https://internationalviewpoint.org/spip.php?article8955



Palestine

## We need to talk about Gaza more than ever

- IV Online magazine - 2025 - IVP603 - April 2025 -

Publication date: Saturday 26 April 2025

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The images keep coming, one after another, more of the same. Explosions, screams, cries and tragedies. Starving people who have had to survive displacement and bombardment. Access to drinking water is once again becoming a problem because Israel has destroyed Gaza's second desalination plant. It feels like we are reliving the horrors of a year ago.

The same lies are being told. The Israeli army murdered around 15 ambulance drivers and first aid workers, who were found with their hands tied in a mass grave, buried by a bulldozer. The military authorities initially claimed that they had identified nine Hamas agents among them, then that the vehicles had been moving suspiciously. But then, on one of the bodies found, a mobile phone was discovered containing a video of the victim's last moments. The video is harrowing... and chilling. It shows the atrocities committed by the Israeli state and the deliberate assassination of health workers, in the same way as journalists. Dozens of doctors have been arrested and abducted, and there is still no news of Dr Abu Safia.

## Netanyahu visits Orbán and Trump

Meanwhile, Netanyahu can parade around with his neo-fascist friend Orbán, whose party is anti-Semitic. Hungary has just announced that it is initiating proceedings to leave the International Criminal Court.

Netanyahu then travelled to the United States, where impressive crowds marched in New York and the capital on the first weekend of April. The protest against genocide, joining the mobilisations against Trump's policies, is gaining new momentum. Even at the general political level, the most moderate Democrats are timidly denouncing the United States' involvement: "This war has been fought almost entirely with American weapons and some \$18 billion of American taxpayer money," said Bernie Sanders. 'Israel has dropped 2,000-pound bombs supplied by the United States on crowded neighbourhoods, killing hundreds of civilians to eliminate a handful of Hamas fighters, and has made little effort to distinguish between civilians and combatants. These actions are immoral and illegal. Trump's latest sales include nearly \$8.8 billion more in US bombs and other munitions, including more than 35,000 1-ton bombs. This statement — late, but welcome — preceded a bill introduced in the Senate to stop arms sales to Israel. It received only 15 votes in favour and 82 against...: 'The United States must not continue to provide unlimited military and weapons assistance to the Netanyahu government.' After 18 months, this is the bare minimum.

## **Ethnic cleansing**

Because, as it has been doing for the past 18 months, the Israeli army is displacing populations. It has just announced the creation of a new corridor — a no-build zone that serves as a buffer preventing any movement — between Khan Younès and Rafah in the south. In a sordid twist of irony, this corridor is named after the former settlement (Morag) that stood in Gaza before its dismantling in 2005. The ceasefire is now a distant memory. Israel never really wanted to stop the genocide or release the 'hostages'. All that remains is colonisation and ethnic cleansing for the sake of a colonial project. The reactions of the 'American left' and especially of the street in the United States may be the beginning of a movement to block — albeit under more difficult conditions — US military support for the genocidal enterprise. This is one of the major conditions for its end.

10 April 2025

## Translated by International Viewpoint from <u>I'Anticapitaliste</u>.

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