

# U.S. Imperialism Unleashes its Attack Dog on the Gaza Strip

After a month openly drooling over the prospect of invading Gaza, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu announced on July 17th that he could “resist no longer” and gave the green light for an Israeli ground invasion.

Israel launched its latest military offensive on June 12th as Netanyahu declared that Palestinians would face “severe consequences” after three Israeli teenagers were found dead outside an Israeli settlement in the West Bank. U.S. and Israeli leaders declared Hamas responsible for the “kidnappings” and three days later Lieutenant Peter Lerner announced: “We will bring about a situation in which Hamas people will become a nuisance for the Palestinian population, and that their presence in Judea and Samaria (the West Bank) will cause harm everywhere.”

At that time – ten short days after Palestinian plans for the formation of a new Palestinian Authority were announced – the Israeli military began airstrikes on Gaza and began to carry out wide-scale operations across the West Bank. In the first 11 days of the operation 350 Palestinians were arrested, including clerics, university lecturers and political leaders. Five Palestinians were killed.

According to the Israeli organization Peace Now, in the days following the deaths of the Israeli youths, three new Israeli settlement outposts already equipped with water and electricity were immediately set up in the West Bank and a new access road established.

Israel added a further three to

the six combat brigades already present in the West Bank. Close to 40 battalions began raiding homes and rounding up Palestinians, notably the Paratroopers’ 35th Division and the Kfir’s 900th Division. Other specialized groups such as the Duvdevan Unit, the Egoz Reconnaissance Unit and the Airborn Rescue and Evacuation Unit 660 supplement were mobilized in the operation. Skylark mini UAV drones were deployed and the Yahalom combat engineering unit was used in tunnel searches.

After 7 days Netanyahu announced: “I expect (Palestinian) president (Mahmoud) Abbas to dissolve the union with this murderous terror organisation (Hamas). I think that’s important for our common future.”

On July 7 Israel announced the launch of an additional offensive called “Operation Protective Edge” which was accompanied by a dramatic escalation of airstrikes on Gaza. In the first five days alone Israel targeted over 1,300 sites including homes, farms, food warehouses, health clinics, mosques and industrial complexes. During those 5 days, 131 Palestinians were killed and over 1,000 wounded. At the same time, Netanyahu continued to demand that the civil administration set up in the West Bank collaborate with the offensive by suppressing resistance to Israeli occupation.

As The Worker goes to press Israel has already invaded Gaza with “thousands of troops” and is describing the invasion as a response to “ten days of attacks by Hamas.”

By targeting Palestinian women

and children as well as the elected representatives of the Palestinians and the entire Palestinian people, by launching all out war on Gaza and stepping up its repression in the West Bank and Jerusalem, Israel seeks to justify its continued denial of the right of the Palestinians to their own genuinely sovereign state in their national homeland.

Today in the face of barbaric and savage aggression, the Palestinian people are rallying around their representatives and fortifying their struggle.

So too, peoples everywhere have come out in demonstrations and political movements to support the Palestinian liberation struggle and demand the complete cutoff of U.S. aid to the aggressors, an end to Israeli occupation and recognition of the sovereign right of the Palestinians to organize their own independent state.

These actions are not only a powerful support for the Palestinian liberation struggle. They are expressing the conscience of humanity and they are an important front in the international struggle against U.S. imperialism’s program of fascism and war.

In the U.S., broad sections of the people, including a new generation of anti-war activists, have already gone into action and have placed the political demand for an immediate cutoff of U.S. aid to Israel on the political agenda.

The immediate task is to keep this demand in the forefront and carry the struggle through to the end.

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## Secretary of Defense Hagel Applauds Japanese Militarism

July 8, 2014 – In a Defense Department statement on July 1, Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel enthusiastically embraced Prime Minister Abe’s recently announced plan to revise Japan’s constitutional charter renouncing aggressive war.

According to Hagel, “I welcome the Government of Japan’s new policy regarding collective self-defense, which will enable the Japan Self-Defense Forces to engage in a wider range of operations and make the U.S.-Japan alliance even more effective. This decision is an important step for Japan as it seeks to make a greater contribution to regional and global peace and security. The new policy also complements our ongoing efforts to mod-

ernize our alliance through the revision of our bilateral guidelines for defense cooperation.”

The picture below is a shot of a large demonstration in Tokyo on

June 30 to demand that the government uphold the country’s historic, constitutionally mandated ban on the deployment of Japanese troops overseas.



## John Kerry Urges Use of Force to Target Elected Representatives of the Palestinian People

July 8, 2014 – Prior to Israel’s June 12th launch of “Operation Brother’s Keeper,” John Kerry announced the U.S. State Department’s unequivocal opposition to plans for the formation of a Palestinian Authority to include Palestinian representatives who do not 1) recognize in perpetuity the state of Israel, and 2) renounce resistance

to Israeli occupation and aggression.

This, despite the fact that representatives from Hamas and other political parties opposed to those positions already serve as representatives of the Palestinian people.

In the days since June 12th Israel has already carried out “house cleaning” operations resulting in the arrest of at least 422 Palestinians in

the West Bank, many of whom are political leaders. Israel is also continuing to carry out airstrikes on the Gaza Strip and to occupy parts of the West Bank with close to 40 battalions engaged in demolishing homes and rounding up Palestinians.

John Kerry’s deeds reveal his true convictions about the sovereign rights of the Palestinian people.

## U.S. State Department Spokesperson Voices Full Support for Israeli Occupation and Aggression

July 14, 2014 – According to U.S. State Department spokesperson Jen Psaki in a press conference on July 10, Israel’s war against the whole Palestinian people is justified in the name of “fighting terrorism.”

According to Psaki, when Israel uses bomber jets and helicopter gunships to bomb houses, mosques and health clinics in Gaza, Israel is doing all it can “to prevent civilian casualties.”

This fascist logic is completely consistent with the U.S. State Department’s positions throughout John Kerry’s widely advertised “peace process.” Those positions include full support for Israeli expansionism and aggression (including the brutal blockade of the Gaza strip), support for the apartheid wall which Israel is building to grab yet more West Bank land, opposition to the Palestinian people’s right to return, and open declarations that the U.S. has the right to pick the government and leaders of the Palestinian people.

Of course, as always, Israel is waging this war in the name of “cracking down on terrorism.” Yet, it is not individual terrorists but the whole Palestinian people who are under attack.

With the full support of the U.S. State Department, Israeli leader Netanyahu has not only ordered re-

peated airstrikes against residents of Gaza, but also has repeatedly demanded that the Palestinian Authority round-up activists in the West Bank, smash up various popular organizations and institutions and suppress any resistance to Israeli occupation.

The barbarity of Israeli aggression demands a response from every person of conscience. In order to shoulder our responsibility, the American people must resolutely work to break the links between U.S. imperialism and the Israeli aggressors. We must demand the cutoff of all U.S. economic and military aid to Israel.