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Fausto Giudice 03.11.2023

New York, New York: So Far, So Close to Gaza

Nothing to do with today's 100,000 protesters in London. The dissemination of videos of the demonstration in the electronic media is reaching millions of people and (perhaps) gives some of them pause for thought before continuing to swallow the horrors spewed out by the globalized Propagandaministerium.



On Friday, October 27, two almost simultaneous events took place in New York, 800 meters away from each other. They had a common theme but diametrically opposed approaches: one from above, the other from below.



First event: the vote on a non-binding resolution proposed by Arab states calling for an "immediate, lasting and sustained humanitarian truce" between Israel and Hamas and demanding the "continuous, adequate and unhindered" provision of vital supplies and services to civilians trapped in the enclave. The venue: the U.N. General Assembly Hall, in the Crystal Palace on the banks of the Hudson. The actors: delegations from the 193 Member States. Result of the vote: 120 votes in favour, 45 abstentions and 14 votes against. European states were in the minority among those voting in favour, with only 13 (Armenia, Belgium, Bosnia-Herzegovina, France, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Norway, Portugal, Russia, Spain and Switzerland) of the 46 members of the Council of Europe voting in favour of the resolution, while 22 abstained, from Germany to the United Kingdom. It is worth knowing the list of the 14 delegations that voted against:

Austria, Croatia, Czech Republic, Fiji, Guatemala, Hungary, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Tonga, USA. Ridicule stopped killing a long time ago. Some felt that the text did not clearly condemn Hamas, while others, such as Tunisia, felt that it equated the executioners (Israel) with the victims (Palestine).



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Second event: For a few hours, the hallway of the Grand Central train station was literally black with people, packed to the brim with New Yorkers all wearing black T-shirts [sold at the price of \$12.95] that bore two inscriptions: "Jews say ceasefire now" on the back and "Not in our name" on the chest. Some banners proclaimed the Palestinians' right to freedom and life. Most of the protesters were young, white, and mostly Jewish, but there were also 2nd and 3rd age people, as well as non-white people. The demonstration was called by a relatively young organization, Jewish Voice for Peace, which has seen considerable expansion. They define themselves as "the largest progressive Jewish anti-Zionist organization in the world. We are organizing a popular, multiracial, interclass, intergenerational movement of American Jews in solidarity with the Palestinians' freedom struggle, guided by a vision of justice, equality, and dignity for all peoples." In short, a response and an alternative to the multiple Zionist lobbies in the USA, of which the most vociferous is AIPAC [American Israel Public Affairs Committee]. The NYPD behaved properly, without using tear gas or rubber bullets, and merely handcuffed and politely detained about 200 protesters. After all, they weren't dealing with savages from the black ghettos, were they?

What can we conclude from these two events?

On the first hand, non-binding decisions from higher courts often have the same effect as pissing on a violin. But at least they have the advantage of giving an idea of the state of

relations between the governments represented at the UN and the dominant opinion in their countries.

For the second: 3,300 demonstrators from below [an estimate based on the area of the central hall: 3,300 m²], most of them Jews, demonstrating for the Palestinians' right to life and liberty in a city with 1.6 million Jews, is a drop in the bucket. Nothing to do with today's 100,000 protesters in London. The dissemination of videos of the demonstration in the electronic media is reaching millions of people and (perhaps) will give some of them pause for thought before continuing to swallow the horrors spewed out by the globalized *Propagandaministerium*. (See videos ofthe sit-in)



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Translated by María Piedad Ossaba for La Pluma and Tlaxcala

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