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"What Hamas is doing is copying the Vietnamese system"

2009 interview with Ilich Ramírez Sánchez, alias Carlos

Look, I think what Hamas is doing is copying the Vietnamese system. Hamas has not invented anything. What he did was to develop the Vietnamese question, with the facilities given to him by the brothers, the Iranian comrades, right?



From his French prison, Commander Carlos analyzes the situation in Palestine

From the Poissy headquarters in the Paris region, where he is serving the fourteenth year of the life sentence to which he was sentenced by the French justice system after being kidnapped by the French services in Sudan in 1994, "Carlos", an active fighter in the Palestinian resistance for more than two decades, is closely following the evolution of the

situation in Gaza. I was able to get his view of things during an interview conducted in Spanish on January 1, 2009, that is, two days before the start of the Israeli ground offensive. "Carlos" is a historical figure and I am not the one to judge him, the French justice system has already done it in its own way... a questionable way, to say the least.- FG



"Well you dug, old mole!"

Shakespeare, Hamlet, quoted by Karl Marx (another bearded man)
Fausto Giudice.- Did you know that Ahmed Saadat has been sentenced to 30 years in prison?

Ilich Ramírez Sánchez.- Yes.

FG.- What was your first reaction?

IRS: It was an abuse of power. It is the result, first of all, of the position in which the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine placed itself when it abandoned the armed struggle abroad. Ahmed Saadat is one of the people of the inner resistance, I don't know him personally, but I understand that he is a magnificent guy and, above all, a revolutionary, that's what I've heard. Hence the harsh repression against him, while other types of the Popular Front are quietly and travel and do what they want and live in Palestine, right? I mean, there's a good reason. In any case, this gentleman was there, first it was Arafat who imprisoned him, second he was guarded by the British and the United

States, and then they withdrew and the Israelis arrived and arrested him in the prison of Palestine, in Jericho. So, gee, a total disrespect for the word given by the British and US governments. And the Israelis cannot be expected to respect anyone, they have neither honor nor word, they are fascist criminals.

FG.- Look, my first reaction was to draw a parallel with your case.

IRS: Yes, there are aspects that can be compared. But it's different, in my case it was a matter of money. They simply went to a head of state, to a person in charge there, they paid him money and it was not a question of politics, but of money, money. To me, to Osama bin Laden, the Sudanese sold us all.



Ahmed Saadat, during his trial before the Israeli military court in Ofer in December 2008.

He was re-elected general secretary of the PFLP in 2022.

FG.- And don't you think the same thing happened with Muqata?

IRS: No, no, no. The small agreements they make are never respected. These people understand nothing but the language of force, and that's all. And the Popular Front has been objectively withdrawing from the armed struggle, after which, under the influence of the Soviet comrades and under the advice of the French Communist Party, also of other Communist Parties, but above all of the French Communist Party, they left the international struggle. And the international struggle was the only one that mattered to an organization like the Popular Front, which had a lot of mass support, which did not have the capacity in numbers of, for example, Fatah. But in quality it did.

Then we could hit hard, in and out and it turns out... Talking to Arafat many years ago, he recognized that there was nothing more he could do internally and the only ones we could were the PFLP and the PFLP's allies. So... That was the result of a good operation, the execution of that criminal who was Minister of Tourism, a retired general who had assassinated—I'll tell you why he was executed—many years ago there was an operation in Palestine, and then the comrades took a bus with hostages and finally surrendered, didn't they? And so, when they surrendered, they were executed on direct orders from that general. And they killed the guys in the commando. And for that reason he was executed in Jerusalem twenty years later. That was a long time ago.



Ahmed Jibril (1938-2021)

Do not forget that the Popular Front was the first in the armed struggle. It wasn't anyone else. Well, the first armed operation in the name of the Palestinian resistance was with Ahmed Jibril, PFLP-General Command. They were the first to start, under another name, before Fatah. There is another: the policy, too, of abandoning the prisoners. The Popular Front not only abandoned the armed struggle, but abandoned the prisoners, in the sense of freeing them by force. It was the General Command of the PFLP, Ahmed Jibril's people, who exchanged hostages for political prisoners, and they freed thousands of political prisoners in Palestine. And now Hezbollah is following that same line, Hezbollah. But, unfortunately, the Popular Front, in order to be invited to congresses of communist parties in Western Europe, and in Soviet times, abandoned the question of armed struggle. And now they can afford to strike at the Popular Front, to commit illegal actions against

Ahmed Saadat, but no one did anything against the Israelis. The first person responsible is the leadership of the Popular Front itself.



Wadi Haddad (1927-1978)

FG.- But explain one thing to me: did they abandon because the Soviet Union disappeared?

IRS: No, no, no, no. It was before. There was Ponomariov, who always gave advice, especially to Abu Ali Mustafa, who was a magnificent guy, a leader, I knew him well, a respectable guy, didn't he? But he didn't have that depth that Wadi Hadad had, that projected himself, that strategic genius that he had, and that ability for tactical situations, we had good Arab advisers, I met some of them, and I'm not going to talk about them, because some of them are still alive, they weren't necessarily Palestinians, career soldiers, good people, and they had people of great quality as well. who was in charge of the commandos, among which I stood out. You understand? And when they abandoned those positions, well, there were Wadi Hadad's political positions, which sometimes, well, were a bit... Wadi Hadad was a right-wing guy, but the strategic line was correct: you have to hit the enemy so that he doesn't feel safe anywhere. No cadre, no manager is going to feel safe anywhere in the world. Wherever they are, they must be scared. And when it was abandoned, the main weapon that the Palestinian resistance had was laid down.

Because one Israeli border guard company has more weapons than the entire Palestinian resistance in Gaza. And why this permanent provocation? [...] That's not free. They're not crazy. The Muslim Brotherhood are a very serious people. Apart from the ideological question... But the Muslim Brotherhood fraternity, founded by Hassan El Banna in the 1920s in Cairo, is a political organization with a Leninist structure, not an ideology – because from the class point of view, they are a petty-bourgeois organization, representing the internal of the souk, they are not revolutionary, they are reformist – but with a Leninist structure. And that allowed him to survive the worst repression you can imagine. No one was ever repressed in the Arab world more than the Muslim Brotherhood, not even the Communists. No one has been repressed anymore, not the Palestinians or anyone else.

And these people have survived and they have grown and they have been eternal, and they have been the base, like the Popular Front, from which came so many organizations and so many movements throughout the world, which developed in the armed struggle with that base of Palestinian experience in the case of the Muslim Brotherhood, all the jihadists who are fighting even in Afghanistan. at the base, they have the question of the Muslim Brotherhood. The fact that they don't agree, for example, with Al-Qaeda, with that kind of strategy and with the tactics that they call Al-Qaeda's "terrorists" doesn't mean that there isn't a historical relationship, that is, Dr. Al Zawahiri is an important cadre of the Muslim Brotherhood, Islamic Jihad comes from the Muslim Brotherhood. Arafat was from the Muslim Brotherhood. Yasser Arafat was responsible for the Muslim Brotherhood's Cairo leadership in the early 1950s. And that has to be recognized. The struggle of the Muslim Brotherhood in Syria was terrible, terrible, terrible: not only was there a brutal repression by the Syrian regime that almost exterminated them, there were hundreds and hundreds of Syrian brothers killed. Those people know what they're doing. I think their aim is to provoke a ground intervention by the Israelis, because in Gaza, apart from the main route, the part of the beach direction, the coastal area, there is no way to get in, that is, there is a direct line, the main road...

FG.- ... *It's an avenue...*

IRS: Yes, yes, it's an avenue. You can't bring in a tank unless you destroy all the houses, you know what I mean? They are going to slaughter them there. Don't forget that this question is actually a lesson from the Vietnamese experience. That burying thing was brought by the East Germans. For example in Tell Al Zaatar, they survived the siege by Lebanese forces in 1976, remember?

FG.- Yes...

In Shatila, Lebanese forces failed to discover the underground and fighters from the Shatila Popular Front survived the massacre.

FG.- *Oh, yes?*

IRS: They were in Shatila, they were buried. In Sabra there was no such thing and a few were killed there. It's a Vietnamese experience passed on by East Germans. And I think that the people of Hamas, and not only of Hamas, but also of Islamic Jihad, of the Popular Front, there are also the people of Fatah, because most of the people of Fatah are not CIA agents or corrupt or thieves. Most of the people of Fatah are pure Palestinians. Hamas won the elections. Who voted for Hamas? The people of Fatah! Christians voted for Hamas! Most of them were not Hamas people, but they needed a clean government. So, all the fighters in Gaza, the good people, because there was a small civil war that liquidated the corrupt there, even the people of the tribes, of course, are armed and they are going to fight as well. They are striking to break the civilian population, but people are used to suffering, unfortunately. And where are they going to go? The important thing is that this is going to have international repercussions, not against Israel, because they wipe their asses with all of us, Israel is a country founded on lies, historical falsification...



A view of a tunnel dug by Hezbollah near the moshav Zar'it, in northern Israel, near the border with Lebanon, on June 10, 2019. Photo: Ilia Yefimovich / picture alliance via Getty Images

There is a question: the Second World War, the persecution of the Jews is one of the darkest pages in contemporary history and we do not yet know the number of people, but hundreds of thousands disappeared, we do not know how many yet, because they do not allow an investigation, a list of the names of the victims of Nazi persecution. And these people, these Zionists who are in Israel, are complicit in the persecution [...] these people

are racist, they are racist against other Jews, the Jews who come from Iran, from Morocco, they are frowned upon by the whites, the Ashkenazim, who don't have even a drop of Semitic blood. [...]

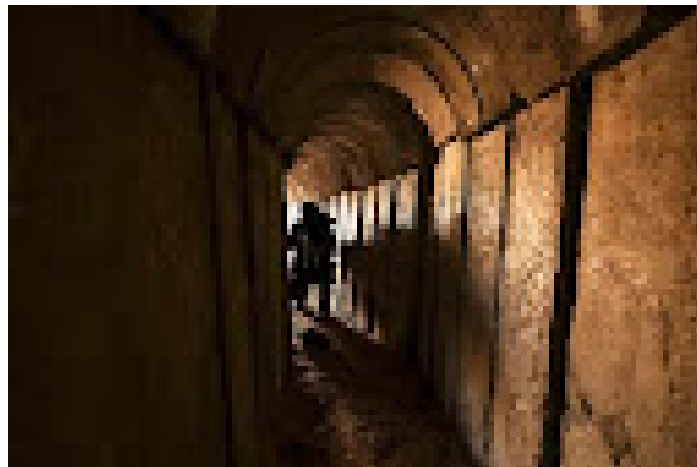
The only way to do it is Saddam's way. It should not be forgotten that it was Saddam who kept the Palestinians in Gaza, especially in Gaza. Iraq's aggression is about Gaza. It supported Gaza, all the money was coming to Gaza. In the end, Iran too. The first intifada, the first money to arrive in Palestine, was sent by Iran to Abu Nidal's organization. And Saddam also gave a lot of money to the resistance. In any case, the Palestinians are going to be beaten now, but they are not going to be broken. And, in the end, it's an international issue. If thousands of people take to the streets of Paris and London, people are going to say, gee, it's a very difficult problem, a crime against humanity, permanent, everyday, non-stop war crimes under the television cameras of the whole world, right?

So they go to hit the leaders of the Palestinian resistance in Gaza, especially the people of Hamas, but not only the people of Hamas, they have to fight hand-to-hand combat and, at that moment, the Israelis are going to be in a position of weakness, the same thing that happened in southern Lebanon is going to happen. But there are going to be thousands of Palestinian deaths, civilians, of course. Let's see. The good thing for the people of Palestine, and for the Arab resistance, is that the Arab peoples are in solidarity, the traitorous Egyptian government is going to appear for what it is. Why do they close the border? Why?

FG: *You know that Dahlan was called to Cairo, don't you?*

IRS: Well, we know who Mohamed Dahlan is, don't we? Mohamed Dahlan is the man of the United States and the CIA. He openly does not hide.

[...]



An Islamic Jihad member walks through a tunnel in the Gaza Strip in 2022. Photo:
Mahmoud Hams/AFP via Getty Images

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