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By Melvin Goodman
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Guernica, the Warsaw Ghetto and now Gaza



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Translated for Rebellion by Paco Muñoz de Bustillo

"The painful common denominator of the tragedies in Gaza and the Warsaw ghetto is the utter disregard for human lives in a theatre of war on the part of citizens, even in the most enlightened countries. That contempt is all the more painful when committed by 'our own people,' whether it's U.S. soldiers in Vietnam and Iraq or Israeli soldiers in Gaza" (Alex Hershafit, Warsaw Ghetto survivor, The Washington Post, December 22, 2023).

"Hamas must be destroyed, Gaza must be demilitarized and Palestinian society must be subdued." (Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Wall Street Journal, December 26, 2023).

"How many deaths Will it take for me to know that too many people have died?" (Bob Dylan, Blowing in the Wind, 1962).

The Nazi bombing of Guernica, a Basque city in northern Spain, took place in 1937, during the Spanish Civil War. The Germans They were testing their new air force and their bombs killed or wounded a a third of the 5,000 inhabitants of that town. Pablo Picasso captured the the agony of Guernica in a painting that is considered the most moving and powerful expression of anti-war. The painting shows the suffering caused by modern warfare and broadcast the atrocities of the Spanish Civil War to an international audience.

In the case of Palestine, Picasso would probably have used the destruction of Gaza's hospitals to depict terror and the horror of Israel's use of heavy artillery. Like the Nazi bombing of Guernica It had a casual appearance, Israel's use of its air force is casual in that it is their destruction of Gaza's infrastructure, indeed of Gaza itself. The use of half-and one-ton pumps provided by the United States refutes Israel's claim that the The main goal of the war is to destroy Hamas. The main objective of Israel's war is to destroy Gaza itself; It's the last step of the constants Israel's 75-year efforts to displace Palestinians that inhabit from the river to the sea. The right-wing war cabinet and the army of Israel and they are not targeting the West Bank, where the death toll is rising.

The Warsaw Ghetto was home to 350,000 Jews who, like Gazans were surviving starvation and disease when the Nazis They began their liquidation campaign. After concentrating the Jews, the Nazis deployed tanks and heavy artillery to destroy to the 50,000 survivors and raze all the buildings, until the ghetto of Warsaw ceased to exist. The Israel's destruction of Gaza is designed to ensure that Palestinians do not have a place to live.

The *New York Times* and the *Washington Post* have denied Israel's claim that Gaza's al-Shifa hospital was directly involved in Hamas' activities and that the buildings in the al-Shifa compound They were located over underground tunnels that were used to steer rocket attacks and direct fighters. The *Post's* analysis showed that "rooms connected to the Tunnels... showed no immediate signs of military use by the Hamas"; "None of the five hospitals appeared to be connected to the tunnel network"; and that there was "no evidence that it could be access to the tunnels from inside the hospital wards." The Israelis lied and the Central Agency The U.S. Intelligence Agency (CIA) corroborated his lies.

In general, the mainstream media continues to helping Israeli propagandists present their arguments to the international audience. The Media U.S. citizens constantly refer to last

month's killing of three Israeli hostages by the Israeli army as "accidental." There was nothing "accidental" about his death; It was intentional, since the hostages were shirtless, carrying a flag They raised their hands, spoke Hebrew, and posted SOS signs, as well as to scribble "Help! 3 hostages" in Hebrew on the walls Nearby. Maybe the shooting was "wrong," but it wasn't "accidental." The Israeli soldiers intended to kill the three men; they just didn't know they were Israelis. The father of one of the Victims asked with emotion why the soldiers didn't just shoot at his son on the leg.

The slaughter points to an ethical breach by the troops, according to Ron Ben-Yishai, the newspaper's chief national security columnist Yediot Ahronot, who has reported on all of Israel's wars since the 1967 Six-Day War. These breaches They are predictable in the light of Israeli racism towards Palestinians. Former Prime Minister Golda Meir He described them as "cockroaches" before the October 1973 war. Defense Minister Yoav Gallant has described Palestinians as "human animals" and has said that "We act accordingly." Of In this way, Gallant justifies the Israeli war crime of cutting off the food and water to Gaza residents.

The U.S. media has supported the Israel's version that the shooting of the hostages was due to the "fear and confusion" caused by the "war of traps and deceptions" by Hamas, which frightened the "Israeli troops and they won't think twice about shooting" (*The Washington Post*, December 24, 2023). At least, the Israelis are investigating the slaughter and will be assisted by a He fights with a GoPro camera that recorded the voices of the three victims. Of course, if these had been There would have been no publicity, let alone an investigation. We will never know how many innocent Palestinians are have been killed in a similar way.

The U.S. itself supports Israel by vetoing or abstaining on all U.N. Security Council resolutions critical of Israel. Since the October War of 1973, the United States has vetoed more than 50 measures. When the Obama administration abstained from a 2017 resolution declaring Israeli settlements in the West Bank illegal, there was considerable criticism in Congress. Last month, the U.S. even abstained on a U.N. resolution that simply supported additional humanitarian aid for Gaza.

Meanwhile, the U.S. has not criticized the killing more than 70 journalists and media workers from communication, mostly Palestinians, which is the deadliest conflict for journalists never registered by the Committee for the Protection of Journalists. Journalists. The Israelis have also killed more than a dozen Palestinian writers and poets, as well as more than One hundred international aid workers, some of them with their families.

Secretary of State Antony Blinken, one of the Israel's main apologists, has limited himself to stating that "we want to make sure that it's investigated, that we understand what's happened and there's accountability." The Assassination is an Israeli attempt to make sure that the outcome of the Israel's war is not accurately recorded. Even the *Post* referred to Blinken's statements as "a disingenuous response."

Netanyahu's legacy is assured. When Guernica, the Warsaw and Gaza ghetto, is discussed and analyzed in the future, the Nazis and Benjamin Netanyahu will be similarly condemned.

In the meantime, all Americans have a lot to do. learn. President Biden Should think of Vice President Hubert Humphrey's loss to Richard Nixon in the 1968 presidential election for his belated opposition to the war of war. Vietnam. And to better understand the Israeli apartheid and the miserable life of Palestinians in the West Bank, read "[A Day in the Life of Abed Salama](#): Autonomy from a Tragedy of Jerusalem," by Nathan Thrall.

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