



# Rete dei Comunisti

INTERNATIONAL BULLETIN

==== 01/2024 ====



The International Bulletin of the Rete dei Comunisti enters its third year of activity.

When we decided to give life to this instrument, we were thinking of the need to have a greater connection with communists outside our country, which still remains the main terrain of our action, aiming to reconstruct a discussion, a point of view, a coherent practice among us. This need remains intact, as a requirement of the historical phase that directly engages with the disengagement from the Eurocentric 'point of view', laying solid foundations for internationalist work, and certainly this is a path that does not end in the short term.

Starting with this issue, we have decided to take an annual numbering that allows for a focus not so much on time but rather on the current political campaigns, on the activity and analysis that we build piece by piece.

At the heart of this issue, straddling the old and the new year, is obviously the issue of Palestinian resistance against the cycle of neo-colonial oppression that for decades has strangled any possibility of emancipation for the Palestinian people and the Middle Eastern peoples as a whole. The dastardly multiplication of war fronts throughout the Middle East we have been witnessing in recent weeks clearly shows us how our imperialism is in crisis of oxygen and legitimacy. There are no longer carrots, but only sticks to distribute around the world; but the world seems much better equipped to resist, and to shrug off, Western bludgeoning. In this new historical condition, in which what used to be Western overpower can no longer dominate unchallenged, lies the terrain for our action today and especially tomorrow.

After two interventions with respect to our fight against Israel in our latitudes, we felt it was essential to give an update on the democratic struggle over the LIPs (popular initiative laws), whose signature collection, which opened in May, was also carried out by our comrades and is coming to a victorious conclusion. Likewise, an update on the Italian 'social thermometer', taking as an example the successful transport strike called by USB last December, a day that the government tried in every way to stop but which, thanks to the determination of the union comrades, turned out to be a good one.

We could not fail to give, in this issue, a final international farewell to Riadh, our 'fedayn'. The comrade who left us was a fighting trade unionist of the first magnitude, but also an all-round communist and an important member of our organisation.

In closing, we recall the forthcoming release of the book on the proceedings of the Forum 'The Garden and the Jungle', held in Rome last March. Presentations in Italy will begin very soon, but we obviously do not rule out the possibility of an international presentation and discussion.

## Against the enslavement of the Italian government to the state of Israel

For the continuity of the internationalist political initiative

*Rete Dei Comunisti – Cambiare Rotta (Organizzazione Giovanile Comunista) – Opposizione Studentesca d'Alternativa (OSA)*

A Public Security circular sent to the Questors on the territory orders, for this weekend, the postponement of demonstrations in solidarity with Palestine.

"As is well known, 27th January is the 'Day of Remembrance', on the occasion of which, in observance of Article 2 of the Law of 20 July 2000, No. 211, initiatives, ceremonies and meetings will be held in memory of the victims of the Holocaust and of those who, at the risk of their lives, opposed the project of persecution and extermination. For the same date', underlines the circular, 'in some provinces, initiatives in favour of the Palestinian cause have been announced in connection with the ongoing conflict in the Middle East, and it is likely that further events with similar aims may be organised on the national territory for the same day'.

The demonstrations referred to in the circular are those that have been held for months all over the world to condemn the Israeli retaliation and collective punishment after the 7 October Operation Deluge of Al Aqsa, and to promote the ceasefire that would bring an end to the Palestinian genocide by Israel.

These mobilisations, initiatives, and direct actions in some countries, including the United States, see the prominence of an important part of the Jewish community.

An important part of world public opinion, starting with that of countries whose governments are accomplices of Israel in the massacre being perpetrated in Gaza and the West Bank, continues to speak out, flanked by a number of states that have supported the South African government's political-legal action at the Inter-

national Court of Justice in The Hague to prevent what South African lawyers rightly judge to be - both from the point of view of the subjective will of the Israeli political-military establishment and the incontrovertible objective data - a veritable genocide.

This would theoretically nail the UN international community to prevent this from happening by taking a whole range of appropriate measures from arms embargoes to sanctions to diplomatic isolation.

The popular mobilisations, which are accompa-

nied by an effective worldwide boycott campaign against Israel, in fact take up the 'spirit' of those political campaigns that contributed to the fall of apartheid in South Africa, isolating at the time the segregationist regime in Pretoria that was then only supported by Israel and Taiwan.

In this context, under a pretext - apparently at the input of the Jewish communities of Milan and Rome, but clearly on the diktat of Tel Aviv - they want to prevent it from taking place on the very day on which the 17 judges of the United Nations International Court of Justice in The Hague ruled on the transitional measures with respect to the genocide being perpetrated.



The Court rejected the Israeli, and strongly supported by the United States, request to dismiss the case, and although it will take years for a legal judgement on Israel's actions, the right of the Palestinians to be protected from acts of genocide was recognised.

The court also ruled that Israel must return in a month to report on what it is doing to uphold the order to take all measures within its power to prevent acts of genocide in Gaza, a ruling that creates international legal obligations for Israel. Returning to the directive of the Ministry of the Interior, this one, with a mix of creativity and bureaucratic nitpicking states, with respect to the mobilisations: 'if carried out in conjunction with the aforementioned anniversary, they could assume connotations detrimental, under the formal organisational and content aspect, to the national value that the Italian Republic has attributed with the aforementioned law to the commemorative spirit of the racial laws (...)'.  
  
The circular ends by saying that 'in the current international conflictual context, the rise of tensions with the consequent risk of negative effects on the maintenance of public and social order'.

So while our country's involvement in the trend towards war on various fronts - with this week's vote in Parliament on arms supplies to the Kiev regime and its announced participation in the EU's Aspide military mission in the Red Sea against the Houthi rebels -, it wants to criminalise dissent to governmental political choices in advance, starting with mobilisations that highlight its complicity with the genocide being perpetrated against the Palestinians, with a very

dangerous precedent being set by centre-left local administrations such as in Milan or Rome. Because this is genocide, just like the various 'holocausts' that took place in the golden age of colonialism, starting with the European one against the Amerindian peoples, the one perpetrated by the young Turkish state against the Armenians, and the one perpetrated by the Nazi-fascists (and their allies) against the Jewish people as well.

Italy, under pressure from Tel Aviv, is aligning itself with the initial unsuccessful attempts by France, Great Britain and Germany to prevent a human tide from rising in solidarity with Palestine by isolating the Israeli government.

We politically denounce this extremely serious act on the part of the Italian government, which undermines the already slim margins of democratic political viability in this country and is the consequence 'on the domestic front' of a wicked warlike adventurism.

We call to vigilance all those who in recent months have taken to the streets in support of Palestine and against the ongoing Zionist massacre, to continue with greater determination and lucidity these internationalist initiatives to which we have contributed, and will continue to contribute.

*Friday 26 January 2024*

## Boycotting Israel and the Italian State's servility to NATO and Zionism

One hundred people listening to more than twenty speeches from all regions participated on Sunday 28 January in the second National Assembly to Boycott Israel and Break the Complicity between Italy and the Zionist State.

An assembly promoted by the Angelo Baracca Committee, which in the original programmes should have been distinctly operational, with the main objective of relaunching the boycott campaign after the three national mobilisations carried out in two months against Carrefour.

But the events of the last few days have broadened the spectrum of the discussion, reserving space and political reflection for the most important events. Representatives of organisations of the Palestinian people and the rest of the world, workers and students, pacifist associations, movements and committees of purpose, radical left parties and individuals in solidarity animated the discussion for three hours of the morning.

First of all, the assembly emphasised how on the external front, Italy's activation in the Red Sea operations decrees a qualitative leap in the country's participation in the war, now well beyond 'simple co-belligerence', which, like the sending of armaments to Ukraine, brings Italy closer to the abyss of war conflict.

On the other hand, on the domestic front, the Interior's attempt to ban demonstrations in support of Palestine on Remembrance Day showed the servility of the Italian state towards the Zionist state of Israel and NATO.

What remains of this country's democratic sovereignty has been called into question by the indication that came from the representatives of Zionism in Italy and promptly picked up by our institutions, in the complicit silence of the 'fake' parliamentary oppositions.

To have held the squares and defied the bans then was an important signal of the movement for Palestine. In Milan, the will to hold the procession anyway clashed with police batons, proving the pro-Zionist subservience that permeates the res publica at all levels.

Thus, probably for the first time in Italy, the Holocaust Memorial Day broadened its horizons not only to the inhuman Shoah, but also to the other genocides that have occurred in history, from Gaza today to that of the natives of other continents.

In addition, the Assembly emphasised the present and future presence on our territory of Italian-Israeli soldiers fighting in the Israeli army, in fact a foreign armed force in the country's ranks. The ongoing genocide in Gaza, which the International Court of Justice has also formally opened up to after South Africa's denunciation, includes these same soldiers among its executioners.

This very serious fact exemplifies both the aforementioned weakening of our country's democratic sovereignty and the double standard reserved by the Italian state for those who went to fight Isis or the resurgent Nazism.

And so, the boycott action must know how to insert itself in the contradictions opening up in the national and international political scenario, acquiring strength and incisiveness alongside the repeatedly manifested popular desire to support the Palestinian cause.

The objective is to field a campaign not only of boycott but also political, legal and awareness-raising, leading directly to 25 April with a clear word: the only Resistance is that of the Palestinian people, there is no demonstration against war and for peace without the flag of Palestine, anti-fascism is anti-Zionism, not allowing the genocide taking place in Gaza to be represented in the squares of Resistance by the flag of the Zionist State of Israel.

In this scenario, the proposals put forward by the assembly are outlined on all levels of the campaign, of which we provide an operational summary below:

- second weekend in February, probably Saturday 10th, national mobilisation in front of pharmacies against Teva products, the company that holds the monopoly on generic drugs, ideally to be flanked with a letter to be sent to general practitioners not to prescribe products that have anything to do with the Zionist occupation;
- support for the 23 February strike and participation in the 24 February demonstration in Milan, showing support for the Palestinian people and denouncing in the square the Italian state's subservience to Zionism and NATO.

In addition to these dates already in the field, the Assembly intends to flank

- a national mobilisation on the issue of academic boycott, asking universities to suspend, as the courageous Rector of the University of Cagliari has already done, collaborations with companies that support Israeli apartheid, such as the Med-Or foundation
- a political-legal campaign against the presence in Italy of Italo-Israeli soldiers who are carrying out the genocide in Gaza;
- moments of denunciation against the bad public service offered by RAI in its coverage of the conflict and against the suspension of funding decreed by the Meloni government to the Unrwa agency, which provides support to Palestinian refugees;
- imagine other moments of boycott and public awareness against Leonardo and the companies engaged in the front line with the

Zionist regime.

Certainly intense work, but all the more necessary to show once again all the people's support for the Palestinian cause.



## USB transport strike

A very successful strike, the one proclaimed by USB last December, despite the Meloni government's heavy climate of intimidation towards the Italian labour movement. On this occasion, it was the Minister of Transport Salvini who took charge of the repression, even before the Ministry of the Interior...

We publish below the two communiqués, the one before and the one immediately after the strike, in which the union speaks directly on this issue.

*14 December*

Transport Minister Salvini's statements regarding the fact that those who disobey his order, the fourth in just over two months, pay the fine certainly does not take us by surprise, let alone intimidate us.

The decision to disobey this act is the result of a precise assessment of the illegitimacy of using an instrument that the law grants to either the prefect or the minister only in cases of serious and imminent harm to mobility and in exceptional situations, certainly not to campaign.

This is a very onerous choice given that the fine can be up to 50,000 euros for an organisation that lives off the contributions of its members alone and cannot involve the workers in the sector given the blackmail of fines of up to 1,000 euros per day for each individual worker.

But this is a step we are claiming precisely because it is indispensable in order to be able to challenge the order also in the ordinary courts in addition to the Administrative Court, which

often, unfortunately, arrives late if not posthumously.

The only thing we really did not like about Salvini's statements is that he continues to focus on the union instead of acknowledging the absolute and brutal unwillingness of the employers' parties who yesterday slammed the door in the minister's face.

Without a strike, workers are disarmed, poorer and at the mercy of increasingly arrogant bosses; that is why defending it is vital and we certainly cannot be frightened by the fines threatened by Salvini.

*16 December*

The first data of adhesions to the Local Public Transport strike on Friday 15 tell us that the workers did not let themselves be intimidated by Salvini's anti-strike order, which reduced the strike to 4 hours.

The reduction is to be thought of as blackmail against the workers, who risk fines of up to one thousand euros if they strike outside the ordinance. In some cases, moreover, the 4 hours imposed by Salvini coincided with the guarantee bands: this is the case, for example, of Modena, where the strike was thus forced into a mere two hours.

But four hours is not enough to claim one's rights: USB decided to maintain, as a form of political protest against the attacks on the right to strike, the mobilisation of workers for the 24 hours announced, also taking the risk of a heavy sanction and launching a challenge to the

Meloni government. All this without involving individual workers to avoid the risk of individual sanctions that would be disastrous even in the face of extremely low wages in the sector.

The union takes on this plan to reiterate that it is a fundamental right guaranteed by the Constitution that is under attack today.

Let us recall how Salvini's order does not affect 24-hour strikes proclaimed on a territorial or company basis, such as at ANM in Naples and at the regional level in Umbria, where the abstention is proceeding as planned and with large and massive adhesions.

The first available data on adhesions follow.

**Rome:** Metro A and Metro C closed, significant reductions in Metro B, Roma Lido, Roma Viterbo and Termini Centocelle. Significantly reduced surface service.

**Naples:** ANM, 24 hour territorial strike, 95% adhesion. The three city funiculars Centrale, Montesanto and Mergellina closed

**Bologna and Ferrara:** 85% adhesion.

**Perugia:** 80% adhesion in the morning.

**Puglia:** adhesion 70%.

**Trieste:** 50% adhesion

**Monfalcone and Isontino:** 70% adhesion for extra-urban lines and 90% for urban lines

**Venice:** 40% adhesion

**Turin:** 50% adhesion

**Milan:** 60% adhesion for surface transport, closed Metro line M3



## We have signatures for citizens' initiative laws!

In the past few months, our comrades have been busy collecting signatures for two important popular initiative laws (LIP), one with Potere al Popolo for the introduction of the minimum wage of 10 euros - because we must remember that the minimum wage does not exist in Italy - and the second for the introduction of the crime of murder at work through the action of USB.

On the Potere al Popolo page, you can read for months now that a big mobilisation has been launched to make everyone, whatever job they do, earn at least 10 euros an hour. This is not asking for the moon, but a very minimal wage, but one that is higher than the wages of many workers today.

It is the first step to regain dignity, rights and to give back importance to the work we do. We run the show for entrepreneurs, managers, the rich who live off their income at our expense, and also find the courage to complain.

As for the union's action, we take it directly from the web: 'In Italy, every day, at least three workers lose their lives: a real massacre. Thousands of deaths that would be avoidable if the measures to protect the health and safety of workers were respected. In Italy there is a widespread culture that sees the health and safety of workers as a cost to be reduced in order to increase profits.

This is why we are convinced that we need an offence of murder and serious or very serious injury at work: a deterrent against those who want to speculate on the lives of workers. This led to the building of a committee and the pre-

sentation of the citizens' initiative law on Friday 19 May. We want to introduce a new criminal offence: that of homicide and serious or very serious injury at work, to protect the health of everyone'.

Today, these great signature collections have finally come to an end, with two major popular and democratic victories.

[Legge Omicidio sul Lavoro](#)

[#10€ILMINIMO! CAMPAGNA PER IL SALARIO MINIMO IN ITALIA! \(poterealpopolo.org\)](#)



## Comrade Riadh, our 'fedayn', has died

The Comrades

It was expected but no less painful news. Tonight our comrade and brother Riadh Zhagdane passed away. He joins his wonderful life companion Raoudha who had left us a short time ago.

To write about Riadh is to describe the life and trajectory of a fighter, which is why we called him 'fedayn' after the Palestinian fighters he always unconditionally sided with.

Riadh was also a militant communist in his home country of Tunisia, from which he had had to flee because of political persecution.

When he arrived in Italy, it didn't take him long to become a trade union activist in his workplace and in the logistics category. First with the Sdl and then with the Usb.

For years Riadh had been in charge of trade union work for the Usb in the very tough and conflictual logistics sector. A sector where the class struggle often resembles that of the 19th century and where a large part of the workers are immigrants.

And this piece of the labour world for Riadh was the water in which he swam and fought openly and always in the front row. At one picket the police broke his head with a baton. So much so that we sometimes had to pull him away by the jacket.

Those slogans such as 'Who touches one touches all!' and 'Slaves Never!', which the logistics workers throw out as a factor of cohesion, redemption, identity, always rang clear and strong

in Riadh's chords, because of what he was doing now and because of what he carried as a legacy of the struggles against neo-colonialism. Riadh was a combative trade unionist of the first magnitude, but he was also an all-round communist. This is why he almost naturally joined the Rete dei Comunisti.

Riadh is a demonstration of what it means to be a communist within the social conflict. An example for the comrades of the new generation.

It is true that there are deaths that weigh like feathers and deaths that weigh like mountains. For many comrades, Riadh was a mountain, a fighter, our 'fedayn'.

We salute comrade Riadh Zaghdane with clenched fists and embrace his son Nidhal.



## Cuba's internationalist struggle for the liberation of African peoples

In December 2023, the Rete dei Comunisti published the first edition of the pamphlet 'Slaves Never! Cuba's internationalist struggle for the liberation of African peoples'.

The pamphlet contains the full translation of the speeches that Nelson Mandela and Fidel Castro

gave on the 26th July anniversary in Matanzas, Cuba.

The pamphlet is being disseminated in a militant manner and will be presented in various Italian cities over the coming months.

### Nelson Mandela - Fidel Castro

# Schiavi mai!



La lotta internazionalista di Cuba  
per la liberazione dei popoli africani



## The Middle East in the Multipolar World and the Arab-Israeli Conflict

Rete dei Comunisti

The western flight from Afghanistan in the summer of 2021 and the gradual ousting of France (and others) from the Sahel were two of the major flashpoints - from a military point of view - of western hegemony in contexts that - except for brief periods - have been pivots of imperialist domination.

The events in Afghanistan and Sahel showed the inherent weakness of Western imperialism in maintaining a neo-colonial dynamic by militarily occupying, politically subjugating and economically exploiting those territories.

These two episodes were the plastic representation of a change in the world power relations in a context where the path of disengagement from the western supply chains and the concrete possibility of entering into a configuration of relations that sets aside neo-colonial logic is increasingly viable.

With the development of the current Israeli-Palestinian conflict, this Western decline has become more and more evident, especially in the face of the determined response on a regional scale of the Resistance forces that are increasingly giving Israel and its allies a hard time.

They include Hezbollah in Lebanon, which defeated Israel in 2006 after having previously forced it to withdraw from the south of the country in 2000, the 'Shia' Resistance in Iraq, which constantly targets the US contingents in the country and Syria, and the Yemeni 'rebels' whose mili-

tary capacity and popular consensus have matured from years of resisting the Saudi-led coalition and one of the most advanced fighting traditions in the entire Middle East.

If the fates of Zionism have always been tied by a double thread - in a relationship of mutual implication - to those of the Euro-Atlantic bloc, it is clear that it is necessary to situate the political significance of the Palestinian Resistance in the current historical phase within a broader conflict and on a regional scale.

A context in which the twilight of Western hegemony and the affirmation of an effectively multipolar world are intertwined: within a framework of an ever-increasing tendency towards war and the inability - on the part of those who have been the gendarmes of the Capitalist Mode of Production - to diplomatically resolve the conflicts they have inherited and helped to foment.

We are also in an epochal transition, which does not seem to be 'peacefully' shaped today.

This is happening in a region where Western hegemony has been challenged by regional powers - such as Iran - , by the arc of resistance of the so-called Shia Crescent, and by global geo-political actors such as the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China, which in a sense lead the redemption of the Global South in the multipolar world.

In addition, even countries that were historical



pawns of Western hegemony on the ground such as Turkey - a NATO member - and Saudi Arabia have long since begun to design their own development model and the framework of their economic-diplomatic relations in a way that is more disengaged from US plans.

In this dynamic of affirming an order different from that prefigured by the US, two events have particularly marked the fate of the 'Middle East'. The first, in order of time, is Russia's intervention in Syria against the jihadist insurgency in the autumn of 2015, which contributed to the failure of Western destabilisation plans in the proxy war against the Arab country.

The second was the beginning of the normalisation of diplomatic relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia - with the simultaneous opening of a political-diplomatic solution to the war in Yemen - thanks to Chinese mediation in the spring of last year.

Not of lesser impact were the unsuccessful attempts to make Iraq a Western protectorate after having invaded and occupied it since 2003, and to crush the Islamic Republic, or at least to bring about the emergence within it of a more 'dialoguing' leadership with the West.

The new-found protagonism of the Arab League promoted by Algeria should also be underlined. It was precisely the Arab League, on the initiative of Algiers, that had put the Palestinian struggle back at the centre of its agenda and then welcomed Syria back into its ranks, laying the foundations for a greater autonomy of the Arab bourgeoisie in opposing the normalisation process with the Zionist entity.

If on the military level the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has taken on a regional dimension - as it has, mutatis mutandis, several times since 1948 - on the political level it has become internationalised with South Africa's action at the UN's International Court of Justice, supported by an ever-widening arc of countries and forces.

This action not only literally puts Israel's actions on trial, but its Western complicity, and constitutes a punch in the stomach for those who have set themselves up as spokesmen and champions of 'human rights', but who remain mute and passive in the face of genocide.

The 'Al-Aqsa Flood' operation conducted by Hamas on 7 October confirmed that there can be no peace in the Middle East without the fulfilment of historic Palestinian claims.

At the same time, he pointed out that the mechanism of military escalation in the region cannot be reversed unless action is taken on its major vector: Israel.

It is in this new phase of the end of the stalemate in the confrontation between political blocs worldwide and the militarisation of international relations that the conflict on a regional scale must be analysed and understood.

This is why we are organising a day of in-depth analysis, confrontation and public debate on Sunday 25 February from 10 a.m. in Milan at the family circle of Proletarian Unity, 140 Viale Monza.

**IL GIARDINO  
E LA GIUNGLA**

MODO DI PRODUZIONE  
CAPITALISTICO E FRAMMENTAZIONE  
DEL MERCATO MONDIALE

**ATTI DEL FORUM**  
della Rete dei Comunisti  
**18 - 19 MARZO 2023**

Rete dei Comunisti

## Rete dei Comunisti

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