern Gaza and eight health facilities in southern Gaza were still functioning.

November 27-28, 2023: Hamas released 11 Israeli hostages while Israel released 33 Palestinian prisoners. 10 Israeli hostages and a pet dog, two Thais, and 30 Palestinian prisoners were exchanged on the fourth day of the truce.



December 5, 2023: The IDF say troops have entered Gaza's second-largest city, Khan Younis, marking another bloody new phase of the genocide.

December 12, 2023: United Nations General Assembly voted to demand an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. 153 nations voted in favor of it, while 10 voted against and 23 abstained. Israel raided the Kamal Adwan Hospital.



December 15, 2023: Three hostages held by Hamas in Gaza are mistakenly killed by friendly fire, the Israeli military says. During combat operations in Shejaiya, a densely packed neighborhood near Gaza City, the Israeli military says troops "mistakenly identified three Israeli hostages as a threat. Israel forces launched attack on Rafah crossing and the Philadelphi Route using aircraft and drones. At least 17 people died and dozens were injured when artillery fire struck Haifa School and a residential home.

December 16, 2023: An Israeli sniper shot and killed a Christian mother and daughter sheltering at the Holy Family Catholic Church in northern Gaza. The French foreign ministry announced that one of its workers died from injuries he sustained in an Israeli airstrike in Rafah that killed 11 people. It also condemned the attack. Journalists reported Israeli bulldozers had crushed dozens sheltering outside Kamal Adwan.

December 18, 2023: US Defence Secretary Lloyd Austin in Bahrain announced the formation of Operation Prosperity Guardian (the successor task force of Combined Task Force 153) comprising the US, UK, Canada, France, Italy, Netherlands, Norway, Seychelles, Bahrain, and Spain, to protect vessels in the Red Sea from Houthi attacks.

December 18, 2023: Italy announced its participation soon thereafter. The Houthis announced that this would not stop them, vowing to continue attacks against Israeli and Israel-bound ships in the Red Sea.

December 21, 2023 : A UN report said that over 500,000 people, a quarter of Gaza's population, were starving. Arif Husain, the chief economist of the World Food Programme, said, "It doesn't get any worse," and that he had not seen something "at the scale that is happening in Gaza. The Red Crescent reported the IDF had raided its ambulance centre. A nurse was reportedly killed by a sniper at al-Awda hospital.

December 22, 2023 : Israeli police blocked Palestinians from entering the Al-Aqsa mosque for Friday prayers. An Israeli airstrike on a building in Gaza City killed 76 members of an extended family, including UN Development Program veteran Issam al-Mughrabi. Palestinians in Ramallah demonstrated in support of militias fighting in the Gaza Strip. Intense shelling was reported near al-Amal Hospital in Khan Yunis. The Palestinian Red Crescent stated Israel had destroyed all ambulances at its centre, and that 47 men were stripped naked, beaten, and tortured. **United Nations Security Council Resolution 2720, adopted on 22 December 2023, called for increased aid for the 2023 Gaza humanitarian crisis, including the provisioning of fuel, food, and medical supplies.**



December 29, 2023 : At least 20 Palestinians were killed in an Israeli airstrike at dawn in the Nuseirat refugee camp. The Gaza Health Ministry reported that 187 Palestinians were killed in Israeli attacks in the past 24 hours, bringing the death toll to 21,507. The US, without congressional review, approved an emergency \$147.5 million weapons sale to Israel. **South Africa filed a case South Africa v. Israel (Genocide Convention) at the International Court of Justice accusing Israel of "genocidal acts" in Gaza. The UN called the health system in Gaza "shattered" and said patients were just "waiting to die."**



January 02, 2024 : Four Palestinians were shot dead by Israeli forces during a raid on Azzun in the West Bank. An Israeli airstrike on the headquarters of the Palestinian Red Crescent Society in Khan Yunis killed and wounded several people. Al amal hospital was attacked by Israeli forces. A UN official condemned an Israeli attack on Khan Yunis which killed five people, including a newborn baby, who were sheltering at the Al Amal Hospital. The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies condemned Israel's attacks.

January 11, 2024 : The Gaza Health Ministry reported that 112 Palestinians were killed by Israeli attacks in the past 24 hours, bringing the death toll to 23,469. Nine Palestinians were killed and others were wounded in an evening Israeli airstrike on a house in the Shawka neighbourhood in Rafah. South Africa presented the case to the International Court of Justice, accusing Israel of "genocide" in Gaza.

January 12, 2024 : 11 Palestinians were killed in an Israeli airstrike targeting a house hosting displaced people south of Deir el-Balah. An Israeli airstrike killed at least eight Palestinians in the Al-Manara neighbourhood in Khan Yunis. Israel reached an agreement with Qatar to deliver medicine to hostages in Gaza. It was later shown the medicine never reached the hostages. Speaking at the United Nations Security Council, UN humanitarian aid relief chief Martin Griffiths stated colleagues who had reached northern Gaza in recent days had described "scenes of utter horror: Corpses left lying in the road. People with evident signs of starvation stopping trucks in search of anything they can get to survive. The UN stated Israel was blocking medical supplies to northern Gaza. An 18-year-old Palestinian teenager was reportedly beaten to death by Israeli soldiers during a raid in Zeita, Tulkarm. A Palestinian grandmother was shot and killed by an Israeli sniper in northern Gaza.

January 29, 2024 : An Israeli tank attacked a car in Tal al-Hawa, killing a 6-year-old girl and five of her family members, a cousin and two PRCS paramedics attempted to help her but were later killed by Israeli forces. Israeli cabinet ministers attended the "Return to Gaza" conference to plan illegal settlements in the Strip.



January 30, 2024 : Israeli forces dressed as women and medics stormed the Ibn Sina Hospital in Jenin, executing three Palestinian militants in their sleep. The Al-Farouq Mosque in Khan Yunis refugee camp was bombed by Israeli forces. Israeli warplanes targeted a house in the Sabra neighbourhood of Gaza City, killing at least 20 civilians and injuring several others.

February 8, 2024 : President Biden refers to Israel's actions in Gaza as "over the top." Mr. Biden also says he's been pushing Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to allow aid to enter from Israel. "There are a lot of innocent people who are starving. A lot of innocent people are in trouble and dying, and it's gotta stop. Prime Minister Netanyahu instructs Israeli forces to present a plan to evacuate civilians from Rafah.

February 29, 2024: Witnesses and medics say Israeli forces opened fire on thousands of Palestinians who had gathered in an open area of Gaza City hoping to receive food and other desperately needed humanitarian aid. The IDF says forces "fired at those who posed a threat" to Israeli forces nearby, but U.N. experts condemn the violence, which left at least 112 people dead as they tried to collect flour in Gaza.



April 04, 2024 : The Gaza Health Ministry reported that at least 62 Palestinians were killed in Israeli attacks in the past 24 hours, bringing the death toll to 33,037. Israeli soldiers shot dead a 28-year-old Palestinian man during a house raid in Ya'bad, West Bank. At least eight Palestinians were killed by Israeli bombings on houses in Rafah. Two people were killed and 15 injured by an Israeli airstrike in the Maghazi refugee camp. Ambulances were temporarily blocked from reaching two Palestinians that were injured by live bullets as Israeli forces raided Kafr Ra'i, southwest of Jenin.

April 05, 2024 : A 31-year-old Palestinian man was shot and killed by an Israeli sniper during a raid in Nur Shams, West Bank. Two other Palestinian men were arrested. An Israeli soldier shot and killed a Palestinian man who tried to collect aid in northern Gaza.

April 10, 2024 : Israeli forces shot and killed a Palestinian woman at a checkpoint in the occupied West Bank, after she allegedly tried to stab Israeli soldiers. Following the Israeli withdrawal, at least 84 bodies of dead Palestinians were retrieved by Palestinian paramedics from underneath the rubble of destroyed buildings in Khan Yunis. Three sons and four grandchildren of Hamas leader Ismail Haniyeh were killed by an Israeli airstrike near the Shati refugee camp. Irish foreign minister Micheál Martin stated to local media The Journal that Ireland will move to recognize a Palestinian state in "the next couple of weeks.



April 13, 2024 : Air raid sirens and loud booms reverberate across Israel as Iran launches a barrage of missiles and drones at the country in a retaliatory attack. More than 300 missiles and drones were fired from Iran toward Israel.

May 6/7, 2024 : Israel's military orders Palestinians in the eastern part of the Gaza Strip city of Rafah to evacuate ahead of a ground offensive. People quickly start fleeing from the area on foot or by any other means available to them. The Bahamas officially recognized the State of Palestine.

May 08, 2024: Israel rejected a ceasefire deal with Hamas and stated that it would continue its offensive in Rafah. The US paused its weapons delivery to Israel to limit its operations in Rafah. One person was killed and many were injured by Israeli shelling in Khuza'a, east of Khan Yunis. Israeli forces bombed an apartment complex in Zeitoun, east of Gaza City, killing seven people.

May 13, 2024 : An Indian UNDP staff member was killed and another was wounded in an attack on their vehicle near Rafah. Israeli settlers attacked a Gaza aid convoy at the Tarqumiyah checkpoint, setting vehicles ablaze and throwing packages of food onto the road. The Palestinian Authority reportedly rejected an Israeli offer to take control of the Rafah Border Crossing.



May 20, 2024: The International Criminal Court announced its decision to file applications for arrest warrants for three Hamas officials, Yahya Sinwar, Mohammed Deif, and Ismail Haniyeh along with Israeli officials, Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant, for charges in war crimes and crimes against humanity.



May 21, 2024 : At least seven Palestinians, including a school boy, were shot dead by Israeli forces during a raid in Jenin. Three children were among five civilians killed by an Israeli drone strike in the Yibna refugee camp in Rafah. Israeli settlers unsuccessfully tried to block a humanitarian aid truck in occupied East Jerusalem. Israeli officials confiscated equipment of the Associated Press in Sderot and shut down its live feed on the Israel-Gaza border, saying that it had violated media laws by providing content to Al Jazeera. The shutdown and confiscation were later reversed.



May 24, 2024 : The International Court of Justice ordered Israel to halt its military offensive in Rafah following the petition by South Africa. The IAF attacked a house in the al-Fakhoura neighbourhood near the Jabalia refugee camp, killing at least five people. Another house was struck in the Sheikh Radwan neighbourhood, north of Gaza City, killing two people. At least 10 people were killed in the Shabiyah area of Gaza City after Israeli forces targeted an apartment complex. Twelve people were killed after the IDF bombed an aid storage warehouse in Deir al-Balah. Three hostages' bodies were recovered by Israeli forces in northern Jabalia.

May 31, 2024 : U.S. president Joe Biden announced an Israeli ceasefire proposal. UNRWA stated it had received reports of the IDF setting displaced peoples' tents on fire.

June 04, 2024 : Slovenia officially recognized the State of Palestine. Switzerland's National Council voted against recognising the State of Palestine. However, foreign minister Ignazio Cassis stated that Switzerland was in favor of the two-state solution. Israeli forces bombed a vehicle near a shelter for displaced Palestinians in northern Deir el-Balah, killing eight people including children. Israeli forces bombed a house in the city, killing five people.

June 06, 2024 : The United States, Argentina, Austria, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Colombia, Denmark, France, Germany, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Spain, Thailand and the United Kingdom signed a statement calling for an agreement for ceasefire and release of their citizens whom Hamas took captive.

June 08, 2024: The UN added Israel to the list of "countries that have committed abuses against children in armed conflict" after it had verified 5,698 "grave violations" against children by the Israeli forces in 2023. Hamas and PIJ were also included. Anti-war and anti-government protests were reported in Tel Aviv and Haifa, 33 protestors were arrested.

June 10, 2024 : The UN Security Council approved a ceasefire proposal backed by the US. Palestine's first Olympic athlete, runner Majed Abu Maraheel, died at the Nuseirat refugee camp due to kidney failure related to an inability to receive medical care due to Israeli occupation.

July 23, 2024 : Japan imposed sanctions on four Israeli settlers in the West Bank for the first time. The IDF recovered the bodies of five hostages during an operation in Khan Yunis.





July 30, 2024 : Israeli forces shot a man during a raid into the al-Ein refugee camp, west of Nablus. Israeli forces also shot a man close range at a junction near Beit Einun, north of Hebron, and blocked medical teams from reaching him, resulting in his death. Hezbollah commander Fuad Shukur killed in an IDF airstrike in Beirut, Lebanon.



September 07, 2024 ; An American woman is shot and killed by IDF in the Israeli-occupied West Bank.



September 10, 2024 : Israeli strikes kill dozens of Palestinians sheltering in the densely packed al-Mawasi camp, inside the Israeli-designated "humanitarian zone."



September 28, 2024 : Israel's military kills Hassan Nasrallah, the longtime political leader of Hezbollah, in an airstrike in Beirut.



October 1, 2024 : Sirens blare across Israel as Iran launches about 180 ballistic missiles at the country



October 7 2024 : Palestinians mark a full year of massacre and ethnic cleansing which began from October 07, 2023.



COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD PEACE COUNCIL

KATHMANDU/NEPAL, 9-10 NOVEMBER 2024

The Meeting of the WPC Executive Committee successfully took place in Kathmandu on 9th and 10th November 2024. The meeting was hosted by the Secretariat Member of the WPC, “Nepal Peace and Solidarity Council”.

After the presentation of the speech of the President, and the Reports of the General Secretary, Executive Secretary and the regional reports, a fruitful discussion took place, including a special session on the situation in the Middle East.

The WPC Executive Committee discussed the international situation regarding peace and security and expressed its serious concern about the growing imperialist aggressiveness and tensions in many parts of the world.

The WPC Executive Committee met a time when the world is facing serious dangers, including the possibilities of generalized war of global dimensions. The imperialist powers, led by the United States, are using every violent means—including that of war and genocide in order to maintain their hegemony.

The Executive Committee declared their full-hearted solidarity with the suffering people of Palestine, who are facing for more than one year the brutal attack of the Israeli occupation regime and its army, with almost 43.000 Palestinians killed, one third of them children of minor age. The ongoing cruel massacre of the Palestinian people, including the use of starvation as a weapon of war, is being accompanied by the cynical support of the US administration, the U.K., the European Union, and toleration by many Arab regimes, who claim for Israel the right to “self-defense” while the right to self-determination and self-defense against the occupation are being denied to the Palestinian people. In this context, the WPC expressed its support for the initiative of the South African government to file a case against Israel at the International Court of Justice for the crime of genocide against the Palestinian people and the respective court measures.

This unending slaughter in Palestine must end immediately. The Palestinian Gaza strip has been converted from an “open air prison” into a graveyard for children. The EC demands the end of the occupation of Palestine and declares its support for the establishment of an independent and viable State of Palestine within the borders of pre-4th June 1967 and with East Jerusalem as its capital. The United Nations must adopt the affiliation of Palestine as full Member State. We demand the release of all Palestinian prisoners from Israeli jails and support the right of return for the Palestinian refugees to their homes, as provided in the UN resolution 194.

The WPC also demands the end of the occupation of all other Arab territories, in particular the Syrian Golan Heights and the Lebanese territories.

The Executive Committee likewise denounced the Israeli attacks and invasion of Lebanon, the bombardment on Lebanese cities, including Beirut with more than 3.000 people killed and more than 13.000 injured, as well as the airstrikes against Iran by Israel. The WPC condemned the assassination of Palestinian and Lebanese political leaders by Israel, which constitutes state terrorism. The EC of the WPC condemned the attacks Israel has been carrying out against Syria and Yemen for the last several years.

The Executive Committee discussed the NATO-Russia war on the Ukrainian soil, which has been escalating for more than two and half years, and expressed its deep concern about the bloodshed, casualties, and destruction on all sides, particularly about the dangers for a further escalation, which could extend into a war of global dimensions with the possible use of Nuclear Weapons, which would lead to the destruction of humanity. This started in 2014 with the US-NATO-EU-backed Coup in Kiev, the attacks of the Ukrainian regime on the population in the Donbass, and the massacre at the Trade Union building of Odessa in May 2014. But its roots go even further back to the dissolution of the USSR in 1991, which occurred despite the fact that overwhelming majority in the Soviet Union, through a respected referendum, voted in favor of maintaining it.

The WPC took a firm position in February 2022, reaffirmed in its last Assembly, that while we do not agree as a matter of principle with any unilateral change of international borders, we denounce NATO and the governments of its member states for expanding its range eastward and encircling the Russian Federation militarily.

NATO has been fueling this war for more than two years with huge sums of money, military equipment, and political support to the regime of Kiev, which also has the support of neo-fascist and pro-Nazi forces in the Ukraine. The WPC denounces the affiliation of Finland and Sweden into NATO and the plans to deploy 300.000 troops close to the borders of Russia. The recent Ukrainian incursion into Russian soil in Kursk has further escalated the situation, while NATO is planning to deliver long range missiles to Ukraine to target Russian cities.

The WPC calls for an end of all hostilities in this conflict, de-escalation of all military actions, and a politically negotiated solution based on the International Law.

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The WPC supports the struggle of the peoples in the NATO states for disengagement from it and the dissolution of NATO at the global level. The WPC will continue its campaign “YES to Peace-NO to NATO” and shall explore possibility of our active presence against the next the NATO summit in the Netherlands in 2025.

The Executive Committee expressed its unconditional support to the people of Cuba and its revolution in defending their achievements for more than 65 years.

We express our solidarity with the Cuban people who are suffering from the shortage of electricity due to the economic blockade and the sanctions which do not allow the sufficient import of essential goods needed for the daily life. The WPC demands the lifting of the US blockade, which is the main factor affecting these shortages, and the removal of Cuba from the list of the States Sponsoring Terrorism. We salute the resolution of the UN General Assembly, which, for one more time and overwhelmingly, demanded the lifting of the US blockade against Cuba.

The WPC extends its solidarity to all the peoples struggling for their just causes, in particular with the peoples of Latin America – such as the peoples of Venezuela and Nicaragua – against the imperialist interference in their domestic affairs.

The meeting supported the just cause for the decolonization of Puerto Rico and condemned the multifaceted foreign interventions in Haiti.

The WPC salutes the people of Western Sahara, as the last colony in mainland Africa, in their desire and struggle for self-determination, and supports a free and fair referendum under the UN. We express our solidarity with the peoples of Sudan and DR Congo.

The Executive Committee expressed its serious concern and disagreement with the developments in the Asia Pacific, particularly the plans to form an “Asian NATO” involving the USA, Japan, South Korea, Australia, New Zealand and other countries. This initiative goes alongside the transformation of the QUAD and AUKUS into a military alliance.

The WPC expressed its solidarity with the people of Bangladesh and the recent massive popular protests. Concerns were expressed about the fact that the protests were hijacked by right-wing communal forces that could plunge the country into turmoil which serves objectively the Geo-strategical interests of the USA.

The WPC supports the popular demand in Bangladesh for general elections aiming at the restoration of the principles of Democracy, Peace and Secularism, as the expressed values of the Independence struggle.

The EC meeting saluted the people of Sri Lanka for their significant popular uprising and electoral victory with the wishes for success for the sake of their people.

The WPC furthermore welcomed the efforts for reconciliation between India and China with the hope for a positive impact on the peaceful neighboring relations.

The WPC Executive Committee evaluated positively the multiple actions of the WPC member organizations in all regions after the successful 22nd Assembly in Vietnam, with the holding of regional meetings and events in four (4) regions and the respective plans for the coming period, underlining the special importance of:

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- To observe in as many countries as possible solidarity actions and events on the International Day in Solidarity with the Palestinian People (29th November).
- An international event for the Cyprus Peace Award (organized by the Cyprus Peace Council) on the occasion of 50 years of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus in combination with the holding of the European regional meeting in December 2024 in Cyprus.
- An International Solidarity Mission to Palestine as soon as the conditions will allow, along with a special WPC poster for Palestine.

COMMUNIQUÉ OF THE MEETING OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD PEACE COUNCIL

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- To plan with the Japan Peace Committee the WPC presence and activity around the 80th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in August 2025
- To explore the possibility of a solidarity mission to Lebanon and Syria in cooperation with our members and the holding of a WPC [meeting]in Damascus.
- The Anti-NATO actions heading towards its summit in the Netherlands in June 2025 under the WPC campaign “YES to Peace - NO to NATO”.
- To explore the possibility of holding in combination with a WPC meeting also the next International Conference against US/NATO Military Bases.

Furthermore, the WPC underlines the importance of the anniversaries of historical events for the year 2025 such as:

- The 80th anniversary of the Anti-fascist Victory of the Peoples in May
- The 80th anniversary of the United Nations
- The 50th anniversary of the Final Act of Helsinki
- The 75th anniversary of the “Stockholm Appeal”
- The 75th anniversary of the Bandung Conference and the creation of the Non-Aligned Movement

This year the WPC has celebrated its 75th anniversary with pride. This historical international anti-imperialist organization of the peace movements has written glorious pages in the history of the peoples and their noble struggles for national liberation and social emancipation, and for freedom and human dignity. The WPC has stood, and continues to stand, firm for 75 Years in theStruggle for a World of Peace and Social Justice, always on the side of the Poor and the Oppressed.



GALLERY



On the call of AIPSO, Gandhi Jayanti was commemorated as Palestinian Solidarity Day across the country.



Puducherry



Thiruvarur, Tamilnadu



Sivakasi, Tamilnadu



Pudukkottai, Tamilnadu



GALLERY



On the call of AIPSO, Gandhi Jayanti was commemorated as Palestinian Solidarity Day across the country.



Hyderabad, Telangana



Punjab



GALLERY



On the call of AIPSO, Gandhi Jayanti was commemorated as Palestinian Solidarity Day across the country.



Indore, Madhya Pradesh



Indore, Madhya Pradesh



Madurai, Tamil Nadu



FROM RIVER TO SEA!

PALESTINE WILL BE FREE!



AIPSO Solidarity meeting in Trivandrum, Kerala demanding an end to War in Palestine. Kerala Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan, CPI State Secretary Binoy Viswam, AIPSO General Secretary R. Arun Kumar, Senior AIPSO leader Adv. VB Binu, Former Minister Thiruvanchoor Radhakrishnan, V. Joy MLA, CPI(M) leader Adv. K. Anil Kumar, CPI Trivandrum District Secretary Mangode Radhakrishnan and others participated.