

GEGEN DIE STRÖMUNG



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Expose and fight the worldwide advance of the international counter-revolutionary movement oriented towards the Iranian regime and Hamas!

Hamas' anti-Jewish massacre in Israel on 7 October 2023 has absolutely nothing to do with an emancipatory liberation struggle and cannot be justified and legitimized by progressive, let alone truly communist forces. Hamas and its supporters must be exposed and fought against. However, it would be narrow-minded and naive to reduce the problem to Hamas and its war against Israel. We must understand that reactionary forces like Hamas are an international phenomenon whose aim is precisely to destroy progressive and communist forces. The worldwide campaign to destroy Israel is part of an international counter-revolutionary political phenomenon and has nothing to do with real solidarity with the Palestinian people. This counter-revolutionary military and ideological current also aims precisely at destroying any attempt at revolutionary politics. This can be seen not only in Iran, but also with the IS against the Kurdish liberation struggle. This current is also causing damage in India, Pakistan, Indonesia and many states in Africa and the Arabian Peninsula. Without fighting this international current, no democratic-revolutionary or even communist movement or organization will be able to develop in any of these countries.

The phenomenon of fascist counter-revolutionary forces invoking Islam

In Central and West Asia, but also in some African countries, reactionary, nationalist or religious movements masquerading as Islam have been created and supported in recent decades. These are often more or less closely linked to reactionary regimes dependent on imperialism, such as in Iran, Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia or Turkey. This has served and continues to serve two main goals:

Firstly. In dependent countries, the imperialist powers are nurturing various reactionary groups and movements in order to increasingly assert their own interests in the **struggle for supremacy against imperialist rivals**.

This has clearly been the case in the history of Afghanistan over the past 40 years. Later on, this can be clearly seen in Syria, for example, but also increasingly in various African countries such as Libya. Fierce competition is underway there, particularly for raw materials. In the reactionary distribution wars between the various governors of imperialist powers, which are also concerned with their own ambitions of domination, millions and millions of people have lost their lives in massacres, expulsions and hunger in recent decades.

Secondly. It was and is about **preventing, undermining or destroying the influence of progressive and revolutionary forces and organizations**. In fact, it is a very serious problem that in many regions

of the world such reactionary movements, which often have a large mass influence, are "flattening" actual democratic approaches of liberation movements.

In counter-revolutionary demagoguery, organizations such as Hamas, Al-Qaeda, Taliban, IS, etc. with very specific intentions are referred to ambiguously and nebulously as "radical", "violent", etc. Terms such as "Revolutionary Guards" for counter-revolutionary murderous troops in Iran are adopted and used. The characterization is deliberately left open in order to be able to direct the spearhead of propaganda against these reactionary and counter-revolutionary organizations, above all against future possible or, to some extent, actually existing revolutionary organizations. Here too, this is the "left = right" thought pattern demagogically constructed and used by imperialist reaction.

Some highlights on the historical origins and development

What we are experiencing today is not really a new phenomenon. It has its origins in particular in the worldwide manoeuvring of the counter-revolution for over 100 years now to build up forces with their own organizations that invoke Islam and disguise themselves with Islam, to finance and organize mercenary troops, and to mobilize feudal-reactionary traditions for their purposes.

■ From the 1920s onwards, the reactionary **Muslim Brotherhood** played a significant role in the conflicts between the various feudal cliques in the Arab states. Their motto was the fight against "Christian crusaders, Jews, Marxists and infidels". The Muslim Brotherhood was used in the conflicts between these cliques - often alternating with feudal reactionaries pretending to be modern - sometimes here, sometimes there, to mobilize parts of the population by invoking Islam and then to massacre and largely destroy the communist forces, as happened above all after 1945 in Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Palestine, etc.

■ In the course of the huge mass struggles for the overthrow of the fascist torture regime of the "Shah of Persia" in 1979, reactionary forces invoking Islam under the leadership of Khomeini appeared on the scene in **Iran** in order to first suppress the revolutionary forces in the interests of imperialism and then establish a bloody dictatorship. With a superstructure based on Islam and murderous "Revolutionary Guards", they established a counter-revolutionary regime. Since then, this regime has supported the Nazi movement worldwide (e.g. with international Shoah denial conferences). Reactionary forces invoking Islam (Muslim Brotherhood, Houthi, Hezbollah, Hamas, etc.) are coordinated, financed and militarily trained.

Israel-related hostility towards Jews was and is a fundamental ideological orientation of the Iranian regime. As early as 1979, Khomeini launched the annual "Al-Quds Day" to mobilize enemies of the Jews worldwide under the flag of the destruction of Israel. It is clear that the Iranian regime cannot act without the support of the imperialist superpowers, despite all its independent interests. Today, Iran openly relies on Russian imperialism and China, without having given up its excellent economic relations with German imperialism and other European states.

■ Another internationally significant stage was the occupation and war in **Afghanistan**. The US imperialists in particular, but also the German and other imperialists, supported various reactionary forces there for years against the social-imperialist competitor, the Soviet Union, which directly occupied Afghanistan militarily from 1979 to 1989 in order to maintain this sphere of influence against the US imperialists and other imperialist superpowers. The Taliban and other reactionary forces were financed with billions and billions and equipped with state-of-the-art weapons.

It is significant that the truly progressive forces in Afghanistan, especially those oriented towards scientific communism, were already being persecuted and murdered not only by the social-imperialist rulers, but also by the reactionary forces in the service of the Western imperialists.

In view of global political developments since 1989, the Taliban, who have now taken up the cause of "fighting the USA", have succeeded in creating a certain scope for action in the international arena. This also shows how wrong the idea is that forces created or dependent on imperialism cannot come into conflict with their patrons and masterminds. However, the Taliban remained and remain highly dependent on the support of reactionary forces in Pakistan in particular - and remain part of the imperialist world system either way. This applies to all these reactionary forces, however "anti-imperialist" they may claim to be.

**From the lives of some comrades who
were murdered
by the reactionary
mujahideen in the service of the Western imperialists in the struggle to build the
Communist Party of Afghanistan/ML**

In Afghanistan, during the social-imperialist occupation from 1978 onwards, revolutionary communist comrades of the then fighting KP Afghanistans/ML were murdered by henchmen of opposition organizations who invoked Islam. Here are three well-known examples:

Comrade Abdul Hakim (code name Fatah) was a member of the Central Committee. After the uprising in Herat, he was assigned by the party to fight there. He was arrested during the fight in Herat. He was accused of being a member of "Schulaa Jawed" ("Eternal Flame" party). He was cruelly murdered by one of the reactionary mujahideen in the service of the Western imperialist powers.

Comrade Mohamed Omar was a member of the party's leadership group. Comrade Omar played an important role on the front against social imperialism during the war. His bravery made him a role model for the population in the provinces. He was a thorn in the side of the reactionary henchmen in the service of the Western imperialist powers. They saw him as a threat to their existence and shadowed him until one day they found him alone in his apartment. They surrounded him and arrested him, dragged him into the mountains and murdered him there.

Comrade Zaleh Mohamed was a member of the Central Committee. During the fighting in Farah (in southwest Afghanistan), he set up his own front and continued to lead it during the attacks. He was arrested in his sleep by members of the "Black Swan" (reactionary forces based on Islam). He was then tortured and murdered together with his comrades.

Source: Zur Geschichte Afghanistans - ein Land im Würgegriff des Imperialismus - Über die Kriegspolitik des deutschen Imperialismus in Afghanistan, Verlag Olga Benario und Herbert Baum, Offenbach 2002, p. 51f.

Ideology: hostility towards Jews, anti-communism and misogyny

The **ideology** of these global counter-revolutionary mercenary forces is of course not always completely uniform. Since the 1990s, Iran, which is based on Shia Islam, and the Taliban, which is based on Sunni Islam, especially in Afghanistan, have at times been enemies and at other times allies. In the murderous Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988), Iran fought against Iraq, which invoked Sunni Islam. This war resulted in around 500,000 dead and almost 1 million wounded (German imperialism armed both sides and supplied weapons worth 3 billion euros each).

A common basis in this mixture of irrationalities is the deep-seated **hatred of Jews and anti-communism** against all democratic-revolutionary forces, which is accompanied by tirades of struggle against the "infidels" of the whole world. This ideology also includes a deep-seated **misogyny** and flaunted brutality (with public executions, beheadings of prisoners, humiliation of captured women with every conceivable cruelty). The invocation of Islam is an extremely effective method of using religious fanaticism to win over broad sections of the population who see themselves as believers in Islam. It is suggested that the entire Western world, above all "the Jews", want to destroy Islam and that a state based on Islam is therefore necessary as a "protective power of the oppressed Muslim population" along the lines of Iran. For "advertising purposes", so to speak, actions and attacks are carried out that supposedly target imperialism or reaction. In reality, however, one of the main tasks of these organizations is to nip revolutionary movements in the bud wherever possible.

This mentality also includes the **mercenary system**, which has increased significantly worldwide in the last 20 years, even if these mercenary troops are not always absolutely reliable, as the example of the fascist Wagner troops showed. They had been hired by Putin, but then suddenly wanted to bite the hand of the master.

Not just a local, but an international phenomenon

It is not just about Israel and Gaza and the Hamas massacre of October 7, 2023, nor is it just about the terror of the so-called "Islamic State" (IS) to destroy the Yazidi population in Iraq and to fight the revolutionary Kurdish liberation movement in Syria.

The forces that are aligned with the Muslim Brotherhood, fascist Iran, IS, Hezbollah, Jihad, Taliban etc., the forces that support Hamas today, are also a huge problem for democratic and revolutionary forces in Asia and Africa. They serve the counter-revolution in the Philippines, in Pakistan, in India and not least in Indonesia. The mercenary troops disguising themselves as Islam are destabilizing existing power structures in Africa - be it in Yemen, Tunisia, Sudan or Congo - in the interests of this or that imperialist power and are doing everything they can to stifle the forces fighting against imperialist exploitation and oppression.

A political, financial and logistical basis that should not be underestimated

What is usually not taken into account is that these fascist forces can rely on the support of a whole series of reactionary states that define themselves as "Islamic" and form the "Organization of Islamic Cooperation" (OIC) with a total of 57 states. The ideological and political orientation of many of these states largely coincides with the fascist forces that invoke Islam. These clearly include Afghanistan, Iran and Qatar. A state like Pakistan is a logistical base and retreat area for various fascist forces.

OIC member states such as Iran, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, but certainly not only these, contribute massively to the financing of fascist forces. It is also significant that the OIC explicitly declared its support for Turkey's position on the genocide of the Armenian population during the First World War in a statement in 2012.

The fascist regime in Iran, which supports Hamas, oppresses the democratic-revolutionary forces, especially the fighting women, and the national minorities and nationalities in its own country on a daily basis. It has imprisoned, tortured and massacred hundreds of thousands of people from the beginning of its existence until today. This alone shows that all those forces that support Hamas - whether they call themselves "communist", "Maoist" or "Bolshevik" - are in fact siding with the global counter-revolution.

Democratic and revolutionary tasks of the communist forces

Here in Germany, German imperialism is our main enemy. We have the long-term task of destroying German imperialism in the proletarian revolution. We have the task of fighting its reactionary policies at home and in all parts of the world.

German imperialism is currently using the anti-Jewish massacre by Hamas on October 7, 2023 to further advance the abolition of democratic rights and intensified deportations at home and to intensify Islamophobic agitation under demagogic pretexts. The enemy is not the religion of Islam, but Hamas! Externally, German imperialism is pushing ahead with its spheres of influence, especially in the Arab countries.

We must understand and tirelessly educate about the international effectiveness of hostility against the Jewish population.

Wherever possible, the anti-Jewish propaganda of Hamas supporters, their marches and rallies that threaten the Jewish population must be disrupted or prevented, and Jewish institutions and Jewish people must be protected.

One of the indispensable proletarian-internationalist tasks in the struggle against German imperialism is to expose and fight the worldwide advance of the international counterrevolutionary movement oriented towards the Iranian regime and Hamas without any ifs and buts!

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Causes for the increased influence of pro-imperialist reactionary movements, often invoking Islam

The enormous growth of such reactionary organizations and movements, many of which have a considerable mass influence and mass following, is also very largely connected with the enormous setbacks and weakness of the international communist movement. In Lenin's draft for the II. Congress of the Communist International in 1920, the guiding principles on the national and colonial question emphasized the tasks of the Communist Parties in countries where feudal-patriarchal conditions are of great importance:

"the need to fight the clergy and other reactionary and medieval elements" (Lenin, "Original Draft of the Theses on the National and Colonial Question", 1920, Lenin Works Vol. 31, p. 137.

In his report of the Commission on the National and Colonial Question at the Second Congress of the Communist International, Lenin emphasized, after the discussion in the Commission, an important point on which agreement was reached,

"that we as communists must and will support the bourgeois liberation movements in the colonial countries only if these movements are truly revolutionary, if their representatives do not prevent us from educating and organizing the peasantry and the broad masses of the exploited in a revolutionary spirit." (Report of the Commission on the National and Colonial Question, 1920, Lenin Works Vol. 31, p. 228)

This struggle was waged with some success, though certainly not without mistakes, for decades under the leadership of the communist parties - against nationalism and religious stultification. Due to the revisionist liquidation of the vast majority of former Communist parties, especially after the revisionist 20th Party Congress of the CPSU in 1956, the revolutionary counterforce against the reactionary, feudal forces in these countries largely collapsed, so that it was only a question of time and the confluence of various circumstances before these reactionary forces emerged or were able to emerge on such a broad scale.

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The instrumentalization of reactionary forces in the sphere of power and influence of sphere of influence of imperialist rivals - a well-known method of German imperialism and its Nazis

For as long as German imperialism has existed, it has developed great skill in using various methods to penetrate the spheres of influence of its rivals and undermine their positions. For example, the German imperialists have repeatedly and cunningly exploited the moods prevailing in various countries against the dominant imperialists there and - in connection with this - have drawn reactionary, nationalist forces to their side and instrumentalized them for their own ends. This policy was pursued against British and French imperialism. The Nazi-fascist rulers promoted this infiltration with their "fifth columns" and also directed it against the USA in South America, for example. These machinations also played a major role in the preparation and execution of the Nazi war against the then socialist USSR.

In view of the large English colonial possessions, the German imperialists made great efforts from the outset to instrumentalize reactionary forces, particularly in various English-controlled countries. In doing so, they tried to exploit the existing colonial and national oppression for their own ends.

■ In India, the Nazis supported S. C. Bose, a leader of the "Congress Party", who fled to Germany in 1941 and founded the reactionary organization "Free India" there. With massive Nazi support, an Indian unit of the Nazi army was created, the so-called "Tiger Legion".

■ A central figure for the Nazis in Palestine was the Mufti of Jerusalem, Amin el-Husseini. He was an avowed Hitler supporter and openly collaborated with the Nazis. In Palestine, he sparked an anti-Semitic pro-German movement against England. Between 1936 and 1939 in particular, this movement carried out

anti-Jewish pogroms, organized massacres of the Jewish population and supported the dissemination of anti-Jewish Nazi writings by the SS with the help of brochures and radio broadcasts. Amin el-Husseini was also involved in the recruitment of 20,000 SS men in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In December 1941, he was appointed SS group leader by Himmler. In January 1942, an "Arab Office" was set up for el-Husseini in Berlin, which disseminated Nazi propaganda via radio in the Middle East. One of his slogans there was: "Kill the Jews wherever you meet them...". After the Second World War, Hussein, whose extradition as a war criminal was demanded by Yugoslavia, was granted asylum in Egypt.

■ In the 1930s, Nazi Germany also seemingly made itself the "champion" of peoples oppressed by French imperialism in the fight against French imperialism. In October 1934, for example, a "Conference of Muslim Communities" was formed in Berlin under the chairmanship of Abdel-Wahab from Morocco. It was announced there that Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria could only achieve their "freedom" through Germany's victory over France.

■ The German imperialists and Nazi-fascists did not limit themselves to collaborators who invoked Islam. They also instrumentalized reactionary or fascist Christian forces (e.g. from Georgia and Armenia) - as long as it served their expansionist goals. In South America, the Nazis fought against the influence of US imperialism in particular in these countries with the help of the so-called "Volksdeutsche". In Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay and Paraguay in particular, there were hundreds of thousands of largely reactionary sections of the population who saw themselves as "Germans" and whom the Nazis were able to exploit for espionage and also to incite reactionary movements or pro-Nazi coups in these countries. Thousands of these "Germans" were members of the Nazi Party, the SA and SS or the Nazi "foreign organization". In Chile, for example, attempts by Chilean fascists to carry out pro-Nazi coups were thwarted in July 1940 and June 1941. Nazi coup plans were also uncovered and thwarted in Uruguay in May 1940.

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These connections were not severed after the defeat of Nazi-fascism in 1945, but with the renewed strengthening of German imperialism, they were continued in a variety of ways. Currently, German diplomacy in front of and behind the scenes, especially in the "Middle East", with all the "contacts" to various groups there, is intended to strengthen the influence of German imperialism, especially against the competition of the USA, but also other major powers. This needs to be exposed more intensively.

The text has been machine translated.