

Turkish protestors demand expulsion of U.S. warship docking in Izmir Port

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Turkish citizens protest against the docking of an American ship, expressing solidarity with

Palestinians on September, 2, 2024. (Photo by social media)

Izmir, September 4 (RHC)-- Turkish citizens have taken to the streets in Izmir to demonstrate against the docking of an American warship, expressing solidarity with Palestinians and their opposition to US all-out military support for Israel amid the Gaza genocide.

Turkish parties gathered at the Izmir port entrance to voice their opposition to the USS Wasp anchoring, one of the ships sent to the region by the U.S. to support the Israeli regime. Waving the Palestinian flag, protesters held banners reading "Our country's ports cannot be supply and logistics points for murderers" and "We do not want the US ship that brings war and death to Palestine in Izmir."

They chanted slogans such as "Down with Israel," "Down with NATO" and "Down with USA," demanding the immediate departure of the American ship from the Port of Izmir, as they honored the memory of Palestinians killed in Israel's U.S.-backed war in Gaza.

The USS Wasp, carrying nearly 1,500 US soldiers, anchored at the port of Izmir on Sunday after participating in bilateral at-sea training with Turkish Navy ships in August. The vessel, along with its accompanying ships, the USS Oak Hill and the USS New York, has been positioned in the region since June as part of deterrence efforts against possible threats to Israel amid high tensions in the region.

Protesters issued a stern warning to the Izmir Governorship, declaring they will not leave the port until the ship departs.

The protesters condemned the United States for its role in causing suffering and violence in Iraq, Syria, the West Asia region, and globally. "It has been almost a year. Israel is carrying out a brutal massacre in Gaza. By killing tens of thousands of people, Israel is not only committing a great crime against humanity. It is also persistently continuing an unlawful and unscrupulous incitement to drag our region into a bloody war," the protesters said in their statement.

The statement emphasized that the United States openly backs Israel and its military actions, and questioned its occasional ceasefire calls. They also called on the Turkish government to remove the American soldiers from the streets of Izmir, after two US Marines from the USS Wasp were assaulted during a port visit in Izmir on Monday, as part of a protest against Israeli actions in Gaza and decades-long "U.S. imperialism."

"U.S. soldiers who have the blood of our soldiers and thousands of Palestinians on their hands cannot tarnish our country. Every step you take on these lands will be met with the response you deserve," the Turkey Youth Union (TGB), which carried out the attack said in its statement on Monday.

Fifteen individuals involved in the incident were detained by Turkey's police.

The U.S. has ramped up its military presence in the region as the Israel war on Gaza rages on.

Washington has sent 50,000 tons of arms and ammunition to Israel since October 7 when the regime launched its genocidal war on Gaza. Late last month, the U.S. completed the air delivery of its 500th consignment of weapons and munitions to Israel since it launched its genocidal war in October.

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