

## US THAAD System not to change Israel's vincibility



By Syed Ali Hassan  
Iran Daily's correspondent in Pakistan

### OPINION

The Biden administration signed documents on Sunday for sending troops to Israel along with an advanced US anti-missile system, in a highly unusual deployment meant to bolster its ally's air defenses following missile attacks by Iran on October 1. The US took this step as Hezbollah's relentless drone strikes have caused devastation in central Israel, killing dozens of Israeli soldiers and injuring over a hundred. The Pentagon announced that it is sending a Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) battery to the occupied territories to protect the regime from Hezbollah's missiles and drones. Meanwhile, the number of Israeli soldiers wounded in Lebanon's attacks has increased, resulting in underground hospitals in Israel reaching full capacity. Every injured soldier is opting for treatment there, citing perceived safety concerns. In the wake of intensified Israeli airstrikes on Lebanon last month, lethal attacks against Israeli forces have surged, with estimates indicating that over 200 Israeli soldiers have been killed and nearly 1,000 wounded, of whom approximately 700 are no longer fit for duty.



A Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) interceptor is launched, in this undated handout photo.  
● REUTERS

Pentagon spokesperson Major General Patrick Ryder described the deployment as part of "the broader adjustments the US military has made in recent months" to support Israel and defend US personnel from attacks by Iran and its allies. However, Iranian Foreign Minister Abbas Araghchi warned that Washington was "putting [the] lives of its troops at risk by deploying them to operate US missile systems in Israel." "While we have made tremendous efforts in recent days to

contain an all-out war in our region, I say it clearly that we have no red lines in defending our people and interests," Araghchi wrote on social media earlier on Sunday, implying that any US casualties would be the responsibility of Biden's administration. A single THAAD battery typically requires about 100 personnel to operate, comprising six truck-mounted launchers with eight interceptors each, along with a radar system. THAAD complements the Patriot system, which has a range of 150-200 ki-

lometers. On Sunday, the Israeli military acknowledged the destruction caused by a drone strike in central Israel, which targeted a military base near Binyamina, south of Haifa. An Israeli paramedic, Rafi Shiva, described the scene as horrific, with Israeli soldiers pressuring medical teams to move the injured to modern underground hospitals. Over the past year, Hezbollah has launched almost daily drone and rocket attacks on Israel, but the Sunday's attack caused the

highest casualties, injuring at least 67 people. This attack was in retaliation for recent Israeli strikes on central Beirut. The US decision to supply THAAD to Tel Aviv is the latest manifestation of its unwavering support for Israel's escalating regional military actions. The Biden administration has also allocated billions of dollars in additional military aid to Tel Aviv during its aggression in Gaza, and is now deploying advanced air defense systems and troops, despite Israel's ongoing

attacks on Lebanon. As long as the military aid continues to flow to Israel, it is unlikely that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will heed US calls for de-escalation or refrain from a broader regional conflict. This contradictory stance by the US is perpetuating the conflict and exacerbating the mass casualties among innocent civilians. In April 2024, Israel and its allies incurred a cost of \$1 billion in efforts to counter Iran's retaliatory strikes, equivalent to 4% of Israel's defense budget. Following

Iran's launch of nearly 180 ballistic missiles on October 1, Israel is confronting an existential threat. The Iranian ballistic missiles, which descend at five times the speed of sound, pose an intractable problem for Israel, particularly after its second wave of attacks. The challenge is further exacerbated by Israel's insufficient stockpile of interceptors to defend Tel Aviv, coupled with its inability to rapidly produce more, while Hezbollah continues to target Israel's weapons manufacturing facilities.

## A vision for freedom is more important than ever



By Haidar Eid  
Scholar

### PERSPECTIVE

When I was asked by the editors of *Mondoweiss* to write my reflections on the one-year anniversary of October 7 invasion of Gaza by Israel, while the genocide continues with no end in sight, I thought of all the hundreds of relatives, comrades, friends, colleagues, and students who have been killed by Israel over the last year – each and every one of them! From the 5-month-old Ellen Eid to my former students Khail Abu Yahya, Tasneem Thabet, and Reem El Farra, to my friend and Orthopedic Surgeon Dr. Adnan El Burs, my colleague Refaat El Aree, my two cousins Takween and Haifaa and their families, my nephews Fouad and Mustapha and their whole families...

I thought of writing all the names, but that will not be enough to do them justice. I have tried to count how many people I personally have lost, a task I do not wish on my worst enemy. I even wrote a while ago that "I've lost count of the number of people I have lost!" They have become torches on our long walk to freedom from occupation, colonialism, and apartheid. I, together with my family, have been displaced four times, three of them in Gaza itself, until I was evacuated by the South African government from Rafah in the second month of the genocide, December 2023. I have been living with a survivor's guilt complex since then.

So much has been written on the events of October 7, and more will be added. I have my own take too, a position that goes against the decontextualized analysis of the mainstream media, which happens to be white and colonial and which tends to fully endorse the Israeli narrative. After 76 years of Israel's existence, we have arrived at the point of no return for all living in historic Palestine. The colonial West refuses to see the objective conditions of being subjugated to occupation, settler colonialism, and apartheid. It refuses to see Gazans as human beings entitled to their basic rights like the rest of human beings only because they are not born to Jewish mothers. As Salman Abu Sitta reminds us on his Facebook page: There are two million Palestinian refugees in the Gaza Strip, who came from 247 towns and villages in southern Palestine, expelled by Israel in 1948, through dozens of massacres. They are crammed in a concentration camp called the Gaza Strip at a density of 8000 persons/km<sup>2</sup>. Its area is 1.3% of Palestine, or 365 km<sup>2</sup>. They are now forced by Israel to move down south, then up north in the tiny strip at a density exceeding 20,000 p/km<sup>2</sup>. Then he goes on to ask: "Who occupies their home?" East European settlers from Romania, Poland, Ukraine and Russia. Their number is only 150,000, at a density of only 7 persons/km<sup>2</sup>, one thousand times less than the owners of the land, who are the refugees



in Gaza.

One also ought to ask tough questions within the historical context of the unfolding events. Would the genocide have taken place had the Oslo Accords not been signed in 1993?

I believe that post-Oslo, Palestine is struggling to overcome the past because the material conditions of occupation, apartheid, and settler colonialism at present are hegemonic, but also because the intellectual conditions created by Oslo have legitimized those conditions. The accords themselves are a Trojan horse that has turned out to be little more than a war machine with which we have come to make a premature "peace". Since then, we have been searching for a form of freedom that points towards an exit from the constraints of apartheid,

occupation, and settler colonialism. Unfortunately, the founders of contemporary Palestinian nationalism never grasped the form of Zionism they were dealing with when they signed the accords. That led to the spread of a form of false consciousness among a large portion of the population that Oslo would lead to "independence" for Palestinians by 1999. Yasser Arafat's arrival in Gaza in 1994 was met with the thunderous euphoria and welcome of the post-occupation (postcolonial!) world that so eagerly awaited a new promise of the future. Since then, we have been dealing with the sophistry of a mastery political narrative that claimed to have established peace through partition, the two-state solution. It has become very obvious now



Students for Justice in Palestine at The Ohio State University (sjp-osu) hold the 'From the River to the Sea' banner at the Day of Resistance Protest in Columbus, Ohio, on October 13, 2023.  
● PAUL BECKER/BECKER 1999

that no solution to the so-called Israeli-Palestinian "conflict"—to use mainstream media's favorite term—can be envisaged under these terrible circumstances created by genocidal Israel in historic Palestine. Surely, you cannot expect colonized Palestinians to compromise on their basic human rights. There remain two, really three, opinions. One is the one above that argues for statehood on a portion of the land of historic Palestine which does not guar-

antee Palestinian basic rights, and which ultimately prolongs the oppression of the Palestinian people. This is the position adopted by mainstream political organizations in Palestine, western countries, and a tiny section of liberal Zionism. But why are we Palestinians expected to accept solutions that take no account of the reality of our situation? The second perspective argues for implementing international law, which would give Palestinians their right of return, right to equality, and ultimately their right to self-determination like any other people on Earth. And, a third genocidal position is being implemented right now by apartheid Israel and expressed openly by its fascist PM and ministers. For them, the objectives of the ongoing genocide are:

1. Reoccupying the Gaza Strip
  2. Forced removal of a large portion of the population and encouraging them to leave by preventing any food from entering Gaza, by bombing institutions of education and health care, and by obliterating the right to security and work....
  3. Slicing the Strip onto cantons like in the West Bank and invading and carrying out regular massacres inside these cantons
  4. Creating a loyal, local government
- While it is important to focus on the present, as things on the ground are getting worse every day, having a clear strategy and political vision is crucial if we

want people around the globe to see what is possible. People keep asking the same question: "what is the future of Gaza?" How can that be discussed without relating it to the future of Palestine in general? And what kind of Palestine do we want to see in the future (the day after)? Can Palestinians and white, Ashkenazi settlers coming from Europe share the same land, like what happened in South Africa, without dismantling apartheid and settler-colonialism? Working on this piece while Israel is indiscriminately carpet bombing my people in Gaza has been extremely difficult. One source of inspiration, or rather motivation behind these thoughts, is Edward Said's "Permission to Narrate" in which he called upon us Palestinians to take our struggle to the world of representation and historical narratives. As he argued very eloquently, the existing imbalance of political and military powers does not mean that the subaltern, the marginalized, do not possess the ability to struggle over the production of knowledge. Sometimes I seriously wonder: Am I the only one who has been unable to read a book, watch a movie, enjoy a meal, play with my kids, since October 7? Let me close with a quote from the late martyr Shireen Abu Akleh: "We're in it for the long haul, keep your spirits up!"

The article first appeared on *Mondoweiss*.