Hamas sheds light on Biden’s ceasefire proposal

President Joe Biden made a public announcement on May 31, 2024, on a proposal for a temporary ceasefire to halt Israel’s horrendous genocide in Gaza since last October, resulting in, as of June 1, the massacre of over 26,000 Palestinians and the wounding of over 82,000 more by the Zionist, apartheid state.

Biden’s proposal — to date not supported by the white supremacist regime headed by war criminal Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu — would be carried out in three phases. The first phase would be a six-week ceasefire and the return of women, children and other Israelis held in Gaza; the release of Palestinian prisoners held in Israel; withdrawal of Israeli troops from populated areas of Gaza; and for Israel to release 600 trucks of humanitarian aid to be carried into Gaza daily.

The second phase would be a permanent ceasefire leading to a full Israeli withdrawal from Gaza, along with the release of all remaining Israelis held in Gaza. The third phase would be a 3-5 year period of internationally funded reconstruction of Gaza and the establishment of a non-Hamas Palestinian government.

This is the same “Genocide Joe” who has consistently sent the Israeli regime billions of dollars worth of weapons, which the Zionist state has used to ethnically cleanse the people of Gaza, which will lead to the displacement of over 2 million people who now face a growing famine. Could it be that Biden, in making this proposal, is attempting to portray himself as a proponent of peace, because he is so fearful of losing mass support in the U.S., amongst students, workers and people of color, including Arabs and Muslims, for defending what he calls Israel’s “right to defend itself,” a loss of support that puts at risk his holding in the upcoming elections?

This is the same Biden who has publicly denied labeling what has happened in Gaza as a genocide. This is the same Biden who has sanctioned an invitation to actually bring Netanyahu to Washington, D.C. to speak before a joint session of Congress. This is the same Biden who may be next in line to face trial for war crimes by the International Criminal Court.

What has been the response of Hamas to this latest ceasefire announcement by Biden? Senior Hamas leader Osama Hamdan made the following response in Al-Jazeera on June 1, 2024, as published by Resistance Network News.

Response from Hamas

The effort exerted by our brother mediators in Egypt and Qatar aimed to achieve a ceasefire, end the “Israeli” aggression on Gaza, and withdraw the forces. We had a clear position and responded positively to these efforts and mediation. We accepted the final proposal presented by the mediators, which had U.S. approval. The U.S. side failed to oblige the “Israeli” side and convince them to agree to the [early May] paper, leading to the collapse of all these efforts that were built.

Today, Biden announced ideas that we viewed positively. We said these ideas are not enough; we need a complete agreement that the details from the “Israeli” side have always been a source of constant crisis, whether in the ceasefire and the “Israeli” desire for it not to be permanent, or in the withdrawal and the “Israeli” attempt to remain in specific locations in Gaza, or even in the [prisoner] exchange process.

The statement and the call from the U.S. president to reach an agreement is positive, but agreements cannot be achieved through mere hopes. We need clear texts that achieve what we want and what we have said, and that the “Israelis” accept openly and explicitly, not in an evasive manner, or in a way that allows them to evade any commitment.

Principles alone are not enough to reach an agreement. They are a roadmap, but not the picture we can agree upon. We want a complete ceasefire; this was proposed by President Biden, but how? What is the timing and mechanism? We want a complete withdrawal from Gaza. This must be specified within clearly defined steps. We also want comprehensive shelter and relief for Gaza, reconstruction, and an end to the siege. We want a fair exchange deal. All these details must be

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Flood Brooklyn for Palestine

By Toni Arenstein
Brooklyn, New York

Thousands of activists took to the streets on May 31 in a demonstration, organized by Within Our Lifetime under the slogan “Flood Brooklyn for Palestine — for Rafah, Khan Younis, Jabalia, Nablus, Jenin, Tulkaren and Al Quds.” Because of the ongoing and increasing tent masses, the genocide only worsens in Gaza, so WOL called for an escalation of the struggle in New York City. The action started with a rally at Barclays Center followed by a march through the streets to the Brooklyn Museum, where many people had already de-occupied, calling for the museum to dis-close and divest from the Zionist project.

The New York Police Department continued with its ongoing brutality, particularly focused on Palestinian women who were thrown to the ground, punched and had their hijabs pulled off. Once again the cops brutalized and arrested WOL chair Nerdies Kinsoni.

Despite the almost daily demonstra-tions in New York City, the movement to free Palestine is not slowing down; it is only increasing. In fact, one day after this demonstration in Brooklyn, a new encampment at Columbia University was started and was called “Revolt for Rafah — Long live The Student Intifada.”

It is truly hard to keep up with new and ongoing events, happening every day all over the world. Activists have occupied the Zionist Consulate in San Francisco and 48,000 University of California Workers are on strike — or prepared to strike at a moment’s notice — in solidarity with Palestine.
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agreed upon.

I expected President Biden to adopt the paper that was presented to Hamas at the beginning of last May as a paper from the mediators, which was approved by his mediator in the negotiation, CIA Director William Burns. The statement makes a serious attempt by the mediators to reach an agreement. We need to see precisely what is being proposed and what the "Israel" position truly is.

'There is no initiative'

We have not received anything specific yet, and we are not about to return to square one for negotiations. There is a proposal presented to the mediators. It could be a prelude to re-presenting the same proposal to the "Israel" side, and that the "Israel" will accept it. There is no initiative; President Biden spoke about ideas. General ideas do not mean reaching an understanding. It is a general framework, and many details have been discussed over the past four months. The talk about the mediators' desire to reach an agreement is good and acceptable.

Hamas did not hesitate and made the decision when it agreed to the paper presented by the mediators. The role now is for the mediators to pressure the "Israel" side to accept the proposal, which I believe achieved what President Biden proposed in principle. Hamas announced its acceptance of what the mediators prepared, and "Israel" did not agree. They announced their rejection.

The side that has been intransigent over the past months is the Israeli side, which met Hamas's acceptance and the mediators' efforts with an invasion of Rafah and the occupation of the Philadelphia Route and Rafah Crossing. The "Israel" side needs to explicitly and clearly announce its commitment to reaching an agreement that achieves a comprehensive ceasefire, a complete withdrawal from Gaza, unconditional entry of aid for sheltering and aiding the displaced, reconstruction of Gaza, lifting the siege, and achieving a fair prisoner exchange deal.

What Netanyahu wrote on X confirms that the intra- mediaries were always thwarted by the "Israel" side. We are not insisting on conditions but on a proposal presented by the mediators, and we accepted it. I believe the pressure should be directed towards the "Israel" side, which has thwarted all efforts so far. President Biden's statements have so far been met with "Israel" rejection. The Palestinian resistance remains committed to its stance. It made the decision, while Netanyahu continues to obstruct all efforts, refuses to accept the ceasefire, and disrupts them.

The Hamas statement has been lightly edited.

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Pet Larry Holmes
GI resister, organizer for the American Servicemen's Union
1972-74

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Foreign Minister of Nicaragua's Sandinista government.

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigendered and multidamaged organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it's the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on immigrants, mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means homelessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gassed down by cops and bigoted on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains won by hard-fought struggles by people's movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigendered and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWF fights for socialism because we believe in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWV branch near you. 😊

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Se confirma la masacre de Rafah
Israel rechaza la orden de la CIJ de detener el genocidio

El mortifugo ataque aéreo israelí del 26 de mayo contra palestinos que vivían en tiendas de campaña en Rafah causó la muerte de casi 30 personas, muchas de las cuales fueron quienes vivían en tiendas de campaña. Esta masacre suprime el desafío del régimen israelí a la sentencia de la Corte Internacional de Justicia (CIJ) del 24 de marzo por la que el país debe suspender su campaña militar en Rafah, en el sur de Gaza.

La masacre de Rafah muestra que los funcionarios israelíes y al propio Estado de Naciones Unidas han acusado finalmente de octubre es que estas instituciones de las que fueron quemadas vivas o decapitadas. Esta masacre suprime el desafío del régimen israelí a la sentencia de la Corte Internacional de Justicia (CIJ) del 24 de marzo por la que el país debe suspender su campaña militar en Rafah, en el sur de Gaza.

Un ataque aéreo contra una población civil que vive en tiendas de campaña es un crimen atroz más en la actual guerra genocida de Israel contra los palestinos de Gaza. El 26 de mayo, las fuerzas de ocupación israelíes mataron a ocho palestinos. En los últimos seis meses, el régimen israelí ha logrado poner fin a dos de las instituciones de las Naciones Unidas han acusado finalmente de octubre es que estas instituciones de las que fueron quemadas vivas o decapitadas. Esta masacre suprime el desafío del régimen israelí a la sentencia de la Corte Internacional de Justicia (CIJ) del 24 de marzo por la que el país debe suspender su campaña militar en Rafah, en el sur de Gaza.

En 2001, el Estatuto de Roma, ratificado por 124 países, pero no por Estados Unidos, India, China o Rusia, estableció la CPI. La CPI puede investigar y juzgar a cualquier individuo en servicio militar de cualquier país del mundo.

La CPI también acusó a tres dirigentes de Hamas de crímenes de guerra. En julio de 2023, el tribunal de la CPI ordenó a Israel detener el genocidio y otras formas de crimen contra la humanidad, crímenes de guerra y agresión, así como la hostigamiento de la población civil en el territorio ocupado.

La masacre de Rafah desencadenó un proceso judicial en la CPI. La CPI también acusó a tres dirigentes de Hamas de crímenes de guerra. En julio de 2023, el tribunal de la CPI ordenó a Israel detener el genocidio y otras formas de crimen contra la humanidad, crímenes de guerra y agresión, así como la hostigamiento de la población civil en el territorio ocupado.

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