

## Death to all oppressors, monarchs or supreme leaders, religious or fascist

مرگ بر ستمگر، چه شاه باشد، چه رهبر، مذهبی یا فاشیست

The Israeli attack on Iran which began on 13 June is the outcome of a series of wars between the two enemy states. It is in continuity with a war growing in intensity and conducted by intermediaries: first of all, following the Arab Spring, in Iraq and Syria, then, following the attack by Hamas on 7 October 2023, on Lebanon as well. In spring 2024, an initial exchange between Israeli aircraft and Iranian drones and missiles can now be seen as a preparation for the current attack.

For the moment, with overwhelming air superiority, the Israeli state completely dominates the conflict. Israeli airstrikes are aimed at the Iranian military command, the nuclear sector, energy and infrastructure, civilian as well as military. These attacks have caused little harm to the civilian population relative to other wars going on, in Gaza or Ukraine, for example.

From the side of the Iranian theocracy, the response is not up to the job. It is clumsy and indiscriminate, the munitions (drones and various missiles) hit few targets, and, so far, seem to be aimed mainly at the civilian population.

The technical composition – aircraft, drones, missiles – of the conflict only threatens the lives of a small number of soldiers. All the belligerents are afraid of a ground war.

We must make no mistake; this war is conducted in a political manner by the Israeli state.

Despite the partial success of the first declared objective, the lasting paralysis of the uranium enrichment process that could lead to a bomb, the Israeli attack still continues. If we add to this the statements made by the American and Israeli heads of state in the media, it seems certain that the attacker's objective has become the capitulation or even the collapse of the Islamic Republic.

Yet, there was nothing in the means employed to ensure the collapse of the Islamic Republic. Ending the Second World War with the surrender of Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan required far greater bombing, far greater destruction, large-scale massacres of civilians, a military land invasion of Germany and the use of atomic weapons in Japan.

The war may yet get bogged down or intensify with the entry into the game of the US armed forces, currently being reinforced around Iran. As for the mullahs' state, it has little to expect from its allies, China and Russia, apart from feeble words: offers of mediation or general, abstract condemnation of the attacker.

The nature of the State of Israel, in which capitalist democracy has not yet been extinguished, notwithstanding the colonialism and apartheid inflicted on the Palestinians, cannot be compared with that of the fascist theocracy in Iran. Nevertheless, Israel's government is a far-right one, brought to power by a reactionary, xenophobic and racial supremacist social bloc. An Israeli military victory will strengthen the Israeli far-right and facilitate its other objectives, first and foremost the ethnic cleansing of the Gaza Strip and the subjugation of the West Bank.

If we are not for an Israeli victory, we do raise the possibility that the setback for the Iranian state represents an opportunity for the revolutionary movement. The defeat of a state and the crisis of its repressive organs opens up the possibility of a deep transformation of society. The Russian Revolution and numerous attempts at insurrection in Germany at the end of the First World War are the proof of this.

For the moment, it will be up to Iranian society to take the initiative. Leaving the field open to Israel and the USA means letting history repeat itself. In the last century, the USA and Israel put the Shah in power by means of a coup d'état to stop Iran leaving the Western bloc. This coup was one of the important causes of the Iranian Revolution of 1979, during which the CIA helped Khomeini get into power, there again with the aim of countering the USSR by encircling it, on its southern flank, with a "green belt" partly made up of the Taliban in Afghanistan.

The intervention currently underway once again serves similar purposes: to deal a powerful blow to the Eastern bloc, led by China, behind which Russia and Iran are aligned. For Iranian society, is it OK to let the states that want to dominate it fight it out, and then let the conquerors install their vassals?

The Iranian democracy movement is still alive, as was shown by the waves of struggle in 2009 and 2022, but also by local or partial struggles against rising prices, for access to water or for the rights of ethnic and regional minorities.

The workers' movement, despite attempts at control and bloody repression, has remained capable of organising defensive and offensive strikes for wages and working conditions, like those by the casualised workers in the petrochemical industry in 2022 or, more recently, by the truck drivers.

For proletarians, the only viable choice is to transform imperialist wars into class war, against all states, "their own" first of all.

Mouvement Communiste/Kolektivně proti Kapitálu, le 19 June 2025.