

Socialist Party USA

339 Lafayette St., No. 303
New York, NY 10012
Phone/Fax: (212) 982-4586
Web: www.socialistpartyusa.org



ISRAEL-PALESTINE C R I S I S

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A Socialist Party USA Statement

The United States bears direct responsibility for the aggression in the Occupied Territories. It was U.S. military and economic aid that made Israel into one of the most powerful military states in the world. The United States should terminate the three billion dollars a year it gives the Israeli government.

At the same time, the United States should end military aid to all of the Middle-Eastern countries. It should also stop providing Israel and the Middle Eastern countries with military equipment and logistical assistance.

The cycle of violence in the Middle East must come to an end. Israeli state terrorism directed at the Palestinian population is a major cause of the bitterness and hatred that has enveloped the region. On the other hand, the exploding bombs in Israeli restaurants is pointless, counter-productive and immoral.

The Socialist Party believes that the solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict will not be reached through violence, and it condemns acts of violence no matter who perpetrates them. We support those in Israel and in the Occupied Territories who are working toward a peaceful and equitable solution to the current impasse.

The continuing Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip is the fundamental

cause of the continuing violence. The Socialist Party calls upon the Israeli government to immediately withdraw its military forces from all the Occupied Territories, and to recognize the authority of a Palestinian state within these boundaries.

The recent proposal of the Arab League summit provides the framework for a settlement of the immediate outstanding issues. Once the Israeli troops have withdrawn from the Occupied Territories, the Arab countries will fully recognize Israel and negotiations will begin on a fair process by which to return the millions of Palestinian refugees to the area.

This will require the Israelis to accept some of the refugees into Israel, with others returning to the new Palestinian state. The negotiations will have to work out a means by which East Jerusalem can become the capital



of the new Palestinian state, while maintaining access for all to Jerusalem's religious sites.

A Palestinian state based in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip will not be viable without a great deal of economic aid. The three billion dollars in U.S. aid currently going to Israel should be redirected to the education, health care and housing of the Palestinian people.

The Socialist Party will work with popular forces throughout the Middle East who are working to build democratic secular societies. This holds for Israel, which persists in discriminating against its Arab citizens, and for the Arab countries, most of which are brutal dictatorships, and many of which are Islamic theocracies.

