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[www.afgazad.com](http://www.afgazad.com)

[afgazad@gmail.com](mailto:afgazad@gmail.com)

European Languages

زبانهای اروپایی

Fausto Giudice

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## ***Tufan al-Aqsa: what can iron do against the wind?***

Neither "iron swords", nor "iron walls", nor "iron domes" can stop the wind of typhoons



At dawn on Shabbat, at 3.30 GMT, Palestinian fighters from Hamas and Islamic Jihad launched operations everywhere against Israel from Gaza: while hundreds (between 2,000 and 5,000) of rockets rained down on the Zionist settlements, motorized fighters made their way through the "iron wall" that encloses Gaza, others made their way through the sea barrier and others landed in Israel in motorized paragliders (ultralights). According to the Israeli army, 60 Palestinian fighters entered the territory. Some forty Israeli soldiers and settlers were taken prisoner in the first few minutes, while the number of dead and wounded on the Zionist side is unknown. The operation was christened "Tufan al-Aqsa", the deluge or storm of Al Aqsa (tufan is the Arabic-Persian word that has entered all languages, and is the origin of the Spanish word "typhoon"; it is also the name of a series of Iranian missiles).



**Un tanque israelí Merkava capturado por los gazatíes.  
Su tripulación fue hecha prisionera. Foto AFP**

It is a historical truth: if you want to attack Israel, you have to do it on a Saturday morning, when the Jews rest. That is what the Egyptian and Syrian armies did on October 6, 1973, when they crossed the Suez Canal and entered the occupied Golan Heights. In 1973, it took the Zionists a week to wake up, stunned as they had been by the surprise attack, and go on the counteroffensive. Who won the Ramadan/Yom Kippur war? That is open to debate. What is certain is that this war was the death knell for Israeli Labour, the Zionists with a human face, the Ashkenazi variant of Mittel-European social democracy. It also put an end to the "Thirty Glorious Years" and triggered the first "oil crisis." Of the shocking images of that period, two catch my attention: that of the European motorways completely empty of cars and that of the Queen of Holland taking out her carriage and her horses to move. For the Arabs, '73 had almost erased the humiliation of '67. Ten wars later, where do we stand?

Palestinians are more fragmented, divided and separated than ever, between four parts: Gaza, the West Bank and Jerusalem, turned into Bantustans besieged by soldiers and settlers, Palestine in 1948 and the global diaspora, from Lebanon to Chile. They have been definitively betrayed and abandoned by all Arab states, fought by the United States and the European Union, duped by the UN, and can only count on Iran, Qatar's petrodollars, the encouragement of Hezbollah and the intermittent solidarity of world opinion.

The Palestinian resistance has as many faces as the colors of the rainbow, but with a strong common background: the feeling and awareness of belonging to one and the same people. Every Palestinian family is a mini-parliament, and this is the anthropological foundation of

a future pluralist democracy. Once the main obstacle has been removed. An obstacle called Zionism.

The Israelis: a motley conglomerate that neither politics, nor economics, nor culture, nor even religion can hold together. Only war, and its essential component, fear of the enemy, can do that. Today we can see it: the army reservists who had proclaimed to fight against the plan to revise the Zionist legal system immediately announced that they would join their units to face the common enemy. No more Kaplan Street rallies. All united against Gaza and forward for Operation Iron Swords.

How long will this new war last? A week? A month? Nobody knows.

What is certain is that the Gaza fighters will negotiate dearly for the release of their prisoners. With 4,900 Palestinian prisoners in Israeli jails, a deal based on "one percent" would make sense.

Neither "iron swords", nor "iron walls", nor "iron domes" can stop the wind of typhoons.

Fausto Giudice

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