

Gaza: Uneasy calm as Israelis withdraw

by our Arab Affairs correspondent

PALESTINIAN refugees and resistance units are returning to Gaza City and other areas of the enclave after the partial withdrawal of Israel forces in line with the cease-fire despite continuing Israeli provocations including opening fire on civilians in the parts of the Palestinian enclave that they still occupy. Palestinian and Israeli prisoners have been exchanged. UNICEF says that Israel must reopen the crossings into Gaza to allow desperately needed aid to reach Palestinians, including thousands of children suffering from malnutrition.

And Hamas militiamen, who are back on the street in Gaza, have clashed with the criminal gangs that worked with the Israelis during the occupation and some collaborators have already been summarily tried and shot in public.

Putin and Trump are going to meet in Hungary next week. Syrian leader, Ahmad al-Sharaa, the sectarian Muslim militia leader who overthrew the Baathist-led government in December 2024 with Turkish and Saudi support, has held talks with Vladimir Putin in the Kremlin reflecting the new Syrian government's desire to promote cordial relations and co-operation with the Russian Federation. And a member of the communist-led Democratic Front for Peace & Equality (Hadash) in the Knesset, the Israeli parliament, has been suspended for two months after he heckled Donald Trump when the American president was addressing the Knesset on

Monday. Hadash MPs Ayman Odeh and Ofer Cassif shouted "terrorist" at Trump and held up signs that read "Recognise Palestine" before they were escorted out by Knesset security.

Hamas freed the last 20 remaining Israeli prisoners on Monday in exchange for the release of nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners, as part of a deal brokered by the USA, Qatar, Egypt, and Turkey. The remains of nine dead captives have also been returned to Israel via the Red Cross but 19 others are still unaccounted for. Hamas says it made all efforts to safeguard the lives of captives in Gaza "despite the attempts of war criminal Netanyahu and his terrorist army to target and eliminate them" but the Israelis claim that some, if not all, were shot by the Palestinians. Hamas says it has delivered the bodies of all dead prisoners "that it was able to reach".

"It requires great effort and special equipment to search for" the remains of the other 19 dead hostages, the Palestinian resistance movement said. "We are making great efforts to resolve this issue".

As part of the first phase of the agreement to end the two-year Israeli-American genocidal war on the Gaza Strip 1,968 Palestinians were



Waiting for food in Gaza.

freed from Israeli prisons in what Hamas called a "victory of steadfast resistance".

Greeted by joyous relatives and friends the freed Palestinian prisoners provided harrowing accounts of systematic abuse, describing Israeli prisons as "slaughterhouses" where they endured torture, starvation, and psychological warfare.

Director General of the Shifa Medical Complex, Dr Muhammad Abu Salmiya, said the recently released Palestinian prisoners are arriving with severe physical and psychological conditions, including mutilation and disabilities resulting from systematic torture and medical neglect in Israeli prisons.

He noted that the freed prisoners "have a very poor health and mental condition, and the effects of torture remain on them." He emphasised that due to deliberate medical negligence during their imprisonment, "some of them have been mutilated".

The doctor noting that many of the prisoners had been wounded during the conflict and received no medical care while detained. This medical crisis is further compounded, he added, by Israel's imprisonment of a "large number of

Palestinian doctors," which has worsened the healthcare collapse in the Gaza Strip. At least 77 Palestinians have died in Israeli detention over the past two years and over 10,000 Palestinians continue to be unlawfully held in Israeli prisons.

FUND

The October fighting fund starts with £430 in the bag thanks to the comrades whose standing orders prop up much of the work of our *New Worker* appeal. We also got a tenner from a comrade in Manchester, £50 from an Ipswich supporter and a Leicester reader sent in £11. We now need £3,070 to hit our target by the end of the month.

The news that Trump and Putin are going to meet in Budapest next week has raised hopes that an end to the war in Ukraine is now in sight. Whatever happens the *New Worker* will be standing by the Ukrainian anti-fascists and the people of the Donbas and Crimea who drove the fascists out and chose to join the Russian Federation instead.

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THE NEW WORKER

Weekly paper of the New Communist Party

The forward march of labour...

UNEMPLOYMENT, homelessness, poverty and economic stagnation. It's no wonder Labour's standing is at an all-time low. The Faragists and the Tories blame the immigrants and asylum seekers for all our woes while the Remainers crawl out of the woodwork to blame it all on Brexit. None of the bourgeois parties ever blame themselves for the state we are in today or talk about the real problem – which is capitalism itself.

None of us should be surprised at this as these parties and their weak and loathsome leaders defend the Establishment and the ruling class that uses them to maintain the power and privilege of the ruling class through the charade of parliamentary democracy.

On the other side of the fence we've seen a Liberal-Democrat come-back and a surge of support for the Greens and Jeremy Corbyn's Independent Alliance who all stand on opposition platforms that, at least on paper, offer a better alternative to what we've put up with in recent years.

On the left front some now talk about building a "new popular front" like we see in France to take on the racists and challenge the Blairites, Tories and Faragists at the next election.

Not a bad idea as it stands. These liberal and left-social-democratic trends reflect the anger on the street at the gross inequalities in British society as well as the mass movement that has mobilised in solidarity with the Palestinian Arabs over the past two years. The bourgeois consensus over Israel has been broken and Zionism has been unmasked, at least on the street, as just another tool of imperialist oppression. But that's as far it goes at the moment.

Some of these "left" leaders actually support Nato aggression in Ukraine. Others are openly anti-communist while their alternative programmes actually reinforce the legitimacy of the Westminster parliament that creates the illusion of the bourgeois "democracy" that we live in today.

While we will naturally work with them, and all anti-war campaigners, for Palestinian rights and an end to the arms race we must also put the communist answer to the crisis back on the agenda.

Great mass movements are again sweeping the continents. Working people are demanding social justice, democratic rights and an end to exploitation. It's capitalism that's finished – not us.

Capitalism cannot solve the problems of the economy and indeed that is not its intention. It is merely a system that ensures that a tiny minority of landowners, industrialists, speculators and parasites can enjoy the life of Roman emperors by living off the backs of working people. While millions of people scabble to earn a living just to keep a roof over their heads a tiny elite live lives beyond the reach and often beyond the imagination of most workers. Only socialism can end this. Only through socialism can the will of the masses, the overwhelming majority of the people, be carried out. Only socialism and mass democracy – not the sham democracy of the bourgeoisie or the myths of the social democrats, end the class system and free working people from their slavery.

Time to stop this 'China spy' farce

by Li Guanjie

LAST MONTH the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) dropped the case against Christopher Cash and Christopher Berry, who were accused of being "Chinese spies" believing that the case did not meet the threshold to prosecute. The CPS concluded that the Government had failed to provide evidence that China poses a "national security threat" to the United Kingdom.

Prime Minister Keir Starmer claimed that "all the focus" of this case should fall on the Tory government in place then – implying that if the Tory government had labelled China an "enemy" the trial might not have collapsed. The Conservatives, however, were quick to hit back. Party leader Kemi Badenoch claimed at the party's annual conference that the Labour government had "deliberately collapsed the trial" because "the prime minister wants to suck up to Beijing".

dilemma

Whether to "follow the evidence" or "appeal to political preference" is a dilemma that often confronts those in power. In recent years, successive Conservative governments have hyped up the so-called "China spy" narrative, with the goal of changing the political landscape of the UK, make up for the policy mistakes in Brexit affairs and strive to shape the UK's national identity in the post-Brexit era. In this process, the notion of an "external threat" became past Tory governments' main tool – and China, unfortunately, has been caught in the cross-fire.

In 2021, the Johnson government branded China a "systemic competitor" and by 2023 the Sunak government had upgraded the description to an "epoch-defining challenge". Obviously,

such labels require supporting statistics and facts. Consequently, the Government launched comprehensive investigations into Chinese companies and individuals in the UK. In 2020 the Johnson government announced a ban on Huawei's 5G equipment, ordering the removal of all Huawei components from UK networks by 2027. In 2023 the Sunak government introduced the National Security Act, which broadened the definition of activities that could be considered threats to national security, explicitly criminalising espionage, sabotage and persons acting for foreign powers. Meanwhile, MI5 Director-General Ken McCallum has been repeating claims of "Chinese espionage" on various occasions.

witch hunt

The UK government at the time targeted not only Chinese nationals within the UK, but also turned its scrutiny toward Britons who have close contact with China. Cash and Berry – both China-focused scholars – became political casualties of this witch hunt. Cash, a former parliamentary researcher, had served as director of the 'China Research Group' while Berry was a teacher in Oxfordshire. In March 2023 both were arrested and accused of collecting information that might be "directly or indirectly useful to an enemy". Their case epitomised the Conservatives' escalation of their anti-China campaign.

Yet the crux of the issue lies in defining who exactly constitutes an "enemy" of the UK. Are China and the UK truly adversaries? Does China threaten the UK's national security? Even the UK government has yet to clearly answer these questions – or perhaps it dares not call China a "threat" based solely on political bias. Despite inflammatory rhetoric from individual politicians

during the Conservative era in the past, the UK government never officially designated China as a "threat". British officials understood that such a label would trigger fundamental changes in bilateral relations – changes Britain could not afford.

Since Starmer took office in 2024 and after a year-long review, the UK government has avoided labelling China as an "adversary." Instead, it has adopted an intentionally ambiguous framework built around "competition, cooperation and challenge".

However, beyond partisan disputes, the deeper challenges facing Britain remain unresolved – foremost, economic stagnation. Despite attempts at "military Keynesianism" to spur growth through higher public spending, the economy continues to struggle. GDP grew by 0.7 per cent in the first quarter of 2025, then fell to 0.3 per cent in the second quarter. The Starmer administration urgently needs to expand foreign markets through diplomacy. In this context, maintaining stable relations with China serves the UK's long-term national interests rather than short-term political gain.

step out

The wise course for the UK is to ensure that its China policy remains rational and pragmatic. Going forward, the Starmer government needs to truly step out of the shadow of the Conservative Party's past policy toward China, strengthen engagement with China, and ensure the steady and sustained development of China-UK relations.

The author is a research fellow at the Shanghai Academy of Global Governance & Area Studies' Centre for British Studies at the Shanghai International Studies University.

Global Times

Workers' Notes

Birmingham Bin Battles

by New Worker correspondent

THERE HAVE been some intriguing developments in the long running Birmingham bin workers strike. The workers have been on strike since the start of the year in protest at fire and re-hire which would see workers lose up to £8,000. They have recently renewed their strike mandate which will allow them to continue industrial action until March next year.

The council has paid millions to operate partial refuse collections during the strikes despite it costing a fraction of that to resolve the dispute and resume normal waste and recycling services.

Long before the strike began the Labour-controlled council had employed agency workers, some for over a decade without being offered permanent roles. Now these workers are also getting in on the act.

A manager from Job&Talent, the agency used by the city council, was caught telling its staff at the Atlas Depot that the council will bar them from permanent jobs if they join the strike.

While the agency piously declared that “we do not engage in or condone any form of blacklisting, and no worker is or would be denied employment opportunities on the basis of lawful participation in industrial action” and said the manager’s views did not reflect company policy, it is clear he was reflecting the views of the council, and that the threats were illegal.

Fifteen agency workers have now refused to cross the picket lines. They talk about a “toxic workplace culture” and managers threatening disciplinary action and the sack to pressure them into meeting excessive workloads. This is partly due to the fact that, as a result of the strike, there are no recycling or garden waste collections. Refuse therefore ends up in a single bin, often



Free Palestine march rocks London!

by New Worker correspondent

HUNDREDS of thousands took to the streets of London on Saturday in support of the Palestinian Arabs, marking two years of the war in Gaza. Protesters gathered at Victoria Embankment in central London and marched towards Westminster, before crossing the Westminster bridge and proceeding to Whitehall via Waterloo Bridge and the Strand. Marchers, some 700,000 strong, chanted slogans like “Stop starving Gaza” and “End the siege” while the police held Zionist provocateurs at bay to avoid trouble in what, once again, was an entirely peaceful demonstration.

very heavy and overflowing.

A necessarily anonymous agency worker said “I have been an agency worker on the bins for nine years and have never been considered for a full-time job. Me and my colleagues in the last two months have been bullied and victimised and constantly put under pressure to complete our rounds and undertake extra work or face the threat of a disciplinary or the sack”.

These revelations have only increased the resolve of workers. Unite general secretary Sharon Graham said

The protest came as displaced Palestinians began returning from the southern part of the Gaza Strip to the north the day after the ceasefire brokered by the Americans and the feudal Arab oil princes ended the fighting in the beleaguered Palestinian enclave.

Meanwhile Ellie Chowns, the Green MP for North Herefordshire, has called on the Israelis to free Palestinian leader Marwan Barghouti, who was jailed on trumped up charges of terrorism in 2002. “Marwan Barghouti is a powerful unifying voice for Palestinians who could potentially play a crucial role in securing meaningful and lasting peace in the region” she said amid renewed international attention on Barghouti,

as new details emerge about his ill-treatment in Israeli custody.

Palestinian sources say that Barghouti was beaten up by Israeli guards on 14th September while being transferred between the Ganot and Megiddo prisons. The 66-year-old reportedly suffered four broken ribs during the attack.

His son, Arab Barghouti, said that eight Israeli prison guards assaulted Marwan while in transit. “What we know is that while they were transferring my father, they stopped along the way and eight security guards... started beating my father up, kicking him, throwing him on the ground and punching him – focusing on the head, chest and legs as well”.

“Birmingham’s bin workers are well aware that there is something rotten at the top of the council. ... “Ministers must act now to stop this appalling behaviour and bring this dispute to an end with a fair deal for the bin workers. The strikes will not end until it does”.

Equal Pay

Also, in the city with more canals than in Venice, there is better news that some 3,000 Unison and GMB have

won a significant equal pay victory following a deal in December that has only now been finalised,

The two unions took the council and Birmingham Children’s Trust to court in 2012 and the council lost an equal pay appeal that October. A fresh wave of claims were launched in 2021 which lead to a pay ballot in August 2022.

The issue was that low-paid workers, largely women such as teaching assistants, catering staff and care workers were underpaid compared

with male workers in other roles. The council claims that its effective bankruptcy in 2023 was due to having to pay £760 million to settle outstanding equal pay claims, relating to the previous under-payment of its female workers.

Speaking for Unison, Claire Campbell said the deal was “a turning point for hundreds of low-paid women, who have waited far too long for justice”. She added that “when I was appointed as leader two years ago, I labelled equal pay the single biggest challenge that the council has faced and vowed to deal with the matter once and for all. This victory for low-paid women will resonate far beyond Birmingham. It sends a powerful message that equality at work is not optional, it’s a fundamental right. It’s a reminder that when women stand together to demand fairness, real change can happen”.

Her colleague in GMB, Megan Fisher, said “after years of discrimination and being paid less than they were worth, [the female staff] stood up and demanded what was theirs” before doffing her cap to unnecessarily thank the council for its “constructive approach to negotiations”.

While the details remain confidential, the council said the agreement will: “Avoid the time and expense of litigation, and without admission of liability by the council”. Tony McArdle, the lead commissioner, appointed by the government to oversee the council as it attempts to fix its finances, said that while the pay dispute had “cost the council dearly, this agreement presents a real opportunity for the council to limit further costs and to positively reset its relationship with its staff and trade unions”.

Hard Times

by New Worker correspondent

RECENTLY this correspondent was moved to tears by an article in the Times which exposed the horrifying effects of inflation on a 67-year-old Berkshire man who is still working and finds his qualifying for the state pension

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a “life-saver”.

“Toothbrushes are now £4 or something like that. What happened to 70p?” he plaintively asks. Even worse he had to ditch Waitrose for Tesco, gave up Lavazza coffee and “elaborate dinners with seafood and saffron because of the cost”. He clearly will not be visiting the Moi sushi restaurant in London’s Wardour Street where a £250 lunch (without drinks) for two was favourably reviewed in the same paper’s magazine. These are the hardships endured by a management consultant, so further down the occupation food chain things are more serious.

Inflation in the year to August was 3.8 per cent, as measured by the Consumer Price Index, (which understates the true figure) but according to the Labour Research Department pay deals are averaging only 3.2 per cent for the three months to August 2025, at the same time public sector deals were lower, at 2.9 per cent. In early 2024 pay deals averaged about 5.0 per cent, but have declined since then.

The unemployment figures are getting worse the August figures from the Office for National Statistics (ONS) show the national unemployment rate rose marginally from 4.7 to 4.8 per cent. Job vacancies fell Job vacancies fell by 9,000, or 1.3 per cent in the three months to September, which more significantly was the 39th consecutive quarter of decline. Youth

unemployment is particularly high.

This is deemed to be a good thing by some bosses. HSBC senior economist says this is a “a fairly steady labour market”, by which he means that it is a good thing to have a decent number of unemployed people who are in no position to ask for high wages,, but not too many as they need welfare payments and might get bolshie.

Giving up Waitrose for Tesco is not of course the worse problem facing many people. The Living Wage Foundation (LWF) reports that 4.5 million workers in the UK are paid below the “real living wage” recommended by the Foundation of £12.60 and £13.85 per hour in London, which. This is slightly above the legal National Living Wage of £12.21 hourly for workers over 21.

A recent LWF survey discovered that 3 in 5 low-paid workers had to routinely skip meals, were unable to heat their homes and fell behind on bills or were forced to take out a pay-day loan to cover their essentials. Even more seriously two in five have been forced to use food banks, with more than half the low-paid workers with dependent children taking this step.

While the Times drools over £250 lunches the LWF notes that one on four low paid workers have no savings at all, with one in five having less than £10 left over weekly after paying for essentials like food, housing costs and energy.

One respondent to the survey went into debt for the first time because one of her Universal Credit payments was late, causing her to miss a rent payment. This affected her credit score, making it harder to secure the two-bed flat. More than a third of low-paid workers have resorted to taking long hours or second jobs simply to make end meet, but even with a 14-hour day some could not make ends meet. The LWF seems surprised that people report being depressed by this.

The Executive Director of the LWF states the blindingly obvious when she declared: “Today’s research shows the harsh reality for workers paid below the real Living Wage, forced to make impossible choices between heating homes, feeding their families or falling behind on bills”.

Her solution was simply to encourage more employers to join the 16,000 employers already signed up for the LWF’s target on the grounds that “despite tough economic times they know that when staff are paid a wage that reflects the cost of living, they thrive, and so do the organisations they work for”.

Oddly enough she never mentions the role of trade unions have in raising wages. Among the organisations signed up is Oxfam, which has had not a few disputes with its staff recently. Ikea, the Swedish firm, is also signed up and is presently involved in disputes with workers in Belgium and Italy. British workers should

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**20 years ago
this week
in the New Worker**

New Worker 21 October 2025

THE GOVERNMENT’S Identity Card Bill scrapped through its third reading in the House of Commons on Tuesday evening with a majority of just 25 - after Home Secretary Charles Clarke made dramatic concessions about the cost and nature of the proposed ID cards.

Two days before the crucial vote, Clarke promised that the new ID card – on its own and not part of a passport package - will cost £30. This is dear enough but a lot less than the figures of up to £300 that had been predicted to cover the costs of the biometric technology involved. The Government will foot the bill – estimated at £3 billion, which would probably be enough to buy an ocean of anti-flu jabs.

Clarke also said the card would hold no more information than an ordinary passport. But it will still involve biometric se-

curity features and – will involve the creation of a huge national computer database which will keep tabs on all of us, and will be compulsory.

Clarke say that only the name, date and place of birth, gender, nationality and immigration statuses will be included. He says that new legislation will be needed to add any other information such as health and criminal records. But this is likely to happen eventually.

Even the information it holds will make identity theft much easier. Microsoft national technology officer Jerry Fishenden

warned: “Putting a comprehensive set of personal data in one place produces a ‘honeypot effect’ – a highly attractive and richly rewarding and richly rewarding target for criminals”.

Clarke openly admitted that the ID card system will do little or nothing to prevent terrorism. It could not have prevented the attacks on the 7th July. Now we are being told that we “are living in an increasingly technological age and we must get used to it”. We must submit to a growing police state and shut up!

Recently Dutch po-

lice fined 50,000 people for breaking a new law which says identity papers must be carried at all times.

We must not let this march towards a police state accelerate. Bad laws can be stopped by mass non-co-operation, like the poll tax.

Success requires massive numbers of people with the confidence that come from being part of a huge crowd brings to simply refuse to comply. Administration of these laws will be difficult enough, give the record on new technology projects.

Capitalism splits Cyprus' left-wing soccer team

by Erica Meade

TWENTY-TWO players, two nets, and one ball. These are the required pieces to play the beautiful game. Some call it soccer, most call it football, but no matter the name, a shared love for the game unites people of all backgrounds. While there are intense rivalries, the game brings together people in more ways than not. Kids play together after school, workers find time on days off to play in Sunday leagues, and of course fans crowd into stadiums to catch a glimpse of their favourite teams.

With all the examples of soccer breaking down barriers, sadly in some cases, fans have built walls instead of bridges. One such example can be found tucked in the crossroads between Asia, Africa, and Europe on the island of Cyprus.

I recently visited that beautiful Mediterranean country as part of the Hello Comrade delegation, knowing very little of its uneasy and very politicised soccer history. I knew they called it football, like most countries around the world, but besides that, I couldn't tell you who played where. However, even with my limited knowledge, I did know one thing: Omonoia (Concord) was a team in Nicosia and they had a left-wing history.

Omonoia FC is part of AC Omonoia. In Cyprus, athletic clubs have teams in several sports under their umbrella, and the football clubs are generally the most popular of the teams.

My naive knowledge on Omonoia FC took an unexpected turn towards complication when I learned that there was not just one team called Omonoia in Nicosia, but rather two!

There was the Omonoia FC I knew about, but behind a cloud of mystery to me was



Omonoia 29M. In 2018, AC Omonoia of Nicosia decided to privatise their football department, Omonoia FC, which was a major change after a long history of fan ownership. The club voted to sell the football team to American based Cypriot Stavros Papastavrou. While the activities of the team are now under private control, the teams of other sports, such as handball, are still publicly owned under AC Omonoia. The selling of the football team resulted in a split fan base and culture, one that is still divided to this day.

The aftermath of the privatisation was the formation of a second Omonoia team, Omonoia 29M. Leading the charge to form a new Omonoia soccer team was 'Gate 9', a supporters' group originally created by Omonoia FC fans. Following the vote within AC Omonoia to sell

the football team, Gate 9 held their own vote. The result was a decision to form Omonoia 29M. The date of the vote, the 29th May, served as inspiration for the team's name. Even in 2025, fans are still torn between the two teams, wondering which deserves their time and energy.

goal

AC Omonoia formed in 1948, a time of civil war in Greece and political turbulence in Cyprus. Prior to that time, APOEL FC (Athletic Football Club of Greeks of Nicosia) was the sole team of Nicosia, the capital city. During this era, Greek nationalists were organising with the ultimate goal of unifying Cyprus with Greece. One of the main arenas in which they fought for the cause was sports, particularly soccer.

With the help of Greek sporting organisations such as the Hellenic Athletic Association, football clubs such as APOEL began forcing club members and players to officially declare their support for the royalist side of the Greek Civil War and step aside from the communists. During a purge of left-wing athletes, clubs like APOEL made their intentions clear with press reports claiming that "only those who think as Greeks and not those who praise the traitors" would be able to play for and support their team.

However, just like today in Cyprus, not every player was a Greek nationalist, and in fact many were communists. After the Greek nationalists forced left-wing players out, many went on to form their own clubs, one of which was Omonoia FC. While the new club was

formed quickly, they were not allowed into the Cypriot league right away. Together with other clubs such as Nea Salamina, Alki Larnaca, and Orfeas Nicosia, the left-wing teams formed the Cyprus Amateur Football Association, or KEPO.

Omonoia FC played in KEPO for five years, however the league didn't last long. Despite billing itself as "amateur" KEPO's games still attracted thousands of fans and drew in talented players. In 1953, after years of divided soccer, the biggest clubs from KEPO applied to join the Cyprus Football Association, or CFA. Now playing alongside the club that had originally kicked them out, left-wing players and clubs won the right to exist in the national soccer league without discrimination or intimidation.

Omonoia fans (both in the pre- and post-sale days) have always been up-front about their communist politics. That working-class political connection has long been a central part of what attracted fans and players to the club.

While Omonoia FC is one of the most successful football clubs in Cyprus, its good times dwindled in the 2000s. Debt overwhelmed the publicly-owned club, and in 2018 AC Omonoia voted to sell the football department. AC Omonoia has teams in several other sports, including basketball, volleyball, and cycling, but given that football is the most popular sport, the sell-off caused a storm within the club.

Omonoia 29M had a rather historic and rapid rise within the Cypriot soccer pyramid. In 2018, the club entered the fifth tier of soccer, and within six years, the team battled its way to the first division, playing

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right alongside Omonoia FC. In the 2024 season, the two teams played to a 1-1 draw. Omonoia 29M's quick rise to the first division was ground-breaking but short-lived. It finished at the bottom of the table and has been relegated to the second division for 2025.

While in Cyprus, I visited a fan day held by Omonoia FC where fans from around Nicosia gathered at the stadium for an evening of comradeship and celebration of their favourite team. Kids chased each other between vendor stalls, as the smell of grilled kebab drifted through the outdoor event space. Several vendors and sponsors had tables set up, hoping to entice visitors into spending money.

However, nestled between these booths was a group of young adults representing the club's fan group: Semper Fidelis 48. The Latin phrase translates to "always faithful" in English and is an accurate description. The group is the main fan base of Omonoia FC. When drums need beating and chants need leading on match day, they are the group to do it.

Despite the fans' loyalty to their team, the split of 2018 was not something that was easy to stomach for them. Sophia, a Semper Fidelis 48 member, said "we faced our biggest nightmare, not only as Omonoia fans, but as communists. If you look from the outside, there's a corporate Omonoia and a people's Omonoia".

She wasn't lying. From surface level research, it can appear that Omonoia FC is nothing more than a corporate sell-out and that anyone with a heart would pack up and go with Omo-

noia 29M. Still, the split to form Omonoia 29M was in her opinion the wrong decision. To her, breaking up the Omonoia fan base only made them weaker in their united goal of bringing club ownership back to the football team. Now two separate strategies were being used against the owners. Whatever solution Omonoia FC or Omonoia 29M felt was best, their ability to see it through was now suddenly diluted.

While there is disagreement over what is the best path forward for Omonoia, the two sides both share a feeling of heartbreak and loss. Fans of Omonoia 29M hanging out at their club's store in downtown Nicosia communicated their feelings on the subject to me. "The soul of Omonoia is in Omonoia 29M," say the supporters of the breakaway team. They differed from Omonoia FC fans on which team to support, but across the board a feeling of tragedy lingered in the hearts of all those who had grown up supporting the green and white of Nicosia.

local culture

Choosing which team to support is especially hard within the club model that exists in Cyprus, as well as many other European countries. In Cyprus, football clubs are sewn into local culture in a way that is foreign and different from American franchise sports. Teams have club houses that serve as bars, gathering spots, and even after-school care sites for children.

As soccer blog Breaking the Lines writes "soccer is more than just 90 minutes of players chasing a ball on a grassy field. It's a powerful unifying

force that transcends differences, creating a sense of community and belonging".

Unlike in the USA, where fans will go to games once a week and return to a life outside of sports, in Cyprus clubs are a part of life that holds value to the supporters. Clubs have presidents who are democratically elected and play a significant role in shaping a team's future. Compare that to the United States, where if you don't like your team's ownership there is not much you can do about it.

For all these reasons, the split of Omonoia left no one satisfied following the sale. Fans either lost their childhood team to stay true to their moral values, or they stayed faithful to their original team but lost the grass roots organisation that drew them in the first place.

The way forward is not certain for either team. While Omonoia 29M fans have stated they would hold a vote to rejoin AC Omonoia if the club was bought back, there is no sign of that happening any time soon. Omonoia FC continues to play in the first division and draws in thousands of supporters for every match. Omonoia 29M, meanwhile, now playing in the second division, holds on to its die-hard supporters and aims to compete among the top levels of Cypriot football.

The Cypriot soccer league survived a split in 1948. Now with two Omonoia teams, the two fan bases face the challenge of surviving a second storm. In the end, no matter how many trophies come or successful seasons there are for either team, the only real winner at the moment is capitalism.

People's World (USA)

Ukraine: A Search for Identity and Freedom

by John Maryon

RUSSIANS, Ukrainians and Belarusians are predominantly from the East Slav sub-group of the Slavic people. Crimean Tatars form an important ethnic group of the population of Crimea. The fertile lands of mineral rich Ukraine were for centuries shared between the Poles and the Mongols. By 1500 the Ottoman empire had expanded and taken over South East Ukraine and Crimea.

In 1654, following years of conflict with the Polish Lithuanian Commonwealth, the Cossack leader of Ukraine pledged allegiance to the Czarism of Russia in exchange of protection. Russian

influence increased and in 1797 Catherine the Great established the port city of Odessa and the region became an important part of the Russian Empire.

Today most people have heard of the Crimean War, Florence Nightingale, Balaclava and the Charge of the Light Brigade. It was an imperialist conflict for Middle East influence between Russia and an alliance of France, Britain and Turkey.

lost the war

Russia lost the war and with it influence in the region and now had only a limited access to the Black Sea. However there were two other significant impacts. One saw the break up

of European alliances and the other was that it forced Russia to become modernised.

Following the 1917 Great October Revolution in Russia Ukraine became a Soviet Republic, the Ukrainian SSR. A majority of those in Eastern Ukraine spoke Russian while in the western areas the people spoke Ukrainian.

The Ukrainian language is very similar to Russian and considered by some to be a dialect. In the Crimea, Tatar and other ethnic languages were secured by decree. A devious Krushchev was to later cede Crimea to the Ukrainian SSR.

To understand the Ukraine of today it is important to consider some developments



The Charge of the Light Brigade in the imperialist Crimean War.

during the pre World War 2 period. The Congress of Soviets had proclaimed Soviet Power in 1917 and elected Soviets were established in the towns, villages, work places and military units.

The new young republic started on the road to building socialism. But the peaceful life was soon to be shattered. Counter-revolutionary forces led by former Czarist officers and the feudal lords of Central Asia waged a civil war against the Soviet republic. They were to be supported by forces of intervention. British, French, American and Japanese forces in the Far East invaded the Soviet Union. An undeclared war of intervention was underway and Britain occupied Odessa while Germany took control of a large part of western Ukraine.

The Soviet forces were united and soon built an alliance with workers and peasants and established the Red Army. A war economy was established. The counter-revolutionary military superiority was short lived as conflicting interests emerged. The White Guards, as the alliance of foreign backed fighters was known, depended upon foreign finance and was essentially a mercenary army. When the money stopped during the major capitalist economic crisis they fell apart. The imperialist powers however continued to occupy western parts of the country. The imperialist powers used former Soviet territory to establish a cordon sanitaire from which they could carry out attacks on the young



When Ukraine was part of the Soviet Union.

republic.

Collectivisation of agriculture enabled farms to be modernised. The days of the horse-drawn wooden plough were over and Ukraine started to become an important grain growing area. The process of change was not an easy one. The years 1932-1934 saw the worst drought in living memory. A typhoid epidemic ravaged the Caucasus. Many agriculture experts and cadres sent from Moscow were murdered by fascist gangs. Some kulaks slaughtered all their animals and invading forces burned crops. Many people died of starvation. However by the late 1930s Ukraine had become the bread-basket of the Soviet Union while the industrial regions of Eastern Ukraine became known as the Soviet Ruhr.

Hitler attacks

At 0400 on 22nd June 1941 Hitler attacked the Soviet Union. Of the 27 million Russians who were killed during the war, five million were from Ukraine plus 1.5 million Jewish people who lived in the region. Nationalists

from the former ruling class in Western Ukraine supported Hitler and the Nazis. The leader of the Halychyn SS Division, Stephan Bandera, was held responsible for many atrocities. Jews, communists, socialists, the mentally ill and the disabled were slaughtered in the death camps.

Stalin

Under the leadership of Joseph Stalin the Soviet Union fought courageously and was able to smash the Nazi war machine. The battle of Stalingrad is considered to be the turning point of the Second World War which ended in victory in 1945. But after the war many

Ukrainian Nazis were made welcome in the USA and Britain.

During the post-war era industry quickly developed and agriculture flourished. Then came the collapse of the Soviet Union. Oligarchs took over in Russia and Ukraine grabbing the wealth that had been created during people's rule with former officials changing sides to get their noses in the trough. Living standards fell and unemployment reappeared after an absence of 50 years.

With the fall of the Soviet Union the Russians were promised that NATO would not expand eastwards. The gullible Russian leadership believed this but the Imperial-

ists saw it as an opportunity to expand their malignant influence, gain access to Russia's rich resources and to threaten China.

The United States is notorious for its never-ending wars and coups for regime change. The long list includes Korea, Vietnam, Yugoslavia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Chile. In February 2014 it was Ukraine's turn. In a coup planned, financed and supported by the US, the democratically elected government of Yanukovich was overthrown. Opposition parties were banned, politicians arrested and demonstrators murdered in Odessa by being driven into the trade union building which was

then set on fire. The new pro-Nato and pro-European Union puppet regime embarked on widespread repressive measures against Russian speakers, including a ban on the Russian language. Strong resistance in Eastern Ukraine led to the establishment of independent states which were recognised by Russia and later along with Crimea voted to join the Russian Federation. Between 2014 and 2022 some 8,000 civilians were killed by shelling from regime held areas.

In 2022 Russia commenced its special military operation to defend those regions under attack, prevent the expansion of Nato eastwards and rid the Ukraine government of supporters of the infamous Nazi collaborator, Stephen Bandera. The civil war became a proxy one as the Americans and their Western allies poured in money and weapons.

sabotaged

Negotiations, such as the Minsk agreements to end the conflict have been repeatedly sabotaged by Western leaders. The Western powers are losing their war and Ukraine is tragically being destroyed in scenes similar to those left in Vietnam and Korea. Instead of bringing the tragedy to an end Western leaders, including, Macron of France, Merz of Germany and Starmer of Britain, have become obsessed with keeping the war going. They continue to pour in money to keep the conflict going while their own economies face collapse.



Donbas bombed by Kiev.

LETTERS

Dear Comrades

The Palestinian Communist Party (PCP) welcomes the announced ceasefire in Gaza as a necessary humanitarian measure to end the bloodshed and protect civilian lives. While this development represents a positive step, it must not conceal the deeper structural realities of occupation, oppression, and imperial domination that continue to endanger the Palestinian people.

From a Marxist perspective, the current regional and international arrangements – including what was known as the “Trump Plan” – aim to integrate the Zionist entity into a broader capitalist and imperialist network that prioritises economic and security interests over justice and national rights. Such strategies risk normalising occupation and turning the Palestinian cause into a marginal issue managed through regional deals serving ruling elites and foreign powers.

The PCP warns that recent normalisation ef-

forts and regional integration projects reinforce this dangerous trend. The open expansionist rhetoric of Israeli leaders, including Prime Minister Netanyahu’s reference to a so-called “Greater Israel,” reveals the ongoing threats to Palestinian sovereignty and existence. Accordingly, the Palestinian Communist Party:

- Welcomes the ceasefire as a humanitarian step and calls for its immediate translation into concrete measures – opening crossings, delivering aid, and halting attacks on civilians.
- Rejects any political or economic arrangements that entrench occupation or grant it international legitimacy.
- Holds the United States and its imperialist allies responsible for policies that have financed settlement expansion and undermined Palestinian national rights.
- Calls for genuine Palestinian national unity and the rebuilding of a broad popular front capable of resisting occupation and neo-liberal exploitation.
- Appeals to progressive forces and the

global working class to intensify solidarity with the Palestinian struggle and confront imperialist complicity in Israel’s crimes.

The PCP reaffirms its commitment to unity, resistance, and international solidarity as the only effective path to end occupation and achieve justice and liberation for the Palestinian people.

**Media Office
Palestinian
Communist
Party (PCP)**

Dear Comrades

China’s Polar Silk Road has reached the shores of Britain. The Istanbul Bridge, a 965ft container ship, sailed from Ningbo Zhoushan in China and docked at Felixstowe on October 13th 2025. It is intended to be the start of a regular service as it continues on to Rotterdam, Hamburg and Gdansk. Global warming has reduced the polar ice area allowing transport from May till October each year. Russia has been investing in atomic powered icebreakers and port facilities to support the route.

The new route is 7,500 nautical miles compared with 11,000 for the established route that passes through the Pacific and Indian oceans, Red Sea and Suez Canal before reaching the Mediterranean. Carbon emissions are reduced by 40 per cent, typical travel time is reduced from four weeks to less than 20 days and logistics are improved by a quicker turn round time. A much faster and more economical option.

Geo-political factors can play an important role in maritime transport and the Imperialist powers will be very unhappy with the new developments. They will no longer be able to harm trade with China by threatening to block the Straits of Malacca, the

Suez Canal or the Straits of Gibraltar. Meanwhile the new route is a win-win for all those concerned with cheaper transport costs and a greener option which will benefit us all.

**John Maryon
Suffolk**

Dear Comrades

Good to see that you have set up a New Worker supporters group in Ipswich. The times call for increased communist activity all over Britain. It’s the Red Flag that should be flying over our town halls not the Union Jack. The working class have no nation as they speak the same language of struggle and resistance all over the world.

**Elijah Traven
Hull**

Dear Comrades

Bahraini political prisoners have been denied any medical treatment for ten days. It is an intentional deprivation of this basic right. None of the inmates of Blocs 1, 5 and 12 at Jau prison have been taken to the clinic, even those who have long-term ailments. Their ordeal is made worse by the lack of sanitation or the most basic disease prevention at this most notorious jail.

On 14th October the political prisoners at Bloc 12 of Jau prison announced that they would start a hunger strike. This is in protest at their continued detention. They said they wanted to achieve their rights of “full and comprehensive freedom”. They stopped taking the daily meals and said that even if their bodies collapse their demand for freedom will escalate, insisting that their rights are not negotiable and must be secured. The prisoners strike indicates the rising tension inside jails after almost 15 years of repression and torture.

Political protests have continued in several parts of the country in the past week. The people of Samahej participated in a demonstration calling for the release of the political prisoners. Another protest took place in Abu Saiba’ town on Saturday evening with similar slogans and

Diary

UNTIL 10 NOV

Folklife Films: Gentle, Angry Women film about young women taking up the Greenham Common mantle. Various locations in England. Book on FF website.

UNTIL 14 NOV

Prince Charles Cinema: Films of Andrei Tarkovsky’s season. (Soviet film director 1932–86.) PCC, 7 Leicester Place, London WC2H 7BY. Detail and tickets on PCC website.

TUES 21 OCT

Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament: Hellfire: a journey from Hiroshima. Film and discussion. 18:00–20:00, BLOC cinema, ArtsOne, Queen Mary University of London, E1 4PD.

TUES 21 OCT

BRICUP: British Committee for the Universities of Palestine: Launch of the 2025 edition of Why Boycott Israeli Universities? 18:00–20:00 Location TBA. Book on Eventbrite.

THURS 23 OCT

Marx Memorial Library: William Morris: Politics and Art. 18:00, In person, MML.

THURS 23 OCT

Working Class Movement Library: Kirkby: Legacies of Struggle. 18:00–20:00 Film about an Unemployed Centre in the 1980s and 90s. WCML, 51 Crescent, Salford M5 4WX. Booking required.

THURS 23 OCT

Cuba Solidarity Campaign: Leeds re-launch 19:00, Thompsons Solicitors, 2nd Floor, 10 South Parade, Leeds, LS1 5QS

SAT 25 OCT

SOS NHS: End Social Care Disgrace, National Conference. 13:00–17:00, Methodist Central Hall, Oldham Street, Manchester M1 1JL

SAT 25 OCT

Lakenheath Alliance for Peace: Vigil, 12:00–14:00, Main Gate RAF Lakenheath, Brandon Road, Brandon, Suffolk, IP 27 9PS

SAT 25 OCT

Scotland Demands Better, march and rally. Edinburgh. Assemble 10:00 Scottish Parliament for march to 13:00 rally at the Meadows.

SAT 1 NOV

Scottish CND: For a peaceful nuclear-free Scotland! Conference. 10:00–16:00, Adelaide Place Baptist Church, 209 Bath Street, Glasgow G2 4HZ. Book on SCND website.

SAT 1 NOV

Society for Co-operation for Russian and Soviet Studies: HGW Davie on Everything for the Front! Resource Management in the Red Army 1941–1945. 14:00–15:00, In person, SCRSS, 320 Brixton Road, London, SW9 6AB.

SAT 1 NOV

International Brigade Memorial Trust: Len Crome Memorial Conversation. Panel on the Toxic legacy: the lasting impact of Francoism on Spanish Democracy. 14:00, In person, Marx Memorial Library.

SAT 8 NOV

New Communist Party: Reception to commemorate the 1917 October Revolution. 18:30, Party Centre, London SW11.

TUE 11–SUN 16 NOV

Havana Glasgow Film Festival. 10th Anniversary Details from <https://hgfilmfest.com/>

SUN 16 NOV

Working Class Movement Library: Radical Readings. 14:00–17:00, Maxwell Hall, University of Salford, Crescent, Salford M5 4WT.

THURS 20 NOV

Marx Memorial Library: Vic Clarke: Reds on the Green: Clerkenwell and Chartism. 16:00, In person, MML.

SAT 22 NOV

Palestine Solidarity Campaign: Workers Organising Against Genocide Trade Union Conference. 10:00–17:00, London. Register on PSC website.

CONTACT US...

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demands. Pictures of the prisoners were raised as well as banners with the people's demands for political rights.

John Hughes
Bahrain
Freedom Movement
London

Dear Friend

Next month, Aston Villa FC are due to host Israeli football team Maccabi Tel Aviv in the Europa League.

Allowing this match to go ahead would whitewash Israel's genocide, military occupation and apartheid against Palestinians. Take action by writing to both Aston Villa FC and the footballing authorities to demand urgent action is taken to cancel the match. Demand they cancel the match!

Israel's genocide against Palestinians in Gaza has killed many tens, if not hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, including many hundreds of Palestinian footballers. It has annihilated Gaza's footballing infrastructure such as stadiums, training facilities and pitches.

In the occupied West Bank, Israel has also systematically targeted Palestinian sports infrastructure, while its daily military invasions of towns and refugee camps have killed scores of Palestinian footballers.

Allowing Israeli football teams to compete in international competitions sanitises this horrific violence, and allows Israel to cynically present itself as a normal country, obscuring the truth of its oppression of Palestinians.

The Israel Football Association directly participates in Israel's crimes against Palestinians. It governs football clubs based in illegal Israeli settlements on stolen Palestinian land in the occupied West Bank.

Palestinians, facing down Israel's military assaults and ethnic cleansing, have long demanded that Israel is banned from international sporting and cultural bodies as a means of holding it accountable for its crimes, just as apartheid South Africa was.

The FA and UEFA must act now and cancel the match, while Aston Villa must refuse to host it – there can be no sports

as usual with Israel's genocide and apartheid.

Maccabi Tel Aviv itself has been directly involved in Israel's atrocities. The club has sent "care packages" to Israeli soldiers committing genocide in Gaza and organised for videos of club employees serving as Israeli soldiers in Gaza to be shown as motivation ahead of matches.

The club's fans have a long history of anti-Palestinian racism and violence. This was exemplified in Amsterdam last year, when its fans marauded through the streets attacking residents while chanting genocidal slogans, including "why is there no school in Gaza? There are no children left there". These fans must not be allowed to descend on Birmingham in November. Take action to demand that the match does not go ahead.

Demand they cancel the match!

Lewis
Campaigns Officer
Palestine
Solidarity Campaign
London

Scottish Political News

by our Scottish political affairs correspondent

THE SNP annual conference, at the Event Complex Aberdeen (TECA), has been and gone, concluding the party conference season. It might be significant that the previous event hosted by TECA was the anniversary show of the well-known comedian John Bishop and the post conference event was Dino Tales - Jurassic Rescue, a children's show about extinct reptiles.

Nowadays even some fish are on the endangered species list. So it was therefore not surprising to note that the 148-page conference handbook contained not one reference to "Salmond" and just two mentions of "Sturgeon" – one an endorsement by the

former nationalist leader of an artist flogging his wares and the second listing her as a speaker at a charity's fringe meeting. However the SNP's old leader Alex Salmond was mentioned – for a whole 15 seconds – along with a few deceased councillors and a former Presiding Officer, in the "In Memoriam" section which took place between 11:35 and 11:40 on Sunday morning, much to the fury of his family and many others. Sic gloria transit.

high-spot

The high-spot of conference was the address by Husam Zomlot, the head of the Palestinian mission in London. The top Palestinian diplomat addressed delegates on Sunday, thanking members of the party, the Scottish Government and the Scottish people for their support during the conflict in Gaza over the past two years. Dr Zomlot praised the work of First Minister John Swinney, who had "stood firm in defending our shared values". And he said Scotland had "something to do" with the ceasefire deal reached as Swinney had raised the issue during a meeting with Donald Trump.

The guns have fallen silent in Gaza. But this is not the end of the journey, Zomlot said. "You see what is happening worldwide – some may now ask 'but the genocide has ended, the guns are now silent, isn't the work done?"

"No, my friends, it is not, because our struggle has never been only about stopping the bombs. It is about ensuring the genocide never, ever happens again. It is about ending the occupation, it is about freedom, it is about the future of our children, and yours, it is about peace.

"So my friends, the UK's historic recognition of the State of Palestine is not the destination, it is only the beginning. We must now build upon it strategically, relentlessly to establish an independent, sovereign state of Palestine that can protect its people and thrive in peace".

In a speech peppered

with repeated standing ovations, Dr Zomlot urged the international community to increase sanctions on Israel to "raise the cost of occupation until it becomes not only unsustainable, but untenable".

"Our struggle, your struggle, is about affirming the sanctity of every human life. Every human life is worth the world and the life of our children is as precious as the life of any other". The relationship between Scotland and Palestine is "not merely political, it is moral, human and historic...each of us sees our own strength reflected in the other, together we are one voice, one people, united in one cause – the pursuit of peace and justice," he said.

At conference...

... John Swinney won support for his well-worn "Independence Strategy" which will seek another referendum if the SNP wins a majority of seats next year. His rousing speech clearly helped win the key vote which rejected plans to simply use the Holyrood election in itself as a substitute referendum.

The SNP leader also announced his opposition to Sir Keir Starmer's plans for digital ID cards, an idea Starmer stole from the SNP in the first place. The party also redoubled on its desire to return to the European Union while on a more mundane level Deputy First Minister Kate Forbes deplored the quality of childcare facilities at Holyrood, seemingly forgetting who has been in charge there...

firm views

Though members have firm views on how to run the country running the party is a different matter. In fact a notable feature of this year's conference was the lack of membership interest in the internal elections. Elections to the National Executive Committee and Policy Development Committee (NEC/PDC) resulted in 29 of the 44 seats being uncontested, Some of those who did

seek nominations did so for three separate posts. One put herself forward for no less than seven roles despite being guaranteed one as being the only female from West Scotland.

Beyond the conference hall...

...news emerged that Colin Beattie, the 73-year-old former banker and SNP treasurer in the Sturgeon years, has been questioned by the police over his promise in November to donate £20,000 to the Midlothian & Musselburgh branch, but only "if he is selected as candidate in the fullness of time". Such blatant bribery is in breach of SNP rules, and anyone with any sense does not make the link so obviously. His reselection came after he was questioned over the missing £600,000. While he was not charged, he did not come out smelling of roses.

One of those who lost out in the selection contest told the Scottish Mail on Sunday that: "Since then people have asked about this funding but it's been ignored. Nothing has been given and the branch is in chaos because of it." Beattie strongly denies the allegations.

The SNP would, however, been cheered by the pre-conference announcement that Ash Regan, the ex-SNP leadership candidate, has resigned from the Alba Party whose sole MSP she had been since defecting two years ago. She said she wanted to promote her Prostitution (Offences and Support) (Scotland) bill as an Independent MSP because Alba had "chosen a different path", by which she probably means they erred in not voting for her as leader. Alba, the fringe nationalist party founded by Alex Salmond after he left the SNP in 2018, politely said good riddance by pointing out that "it was "not unexpected" that she had chosen to leave as she had not sought nomination to become a candidate and she "not taken an active role" within Alba.

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LSO returns to Hanoi

THE London Symphony Orchestra (LSO) under Sir Antonio Pappano returned to Hanoi last week to play at the Ho Guom theatre in the capital of Vietnam. The English-Italian conductor who wields the baton over the world-class London orchestra said “it is my very first time here in Hanoi. My wife has been on holiday but I haven’t. So I am very very excited. I am also excited because I am leading a special orchestra and we’re making music in a relatively new venue.

“We come to share music and the audience will immediately feel something in their body, their soul their heart. That

is what I think is the power of music that can inspire, influence and even disturb and shake people. That is what we here for. I am hoping tonight we will create an experience that is unforgettable. Yeah, I am looking forward to performing here”.

The concerts were part of the Vietnam Airlines Classic-Hanoi Concert festival (VACC 2025) and all the proceeds will go to support people affected by storms and floods. VACC 2025 is jointly organised by Vietnam Airlines, the Hanoi People’s Council Committee and Thanh Viet Production.

Sir Antonio said that this invitation was both a great honour and an exciting challenge. To be able



to stand before the LSO in Hanoi at such a special moment was very meaningful to him. VACC 2025 strikes a balance between solemnity and warmth. It is not only a festival featuring many international artists but also a platform for genuine cultural dialogue. By blending traditional Vietnamese elements, the nation’s historical milestones, and the dynamic rhythm of urban life, the concert promises to bring a uniquely vibrant and

distinctive experience.

In addition to its artistic value the concert also had special cultural significance as it took place on the occasion of the 71st anniversary of the end of French colonial rule on October 10th 1954 (Capital Liberation Day). The opening with the Vietnamese National Anthem was a solemn moment, evoking national pride and connecting history with contemporary art.

Pappano says that for him, the concert is the harmony of music, space and people. The architectural elegance of the new Ho Guom theatre, together with the masterpieces of Beethoven and Shostakovich, will narrate stories of resilience, struggle, triumph, and hope. All of it will be elevated through a profound connection with the audience – the very essence of what music aspires to achieve.

VACC 2025 performances are broadcast live on a big screen at the Martyrs Monument next to the Hoàn Kiếm Lake to spread and bring classical music widely and closely to local people and visitors.

During their stay the LSO held community activities within their LSO Discovery project including training programme with the Vietnam Youth Orchestra (VYO).

Last week audiences enjoyed a VYO repeat performance with the participation of 70 young artists and nine LSO musicians. It was an invaluable opportunity for

the young Vietnamese generation to play the finest of classical music and show their music talent.

Antonio Pappano, 66, is considered by the Musical America classical music magazine to be one of the most influential conductors in the world. Over the past three decades, Pappano has led the world’s leading orchestras, from the Berliner Philharmoniker and the New York Philharmonic to the Royal Opera House Covent Garden. He also spent nearly twenty years with the Santa Cecilia Orchestra before becoming the principal conductor of the London Symphony Orchestra in 2024.

The LSO, founded in 1904, is London’s oldest symphony orchestra and the world. The LSO claims to be the world’s most recorded orchestra and has made gramophone recordings since 1912. It has played on more than 200 soundtrack recordings, including the Star Wars series, Notting Hill, Harry Potter and The Danish Girl.

VNS

The Mid-Autumn Festival in London

ARTISTS performed at a show for the celebration of the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival in London last week. A show for the celebration of the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival was staged in London’s Chinatown in the heart of the capital last weekend impressing many with performances featuring Chinese culture and art.



Children that kill

by a Kiev observer

CHILDREN'S paramilitary organisations have always been a tool in the hands of dishonest and powerful imperialists. Let us recall one very well-known youth movement, the Hitler Youth, which also had a wing called the League of German Girls. The Hitler Youth was open for young people between the ages of 14 and 18. For children aged 10 to 13, there was a junior wing called the German Young Youth.

Anyone who does the dirty job of killing people for money is called a murderer. Organised groups of people who commit murder for money are usually called bandits and gangsters. When an organised group kills people to carry out racial or ethnic cleansing they are called fascists. To justify their pay they always declare the need to purify the race, language and nationality, and sometimes even openly call themselves Nazis.

In the modern post-World War II era, such people are commonly referred to as Neo-Nazis, Zionists, and Banderites, that is, those who use brutal methods of mass murder, cover them up with local laws, and commit large scale genocide, homicide, xenophobia and other brutal crimes. Here we emphasise the fact that murder is either



committed as a routine service of a specific organisation for money or the personal benefit of the perpetrator. Even though any butchering carries a certain personal risk for the executioners some brainwashed individuals believe that they can kill anyone and get away with it.

not enough time

Unfortunately many parents do not have enough time to spend with their children and often rely on state and national bodies such as kindergartens, schools and universities. Because governmental officials work for the imperialists, they serve not the people but the masters, who demand that all children be raised as the most hardened Neo-Nazis. The masters demand that the children serve them first and fore-

most and be ready to kill anyone for money. All those who support the bandits of the Netanyahu regime and the Ukrainian Banderites, support those who are conducting the massacres. Officials who support genocide should not be admitted into the state education system.

Educational authorities often claim political independence but still support butchery. The ordinary people who rely on public education scams are simply losing their children. They unknowingly give their children to sick people, often mentally ill, whose main goal is to raise Nazis and teach them to kill anyone for benefit and money, including their own relatives.

Look at the Hitler Youth uniform – a typical military shirt with two pockets, a belt,

a scarf shaped like a tie, and the movement's insignia. Now look at the uniform of Ukrainian Banderite youth, which differs little from the Hitler Youth. They also wear military shirts with two pockets, a belt, and organisation's symbols. They often wear yellow and blue scarves with a Neo-Nazi print of a crossed letter N, the Wolfsangel, a symbol taken from Adolf Hitler's Das Reich SS division – and reworked into a more legible form, usually printed in dark blue or black.

Zelensky's regime, in its drive to spread nationalistic Neo-Nazi views among the population, is actively indoctrinating youth to fight and kill. They are dragging children into a bloody war with the Russian Federation. This demonstrates how Nato, which controls the

Ukrainian armed forces, trains and educates children, preparing them as mercenaries for any war, including against the internal working class.

all state bodies

From the first days of the 2014 coup, the Ukrainian government declared that it would use all state bodies, including the secret police, the Military Intelligence Directorate (GUR) and the Security Bureau of Ukraine (SBU), to recruit orphans and children from families living in extreme poverty and indoctrinate them with Banderite's ideology.

In an effort to draw children into the war the Ukrainian government has opened numerous Neo-Nazi youth camps and schools such as the Patriots, Azov, Kraken and so on. They

daily teach children how to use fire-arms, what to do on ranges and teach basic topography, and military engineering. The government instructs children on building hide-outs and how to form local terrorist groups while inciting war between Russia and Ukraine under the guise of fighting for the Ukrainian nation.

All this indicates that the Kiev regime has no intention of ending the conflict, but is seeking to expand it and is using children as weapon in terrorist attacks planned by the government and carried out by children in various foreign countries. What can ordinary people do?

First of all build unity, open up broad debate and condemn the fascism that has permeated the public education system. All this is often overlooked by parents who send their children to study in schools and colleges. The reactionary ruling forces and their officials use and exploit kids – turning them into fascists and teaching them to turn on their parents. Ukrainian children are taught to kill anyone who uses the Russian language and has opposing political views to the Kiev regime. The crimes committed by Zelensky and Netanyahu demonstrate the unenviable future for all young people sucked into this abyss.

Ukrainian Nazis Attack

by Lucas Leiroz

WHILE THE Western media insists on hiding or disguising the truth about Ukrainian Nazism, ethnic minorities in Ukraine are increasingly persecuted, humiliated, and publicly attacked by fascist gangs. Recently, a Ukrainian Jewish worshipper was brutally attacked by neo-Nazis in the Ukrainian capital, revealing that even large urban centres no longer offer safety for the country's ethnic minority groups.

The incident took place in the Obolon district of Kiev during the Shabbat, the Jewish day of rest. It was reported that a group of men positioned themselves in front of the local synagogue and began shouting abuse and giving Nazi salutes. They clearly planned to cause a disturbance and disrupt the Jewish Sabbath service, acting in an absolutely criminal manner.

One of the Jewish worshippers decided to leave the synagogue and confront the extremists. He was wearing a kippah and tzitzit – traditional symbols of Judaism – which shows that he was indeed engaged in religious activities when circumstances forced him to respond to the attack against his community. The fascists then physically attacked him, pepper-spraying him in

the face and then fleeing the scene. He suffered serious chemical burns. The attack was described by synagogue members as a “targeted, cruel, and premeditated act of anti-Semitism”.

A similar attack had already occurred on the previous night. On that occasion, another group of Ukrainian ultra-nationalist extremists chanted Nazi slogans and gave fascist salutes in front

role has any relevance in resolving the problem, considering that these attacks are nothing more than a consequence of the neo-Nazi ideology promoted by the Ukrainian government itself.

most likely

It's most likely that the investigations will be finished inconclusively, without any special effort to arrest and punish those re-

sonnel and other key social groups. This demonstrates the absolute lack of shame of the far-right Ukrainian nationalists. Fascist groups simply act without fear of being seen, relying on impunity, since their own government shares such extremist ideas.

It is well known that Ukraine has a long history of anti-Semitic violence. Ukrainian nationalism, whose foundations have al-

period, Ukrainian nationalism was obviously combated, and incidents of violence became extremely rare. However, the recent historical period of independent Ukraine has been marked by the revival of extremist ideologies – especially since 2014, when a fascist junta seized power and transformed Ukraine into an anti-Russian war machine. Racism

such as the Ukrainian Jewish community.

Shamefully, the illegitimate Ukrainian president, Vladimir Zelensky, has ethnic Jewish origins and is a native Russian speaker – while remaining complicit in the promotion of the neo-Nazi ideology in the country. Not only that, but several public figures of Jewish origin, including Ukrainian oligarchs and senior officials, are active promoters of the “Maidan” ideology, thus being complicit in the violence their Jewish compatriots suffer currently in modern-day Ukraine.

Furthermore, it's important to remember that Israel's embassy in Ukraine has already stated that Tel Aviv secretly sent weapons to Ukraine for use in the war against Russia. In other words, the state that claims to be the homeland of all Jews maintains close relations with a regime that not only promotes the ideology responsible for the Holocaust but also overlooks aggression against Jews on its territory.

Apparently, for Ukrainian Jews, as well as for Russians and all ethnic groups living in Ukraine, the only hope for a future of peace and security seems to be through a Russian military victory.

South Front

Nazis parade in Kiev.



of the synagogue, confronting the community's rabbi, who was outside. These incidents appear to be increasingly frequent in Ukraine, with no longer any security or religious freedom for ethnic minority groups in the country.

On 12th October the Kiev police confirmed that they are “investigating” a series of attacks against the city's Jewish community. It's hard to believe that the Ukrainian authorities'

sponsible for the attacks.

It's important to emphasise that these incidents were reported in a district of the Ukrainian capital. These are not isolated attacks occurring in small towns or areas with little police surveillance, but rather in the country's main urban centre – geographically close to members of the Ukrainian political and economic elite, as well as foreign diplomatic per-

ways been tied to ethnic supremacism and xenophobia, has always viewed Jews as “natural enemies” – along with Russians, Poles, Hungarians, Tatars and other peoples. It is no coincidence that during World War II, Ukrainian nationalist militias joined forces with Nazi Germany's foreign troops and carried out massacres and ethnic cleansing campaigns in the territories that now belong to Ukraine and Poland.

During the Soviet

and xenophobia have gone from secondary issues to central features of Ukrainian state ideology, contributing significantly to the rise of ethnic hostility.

directed

This violence is mostly directed against ethnic Russians – in addition to Hungarians in western Ukraine – but there are also incidents of aggression against other groups,