

Gastivists
Lorena Canottiere
Claudio Calia

PEACE IS FOSSIL FREE



Comics
on fossil fuels,
militarization and
social justice
in the East
Mediterranean

PEACE
IS FOSSIL FREE

DI- SCLAI- MER

INTRO- DUCTION

Hi, how nice you're exploring this comic!

We are the **Gastivists**, a transfeminist and anticapitalist collective working to stop the gas industry, and *make way for a just renewable energy system that prioritizes people over profit.*

Many of us are based in the area of the Eastern Mediterranean, or have roots there. When we saw a few years ago that the EU was planning to import gas from the region, we started connecting with incredible local activists, to learn from each other and share strategy. Over the years, we built strong bonds and trusting relationships. In this comic, our friends from communities on the frontlines of a new pipeline, of extraction, of militarisation and of occupation, tell their stories.

Our experiences are shared to show a united front. While politicians fight and position communities against one another, from Palestine to Israel, to North and South of divided Cyprus, and beyond, we stand together.

WE INVITE YOU TO JOIN US.

CONTENT WARNING

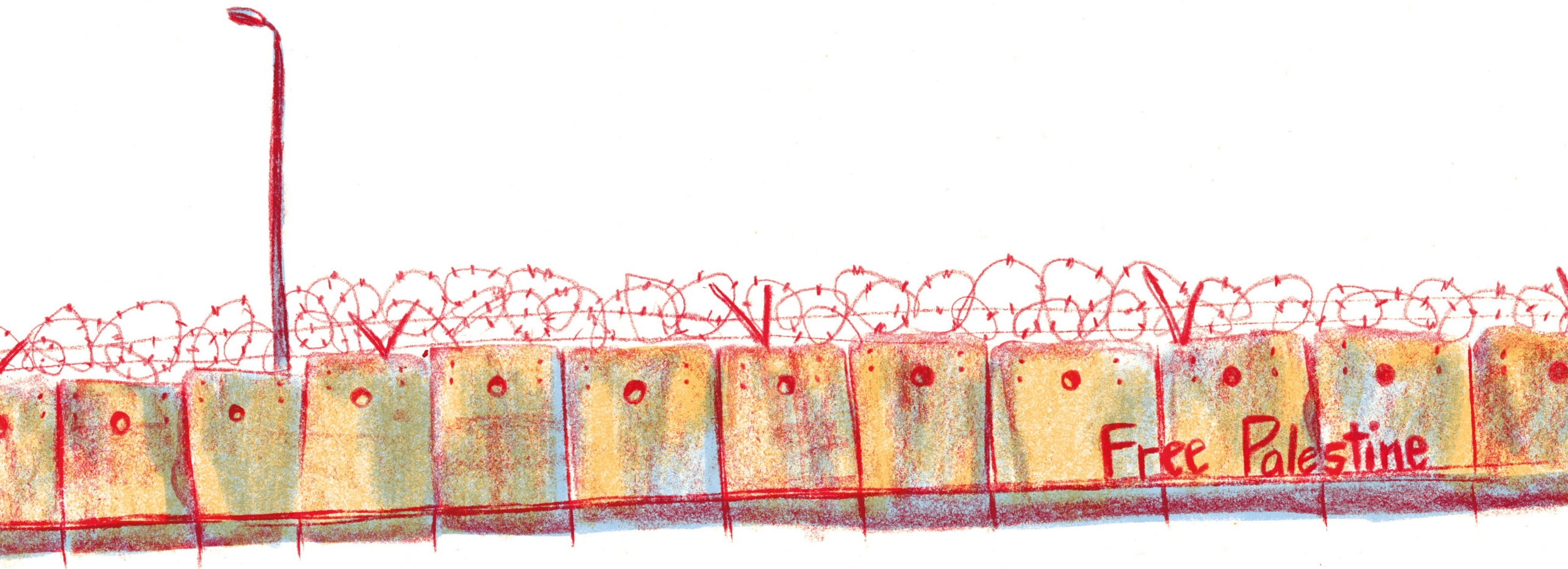
This comic discusses topics that are very heavy for some people; such as the occupation of Palestine, the 2020 explosion in Beirut, police violence, and life in militarized regions.

Historic Palestine constitutes present-day Israel, the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip. In 1948, Israel was created on 78% of Historic Palestine. In 1967, the rest of Historic Palestine (The West Bank and the Gaza Strip) was occupied. *Israel continues to territorially expand by building illegal settlements in Area 'C' of the West Bank while blockading the Gaza Strip and illegally annexing and isolating East Jerusalem.*

LORENA CANOTTIERE

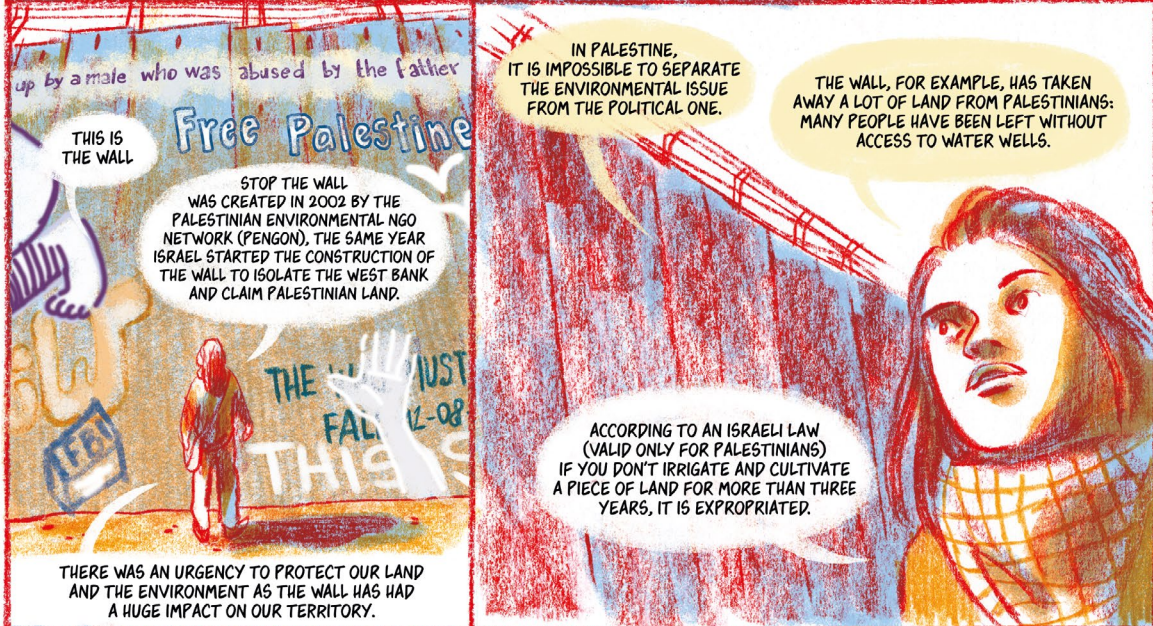
PALESTINE

Manal





I AM MANAL. I LIVE IN RAMALLAH.



IN PALESTINE, IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO SEPARATE THE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUE FROM THE POLITICAL ONE.

THE WALL, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS TAKEN AWAY A LOT OF LAND FROM PALESTINIANS: MANY PEOPLE HAVE BEEN LEFT WITHOUT ACCESS TO WATER WELLS.

ACCORDING TO AN ISRAELI LAW (VALID ONLY FOR PALESTINIANS) IF YOU DON'T IRRIGATE AND CULTIVATE A PIECE OF LAND FOR MORE THAN THREE YEARS, IT IS EXPROPRIATED.

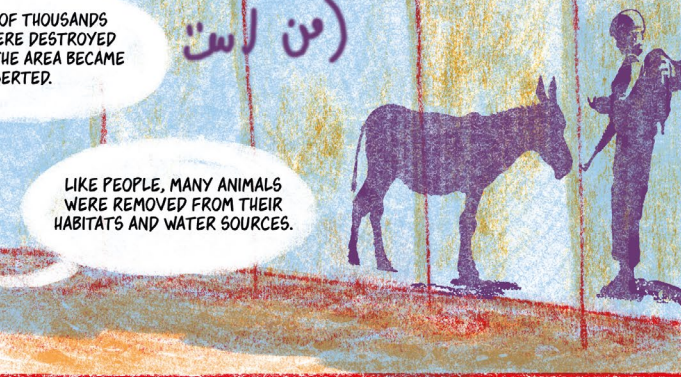
THERE WAS AN URGENCY TO PROTECT OUR LAND AND THE ENVIRONMENT AS THE WALL HAS HAD A HUGE IMPACT ON OUR TERRITORY.



HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF TREES WERE DESTROYED TO BUILD IT. THE AREA BECAME DESERTED.

LIKE PEOPLE, MANY ANIMALS WERE REMOVED FROM THEIR HABITATS AND WATER SOURCES.

Since 1976 (من لست) با سید



I AM PART OF STOP THE WALL CAMPAIGN, A GRASSROOTS ORGANIZATION AND A CO-FOUNDER OF THE BDS,

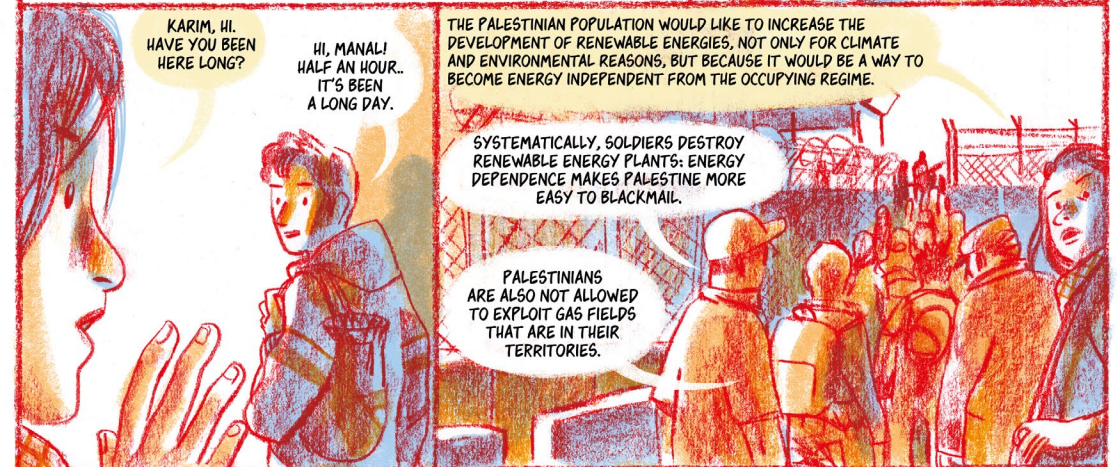
THE LARGEST PALESTINIAN CIVIL SOCIETY COALITION TO BOYCOTT, DIVEST FROM AND IMPOSE SANCTIONS ON APARTHEID ISRAEL.

In my previous life, this was the Berlin wall. The beer was better there. Day 240



THE EXPLOITATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES, INCLUDING ACCESS TO WATER, HAS BEEN ONE OF THE FIRST WEAPONS OF THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION TO TAKE OVER PALESTINIAN LAND.

SINCE 1948.



KARIM, HI. HAVE YOU BEEN HERE LONG?

HI, MANAL! HALF AN HOUR.. IT'S BEEN A LONG DAY.

THE PALESTINIAN POPULATION WOULD LIKE TO INCREASE THE DEVELOPMENT OF RENEWABLE ENERGIES, NOT ONLY FOR CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENTAL REASONS, BUT BECAUSE IT WOULD BE A WAY TO BECOME ENERGY INDEPENDENT FROM THE OCCUPYING REGIME.

SYSTEMATICALLY, SOLDIERS DESTROY RENEWABLE ENERGY PLANTS: ENERGY DEPENDENCE MAKES PALESTINE MORE EASY TO BLACKMAIL.

PALESTINIANS ARE ALSO NOT ALLOWED TO EXPLOIT GAS FIELDS THAT ARE IN THEIR TERRITORIES.



THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE ARE AWARE OF WHAT THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EASTMED-POSEIDON GAS PIPELINE WOULD IMPLY AND THEY STAND AGAINST IT.

IT WOULD BE A FURTHER EXPLOITATION OF PALESTINIAN RESOURCES BY ISRAEL.

A NEW DELEGITIMIZATION OF PALESTINIAN SOVEREIGNTY, THAT WOULD WORSEN THE ENVIRONMENTAL SITUATION AND FURTHER EXACERBATE THE POLITICAL ONE.

IN THE BEGINNING OF THE OCCUPATION, THE PALESTINIANS HAD ONLY ONE ENEMY, ISRAEL. NOW, MY GENERATION, ALSO HAS TO FIGHT WITH THE AUTHORITARIANISM OF THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY. THE PA DOES NOT STAND FIRMLY AGAINST THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION AND FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS. INSTEAD, IT SUPPRESSES RESISTANCE AND NORMALIZES ISRAELI OPPRESSION. FOR EXAMPLE, IT PARTICIPATES IN THE EAST MEDITERRANEAN GAS FORUM ALONG WITH ISRAEL. THE PA ALSO SUPPORTS THE EASTMED-POSEIDON PIPELINE BECAUSE IT'S PRESSURED BY WESTERN POWERS TO COMPLY, FURTHER ENTRENCHING ISRAELI OPPRESSION.



THE EASTMED-POSEIDON PIPELINE IS AN ACT OF PILLAGE. PILLAGE IS A CRIME, ACCORDING TO THE INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT. EVEN THE EUROPEAN UNION IS AN ACCOMPLICE, DESPITE THE FACT THAT IN ITS GUIDELINES THERE ARE RULES FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS. THE US AND EU, BY SUPPORTING EXPLOITIVE ENERGY PROJECTS IN THE REGION, SUPPORT ISRAEL AS AN APARTHEID REGIME.



IT IS AN INHALER, FOR ASTHMA. IT IS ALSO WRITTEN IN ENGLISH.

NO DICE.

IT WON'T PASS.

BUT IT'S FOR MY MOTHER.

SHE'S SICK!



GO! GO!

COME ON! MOVE!

THIS IS ONE OF THE 590 CHECKPOINTS SPREAD ACROSS THE OCCUPIED WEST BANK. ONE OF THE MANY TOOLS THAT THE ISRAELI REGIME USES TO REPRESS AND DIVIDE US. THIS IS ANOTHER REASON WHY IT IS NOT EASY TO NETWORK IN PALESTINE.



I REMEMBER THE UPRISING LAST MAY. GENERAL STRIKE.

THERE WERE MANY OF US IN HISTORIC PALESTINE, A THOUSAND OF US IN RAMALLAH ALONE.



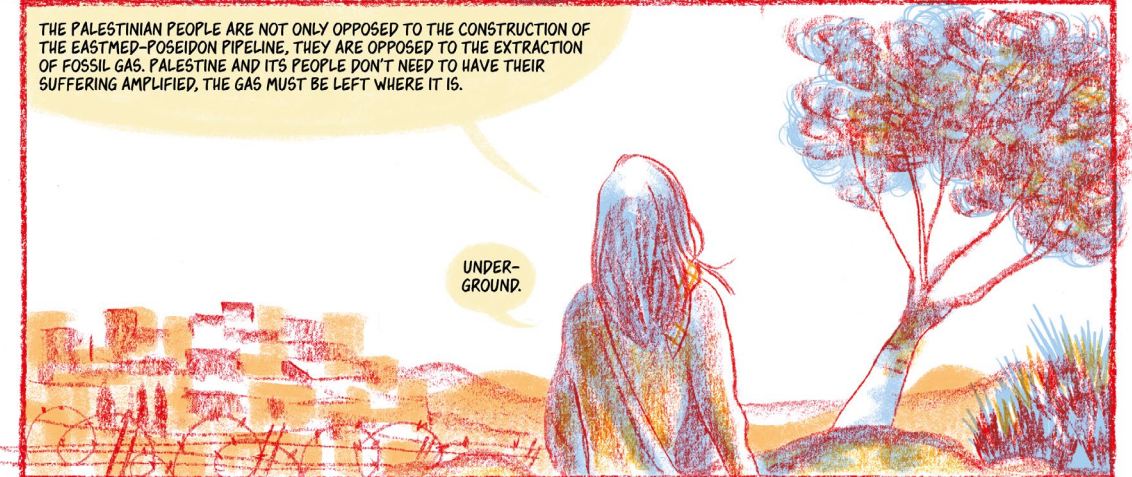
DESPITE BULLETS AND TEAR GAS BEING FIRED AT US, DESPITE PROTESTERS DYING OR BEING SERIOUSLY INJURED, WE HELD OUT FOR A WHOLE DAY.

IT GAVE US STRENGTH.



boom
a night of struggle
we will not loose
never we demolish
the mountains
if you want
Nice to meet you

we are the boys from
Jerusalem we
understand it, we
solve
the riddle



THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE ARE NOT ONLY OPPOSED TO THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE EASTMED-POSEIDON PIPELINE, THEY ARE OPPOSED TO THE EXTRACTION OF FOSSIL GAS. PALESTINE AND ITS PEOPLE DON'T NEED TO HAVE THEIR SUFFERING AMPLIFIED, THE GAS MUST BE LEFT WHERE IT IS.

UNDERGROUND.

The Israeli regime does not allow Palestinians access to gas fields in their own economic waters, because within the apartheid comes not allowing energy autonomy (the right to make decisions over energy).

CLAUDIO CALIA

ISRAEL

Ya'ara

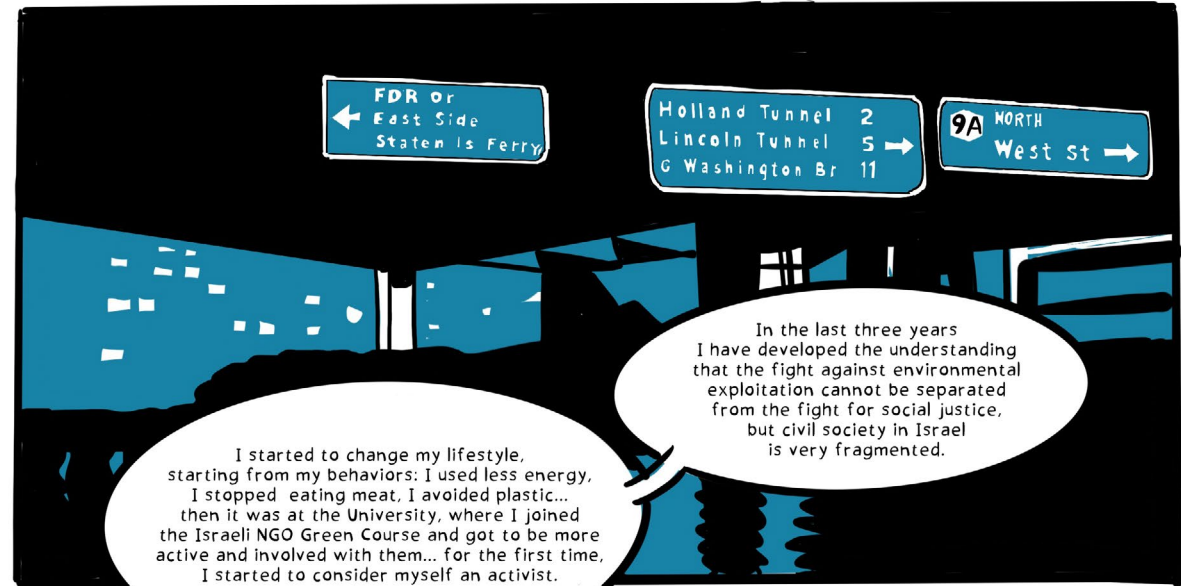


Ya'ara is 31 years old and lives in Tel Aviv.
We interviewed her together with Lorena and Bu,
Italian Gastivists coordinator and irreplaceable interpreter,
on December 10th 2021.



When I was 14 years old,
at friends' house, I saw Al Gore's
An Inconvenient Truth.
I felt angry, frustrated, powerless.
Seeing New York, the city where
my family lives, flooded with water
shook me to my core.

that was the moment
when I said to myself
"I can't pretend
I don't see anymore."



I started to change my lifestyle,
starting from my behaviors: I used less energy,
I stopped eating meat, I avoided plastic...
then it was at the University, where I joined
the Israeli NGO Green Course and got to be more
active and involved with them... for the first time,
I started to consider myself an activist.

In the last three years
I have developed the understanding
that the fight against environmental
exploitation cannot be separated
from the fight for social justice,
but civil society in Israel
is very fragmented.



The movements
against the occupation
do not feel involved
in the climate struggle,
the environmental
movements present
themselves as apolitical
in which the occupation
is something that no one
wants to talk about,
"it happens
somewhere
else".



But indeed...

I saw that you were also
in the West Bank.
How complicated
can it be to work
in such a situation
like that?



I grew up
in a Zionist
educational
system...

...built to
form Israelis
convinced that
everything
the State of Israel
does is right.



The educational and cultural system trains you in a certain way, you don't see the atrocities that the Israeli State carries out in Palestine. Being there was like having to unlearn everything, I felt like a "lie" myself.



Getting to know the West Bank, East Jerusalem, etc., I had to question my identity. I changed.

To give an example: a few months ago I joined a protest in the strip of In the South Hebron Hills in the Occupied Palestinian territories in the West Bank.

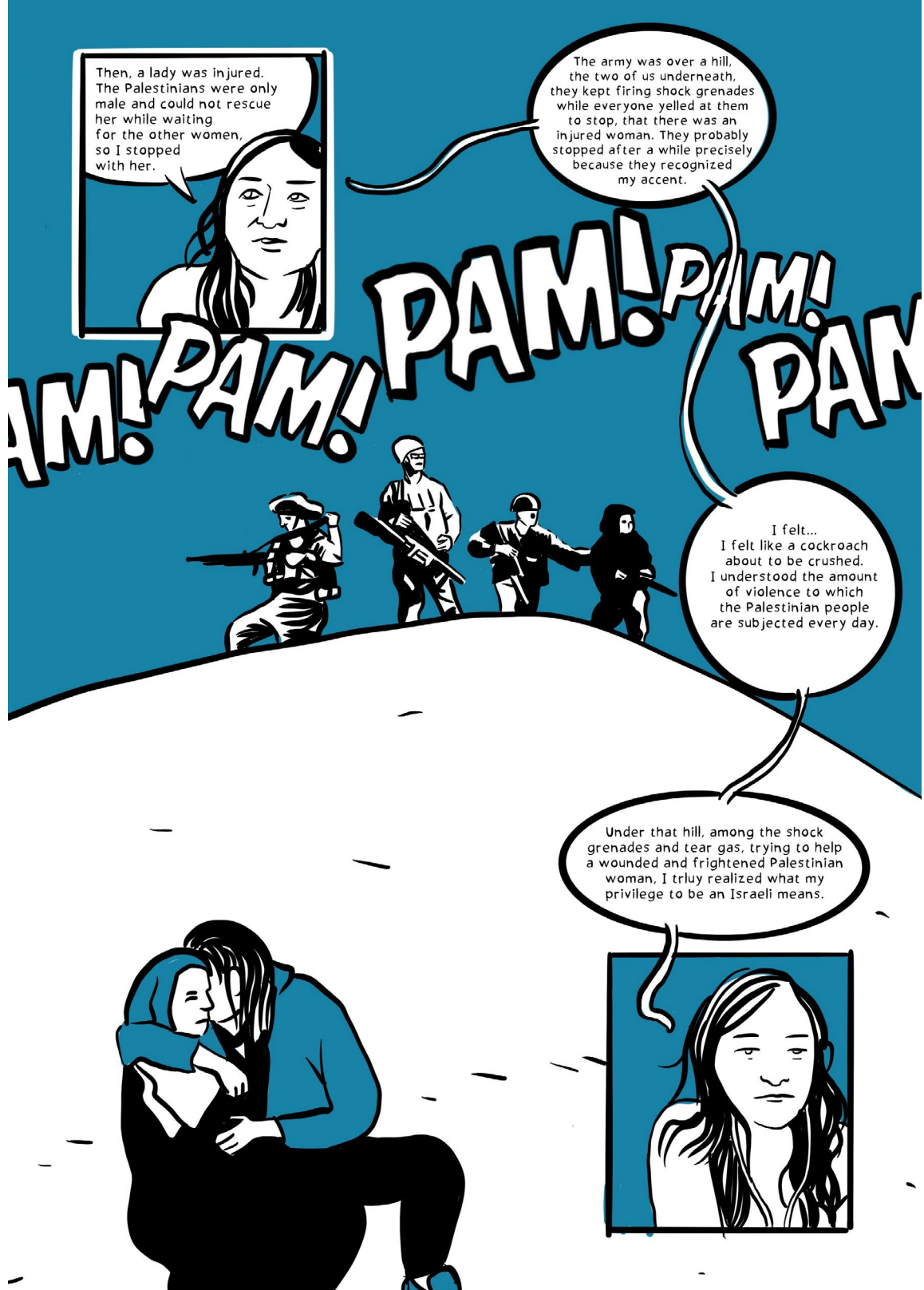


We wanted to bring a water canister to a Palestinian family that doesn't have access to it.

It was a peaceful and non-violent demonstration, we just wanted to bring water canisters, but the Israeli army intervened immediately.

They started throwing shock grenades and tear gas at eye level, we found ourselves having to run for safety....

While running away a gentleman from Ramallah took matters into his own hands by pointing the way to a Palestinian village for safety. On the opposite side was an Israeli settlement. And I felt safer fleeing to the village than to the settlement.



Then, a lady was injured. The Palestinians were only male and could not rescue her while waiting for the other women, so I stopped with her.

The army was over a hill, the two of us underneath, they kept firing shock grenades while everyone yelled at them to stop, that there was an injured woman. They probably stopped after a while precisely because they recognized my accent.

PAM! PAM! PAM! PAM!

I felt... I felt like a cockroach about to be crushed. I understood the amount of violence to which the Palestinian people are subjected every day.

Under that hill, among the shock grenades and tear gas, trying to help a wounded and frightened Palestinian woman, I truly realized what my privilege to be an Israeli means.



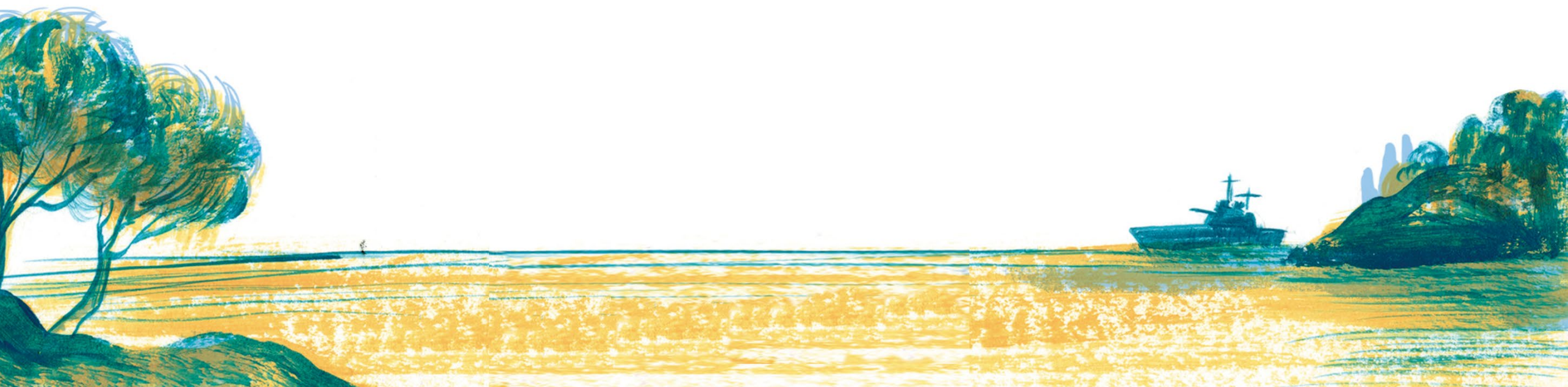
The island is split into *two zones* with military borders: the Northern part (mostly Turkish speaking community, known as the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus) and the Southern Cyprus (mostly Greek Cypriot community, known as the Republic of Cyprus).

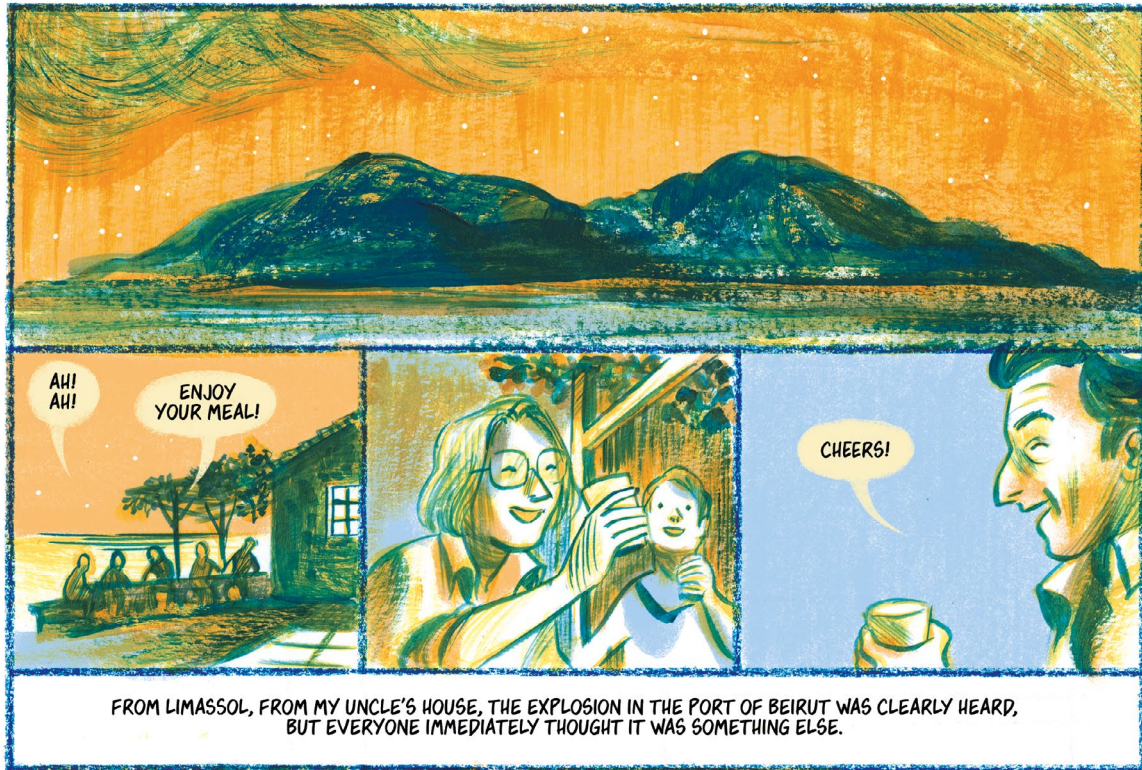
New gaspipelines projects escalate tensions and threaten the *fragile peacekeeping* efforts.

LORENA CANOTTIERE

CYPRUS

Niko





AH!
AH!

ENJOY YOUR MEAL!

CHEERS!

FROM LIMASSOL, FROM MY UNCLE'S HOUSE, THE EXPLOSION IN THE PORT OF BEIRUT WAS CLEARLY HEARD, BUT EVERYONE IMMEDIATELY THOUGHT IT WAS SOMETHING ELSE.

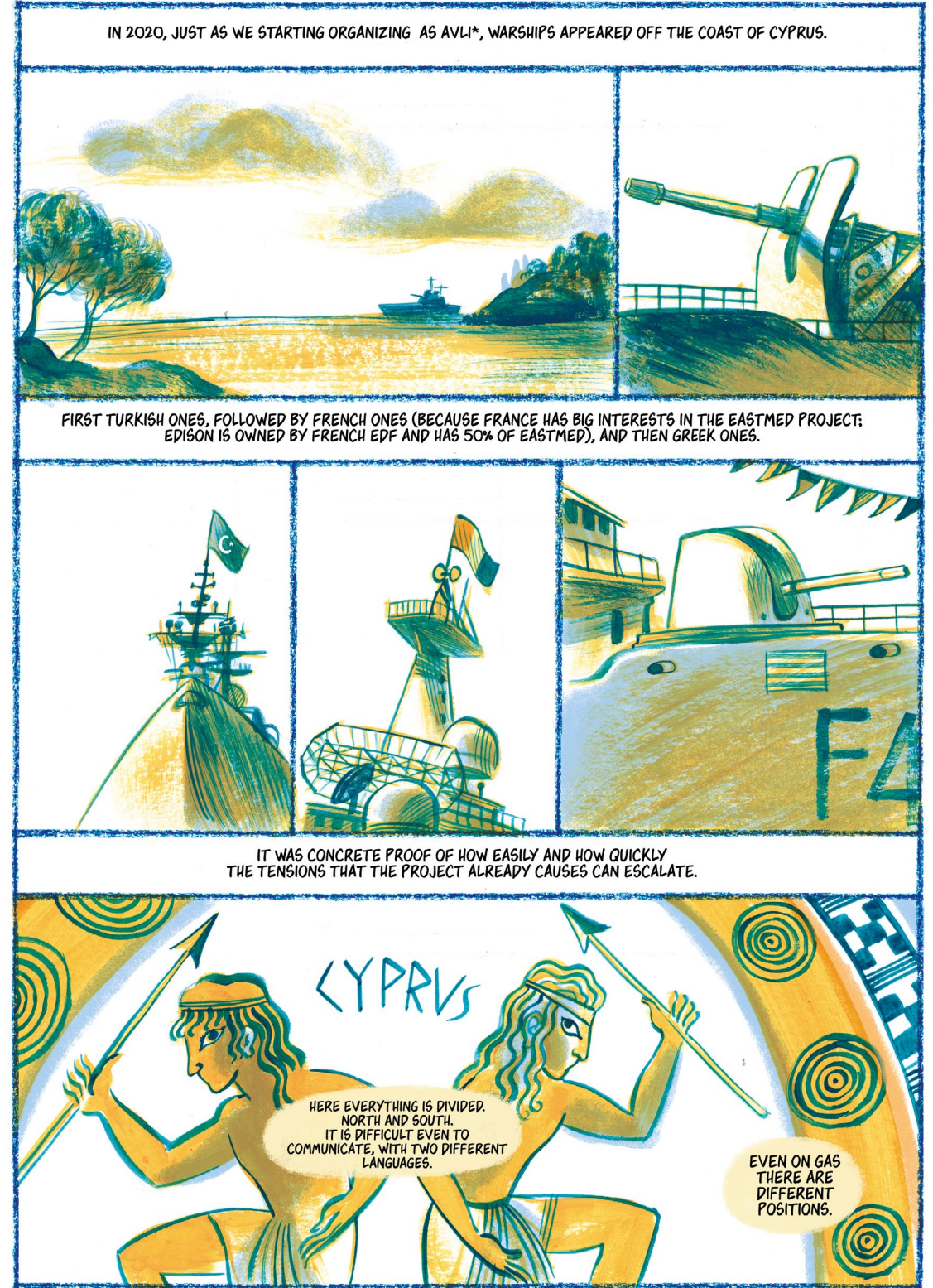


BUM!

THIS IS IT.

WAR AGAIN!

THERE WAS WAR IN CYPRUS UNTIL THE 1970S. EVERYONE REMEMBERS IT AND IT IS STILL THE GREATEST TERROR FOR EVERYONE.



IN 2020, JUST AS WE STARTING ORGANIZING AS AVLI*, WARSHIPS APPEARED OFF THE COAST OF CYPRUS.

FIRST TURKISH ONES, FOLLOWED BY FRENCH ONES (BECAUSE FRANCE HAS BIG INTERESTS IN THE EASTMED PROJECT; EDISON IS OWNED BY FRENCH EDF AND HAS 50% OF EASTMED), AND THEN GREEK ONES.

IT WAS CONCRETE PROOF OF HOW EASILY AND HOW QUICKLY THE TENSIONS THAT THE PROJECT ALREADY CAUSES CAN ESCALATE.

CYPRUS

HERE EVERYTHING IS DIVIDED. NORTH AND SOUTH. IT IS DIFFICULT EVEN TO COMMUNICATE, WITH TWO DIFFERENT LANGUAGES.

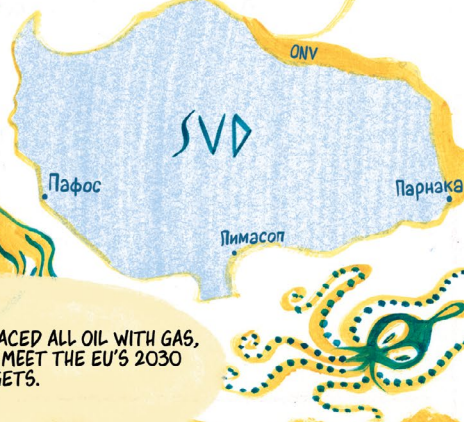
EVEN ON GAS THERE ARE DIFFERENT POSITIONS.

*AVLI IS AN ASSOCIATION FOR PEACE, AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF A COMMUNAL FUTURE BETWEEN THE TWO, NOW DIVIDED, PARTS OF THE ISLAND. IT GATHERS CYPRIOT ACTIVISTS FROM BOTH PARTS OF CYPRUS AND ALSO FROM OUTSIDE.

THE SOUTHERN PART OF CYPRUS SUPPORTS THE EASTMED PROJECT, AND GAS IN GENERAL. IN FACT, IT DIVERTS ALL ENERGY FUNDS TO EASTMED

STATING THAT THIS WOULD MAKE IT INDEPENDENT OF THE OIL IT BUYS FROM OTHER EUROPEAN AND PERSIAN GULF NATIONS, WHICH IS NOW IMPORTED CRUDE AND PROCESSED ON THE ISLAND.

BUT EVEN IF YOU REPLACED ALL OIL WITH GAS, YOU STILL WOULDN'T MEET THE EU'S 2030 TARGETS.



THE NORTHERN PART OF CYPRUS, WHICH IS NOT INTERNATIONALLY RECOGNIZED, IS OUT OF THE PICTURE. IT BUYS OIL AND GAS FROM TURKEY, WHICH IS THE ONLY NATION WITH WHICH IT HAS TRADE POSSIBILITIES

IT IS AMBIGUOUS ABOUT THE EASTMED PROJECT, BUT TURKISH SHIPS THAT APPEARED ALONG THE ISLAND'S COAST LAST SUMMER HINT THAT ITS POSITIONS WILL NOT BE PEACEFUL.



IN BETWEEN, IN NICOSIA, IS THE AREA OF CYPRUS GOVERNED BY THE UN, WHICH IS HERE AS A PEACEMAKER. LAST SUMMER, AS AVLI, WE WROTE TO THEM TO ASK THEM TO TAKE A STAND, TO DENOUNCE HOW MUCH THE EASTMED PROJECT UNDERMINES STABILITY AND PEACE ON THE ISLAND.



HEY!



WHAT ABOUT THE OTHERS? HAVE THEY ARRIVED?

THEY ARE RE-READING THE DOCUMENT.



THEY ARE IN THE AVLI*. IT'S COOLER THERE.



THERE IS NO ONE MORE QUALIFIED THAN A PEACEKEEPING MISSION IN THESE CASES, IS THERE? IN RESPONSE, THE UN WROTE TO US THAT THEY COULDN'T DO ANYTHING; THERE WERE TOO MANY INTERESTS AT STAKE.



THEY ARE SO MANY ON THE WALLS OF CYPRUS

THESE ARE MARKS OF GUNFIRE.



IF THE EASTMED PROJECT DOESN'T BLOW UP, THERE WILL BE WAR.

AND PEOPLE ARE TERRIFIED OF IT, THAT FEAR DOESN'T EVEN NEED TO BE REMEMBERED.

IF THERE WILL BE NO WAR, IT WILL BE VERY CLOSE.

**AVLI* IN CYPRUS IS THE INNER COURTYARD OF HOUSES, A SYMBOL OF DIALOGUE AND CONVIVIALITY.

CLAUDIO CALIA

GREECE

Georgia



The sea, full of wildlife, natural curves and dips of the sand and ocean floor, is sliced into perfect geometric shapes by Governments, and sold block by block to companies to explore whether there might be gas (or other resources) to exploit.



I don't know if you still have the link to the file with the questions...

...however the first one is usually to introduce yourself a little...

She is Georgia, 40 years old, from Crete, and he is Manolis, Greek Coordinator of Gastivists, who will help us in case we need to translate something directly from Greek.



Hi, my name is Georgia, I have two sons, and I would like to try to help leave them a better planet than the one I found. In Crete there is not a lot of awareness of the climate issue, we have struggled a lot to build a group.



Since we're going to make a comic...

...does an image come to your mind, a strong visual cue linked to your activism from which we could start?



Oh yes, I also have some photos, I'll look for them immediately...

...at the time with some activists, we commemorated the planet's funeral, parading in a procession carrying a coffin.



Sorry I got distracted for a moment and I didn't understand...

...there was a coffin!?

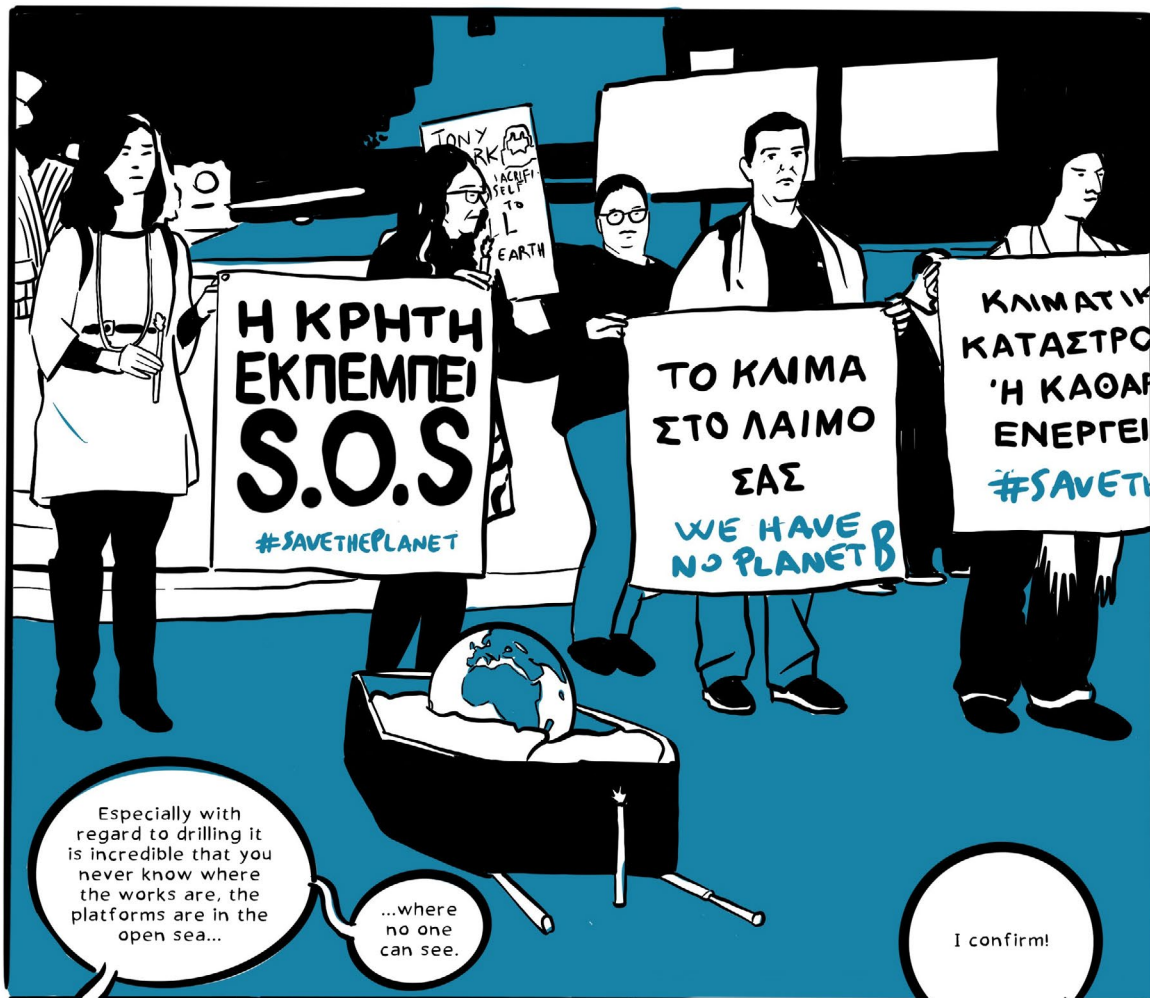


Yes, we staged the planet's funeral in the streets of Heraklion. We started with about twenty people, but then many more joined.

As I said, in Crete there is not a great deal of interest in the climate issue. Eastmed or offshore drilling do not cause a particular stir, when they are mentioned no one emphasizes the possible downsides.

This is why it was magnificent and exciting to find ourselves surrounded by people, who stopped in front of this surprising, very choreographic scene, expressing interest and curiosity.





Especially with regard to drilling it is incredible that you never know where the works are, the platforms are in the open sea...

...where no one can see.

I confirm!

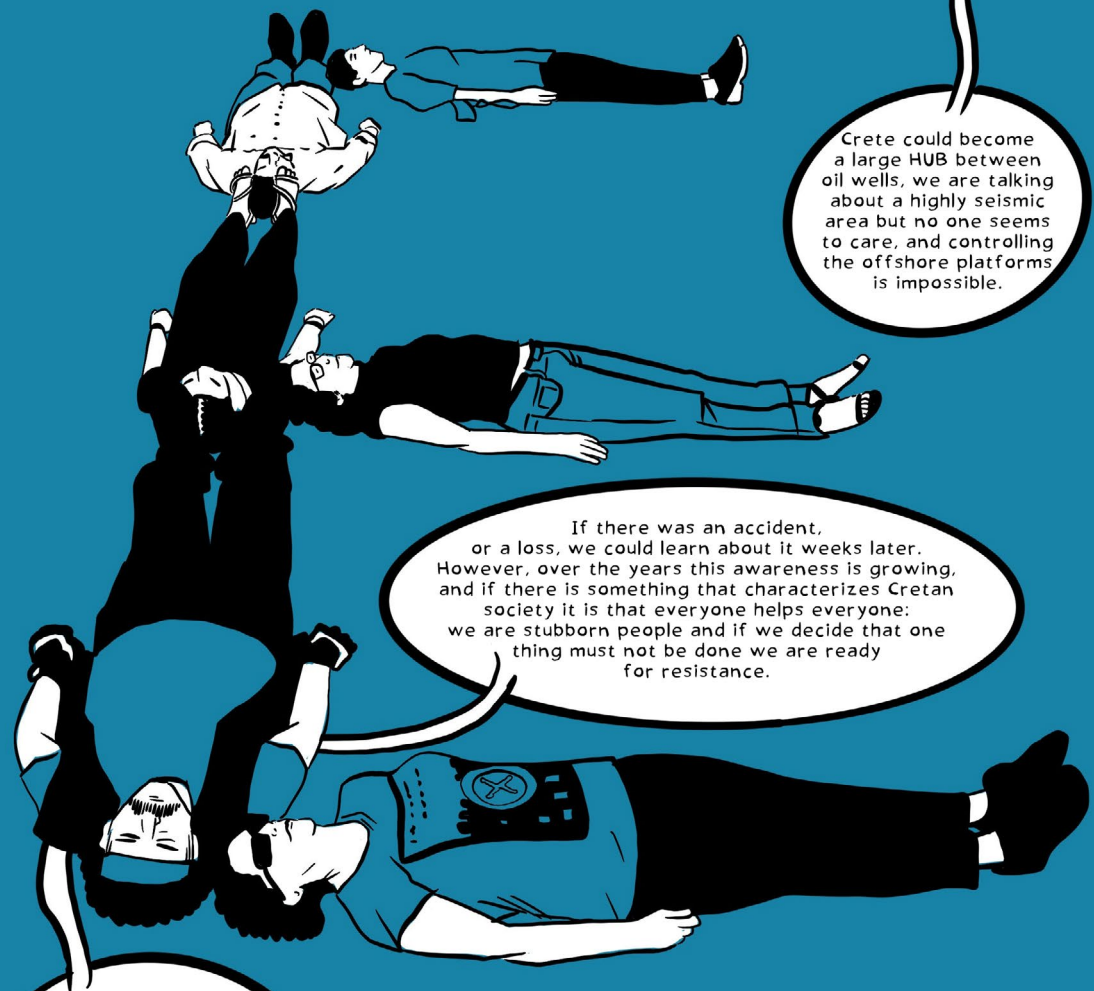


It seems to me that in Greece there is an ultra-liberal government now, right?



In Greece there are several lobbies interested in gas and drilling, which often act in agreement with the University,

Studying these things can be really demoralizing, delving into the connections between power and money... at some point you think you don't want to know anymore.



Crete could become a large HUB between oil wells, we are talking about a highly seismic area but no one seems to care, and controlling the offshore platforms is impossible.

If there was an accident, or a loss, we could learn about it weeks later. However, over the years this awareness is growing, and if there is something that characterizes Cretan society it is that everyone helps everyone: we are stubborn people and if we decide that one thing must not be done we are ready for resistance.

Another demonstration against a drilling project that had a lot of resonance is when we composed the phrase "Save the planet" with our bodies, a letter for each city, then mounted in a photographic collage.

But I can only show you this "E" because that's where I was.



LORENA CANOTTIERE

ITALY

Marco

Italy, which already has *265,000 km of gas pipelines*, has plans for at least 5 more and the installation of gas-fired power plants for at least 5 GW.

Since TAP and the Southern Gas Corridor were first discussed in 2004, there have been dozens of geopolitical crises involving Azerbaijan, Turkey, Georgia and Greece (countries from which the gas arrives or transits).

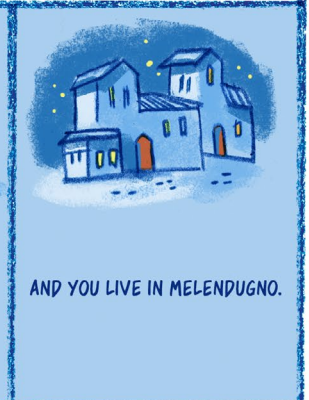
Studies show that there is more than enough gas supply infrastructure in Italy and across Europe.



Ne- Qui ne- ALTROVE



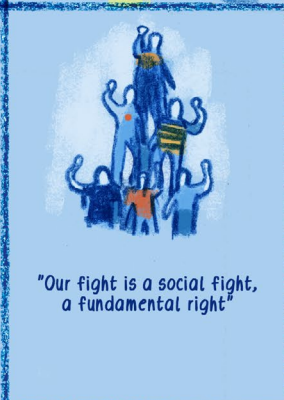
YOUR NAME IS MARCO



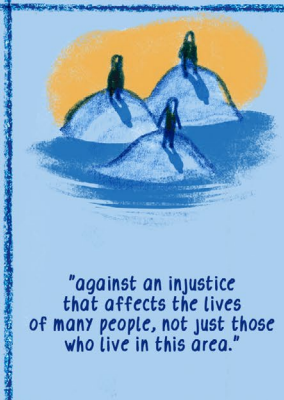
AND YOU LIVE IN MELENDUGNO.



"I'm part of the NO TAP movement."



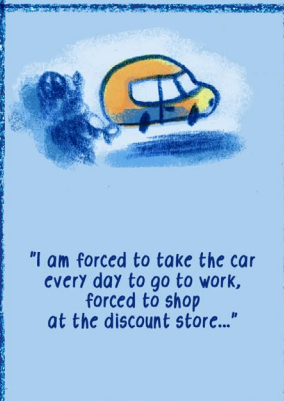
"Our fight is a social fight, a fundamental right"



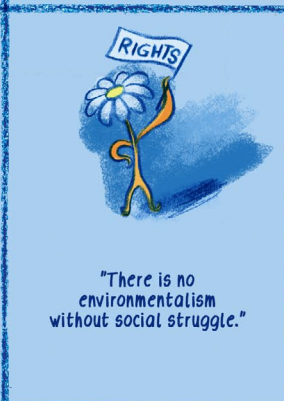
"against an injustice that affects the lives of many people, not just those who live in this area."



"I can never be an environmentalist."



"I am forced to take the car every day to go to work, forced to shop at the discount store..."



"There is no environmentalism without social struggle."



ROLL THE DICE AND FOLLOW ME

IL MONDO CHE VORREI

is a journey that began in 2016.



PAY ATTENTION TO THE PENALTY BOXES (THESE ARE THE ONES!)



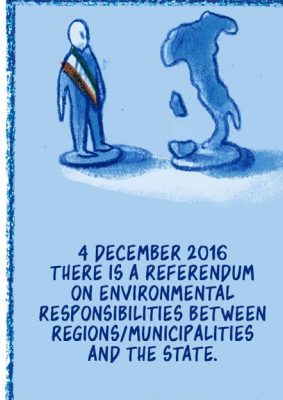
FUCK!
SHIT!



BETWEEN 2010 AND 2012, FOLLOWING A SHADY AND DISTURBING PROJECT TO BUILD A GAS PIPELINE IN THE AREA, THE NO TAP COMMITTEE WAS FORMED.



CIVIL SOCIETY BECOMES ACTIVE AROUND THE ASSOCIATIONS OPPOSING THE PROJECT.



4 DECEMBER 2016 THERE IS A REFERENDUM ON ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITIES BETWEEN REGIONS/MUNICIPALITIES AND THE STATE.



NO WINGS! HURRAY!

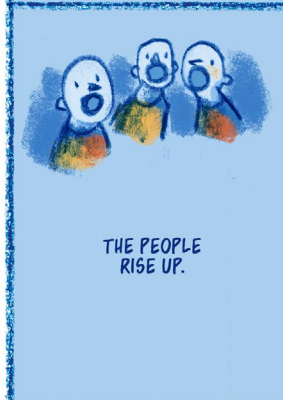


THEY WERE OBVIOUSLY JOKING AND THE REFERENDUM WILL CHANGE ABSOLUTELY NOTHING. YOU BELIEVED IT, HM?

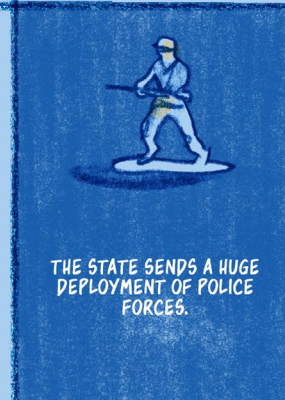
Well?



MARCH 2017. THE TAP COMPANY DECIDES TO RELOCATE 211 OLIVE TREES WITHOUT AUTHORISATION, A YEAR LATER THAN THE DECLARED START OF WORK.



THE PEOPLE RISE UP.



THE STATE SENDS A HUGE DEPLOYMENT OF POLICE FORCES.



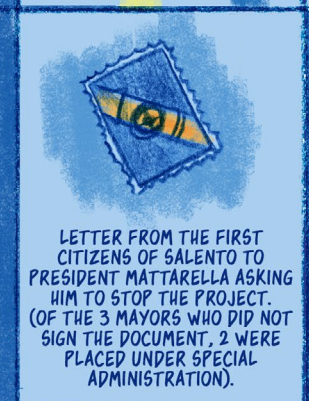
THE NO TAP MOVEMENT IS BORN, THE COMMITTEE HAS BECOME A PEOPLE MOVEMENT.



17 MAY 2017. THE POPULATION STOPS THE TRANSPORT OF THE UPROOTED OLIVE TREES.



DO YOU FEEL PART OF A UNITED AND SOLID HUMANITY AND FEEL LIKE WHISTLING? BEWARE, YOU COULD BE REPORTED FOR WHISTLING!



LETTER FROM THE FIRST CITIZENS OF SALENTO TO PRESIDENT MATTARELLA ASKING HIM TO STOP THE PROJECT. (OF THE 3 MAYORS WHO DID NOT SIGN THE DOCUMENT, 2 WERE PLACED UNDER SPECIAL ADMINISTRATION).



License and registration!
But... I'm on foot

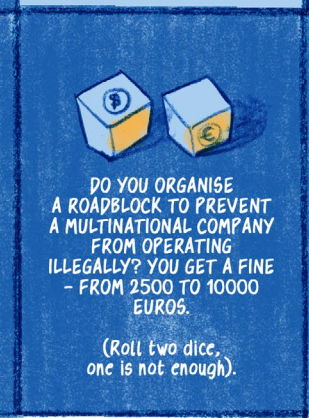


3 JUNE 2017 BIG DEMONSTRATION IN LECCE AGAINST THE MILITARISATION OF THE TERRITORY.



DO YOU WANT TO BRING A FLAG TO THE DEMONSTRATION? BEWARE, YOU COULD BE REPORTED FOR FLAG WAVING OR FLAG DROPPING!

Eh, flag-waving, flag-waving. I saw it!



DO YOU ORGANISE A ROADBLOCK TO PREVENT A MULTINATIONAL COMPANY FROM OPERATING ILLEGALLY? YOU GET A FINE - FROM 2500 TO 10000 EUROS.

(Roll two dice, one is not enough).



12/13 NOVEMBER. RED ZONE IN SAN BASILIO. IF YOU HAVE A SIT-IN, YOU LOSE IT WITHOUT PASSING GO.



6 DECEMBER.
STRIKE.
ALL SHOPKEEPERS
OF MELENPUGNO AND
SURROUNDINGS CLOSE SHOPS.



8 AND 9 DECEMBER.
TWO DEMONSTRATIONS,
ONE IN LECCE WITH OVER
4000 PEOPLE AND THE OTHER
IN SAN FOCA, A BEAUTIFUL
BEACH, THE LANDING PLACE
OF THE INFAMOUS PROJECT.



OUCH!



ON 12 DECEMBER,
THE EUROPEAN INVESTMENT
BANK DOES NOT FINANCE
THE TAP AS PLANNED
AND POSTPONES THE DECISION
TO FEBRUARY.



ELECTIONS IN SIGHT!
THE RED ZONE IS REMOVED.



BUT THE SOLDIER REMAINS.
WHAT DID YOU EXPECT?



THE TRIALS BEGIN.
YOU PICKED YOUR NOSE
DURING A MARCH?
ONE YEAR AND SIX MONTHS.

THE TRIAL IS IN THE
BUNKER ROOM!*

*COURTROOM BUNKERS WERE INVENTED
FOR THE MAFIA TRIALS. THEY RESIST
EXPLOSIONS AND MISSILE ATTACKS.
USING THEM FOR MOVEMENT PROCESSES
REINFORCES THE NARRATIVE THAT
THEY ARE DANGEROUS TERRORISTS.

"It's to
protect you
better!"



IL MONDO
CHE VORREI

CONGRATULATIONS,
YOU ARE MOVING ON TO
THE SECOND LEVEL!



AFTER ALL THIS
YOU HAVE CHANGED.



YOU HAVE A MUCH BROADER
AND CLEARER VIEW
OF THE WORLD.

YOU MET PEOPLE WITH WHOM
YOU SHARED THINGS YOU
DIDN'T EVEN KNOW EXISTED.

(a baton is forever!)



PEOPLE WHO HAVE BECOME
YOUR TRUE FAMILY.



A FAMILY THAT CONTINUES
TO FIGHT SIDE BY SIDE
EVERYWHERE.



WITH THE NO TAP CARAVAN
YOU MET THE PEOPLE OF
SULMONA WHO ARE FIGHTING
AGAINST THE SNAM
COMPRESSOR STATION



OF NORCIA,
UNDER WHOSE HOUSES
A GAS PIPELINE IS EXPECTED
TO RUN.



OF MINERBIO,
AN EARTHQUAKE ZONE,
LIKE OTHERS WHERE THEY
WOULD LIKE TO HAVE THE GAS
PASS THROUGH.



AND THEN SALOMÉ ARANDA,
WHO IS FIGHTING TO SAFEGUARD
HER LAND AND HER PEOPLE
IN ECUADOR



THE KURDISTAN
RED CRESCENT



THE NO TAV MOVEMENT



NO MUOS



NO BIG SHIPS



YOU REALIZE THAT YOU ARE
PART OF A SINGLE HUMAN
NETWORK FIGHTING
A SINGLE, COMMON,
BIG PROBLEM



WHICH IS CALLED TAP,
OR EASTMED, OR ILVA,
OR COLACEM, OR TAV,
OR CERANO.



COAL, GAS, OIL.
EXPLOITATION,
REPRESSION.



YOU REALIZE THAT YOU HAVE
FINALLY BECOME
A CITIZEN OF THE WORLD



AND THAT THIS
WILL NEVER END



AND NO ONE CAN EVER TAKE
THIS AWAY FROM YOU.

AN INTRO TO GAS IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

- Eastmed would be one of the **longest** gas pipelines in Europe and, as they say, the **deepest** in the world. 1,900 kilometers long, of which 1,300 offshore, and with 3,544 meters of maximum depth, would cost about 5 billion euros. 216 kilometers of the Poseidon offshore section must be added, to link it to Italy.
- Eastmed-Poseidon would open the Eastern Mediterranean gas trade route, encouraging drilling in the area (which has the world's largest, mostly untapped, undersea gas reserves) and the new regasification plants (LNG), planned throughout the region, would allow gas to be transported from the Eastern Mediterranean to Europe, and to other markets, by ship.
- Every fossil project started now takes resources away from the development of just and sustainable renewable alternatives. The increase in gas projects is symptomatic of the **fossil fuel empire's desperate attempt to remain powerful**; typical of the classic **colonial dynamic**, in which Western Europe is enriched (of energy and financial resources) at the expense of the people further East and further South.

WHAT ABOUT THE CLIMATE?

- Fossil gas is mostly made up of **methane**, a super charged greenhouse gas that leaks into the atmosphere when gas is drilled, transported and used. **There is no such thing as a leak proof gas project. It always leaks.** Methane is 86 times more intense at warming the planet than CO2 over the 20 years and when you burn gas to produce energy, a significant amount of CO2 is still emitted.

- The **Mediterranean basin is one of the largest biodiversity hotspots in the world**. Home to tens of thousands of plant and animal species, one fifth of which are already threatened with extinction and climate change. Building and drilling in the sea does not improve the situation.
- The Mediterranean lies just above the meeting point of the African and Eurasian **plates**, forming a complex pattern of faults and moving microplates under the Mediterranean and Red Seas. The **high seismic risk of the area greatly increases the danger of pipeline and infrastructure explosions**, and consequently that of serious environmental damages.
- The **Eastern Mediterranean** and the **Middle East** are particularly **vulnerable to climate change**, with high risks of drought and crop losses. In places where there are **conflicts**, or in conditions of **apartheid**, it is much more difficult for societies to modify their infrastructure and consequently adapt to the impacts of climate change. **The people of the region will suffer earlier and harder from climate breakdown** than the people in Europe consuming and benefitting from Eastern Mediterranean resources.

- The IPCC (the UN's climate scientist body - not the most radical organization) says that there's no way of staying with global targets (also not the most radical targets) if we keep burning gas.
- Climate change is already escalating, and will continue to escalate, the refugee crisis: while European consumption fuels climate change, **it also is militarizing its borders against people impacted by its effects. Studies show that climate breakdown increases the likelihood of conflicts, gendered violence, extreme weather events, and the destruction of homes and livelihoods.** Fortress Europe needs to open the borders and take accountability for the harm caused by Western consumption, companies & banks.

ACTORS INVOLVED

- The **European Union** supports the project: EastMed and Poseidon have received priority status by being included in the latest Projects of Common Interest (PCI) list, which means that the **pipelines can skip regulatory hurdles**, receive financial support, and are considered top EU priority.
- In 2019, United States passed a bill that supports the East-med pipeline, with a promise of US assistance for fossil gas extraction offshore Cyprus and Israel, a US run Energy Center in the region and the elimination of the 1978 embargo on selling arms to Cyprus, to de-escalate conflict with Turkey. Exxon Mobil, who holds exploration blocks offshore Cyprus, heavily lobbied for the bill to pass. In January 2022, **the US dropped its support for the East-Med pipeline**, for environmental and political reasons, **however they are still interfering with energy & militarization in the region**, supporting electricity lines that would carry gas powered energy from the Eastmed to Europe.
- The **main companies** involved in the EastMed-Poseidon pipeline or that are holders of mining licenses on the Israeli coast or off Cyprus are: Depa (EL), Edison (ITA) and then EDF (FR) which owns it, Chevron (USA), Energean (EL), Rattio (ISR), Delek (ISR), Exxon (USA), Noble (USA), Eni (ITA), Total (FR), Shell (NL/GB), Qatar Petroleum (QA), Kogas (CY), Bg (CY).

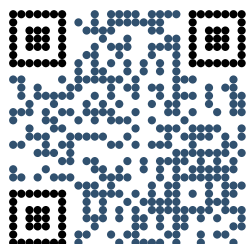
FOR MORE INFO

On the Eastmed-Poseidon pipeline specifically, go to stopeastmed.org for the Gastivist's report "Pipelines Fuel Conflict; the case of the Eastmed-Poseidon Pipeline".

For gas in the Eastern Mediterranean in general, and all the international financiers and companies involved; check out [Urgewald's report](#) 'Five Year's Lost; How Finance is Blowing the Paris Carbon Budget' - jump to page 63 for all the info on the Eastern Med!

The collective Gastivists wants to thank all the people and collectives who contributed to this project, including **Lorena Canottiere** and **Claudio Calia**, **Avli**, **ReCommon**, **Stop the Wall**, the **NO TAP** collective of **Melendugno**, **Georgia**, **Elisa Ugo**, **Silvia**, **Francesco** and **Fabio**.

To stop this project, there are many things we can do **together**. By framing this QR code, you will find many ideas and support, but do not hesitate to **reach us!**



gastivists.org
[ig @gastivists_collective](https://www.instagram.com/gastivists_collective)
[fb @gastivists](https://www.facebook.com/gastivists)

stopeastmed.org





* THIS MAP SHOWS THE BIGGEST NEW GAS PROJECTS EXISTING, PLANNED AND IN CONSTRUCTION. THERE IS ALSO A HUGE AMOUNT OF GAS INFRASTRUCTURE IN PLACE ALREADY. WE ARE CHOOSING TO FOCUS ON THE BIGGEST AND MOST LIKELY NEW PROJECTS - BECAUSE WE CAN STOP THEM BEFORE THEY'RE EVEN BUILT. MAP UPDATED AT 1ST OCTOBER 2022

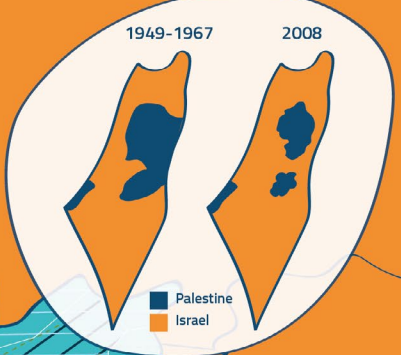
PEACE IS FOSSIL FREE

Comic Book created by
Gastivists
Lorena Canottiere
Claudio Calia

Comics on fossil fuels, militarization and social justice in the East Mediterranean



- North area administrated by Turkish Cypriots
- South area administrated by Greek Cypriots
- UN-administered buffer zone
- UK Sovereign Base Areas



KEY

- COMPLETED
- CONSTRUCTION
- PROPOSED
- LAND TERMINAL
- SHIP TERMINAL
- TERRITORIAL WATERS

In 2017, Maltese journalist *Daphne Caruana Galizia* was murdered after uncovering corruption ties between the Maltese government and Electrogas, the pipeline's only customer. Melita continues to be included in the EU's list of priority projects.

In early 2020 Isis detonated explosives along the existing gas pipeline between Israel and Egypt, criticizing the energy relationship between the two states. Gas in the region is amplifying existing tensions.

Connecting Israel and Egypt via the Gaza sea, is also known as "The Peace Gas Pipeline". There are plans to significantly expand it.

TO STOP THIS PROJECT, THERE ARE MANY THINGS WE CAN DO TOGETHER. BY FRAMING THIS QR CODE, YOU WILL FIND MANY IDEAS AND SUPPORT, BUT DO NOT HESITATE TO REACH US!

