

NOSHIP STATEMENT

December 17, 2024

U.S. and Israel Out of Syria

New Orleans Stop Helping Israel's Ports (NOSHIP) strongly urges the anti-war and anti-zionist movement to fully and unequivocally demand: U.S. and Israel out of Syria. Over the last week, the Levant has witnessed a critical change: the collapse of the Syrian government. Through the various political responses that emerged, one thing remains crystal clear for the anti-zionist movement at home: the U.S. and Israel have no place on Syrian territory. Syria remains a sovereign country with internationally protected borders.

Since December 8, Israel has commenced the largest air bombing operation in its history. The current power vacuum has allowed Israel to completely decimate remnants of Syria's ammunition depots, naval assets, and close to 80% of the Syrian military infrastructure and capabilities. On Sunday, Israel dropped a seismic bomb on Syria's coastal town, Tartus, which caused an earthquake of 3.1 magnitude. At the same time, Israel's ground troops have invaded Syria, with their tanks being less than 15 miles away from Syria's capital, Damascus.

Israel's talk of preemptive "self-defense" in Syria is the same rhetoric it uses to justify its ongoing genocide of Palestinians in Gaza. For the last half-century, Israel occupied the Syrian Golan Heights. This area has been settled by Zionists in the same exact way as the West Bank and other parts of Palestine. Any and all claims of "self defense" are only excuses in order to continue its campaign of colonizing and settling its neighbors. Since 1967, Israel seized control over Syrian water resources and infrastructure for its own use. Since December 8, Israel has further annexed Syrian territory through ground invasion and expanded its control over natural resources in the area. Israel also announced its plans to double the Israeli settler population in Syria's occupied Golan Heights.

The U.S.-supplied bombs that are dropping on Gaza are the same ones that are dropping on Syria. The tanks that are currently rolling through civilian residences in Palestine are the same ones that are invading Syria. The U.S. has had a ground-troop presence in Syria for almost a decade. The U.S. is not only **illegally present on Syrian sovereign land**; it also proudly acknowledges that fact. Conveniently, U.S. military bases are located next to Syrian oil fields, enabling the pillage of the country's natural resources. Moreover, **decades worth of U.S. sanctions have decimated the Syrian economy**, affecting the Syrian people. While making the post-war reconstruction harder, these economic sanctions also make it very difficult for regular Syrians to get access to basic necessities and life-saving medicine.

It is worth reminding that **U.S. sanctions led to the death of over 200,000-500,000 children in Iraq in the 1990's**. However, illegal military presence in Syria, the pillaging of the country's natural resources, the spending of over \$1 billion taxpayer dollars in CIA operations to destabilize the country,

¹ Timber Sycamore CIA operation, 2012-2017.



and years of devastating economic sanctions have not been sufficient for the U.S. empire. **Since December 8, the U.S. has conducted over 75 air strikes in Syria using B-52 bomber aircrafts.**

This situation paints a crystal clear picture: **the U.S. empire and its strongest and deadliest regional ally, Israel, aim to fracture the sovereign Syrian territory, and in the process, weaken the Palestinian and Lebanese resistance.** The goal of such operations is to obtain and retain control over the entire region. This territorial fractioning is already occurring, as the NATO ally and neighbor to the north, **Turkey, has already begun illegal invasion campaigns in northern Syria.**

NOSHIP rejects any and all territorial partitioning of Syria by the hands of foreign governments. The future of Syria will determine whether the creeping presence of zionism and U.S. imperialism will establish a strong foothold in the Levant. This would be detrimental to the liberation of Palestine. This would be detrimental to the safety and freedom of the Syrian people. This would be detrimental to the safety and freedom of the Lebanese people.

The Port of New Orleans, the Jewish Federation of New Orleans, and many other local entities are furthering the currently ongoing genocide, military campaigns, and destabilizing of the region. **We must now, more than ever, demand that the local entities immediately cease providing military, financial, and public relations support to Israel. We also must demand, now more than ever, that the U.S. immediately withdraw from and cease any and all operations in Syria.**

U.S. Out of Syria!

Israel Out of Syria!

No Land Grab of Syrian Territory!