



## **Hostage Release for Ceasefire is Welcome, But Not Enough The Genocide Against Gaza Must Stop**

November 21, 2023—The pending release of 50 hostages, including 30 children, taken in a Hamas terror attack on October 7 is surely very welcome news for their families and all people of goodwill. However, there is no indication that this step will lead to an end to the horrific slaughter of thousands of Palestinian women and children which has been ongoing since October 8, supposedly in retaliation for the attack but really to carry out a plan of ethnic cleansing against 2.3 million people living in Gaza.

According to the United Nations, as of November 19, over 11,000 Palestinians have been killed, over 27,000 injured, and over 1.6 million people, or 70% of the population has been displaced. Israel has cut off electricity, water and fuel, with now small rations being allowed, leading to hundreds of deaths in beleaguered hospitals in Gaza. Given the difficulty of reporting the deaths and injuries, the actual death toll is probably significantly higher.

The efforts by President Biden and other political leaders, including my own Congressman Michael Lawler (NY-17) to justify the genocidal actions by the Israeli regime, which are in blatant violation of international law, are not fooling Americans, who want the carnage to stop.

We can remember the terrible attack on our nation on September 11, 2001, which took the lives of nearly 3,000 Americans. Despite the warnings of then U.S. presidential candidate Lyndon LaRouche against being stampeded into a series of wars by the lying news media and Bush/Cheney Administration, without ever investigating how such a massive security breach could possibly have occurred, the United States invaded Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria and Libya, killing and displacing millions of people, including sacrificing the lives of thousands of Americans troops to fight these wars, not to mention the 30,000 soldiers who have died by suicide since 2001.

Now, 22 years later, we are no safer than we were before, and our nation is plagued by violence.

China, Russia, Brazil and South Africa along with other BRICS-plus nations are making a heroic effort to end the killing. So far the Biden Administration and American news media have been enthusiastic enablers of crimes against humanity being carried out against the civilian population of Gaza.

The United States must demand an immediate ceasefire and humanitarian airlift, and instead of encouraging more bloodshed, Biden should work with civilized leaders, like Presidents Xi Jinping and Putin to establish a peace and reconstruction plan for the region which includes a sovereign Palestinian State, next to a peaceful Israel.

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