

## STOP US-ISRAEL RAMPAGE

# Defend Iran!

The U.S. and Israel have created a trail of utter devastation. Netanyahu has mercilessly butchered the Palestinian people; Trump has attacked and threatened one country after another. Now they are jointly attacking Iran. *This madness must be stopped! Iran must be defended!*

If the U.S. and Israel succeed in overthrowing the Iranian regime, it will not bring liberation to the Iranian people. They will become slaves of Zionism and imperialism, and the U.S. and Israel will have a free hand to terrorize the region.

The bombs being dropped all over Iran do not distinguish between the regime and the people. Right now, *to stand with the people of Iran means defending the country against foreign aggression*. The Iranian people will settle their accounts with the bloody mullahs on their own terms.

If the U.S. and Israel suffer major military blows, or if the international working class comes out in force against this aggression, it would put a wrench in the current offensive and finally stop Trump's rampage. The working class, particularly in the U.S., has an interest in this as Republicans and Democrats drag the country and the entire world down into a spiral of death and misery. For its own interests it must act and *stop the U.S. war machine!* ■

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### Iran under attack Marxists who failed the test

Since October 7, 2023, Israel has been on an offensive to crush the Palestinians and cripple any resistance to Zionist genocide in the region. In attacking Iran, Netanyahu moved against Israel's most significant counterweight and a longtime thorn in US imperialism's side. The US bombing brought its military power to bear behind the assault by its Israeli attack dog. The US attack was intended not only to strengthen its control over the Middle East but also, at a time when the American empire is in decay, to send a message to the world that any resistance will be met with overwhelming force.

On the part of Israel and the US, this was a reactionary war of aggression. It was an extension of Netanyahu's monstrous onslaught against Gaza, aimed at giving the Zionist butchers a free hand in the region and disarming and prostrating Iran before the imperialists. Iran, on the other hand, was not fighting to oppress anyone. It waged a just and necessary war to defend the country against attack by the oppressor powers that dominate the region. A victory for Iran would have impeded Israel's slaughter of the Palestinians and weakened the US and Israeli stranglehold on the Middle East. It would have provided a powerful impetus to struggle for the oppressed around the world, not least for workers in the US.

Now an unstable ceasefire is in force, with all sides claiming victory and none of the underlying conflicts resolved. **Iranian workers must not let their protest damage on Iran, but backing Iran out as a regional power of force, seeking to compel Iran to accept a deal that would disarm the country. But Iran has not capitulated. It is not, but it did not change the balance of the situation is at a stalemate.**

It is clear that the workers movement is not active anywhere in the world. It is in the MAGA movement had the US, but the regime brutally oppresses the workers' war or said nothing. What was around the world was a sign of weakness that the US war and the workers movement

What should Marxists have done to advance the struggle for revolution in these circumstances? It was necessary to fight for the working class to become a factor. In the first instance, this meant taking a correct position on the war. Revolutionary Marxism has always taken a side with oppressed nations against predatory great powers. In the current war, standing for the *victory of Iran and the defeat of the US and Israel* was the basic and necessary starting point. This includes defending Iran's right to nuclear weapons, a basic measure of self-defence for oppressed countries. But it was also necessary to fight for the independent mobilisation of the working class, against reliance on BRICS, the Iranian regime or any other capitalist force to fight against imperialism.

The Marxist left overwhelmingly failed this test. Some tendencies, like International Socialist Alternative (ISA), directly capitulated to imperialism by drawing an equal sign between the US and its victim. Others, like the International Communist Tendency, arrived at the same position with ultraleft arguments against siding with any bourgeois state, denying the fundamental distinction between oppressed and oppressor nations. Most Marxist groups were not openly social-chauvinist: they opposed the war and denounced Israel and the US but still refused to defend Iran. Some organisations took the side of Iran while also supporting its reactionary regime.

Around the world, only a few tendencies took a correct position for class-struggle defence of Iran. But most of these did so only on paper. For the working class to emerge as a factor in this situation, it was not enough simply to come to a formally orthodox position. It was necessary to fight to make the labour movement act on this position.

**The tasks of Marxists in Iran**  
The main argument internationally against defending Iran in the war is that the regime brutally oppresses the population of the country. Obviously this is true. First and foremost, this is a problem for the Iranian left, which makes one of two mistakes on this count. One is to reject the defence of Iran in this war because the regime is reactionary and oppressive and would be strengthened



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