

Israel looks up to Hitler as leadership role model



By Syed Ali Hassan

Iran Daily's correspondent in Pakistan

The Israeli advance in Gaza continues, with the military conducting attacks on innocent Palestinians from multiple directions. However, the well-equipped Israeli army is encountering significant resistance. It remains uncertain whether these actions are part of a reconnaissance effort or if Israel intends to pursue a gradual escalation in its ground offensive over time. But, the primary goal of the Israeli army, apparently, is to genocide the Palestinian people. Occupying Israel has introduced new regulations designed to shield its soldiers from war crimes prosecutions, which have been implemented promptly. These include permission for the soldiers to use force against any Palestinian obstructing their military operations. Consider the implications; when the Israeli army operates with a legal license for these actions, it becomes easier to justify actions under the pretext of Palestinians obstructing military operations. The regime has put Hitler as its model in leadership who disregarded the lives of ordinary citizens. The Israeli army's ground attacks reflect its evolving strategy. Israeli politicians and soldiers have openly expressed their intentions to change Gaza drastically. They aim to create conditions suitable for the eviction of Palestinians and the settlement of Jewish communities.

On the one hand, Palestinians have been deliberately deprived of all the necessities of life, including food, water, and medical facilities. For the past month, they have also been subjected to indiscriminate bombings from the air, resulting in death and injury. These actions aim to force Palestinians to vacate their homes in northern Gaza and relocate to the south. Israel's clear objective is to occupy northern Gaza, establishing a military zone to permanently displace the Palestinian population living there. One of the disturbing aspects of these events is the level of international support. The US and European countries are standing firmly behind Israel with the United States providing weapons.

Hamas, the military wing of which is not associated with any state, made it a challenging adversary for Israeli soldiers. And in addition to international support, as we examine the positions of Muslim governments in this conflict, we often observe indifference and silence from many. Iran and Yemen are politically supporting Hamas, with Qatar providing diplomatic and communication assistance. Turkey's response to the Israeli aggression was delayed, while the silence of Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and the UAE has emboldened Israel. Nonetheless, Israeli diplomats in Dubai and Manama continue their work.

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Israeli crimes from perspective of int'l law



By Reza Gerami

Legal expert

EXCLUSIVE OPINION

Throughout history, the punishment of those who commit major crimes against humanity has been a concern for justice advocates. To address this concern, international criminal courts were founded in Nuremberg, Tokyo, Yugoslavia, Rwanda, and ultimately, the International Criminal Court. The primary goal of this policy was to eliminate the impunity of criminals and thus prevent the recurrence of such crimes on a broad international scale. However, what has been happening in the occupied territories of Palestine, including Gaza, shows that serious gaps still exist in this regard. When perpetrators of crimes in Gaza are granted freedom and are not summoned by a neutral and impartial authority, this will pave the ground for Israel to commit similar crimes once again. Following the eruption of the conflict between Israel and Hamas, the world witnessed another humanitarian tragedy in the Gaza Strip. Israel's war machine, like a gruesome and bloodthirsty monster, preys on the lives of innocent civilians and helpless children in Gaza. Israel has a record of international crimes and violations of international treaties and norms, and once again, with the expansion of its crimes, it reveals its true face to the world. Bombing non-military areas, targeted assassinations, state-sponsored financial support for terrorism, and more are all part of Israel's crimes in recent decades. What is happening in Gaza today

bears characteristics that can be considered war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide. According to Article 8 of the Rome Statute, which is in line with the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and other international regulations and customary laws of warfare, actions such as extensive destruction of property, attacks on non-military areas and individuals, and their bombardment, as well as attacks on religious and scientific premises, are considered war crimes.

Perhaps the most prominent of these atrocities is the attack on Al-Ahli Hospital, where a large number of non-combatants had sought refuge, resulting in the killing of hundreds of innocent Palestinians. Israel also subjected the Islamic University in Gaza to intense aerial attacks, completely demolishing the building.

Israel's violations of the rules of war and the use of white phosphorus bombs are among its other crimes. According to the 1980 Geneva Agreement, which prohibits the use of white phosphorus as an incendiary weapon against humans and the environment, such bombs are considered prohibited weapons. However, numerous images released by local sources in Gaza prove that Israel has consistently used these bombs in its attacks on non-combatants.

Article 7 of the Rome Statute, which is an international treaty for the establishment of the International Criminal Court, defines crimes against humanity extensively. According to this article, "crimes against humanity" means a series of acts when committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack directed against any civilian population, with knowledge of the attack. These acts include murder, extermination, deportation, or



A Palestinian child wounded in Israeli bombardment is treated in a hospital in Deir al-Balah, south of the Gaza Strip, on Nov. 3, 2023.

● HATEM MOUSSA/AP

forcible transfer of population, torture, and persecution on political, racial, national, ethnic, cultural, religious, or gender-based grounds, among others. According to the points mentioned regarding crimes against humanity, one of Israel's primary strategies in its wars is to exert extreme pressure on civilians, often to the highest degree. From the perspective of the conditions that lead to crimes against humanity, such as Israel's attacks organized within the framework of a wide and severe offensive by a regime, resulting in outcomes like killing, destruction, expulsion, or population transfer, and tormenting and harassing non-combatants, it can be classified under the terms mentioned in Article 7 of the International Criminal Court Statute. Repetitive bombardments, blockade, and siege of the people of Gaza, the forced expulsion and relocation of the Arab Palestinian

population through illegal settlements in violation of the Oslo Accords, and... are clear indications and instances of crimes against humanity committed by this "apartheid regime." Moreover, according to Article 2 of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, adopted unanimously by the United Nations General Assembly on December 9, 1948, genocide is defined as certain acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group. These acts include killing members of the group, causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group, and deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part among others (clause C). According to the definition above, these days in Gaza, the most prom-

inent examples of genocide are occurring, and the most painful form of it is the killing of children who, if they grow up, may become a threat to Israel and jeopardize the security of its settlements. In other words, Israel aims to ensure and secure its safety and well-being in the future by bombarding Palestinian children. Furthermore, as per clause C of this article of the Genocide Convention, cutting off water and electricity in Gaza, imposing an economic siege, and preventing the delivery of food and essential supplies to the people in this region are other instances of genocide that Israel is currently committing. In this regard, international criminal authorities, along with human rights advocates, Muslim communities, and freedom supporters, must uphold their legal responsibilities to prevent the widespread and continued massacres of innocent civilians.

A rider called death



By Habib Ahmadzadeh

EXCLUSIVE OPINION

It has been nearly 20 years since millions of Palestinians have been confined in what is often referred to as an open-air prison, the Gaza Strip, by an apartheid occupier regime. Israel has shown no commitment to the peace treaties that it, along with its allies, has imposed upon the Palestinian people. The Gaza conflict has persisted not for just a month, but for over 70 years, according to the perspective of United Nations resolutions, pitting Palestinians against an expansionist occupying regime. Groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad have emerged as natural responses

to the contentious peace agreements and the frustrations of an oppressed population that may have at times preferred sudden death over enduring repeated invasions.

By adopting various provocative measures, such as daily violence, even in the West Bank, where Hamas does not exert control, and by desecrating Muslim holy sites in Al-Quds, even to the extent of hosting celebratory events in the courtyards of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu appeared to be attempting to push Palestinian resistance groups into action. The move was seemingly driven by the desire to relieve the pressure stemming from the possible collapse of his extremist cabinet. However, he likely did not anticipate the increased resilience of the besieged Palestinian population. As this war continues, the horri-

ble story of the Al-Ahli hospital and the deaths of hundreds of innocent women and children who sought refuge within its walls, coupled with Netanyahu's shameful acts to evade accountability, are reminiscent of a fictional story from the Cold War era. In this tale, a Russian soldier is compelled to lead 20 German soldiers to execution in the streets of Berlin after its fall. When the family of one of those soldiers pleads for mercy, the Russian soldier, bound by orders to execute exactly 20 soldiers, releases the soldier to his family but substitutes another civilian bystander from the crowd. Individuals like Netanyahu, who are responsible for the deaths of as many Palestinians as the fatalities in the Al-Ahli hospital every two or three days, resemble the fabricated tale of the Cold War soldier replacing a dead soldier. This raises the question of

whether they possess the moral authority to distance themselves from these killings. For people in the Middle East, the experience and outcomes of the so-called peace agreements, with their grand celebrations and claims, only serve as a metaphorical painkiller prescribed by a doctor named the West. This "doctor" attempts to hide the "cancer" afflicting the patient called the East until it's too late for effective treatment. Perhaps the innocent people of Gaza can relate to the prophetic words in the New Testament's Book of Revelation: "I looked, and there before me was a pale horse! Its rider was named Death, and Hades was following close behind him." In this apocalyptic scenario, Netanyahu represents the rider of death for all people. It is a crucial and fundamental question that US President Joe

Biden, French President Emmanuel Macron, and other supporters of Netanyahu should consider at all times. If the 20-year blockade of Gaza has only led to the emergence of groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad in the Middle East, what will the ongoing killing of hundreds of women and children each day, along with the ongoing displacement of Palestinians from their homeland, create for Israel in the future? Do Netanyahu and his backers not realize that the current acts of violence and genocide against Palestinians may be sowing the seeds of future, more intense revenge? This revenge, unlike the Nile, might well begin from within the tunnels running beneath Gaza, taking Israel by surprise, much like the biblical story of Moses, and it could persist within every room of Pharaoh's palace indefinitely.