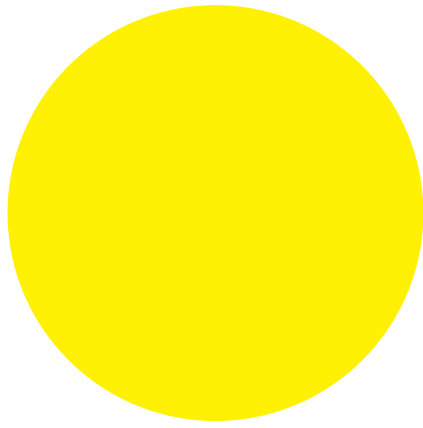


Raisi writes to 50 world leaders to call for 'unified' action against Israel


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Reincarnation of Nazism in Habermas

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Israel's incursion a defense of occupation, not in self-defense



By Ebrahim Fayyaz
Anthropologist

OPINION EXCLUSIVE

Palestine, geographically situated in the Middle East (Western Asia) and on the border of Europe and Asia, has always been a battleground. From the time of Alexander the Great, through the Crusades, the Napoleonic era, and into contemporary history in the 20th and 21st centuries, the conflict between East and West persists. Whenever the West desired, it launched attacks on the East, encompassing the Near East or Asia Minor, which includes Turkey. For example, Alexander also entered this region through Turkey. Therefore, the current conflict in Gaza is an ongoing struggle between the East and the West.

Protestantism, which became a symbol of the West, had an economic dimension based on the banking system. The term "bank" is Jewish, and if you pay attention, they also call the western side of the Jordan River the West Bank. Banking was a Jewish concept, and Jesus of Nazareth was sent to combat this usury. Along the way, they tried to martyr him, which, from our perspective as Muslims, resulted in his ascension. The Temple of Solomon, like the banking system, was also engaged in usury.

In Judaism, God is inactive, and man is omnipotent. Philosophical humanism belongs to the Jews. They initiated philosophical humanism and seriously replaced God with man. Then, they introduced this into mystical Christianity, creating mystical humanism, which is the same as the enlightenment of the temple or Freemasonry.

The last move the Jews made in the 20th century was to establish a Jewish state in Palestine based on philosophical humanism. According to this ideology, the Jewish state should take shape from the Nile to the Euphrates.

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EXCLUSIVE

China reaffirms support for new nations in joining BRICS

China reaffirmed its support on Monday for new countries joining the BRICS grouping of developing nations, even as Argentina's likely next foreign minister was quoted as saying that her country would no longer do so. Argentina was among six countries invited to become a new member of BRICS at a summit held in South Africa in August, part of the grouping's push to reshuffle a Western-dominated world order it sees as outdated. However, Russia's RIA news agency cited Diana Mondino, an economist tipped to become foreign minister in the administration of Argentina's newly-elected Javier Milei, as saying that her country would not now join the BRICS group. Mao Ning, a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson, told a press briefing that she was not aware of Mondino's reported comments.

"What I want to say is that the BRICS cooperation mechanism is an important platform for emerging markets and developing countries to strengthen solidarity and cooperation and uphold common interests," Mao said.

"BRICS is also an open platform and we welcome any interested country to become a member of the BRICS family."

Milei, a right-wing libertarian was elected Argentina's new president on Sunday. Milei and Mondino had both opposed Argentina joining the bloc, which also includes Brazil, Russia, India and South Africa.

"We don't understand what the benefit (of joining BRICS) is for Argentina at the moment. If it later turns out that there is a benefit, we will analyze it," Mondino told the RIA news agency. China and Russia are pushing for the expansion of the BRICS grouping as they seek to counter Western economic dominance.

Saudi Arabia, Iran, Ethiopia, Egypt and the UAE are the other five countries invited at the August summit to join the BRICS grouping.

President Raisi says oil, gas sector best opportunity for investment

Economy Desk

Oil and gas is the best sector for investment in Iran, said President Ebrahim Raisi during a visit to the Oil Ministry on Monday as he was briefed about the oil industry's plans for the current Iranian year (started March 21).

"The increase in oil production and exports, despite sanctions, is a great achievement for the incumbent government since it came to office two years ago," he was quoted as saying by Shana.

Stating that investment is the driving force of economic growth, Raisi asked the managers of the Oil Ministry to accelerate production growth as well as increase income by attracting more domestic and foreign investment. The president pointed to

reducing the sale of oil in crude form as one of the important tasks, and noted processing crude oil will lead to an increase in production, employment and productivity.

Emphasizing on not delaying the development plans, speeding up the completion of the flare gas collection project by using the capacity of new technology-based firms as well as paying more attention to consumption management along with production management were other important points raised by Raisi.

The need to create integration in the upstream, mid-stream and downstream sectors of petrochemicals with the aim of complying with the general policies of the Ministry of Oil was also emphasized by the president.



Modernity, safety main criteria in construction: Minister

Construction has become one of the fastest growing sectors of economy, said Batir Zakirov, the Uzbek minister on construction.

Within the framework of the «Obod qishloq» and «Obod mahalla» programs, 1944 comprehensive master plans for mahallas (neighborhoods) were prepared in the Central Asian country with a large number of socio-economic problems, he added.

"The strategy and roadmap for the modernization and innovative development of the construction network for 2021-25 were also

approved. It is important to note that within the framework of these documents a number of measures and reforms have been implemented and certain results have been achieved."

In order to introduce modern standards and technologies, cooperation has been established with advanced foreign countries, Zakirov said.

Today, the works and services carried out in the construction sector in Uzbekistan serve not only as a base for strengthening the national economy, but also as an important tool in finding solutions to urgent problems in the social direction, the minister noted adding that the buildings create a new way of life in New Uzbekistan.



What Iran must do for de-dollarization

A dollarized economy is one whose monetary base is either connected to the dollar or is the dollar. Therefore, if the de-dollarization of Iran's economy entails discarding the policies that have brought the economy to this point, the country should first focus on strengthening its national currency.

But even some institutions tasked with protecting the national and economic security operate with little faith in the national currency. For example, in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, national banks and elsewhere, the euro is accepted as the unit to pay for their services. They claim that the central bank is not ready to offer foreign exchange for the rials it receives. Hence, this weakening of the national currency that has continued for the last three decades should be corrected.

Strengthening the national currency is one of the key pillars of de-dollarization because when the national currency is strengthened, people will trust it and will not try to convert it to foreign currencies, including the dollar. Thus for de-dollarization, Iran has to reform domestic policies first.

However, the problem is not the dollar per se, and the question whether the national economy is capable of creating value to help strengthen the national currency. The main issue here is production; to be able to ditch the dollar, Iran has to build a robust production footing. De-dollarization basically means putting an end to the dominance of the



dollar. The dominance of the dollar in the world economy is very real, having been formed over decades. It has given extraordinary clout to the US economy, where it only costs 40 cents for the US to publish a \$100 note, meaning with the remaining \$99.60, it can import goods for literally nothing. In other words, the dollar has given the United States the monopoly to import goods in exchange for printing paper.

But there is a high demand for this paper in world markets, including in Iran. The Americans churn out paper in the US, and people line up in front of banks and foreign exchange outlets in Iran to voraciously buy it. This rage has its roots in the weakening of the national currency, which prompts the masses to try to convert their assets into something of value in the world.

To change this attitude, authorities have to help strengthen the rial and reverse the general feeling that their national currency

is losing value by the day, basically due to the monetary policies of state officials.

If de-dollarization is to take place in the world economy, but no serious measures are taken to strengthen the national currency in Iran, it will be of no use.

De-dollarization has the advantage of actually reducing the demand for the dollar, and replacing it with another currency in international relations such as the euro or the yuan. That will not benefit the Iranian economy much unless its national currency is strengthened. When that happens, any ditching of the dollar will reduce the dominance of the US economy.

There are already signs of decoupling from the US economy. Saudi Arabia and China plan their oil transactions to be denominated in the yuan, which can affect the demand for dollars in the world market and weaken the political and economic leverage of the United States.

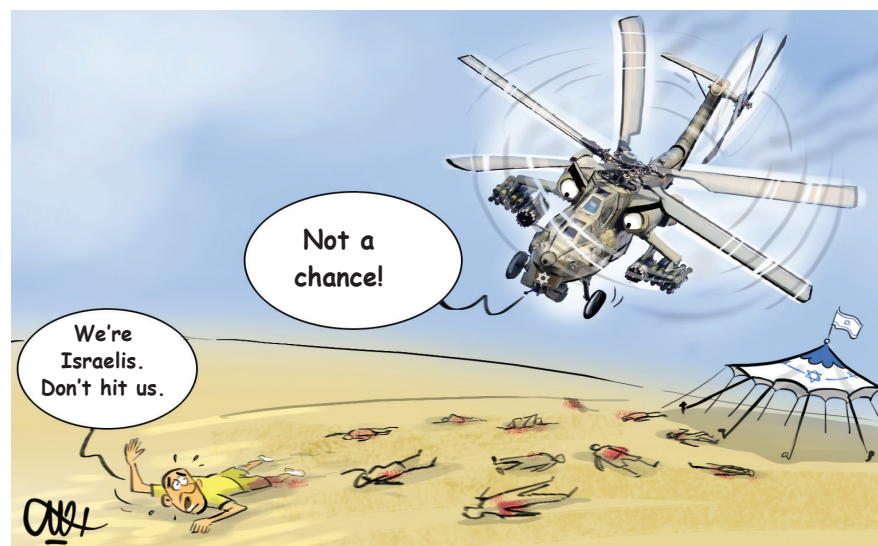
But the value of the na-

tional currency in Iran does not depend on de-dollarization in the world. It is rather dependent on production and domestic production capacities, not only the production of oil and gas and natural resources, but also production in which the role of technology and the role of human resources are very prominent. Hence, it is absurd to expect that de-dollarization would help strengthen the national currency.

Nevertheless, the repercussions of de-dollarization on the influence of the United States in the global economy and, consequently, on its political influence in other countries are huge, which explains why Washington abhors it.

The fall of the dollar, its devaluation, or its withdrawal from the international reference pricing basket and its decline into a common currency would have seismic ramifications, which would cripple the US's political influence and economic domination.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist



Immerse yourself in enchanting beauty of Asyab Kharabeh waterfall in Jolfa



Iranica Desk

In the heart of a mountainous forest, imagine a tall enclosed wall covered in lush greenery, with a gushing waterfall cascading down from its top. As the water droplets gently sprinkle you, the soothing sound of the waterfall blocks out any other noise. It's unlikely that you would find yourself in such a place and not forget about your fatigue and troubles, at least for a few hours.

If you desire to escape the city and its problems and immerse yourself in untouched nature, Asyab Kharabeh waterfall (literally meaning broken watermill waterfall) is the perfect place for you. This waterfall is one of the tourist attractions in East Azarbaijan Province, known by this name due to its proximity to the old watermills, chtn.ir wrote. The picturesque Asyab Kharabeh waterfall is located approximately 27 kilometers from the city of Hadishahr, and five kilometers from Manjan Abad village, on the outskirts of the

Aras River. The main waterfall is about 15 meters high. Its water is supplied by a spring originating from Kiyamaki Mountain, one of the tall mountains in the Dizmar-e Gharbi rural district of Arasbaran and the city of Marand.

After descending, the waterfall joins a stream running at the bottom of the valley and flows northward. Additionally, on the right side of the valley, other small and large waterfalls can be seen, creating a beautiful natural symphony. The Asyab Kharabeh waterfall is supplied by multiple springs originating from the top of Kiyamaki Mountain. If you look to the right side of the valley, you will witness an abundance of these waterfalls, creating a magnificent view.

Not only does the presence of small waterfalls alongside the main waterfall add to its beauty, but the combination of their sounds also creates a grand music concert that no listener can pass by indifferently. The walls of the waterfall are adorned with various aquatic

plants, creating a velvety surface of beauty. There are also abundant fig trees surrounding the waterfall, enhancing its lushness and beauty.

If you wish, you can bring camping gear and have a picnic near the waterfall, spending a full day there. In the tourist complex of Asyab Kharabeh waterfall, there is a parking lot, a restaurant, a buffet, and sanitary facilities available for a small entrance fee.

The area where Asyab Kharabeh waterfall is located has pleasant and cool weather in the spring and summer, making it an ideal destination for travel and exploration during these seasons. In autumn, the colorful nature and environment of the waterfall provide a perfect opportunity to capture beautiful and unforgettable images.

However, perhaps the most captivating image of Asyab Kharabeh waterfall can be seen in winter. When the water freezes due to severe cold, it creates a dreamlike scenery for which it is worth enduring the cold.

Kukherd, a vast collection of rock art in Hormuzgan Province

Iranica Desk

Kukherd is a significant historical site, known for its vast collection of rock art, located in a village with the same name, near a mountain range in Hormuzgan Province.

This site dates back to the Neolithic period and covers an area of over 200 hectares, with the main concentration of petroglyphs found in the north of the village and the mountain range.

Kukherd is the second largest center of petroglyphs in the Bastak region, after Deh Tall. The petroglyphs found in Kukherd depict a range of shapes and

designs, including sheep, goats, wild goats, humans, and other strange and bizarre figures, similar to those found in Deh Tall.

Most of the rock art depicts scenes of animal hunting and human activities. The petroglyphs are scattered across the area, starting from the north of the village and extending to the foothills of the mountains, with a relatively low density at higher altitudes, increasing in lower areas. These carvings are made on dark-colored rocks. The petroglyphs are located on the path of large rivers in the north of the village, which can sometimes cause floods after heavy rainfall

and contribute to the destruction of this site.

Designs carved on the stones have roots in the livelihood of the people who settled in this plain and benefited from its environmental resources.

They have put their ways of life in writings on these stones. The subject of the motifs is relatively diverse, mostly consisting of goat motifs that vary in size. These motifs are mostly displayed in half-profile (mostly in animal and human motifs) or full-profile (in human motifs). Goat motifs are mostly seen in herds, or individually, or in the process of hunting, which indicates the hunting methods of that era in this region.

Other motifs in this ancient site are geometric. Human motifs, like those of other sites, include various subjects such as horse riding, performing ceremonies, herding, etc.

In the 2018 surveys carried out in the eastern part of the Shamo Valley, some stone tools were found, revealing the most important data that can be collected.

Apart from the aforementioned stone tools, no other archaeological data was found in Kukherd historical site. It can be assumed that these tools belong to people whose lifestyle was nomadic, so no architectural structures and other cultural data have been found there so far.

The prehistoric stone tools found in this area are similar in structural forms to those from the Neolithic period.



Dozen killed in attacks on Gaza hospital

Raisi writes to 50 world leaders to call for 'unified' action against Israel

International Desk

Israeli army strengthened its attacks on the Gaza Strip on Monday, killing more Palestinian civilians in the besieged territory. The Health Ministry in Gaza on Monday said 12 people, including patients and their companions, were killed in an Israeli strike on the Indonesian hospital in the north of the Palestinian territory. The ministry's spokesman Ashraf al-Qudra said around 700 people

remain at the hospital where they are being "besieged" by Israeli forces. Meanwhile, twenty-nine premature babies arrived in Egypt on Monday after they were evacuated from Gaza's largest hospital, which has been raided by Israel in recent days. The World Health Organization has described the hospital as a "death zone" as Israel seeks to uncover what it claims are Hamas bases in tunnels underneath the facility.

Stop Israeli atrocities

Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has called on 50 heads of state for unified action in exerting economic and political pressure on Israel to stop the regime's crimes in Gaza.

In a letter to 50 heads of state including Russia, China, Turkey, Kazakhstan, South Africa, Kenya, and Jordan, Raisi highlighted the continued brutal actions of Israel against the defenseless people of Gaza that have resulted in the loss of over 13,000 lives and the destruction of

infrastructure over the past 45 days.

He also criticized the double standards employed by certain Western governments that disregard intentional violations of humanitarian principles, ethics, and rights.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani also said on Monday that the resistance groups in the region have repeatedly warned the US and Israel that they will not sit idly by if the occupying regime continues its attacks against the

Palestinian people in the besieged strip. Kanaani said that the growing opposition to Israeli crimes in Gaza and the US support for the regime's atrocities show that nations are dissatisfied with the war and want it to stop.

The Iranian diplomat also urged the US government to pay attention to global security and peace and stop its support for Israeli crimes in Gaza instead of asking others to do so, or end doing something.

Gaza graveyard of invaders

This is not the end of 'prized city'



By Ebrahim Beheshti
Staff writer

Hayam Albetar, the head of research and studies at the Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities in Gaza, told Al-Monitor in 2015, "The northeastern area of Khan Yunis is known as 'Maabar al-Hijrat' [Passage of Immigration] because it was the gate to Gaza from the south — for the Canaanites, Persians, Romans, and Muslims. There were also Byzantine villages in this area." Khan Yunis is a city in the southern region of the Gaza Strip. Gaza, the home of great civilizations throughout history, is now on the tongues and headlines of the world media not only because of its 5000-year history that is full of ups and downs but also due to the tragedy imposed upon it by Israel.

Gaza, home of great civilizations

Perhaps this is a new chapter in the history of Gaza, a land with a rich and lengthy history that has witnessed civilizations and powers come and go and achieve victories and numerous defeats. It's not without reason that Jamal Al Shobaki, the Palestinian ambassador to Rabat, stated, "Israel has turned Gaza into a graveyard for children. This regime has not studied read history because [if it did, it would have known] Gaza is the graveyard of all invaders. All those who colonized Palestine vanished, while Gaza, Palestine, and Al-Quds (Jerusalem) remain." We're talking about a region of approximately 360 square kilometers called the "Gaza Strip," a narrow strip along the eastern Mediterranean Sea, with Gaza being one of its cities. The length of this area is 40 kilometers, and its width ranges from 10 to 15 kilometers. It borders the occupied lands to the north and east and is connected to Egypt to the south. The Gaza Strip, along with the western bank of the Jordan River, is currently Palestinian territory outside Israeli occupation and under Palestinian control. One of the most notable features associated with Gaza is its high population density. The Gaza Strip, with a population of over 2.3 million people, is considered one of the most densely populated areas in the world. This feature, however, is not natural or historical, but rather a result of Israel's occupation policies. The majority of the Gaza population consists of Arab refugees who fled during the 1948 Arab-Israeli war. By 1967, the population of the Gaza Strip had multiplied sixfold, and since then, it has been steadily growing. Poverty, unemployment, and unfavorable living conditions are palpable phenomena in this area.

The land of Palestine and the port of Gaza, due to their geographical position as a connecting point between Asia and Africa, have historically been focal points of attention for major powers and witnessed the rise and fall of empires and shifts in power dynamics. Due to its long history and unique position as one

of the crucial ports in the Eastern Mediterranean, Gaza has been renowned as the "Prized City" in Egyptian.

Gaza was conquered by the Greeks, mainly the Cretans, in the late second millennium BCE. These Greeks, known as Mycenaean Greeks, who settled here, were called Philistines (seafaring people).

Until 1300 BCE, Canaanite Arabs inhabited Palestine. From that time, migrants from the island of Crete and the Aegean Sea arrived in the region, intermingling with the local Arabs and becoming known as Palestinians.

In 732 BCE, the Assyrians became rulers of Palestine, and in 605 BCE, the Chaldeans occupied the area. In 538 BCE, the rule of the Jews ended for the second time, and it is said that 50,000 Jews were exiled to Babylon. In 538 BCE, Cyrus the Great, the third Persian king of the Achaemenid Empire, conquered Palestine and liberated the exiled Jews in Babylon.

For about 200 years, Palestine, including Gaza, was under Iranian control until it was the turn of Alexander the Great to march and conquer the region. The Iranian garrison in Gaza withstood Alexander's siege, but due to the lack of reinforcements, it was defeated in the end. Two centuries later, the Romans ousted Alexander's successors from Gaza until the region came under Muslim control in 637 CE. Gaza saw other rulers come and go until, ultimately, in 1516 CE, the Muslim Ottomans took control of this region.

Britain is involved

In 1877, the first session of the Ottoman Parliament was held in Istanbul, and the first representatives of Palestine were elected to this assembly from the city of Al-Quds. In 1882, the Ottoman government prohibited the sale of lands in Palestine to foreign Jews.

In 1896, Abdul Hamid II, the then Sultan of the Ottoman Empire, rejected Herzl's proposal suggesting the granting of Palestine to the Jews, stating, "I cannot turn a blind eye to any part of the Ottoman Empire... I cannot consent to the vivisection of a living body."

In 1897, the first Zionist Congress was held in the Swiss city of Basel, marking the beginning of the activities of the World Zionist Organization.

In 1916, the Sykes-Picot Agreement was signed, splitting up the Arab provinces of the Ottoman Empire between Britain and France.

In January 1918, following the Ottoman defeat by the British in World War I, all of Palestine was occupied under the command of Edmund Allenby, a British general of Jewish origin, and Palestine came under British administration until 1947. In 1920, the British civil administration in Palestine was established, and Herbert Samuel, a Jewish man, was selected as the first High Commissioner of Britain for Palestine.

On November 29, 1947, the United Nations General Assembly officially recognized the presence of Zionists in Palestine by approving the Partition Plan. On May 14, 1948, Israel declared its existence at 4:00 p.m. in Tel Aviv. Shortly after, the United States recognized it.





Call for urgent action

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who hosted diplomats from Arab and Muslim-majority nations on Monday, called for urgent action to stop the “humanitarian disaster” unfolding in Gaza. “The situation in Gaza affects all countries around the world, questioning the human sense of right and wrong and humanity’s bottom line,” Wang told the visiting diplomats. A delegation of foreign ministers of the Palestinian Authority, Indonesia, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan were in Beijing for talks on the ongoing crisis in Gaza.

“Let us work together to quickly cool down the situation in Gaza and restore peace in the Middle East as soon as possible,” Wang said. The Palestinian Authority’s Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki accused Israel of seeking to “bring to an end the Palestinian people’s presence on what remains of its historical land”. And Prince Faisal bin Farhan, Saudi Arabia’s top diplomat, said Riyadh was “seeking more cooperation with our friends in China,” with a view to “work towards ending this crisis and this grave situation as quickly as possible”.

Israel under pressure

Six weeks into the war, Israel is facing intense international pressure to justify its bloody toll. Israeli officials have warned a “window of legitimacy” for the war to rout Hamas may be closing. Israel on Sunday presented what it said was evidence Hamas gunmen used Shifa Hospital to hide foreign hostages and to mask underground tunnels. Israel has repeatedly claimed that Shifa doubles as a base for Palestinian fighters, a charge Hamas and hospital administrators deny. Meanwhile, an Israeli police investigation into the October 7 attack indicates that Israel’s Defense Forces (IDF) mistakenly shot some festival attendees while firing at Hamas fighters, a report suggested. The alleged debacle was reported by the Israeli newspaper Haaretz, citing an unnamed police source. The source told Haaretz that their police investigation said an IDF combat helicopter fired at Hamas fighters after arriving on the scene. While targeting the perpetrators, the helicopter also hit some festival-goers, the source said. Frantic diplomatic efforts were meanwhile underway to seal a deal for the release of some of the 240 captives taken by the Hamas fighters during the movement’s Operation Al-Aqsa Storm on October 7.

Oslo, a peaceless agreement

From that date until 1993, when the Oslo Peace Agreement was signed between the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and Israel, the land of Palestine, the Arab world, and Israel witnessed various events, including the triple wars. However, the Oslo Peace Agreement has not brought peace so far as Israel’s excessive demands remain unabated. According to the Gaza-Jericho Autonomy Agreement (Oslo I Agreement), a form of self-governance with limited powers was granted to Palestinians in 60% of the Gaza Strip and the city of Jericho on the western bank of the Jordan River. Yasser Arafat, the leader of the PLO, entered Gaza for the first time in 27 years in early July 1994. Following the temporary peace agreement between Israel and Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon in 1949 after the first Arab-Israeli war, control of the Gaza Strip was handed over to Egypt. This situation continued until 1967 when Arabs suffered defeat by Israel for the second time, and Israel reoccupied the Gaza Strip. Israelis had established settlements in the Gaza Strip over the years, and nearly 8,000 Jews were living in this area. This situation, however, led to heightened tensions between Palestinians and Israelis. Despite the 1994 Oslo Agreement, which had relinquished the Gaza Strip to the PLO, Israelis remained present in the strip and in the constructed settlements until 2005. However, in that year, Israel withdrew its soldiers and non-military personnel from Gaza.

Hamas control of Gaza

A year after the Palestinian parliamentary elections, the Hamas movement secured the majority of seats, appointing Ismail Haniyeh, a prominent figure within Hamas, as the leader of its self-governing body. Tensions between Hamas and the Fatah movement led to clashes between the two Palestinian organizations, ultimately resulting in the expulsion of Fatah members and full control of Gaza by Hamas in 2007. Subsequently, Israel quickly imposed a blockade on Gaza, severely restricting the movement of goods and people in and out of the region. This blockade persists to this day, earning Gaza the reputation of being the world’s largest open-air prison. From 2008 to the present, the Israelis launched numerous harsh attacks against the people of Gaza, resulting in the deaths of over 17,000 Gazans. Notable among these attacks was the operation known as Cast Lead, which took place from December 27, 2008, to January 17, 2009, claiming the lives of 1,419 Gazans. Israel’s Operation Protective Edge began on July 8, 2014, and continued until August 26, 2014, resulting in the martyrdom of 2,100 Gazans. The most intense and destructive Israeli attack on Gaza is the ongoing operation known as Iron Swords, initiated on October 7, following Operation Protective Edge and a heavy Hamas attack on Israel. Over 13,000 innocent Gazans, mostly women and children, have been martyred in this operation. Between 98% to 99% of the population in Gaza are Sunni Muslims, and less than 1% are Christians. While Arabic is the spoken language in Gaza, Hebrew and English are also prevalent among Palestinians.

Crimes amid international silence

Gaza, throughout its 5,000-year history, has experienced numerous ups and downs, witnessing many victories and defeats. Nonetheless, it is not unfounded to claim that the toughest and most devastating attack on this region is the recent Israeli assault, supported by the United States and other Western countries. Astonishingly, the most atrocious assault on Gaza, lasting over 40 days and resulting in the massacre of more than 13,000 people, occurred in an era marked by human rationality, development, and human rights led by the Western world, particularly the United States, amid an international silence and sometimes with the support of human rights advocates! The number of martyrs and the amount of incurred damages and losses are significant, but undoubtedly, this is not the end point of Gaza’s history. Gaza will rise again, and perhaps the words of the Palestinian ambassador to Rabat will prove true: “Gaza is the graveyard of all invaders.”

Follow the money in Israeli-led ‘war on terror’

ANALYSIS

Today, Israel is filled with anger and vengeance and does not care one iota about the death of Palestinian civilians. Many in the Netanyahu-led cabinet have expressed genocidal intent towards the entire Palestinian population. Most in the Israeli military and public are celebrating the physical abuse of Palestinians. Amid an atmosphere that is remarkably similar to the US after 9/11, the Israeli “war on terror” is taking shape. But Israel’s “war on terror” will not be only about revenge, just as the US’s was not. The Israeli arms industry has been thriving in recent years, with a record \$12.5 billion in sales in 2022, double the figure from one decade ago. In the last year, 24 percent of its arms went to Arab states, including Bahrain, Morocco, and the United Arab Emirates. According to the Israeli Defence Ministry’s own figures, the number of countries buying Israeli drones has jumped 40 percent in the last three years, munitions have grown by 45 percent, and spyware and related cyber-equipment soared from 67 to 83 countries in 2022. As I wrote in my book, The Palestine Laboratory, Israel has used both the endless occupation of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, along with the siege on Gaza, to “battle-test” ever-evolving new forms of repression and surveillance. These offensive tools are then marketed and sold to the majority of nations on the planet. In this context, the current war on Gaza will certainly be good for business. The Israeli army’s social media team is already proudly promoting the first time the Elbit-made Iron Sling, a mortar designed to hit Hamas rocket launching sites, was used in battle. This is a war for a local and global public audience as well as potential foreign buyers looking to build up their arsenal. Israel is also likely hoping to expand the sale of its high-tech military and intelligence tools. Even Israeli spyware company, NSO Group, mired in scandals for years, is looking to get in on the action, pitching themselves to Washington as an essential part of this new “war on terror”. In its assault on Gaza, the Israeli army has boasted about using artificial intelligence (AI) in combat to “produce reliable targets quickly and accurately”. For years, Israel has claimed that it is a pioneer in AI-enabled warfare, but there is no evidence that it has reduced civilian casualties while using it. The current death toll of more than 12,000 people in Gaza — the vast majority of them civilians — certainly does not lend credence to this claim. In the occupied West Bank, AI is used to deepen the complete monitoring and control of Palestinians. It is not a liberating technology in Palestine. It is the complete opposite. Israel’s pursuit of an ethno-nationalist agenda endangers both Palestinians and critical Jews within Israel and across the world. Israel remains an inspiration for huge swaths of the global right and far right in building a loose global coalition of nations opposed to immigration, multiculturalism, and abiding by human rights norms. With Israel claiming that it is fighting a war between so-called Western values and “barbarism”, the decimation of Palestinians’ lives and livelihoods in Gaza is a sign of an increasingly erratic and wild Israel. And yet, as it embarks on a dark and bloody “war on terror”, the Western world is supporting it every step of the way.

The full article penned by Antony Loewenstein first appeared on Aljazeera.



Iran bags two bronzes on Asian junior judo return



● IRNA

Sports Desk

Iran finished its campaign at the Asian Junior Judo Championships in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, with a couple of bronze medals. Representing the country in the men's -100kg contests, Mohammad-Hossein Yaqouti bounced back from a second-round defeat against South Korean Park Se-min to beat Mongolia's Battulga Altangerel in the repechage round before defeating the Chinese Taipei's Tsai Chieh-en in the third-place contest. Amir-Abbas Movahed also left the event with a consolation bronze, thanks to a victory over Saudi Saud Manaie, having suffered a last-four defeat against Emir Khan Zholdoskazyev of Kyrgyzstan. This was a first appearance in the event in four years for the country after serving a suspension by the International Judo Federation, over and incident at the 2019 World Championships in Tokyo, where then-Iranian -81kg contestant Saeed Molaei was allegedly forced by the Iranian federation to withdraw from a bout against Belgian Matthias Casse to avoid a final showdown against Israeli Sagi Muki.

Gavi suffers serious knee injury in Spain win



● GETTY IMAGES

BBC – Spain and Barcelona midfielder Gavi suffered a serious knee injury in the Euro 2024 qualifying win over Georgia. The 19-year-old landed awkwardly after jumping to control the ball, and left the pitch in tears in Valladolid. Manager Luis de la Fuente said Spain must wait for tests amid concerns it could be an anterior cruciate ligament injury. “This is the ugly part of football. This is the most bitter victory I have ever experienced in my life,” he said. “It is a very difficult moment for Gavi, Barcelona, the national team and for me – it seems as if we have lost the game.” Spain, who had already sealed their place at next summer's European Championships, beat Georgia 3-1 to finish top of Group A.

FIFA U-17 World Cup: Iran to continue fairy tale against Morocco as coach Abdi chases ultimate prize

Sports Desk

Iran will be hoping to continue its impressive run at the FIFA U-17 World Cup when taking on Morocco in the last-16 round in Surabaya, Indonesia, today. Hossein Abdi's side routed New Caledonia 5-0 last time out to finish third in Group C – equal on six points with the two previous champions of the competition in England and Brazil. Morocco, meanwhile, will step onto the pitch at the Gelora Bung Tomo Stadium on the back of a top-spot finish in Group A, thanks to victories over Panama (2-0) and Indonesia (3-1) either side of a 2-0 defeat against Ecuador.

Abdi's boys stole all the headlines when they scored three in the space of 19 minutes to overcome a two-goal deficit at halftime against Brazil and beat the defending champion and four-time winner 3-2 in what will go down as one of the biggest upsets in the history of the tournament. The Iranian young guns then thought they had done enough for a point against England, only to be left heartbroken after Manchester City academy player Joel Ndala bagged a 90th-minute winner to complete a 2-1 comeback victory for the 2017 champion.

Abdi's ambitions

A victory today will see Abdi's side match an all-time best result for the country in the under-17 World Cup – a last-eight finish six years ago in India – though the Iranian head coach insists his team had set sights on going all the way in Indonesia long before heading to the competition. “When we started working together a year and a half ago, I came up with a roadmap for the players, in which the ultimate goal was to win the world title,” Abdi said in an interview with the Iranian Football Federation website.

“You need to set yourself ambitious targets and give it all your best shot. That's how you would feel good about your efforts at the end,” added the Iranian. When Iran was drawn against England and Brazil, few in the country fancied Abdi's team to progress beyond the group stage, but the head coach says he always appreciated the opportunity to play against the football heavyweights. “Everyone thought we would concede lots of goals against Brazil and England, but I always believed the experience of playing against strong opponents would help us grow as a team. The World Cup is where you get the chance to compete with the best,” Abdi added.

“We played a decent football against Brazil, even when we conceded twice in the first half, and we were also brilliant in both halves against England.” A third-place finish in the group turned out to be a devil in disguise for Abdi and his boys as it saw Iran find its way into a rather easier half of the knockout draw. The winner of today's game will face either Mali or Mexico – runners-up in their respective groups – on Saturday for a place in the semifinals.

“Every team at the World Cup has earned the right to be here. Football has developed throughout the world and no side is guaranteed the victory against any opponent prior to the game,” Abdi said.

“I don't really care who we play in the tournament and I mean it. You saw how we played against the two world champions. When I went to congratulate Japanese head coach [Yoshiro Moriyama] for their victory over Senegal, he told me: ‘I showed the film of your match against Brazil to my players and told them if Iran can beat Brazil, so can you.’ Our results have earned reputation for the Asian football.”

Abdi is best remembered for being an aggressive, hard-working player in the middle of the park during his Persepolis career in the 90s, and he believes that is the kind of attitude his team needs to succeed in Indonesia. “The players and I are just duty bound to fight till the last breath and hope for the best to happen. With that mentality, it wouldn't really matter if you win or lose a game,” said the Iranian coach.

● FIFA

Djokovic has ‘highest ambitions’ after record ATP Finals triumph

AFP – At 36 years old Djokovic is still tennis' number one player by some distance and he has racked up a host of new records this season, taking his Grand Slam tally to 24 and finishing top of the year-end world rankings for the eighth time.

He swept past young pretenders Carlos Alcaraz and Jannik Sinner on his way to triumph in Turin and is gunning for more glory in 2024, when Paris hosts the one major event where he has not won – the Olympics. Asked what else he can accomplish in tennis, Djokovic joked: “Well, you can win four Slams and Olympic gold.”

“I have always the highest ambitions and goals. That's not going to be different for the next year, that's for sure. The drive that I have is still there,” he added.

“Motivation, especially for the biggest tournaments in sport, is still present... For me, obviously those are Grand Slams and Finals, and next year hopefully also Olympic Games.”

The Olympics take place over July 26-August 11 in the French capital, starting less than a fortnight after Wimbledon and finishing shortly before the US Open. It is a major career goal sandwiched into an already long, draining season, one which will take its toll on all the top players let alone one heading

towards his late 30s.

“It is definitely one of the major goals for next year, other than Grand Slams,” said Djokovic. “It's going to be very



congested schedule with going from the slowest to the fastest surface in sport back to the slowest. Clay, grass, clay, then hard court. Obviously that's a very demanding, challenging stretch of the year.”

Vanquished finalist Sinner hailed Djokovic as an “inspiration” during the trophy ceremony and is using the Serb as a model for his own bid for the sport's top honours.

Both Djokovic and his coach Goran Ivanisevic predicted that Sinner, who claimed four tour-level titles this season, will one day win Grand Slams and top the

world rankings.

And his performances at the Pala Alpitour have been cause for great optimism within Italian tennis.

“He's an inspiration because he worked throughout the whole years before, when he was younger, in the right way to get to this point. That's also one of my goals,” Sinner told reporters.

“It's not only about watching one season. You watch this season, and you say, OK, I played good. But you have to play well every season, and you have to get to a certain age, which is 35, 36, 37, whatever, and you can still feel the body in the right way.”



Novak Djokovic celebrates after winning the final against Jannik Sinner at the ATP Finals in Turin, Italy, on November 19, 2023.
● GUGLIELMO MANGIAPANE
REUTERS

Reincarnation of Nazism in Habermas

Jürgen Habermas, a prominent contemporary German philosopher, along with two Western intellectuals, deemed Hamas’ action on October 7th as terrorist and justified the mass killing of Palestinians without making any reference to Israel’s crimes against Palestinians. This is a result of Western philosophy that has always been associated with colonialism.

Abandoning criticism of Israeli crimes

Last Monday, the German media DW announced that Jürgen Habermas, the most prominent intellectual and philosophical figure in Germany, along with two politicians and a lawyer, issued a statement condemning Hamas’ terrorist act on October 7th as a resurgence of anti-Semitism in Europe, expressed concern! The statement reads: “Hamas’ massacre on October 7th was carried out with the intention of eradicating Jewish life. Israel’s military operations against these terrorist acts are fundamentally justified, but the conduct of these operations must adhere to the principles of proportionality, avoiding the killing of non-combatants, and advancing the war with a view to achieving peace in the future. Despite all concerns about the fate of Palestinians in the ongoing conflicts, attributing the genocide to Israel’s actions distorts the judgment criteria.” These German intellectuals stated: “It is intolerable for Jews in Germany to once again face life and physical threats and fear physical violence in the streets. The democratic image of the Federal Republic, based on the necessity of respect for human dignity, is associated with a political culture that, considering the extensive crimes of the Nazi era, defends and protects the existence of Jews and the right to the existence of Israel as its essential elements.” The important and vital issue here is how a prominent thinker and philosopher like Habermas, who has always presented himself as a critic of Western liberal attitudes, defends and justifies Zionist colonialism and apartheid. It is true that figures like Jürgen Habermas should not be considered analysts of the Gaza war; instead, these individuals, as prominent figures in the academic field, seek to solidify their group’s interests and factions by issuing statements. Habermas, as a white European Jew living in the Northern world, has repented from his left and critical perspective towards the West and is now embraced by imperialism. It is natural for him to take such a position. He, as a Jew, only considers the rights of Jews in Germany and the Holocaust. Therefore, he is more concerned that anti-Semitic sentiments of Nazi Germany might re-emerge in Europe than paying attention to the massacre of people and children in Gaza!

From liberal perspective, Gaza crisis does not matter

What has been noteworthy in this matter is the worldview of intellectuals like Habermas. As individuals who have lived in the Northern world and view the world from that perspective, it is natural for them to be indifferent to the events in Gaza and everything happening in the Middle East that brings tragedy and death to the people. Habermas and intellectuals like him, such as Franz Fanon or Edward Said, are not individuals who have concerns about such events; they navigate their own worldview and issue statements based on that position. Nowadays, the Frankfurt School is no longer like before World War I, and its representatives observe global developments from the perspective of America and an American approach. Intellectualism has reached the end of the twentieth century and merely wants to fill its resume.” The reaction arising from the end of the careers of intellectuals like Habermas is something that became apparent in the Gaza events, and the contradiction between their behavior and empty slogans became clear. In other parts of the world, critical intellectuals who are in the socialist and Marxist camp did not successfully emerge from the Gaza war examination. Jürgen Habermas, after a lifetime of proposing the idea of communicative rationality and criticism of modern “power,” at the end of his philosophical career stood on the side of absolute evil and unethical defense of one of the most blatant “modern oppressive powers.” A position that will remain a stain of shame on the record of this aging philosopher. Habermas, as a university professor in the field of humanities, abandoned the criticism of crimes in Gaza and embraced the birth of anti-Semitism in Europe, while the global society has moved beyond this stage, and the issue today is not the conflict with the religion of Judaism or Jews but unjustified colonization and dominance by Zionists in the land of Palestine.

Even critical Western philosophy supports colonization

Habermas’ actions showed that Western-based humanities, built on the new philosophy of this region, ultimately not only do not take the side of the oppressed but also stand side by side with the oppressors and justify their actions theoretically. The foundation of Western thought in whatever form it may be, from modern to postmodern, from left to right, ultimately reveals its serious weakness somewhere. Habermas’ actions demonstrated that it is not possible to trust Western humanities and its philosophy after Immanuel Kant. Ali Shariati also repeatedly mentions in his works that Western liberal or Marxist ideology, whatever it may be, is still in the service of Western colonization, and we witness that figures like Marx, despite their criticism of the West, have no objection to European colonial policy and even endorse it.

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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 populist 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.