

From Ukraine to Palestine Occupation is a crime

War crimes

Bombing hospitals and schools, denying civilian populations access to food, water, power and heating are war crimes. We denounce the hypocrisy of western politicians who have not hesitated to call out war crimes in the case of Ukraine, but have covered up Israeli war crimes by saying Israel “has a right to defend itself”.

Occupation and annexation are crimes whether in Ukraine or Palestine. Universal standards on human rights should be defended everywhere.

Denial of national identity

Both the Palestinian and Ukrainian people face denial of their national identity and culture.

Some Zionists deny that there is any such thing as a Palestinian people and argue that Palestinians are simply Middle-East Arabs, who could live anywhere in the Middle East, thus paving the way for ethnic cleansing.

Putin denies that Ukraine is a separate country with its own national identity, language and culture. Forcible Russification is being imposed in the occupied territories, for instance requiring Ukrainians to take Russian passports to access healthcare and rewriting the history curriculum in schools.

Right to national self-determination and self-defence

Both Palestinians and Ukrainians have the right to national self-determination and to an independent state. For both peoples these rights have been recognised in UN resolutions, as have calls to end occupations. Both the Russian Federation and Israel have ignored these resolutions.

People who suffer occupation and invasion have the right to resistance. It is up to them to choose the means of resistance. Some will choose armed struggle to defend themselves. If they do so, they have the right to access weapons for this purpose.

While supporting the right to armed self-

defence against occupation, we also oppose the increased militarisation of the West. NATO countries are cynically using Russia’s war on Ukraine to increase military budgets. They claim it is to defend “Western democracy” but at the same time support dictatorships like Saudi Arabia.

Alongside armed struggle there is also resistance on a cultural, diplomatic and political level. This includes the right to call for economic and cultural sanctions against the occupying power. The BDS movement should be supported.

In some cases, as in the case of Palestine, oppressed people will call for a ceasefire. This is the demand of the Palestinians who face genocide if there is not one. The Ukrainians are not demanding a ceasefire now, because they are fighting for a withdrawal of Russian troops from Ukrainian territory.

Palestinians and Ukrainians deserve international solidarity

Both Palestinians and Ukrainians have a just cause when they seek to resist occupation and to defend national independence. Our solidarity is unconditional, but it can be critical of their programme and of their strategy and tactics.

Both conflicts have implications for the sort of world we live in. We should reject the view that any country can be treated as another country’s backyard. We reject the imperialism of the US and the West, but also that of other countries such as Russia.

World peace must be based on self-determination, not national oppression and occupation.

As internationalists we should support both Palestine and Ukraine, resist imperialism and denounce war crimes everywhere.

“The goals declared by Israel for its ongoing operation against Hamas militants in Gaza seem nearly identical to those put forward by Moscow in its campaign against the Ukrainian government”

Sergei Lavrov, Russia’s Foreign Minister, 28 December 2023



Letter of solidarity with Palestinians

Signed by over 400 Ukrainians

We stand in solidarity with the people of Palestine who for 75 years have been subjected and resisted Israeli military occupation, separation, settler colonial violence, ethnic cleansing, land dispossession and apartheid. We write this letter as people to people. The dominant discourse on the governmental level and even among solidarity groups that support the struggles of Ukrainians and Palestinians often creates separation. With this letter we reject these divisions, and affirm our solidarity with everyone who is oppressed and struggling for freedom.....

The letter and signatories is at <https://commons.com.ua/en/ukrayinskij-list-solidarnosti/>



From Palestine to Ukraine All occupations are crimes

The "Social Movement" stands for a just peace in the Middle East, which requires the elimination of structural oppression of Palestinians and systemic violence against the civilian population. We also condemn the Iron Swords Operation launched by the far-right Netanyahu government in response to the condemnable October 7 attacks and the war crimes being committed in its process.The "Social Movement" calls for an immediate ceasefire and the admission of humanitarian aid to the region, and also expresses its support for the Palestinian people in their legitimate desire for a just and lasting peace.

The full statement from Social Movement (Sotsialnyi Rukh) can be viewed at <https://rev.org.ua/from-ukraine-to-palestine-occupation-is-a-crime/>



This leaflet was produced by the **Ukraine Information Group** <https://ukraine-solidarity.org>

Links to solidarity organisations
<https://ukrainesolidaritycampaign.org>
<https://ukraine-solidarity.eu/>
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/USCScotland>

Links to organisations in Ukraine
<https://rev.org.ua/english/>
<https://commons.com.ua/en/>

Urgent Appeal by Ukrainian Trade Unions to the European Trade Union Movement
<https://ukrainesolidaritycampaign.org/2024/04/20/urgent-appeal-by-ukrainian-trade-union-to-the-european-trade-union-movement/>