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Gaza's Media, Laws and Genocide



Sources: Al Jazeera - Image: Clouds of smoke over the northern Gaza Strip produced by Israeli shelling, December 14, 2023 [Jack Guez/AFP]

Translated by Silvia Arana for Rebelión.

Why does the U.S. media refuse to acknowledge the allegations of genocide brought against Israel?

The U.S. media, with few exceptions, refuses to seriously discuss one of the most important questions about Israel's ongoing war in Gaza: Is Israel responsible for genocide against Palestinians in the besieged enclave, and is the U.S. complicit in this, the worst of crimes?

The omission of the U.S. media in the face of the growing number of allegations of genocide against Israel is not surprising. After all, since the beginning of this war, the U.S.

corporate media has enthusiastically justified Israel's atrocities against Palestinians. For example, they often refer to the heinous acts of ethnic cleansing and forced displacement in Gaza as "evacuations." And they maintain that Israel "defends itself" against "terrorism," even as this country continues to terrorize millions of civilians under an occupation regime sustained with bombs and bullets along with *apartheid* laws and policies of colonial oppression – implemented with settler settlement.

Along with the refusal to acknowledge Israel's other atrocities against the violations of international law, the reluctance of the Palestinians to U.S. Media to Report and Comment on Genocide Allegations it has consequences in fact.

As recently pointed out by Prism, a progressive media outlet in the US, "Through journalistic trickery – including the use of passive language, headlines that are constantly changing, "both sides do it" and The Myth of Objectivity - Reporters Across the United States They feed the genocide whose existence their own agencies refuse to allow recognize."

Indeed, the concept of genocide is clearly defined in the 1948 Genocide Convention, and it describes exactly what we are seeing happening in Palestine today. Raz Segal, one of the leading experts on the subject, has recently pointed out that it is clear that Israel is carrying out "a textbook genocide" in Gaza.

The U.S. media's reluctance to speak genocide in relation to Israeli military operations in Gaza, associated with with the tendency to minimize or outright deny Israel's crimes against Palestinians, sends a signal to Israel that the killing can continue with impunity, and gives assurances to the U.S. government that it will not be held accountable for their complicity.

Luckily, corporate print and audio-visual media aren't the ones to do it. Unique channels for those who wish to draw attention to the genocide what is happening in Gaza, to point out those responsible, to put pressure on the perpetrators to stop and encourage political negotiations. The Activists appeal to the courts and hold peaceful protests in order to sue responses from Israel and complicit governments.

While the main international courts with powers to deal with these issues - the International Criminal Court and the Court International Court of Justice – moving at a snail's pace, human rights and constitutional rights have brought the case of the Gaza genocide to the next level. U.S. Courts

This battle to expose Israel's genocidal attack on Gaza began to unfold. mid-October, when the Center for Constitutional Rights/CCR, for Constitutional Rights), a progressive

non-profit organization Lucro, made up of lawyers, published its legal analysis of the complicity of The U.S. in the "genocide that Israel is carrying out" against the Palestinians in Gaza. Then, on November 3, the CCR presented the case directly in Congress, along with other similar organizations, Palestine Legal and National Lawyers Guild. Congressmen were notified of the that if they voted in favor of the aid package to Israel, they could "face criminal charges and civil liability for aiding and abetting the genocide and war crimes and crimes against humanity."

Then, on 13 November, the organization launched a trial in A half-dozen U.S. and Palestinian plaintiffs, accusing the President Joe Biden and his secretaries of state and defense for allowing the genocide perpetrated by Israel. In the document they filed with the Court of the Northern District of California, the organization argued that the unconditional agreement granted to Israel by the Biden administration constitutes "a violation of U.S. responsibilities under international law, as established by the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Crime of Genocide."

For organizations going to the U.S. courts In order to prosecute Israel for genocide, it has not been difficult to find evidence that Support your accusation. They are supported by numerous academics who they study genocide and war crimes, like Raz Segal.

The Genocide Convention defines the crime of genocide as any of the five "acts committed for the purpose of destroying, in whole or in part, to a national, ethnic, racial or religious group." The Actions They are: killing members of the group, causing serious injury to physical integrity of the members of the group, impose conditions of life that would jeopardize the jeopardize the existence of the group, prevent births within the group, and forcibly transferring children out of the group. Numerous experts in genocide and international laws in various parts of the world state that Israel has committed at least the first three acts on this list in Gaza. with undeniable intent and is, therefore, guilty of genocide.

A few days ago, on December 9, 55 scholars who are experts in the Holocaust and genocide studies published an open letter condemning the Hamas attack on October 7, but also noted that "the starvation, slaughter and forced displacement of Palestinian civilians that is taking place in Gaza highlights the issue of genocide, especially if one considers the intentions expressed by Israeli leaders."

The legal case for U.S. complicity in this genocide is equally strong.

Katherine Gallagher, the lead attorney in the lawsuit CCR against Biden and his colleagues, he explained in the presentation made at the New York City, that U.S. action

in support of Israel – including the urgent sending of military and economic aid, the blocking of the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council to implement the ceasefire and the provision of new weapons that very few other States have, among others examples– clearly "cross the line of complicity in the genocide."

"The U.S. was informed that its actions were likely to be genocidal, and he should have done something to prevent it," the lawyer added. Explained that Israel would not have been able to carry out attacks of this level without the help of nor the diplomatic protection it afforded him at the United Nations.

On Dec. 8, the U.S. government asked the U.S. Court of Appeal to Northern District of California to dismiss the lawsuit, arguing that for jurisdictional reasons that court did not have jurisdiction in cases of the Executive Branch. The plaintiffs said that the United States is bound by the Genocide Convention, to which it is a signatory and must respect the obligation to stop the genocide since it has the ability to do so.

The government's demand that the case brought by the CCR be denied coincided with another U.S. veto of a U.S. Council resolution United Nations Security Affairs, and the Biden administration's maneuver to circumvent the required congressional approval to immediately send Israel more artillery munitions, reiterating Washington's unconditional support for Israel in the Gaza War.

A few days later, the World Health Organization said that health conditions in Gaza were "catastrophic" and warned of the disease among the 1.9 million Palestinians forced to flee their homes by Israeli bombardment, which would likely be made worse by the overcrowding of places where civilians can take refuge. The United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres, for his part, warned of that "there is no protection for civilians in Gaza," and that there is "increasing pressure for mass displacement into Egypt", indicating that another war crime, known as forcible transfer, may be brewing. At about the same time, Save the Children said it had in Gaza, more than 7,000 children under the age of five who were being held in the Gaza Strip so malnourished that they needed "urgent medical treatment so as not to die."

As the evidence of Israel's genocide grows and grows, the U.S. media refuses to acknowledge what is happening in front of our eyes, debates about the nature of Israel's crimes are silenced at U.S. universities and other public spaces; anyone who is daring to speak out is labeled an anti-Semite and a sympathizer of terrorists and terrorism, even as a proponent of genocide against the Jews. This situation is a different factor that

highlights the importance of the demand for organizations such as CCR Hold those responsible accountable for their crimes.

Last week the corporate media covered 24 hours a day accusations of anti-Semitism against representatives of elite universities, such as Harvard, MIT, and the University of Pennsylvania. The charges are that they allowed pro-Palestine protests and statements promoting anti-Semitism and threatened students, teachers, and administrative staff who identify as Jews. Some particularly ignorant members and extremists in Congress, on campus, and in the media went so far as to suggest that protests in defense of Palestine and for a ceasefire could indicate an attempted genocide against American Jews.

This upside-down world, this alteration of reality doesn't quite turn out surprising when fanatical pro-Israel extremism is combined with desperation hysterical among U.S. politicians. In the United States, they are new milestones in political fantasy and dishonesty emerge when some extremists suggest that anti-war activism for a ceasefire in Gaza and for equal rights between Palestinians and Israelis is tantamount to genocide. while the State of Israel, which claims to be the representative of all Jews in the world, is committing a verified genocide in Gaza.

History will judge harshly the failure of the U.S. media to recognize and report the truth of what is happening right now. However, the absence of honest media is an incentive for numerous academics to provide evidence and boldly denounce this matter and for US courts to offer a channel to assess and hold accountable the perpetrators and complicit states that allow this generation to repeat the worst crime known to humanity: genocide.

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