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## Arabs increasingly convinced US unable to stand up to Israel

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Amid a cacophony of statements, commentary and analyses about the American-Israeli relationship, and the events since Joe Biden's visit to Israel, Mark Perry wrote an article in Foreign Policy magazine on March 13, 2010 titled "The Petraeus briefing: Biden's embarrassment is not the whole story." Perry explained that on January 16, 2010, a team of central command officers and officials responsible for American national security in the Middle East made a presentation in the Pentagon to the Joint Chiefs of Staff, headed by Admiral Michael Mullen, about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The team had been sent by General David Petraeus to "underline his growing concerns at the lack of progress in resolving the issue." The conclusion of the presentation was that there was a growing perception among Arab leaders that the US was incapable of standing up to Israel." That is why Arabs have started to lose faith in the United States and its promises, and that Israeli intransigence in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict was paralyzing the position, role and status of the United States in the region. It added that "America was not only viewed as weak, but its military posture in the region was eroding, despite the fact that there are hundreds of thousands of American troops in the region."

Perry says that the briefing given to Mullen, at Petraeus' request, fell like a bombshell on the White House. That is why the Obama administration sent Mullen to meet Gabi Ashkenazi. Mark

Perry adds that Biden passed the content of the Mullen-Petraeus report to Netanyahu saying: “This is starting to get dangerous for us. What you’re doing here undermines the security of our troops who are fighting in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan. That endangers us and it endangers regional peace.”

Perry adds that the message was very clear. This endangers regional security, pointing out that “Israel’s intransigence could cost American lives.”

This review of what was published in the media since Biden’s visit is very important because it shows that the American presentation realizes the links between Palestine and the Arab-Israeli conflict, on the one hand, and what is happening in Iraq, Afghanistan and Pakistan, on the other. It also recognizes, albeit indirectly, that the question of Palestine and the occupied Arab territories is at the heart of what is going on in the region; and that the region will not know peace until justice is achieved in Palestine, after the Palestinian people are liberated from Zionist oppression and after all Arab rights are restored.

The briefing is also important because it realizes that the extremist Zionists’ control over the government of Israel makes it persist in its aggressions: destroying houses, building settlements and Judaizing Jerusalem. This means that Zionist hardliners, like Netanyahu and Lieberman, constitute the real obstacles not only to peace in the Middle East but for the achievement of American objectives in the region, and endangers the United States’ interests and status. Israel’s aggressive acts have already threatened security and Western interests, which is the import of the briefing made to Mullen-Petraeus.

This concern is derived from meetings held by the team charged with preparing this study with Arab and Muslim leaders known for compliance with Western desires, who expressed their inability to continue to keep silence – as they are doing now – regarding the crimes committed by Israeli hardliners on a daily basis against Palestinians in the form of murder, assassination, violence and Judaizing one of the holiest places for Arabs and Muslims.

But the real message which the West should hear was that of the concerned parties, the Arab leaders who are in charge of protecting Arab and Muslim sanctities. The clearer, more forceful and serious the message is the more seriously others would take and contemplate it.

A week of speculation about the course of American-Israeli relations did not lead to releasing one Palestinian prisoner, protecting one house in Jerusalem against demolition or allowing unarmed Palestinians to pray in Al-Aqsa Mosque. American, European and “Quartet” positions did not go beyond verbal criticism of settlement like expressing “concern” accompanied by stressing the strategic alliance between the United States and Israel and of course stressing for the billionth time the United States’ and Europe’s commitment to “Israel’s security” without any consideration for the security, freedom and rights of the Palestinians.

This commitment which means funding settlement, providing military support and international protection which makes these Western positions mere verbal and media bubbles which burst out in the face of those who trade in them the moment they are exchanged. Despite all the violence by Israeli occupation troops and despite killing, injuring and arresting civilians in the West bank,

and despite Israeli warplanes' shelling of Gaza, besieged for the past three years, the EU representative denounced violence on both sides and did not denounce Israeli soldiers' use of violence against the population of Jerusalem, killing children, arresting civilians and displacing them and replacing them by Jewish settlers.

All Western statements will remain mere media bubbles unless accompanied by the tools which the United States uses in dealing with Arabs and Muslims like passing a binding resolution accompanied by sanctions. But these bubbles have two objectives in American policy: diverting attention from daily Israeli crimes against unarmed Palestinian civilians; and helping those who do not want Arabs to support the Palestinian people.

The importance of the Petraeus-Mullen briefing lies in its implicit suggestion that an Arab and Muslim stand is effective, not only against Israeli occupation, but also against all those who support it with arms and money and all those who provide it with international cover to enable it to continue Judazing land and sanctities.

It is equally effective in supporting the Palestinian people uprooted from their land, deprived of their freedom and independence and subjected to all forms of crimes against humanity under the full gaze of the "civilized" world.