

Irish psyche roots for underdog Palestine



The strong support for Palestine in Ireland, especially during the recent conflict in Gaza, has raised questions about why Irish politicians have been so outspoken in their criticism of Israel's bombardment.

The Irish foreign minister and opposition politicians have used strong language to condemn the assault, with some even wearing the keffiyeh in parliament. This has been hailed by pro-Palestinian commentators as an example for the rest of Europe.

Ireland is often seen as an outlier in the European Union, and its sympathy for the suffering in Gaza can be traced back to its own historical experiences.

One key factor is Ireland's history as a victimized nation. The country has been Britain's oldest colony and experienced its own struggles for independence and, thus, Ireland's identification with the underdog is deeply ingrained in its psyche.

This historical perspective shapes how the Irish engage with postcolonial conflicts like the Israeli-Palestinian one.

Another influence is the small Jewish community in Ireland, comprising only around 0.05 percent of the population. This contrasts with larger and more influential Jewish communities in countries like Britain and France. The presence of a small Jewish community has given the Irish more freedom to take what they consider a principled position on the Israeli-Palestinian issue.

Furthermore, Ireland has a track record of supporting Palestinian statehood, being the first EU state to endorse it in 1980. Ireland has also publicly criticized actions taken by EU officials that it perceives as lacking balance, indicating its desire to push for a more just position within the European consensus.

Israel's capture of the West Bank in 1967 and its invasion of Lebanon in 1982 put Irish UN peacekeepers in harm's way and deepened Irish sympathies with Palestinians. The narrative has now evolved to align with the idea that just as the Irish fought to remove occupiers, the Palestinians are also fighting for their own liberation.

While Ireland's support for Palestine is multifaceted, the historical, geopolitical, and humanitarian factors contribute to the Irish people's identification with the underdog; their own experiences of oppression strengthen their sympathy for the Palestinian cause.

Paraphrased from "It's part of our psyche: why Ireland sides with 'underdog' Palestine," published in the Guardian, November 20, 2023.

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Nursing is painting smiles on canvas of pain



Mahdieh Qazvinian
Staff writer

In 2011, the World Prematurity Day was celebrated for the first time in various countries. The observation was initially proposed by the European Parents' Association in 2008. Every year, on November 17, World Prematurity Day is celebrated in different countries with the aim of raising awareness and alerting the public about the challenges faced by premature babies. Approximately 15 million babies, accounting for one in ten births worldwide, are born prematurely each year. Sadly, not all premature babies survive, as one million of them pass away annually, while others may experience complications such as cerebral palsy and vision and hearing problems among others.

The typical duration of a pregnancy is between 37 and 40 weeks. However, due to various reasons, some babies do not complete the full term in their mother's womb and are born prematurely. The causes of premature birth often remain unknown, though it is more common among young and middle-aged women. Factors such as inadequate prenatal care, multiple pregnancies, and improper nutrition during pregnancy can increase the

chances of giving birth to a premature baby. In a hospital located in the southern part of Iran's capital, equipped with advanced facilities and staffed by specialized nurses in NICU (Neonatal Intensive Care Unit) departments, premature babies receive the necessary care until they fully recover and reach their ideal weight. Anita Nazarbeigi, a 29-year-old nurse who has been working in this hospital's NICU for nine years, exemplifies the qualities required for a NICU nurse. According to Anita, apart from knowledge and skills,

patience and precision are the most crucial characteristics of a NICU nurse. The department often presents challenging and distressing situations, wherein nurses need to set aside their emotions and collaborate with the medical team to save a baby's life. Anita, herself a mother of a one-year-old daughter, emphasizes the importance of kindness and patience in



dealing with extremely vulnerable and defenseless premature babies. As nurses, they become the sole hope for these infants, and their delicate touch, slow feeding, and overall care require special patience and love. Anita recalls a heartwarming memory of a baby who had been hospitalized for two months. Due to severe brain and vision issues, the baby's mother was unable to visit him during that time. However, when the mother finally visited and held the baby in her arms, the baby experienced a sense of tranquility upon hearing the sound of her heartbeat and smelling her scent. Miraculously, the baby's conditions improved significantly before being discharged. Anita attributes this improvement not to medical intervention but rather to the power of a mother's love and embrace. She firmly believes that babies need a mother's hug more than we can imagine. Even outside of work, Anita finds it challenging to forget



the events that unfold in the baby department and the stresses associated with her job. These experiences often linger in her thoughts, even when she falls asleep. Anita explains that the world of babies represents purity and innocence, and every word spoken and action taken by nurses has an impact on these vulnerable beings. Since babies cannot speak or make decisions for themselves, they are entirely dependent on others, which Anita considers the height of their vulnerability. Nursing is a profession associated with high levels of burnout, but despite the night shifts and long hours, it has been a fulfilling and nurturing environment for Anita over the years. Witnessing families joyfully receive their healthy babies upon discharge brings immense happiness to the department and serves as a testament to the impact of their work. In a heartwarming moment, a 7-year-old girl, who was once a 900-gram baby in the same ward, enters and embraces Anita tightly. Together, they cut a beautiful cake brought to the ward to commemorate World Prematurity Day.

Israel's incursion ...

Countries were to be occupied, and a Jewish government was to be established. This is why Muslims have to be killed. Therefore, genocide has been an integral part of the formation of this state from the beginning. War crimes have no meaning in Judaism. What exists is genocide, and they openly declare it. According to their belief, Christians and Muslims must be expelled from Palestine, which is why you see them bombing both mosques and churches to make this area entirely Jewish. It is interesting that Netanyahu, in the few years he has been in power, used the term "Jewish government" instead of the government of Israel, indicating a nationalist direction. In other words, the religious government of Israel has also turned into Judaism and a nationalist

government. Iran's Islamic Revolution rejected both mystical and philosophical humanism. When the Palestinians and Lebanese came to Imam Khomeini, he said a popular movement should be formed. Yasser Arafat's organization-centered theory failed, and now the self-governing organizations on the western side of the Jordan River are anti-Palestinian people and yield no benefit for Palestinians. To these organizations, Palestinians are subjects. Look at Mahmoud Abbas's multi-million dollar palace in Ramallah. He is an Israeli security agent assigned to control Palestinians on the West Bank. Now, Hamas, the force of the Gazans, is becoming more and more popular. Hamas is people-centric, not subject-centric. That's why Hamas cannot be separated from the people

of Gaza, and the people of Gaza cannot abandon Hamas despite all the martyrs. Hamas and Gazans are strongly intertwined, and they cannot be eradicated. Palestinians are being killed every day, whether they be young, old, men, or women. Islamic fervor has surged worldwide, challenging criminal, corrupt, and unethical capitalism. Now, Islam is being advocated. Across the globe, and even in America, a belief is emerging among the youth that Islam is the only path to salvation and happiness. In the past, what opposed global capitalism was communism, which was not very ethical either and was based on dictatorship and massacre. But now, global Islam, especially with its Iranian interpretation, which is based on the concepts of Ummah and Imam, is becoming widespread.

Media-centric outlets like radio and television have failed worldwide, and social networks have triumphed. Now, because of social networks, people are taking to the streets in support of Palestine. France made great efforts to prevent anyone from coming to the streets, but the crisis it worried would occur occurred anyway because of social networks. Radio and television networks, which were once unifying, have been pushed aside. Now, people and social media are positioned against the elite and subject-centric media worldwide. In the epistemological and paradigmatic revolution happening in the humanities as well as the experimental sciences, people-centeredness takes the place of human sciences. This means that popular sciences are replacing human sciences. That's why anthropology is now fundamental worldwide, replacing communications and sociology. A cognitive

revolution is emerging in universities and in religion. The pope-centric religion is no longer significant, and a people-centric Christianity is emerging. The Palestinians have roots in the land of Palestine, and they belong to that geography. They are being killed in their homes. The Israelis, who have no roots there, came from the other side of the world, and all of them have multiple passports. It was not intended for them to stay in Israel. They went there to establish a headquarters for making money and to create a global Jewish government from the Nile to the Euphrates with their own World Bank. Essentially, the globalization of Jews was planned to allow Jews and Israel to dominate from the Nile to the Euphrates. Israel is extraneous to the region. The anti-Netanyahu movement that is growing inside Israel basically says, "We want to live here and have an

Israeli and non-Western culture." This is another war that the Israeli cabinet is already fighting. Israel's aggression is not in self-defense. Rather, it is in defense of occupation. According to United Nations resolutions, that land is occupied, and everyone says so. The Israelis have committed crimes in this occupied land, and the indigenous people of Palestine have every right, according to international law, to attack the Israelis and kill them because they have occupied their land. Even if the Israelis say they bought some pieces of land, they have seized the rest of the territories and killed or displaced their owners. Therefore, Israel's aggression is not in self-defense. A specific group of people with their specific culture have always lived in that specific land. Israelis, contrastingly, came from the West and wanted to Westernize the land. So, they are invaders and occupiers.