

complying with the nuclear weapons treaties — Israel is in violation of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons. On all three counts, providing military aid to Israel is illegal.

Ever since October 7 of last year, the cabinet of Israel has killed thousands of innocent Palestinians, extended that violence to Lebanon, and is now on the brink of war with Iran. What do you believe Netanyahu is trying to accomplish here?

He's trying to stay out of jail. He wants the war to keep going so that the corruption case against him will not come into action. I think he has personal motives here, which may be the most important thing to him, but he has also always kind of pursued a greater Israel through expansion. He's been begging for a war with Iran for decades.

The man does not have an honest bone in his body. His assassination of Hassan Nasrallah, the leader of Hezbollah, took place after Nasrallah had agreed to a cease-fire. In a similar way, they knocked off Ismail Haniyeh, the very moderate negotiator for Hamas. Bibi Netanyahu is very much opposed to anything that would advance the peace process.

What does Israel moving farther and farther away from a peace process entail for the United States?

There hasn't been much discussion or reporting about the draft, but it was actually reenacted a couple of years ago. Now, people are being automatically registered for it. They won't be called up until the president decides that we're at war and we need bodies. How horrific would that be if we start paying not only in money and weapons but also in blood? Biden has expressed support for whatever Israel does — the baton for commander-in-chief has basically been passed to Bibi Netanyahu, who's been given free rein to do what he wants. So, it's very much of concern.

There's this notion that Kamala Harris is bad but Donald Trump is far worse. Would the Middle East look any different under a Republican presidency or do you think it's already as bad as it can get?

How much worse can it get than the genocide that's being conducted right now? I mean, you could nuke Palestine. Will Trump do that? Who knows? To me, it's just such propaganda to say that one is better or worse than the other. The current administration is committing genocide right now, and Harris is a part of that. Then, you have Donald Trump saying that he'll finish the job, but who knows what that means because he's also trying to sell himself as a peace president right now. You'd be a fool to believe either of them. We should not be in the business of measuring genocides against each other.

So, yeah, Donald Trump did interfere with the peaceful transition of power after the last election, but the Democrats try to throw political competition off the ballot. That's not okay either. We don't have to wait for Donald Trump for fascism to arrive in this country when the heads of peaceful protesters are being bashed in on college campuses simply because they are expressing the will of the people and the rulings of the International Court of Justice. Making a case for Donald Trump being better or worse

is absolutely nonsense. We have two greater evil candidates; there is no lesser evil.

There are Democrats such as Rashida Tlaib and Ilhan Omar who have taken a stance similar to yours on Palestine. Do you feel an affinity with them or view their involvement with the Blue Party as still being part of the problem?

I think they're definitely part of the solution, but they would accomplish a lot more if they weren't encumbered by the Democratic Party, which is going to pull the rug out from under them. We have to build power at every turn, because where did Bernie Sanders go with his campaign? He headed the budget committee, but everything he did there was basically dumbed down and tossed out. You can't create a revolution within a counter-revolutionary party. There are just too many mechanisms within — you are accountable to big money and to a leadership that will not provide you appointments, committee membership, or the money that they distribute. You're essentially powerless if you're trying to fight for the right thing from inside the Democratic Party, which simply isn't based on those principles.

We don't have time to keep shilly-shallying around and watching Bernie Sanders get savaged twice. I think it should have been enough for anybody to see that was the best they could possibly do, and even the best didn't amount to a hill of beans. If you try to run a campaign with integrity as a Democrat or Republican, every trace of it disappears once it is over: We have a grassroots party that is not controlled by money. The Green Party doesn't accept big money or use any of the loopholes for legalized corruption — there are a whole lot of those loopholes, but we don't use them. We are what we say we are and we'll do what we say we'll do, which the other parties don't. We're trying to encourage people to break off this abusive political relationship that they're in right now.

The United States is directly responsible for reducing Gaza to rubble over the past year. Do you also consider it the country's responsibility to remedy those damages and help rebuild the Strip?

Absolutely. I mean, who else is going to do it? The parties responsible have to do it, which is the State of Israel and the US. There are also others who've

chipped in and sold weapons to Israel. France just pledged 100 million euros in support of Lebanon. So, that's a start. We need both humanitarian aid as well as reconstruction, and they have to happen emergently. It's a tragedy that this magnificent and historic place has been purposefully destroyed.

What do you believe is the actual reason behind the United States' undying support for Israel?

Ronald Reagan's secretary of defense Caspar Weinberger said it very well: Israel is the unsinkable battleship for the US in the Middle East. Why does the US need a battleship? To control Middle Eastern oil. That is really an application of the United States' basic foreign-policy framework, which has been described as "full-spectrum dominance". We must dominate all resources as well as all potential areas of conflict and competition — that is our country's foreign policy in a nutshell. It's absolutely disastrous, and it still applies. On that account, we are headed toward nuclear war on three fronts right now, and we're not going to get out of here alive if that's allowed to persist.

Do you support a two-state solution or a one-state solution?

Right now, we have one apartheid state; I think we need one democracy. As for a two-state solution, the logical question would be to ask how that would look different from what we have now. Palestine now has representation and strong support in the United Nations, but can that work when it hasn't for so many decades? Ultimately, it's hard to believe this is going to get solved without one democratic state that brings justice, equality, and dignity to all its citizens.

The United States government pumps billions of dollars into the Israeli military every year. Based on the plans you've charted out for your presidency and the data you have about these spendings, what issues within the US could that money be used for instead?

We're spending half of our congressional budget on the endless war machine and the Pentagon. If you add up the costs of taking care of our wounded soldiers for the Veterans Administration, nuclear weapons as part of the Department of Energy, the FBI, customs, and border protection, it's more like 60–65% of the budget. It is just like robbing us blind.



Jill Stein (c) is seen linking arms with anti-Israel protesters before being arrested on Washington University's campus in St. Louis, Missouri, on April 27, 2024. AP

So, we need to cut that budget at least in half and put those dollars into healthcare for everyone through a Medicare for All system. We bailed out the crooks on Wall Street. So, we can bail out victims of that same economy by putting an end to student and medical debt. We need at least 15 million units of quality, environmentally-sound housing — so-called "social housing". And of course, we need a Green New Deal to combat the climate crisis. Right now, power is held by politicians who are unaccountable to the people. They are bought and paid for by AIPAC, war profiteers, and Wall Street. So, it behooves the American people to stand up for what it is that we want and need. The genocide itself is a microcosm of our imperial foreign policy, which has left no money to treat the emergencies that Americans are dealing with. 50% of Americans right now are struggling to keep a roof over their heads and meet their monthly rent or mortgage. 50% are within one or two paychecks of being evicted, and the number of people who are subject to eviction and homelessness are absolutely skyrocketing now. That's just one issue. We also need rent control. We need a tenant bill of rights. There are many things that can be done, some of which need resources while others don't, but our government is instead serving the real estate industry and private equity that is buying our homes, taking them off the market and driving the prices up. The system that is serving the war profiteers right now is also serving Big Pharma and health insur-



"We don't have to wait for Donald Trump for fascism to arrive in this country when the heads of peaceful protesters are being bashed in on college campuses simply because they are expressing the will of the people and the rulings of the International Court of Justice. Making a case for Donald Trump being better or worse is absolutely nonsense. We have two greater evil candidates; there is no lesser evil." — Jill Stein

The front cover of the Arab American News, with pictures of presidential candidates Jill Stein (c), Kamala Harris (l) and Donald Trump, is seen in the newspaper's office in Dearborn, Michigan, on September 18, 2024. REBECCA COOK/REUTERS



ance companies. One out of every three eligible voters did not vote in the 2020 presidential race. Who are those voters? They are younger, lower income, and of color — the people who are the most marginalized are not voting because the zombies being rammed down their throats do not serve their interests. There's a lot of voting power out there if we can get the word out. As a grassroots campaign, we encourage people to volunteer because it's all about phone banking, flyers, door knocking, and tabling to just get the word out and let people know that we can stop the genocide in Gaza and the endless war machine. We can stop the squandering of a trillion dollars a year that should be cut in half. So, we have the funds here at home for public higher education and to ensure that there's a \$25-an-hour minimum wage. The war abroad is also a war at home, against democracy and against working people.

MSNBC, CBS, and The New York Times are just some of the major outlets that have published alarmist articles about your presidential bid. How important a role do you think the mainstream media has played in hindering your reach across the country?

I think they're doing us a favor. Every time they smear us, more and more people wake up. To tell you the truth, I don't read the articles because I don't really care what they think. They've been saying the same stuff about me for a long time because they're very scared, and I consider it quite an achievement that they're now taking out these really dumb ads against me. If you read the social-media commentary about the attacks against us, people are pretty furious for the most part ... except when it's a dedicated Democrat audience, like MSNBC. These smears really push people in the opposite direction. For example, the YouTube comments under our interview with The Breakfast Club are just off the charts. It's thousands and thousands of people saying, "I wasn't going to vote, but now I'm going to register Green and vote for Jill Stein and Butch Ware."

We are at the tipping point. The uprising is going really strong, more than I've ever seen. Now, it's just a question of when we get to the breakthrough point. It feels like we're closer now than ever before.

The article first appeared on the Palestine Chronicle.