

**Statement of the Central Committee of the  
Tudeh Party of Iran:**



**“We strongly condemn the massacre of  
the innocent people of Palestine in Gaza!”**

With the large-scale and bloody military strike of the Israeli army against Gaza strip on Saturday Dec 27<sup>th</sup>, once again Palestine is burning in the flames of war. As reported by world news agencies, this is the largest military attack of Israel on the Gaza strip in recent years. During the unexpected air assault of the fighter jets of Israel's air force, in addition to military and state targets, residential areas, public libraries, the Islamic University of Gaza and mosques were bombarded too. Based on the latest estimates the number of those killed and injured in these criminal attacks, amongst them many children and civilians, has surpassed one thousand people. The wide dimensions of this bloody and inhumane operation have deeply wounded the public sentiments of the world, especially in the Middle East and in Islamic countries. Most countries of the world, with the exception of the US Administration, have strongly condemned this criminal and purposeful action of Israeli government.

It is clear that these attacks were planned weeks ago in full coordination with US imperialism, under the leadership of reactionary George Bush's government. One of the aims of this aggression is to undermine the struggle of the Palestinian people and to impose a new atmosphere in the Middle East just before the end of the presidency of George Bush and ultra reactionary forces in the US, at the end of eight years of office.

On the other hand, the military offensive of the aggressive Israeli army started at a time that the country is at the threshold of an important parliamentary election. Adoption of tough, inhumane and militaristic policies by the main candidates of the ruling coalition for the post of Prime Minister, i.e. Tzipi Livni, Foreign Affairs Minister, and Ehud Barak, Minister of Defence, should be seen as an election manoeuvre by them to prove their militaristic and violent credentials as compared to their competitor, Benjamin Netanyahu, the candidate of the ultra right forces from the Likud party.

Israel's Minister of Defence has threatened that in the coming days these operations might be expanded. According to reports in the world media in recent days, tank and armoured units of Israel's army have stationed along the borders of Gaza with Israel, all set to invade and occupy Gaza.

The Tudeh Party of Iran, together with all the progressive and peace-loving forces of the world, is also concerned that these military conflicts may spread

into the other countries of the region. We believe that under the current circumstances of the deepening financial crisis and unprecedented economic recession, imperialism and reactionary forces of the world are looking for an opportunity to exploit militarism and war in order to divert public opinion and overcome the consequences of the current crisis. Continuation and expansion of conflicts in the Gaza Strip could spread the war to the neighboring countries, and even Iran, which would help to revive the booming of the military industrial complex of imperialist countries.

The Tudeh Party of Iran strongly condemns the aggressive policies of the Israeli government and calls for an immediate cessation of all military actions by both sides. We advocate an immediate cease-fire and a permanent peace under the auspices of the United Nations.

The Tudeh Party of Iran rejects the heinous voice of the reactionary forces in the region for spreading war and militarism who in recent days are trying to take advantage of the current tense conditions to promote their own agenda. The Palestine issue does not have a military solution. Under war and blockade conditions, it is only the reactionary forces of the region that would gain power and would justify their policies in line with the interests of imperialism.

The Tudeh Party of Iran expresses its earnest solidarity with popular and progressive forces of Palestine. We believe that the permanent, viable solution to the Palestine issue could only be achieved by respecting the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people based on the resolutions of the UN regarding full withdrawal of Israel from the occupied territories, complete halt to the building of Jewish settlements in the West Bank, and the establishment of an independent state of Palestine within the pre-June 1967 war borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital city.

**The Central Committee of Tudeh Party of Iran**  
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