



Speak Out Now

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Trump's Ceasefire Doesn't Erase Genocide

Last week Trump announced that his administration had finally negotiated a ceasefire between Hamas and Israel. This was presented as some major accomplishment of his administration. He even seemed to think it could win him the Nobel Peace Prize.

In reality, this so-called ceasefire could have been implemented at anytime over the past two years. The reason it wasn't implemented earlier was just to allow Israel the time to further destroy Gaza and intensify its genocide of Palestinians. To celebrate this ceasefire now, after mass murder, mass destruction, and mass starvation has been allowed to continue for two years, is a bit like celebrating a funeral after a massacre.

Of course, for Palestinians, any pause to Israel's atrocities is better than things continuing as they are. Any increase in food and medical aid means people can finally get some much-needed nutrients and medical treatment to keep them alive.

But the details of how this ceasefire will be carried out and how long it will last are very unclear. Israel has repeatedly shown that they have no regard for Palestinian life, and are willing to break any agreement they make if it suits their interests. And the U.S. has been a willing partner in this genocide the whole time.

Since Oct. 7, 2023, the U.S. has supplied Israel with around \$20 billion in military aid, the very aid that has allowed these atrocities to take place. As Israel intensified its attacks on Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank, and expanded its assault into Lebanon, Iran, Yemen, and Qatar, the U.S. has been there the entire time, continuing its military aid, with an increased military presence in the region to warn anyone who might retaliate against Israel.

So, the idea that Israel and the U.S. should be praised for this agreement is a sick joke. Israel and the U.S., from the Biden administration to Trump, should be seen for the mass murderers that they are. And this new agreement should be met with deep skepticism.

Most of Gaza has been destroyed. Official estimates put the death toll of Palestinians somewhere between 68,000 and 200,000 or more. Hundreds of thousands have been injured. Tens of thousands suffer from severe malnutrition. Many families have been completely destroyed, without any surviving family members, or sometimes with one surviving

child left all alone. Israel has destroyed the vast majority of hospitals, water and sewage treatment facilities, electrical grids, schools, roads, and more. This ceasefire is being hailed as some great success, only after Gaza has been destroyed. In fact, this ceasefire is happening now likely because Israel has been able to destroy so much of Gaza. It's easier to declare a ceasefire after so much has been reduced to rubble. And we can't ignore the increased pressure on Israel and the U.S. to reach an agreement in the face of growing opposition and protests to Israel's atrocities around the world.

The ceasefire agreement claims Gaza will be redeveloped and aid will return to previous levels. But Trump has appointed himself as the head of the so-called redevelopment board that is supposed to be created by this agreement. Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu have both stated publicly that they would like to see Gaza redeveloped without Palestinians. Trump even said he hoped Gaza could be developed into something like the French Riviera, one more playground for the super-rich. Is that what this redevelopment plan will look like?

Of course, this ceasefire is better than the continuation of Israel's blatant massacre. But peace can't just mean a pause in a genocide. It doesn't just mean finally providing some relief to Palestinians who have been brought to the brink of starvation. A real peace could only begin after a total end to Israel's occupation of Palestine, and the return of Palestinians to their homes and land, free of Israeli military rule. But that is a peace that can only come when all of the regimes that support this global system of oppression and exploitation are brought down through mass uprisings from below — that is the peace that we have to keep fighting for.

The only thing that may prevent Israel from resuming its mass slaughter in Gaza is if the forces that oppose genocide and exploitation continue to grow around the world. It is the poor, the working class, and the young people in the U.S. and around the world that have the ability to break the grip of imperialism over the Middle East, and who have the power to fight for a real peace, for a world free from genocide, oppression and exploitation. This ceasefire agreement doesn't mean it's time to relax, but it's time to double our efforts to stand up against this system and all of its attacks.

Housing Shelter Residents

Deserve Dignity

At many Baltimore homeless shelters, conditions are practically unlivable. Residents face infestations of bedbugs, roaches, and rodents; brown water from faucets; moldy food; and racist, homophobic, and cruel treatment by at least some staff. To make matters worse, city officials use open spots at these shelters, which many people understandably choose to avoid, to justify violent sweeps of encampments.

The organization Housing Our Neighbors (HON) released a report of survey results of unhoused people detailing these dreadful conditions. HON also hosted a rally outside City Hall to demand improvements at shelters, which are not required to follow any regulations in Maryland if they are funded by private or religious organizations, a lower bar than animal shelters. This can be a matter of life or death. No one chooses to be in such a terrible situation. Everyone should be able to access the resources and support they need!

Starbucks Workers Speak Out

Workers and supporters gathered for a picket on October 3 outside the Starbucks location in Mount Vernon, one of six in Baltimore recently closed by the company. The action in Baltimore was one of 35 protests across the country opposing the mass closing of hundreds of stores, and demanding that each impacted worker be offered transfer to another location and that the company sign union contracts guaranteeing improved staffing, wages, and hours.

Thousands of workers at hundreds of Starbucks locations have formed unions in the past few years despite illegal and aggressive retaliation by the company. Last week's picket in Baltimore, at one of the unionized stores, attracted enthusiastic support from City College high school students. As workers we must continue to expand our fights against the countless threats we face, and students are right to recognize that these fights are their fights, too!

We live in the wealthiest country in the world, and it is our labor that has created all of this wealth. We aren't the ones who benefit from this. The super rich — the bosses of the big corporations and banks — keep the wealth and make all the decisions. Working people do the work that makes society run, and we can organize to unite our forces. When we do, we have enormous power to change things and make a better world.

Speak Out Socialists Public Meeting

**In The Streets
AND At Work!**

**It's Time
to Organize!**

**Sun, Oct 26,
7:00 PM**

**Homewood Friends
Meetinghouse**

3107 N Charles St,

Baltimore
(\$5 donation)

Under Trump, we face:

- Genocide in Gaza
- ICE raids on our communities
- Attacks on freedom of speech
- Cuts to social programs
- Rewriting history
- And much more!

The solution is up to us! Come to a presentation and bring your friends & your ideas to discuss what we can begin to do, and why we must organize our forces **as workers**.

Federal Job Cuts Hit Maryland Workers Hard

Since January, over 15,000 federal workers have lost their jobs in Maryland alone. With this, a ripple effect is hitting all working people across Maryland and the country. All workers and many other people will see our health, safety, and wellbeing greatly affected.

The federal workers suffering from these cuts are facing a job market with too few jobs for them to find employment. Now Trump is threatening to cut even more federal workers. The attack on federal workers is an attack on all of us. We must stand together to defend ourselves!

What We Need More Than the Mayor's SUV

Mayor Brandon Scott has a new SUV tricked out with special security and communications equipment. The customized 2025 Jeep Grand Wagoneer is costing Baltimore's taxpayers \$163,000.

Don't get us wrong! We all want to be safe moving around our city. But why do politicians think they should have luxuries because they are public officials?

Plenty of politicians claim they are on the side of regular people and want to serve us. If they really want to do that, they should do it for the average wage of working people. If they got only a worker's wage and benefits, they would better understand what we need. And only people who truly want to serve us would run for office. The average politician is not smarter than us. They are just better connected to the rich who rule. And they act like it.