

Necessity of establishing Palestinian state



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OPINION EXCLUSIVE

Operation Al-Aqsa Storm and the subsequent developments should not be analyzed solely as a military confrontation. The brazen strike by Hamas, which can be regarded as a turning point in the fight against Zionism, is an epic account in which Palestinian resistance, for the first time, amazingly shattered the pride, arrogance, and military superiority of the Zionist regime of Israel. The fact that an armed Palestinian group, through a precise and complex operation, penetrated the highly secure structures of a regime like Israel in just a few hours, advanced 40 kilometers into the occupied territory, killed nearly 1,200, and captured several high-ranking Zionist generals is not something that military analysts worldwide can dismiss as routine. Almost all military experts, whether supporters or opponents of the Zionist regime, see this operation as historic, agreeing on the humiliation of Israel, a regime that carried the title of the world's fourth-largest military power. No expert has been able to unravel the secret behind this success, as, according to their own statements, the security and protective structures designed by the Zionists appeared "impenetrable."

However, the more significant defeat for the Zionist regime, and the greater achievement for the resistance groups and the Palestinian people, did not occur on the battlefield of conventional warfare but rather in the realm of soft power and the construction of a new narrative around the Palestinian issue. A global wave of support has caused considerable concern among the leaders of the Zionist regime. Recently, the Israeli Institute for National Security Studies reported a significant rise in global support for Palestine after October 7, alongside a noticeable decline in support for Israel. The report noted that in the first six days of the conflict, 69% of worldwide protests were against Israel and in support of the Palestinians, while 31% were in favor of Israel. However, following Hamas's declaration of a "Day of Rage" on October 13, anti-Israel protests surged dramatically, with 95% of protests supporting Palestine and opposing Israel, while only 5% supported Israel.

Another key aspect of Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, despite Israel's months-long crimes that followed, is the global consensus on the necessity for establishing a Palestinian state. Today, there is widespread agreement on the need for a Palestinian state. From a legal perspective, the four criteria for statehood are population, territory, sovereignty, and government. However, in today's global community, these principles are only realized when "recognition" is present. Just as the League of Nations, following World War I, accepted the need for the formation of an Armenian state due to the tragedies of the ethnic cleansing of Armenians and to prevent further Armenian aggression, the events following October 7 encompass both issues: on one hand, a successful attack by Palestinians, and on the other, a great tragedy of ethnic cleansing. Therefore, the recognition of a Palestinian state can be considered one of the most important achievements in the aftermath of Operation Al-Aqsa Storm.



A screen shows the voting results during the United Nations General Assembly vote on a draft resolution that would recognize the Palestinians as qualified to become a full UN member, in New York City, US on May 10, 2024.
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Al-Aqsa Storm; a tale of regional paradigm shift

PERSPECTIVE

Hossein Jaber Ansari, chief of the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) and former spokesperson for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, participated in a special news program on Saturday night, October 6, 2023, to analyze the latest developments in Palestine, Lebanon and the region. Jaber explained that prior to the October 7 Palestinian operation, it was believed that the Palestinian issue had been neglected; therefore, we must give high marks to the architects of the Al-Aqsa Storm for transforming the Palestinian issue from a forgotten condition into a central topic of the world and the region. The following text is a summary of his remarks.



Disruption of normalization

The retaliatory operation, known as Al-Aqsa Storm, marked a pivotal turning point in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, disrupting a long-standing assumption that the Palestinian cause had been relegated to the margins of global attention. Before October 7, Israel's Prime Minister Netanyahu had declared the Palestinian issue effectively resolved, citing the normalization of relations between Israel and 98% of the Arab world. The process of normalization, which began with Saudi Arabia, was seen as a chain reaction that would eventually encompass the entire Arab region. However, the events of October 7 created a seismic shift.

Revival of Palestinian cause

This operation halted the momentum of normalization, casting doubt on its sustainability. Israel's response, characterized by widespread destruction and loss of life, created a profound psychological impact, not just on the current generation but for future ones as well. The disruption has severely undermined the foundations of normalization, making it politically and socially untenable. The Al-Aqsa Storm brought Palestine back into the heart of regional and global affairs, restoring its status as the focal point in the Middle East.

Regional solidarity

For decades, the Palestinian cause seemed like a forgotten chapter, but in the aftermath of October 7, it became a defining narrative once more. The most significant outcome of this operation was the revival of the Palestinian issue after nearly two decades of marginalization. Al-Aqsa Storm not only reignited hope within Palestin-

ian society but also demonstrated the efficacy of resistance. It sent a clear message that Palestinians are not alone in their struggle. Hezbollah swiftly declared its engagement in the conflict, and resistance movements in Iraq and Yemen also entered the fray, signaling an unprecedented level of regional solidarity.

Iran's strategy and regional resistance

This was the first time Yemen, through the Ansarullah movement, fully engaged in the broader Middle Eastern resistance against Israel. Iran, the architect of the post-Revolution resistance strategy, continued its support for this long-term approach, which seeks to exhaust Israel's military machine. Since the 1979 Islamic

Revolution, Iran has offered an alternative to the two dominant paths in the Arab world—classical military confrontation or capitulation. The third way, as taught by Imam Khomeini and continued by the Supreme Leader, is long-term resistance aimed at wearing away Israel's capabilities.

Consequences of Israel's aggression

Despite the ferocity of Israel's retaliatory campaigns, the regime finds itself unable to declare an end to its military operations. The moment Israel ceases its offensive, Hamas fighters will inevitably reemerge, underscoring the futility of Israel's strategy, which has yielded nothing but destruction. In an attempt to break the resistance, Israel has extended its operations beyond Gaza, targeting areas from Beirut to Tehran, but these actions only serve to consolidate regional unity against it.

Futility of Israel's broader strategy

At the heart of Israel's broader strategy is an effort to impose a new order in the region, one that forces the abandonment of the resistance doctrine and weakens support for Palestine. Yet, history has shown that this mission is impossible. The Palestinian resistance and its regional allies cannot be subdued by targeted assassinations, nor can the aspirations of an entire people be extinguished through violence. From Sheikh Ahmed Yassin to Yasser Arafat, Palestinian leaders have been martyred, but the resistance lives on.

Path to liberation through long-term resistance

Operation Al-Aqsa Storm and the resistance movements across the region represent a clear challenge to Israel's attempts to reshape the geopolitical landscape. The Palestinian struggle, far from being a forgotten issue, has reclaimed its position at the center of Middle Eastern politics, with the resistance proving that the path to liberation lies in a sustained, long-term strategy of attrition. The resistance will continue, and Israel's attempts to break this unity will ultimately fail.

Smoke is seen in the Rehovot area as rockets are launched from the Gaza Strip at Israel on October 7.
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