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## Israeli Women and God's Jewish Warriors

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About a third of the 1,200 victims of Hamas' Operation Al-Aqsa in Israel and about 20 of the 137 people taken hostage by the Palestinian group on October 7, 2023, are women. According to Israeli authorities, several of the murdered women had been raped. None of the few UN measures to prevent war crimes, attacks on civilians or the rape of women have worked in any of the numerous armed conflicts that plague the globe. The fact that both Judaism (Deuteronomy 20:14) and Islam (Qur'an: 24: al-Nisa) included women among the "spoils of war" of their warrior men, obliges international organizations to carry out a thorough investigation into sexual aggression in this long colonial-religious conflict.



Israeli Women Take to the Street Dressed as Characters from 'The Handmaid's Tale' Protesting Against Israel's Government

For its part, Israel, which does not comply with the Jewish law of "An Eye for an Eye" (inherited from Hammurabi, who 3,700 years ago wanted to civilize human beings by prohibiting the massacre of entire communities in revenge for the harm received by one of their members), has so far massacred about 25,000 Palestinians, 70% of them women and children: 16 Palestinian lives for one Jewess.

The Mysterious Israeli Women

The first information that appears on the internet about "women in Israel" are infinite images of the soldiers (that is, not as women-victims, but protagonists of violence as a system), who to make matters worse are not playing "officer and gentleman", but appear in flirtatious poses as if they were disguised as soldiers. The second group of photos that is surprising is of Jewish women wearing burqas – and not testimonials, as in Beijing or Minsk: tens of thousands wear it, correcting those who place the origin and motives of <u>this</u> terrifying and humiliating garment in the tribes of Afghan Pashtuns – and finally the image of Prime Minister Golda Meier can be seen. the same one that called feminists "crazy." Not surprisingly, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg compared the exclusion of women in Israel to black women in her country.

In this militaristic theocratic state, where the capitalist elite consolidates patriarchy in the name of God and Security, there are obviously exceptions, if you look for it conscientiously: the prominent Lithuanian-born Marxist leader Esther Vilenska, who

helped in 1944 to re-establish the Communist Party of Palestine and planned a democratic and independent Palestine <u>of a binational character</u>.



Israel Prepares Women Soldiers for Battle

Several months before Hamas' attack, the tatzpitanit, recruits assigned to guard the Gaza border, had informed their superiors, all men, of strange military exercises by the Palestinian organization. The commanders' disregard for the warnings was not only due to the sexist bias installed in power (as Egypt had also informed them), but also because, perhaps Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister <u>persecuted by the law and by</u> hundreds of thousands of citizens who every Saturday called for his head, was interested in making it happen, and thus be able to export the internal crisis, something it has achieved. The hashtag #BibiKnew ("<u>Benjamin knew</u>") floods social media.

"Chosen people" or "chosen men"?

The dream of emancipation of the first Jewish women who emigrated to Palestine at the end of the nineteenth century was shattered as soon as they arrived: they were confined to the kibbutzim, by fundamentalist husbands or fathers who forced them to continue with the division of "biological" roles: the man in trousers in charge and the woman, most of whom were illiterate, and <u>with her skirt and veil</u>, like her full slave. A profile that explains, in part, why Jewish women did not oppose the Nakba, when its men massacred and expelled nearly 700,000 Palestinians, entire families from their ancestral lands and homes. The founders of Israel were Ashkenazim, Europeans converted to Judaism, not ethnic Jews, as part of the Mizrahim, the name of the followers of Moses in the Near East, who lived in peace with their Arab, Turkic or <u>Persian</u> brethren.

Today, Israeli women, except in small groups, do not oppose the genocide of the Palestinian people: the majority of practicing Jewish women struggle to be able to pray,

sing and read the Bible aloud at the holy sites, not for peace, equality and social justice, impossible in a "divine" state.

## Women's Israel

The four features of Israel's political system—colonial, capitalist, theocratic, and militaristic—seal the status of women. Israeli women, like all citizens of a capitalist state, are paid less than men (30%), have to smash their skulls to break concrete roofs, face sexual harassment or cutbacks (which has excluded the vast majority of half a million children under the age of 3 from public kindergartens, under the pretext of the pandemic, in 2020), or that of the nearly 2 million Israelis (23% of the population) living below the poverty line, 31.7% are children, many of them of single mothers.



Hundreds of Women March in Israel Against Sexual Harassment

However, being a theocratic state, citizens in Israel are not equal before the law, and their rights depend on the faith they profess. In a framework of hierarchical power, Jewish men enjoy extensive privileges over the entire population, and Jewish women (except the ultra-Orthodox, the most discriminated among women in this land) over their sisters of other faiths. In this primitive system of power, rabbis have the right to veto laws affecting the family, a euphemism for the word "woman," maintaining the subhuman status that the Abrahamic-Semitic religions (Judaism, Christianity, and Islam) established for half of their populations thousands of years ago.

Israel closed all the doors to a democratization of the state, when in 2018 it declared itself a Jewish republic, like Iran or Afghanistan that have been an Islamic state since 1979. In

fact, the sharia that these two far-right regimes apply are basically Jewish traditions: from the veil and <u>child marriages</u> to the Law of Talion and stoning, to norms that consider women to be severely intellectually disabled and incurable by God's permission. Women of the three religions will not be able to manage their own lives, work, study, marry, travel, etc. without the permission of a man; Singing, dancing, walking or going to the movies, concerts or theaters alone, choosing a partner, staying in a hotel, etc., while Israeli Orthodox Jewish men have the right to not hit the water, pay taxes, or perform military service, and on top of that, receive a payment from taxpayers. It's amazing how they've put it together, even today!

Theocracy (versus spirituality) permeates all aspects of society's life with its sexual gaze, to the point of making women subhuman and untouchable. In some cities, women have had to get on the bus through the back door and sit in the back, and even then, Taliban drivers have the "right of admission" to women because of their clothing: numerous Rosa Parks have been assaulted. The "modesty patrols" (copied by their Islamist brethren in certain countries), whose raison d'être is not to "save religion", harass women in Haredi neighborhoods because of their clothing, while Jewish jihadists attack the faithful who in the Western Wall square pray to the God they share. They are segregated at funerals, medical clinics or supermarkets, where they have special hours to access.

Jewish women, like Muslim women, cannot divorce: they must be repudiated by a man (the husband or a male judge), because divorce is one of many exclusive rights of the man. If these gentlemen refuse to release them, those who repent of having said "I do" will remain as agunah (chained) to their abuser, until God takes them away, after a natural or violent death.



A Scary Trend: Violence Against Women and an Increase in Femicides

According to the International Zionist Organization (WIZO), last year some 200,000 women were victims of gender-based violence and 600,000 children witnessed the attacks. And that's despite the fact that only 20% of cases are reported. The Association of Rape Crisis Centers (ARCCI) reported in 2021 that group sexual assaults in Israel were 10% higher than the average for OECD countries. None other than the country's former president Moshe Katsav spent six years in jail for raping two female subordinates. In this context, gang rapes continue to increase: the high-profile case of the assault of a 16-year-old girl by some 30 men in August 2020 was just the tip of the iceberg.

In prisons, the threat of rape hangs like the sword of Damocles around the necks of hundreds of Palestinian political prisoners, as a weapon of war. Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine guerrilla Rasmea Odeh is one of the few Palestinians who have dared to speak out about it: she was subjected to brutal torture (such as electric shocks), and raped in front of other prisoners. No law will be able to contain this plague that Israeli patriarchal society suffers from, due to the theocratic militarism of its far-right regime.

Many Jews and Muslims have heard the name of Hagar, the Egyptian slave of Abraham and Sarai, although her case of "<u>unrented womb-womb</u>" goes unnoticed: she was inseminated by Abraham with the permission of his yere wife. A short time after Ishmael was born, the fruit of that aggression, the one sent by God, abandoned them both in the desert, so that they would die of thirst and hunger. The texts, obviously, blame a woman, Sarai, because of her jealousy, for that aberrant act, committed by Abraham with treachery with the aggravating circumstance of kinship. Did you know that the seven laps that Muslims make around Kaaba on their pilgrimage to Mecca are in remembrance of the turns that woman had made in search of water for her son?

In addition to theocracy, militarism

The army is the central institution of the Israeli Government of God, and its task, in addition to occupying more foreign territories to carry out the <u>imperialist project of</u> <u>"Greater Israel"</u>, is Israelization, that is, to impose the tribal values of thousands of years ago, on the new generations and the emigrants. Therefore, the entry of Arab citizens into this entity is prohibited.



Israeli philosophers should be concerned about the social normalization of seeing armed boys and girls drinking coffee on terraces. For a Jewish boy, becoming a man and defending the homeland means "doing the military", while girls of this creed will be good citizens if they have many children. The army, while consolidating this dichotomy, uses the flesh of both for the cannons of the ruling elite, which target civilians from other peoples.

Israel's military budget, \$24.34 billion, in 2021 (11.57% more than 2020), plus \$3.8 billion in annual U.S. military aid, has continued to increase. Under the pretext of the "war against Hamas," and its few rockets and stones, Israel has added another \$15 billion to this figure this year.

Thus, the main slogan of Israeli feminism is to "turn Israel into a civilian state": so far, the war against Palestinian citizens has cost Israeli citizens some \$51 billion.

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