

symbols of inflammatory and defamatory propaganda have been imbued into the world's psyche. The depiction of Islam as a violence-prone religion, with terrorists armed with AK-47s attacking every unsuspecting Westerner, has succeeded. Muslims, PLO, terrorists, Hamas, jihad, fanatics are all interchangeable epithets, thanks to the propaganda Western media like CNN, BBC, FOX and Israeli lobbyists & supporters. The US, having initiated the "Islamic fundamentalist" fear, blames the successful war on the nationalism of the Israelis, and the failure of peace on the intransigence of the Palestinian Muslims.

The devastating Israeli firepower, unleashed largely on Palestinian civilians, is the product of advanced US military technology. The US weapons systems used by the Israelis – including F-16 fighter planes, Apache helicopters, missiles & a wide array of munitions – have been provided by Washington. Other Western countries are attempting to exploit the human suffering turning the Gaza Strip into a temporary supermarket where they could shop for value. It is extremely doubtful if the Almighty will redeem their coupons; the conscious Muslims of the world certainly will **not**.

If the current foreign policy in Palestine is representative of Western civilization & culture, then politicians would do well to recall what befell the Greek & Roman Empires. Nero fiddled while Rome burned. The Americans are fiddling while civilians suffer unmentionable indignities in Palestine. Memorials to the Jewish holocaust & promises "never to forget" are pious pearls of prevarication as this heinous episode of history is replicated. The pens signing the inevitable "ceasefire" will flow with Muslim blood and one must consider seriously whether an unjust peace is better than a just war as Israeli bulls run rampant over hitherto tranquil Palestinian lands, now filled with Muslim graves. The spectators of this blood-sport will come to realize the truth of John Donne's words, some 400 years ago: "No man is an island, entire of itself...if a clod be washed away by the sea, Europe is the less...any man's death diminishes me, because I am involved in Mankind. And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls; **it tolls for thee.**"

### **ACT NOW...Speak OUT; Don't Forget**

It's time. Long past time. The best strategy to end the increasingly bloody occupation is for Israel to become the target of the kind of global movement that put an end to apartheid in South Africa.

A just peace will **not** come about by merely pleading with or trying to persuade Israeli Jews to do the right thing & abandon & dismantle the racist system that endows them with privileges while denying fundamental Palestinian rights. All the closest historical precedents to this

conflict – above all South Africa – remind us that privileged groups don't abandon their privileges just because that's the right thing to do or because they are made to feel bad about enjoying those privileges; they abandon them only when they have no other choice. This case is no different.

A just peace fundamentally requires non-violent, outside pressure to be brought to bear on Israel, which is why for so many people of goodwill around the world, and for the Palestinians, the growing BDS (boycott, divestment, sanctions) movement is a source of such hope. If we don't act then we are also complicit in the savagery visited upon Gaza. For what happens there is the defining moment of our time. It either grants the impunity of war criminals the immunity of our silence, while we contort our own intellect & morality or gives us the power to speak out.

### **Rachel Corrie: Forgotten her..then Remember**

Rachel Corrie, the young American who went to Palestine to defend Palestinians and was crushed by an Israeli bulldozer. "I am in the midst of a genocide," wrote Corrie, "which I am also indirectly supporting and for which my govt [the US] is largely responsible. As she says, if we lived where tanks, soldiers & bulldozers could destroy our homes at any moment & where our lives were completely strangled, **wouldn't we defend ourselves as best we could?** I have had nightmares about tanks/bulldozers outside our house and you and me inside. Sometimes the adrenaline acts as an anesthetic for weeks & then in the evening or at night it just hits me again – a little bit of the reality of the situation. I am really scared for the people here. **I'm questioning my fundamental belief in the goodness of human nature.** Letter to mom 2/27/2003

Let's bond spiritually with Rachel because she has silently spoken with her precious life's blood for all of us. So many of us see wrongs in the world; too few of us set out to right them. In her gentle and compassionate heart was a courage that compelled her to actions that shame those of us who look with horror and apathy on **crimes for which people in the US bear so great a measure of responsibility**; crimes that continue day after day, year after year, generation after generation. Ironically, she (a female David) chose to confront, not with a slingshot in her hand but peace in her heart, a new Goliath in the old land. She had no stones to throw, no weapons to wield, only a young girl's pure & idealistic heart for which she paid an exacting & irreplaceable price.

The Just & Merciful God would **not** allow what she did for the voiceless, homeless & forgotten to fall into oblivion.

**Shame. Seven decades of supplication has not brought justice to the Land with a building of sublime beauty. The Dome of Rock weeps over our hearts of rock.**

# PALESTINE

## For Whom the Bells Toll

**"Murderous blood flows in Israeli arteries,"**

says the grandson of former Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin. Stunning revelation! He does **not** see himself as a Jew or a Zionist and believes that his grandfather **did not make real peace** with Egypt. He speaks the truth; like Moses vs. Pharaoh.

Self-righteousness is a powerful act of self-denial & justification. It explains why the Israeli Jewish society would **not** be moved by words of wisdom, logical persuasion or diplomatic dialogue. And if one does not want to endorse violence as the means of opposing it, there is only one way forward: challenging head-on this righteousness as an evil ideology meant to cover human atrocities. Another name for this ideology is Zionism and an international rebuke for Zionism, not just for particular Israeli policies, is the only way of countering this self-righteousness. ("Israel's Righteous Fury & its Victims in Gaza")

**Palestine is dying.**

The problem isn't Hamas; it's Zionism, the deeply-flawed ideology which leads to bombing children in their homes while clinging to victim-hood. **Ideas have consequences. Gaza proves it. Palestine is being wiped off the map with our apathetic acquiescence. Muslims have mocked their Prophet (p) by disobeying the greatest & best act:**

**"Speak the truth in the face of tyrants."**

Palestine is dying...Do you care?

**The West has failed to arrest the stampede of the Israeli bulls as they ravage Palestine, & stands motionless in their effluvium, confirmation of the moral cesspool asphyxiating its culture & society.**

The Palestinian story is so rarely explained without **disinformation** that it still seems startling when it is stated plainly. Until 1948, the Palestinians were living in their own homes, on their own land – until they were suddenly driven out in a war to make way for a new state for people **fleeing a monstrous European genocide**. They lived huddled and dazed in the 20% of their land they were allowed to keep. They hardly fought back: they wept and dreamed of return. Then in the 1967 war, even these small strips were conquered with tanks and platoons.

Since then, the remaining Palestinian land has been taken & given to fundamentalist settlers who claim it was **given to them by God**. They watched while Israeli Prime Ministers said they didn't exist – “there are no Palestinians”, announced Golda Meir – or described them as animals. Menachem Begin called them “beasts walking on two legs.” Yitzhak Shamir said they should be “crushed like grasshoppers...heads smashed against the boulders & walls.” They tried peacefully resisting, launching a programme of sit-downs/civil disobedience. Yitzhak Rabin responded by ordering the occupying Israeli army to “break their bones.”

There can be no world peace if Palestinians are **not** shown Justice. Lucretius' observation, in the century before Christ, that “so much wrong could religion induce,” was an ominous portent for future civilizations. The murder of thousands of innocent Muslims in Palestine, Iraq & Afghanistan, the thousands of rapes & other vicious attacks, indicate a *coup de grace* to the notions of the supposed higher moral values of Western, Christian & Jewish civilization. Tolerance, pluralism, multiculturalism, democracy & co-existence are all concepts under assault.

It is not just the atrocities & indignities being inflicted upon the hapless Muslims. The intent of the Jews is to destroy an entire Palestinian culture & eradicate, rewrite history. Villages, mosques & schools are being razed. Is the demolition meant to remove all vestige of Muslim heritage in Palestine? Mosques are primary targets as they symbolize the Muslim identity.

The prevalent Western political perception has been that, having little to stop the Israeli aggression & lacking the commitment to use force, nothing can be done at this juncture to reverse it; so it is better to forage around the perimeter of the problem & appear to be active, rather than seize the bull by the horns & risk being gored. The West has failed to arrest the stampede of the Israeli bulls as they ravage Palestine, & stands motionless in their effluvium, confirmation of the moral cesspool asphyxiating its culture & society.

Regardless of the sanitized statements emanating from the White House & the UN, nothing can erase the fetid & feculent odour of their complicity in the genocide. The feeble excuse made that “the US is doing all it can,” is transparent mendacity to placate a horrified public and to attenuate the Administration's guilt. In the obtuse and ossified world of Washington, another metaphor may be apropos to describe the situation. This malignant cancer of Zionism, was diagnosed by the physicians, the Western politicians, at its inception, but they chose to watch and wait instead of performing radical invasive surgery to remove the tumor. To take periodic biopsies and claim now that the cancer has spread over the entire body politic, Palestine, and that treatment is both costly and risky for the surgeons, ignoring the acute distress of the patient, is tantamount to malpractice. Palestine disintegrates with the tacit approval of Western & Islamic governments, despite their sanctimonious rhetoric. Final call to Muslim countries: FORCE is needed to change the evil chemistry of the Holocaust in Palestine.

Efforts for reconciliation are doomed. Watch Abby Martin's videos, as well as Miko Peled's on youtube to understand this. Israel will not bargain or compromise. Israel is driven by an ideology which requires continuous expansion & subjugation. There's nothing anyone can do to change that. The answer to the present crisis lies within Zionism itself, the philosophical underpinning of Jewish nationalism.

In his article, “Israel's Righteous Fury & its Victims in Gaza,” Ilan Pappé, explains Zionism in terms of its effect on Israeli policy vis a vis the invasion of Gaza: “There are no boundaries to the hypocrisy that a righteous fury produces. The discourse of the generals and the politicians is moving erratically between self-compliments of the humanity the army displays in its ‘surgical’ operations on the one hand, and the need to destroy Gaza for once and for all, in a humane way of course, on the other.

This righteous fury is a constant phenomenon in the Israeli, and before that Zionist, dispossession of Palestine. Every act whether it was ethnic cleansing, occupation,

massacre or destruction was always portrayed as morally just and as a pure act of self-defense reluctantly perpetrated by Israel in its war against the worst kind of human beings.

This crisis is Zionist initiated, but Western supported and exacerbated. The current plight of the Palestinians can be blamed on their supposed saviours, the barbaric Western nations, the United States, Britain, France, who are more concerned with **upholding their false democracies**, than protecting the principles of morality, self-determination and the ability of the Palestinians to prevent their annihilation. The obdurate Israelis are being rewarded for their aggression and atrocities, while the West demonstrates its valour and conscience by genuflecting and pleading with the Israelis, to allow *humanitarian aid* to reach the Palestinians who could be blown away with American-supplied artillery the next minute. Strange the dementia of the Western minds.

The West are accomplices to this massacre. This disaster was preventable, had the West been less spineless & cared genuinely for the Palestinian Muslim predicament. Those who believe the US, this most corrupt of nations, would honour justice, need look no further than Gaza to realize its moral bankruptcy. Yet when this latest “episode” of Muslim killing is over *who* will flock to the Dracula US for their cheap entertainment ...**Muslims**, not caring that these vampires are drinking Muslim blood & stealing their oil. How delusional are we when instead of holding on to the rope of justice of Allah we hang on to the thread of injustice of the US.

Why have those (so-called *Islamic* countries) who can really make a difference been mute. In the face of obvious evil, their questionable collective cerebral capacity has collapsed & disengaged from their vocal chords...how can **anyone** ignore the continuous atrocities in Palestine? And the Ummah? How have our duas helped? Does a Muslim husband sit in a room making dua for a child? And the wife in a separate room supplicating for a child? Or do they make dua together and perform an **action** called sex to have a blessed child? If we're hungry do we supplicate for a meal from God? Or do we glorify God whilst **engaged in meaningful work** to earn a meal? Our duas are meaningless if not accompanied by ACTION. After 7 decades haven't we seen our own “supplicating” futility. God awaits our **honourable actions**.

The lack of a coherent policy and the seeming ineptitude of the US suggest a motive; that of a decision to do **nothing** but offer milquetoast moralistic mutterings (their Western version of “dua”) & blame the victims. The

Rachel Corrie:

## **I am in the midst of a Genocide**

Dedicated to the 23-year-old peace activist who was killed on March 16, 2003 when she was crushed by an Israeli bulldozer in the Gaza Strip



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