

Special Report 119, Israel Under Attack



Welcome to Dearborn, America's Jihad Capital *by Steven Stalinsky , WSJ, February 3, 2024, pg. A II.*

Thousands march in support of Hamas, Hezbollah and Iran. Protesters, many with kaffiyehs covering their faces, shout "Intifada, intifada," "From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free," and "America is a terrorist state." Almost immediately after October 7, and long before Israel began its ground offensive in Gaza, people were celebrating the horrific events of that day in rallies and marches throughout Dearborn Michigan. A local headline describing an October 10 event at the Ford Performing Arts Center read "Michigan rally cheers Hamas attack." Imam Imran Salha of Dearborn's Islamic Center of Detroit urged his congregation to say "amen" to his prayer that Allah "eradicate from existence" the "sick, disgusting Zionist regime." In October 2022, his organization received \$150,000 in funding from the Homeland Security Department's nonprofit security grants program (!!). At another rally, held Oct. 14 in front of the Henry Ford Centennial Library, Imam Usama Abdulghani, an American-born, Iranian-educated Shiite Islamic scholar called October 7 "one of the days of God" and a "miracle come true." He described the attackers as "honorable." He said they were "lions" defending "the entire nation of Muhammad the messenger."

Pampered young people in universities and colleges joined the chorus after being taught not to think but to imbibe an unrealistic, absolutist, black and white universe divided between the oppressed and their oppressors. Fed on a diet of superficial slogans they never examined and persuaded by their manipulators they can make a positive impact on the world by demonstrating instead of working hard, they parrot slogans without the slightest notion of the facts they purport to address. Some cry out "from the river to the sea" without the faintest idea what river and what sea are meant nor why they are referenced. Others cry out "free Palestine" when the fact of the matter is that the State of Palestine is not bound – it simply does not exist, nor has it ever in modern history, and the Arab Palestinians are to blame for that.

Here are some of the facts: following the First World War the League of Nations, (the United Nations precursor) accorded Britain with a mandate over territory that enclosed what are now Israel, Jordan and Saudi Arabia, with the explicit responsibility of establishing a Jewish homeland within those borders. In 1947, the United Nations adopted a resolution which called for the partition of the territory wedged between the Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea between the Jewish and Arab residents of the land. Representatives of the Jewish population agreed whereas the Arab community in the land were not given a voice; the newly-created Arab States in the area, alongside Egypt and other Muslim States, rejected the resolution and sent their armies to destroy the fledgling Jewish entity. They were pushed back, and the 1948 armistices lines, were the result until June 1967.

The territories designated for an Arab Palestinian State were forcibly taken over by Jordan (the West Bank) and Egypt (the Gaza Strip), who imposed military governors, pushed the Arab Palestinians into refugee camps, forbade them all political liberties as well as any form of representation, the creation of an educational system or a workable economy, and made them dependent on the generosity of the international community while cultivating among them a hatred for Israel. The number of Arab Palestinians grew from 650,000 to over 4 million, all enjoying second, third and fourth generation refugee status, and still mostly dependent on international largesse. An identical number, 650,000, of Jews were forced out of Arab lands and denied the right to transport their valuables or transfer their resources. Most of these settled in Israel. None of them sought or were accorded refugee status.

Arab military attacks on Israel continued throughout the years, and, in 1964, Egypt initiated the founding the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO), trained and equipped it and used it to attack Israel.

In 1967, Israel was attacked by Egypt, Jordan and Syria, with support of other Arab and Muslim countries. The invaders were once again driven back and Israel found itself in possession of the Sinai Peninsula, The West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It immediately began encouraging the Arab Palestinians to develop an economy and an educational infrastructure, resulting in the founding of colleges and universities. Today Arab Palestinians enjoy the highest level of education per capita anywhere in the Muslim world, and their standard of living is the highest. Israel then encouraged the creation of political life and enabled the election of local and regional representation.

Following agreements signed between Israel and the Palestinians, Israel vacated large tracts of the West Bank and all of Gaza, to be governed by the Palestinian Authority, authorized by the Palestinian population to negotiate terms of peace with Israel. Extensive commerce was held between Israel and the Palestinians. Tens of thousands were educated in Israeli universities and employed by Israeli firms.

Over the years, Israeli Prime Ministers Rabin, Barak and Olmert offered the Arab Palestinians the opportunity to create a State under negotiated terms. As former Israeli UN Ambassador Abba Evan put it, the Palestinians never missed a chance to miss a chance.

In June 2007, Hamas took violent control over Gaza by throwing PA officials and supporters off roofs, murdering and knee-capping them. It then imposed a strict regime in the Strip.

The hundreds of millions of Dollars provided by the international community for the welfare of Gaza's residents were poured into the creation of a military infrastructure, a great deal of which was underground, the manufacture of missiles and the training of 40,000 fighting men. Repeated attacks from Gaza forced Israel to build a barrier between the State and the Strip. Further attacks forced a number of limited military incursions into Gaza while Israel continued to employ thousands of Gaza residents, treat them in Israel hospitals and provide the Strip with water and electricity.

Still, on October 7 Hamas attacked Israel settlements with a barbarity that has not been seen since the Mongolian invasions of Europe. Babies were placed in ovens, beheaded or burnt in their cribs. Women were raped, raped again and then shot. People were burnt alive in their homes, civilians were randomly shot, and 240 children, women, the elderly and men, including bodies, were abducted to Gaza and held for ransom. Of these, 133 are still in Hamas' hands. The women have been exposed to repeated rape and sexual harassment. The elderly are deprived of life-sustaining medication. The living are fed a piece of bread, a half a quart of water per day, and meagre additions such as olive or dates. Many of them have died and a growing number of them are dying daily.

And this is what the demonstrators are celebrating! This is what they are calling to be repeated "to times, a hundred times, a thousand times, ten thousand times"

Unbeknown to them, their naivete and their sincerity are being utilized by well-funded cynics bent on destroying modern civil freedoms, for which Israel stands and which Hamas, Iran, Russia, China and North Korea oppose. In an editorial by Ira Stoll on April 25, the Wall Street Journal reports (page A 13): "Since at least the Vietnam War, exasperated observers of student protests have rolled their eyes and thought: *"Get a job!"*."

In some cases today, activism *is* a job. Two of America's largest philanthropic foundations are behind a group that has paid some of the anti-Israel activists for the kind of antics disrupting campuses across the country. Consider Malak Afaneh, a law student at the University of California, Berkeley, and Craig Birkhead-Morton, a senior at Yale. Ms. Afaneh went viral this month for disrupting a dinner at Dean Erwin Chemerinsky's home. This week the Yale Daily News reported that Mr. Birkhead Morton had been arrested for trespassing—and then reemerged to address an anti-Israel crowd blocking an intersection in New Haven.

Ms. Afaneh and Mr. Birkhead-Morton have both been "youth fellows" of the U.S. Campaign for Palestinian Rights, whose website identifies them by their first names. As of April 4, the campaign was soliciting applications for a new cohort, whose "campus-based fellows" would receive stipends of \$2,880 to \$3,360 for three-month terms of roughly eight hours of work a week. That "work" could include aiding campaigns that "demand federal or state politicians cut US military, financial, or diplomatic ties with Israel." The corporate entity behind these fellowships is Education for Just Peace in the Middle East. Where does it get its funding?

"George and Alexander Soros's Open Society Foundation has put \$700,000 into Education for Just Peace in the Middle East since 2018, most recently with a two year grant in 2022,

according to the Open Society Foundation's website. The Rockefeller Brothers Fund has given Education for Just Peace in the Middle East \$515,000 since 2019, most recently with a three-year grant for \$225,000 awarded in August 2023. While some policymakers have wondered whether activists receive money from overseas, it turns out that there's a clear paper trail of funding at home. That ought to have policy implications. In considering whether to discipline students for rule violations, university administrators might more harshly punish activism done, at least in part, for pay.

"Do the Rockefeller and Soros families want their money to be used to advocate for Hamas's war aims? They should consider that themselves. Meantime, Congress and the Internal Revenue Service might want to examine whether the grants fit the charitable purposes defined in the tax code."

MEMRI reports on April 25 (MEMRI No. 11297)

"In his March 22, 2024 column in the London-based daily Al-Sharq Al-Awsat, Iranian journalist and author Amir Taheri, who resides in the U.S., came out strongly against the solidarity with Hamas expressed around the world after the October 7 attack on Israel, and against the calls to end the Gaza war before it has been decided. Noting that October 7 was a "razzia" – a surprise attack aimed at eliminating the enemy – Taheri states that claiming to be a "freedom fighter" shouldn't mean a license to kill at will, nor does it exempt one from observing minimal standards of morality. Other razzias in history, he says, such as the attack on Pearl Harbor or the 9/11 attacks, led the U.S. and the West to retaliate harshly yet did not prompt protests or displays of solidarity with the perpetrators.

"Taheri adds that the international elements now trying to stop the Gaza war forget that defeating armed organizations is a lengthy affair. Moreover, treating the Palestinian issue as idiosyncratic, and the unprecedented perpetuation of the Palestinians' refugee status for four generations have only harmed the Palestinians and have not contributed to resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Taheri concludes by stating that holding indirect negotiations with Hamas and presenting it as a legitimate partner, as the Biden administration is doing, is a grave mistake that legitimizes attacks like the one of October 7.

"British and European pundits are also 'concerned' about the length of the Gaza war and urge unspecified action to shorten it. They forget that fighting armed groups that wish to impose their agenda by 'irregular warfare' – to put it in a politically correct manner as the BBC does – cannot be conceived in terms of a short theatrical sketch. It took the British 11 years to extinguish the fire of 'irregular fighters' in Malaya. The fight against [the communist guerilla organization] in Peru took almost 30 years. India partly calmed down the 'freedom fighters' of Nagaland after a 40-year war while it continues to face an even more tenacious adversary in Kashmir. Turkey has been fighting the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) for more than 30 years.

"Claiming to be a 'freedom fighter' shouldn't mean a license to kill at will. Even the 'oppressed' have certain duties and must observe some rules while, as history has shown, the tyranny of the underdog could be as deadly as that of the oppressor. The question today

is why, when no time limit is imposed on conventional war until a victor emerges, should war against an insurgent group [like Hamas] be subjected to calendar-based shenanigans?

"The 7 October attack on Israel was a razzia, drawn from an Arab word, ghazwa, which means a sudden no-holds-bar attack on a single-set of. The sinking of the cruiser Lusitania during the First World War in May 1915 was a razzia as was the Pearl Harbor attack on 7 December 1941. Payback after those razzias didn't produce sympathy for the perpetrators. People didn't march to stop action against those who had sunk Lusitania, bombed Pearl Harbor, and turned part of London into heaps of rubble. Harvard and Princeton luminaries didn't protest when the US launched its 'war on terror' to avenge 9/11.

"No one denies that for over seven decades Palestinians have suffered a great deal. But is the way to end or a least alleviate their suffering to exempt their self-imposed political organizations from observing a minimum of ethical rules even if their adversary didn't always reciprocate? Treating the Palestinian issue as if it were an exception to all rules has done great harm to Palestinians. They have become the first people in history to have four generations frozen in the status of refugees. World War II produced over 30 million refugees all of whom acquired new abodes within a decade. The partition of India produced 14 million refugees, again, seeing all of them resettled in less than a decade. Since 1959 more than 10 million Cubans have been driven out of their homeland and settled in a dozen countries notably the United States." Why treat the Arab Palestinians any differently?