

Express Solidarity with the struggle of Palestinian People!

Rejecting the overwhelming opposition from the international community, bolstered by the lone US support, sending the 2334 UN Security Resolution of 2016 on West Bank to smithereens, Netanyahu, the PM of Israel announced on May 17 that he would unilaterally extend the sovereign authority on the Israeli settlements in West Bank on July 1st, 2020.

In January 2019, the US President Trump announced the peace plan, that was trumpeted by Trump as the Deal of Century, officially named: Peace to Prosperity: A Vision to Improve the Lives of the Palestinian and Israeli People, promising a “potential” statehood to the Palestinians with too many stringent riders. The Deal “.....gifted the wish-list of long-held demands of Israel”, Guardian commented the next day. Palestinians all in unison rejected it.

The plan proposed: Jerusalem will be the undivided Capital of the Israel. The vast majority of Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian territory would be part of Israel. They constitute 30% of the West Bank. The Palestinian state would receive territory, mostly desert, near Gaza to compensate for the loss of parts in the West Bank. Gaza and the West Bank would be linked by high speed rail. Jordan Valley should come under Israel. A form of Palestinian statehood would be there. Not a full-fledged sovereign state. But with no army. Israeli security control will continue. Trump plan demands that the Palestine Authority has to “complete dismantling of Hamas”. The Peace Deal supposed to have superseded all the previous agreements, is silent on the demand to take the Palestinian refugees back into Israel.

Immediately after the announcement of Trump plan, The Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas announced withdrawal of all the agreements with the US and Israel. Hamas welcomed West Bank announcement.

The US plan was condemned universally. EU, Arab League disapproved annexation plans. They all urged Netanyahu to abandon his patently illegal and disastrous plan. As a last step, the UN convened a Security Council meeting where, except the US, all advised Netanyahu from his misadventures. Since the launching of Trump’s plan Jordan was vehemently opposing the annexation of Jordan Valley. It has been pursuing intensive diplomacy to try to pre-empt annexation.

In the wake of universal disapproval, including his strong ally Britain, Trump may want to delay the annexation until US elections are over. Netanyahu wants it to quickly get approved in the Parliament to make the occupation de jure. The Israeli defence minister Gantz, who will become PM after another 18 months, wants to delay. What middle course Netanyahu will take can be seen but he never abandons the annexation plan.

In 1981 Israel unilaterally annexed Golan Heights area. It still continues. Israel’s brazen impunity continues. Israel has been in non-compliance with 40 UN Security council resolutions and 100 UN General Assembly resolutions. Yet Europe and Arab countries are showing just lip service and not coming out with firm action. But the people of Palestina are determined to resist Israeli plans of annexation.

There are protests and demonstrations all over West Bank and Gaza Strip. In Jericho, the main town after Ramallah, witnessed thousands of people’s gathering a week ago. Addressed by Palestinian officials, attended by diplomats of several countries- Britain, China, Russia, Japan and Jordan- people asserted this has been our land and we would protect at any cost. Even in Tel Aviv, Israelis and Palestinians in Unison said: “No to annexation, no to occupation, yes to peace and democracy”. Even the leaders of Black Lives Matters from Britain stood in solidarity with Palestinian people in this difficult period. Activist, writer Professor Angela Davis said: “For those everywhere struggling against racism and freedom, the Palestinians continue to serve as inspiration”.

The revolutionary and democratic forces in India should demand that the Indian government should support the cause of Palestinian people. They must express their solidarity with the Palestinian peoples struggle for home land and freedom.

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