



THE  
PEOPLE'S  
WARS  
MEET

the  
ISLAMIC  
UPSURGE—

COOPERATION or  
CONDEMNATION?

to determining allies in struggle: “Regarding our friends, they are all the world’s oppressed; anyone who fights our enemies and is careful not to offend us, whoever they might be: individuals, political parties, or organizations.” **Unity is premised on respect. From there cooperation and concerted action become distinct possibilities.**

**The end of this month marks a meeting of struggles that could spark a promising overlap and unity between anti-imperialist forces and their supporters going forward.** Diminishing u.s.-zionist power in one part of the world always impacts its puppets and proxies elsewhere. This recognition is not new, and has been articulated many times before by Third-World liberation struggles. New Afrikan Muslim revolutionary and BLA veteran Sekou Odinga, recounting his experience in the Black Panther Party’s International Section, said, “Without the u.s. support, most of the brothers that were struggling around the world felt that they would be able to easily deal with the local yokels.” The prospects for the People’s Wars would improve greatly if the u.s.-zionist enemy could no longer sponsor neo-colonial comprador regimes as it does in India and the Philippines. **In light of this, we find it totally unprincipled, counter-productive, and defeatist that certain self-proclaimed Maoists are disparaging the actual living, breathing ideals of the Resistance Axis—ideals that have gained strength and legitimacy among millions of the oppressed and cohered into one of the most effective weapons against ziomerikan empire in the world today.**

For those of us in the imperialist metropolis, where co-opted ‘protest’ movements dominate, **our own commitments demand we bring People’s War and anti-colonial armed struggle into the realm of eventuality.** We have much to learn when it comes to forging principled unity. Our comments on wars in the Third World should not be taken as purely armchair theorizations; we aim to provide clarity for anyone willing to fight the ziomerikan settler empire. We are *not* on the frontlines, *not* living among the rubble, *not* offering ourselves and our loved ones as martyrs...yet. So at the least we should approach these struggles with some humility and respect for the leading combatants.

Published by **People’s Anti-Imperialist Study & Action (PAISA)**,  
March 29, 2026  
[linktr.ee/3rdWorldPAISA](http://linktr.ee/3rdWorldPAISA)

Cover: Protesters demonstrate in solidarity with the Islamic Republic of Iran and against u.s.-zionist aggression, Srinagar, Indian-occupied Kashmir, January 16, 2026

Faleh's remark during the first year of Al-Aqsa Flood holds true here: "the so-called 'Islamists' possess a fundamental understanding of imperialism and zionism better than many self-described leftists."

Following the martyrdom of Supreme Leader Ayatollah Khamenei, tens of thousands of Shia Muslims in Kashmir took to the streets in an outpouring of righteous rage and mourning, rising up against their jew-loving hindutva-fascist occupiers. Were these colonized masses demonstrating loyalty to "religious fascism"? Such a question obviously sounds ridiculous, yet it **springs directly from the tendency to deploy "Marxist" language against the Resistance Axis as a whole.** Instead of outright condemning Iran, the Left could try to comprehend its prestige in the eyes of the oppressed. Pan-Afrikan Muslim revolutionary and Black Liberation Army veteran Dhoruba Bin Wahad described the lasting power of the 1979 Revolution: "... through their faith, and the methodology of Islam, [Iranians] overthrew a tiger—the major european powers and the united states." If militants steeped in the MLM tradition cannot break free from the dogmatic attachment to secularism, they will remain watching on the sidelines—as irrelevant bystanders or worse—anytime oppressed Muslim peoples express their spiritual commitments and religious convictions in the form of concrete anti-imperialist action.

Addressing ourselves to revolutionary-minded Third-World peoples everywhere, we believe unity emerges from two simple and related questions: **Who is the primary enemy of the oppressed, and who is fighting that enemy? If we can answer those, everything else falls into place.** Comrade Ganapathy was very clear on the all-encompassing evil of u.s. imperialism. Unity in the face of the ziomerikan axis of genocide, the "need of the hour," has only become more essential. And the Comrade stated plainly that it is the responsibility of serious Maoist revolutionaries to "initiate steps to unite with the forces in the Islamic movement," not dismiss them out of hand as hopelessly reactionary. Emerging out of an entirely different intellectual heritage, Hizbullah, which today is once again fearlessly repelling u.s.-zionist settler-invader armies, outlined in its first public statement a straightforward approach

## THE PEOPLE'S WARS MEET the ISLAMIC UPSURGE— COOPERATION or CONDEMNATION?

*Considering that the imperialist world with all its states and regimes is uniting today in fighting the oppressed, then the oppressed must get together to confront the plots of the forces of arrogance in the world.*

—Hizbullah, "Open Letter to the Oppressed in Lebanon and the World," February 16, 1985

**Nasrallah of Hizbullah has recently said that the Left should come close to Islamists. In Indian context—what do you feel?**

*I basically agree with what Nasrallah of Hizbullah has said. One must understand that Nasrallah is referring to the struggles for national liberation from imperialism in Islamic countries.*

*The need of the hour is to achieve the unity of all forces opposed to imperialism, particularly u.s. imperialism, which is aggressively destroying every human value handed over to us by thousands of years of history and is oppressing every nation of Asia, Afrika, and Latin Amerika. The Left cannot even claim itself to be democratic if it does not initiate steps to unite with the forces in the Islamic movement which are fighting for national liberation from imperialism, particularly u.s. imperialism.*

—Comrade Ganapathy, General Secretary of the Communist Party of India (Maoist) 2004–2018, interview published in *People's March*, Vol. 8 No. 7, July 2007

As we enter the second month of the Ramadan War, the Axis of Resistance's methodical multi-front destruction of u.s.-zionist settler-imperialist power in West Asia has sent shockwaves reaching South Asia and beyond, creating new conditions for embattled people's movements every step of the way. **The military escalation in the Arab-Iranian region has the potential to severely weaken u.s. imperialism's key junior partners across the Third World.** This comes precisely at a time when these regimes are desperate to crush internal challenges to their own counter-revolutionary rule.

In India and the Philippines specifically, where Maoist-led People's Wars have endured for almost six decades, **the downfall of u.s.-zionist empire can only mean one thing: a major advance toward certain victory for the masses of oppressed and super-exploited peasants and indigenous peoples.** According to *Ang Bayan*, "u.s. imperialism uses the puppet Marcos regime and the mercenary Armed Forces of the Philippines to maintain its semi-colonial rule over the Philippines." As for hindutva-fascist India, over the last three decades it has integrated deeper and deeper into the u.s.-zionist world order. Gleefully aligning with and making its own contribution to ziomerika's most foundational objective—exterminating Muslims and indigenous peoples. Billions of dollars in weaponry and the transfer of genocidal counter-insurgency tactics has given the Indian state the means to expand its settleristic occupation of Kashmir, and wage all-out war on Adivasis under "Operation Kagar."

March 28 is the international day of action against Operation Kagar, and March 29 is the 57th anniversary of the founding of the New People's Army. Both are unfolding against the backdrop of a monumental anti-imperialist war in West Asia. A powerful Islamic spirit has fired wave after wave of Resistance missile barrages into the settler entity and offered untold thousands of brave martyrs in defiance of jewish-crusader epstein empire. **We see this confrontation as an inspiration, rallying cry, and model for all oppressed people's movements, no matter their ideology.**

In October 2023 serious revolutionaries of every tendency and outlook, especially Maoists, saluted the glorious dawn of Al-Aqsa Flood and understood its positive downstream effects on struggles of all kinds, including the People's Wars. Aside from scattered insignificant grumbings about the "lack of an MLM vanguard party" in Palestine, **the dominant sentiment correctly echoed imprisoned Black revolutionary Kevin "Rashid" Johnson's 2012 observation: "It was the will of the Palestinian people that made Hamas their national liberation organization..."** The master of the Flood himself, the mujahid martyr leader Yahya Al-Sinwar, spoke openly of the Islamic Republic of Iran's crucial role in supporting the Palestinian Resistance, ultimately enabling the Great Crossing of October 7.

Why then, have we seen condemnation of the Islamic Republic—the leading force in the Resistance Axis—voiced by those who hold deep respect and admiration for the People's Wars? **Why have some used the most dogmatic and mechanical aspects of the Marxist-Leninist-Maoist tradition as a cudgel against the "Islamic upsurge" that Comrade Ganapathy sought to unite with almost two decades prior?**

We are highlighting a corrosive line pushed by certain Maoists and their supporters that claims to reject u.s.-zionist empire but just so happens to repeat its lies and smears about the Resistance Axis. **The reflexive 'anti-theism' and obsession with secularism that characterizes so much of Marxist thought, which simplistically sees anything religious as "reactionary," too easily conforms to the general eurocentric contempt for Islamic movements.** When Maoists in South Asia—alongside their supporters in the First World—invoke "theocratic fascism" as a lazy catch-all term to denounce the Islamic Republic, they sound no different than mainstream u.s.-zionist narratives. **We expect the enemy to demonize the Resistance, but to hear the same ziomerikan talking points parroted by self-proclaimed anti-imperialists compels us to question their grasp of the primary contradiction.** Do these Maoists and their supporters really desire "unity of all forces opposed to imperialism"? Ameen