

# SUBVERSION

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*"There are 1.6 million humans living in the Gaza Strip. They are being slowly and systematically removed from their homeland, by death or denial of right of return."*

## WE ARE ALL PALESTINIAN

The mainstream media have been misguidedly calling Operation Pillar of Smoke a "war", but this is not a war. The definition of war is; an armed conflict between two nations or states. Palestinian people, driven to desperation at their oppression and the abuse of their human rights, are armed with home made rockets, rocks, slingshots and burning tyres; the Israeli Defence Force is armed with heavy artillery, gunships and drones. Much of their defence budget comes from US taxpayers who last year gave \$3 billion to their massive \$13.7 billion total annual budget. Palestine has no army, just a few bands of resistance with home made rockets and a hunger for freedom.

According to Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the air strikes, bombardment from the sea and targeting of civilians are in retaliation to rocket attacks from Hamas militants which have killed 3 Israelis so far.

The reality is that occupation forces shot dead a 13 year old boy whilst he was playing football; this inspired some ineffectual and untargeted attacks

from Hamas. Then the blitzkrieg began, the unreasonable use of force against civilian areas which already struggle to access power, water and medical care.

Since 14th November Gaza has been bombarded with 950 separate air strikes, one, causing the death of Hamas militant Ahmed Jibari. This attack has also killed 111 civilians and caused 866 known injuries. Judging by the various sources of information coming out of Gaza, many children and babies are among the dead.

The disparity between the actions and reactions of war in Israel and the Occupied Territories is shocking. The average Gazan has access to electricity for between 6 and 12 hours per day, drinking water is scarce and so many items are forbidden that food and medical equipment are outdated and running long beyond their suggested lifespan. Hospitals are stretched to their limits and Israel indiscriminately attacks civilian areas and buildings, then forbids access to vital building materials like cement, making rebuilding a painfully slow process of sifting through rubble for recyclable materials.

'Bibi' now wants to expand the scope of the assault and send in ground troops; there are also reports of more attacks outside of Gaza, one report from activist Dana Mahmood suggests that an Israeli war

plane has attacked a house in Rafah, killing twin boys and injuring 13 others.

There are 1.6 million humans living in the Gaza Strip. They are being slowly and systematically removed from their homeland, by death or denial of right of return.

There was the option of a truce. It was offered by Ahmed al-Jabari to Gershon Baskin, the famed negotiator in the release of Gilad Shalit, but the truce was ignored by all of the Israeli state and a massacre has begun again.

The League stands by the legitimacy of Resistance by the Palestinian people, the oppression and abuse of human rights by the British and then the Israeli state can no longer be ignored or treated like a dirty little secret. We are all Palestinian.



THE

ACCIDENTAL

BOYCOTT

On Thursday 15 November 2012, the elections for police Commissioners to take over the role of the local police authorities took place. The winners will be granted a cushy job of overseeing policing with pay being up to £100,000.

Little excitement were generated by the elections, which took place in 41 Police authority areas (London not included).

The coalition government had stated that they are calling these elections in order to make police more accountable and free up more officers for 'frontline' duties.

This reasoning is nothing but a smokescreen for the real reason the coalition has called for the creation of such expensive posts.

Currently the local police authority is composed of local councillors elected in local elections. This is a perfectly democratic and transparent way for local people to elect a committee that holds a local police force to account.

The new Police Commissioner elections will give the powers of local police authorities to one elected person who will stay in power for four years.

This is significantly less democratic and more expensive than a committee composed of local councillors from the police force area. It also further removes the control of the police away from citizens and into the hands of one person.

When the coalition government has sought to devolve power it always wishes to devolve power to a single figurehead such as a local mayor or police commissioner who does not have the power to carry out their duties and change peoples lives in the way in which the public may expect them to.

The coalition government does this is for the partly the same reasons they like to privatise functions which should be owned and operated in the interests of all citizens.

If you privatise or devolve a public function to a company or straw representative, it means you no longer have to take responsibility for it as a national government and can simply point and express disapproval at the poor sap who has failed in the eyes of the public.

The local mayors and Police Commissioners are nothing but ready-made scapegoats for a government who cannot yet get away with privatising the police but nevertheless wish to give up any responsibility for the carrying out of decent public functions.

Police Commissioners cannot influence people's living standards, unemployment or the rate of drug addiction in their local areas any more than local mayors can.

The government is intent on creating more scapegoats even though the majority of cities voted against having local mayors in the last referenda on the issue.

The police should be held to account better than they are currently. There should be reform of local police authorities so people are more aware of the function the local police authority performs and of how they can influence and vote on how they are policed.

There should be more accountability, greater collective control of the police and more legal rights for citizens.

The way proposed by the government however does not represent the correct way forward and is merely a way of central government devolving responsibility but without the power to do anything about the crime which effects local people.

A large number of people therefore openly advocating not voting or spoiling the ballot paper for these elections.

This was because every vote in this election will inevitably be construed as a giving the new system further legitimacy and acceptance.

The biggest talk about the elections in the media was about how low turnout will be. In the event, the turnout was a miserable 10-15% - an indictment of this counterproductive and unjustified meddling in local democracy.

Hopefully, the new 'Sheriffs' will now be left high and dry and on the road to obsolescence.



# ABOUT

## THE LEAGUE

The League of Communists in Britain was formed on 30th November 2011, and is a non-party, political organisation dedicated to grassroots political activity and practical solidarity. We are an inclusive, broad and non-sectarian platform for the non-authoritarian Left, and we include anarchists, communists, socialists and environmentalists in our affiliates. We believe that we are working in a post-Leninist politics, where the issue is not the establishment of another 'revolutionary vanguard' but the engagement of the working class with the masses, and the direct role of the masses in politics. The imposition of structure upon politics has failed, and the issue today is that of developing political consciousness and on supporting struggles against oppression and exploitation, and to work towards building a mass movement.

Communism in the 21st century is not a struggle for state power, but the struggle against it; it is the engagement in a radical, decentralised politics, which manifests itself as a challenge and resistance to exploitation and oppression on the basis of class, gender, sexuality, disability, nationality, immigration status, species and religion. Resistance and practical solidarity is the basis for all of the Leagues political work. We work to defend human rights and political autonomy, provide humanitarian assistance and support those in struggle. We publish a regular newspaper, 'Subversion', which acts as a focus for politics and organising. Our members are active in trade unions such as PCS, Unite and the NUT, and campaigning groups such as UK Uncapped, refugee support organisations and the anti-cuts movement.

We believe in a radical politics which is decentralised and broad; we do not have a structure of committees or branches, we have no conditions of affiliation or payment of dues, and we do not work on the basis of an agreed political 'line'. Instead our emphasis is on practical political work, and not on party building. Affiliation is open to anyone, regardless of membership of other organisations, who agrees with our core mission. statement and signs our equalities disclaimer. Affiliation costs £1 per month.



**JOIN THE LEAGUE!**

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