

افغانستان آزاد – آزاد افغانستان

AA-AA

چو کشور نباشد تن من مباد بدین بوم و بر زنده یک تن مباد
همه سر به سر تن به کشتن دهیم از آن به که کشور به دشمن دهیم

www.afgazad.com

afgazad@gmail.com

European Languages

زبانهای اروپایی

By Xavier Vall Ontiveros
28.11.2023

Some Theses on Israel and the Criminal Destruction of Gaza



Sources: Rebellion

First, Israel's destruction of the Gaza Strip has revealed the extreme cruelty of a war that is not a war, because it is totally asymmetrical, unequal; because it pits one of the best-equipped militarily provided armies in the world against a militia; Because its main objective is the annihilation of the resistance of the Palestinian people, its disappearance

from the map. It will not happen immediately, despite the high number of victims. What the state of Israel and Zionism hope for with this totally disproportionate operation is to create such a sense of terror that no Palestinian will ever again dare to rise up and resist; cause a wave of hopelessness and a rout to nowhere, a new nakba; May no country in the region ever again dare to question Israel (beyond empty words). However, the resistance of the Palestinian people has proven to be very tenacious during almost 8 decades of occupation.

Secondly, in the wake of the outbreak of brutal aggression, the hypocrisy of Western humanitarian discourse has been starkly exposed. The U.S. and all its vassals without exception have provided cover and have actively and passively justified Israel's right to "defend itself." But the rhetoric of the "rules-based world order" has vanished; no reference to the violation of "international law"; No allegations of "war crimes" committed by the invading army (hospitals, schools, universities and housing blocks are in this case entirely legitimate military targets). Although Israeli aggression has shattered the total unanimity in the discourse that characterized the intervention by proxy in the war between Russia and Ukraine, the reactions of Western governments range from the total justification of Israeli intervention, blatantly ignoring and ignoring the massacres committed against the civilian population, to a certain moral indignation that in fact is not accompanied by any effective measure and that in any case is diluted and compensated by the necessary condemnation of " Hamas terrorism." Not only are attempts to maintain a certain humanitarian discourse (which does not go beyond compassion and signs of rejection) not credible; It is that they betray the very fallacy of discourse, applicable only in terms of convenience for Western interests. What we have witnessed so far is that Israel has enjoyed total impunity to literally destroy Gaza; whereas all countries supporting Israeli intervention have remained impassive; or, at most, powerless, when they have tried (or pretended to try) to put limits on this brutal aggression. Just look at the pathos with which they have been pleading with Israel to bombard with restraint (can one be more hypocritical and vile?). However, in practice, the United States and its European lackeys have systematically vetoed the motions for resolutions introduced in the UN Security Council to impose a ceasefire and have opted instead for the establishment of "humanitarian pauses" (can one be more twisted?); "humanitarian" pauses that Israel is obviously applying in its own way and as it sees fit.

Third, the brutality of the aggression has been accompanied by egregious symbolism that aims to solidify the imaginary of the aggressor's invincibility and superiority through the

denial of the Palestinians' humanity. Anything goes to achieve the goal of total defeat and humiliation of the barbarian "other". The attack on al-Shifa hospital was one of the cruelest episodes of this campaign of destruction and extermination. The argument, supported by the American intelligence services themselves, is that just below the building was the Hamas headquarters: probably another story about alleged weapons of mass destruction... Of course, the deaths caused by this and other criminal attacks that have targeted hospitals and health centres, the civilian population, do not matter. Nor does it matter whether there really was a Hamas barracks or not. Another significant symbolic event is the military occupation and destruction of Gaza's parliament, which, by the way, had already been destroyed in 2009. The message contained in this symbolic act is obvious: the Palestinians will never be able to govern themselves, because they are destined to succumb and disappear. All this is accompanied by the invaluable collaboration of the mass disinformation media: the criminal Israeli bombings are treated with an aseptic neutrality, when the human costs are not relativized and when the fact that they are war crimes is not blatantly omitted. A striking contrast to the highly emotional and dramatic orientation of the coverage of the Ukraine War, for example. It is already known that there are different categories of deaths...

Fourthly, what this war of extermination has also revealed is the irreversible fascist drift of Zionism. Israel, since its establishment as a state, has been building an apartheid regime, based on the dispossession and expulsion of Palestinians from their lands. For more than a century, Zionism has built its project on the European and North American logic of colonization: it is claimed that settlers have an inalienable right to appropriate empty land; Except that these lands are not really empty and their inhabitants are expelled by force, the colonizers arguing the hostility or non-humanity of the inhabitants of the place. Although Zionism was for most of the 20th century fundamentally secular, its fusion with an orthodox, racist and exclusionary Jewish identity was a natural path. The cornering of progressivism is, in this sense, the result of the very unsustainability of associating any progressive project (let alone left-wing) with a logic of expansion and colonization that leads directly to the annihilation of the Palestinian people. Netanyahu's far-right government is only the finished expression of this inevitable confluence between the Zionist project and the identity discourse of the radicalized ultra-Orthodox settlers, more interested than anyone else in consolidating greater Israel and making any form of Palestinian self-government totally unviable. In fact, if realpolitik is to be adhered to, it

already is: even if the "international community" – the United States and its court – talks about the "two-state" solution, it is not given any kind of factual possibility.

Fifthly, it is astonishing that the Zionist lobby continues, at this point, to use the accusation of anti-Semitism as a weapon against anyone who dares to condemn the state of Israel for its expansionism and its policy of apartheid – despite the fact that this fascistic drift and the indiscriminate and terrorist military actions of the Israeli regime should shock anyone who has the memory of the Holocaust in mind. Obviously, this accusation is especially directed against the anti-imperialist and internationalist left, but the shadow of anti-Semitism also hangs over anyone who dares to question the Zionist narrative of the democratic garden grown in the middle of the desert. This defamatory strategy ends up trivializing the concept of anti-Semitism, identifying it with anti-Zionism (when the victims of Nazi barbarism or pogroms were totally alien to the Zionist movement) and decontextualizing it historically. The Zionist project, essentialist and ethnicist by nature, ends up being whitewashed in the name of the memory of the Holocaust, which becomes, by one of those cruel and diabolical paradoxes of history, a pretext to justify a policy of colonization and extermination.

Sixth, although not much has been said about it, behind this brutal war of annihilation is the pervasiveness of imperial geopolitics. Israel's geopolitical strategy involves the culmination of the creation of greater Israel, with the consequent expulsion of the great bulk of the Palestinian population from its territories or its cornering in ghettos. It also involves the creation of a state of terror that paralyzes and divides the Arab world: only in this way does it hope to neutralize the natural hostility that surrounds it. In fact, since the Six-Day War (1967), Arab regimes, aware of the impossibility of defeating Israel, have been abandoning the Palestinians to their fate, in the name of a political realism that to the Palestinians seems like treason. However, it should also not be forgotten that Israel has managed to build its military potential from the active support of the United States and its vassals. Israel is, in this sense, a gendarme and a pawn in the service of Western interests, foments instability in the region and constitutes a threat to the countries around it (see Syria, from which Israel annexed the Golan region and to which it pays tribute by periodically sending it gifts in the form of missiles; with impunity). But it is at the same time a pawn with an agenda of its own and beyond the strict control of the American empire. The irresistible expansionist impulse of Greater Israel could lead to a regional war with unforeseeable consequences. It is not at all clear, despite the firm support of Uncle Sam and despite the numerous military bases he has scattered throughout the Arab

countries (also in Syria and Iraq, where they have never been invited...), that the American godfather, with open fronts in Russia and to be opened in China, is willing to undertake such an explosive and dangerous adventure. For the time being, Israel's genocidal reaction may have buried for years the Abraham Accords, from which the American empire had begun to obtain formal recognition of Israel by some Arab and Maghrebi countries (Saudi Arabia itself was about to sign), in exchange for compensation. A change of cards as scandalous as it is typical of geopolitical marketing.

Finally, Israel's criminal war against Gaza seems to have interrupted, for the time being, the Atlanticist spell of much of the European left, which in recent times has happily swallowed the fairy tale of the war in Ukraine and has supported, in the name of the struggle for democracy and freedom, arms spending and the remilitarization of the continent. The low profile of NATO and the various European governments when it comes to supporting Israel, aware of the importance of popular support for the Palestinian cause, is more than indicative in this regard. Contradictions erupt on all sides: it is impossible to fully justify the aggression. No matter how much the strategy of placing the beginning of the history of the conflict in the Hamas attack of 7 October has been attempted, no matter how much the media has gladly helped to simplify the facts and history, it is indeed difficult to erase from memory the opprobrium that the Palestinian people have suffered under the boot of Israel since 1948. The mobilization against this war of aggression is beginning to be organized, and that is good news. However, it remains to be seen whether it goes beyond the impasse of moral condemnation and turns out to be an opportunity to rebuild a solid and coherent internationalist and anti-imperialist position.

Rebelión has published this article with the author's permission under a [Creative Commons license](#), respecting his freedom to publish it in other sources.

Rebellion 27.11.2023