



ISRAEL AT WAR: COMBAT THE LIES



“ISRAEL HAS BEEN COMMITTING UNSPEAKABLE WAR CRIMES, CRIMES AGAINST HUMANITY, AND ILLEGAL COLLECTIVE PUNISHMENT AGAINST PALESTINIANS IN GAZA FOR 15 YEARS. ANY COMMENT OR ANALYSIS THAT DOESN’T TAKE THIS FACT INTO CONSIDERATION TODAY IS HOLLOW, IMMORAL, AND DEHUMANIZING.”

- False! In 2005 Israel disengaged (completely left) from Gaza, removing all Jewish presence and giving land in exchange for peace with the Palestinians. Israel had legal right, under international law, to this land, having gained the land from Egypt in a defensive war against several Arab countries in 1967. Instead of peace, Israel has experienced constant rocket attacks and Hamas provoked wars over the last 15 years.
- Hamas, a terrorist organization, is the ruling authority in Gaza and has controlled the region since 2007. It, and not Israel, has committed crimes against the Palestinian people, denying them basic rights such as water, electricity, freedom of speech, freedom of the press and freedom of movement. Hamas uses schools, mosques and apartment buildings as launch pads for its rockets, using its people as human shields and knowingly and deliberately putting them in harm’s way. Hamas has placed its command and control center under Gaza’s Al Shifa Hospital.

“IF PALESTINIANS WERE OFFERED A STATE OF THEIR OWN, AND ISRAEL AGREED TO IT, THERE WOULD BE PEACE.”

PEACE PROPOSALS **REJECTED** BY THE PALESTINIANS

1947	UN Partition Plan
1949	UN Resolution 194
1967	UN Resolution 242
1978	Begin/Sadat Peace Proposal
2000	Camp David Peace Proposal
2001	Taba Peace Proposal
2008	Olmert Peace Proposal
2014	Kerry’s “Contours for Peace”
2019	Trump’s “Deal of the Century”

IF THE PALESTINIANS REALLY WANTED PEACE AND THEIR OWN STATE, THEY WOULD HAVE IT BY NOW.

“ISRAEL STARTED IT” – “ISRAEL IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CONFLICT BECAUSE OF ITS OCCUPATION AND COLONIZATION OF THE LAND.”

Occupation and colonization

- Occupation is when a territory is under the authority and control of a foreign army. In this case, Israel isn’t a foreign army. Not only are Jews indigenous to Judea and Samaria, these lands were earmarked for a Jewish state according to international law (the League of Nations, and United Nations). Even if they weren’t, since Israel gained Judea and Samaria (“West Bank” is the colonizer’s language - we prefer not to use it) in a defensive war in 1967, it has the legal right to possess it until its enemies make peace.
- In addition, this land is the indigenous homeland of the Jewish people. The definition of colonization is: “the action or process of settling among and establishing control over the indigenous people of an area by a foreign entity.” Since Jews ARE the indigenous people of this area, to call for anyone other than Jews to control the area is to actively call FOR colonization.

“ISRAEL IS AN APARTHEID STATE.”

- Calling Israel an apartheid state is not criticism, it is a blatant lie. Apartheid was the South African system that denied Black people access to the political, judicial systems in their country, put them in separate and inferior living spaces and educational opportunities, and controlled every aspect of their lives. Arab citizens of Israel enjoy the same rights as Jewish Israelis, including the right to form political parties and stand for election, opportunities to serve as members of the Knesset, the judiciary, the diplomatic corps, the police, and so on, thereby eviscerating claims of racial discrimination, which underlie apartheid.
- All Israelis - irrespective of their race or ethnicity - have equal rights, at every level. There are even Muslim parties in the Knesset (parliament), holding 10 of 120 seats. A quick stroll through any major Israeli city will show you Israelis of all religions getting about their day together, happily. The third most popular party in Israel is the Arab/Palestinian party.

- Often when people say this, they are referring to Palestinians living either in Gaza, which is under Hamas rule, or parts of the West Bank, which are under the rule of the Palestinian Authority. These Palestinians are treated like any other visitor to Israel - they can apply for a work or tourist visa to enter, and then work or tour like any other visa-holding visitor.

Thirteen Arab Knesset (Israeli Parliament) members:



“SO HOW DOES ONE EXPLAIN THE DIFFERENCE IN TREATMENT BETWEEN ARAB ISRAELIS AND ARABS IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA STRIP?”

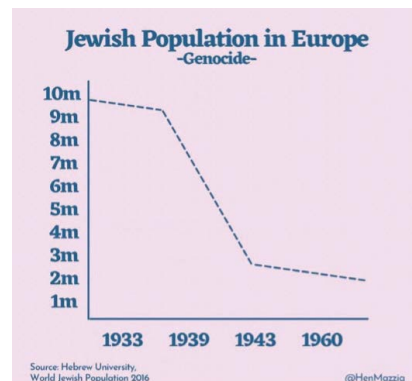
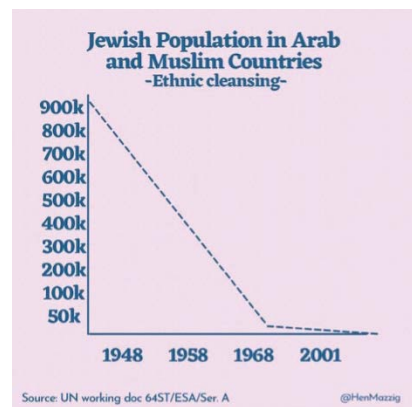
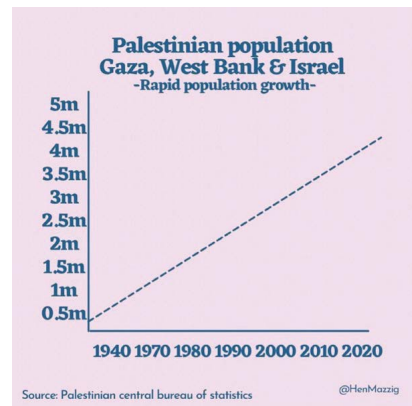
The answer is not complicated. Arabs residing in the “West Bank” and the Gaza Strip are citizens of the Palestinian Authority and Hamas regime (respectively). They are not now—and never have been—Israeli citizens and, therefore, cannot claim rights due to Israeli citizens. All countries favor their own citizens vis-à-vis non-citizens. Moreover, many Arabs in the “West Bank” and the Gaza Strip are engaged in an ongoing armed conflict with Israel. Israel is faced with a hostile Arab population which has yet to come to terms with Israel’s existence and which actively seeks to destroy the Jewish State. Because of the ongoing conflict, the relationship of Arabs in the “West Bank” and the Gaza Strip with Israel is governed primarily by the terms of the Law of Armed Conflict. As such, any acts or policies of alleged discrimination by Israel against the Arabs living in the “West Bank” and the Gaza Strip must be viewed through the lens of the Law of Armed Conflict. As long as Israel’s actions and policies comply with applicable international law, they are lawful. Israel’s actions are based on well-recognized national security needs, not racial animus.

“THOSE ROCKETS ARE NOTHING BUT FIREWORKS.”

- The rockets are deadly and have already killed and maimed many Israelis - Jews, Arabs, Druze, Bedouins, Christians and Muslims - and destroyed many homes, buildings, schools, synagogues, and playgrounds. Many Palestinians have been killed by Hamas and Islamic Jihad rockets that fell short of Israel and landed inside Gaza. These rockets have a range of approximately 150 kilometers. Jericho, a city on the far right end of Israel is 100 kilometers from Gaza, meaning these rockets can reach anywhere across the country.

“ISRAEL IS ETHNICALLY CLEANSING PALESTINIANS.”

- Ethnic cleansing is “the mass expulsion/killing of members of one ethnic/religious group in an area by those of another.” We will let the numbers speak for themselves:



“ISRAEL’S RESPONSE IS DISPROPORTIONATE.”

- You are correct – Israel has continuously demonstrated incredible restraint. A “proportional response” from Israel would mean that the IDF goes into the homes of innocent Arabs and kills whole families including babies, rapes teenagers, and kidnaps and tortures the elderly. Is this the proportional response you are seeking?
- “Proportionality” has a distinct meaning in international law which Israel adheres to. The rule of proportionality requires that the anticipated incidental loss of human life and damage to civilian objects should not be excessive in relation to the concrete and direct military advantage expected from the destruction of a military objective. If Hamas kills 1,500 Israelis, and Israel then kills 150,000 Palestinians, that is not necessarily disproportionate or unlawful. It has nothing to do with comparative death rates.
- The Israel Defense Forces has teams of military and legal experts who approve every military strike, some of which are called off due to the excessive harm anticipated to civilians. Israel’s record in protecting civilians in modern urban warfare has been widely praised by other countries, who send their military advisors to Israel to learn these practices.

“ISRAEL IS STRONG AND GAZA IS POOR. IT’S NOT FAIR.”

- There’s nothing fair about war. This war shows that Gaza’s poverty has not deterred Hamas from amassing rockets, ammunition and technology that has resulted in over 1,400 dead people in Israel (Jews and people of other nationalities), almost 3,000 injured, and more than 200 kidnapped for torture. Hamas has stolen from its people and is using funds that should have been put towards building infrastructure to better the lives of its people, to fulfill its publicly stated mission of wiping Jews off the face of the earth.

“BUT THERE ARE WAY MORE DEATHS ON THE OTHER SIDE.”

- The casualties of war are determined to be on the hands of the aggressor who began the war, as determined by the International community in every other war. Hamas launched this war. Any deaths on either side IS THEIR RESPONSIBILITY. This war, which traces back to 1948, began when five Arab nations invaded Israel immediately following the announcement of the independence of the state of Israel on May 14, 1948. This war was a byproduct of Arab rejection over

the International approval of a Jewish state. The Arabs in Israel were also offered their own country (a two-state solution) but the Arab leaders refused to accept.

- Israel protects its civilians by building bomb shelters. Hamas is using schools, hospitals and mosques as their base of operations. Hamas wants maximum casualties of civilians on both sides.

“ISRAEL IS KILLING CIVILIANS IN GAZA.”

- Israel has a huge challenge right now, because Hamas and Islamic Jihad hide their bases and equipment inside civilian buildings, including schools and hospitals. Despite this, Israel goes to extreme efforts to avoid casualties. Israel is extremely precise in its targets, and always gives civilians advance warning, by first calling people in the vicinity to warn them hours ahead, and then giving an additional five-minute warning with a safe “tap” on the roof. This is why there are so many videos of Gaza buildings falling; everyone around knew it would fall.
- On the other hand, 1 in 4 of the rockets Hamas and Islamic Jihad shoot into Israel fall short, and land in Gaza. These fall on civilians with no warning siren and have killed many innocent women and children.
- Israel only kills Hamas militants and commanders who are actively trying to kill Israeli civilians.

“GAZA DOESN’T HAVE BOMB SHELTERS.”

- If they didn’t shoot rockets at Israel, they wouldn’t need any.
- They do not have bomb shelters because Palestinian leadership spends their money and resources trying to kill as many Jews and Israelis as possible, at the neglect of their own people. The rockets cost \$45,000 each. Hamas is spending over \$31 million dollars a day attacking Israeli citizens and paying the families of terrorists that stab and murder Jews, instead of protecting their own.
- Hamas, as the government of the Palestinians, is responsible for protecting their people, not Israel.

“LOOK AT THESE HORRIBLE PICTURES OF DEAD CHILDREN IN GAZA.”

- It is heartbreaking to see the death of children in Gaza, just as it is to see the death of children in Israel. If Palestinian leadership cared more about their children than they did about killing Jews, there would be no pictures of dead children.

- As for the pictures, do a reverse Google search; more often than not, those pictures are actually from Syria and other war torn countries.

“ISRAEL TOOK OVER AL AQSA.”

- The Al Aqsa Mosque is in Israel and is built on top of the Temple Mount, the holiest site in Judaism.
- Despite this, Jordan, through the Waqf, controls who has access to Al Aqsa. Israel is in charge of security on the premises – that’s it!
- Cynically, Hamas and other terror groups have used Al Aqsa Mosque as base to store weapons that terrorists use to attack Jewish worshippers at the nearby Western Wall. This has led Israeli police on a few occasions to enter the Mosque to prevent attacks. The terrorists are doing this to generate headlines that further incite global opinion against Israel.

“ISRAEL MAINTAINS AN ILLEGAL OCCUPATION.”

- In 1967, tiny Israel was simultaneously attacked by Egypt, Syria and Jordan. Miraculously, Israel came out victorious, while Jordan, Egypt, and Syria fled. Israel, despite having been attacked, returned most of the land they won in this defensive war in exchange for peace, and only kept buffer zones for safety. In 2005, Israel completely evacuated Gaza, removing 8,000 Jews from their homes, in hopes that Gaza would become a peaceful Palestinian state. As for Judea and Samaria (“the West Bank”), the partial control Israel has there was agreed to by the Palestinian leadership in the internationally recognized Oslo Accords.
- To this day, there is no Israeli presence in Gaza. Israel merely shares a border with Gaza, which has been firing rockets upon rockets ever since Israel left.

“ISRAEL IS CUTTING OFF WATER AND ELECTRICITY TO GAZA.”

- Any water supply or electricity issues are not the responsibility of Israel, as Israel does not have authority over the region. In general, if Gazans do not have water or electricity, it is because their leadership is not providing them with any.
- Right now, Israel is at war and must use any defensive means at its disposal to stop the murder, kidnapping and torture of innocent civilians. In this case, cutting off electricity to the region significantly impairs Hamas’ ability to murder and kidnap more Jews.

“ISRAEL BUILDS HOMES IN THE WEST BANK.”

- The “West Bank” is a colonialist term. In 1950, after Jordan illegally occupied the region during the 1948 War, the Jordanian government invented “West Bank” as a way to politically tie the area to the rest of Jordan (the east bank of the Jordan river). “West Bank” was also a way to disconnect the area from its indigenous, and historically Jewish, name, “Judea and Samaria.” Jews have lived in this area for 3,000 years. Expecting Jews to leave is expecting ethnic cleansing of Jews from their indigenous land.
- As for the homes built, or “settlements” as many call them, Israelis (both Arabs and Jews) live in Israeli towns in areas that take up no more than 3% of Judea and Samaria. The issue has never been about these Israeli towns, as Palestinian leaders continue to claim Jews have no history in the land, and they’ll never recognize a Jewish state, no matter its borders.

“ISRAEL MAINTAINS A SIEGE IN GAZA.”

- That’s literally impossible, since Gaza also has a border with Egypt. Why is Egypt not supplying Gaza with electricity and water? Why is it the responsibility of the people being attacked by Gaza to be the ones to provide it with resources to continue doing so?
- Israel maintains security borders like any other country. You must have a visa to enter. Due to Gaza’s tendency to import rockets, which are used on Israeli citizens, Israel inspects all imports at the border, and allows all safe materials through.
- International law allows nations at war to restrict supplies into a hostile territory as a military strategy, as long as it’s intended to undermine the enemy’s military strength (and not civilians) and if it’s a reasonable possibility that humanitarian aid/food will be siphoned off by the enemy to increase its own strength.

STAND STRONG. THIS IS YOUR HOMELAND, AND YOUR PEOPLE. YOUR FAMILY IN ISRAEL HAVE SO MUCH APPRECIATION AND RESPECT FOR YOU FOR BEING ABLE TO STAND WITH US, EVEN AMIDST ALL THE PROPAGANDA AND PEER PRESSURE.

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