



Rete dei Comunisti

INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN

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Palestinian Resistance Tet Offensive

Oct. 9, Giacomo Marchetti for Contropiano.org

On the morning of January 30, 1968, the Vietnamese resistance launched the Tet Offensive, named after the New Year's Eve in the Vietnamese lunar calendar.

The operation was a large-scale and in-depth offensive, the largest of those conducted by either side of the conflict since its inception in 1965, and employed some 85,000 North Vietnamese and Vietcong fighters.

In Saigon, the fighters penetrated the Presidential Palace and the U.S. Embassy compound.

It was a quantum leap from the guerrilla warfare conducted thus far.

Although it ended a tactical defeat on a strictly military level, it was a strategic victory politically, won through the sacrifice of Vietnamese fighters—about 30,000 lost their lives—and it had an irreversible psychological impact on the enemy and the choices he was forced to make from then on.

The offensive had made it clear that the Vietcong, even after years of wearisome warfare, were capable not only of resisting but of going on the counterattack, changing the balance of power. Hanoi radio had claimed that the purpose of the offensive was the overthrow of the South Vietnamese government led by Nguyen Van Thuie, who declared martial law on the territory he administered the day after the offensive.

The operation did not lead to the hoped-for "insurrection," but in fact ended just under a mon-

th later on Feb. 25, with the ouster of the last Communist unit from the old imperial citadel in Hue.

It had a major impact on the Ford administration, and shocked the North American public, which had been convinced (by political leaders and the media) that the Vietcong were on the verge of defeat and that the Resistance was incapable of conducting operations on that scale. Support at home in the U.S. for this Washington military adventure declined because of casualties (more than 1,000 killed and 6,000 wounded among Americans) and the subsequent call for increased recruiting (there was compulsory conscription), prompting Johnson not to run again. It was a totally unexpected turning point in the dynamics of the conflict, as well as for the an-

tiwar movement in the U.S. and around the World.

It took years to eventually arrive at the Paris Accords (January 1973) and then the actual end of the war in April 1975. But the furrow drawn by the Tet Offensive made understandable to the world the message that President Ho Chi Min had delivered on December 25, 1967: "it is clear that the Americans have lost the war."

Saigon was then "liberated," and pictures of the helicopter escape from the rooftop from the U.S. Embassy went around the world.

Mutatis mutandis (Hamas is hardly comparable to the Vietnamese Communist Party), with the Palestinian offensive on Saturday, October 7, it

is clear that Israel has lost its war and that the regional political earthquake will change the balance of power in the Middle East.

The winner will be the Palestinian people and all the organizations that make up their Resistance—and their friends and allies—who, on the anniversary of the 1973 Yom Kippur War, decided once again to break barriers that seemed impenetrable.

Then it was the crossing of the 'Bar-Lev Line' by Egyptian troops, built by Israel after the conquest of the Sinai in 1967, today those fortified structures that had been making Gaza for years an immense open-air prison and a firing range for Tsahal's snipers and bombers, enclosed in a blockade that the hypocrisy of the Western "in-



ternational community" had removed.

Israel was hit hard by an offensive that produced more than 700 dead, 2,000 wounded, at least 100 prisoners, the momentary "recapture" of portions of territory around Gaza and major material damage to Israeli facilities.

This is unprecedented in the history of the Resistance of this people.

This has produced a wound that will remain indelible in Israel and which the Zionist leadership's thirst for revenge - a state of war has been declared and an attack on Gaza is also being prepared from the ground - will not be able to heal, no matter how ruthless its response supported by its Western allies (mainly the US, EU and Ukraine).

On the Qatari network Al Jazeera, with the presenter reiterating that a state of war had been declared in Israel, a Palestinian analyst responded, "it has been decades since Palestine has been in a state of war."

And from resistance, by all means, came the liberation war and popular uprising.

On Saturday the death knell rang for Israeli intelligence and the Zionist army's ability to respond. And that decreed the end of the political formula that brought Netanyahu to rule, effectively marking the end of his career just as he seemed unscratchable by internal opposition.

The offensive has also "galvanized" the Palestinian Resistance in the West Bank and the Diaspora, and again polarized public opinion in the Arab states. reaffirming the positioning of that

leadership that has positioned itself as the new "front of rejection" against normalization with the Zionist entity: Iran, Syria and Algeria.

But we are reasonably certain that the Palestinian offensive will also set fire, at least in part, to the European "garden" as far as that part of the subordinate classes of Arab origin and/or Muslim faith who see in it an opportunity for redemption against that "collective West" that has been incapable of finding a political-diplomatic solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, acquiescing to and flanking the neo-colonial policies that have "legalized" Israeli apartheid, completely nullifying the Oslo Accords.

This could be an opportunity for the leading players in the "multipolar world" to pose as mediators and advance a diplomatic solution that is not simply the restoration of the status quo, but includes the implementation of UN resolutions disregarded by Israel and by the so-called International Community."

The Palestinian offensive is a breath of fresh air, in fact, even for the class and internationalist left, and an indelible lesson in courage.

The physical and metaphorical wall around Palestine has been torn down.

We think definitively.

Nov. 4: The revival of the anti-war movement, alongside the Peoples' Resistance

10,000 people demonstrated in Rome on Nov. 4 with clear watchwords for stopping the sending of arms for the war in Ukraine, our country's exit from NATO and cutting military spending to finance social spending.

Italy's disengagement from the war that the Atlantic Alliance is waging against Russia in Ukraine was one of the main nodes of the platform before the 'Operation Al-Aqsa Flood' on Oct. 7 and the Zionist escalation in Gaza and the West Bank put solidarity with the Arab-Palestinian Resistance and an opposition to the ongoing massacre back at the center of the political agenda. Recognition of the Palestinian state, the revocation of the military cooperation agreement between Italy and Israel, and the need for an immediate cease-fire enriched the initial platform as early as the assembly launching the Nov. 4 national mobilization - held at the Aquila Cinema on Oct. 8 - and gave its watchwords a more pronounced anti-imperialist and internationalist character.

The large Palestinian-Arab presence that opened the procession, the slogans, the speeches from the truck at the head of the procession and the final speeches at St. John's Square by the mobilization's promoters, who called for support for Palestine characterized the mobilization, alongside the many stances of sharp criticism of the Atlantic Alliance and the bellicose policy of the current executive to the detriment of the working classes.

An apt political gamble, born out of a mobilization hypothesis launched in the second half of

July when the Senate - on July 12 - at the suggestion of former Missino Gasparri had proposed restoring November 4 as a national holiday on which to celebrate the Day of the Unity of the Nation and the Armed Forces.

It was a coup that had found the hypothetical opposition silent, considering that this proposal had been voted for by 102 senators and abstained by 28 deputies, with no one voting against it.

It was an ideological operation with a variety of objectives: to restore an old contraption of the patriot right wing by celebrating Italy's participation in the First World War, to prepare the ground for the continuation of the financing of the sending of arms to Ukraine, to replace April 25 as the constituent date for our country (on which the liberation from Nazi-fascism is celebrated) with that of a carnage, passed off as the fulfillment of the Risorgimento and the realization of the irredentist dream of reactionary circles.

A project that, if not opposed by the so-called parliamentary opposition, was rejected by a popular mobilization in Rome on a day when the whole world took to the streets for Palestine.

The signal that came to us from Rome as well as that of all the squares that in recent weeks have seen hundreds of thousands of people demonstrating in our country in support of the Palestinian Resistance, and the dramatic situation in Gaza and the West Bank call us to play a more incisive role, and to pose the urgency of a National Assembly to begin a campaign of

active boycott against Israel and an initiative of mass opposition and civil disobedience against the complicity of our government in the war of extermination against the Palestinians.

This is an unavoidable and imperative necessity of which as the Angelo Baracca Committee we advocate.

Angelo Baracca Committee, 4/11/2023



Those who wage war on Palestine cannot be left in

Friday, November 10, unequivocally marks a "quantum leap" in solidarity with the Palestinian resistance as far as our country is concerned.

After this weekend's demonstrations in some 20 Italian cities, the occupations and demonstrations in universities, the first occupations in high schools, the popular boycott against Israel and its accomplices-including our government and the European Union-and mass civil disobedience seem to be taking their first steps toward concrete and incisive actions.

In Genoa, from 6 a.m., one of the main port crossings - that of San Benigno - was blocked with a garrison near the port access at a strategic junction of the traffic of trucks, diverted not without difficulty to the Ethiopia crossing, which disrupted the normal flow of trucks.

Several hundred protesters then left mid-morning for a procession that went all the way to the headquarters of ZIM - the Israeli shipping company ZIM Integrate Shopping Ltd. - one of the world's top twenty shipping companies, listed on the New York Stock Exchange in January 2021, with the backing of Citigroup, Goldman Sachs and Barclays; a group that in March of the same reported the largest profits in its 75-year history, in part thanks to the trafficking of arms to the Zionist state.

An Israeli-flagged giant of the sea with several offices in Italy, a major player in the Mediterranean maritime-port system, whose activities (like similar companies) are conducted in relative "opacity" thanks to complicity to the various national authorities that monitor maritime traffic.

The procession, after stopping in front of the ZIM headquarters - protected by police forces in riot gear in front of the entrance - set off again in the direction of the garrison, joining those who had maintained the active blockade, thus marking their presence until noon.

It was a day of struggle that left its mark and found some media prominence already since its announcement, given that it is part of a series of global actions against arms deals to Israel, against the military-industrial apparatus that works for the Zionist state and the war research supply chain that collaborates with Tel Aviv.

A giant Palestinian flag was painted on the asphalt in the vicinity of the blockade, with the words "Stop Wars" and "Free Palestine" in English and Arabic, while in front of the Israeli company headquarters pelted with red paint was written on the road surface "Stop the Weapons Traffic. Murderous Israel."

Numerous speeches were made from early morning at the presidium convened by CALP, which succeeded in bringing together the entire arc of trade union-political activism in the city and drew numerous comrades and comrades from outside La Superba.

The national spokesperson of Potere al Popolo, Marta Collot, spoke and recalled, speaking of the November 4 demonstration in Rome, the call that came out of it to "build on November 19 in Rome a large assembly to which you are all invited to participate in order to build a boycott to what are Israeli crimes, to build a broad and popular boycott to what Israel is doing in Pale-

stine, to make sure that the Palestinian people are not alone, and to make our contribution not only by filling the squares, but also by building with moments like today -- and we hope that they will grow wider and wider -- of struggle and concrete support for the cause of the Palestinian people that speaks to each and every one of us."

Collot was referring to the appeal launched by the Angelo Baracca Committee, promoter of the Nov. 4 national demonstration, which has convened an assembly for Sunday, Nov. 19, at 10:30 a.m. at the Intifada in Rome "to revive the importance of the boycott and sanctions against the Zionist state."

A student from the Student Opposition Alternative recalled "the silence and complicity of the West, which immediately sided with Israel," recalling that CALP's is "an example of a concrete struggle against arms trafficking in the port of Genoa."

He then announced that they will be in the streets all over Italy on the November 17 mobilization day with the watchwords, "money to school and not to war!" according to the effective slogan launched in a joint statement with Cambiare Rotta a few days ago.

A university student from Changing Course then recalled how "it is from boycott actions like this one that the opposition to the war and barbarism of the West starts."

She went on to talk about the various occupations that have developed in various universities "from Naples to Rome" and the various petitions that "demand the cessation of the agreements

between the universities, the war chain and the illegitimate state of Israel." He also confirmed the students' presence at the national assembly in Rome on Nov. 19.

If CALP was the initiator of this day of struggle, responding to the call made on Oct. 16 by the Palestinian unions, the Union of Basic Trade Unions-along with a part of confrontational unionism-immediately made it its own.

There is in fact emerging in combative unionism in Genoa the need for a moment of city struggle that would give workers the opportunity to express, through appropriate action, their opposition to the Palestinian massacre by crossing their arms.

At the same time, throughout the union, the need has arisen for a moment of national con-

frontation of the workers' categories on how to act-as workers-on the whole military-industrial complex ranging from manufacturing to logistics, and not only in the port area.

As was the case on Feb. 25, a "workers' point of view" on the ongoing Arab-Israeli conflict must emerge, making use of the historical tools that the workers' movement has deployed to stop wars, aggregating a wide area of consensus in concrete action.

Another important action was the raid on the headquarters of the European Parliament in Rome, with related occupation. Here the banner, "EU complicit with Israel," was displayed, and activists handed over the list of more than 10,000 Palestinian civilian victims in Gaza.

They also demanded an immediate stand for a

ceasefire, as well as "a halt to agreements and funding through research programs that the European Union allocates every year to the colonial state of Israel."

It is clear that this Friday opens with facts a different horizon to the possibility of expressing concrete support for Palestine, and we think that the assembly on Sunday, November 19 in Rome can be a first shared framework, in a path that interweaves street mobilization with active boycott and mass civil disobedience.

Because those who wage war on the Palestinian people should not be left in.



Breaking every complicity between Italy and Israel: the role of the academic boycott

** Today, as young university students, we took part in the participated national assembly in Rome "Breaking all complicity between Italy and Israel."

In recent weeks we have been engaged in the squares, ports and occupying universities throughout Italy, from Rome to Turin, from Bologna to Genoa, to condemn the complicity between academia and the genocide in Palestine, and the more general involvement of the world of education and research within the imperialist wars.

At today's assembly, we reiterated the necessity of the academic boycott and the demands for the immediate interruption of the agreements between MUR and Israel, formalized in the agreements since 2000, the immediate revocation of the agreements with Israeli universities in addition to the interruption of all agreements that link the university to the war supply chain, from war production giants such as Leonardo spa to Atlantic military alliances such as NATO.

Let us block at the origin the complicity between the world of education and Israeli apartheid for universities that are again diverse places of thought and promoters of peace, not a piece in works of extermination; Let us multiply and enhance the initiatives in support of Palestine in a general and shared framework of struggle against apartheid and imperialism!

Below is the text of our contribution to today's assembly. With the Palestinian resistance until victory **

Since October 7 to date, after almost a month and a half of massacres perpetuated against the Palestinian population of the Gaza Strip and beyond, the Western world continues to maintain a position of silezio-assent babbling every now and then timid qualms while Israel carries out a real genocide, as much as oceanic demonstrations have invested every corner of the world and as much as some countries such as Bolivia have taken a clear position against Israel's crimes, nothing is being done in Italy as in the rest of the European Union.

Not only the Meloni government, but also the entire arc of our country's parliamentary forces, are siding with the inalienable and unchallengeable right to "self-defense of the only democracy in the Middle East," while journalists and the media are grasping at straws to find new ideological justifications for the Zionist state's ethnic cleansing.

The Gaza Strip, battered by a complete economic, energy, military blockade by Israel, left without electricity, gas, food, drinking water and medical supplies, is the most overpopulated concentration camp on earth, and for the past month and a half tons of explosive bombs have been dumped on that population of 70 percent women and children locked in cages.

The more than 11,000 victims, the number of which continues to grow, including more than 4,000 children weigh on the Western conscience and on our government that has blood on its hands. The impunity Israel enjoys while violating

human rights, and the principles of the Geneva Convention of 1950 shows how international law is now nothing but waste paper, or a further weapon of blackmail in the hands of the West. Phosphorus bombs and cluster bombs are indeed being dropped on the civilian population, but also on the border with Lebanon. In Gaza, hospitals, refugee centers, U.N. schools, journalists, residential buildings are being indiscriminately targeted mind more than 1 million citizens have been forced to move from the north to the south of the strip in a terrible new Nakba.

In our latitudes, as had already been seen with the war in Ukraine, the first weapons used are censorship, distortion of information and widespread use of media propaganda, restriction of political and democratic agility.

Our communist youth organization in Italy is engaging, in schools, universities and neighborhoods, pursuing several lines of work, first and foremost giving centrality to the work of analysis and counter-information. At a time when the media narrative is crushed doing information work proves crucial and successful in raising awareness and mobilizing.

Further ground for work is being done in the universities, raising the issue of relations between the hubs of higher education with Israeli universities, which today is effectively enlisting us alongside the Zionist regime, NATO and the European military-industrial apparatus. In the progressive integration of the defense and military apparatuses and war companies, knowledge training is also being shaped ad hoc. For example, the historical revisionism we are witnessing

leads to a return to wartime and military glories, if not directly to fascist and reactionary ideals, a dangerous slope that we protested on November 4 in the streets.

The general tendency for public research to be more and more the handmaiden of the military comes through research agreements, patents, historical revisionism in curricula, covenants of patronage and collaboration, targeted incentives and scholarship, and ever less development of critical thinking.

If already in general public defunding has led to the entry of private companies into our universities, even more in trend this is occurring with companies that are part of the war supply chain and with national and supranational bodies with a military function, such as the NATO Science for Peace and Security Program, large funding presented as resources for scientific development in member and partner countries that conceal the strengthening of control over strategic research for military interests.

Knowledge and knowledge production put at the service of the chain of death instead of in the search for solutions to the cogent problems of Humanity, as of our generation.

It is necessary to mobilize! from Pisa to Genoa, from Milan to Bologna, Bari, Rome... in numerous universities initiatives of students and professors in support of Palestine are growing with signature campaigns against the agreements, principals, pressure on rectors and the Ministry of University. As the occupations of Naples, Padua, Venice, Rome, Turin, Genoa and Marceta

have also shown, the world of university students stands with Palestine, and calls on individual universities and the Minister of Universities not only to take a stand against the ongoing genocide, but also the immediate halt of all agreements between academia and war, against the complicity of education and research with Israeli apartheid.

Going by just a few examples: The dozens of Israeli universities and research centers are involved and fully integrated in the apartheid and genocide of the Palestinian people, either overtly through agreements with the Israeli military branch, or less blatantly by occupying with their facilities territories wrested from the Palestinians, and thus contributing to the erasure of the historical memory and politicide of a people.

Many of these universities rise on land illegally annexed by Israel from the Palestinian territories, such as Ariel University founded in 1978, which "presents a new perspective of contemporary Zionism and strives to revitalize the values of state-building through excellence in science and research," as the website states. Or how Tel Aviv University is located on land belonging to Sheikh Muwannis, a Palestinian village whose inhabitants were expelled by Jewish militias in 1948.

Or it is about agreements that tie us directly involved institutions such as the Technion - Israel Institute of Technology in the city of Haifa, to programs for military purposes in the national academic system and is within a collaborative network with the European Union. With Horizon 2020 alone, the Technion has obtained research projects worth a total of 89.6 million euros from the EU. It is also affiliated with the Conference

of European Schools for Advanced Engineering Education and Research (CESAER), which has 53 excellent universities from 24 European countries + Israel (including Italian universities) cooperating together in the technical and scientific area.

The Technion is internationally known for having directly contributed to the research, design and implementation of some of the most destructive weapon systems used by the Israeli armed forces: prominent among them is the remotely controlled "D9" bulldozer, used by the Army to demolish Palestinian homes; or the optical fibers capable of detecting underground tunnels, the testing of which first took place in the Gaza Strip. Or the air defense missile system "Iron Dome," which has been employed since the bombings against Gaza in the summer of 2014.

Technion is just one of several examples of Israel's widespread use of education in the occupation in Palestine.

Indeed, research centers facilitate with financial and/or educational benefits students called to serve in the military during war operations. In addition to collaborating with companies such as Elbit Security Systems Ltd. A manufacturer of technologies and drones used in mass surveillance.

The Italian MUR since 2000-2001 has entered into cooperation and research agreements in the academic sphere with Israel to ensure the development and flourishing especially of certain fields among which applied engineering and new technologies stand out.

On the other hand, with regard to academia's

general connection with the war industry, one of the most disturbing investors in Italian universities is the Italian military technology giant Leonardo spa. The company finances through agreements, internships and career days universities and technical colleges in our country. With the creation of Leonardo Labs it has, in collaboration with university research centers, developed new technologies and patents that will be used in war production.

But there is no shortage of funding from the U.S. Pentagon and direct agreements of our Ministry of University and Research with NATO, and with the Ministry of Defense, going on to actually strengthen through academia the geopolitical role of Italy and especially the EU on a global scale.

In 2021, the Leonardo Med-Or Foundation was established with the aim of "promoting cultural, research and scientific training activities in order to strengthen the ties, exchanges and international relations between Italy and the countries of the Mediterranean area extended to the Sahel, Horn of Africa and Red Sea (Med) and the Middle and Far East (Or)." President Marco Minniti, a former interior minister in the PD government who is best remembered for the funding of Libyan lagers and the repressive measures of the security decrees, has included several rectors of Italian universities in the scientific committee.

Or again Thales is one of the world's largest arms companies, producing military drones, armored vehicles, missile systems and more. One of its projects is the development of UAV watchkeeper drones carried out in collaboration with Israel's Elbit systems. Thales has seen its shares grow by 60 percent since the military

escalation in Ukraine, a growth similar to that of Leonardo, with which it is a partner in the Space Alliance strategic alliance, formed in 2005, with two joint ventures on aerospace: Thales Alenia Space, where the French company has 67 percent and the Italian 33 percent, and Telespazio where Leonardo has 67 percent and Leonardo 33 percent.

Case in point was for the period 2021-2027 the European Defense Fund 8 billion euros of funds allocated by the European Union to boost military research for defense purposes and the industry related to it.

The central aspect of the research and agreements we highlight is that behind a civilian or even "internationalist" mask lies a scientific project to strengthen warfare, with so-called "dual use" research, military research in civilian guise.

The reason we condemn research agreements is to be found in the fact that our university model does not distinguish between wartime and civilian research, thus going out of its way to exploit a basic ambiguity to fund full-fledged war projects.

Therefore, it is important to reiterate the impossibility of coexistence that exists between the idea of public research serving society and the warfare supply chain to which universities nowadays contribute.

It is therefore necessary to pursue paths that aim to interrupt any kind of relationship with war environments and military apparatuses in our universities, to block at the origin the complicity between the world of education and Israeli apar-

theid, for universities that are of new places of thought and promoters of peace, not dowel in works of extermination.

It will not be in the name of students that the genocide of the Palestinian people will be carried out and that Western imperialist wars will be financed.

November 2023

PER UNA NUOVA SCUOLA PUBBLICA
Con la Palestina nel cuore!

TORINO H 9.30 P.ZZA XXVIII DICEMBRE
MILANO H 9 P.ZZA CADORNA
GENOVA H 9 P.ZZA CORVETTO
LA SPEZIA H 8.30 P.ZZA GARIBALDI
PISA H 9 P.ZZA GUERRAZZI
MODENA H 15.30 P.ZZA MATTEOTTI
BOLOGNA H 9.30 P.ZZA S.FRANCESCO
RAVENNA H 14.30 CSA SPARTACO
PERUGIA H 8.15 P.ZZA PARTIGIANI
FROSINONE H 15.30 CASA DEL VOLONTARIATO
MONTEROTONDO H 15.30 CASA DEL POPOLO
PASSO CORESE H 8.10 POLO DIDATTICO
BRACCIANO H 16 GIARDINI DEL CASTELLO
ROMA H 9.30 PIRAMIDE
POMEZIA H 14 P.ZZA SAN BENEDETTO DA NORCIA
LATINA H 9.30 P.ZZA DEL POPOLO
NAPOLI H 10 P.ZZA GARIBALDI
BARI H 9 P.ZZA UMBERTO
BRINDISI H 9 P.ZZA CAIROLI

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