



President Hifikepunye Pohamba and the First Lady, Madam Penexupifo Pohamba during Jackson Kaujeua's memorial service. Photo by Levi Upula.



A large crowd of people bidding farewell to Jackson Kaujeua. Photo by Levi Upula.

Kaujeua

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history of Namibia's liberation struggle and the hardships that thousands of Namibians went through for the sake of freedom and independence.

"Comrade Kaujeua's sacrifices are not in vain as we will continue to work together to make our country a better place," said the President. "Those who have the talent to

produce music should follow in his footsteps and immortalize his legacy. "They must continue to tell the story of our nation's heroism, cultural diversity and national reconciliation.

"We shall forever remember that the winds of change have blown through southern Africa and Namibia became free, never to be colonized again."

Founding President Dr Sam Nujoma described Kaujeua as a freedom fighter who encour-

aged and inspired Namibians through his liberation struggle songs, citing "Independence or Death, We shall Win" as one of Kaujeua's popular songs.

He said Kaujeua never saw himself belonging to any ethnic group in Namibia as demonstrated by his music that was expressed in various indigenous languages of the country.

"By doing so, he laid a strong foundation of unity of purpose among all Namibians," said the Founding President. "His music became identical to SWAPO's political objectives of Solidarity, Freedom and Justice, above all: One Namibia One Nation. "We have indeed lost a committed and dedicated son of our soil whose exemplary deeds should continue to inspire all Namibians to build a united, peaceful and prosperous Nation."

Kaujeua, who is survived by four children, will be buried on Saturday at Ovitoto in Otjozondjupa Region.

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Tel: 061-276370/78/79/80

Fax: 061-276381

Cell: 081 124 2749

General E-Mail: inform@namibiatoday.com.na

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SWAPO Party: swapoparty@namibiatoday.com.na

Accounts: accounts@namibiatoday.com.na

Israel's massacre at sea

Bill Van Auken

The Israeli military's killing of nine civilians and wounding of scores more on a ship carrying humanitarian supplies in international waters was an act of cold-blooded murder and a war crime.

For millions of people around the world, this military assault on an aid convoy carrying wheelchairs, cement, water purification systems, children's toys and notebook paper to Gaza—all items barred by Israel's blockade of the occupied territory—epitomizes the role played by Israel, as well as that of its US sponsor, in global affairs.

As always in the aftermath of such atrocities, the Israeli government has blamed its victims. In a televised speech Wednesday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu described the aid convoy as a "flotilla of terror supporters" and praised the slaughter on the high seas as an act of self-defense by besieged Israeli commandos.

Those who engaged in self-defense were the passengers on the ship, and they had every right to do so. The fact that nine of them were killed, while the

Israeli Defense Force (IDF) commandos suffered not a single fatality, is evidence as to who was the aggressor.

This is a regular pattern. The massacre in the Mediterranean comes just a year and a half after Operation Cast Lead, the far greater slaughter that the Israeli regime unleashed against the suffering people of Gaza. Claiming then as now to act in "self defense," in December 2008 and January 2009 Israel rained bombs, missiles and tank and automatic weapons fire upon Gaza, killing over 1,400 Palestinians, the overwhelming majority of them unarmed men, women and children. This one-sided war by one of the world's most powerful military machines against a relatively defenseless civilian population claimed just 13 Israeli lives, all but three of them soldiers.

The aid convoy was a response to the barbaric blockade that has subjected an entire population of 1.5 million people in Gaza to hunger, dis-

ease and misery.

Since the tightening of the blockade in 2007, according to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), the number of Gaza refugees living in abject poverty has tripled.

The UN reported at the end of 2009 that "insufficient food and medicine is reaching Gazans, producing a further deterioration of the mental and physical health of the entire civilian population since Israel launched Operation Cast Lead against the territory." Among the starkest expressions of Israel's deliberate starvation of an entire population was a finding by the Food and Agriculture Organization last year that 65 percent of babies between the ages of nine and 12 months suffer from anemia.

Israel is able to carry out this kind of medieval siege as well as piracy and murder not merely because of its own military might, but thanks to the unwavering patronage and funding of Washington. This latest mass killing has only underscored that—as with so much else—the advent of the Obama administration has effected no significant change in US policy.

While issuing a hypocritical expression of "deep regret at the loss of life," the Obama administration is doing everything it can to assure that Israel bears neither blame nor consequences for these killings. It quashed any criticism of Israel's action at the UN Security Council and has implicitly adopted the Zionist state's justification for the massacre.

Israel's criminality and Washington's role as its unconditional enabler both have a

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South Africa has no intention to expel the Israeli ambassador to south Africa, Mogale added.

Also on Thursday, South African Deputy International Relations Minister Ebrahim Ebrahim said South Africa is recalling its ambassador to Israel.

However, the South African government has no intention of expelling the Israeli ambassador to South Africa or of cutting diplomatic ties with that community.

"The recall of ambassador Ishmael Coovadia is to show our strongest condemnation of the attack. This recent Israel aggression of attacking the aid flotilla severely impacts on finding a lasting solution to the problems of the region," Ebrahim told journalists in Pretoria.

"The South African government also joins the international community in its call for the siege of Gaza to be immediately lifted," said Ebrahim, adding that the siege has brought "untold hardships" to the ordinary people of Gaza. Ebrahim said that the South African Government welcomed the decision by

Egypt to open the Rafa border crossing between it and Palestinian-controlled Rafah.

It is not clear when Ishmael Coovadia, South Africa's ambassador to Israel, will be back to the country.

Calls for the expulsion of the Israeli ambassador from South Africa has been mounting since Wednesday.

The youth league of South Africa's ruling African National Congress (ANC) and the Coalition for a Free Palestine (CFP) added the voices to the protest over the recent Israeli attacks and killing of relief workers on the flotilla of ships in international waters carrying aid to the people of Gaza.

ANC Youth League spokesman Floyd Shivambu said in a statement that the league condemned "in the strongest terms" the attacks and viewed them as a provocation by Israel and a threat to international peace.

"The ANC Youth League calls upon the South African Government and the international community to isolate the state Israel and cut all diplomatic ties in solidarity with the people of Palestine. "The league also reiterated its

call for a two state solution to the Middle East problems between Israel and Palestine. "We will forever oppose the barbaric attacks by the Israeli government, which seem to derive pleasure out of the massacres of innocent people," said Shivambu.

The (CFP) said South Africa must expel the Israeli ambassador and cut all ties with that country.

SAPA reported that the CFP's list of demands included and international general strike against Israel, the expulsion of the ambassador, and the prosecution of all South African citizens who serve in the Israeli armed forces.

The CFP also called on the Egyptian government to keep the Rafah Crossing open indefinitely to allow free access to and from the Gaza strip.

A Cape Town based South Africa journalist survived the raid and was said to be on her way back home.

On Monday morning, Israeli naval forces attacked the Freedom Flotilla, killing at least 19 and wounding dozens. The forces also seized the ships and vessels and prevented the fleet from reaching the Gaza Strip.