

From Ukraine to Palestine Occupation is a crime

Ukraine and Palestine are both small nations resisting a vicious colonial power. Their needs, circumstances, and allies are different, but their causes stand on the same foundation. Both Ukrainians and Palestinians have a right to be free and to resist genocide and occupation through all legitimate military means. Both peoples deserve committed international solidarity .

The Western political class supports Ukraine, albeit inconsistently and insufficiently, but not Palestine. This hypocrisy is founded in racism, and in the legacy of the Cold War. We reject this hypocrisy – and also reject its mirror image, often laced with Russian imperialist myths and nostalgia for the Soviet Union, that supports Palestine but not Ukraine.

The need to call out hypocrisy is obvious, but the next steps for us might not be. We need to move to positive solidarity without borders; to forging political and practical links between diverse struggles; and to challenging the narratives that undermine this unity.

There are other conflicts around the world where similar dynamics are at play, including Rwanda and Uganda's war to control mineral production in eastern Congo, the Sudanese civil war, fuelled by outside parties including the United Arab Emirates, Egypt, and Russia, and Kashmir's long struggle for independence from India. In every case, we call for solidarity with democratic, anti-imperialist forces, and for opposition to occupation and oppression.

Join our meeting on Tuesday 11 June to discuss this more.

What internationalism means

**Unite the struggles of Palestine,
Ukraine and beyond**

Tuesday 11 June, 7pm

Community Centre, 62 Marchmont St, WC1N 1AB

Organised by the Ukraine Information Group

unitethestruggles@gmail.com



Israel in Palestine

Invasion and occupation?	More than 75 years of occupation intended to subjugate and dispossess the Palestinian nation.
Settler colonial?	Ethnically cleanses Palestinians and establishes settlements on their land.
Authoritarian rule?	Apartheid. Palestinians subject to a military rule in areas occupied in 1967, unequal status in other areas.
Bombs civilians as collective punishment?	Yes. At least 35,000 killed in Gaza, overwhelmingly civilians (probably many more).
Genocide?	Yes.
Relies on outside support?	Vast military and financial backing from US, Germany, UK, and other nations. Oil from Azerbaijan via Turkey. Surveillance tech co-developed with China.

Russia in Ukraine

	The full-scale invasion in 2022 continued an incursion started in 2014, and capped centuries of imperial violence that has caused millions of deaths.
	Has subsidised tens of thousands of Russians to move into stolen Ukrainian homes on occupied land.
	In Russian-occupied areas: military rule, fake elections, torture, independent trade unions abolished. Ukraine was imperfectly but meaningfully democratic prior to the Russian invasion.
	As much as it can. Western-provided air-defences keep most Ukrainian cities safer than Gaza, or cities Russia has destroyed, e.g. Grozny (Chechnya), Aleppo (Syria) and Mariupol (Ukraine). At least 18,000 civilians (likely many more) killed since 2022.
	Arguably. Putin speaks about eliminating the Ukrainian nation, and when given the opportunity Russian troops have carried out massacres (e.g. Bucha). Western military aid and Ukrainian valour have stopped him killing more civilians. Term “genocide” coined in 1940s by a Pole who saw Moscow’s policy toward Ukraine as “a classic example of the Soviet genocide”.

Relies on North Korean and Iranian arms, Western machine tools, and oil purchases by India and China.

“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