

Glimpses of Palestine

(Israel War on Gaza 2023-2024)



Published by

RYTHU COOLIE SANGHAM (Andhra Pradesh)

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Foreword

Imperialism is the worst enemy of mankind. Over the past one and a half centuries, imperialism rummaged every inch of Africa, plundered all its resources and pushed it into extreme poverty. It wants to control and take possession of Oil resources and mineral wealth of any country. If you love India, if you want to save all its natural resources for future generations, you must know your enemy, Imperialism, you must know how it operated in Africa and Latin America. Unless you know this, you will not fully understand the continent of Asia of tomorrow and the struggle to be waged against imperialism and the comprador bourgeoisie that cooperate with it.

American imperialism, which became the world policeman and Big Brother after The Second World War, has now become the biggest enemy of the people of all nations. It is now synonymous with wars. It is expanding its neo-colonial policies. While descending into the abyss of humanity for profits, it has physically killed millions of people in many countries. It has destroyed nature and the environment. It divided countries that are neighbours to each other by initially giving voluntary financial assistance, then weapons assistance and then provoking wars. As part of the scramble for international markets and dollar finance investments, it has resorted to many atrocities. It divided the world into favoured nations and adverse nations. It has created many territorial alliances to its own advantage. It has established some international organizations and platforms and proposed their policies and principles of justice. And whenever it feels its interests are at loggerheads with these policies it never hesitates to trample on those own policies.

The end of Second World War has left huge stock piles of chemicals. In order to create a market for these left out chemicals, it used science to transform them into fertilizers and pesticides and marketed their usage as Green Revolution. It exported these capital intensive fertilizers and pesticides to many countries and gradually brought most of their agricultural and industrial sectors under its control. It conceived ideas like patents, on every dollar of investment made in various fields of research to reap compound interests as royalties. In international trade, it coerced all countries to implement policies in their countries that ensure hundreds of times profit to its own capitalist class. This market-dominated policy is now known as the (imperialist) Globalization.

The United States, which has upgraded the old colonial policy, has created some satellite countries, such as Israel, which run under its full control. For decades, it has been nurturing Zionism in Israel and is carrying out brutal attacks on the Palestinians who had provided shelter to the Israelis. The historical facts about these attacks and massacres need to be thoroughly understood by the people of the world, especially the students, the youth, the peasantry and the oppressed, in order to understand how the American imperialists created a Rogue State for their own ends and assigned them the responsibility to commit injustices and atrocities.

In the face of international pressure that prevents the United States from directly attacking countries, it shamelessly uses Israel to carry out those attacks. Research in agriculture, technology, medicine, military, arms and research that is against international law are being carried out in Israel for decades. It continues to create wars for global hegemony and to impose its own capitalist crisis on other countries.

The ceasefire agreement between Israel and the Palestinians on January 19, 2025, resulted in some degree of peace over the past three months. Breaking that agreement, Israel launched a one-sided attack and killed 673 people in a single day on March 18. Of

the 50,000 people who have died in Gaza in the past year, 15,600 are children, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry. The carnage in Gaza has begun again. Israel's foreign minister has announced that the hostage talks will now be held only under fire. Millions of Palestinian citizens are again fleeing their shelters. As always, Israel has been carrying out brutal attacks on hospitals. Teams of medical aid doctors are being targeted and killed and their vehicles are also buried. While the crisis that President Netanyahu is facing internally is also one of the reasons for the latest attacks, the policy developments in these countries after the US presidential elections are crucial.

As long as imperialist capital profitted from globalization, it was hailed as great and everlasting. They propagated catchy slogans like anyone can sell their produce any where in any country. After three decades of fooling about globalization and pulling every country into global supply-chain is streamlined, laissez faire is no more its tool. It now says who ever has the power, gets the control. On the one hand there are military threats, on the other hand there are trade war threats. US President's new sanctions and 'liberation' day tariffs should be seen in this light. In the name of this war of commodities, the American imperialists dream of taking control of every sector of the world and robbing every human being.

It should be noted that due to the changing equations of the imperialist countries, and due to the resistance attacks carried out by the Palestinian 'Hamas' in October 2023, there has also been an increased propaganda to defend Israel's criminal history. In any case, we should base our understanding only on historical facts. During this period there have been unilateral attacks not only on Palestine, but also against many countries. It is this Israel that has attacked Syria and is still doing so. If a superpower attacks a sovereign country, it won't stop at them, it will plunge many countries into war whose intensity depends on the dollars invested. We see fuel prices like crude oil rise due to wars. It doesn't stop there, increased production costs, unsustainable agriculture, closed domestic industries,

rising unemployment All these interconnected chain effects are faced by every country.

So, the people of the oppressed countries of the world are reacting against the wars of imperialist aggression, against their enemy, imperialism. They understand who are righteous and are standing up for the victims. These movements of international solidarity are not new to those seeking world peace. Comrade Lenin had long proclaimed that imperialism is a war of the markets and that only if it was defeated would there be real peace in the world. When new democratic ideas and socialist ideas were progressing all over the world, the people under imperialist aggression used to get more solidarity from the international community. Even now, the way students, youth, toiling people and intellectuals around the world are responding in solidarity with the people of Gaza is somewhat optimistic. There have been large-scale protests in the US and in Israel over the policies and sanctions of their country's governments. These responses will help their people to analyze the pros and cons of the international policies adopted by their respective governments.

This little booklet contains some clear details about Israel's year-long war on Palestine. It contains historical treaties at various stages, the reasons behind them, and the interests of the United States in great detail. It conveys facts to those who have not seen or heard and to those whomade preconceived notions due to propaganda information from pro-capitalist main-stream media. We are publishing this booklet to benefit different sections of the society and the peasantry. We urge you to understand the contents of this booklet as well as the aftermath of the recent attacks and stand in solidarity with the Palestinian people. For the betterment of mankind and for the betterment of society, we urge all the people to respond against imperialists and their stooges attacks and unilateral sanctions on oppressed countries.

6-4-2025

Rythu Coolie Sangham (Andhra Pradesh)
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War on Gaza 2023-24

When we watch TV everyday morning, we see buildings collapsing due to bombings, with huge smoke and dust clouds rising, building debris on all sides of roads, ambulances winding through the people and rubble carrying seriously wounded people, and volunteers running for hospitals with wounded people in their hands. We also see a number of corpses wrapped in white cloths and tied at the ends, wailing of the burka-clad women over dead bodies of children and men, lone surviving children looking around with clueless blank looks, and army men going around with guns in ready positions to fire. We also witness some people distributing hot soup-like liquid to the children crowding at the barrier, innocent children with dented aluminium bowls milling around that charity places, kids carrying some plastic cans containing water, and toddlers trying to grab and swallow something from the disfigured bowls and mothers. We also observe men, women, children, and young people walking on the roads with their belongings (whatever they can tie and carry) fleeing from their once-owned places due to fear of bombings and death. We can spot carts and occasional trucks, fully loaded with desperate-looking people and their meagre essentials, on the roads moving in search of “safe places”.

We are the viewers of these horrible visuals on the TV for the last 425 days — a result of Israel’s war on the Gaza Strip of Palestine,

since October, 2023. Of course, not all TV channels show these because most of them are practically and completely “propaganda channels’. We are referring here to the TV channels Al-Jazeera, French channels, and a few Asian channels which were giving these news day and night all these days, without fear and with integrity. Al-Jazeera is to be specially mentioned for its excellent factual reporting. We are also shown in between the international protests over the Gaza war, protests in Israel against their Prime Minister and UN Security Council meetings on the ongoing Israel’s brutalities.

All this coverage is on the latest round of war declared by Israel on Gaza, which was going on since 7 October 2023. If we take stock of the situation after 425 days of this latest war, the results are :

- ❖ 44,750 people killed in the Gaza strip.
- ❖ 4,06,000 people injured, many severely injured.
- ❖ 70% of the murdered people are women and children
(Recently, an independent investigation Carried out by the UN Human Rights Organisation confirmed that 70% of people killed up to July 2024 are women and children).
- ❖ 180 Journalists and media workers are killed in the Gaza Strip.
- ❖ 233 UN Staff stationed and working in the Gaza Strip are killed.
- ❖ More than 1000 Doctors, Nurses, and paramedical workers killed.
- ❖ Around 750 Palestinians were killed in the Occupied West Bank by Israel’s military (from now on referred to as IDF), and illegal Israeli settlers.
- ❖ Around 11,500 Palestinians are detained in the West Bank by Israeli forces (In the Gaza Strip there are no arrests, only shootings and murders).
- ❖ Around 4,500 people killed in Lebanon — which, from

October 2024 onwards became the latest target of IDF for aerial and ground attacks.

❖ Around 13,000 people injured in Lebanon, many of these are seriously wounded.

Each number above had no parallel even in the bloody history of Israel's earlier wars in Palestine.

The numbers do not tell the full story — each number in the killed must have been a person, who grew up and earning a living through working —have family, kids, home, and aspirations like anybody else in any country in the world. He or She, before being murdered, must have had normal routine of daily life - eating, working, sleeping, playing, relaxing like you and me. This brings us to an important reflection — Just think for a while If it was your house which was collapsing, if it were you and your family fleeing, If it were your children struggling to get soup from a relief centre, and if it was you being carried away with missing limbs. Then the Whole depth and breadth of the tragedy sinks in.

All this is due to the “Genocide” being carried out brutally by Israel since 7th October 2023 for more than 450 days. Genocide is defined as the “Murder of a large group of people, especially those of a particular nation or race’. This is what exactly Israel is doing in the Gaza Strip for the last four hundred and fifty days.

Israel says the attack by Hamas on southern Israeli villages on the border on 7th October 2023 is the reason for its “self-defence’ action. Yes, it was true that Hamas militants attacked some border places of Israel and killed 1,139 (civil and military personnel included) people on that day. And Hamas took 251 hostages on that day, around 120 of them still under captivity. It was tragic. But see, the level of the “self-defence” response by IDF and Israel. It is much worse than the USA's al-Qaeda post 9/11 incidents.

Hamas claimed that their action was a response to the provocation of Israel in attacking and desecrating Islamic Holy Places in Palestine

especially by Itamar Ben-Gvir, leader of Jewish Power Party and Minister of National Security in Netanyahu's current coalition government (with his extreme racist actions and incitements he is really the biggest threat to the National Security of Israel) Of course, Netanyahu and others in power in Israel are no less racist, and no less criminals.

Antonio Guterres, Secretary General of UN, a few months after Israel started its 'response' war, said in his official address that 'Action by Hamas has not occurred in vacuum' and said it happened in the context of seven decades of siege, occupation, and oppression of Gaza and Palestine. This statement was the start of somewhat realistic international response against projection of Hamas as solely responsible for what is happening in Gaza Strip - a propaganda unleashed by Israel, USA, and Western countries.

Let us see this context in detail to realise ethnic cleansing of Palestinians by Israel has not started on 7th October 2023, but way back in 1947 itself, and then onwards.

2. Creation of Israel and Palestine 'Nakba'

2.1 British Mandate :

Ottoman Empire (1299-1922) was created by Osman I, covering the areas now constituting Middle East. Constantinople (modern day Istanbul) was its Capital. It was colloquially known as Turkish Empire.

Ottoman Empire joined World War I in 1914 on the side of Central Powers against the Allied Powers (Russia, France, Britain, and Italy). It was defeated, and was partitioned during 1918-1922 after WWI. Some parts of the Empire became States - Turkey (after National resistance movement), Saudi Arabia, and Yemen.

The League of Nations granted French Mandate for Syria and Lebanon, and British Mandate for Iraq, Palestine, and Trans Jordan. British Mandate was officially established in 1923. According to Article 22 of the Covenant (creating Mandate):

“Certain communities formerly belonging to Turkish Empire have reached a Stage of development where their existence as independent nations can be provisionally recognised subject to the rendering of administrative advice and assistance by a Mandatory until such time as they are able to stand alone.”

Palestine was attached to Britain with this mandate. In 1920, according to the Interim Report to the League of Nations by the British Government, the population of Palestine was appropriately 7,00,000 people of which 4,80,000 were Muslims, 77,000 were Christians, and 76,000 were Jews (“...almost all of them had entered Palestine in the last 40 years”).

At the time of sharing the spoils post-WWI, British Imperialists played their game of colonial character — they promised to create a nation State for Jews in Palestine. This came through the notorious “Balfour Declaration of 1917”.

The UK’s Foreign Secretary, Lord Balfour, wrote to the World Zionist Organisation to inform — “His Majesty’s government views with favour the establishment in Palestine of national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of the object, ...” With their ‘ifs and buts’ notwithstanding, this declaration opened the doors to endless conflict that would soon engulf the country and its people. Britain’s political calculation was to outsmart French in post-war arrangements, and to use strategic location of Palestine to protect Egypt, Suez Canal, and the route to India.

Writer Arthur Koestler famously quipped this as “one nation solemnly promised to a second nation the Country of a third”!

Until 1928, British Government had treated Palestine as a State within British sphere of influence, not as a colony. British decided in February 1947 to quit Palestine and to transfer the Palestinian question to UN. Post World War II, Europe prepared to compensate the Jewish people for the Holocaust that has razed on its soil with a state in

Palestine, ignoring at the same time the gross injustice to the indigenous Palestinians.

Before we come to creation of Israel in 1947, a lot of significant changes and events during British Mandate period should be noted to understand post-1947 tectonics.

2.2 Jewish Immigrations, and Expansion :

Palestine contains holy places for three religions — Christianity, Judaism, and Islam. This great historical heritage had become a curse for the present indigenous people. Jerusalem and Bethlehem are great pilgrimage centres for centuries. “Eretz Israel” is the name for Palestine in Jewish religion, and it was a place for holy pilgrimage for Jews for generations - but not as a land of their own, either mythologically or historically.

Some Jews migrated to Palestine in the early 20th century. Palestinians invited Jews to come and stay with them back in late Ottoman period, who had arrived wretched and penniless from Europe.

But Jewish National Fund (JNF) established in 1901, was the principal culprit for immigrant inflow into Palestine and later for its colonisation. JNF funded rich Jewish diaspora to buy Palestine lands and settle Jewish immigrants. Rich feudal Arabs sold thousands of acres of land to Jews without any long-term considerations. Thus, Jewish immigrants became a significant minority in Palestine by the time Britain took over Mandatory.

Flood gates for Jewish immigration into Palestine were opened with the Balfour declaration. The complicity of British administration and encouragement to Jewish immigrants were used by Mandatory power to control Palestine.

Palestinian opposition to Jewish settlers and British government gradually increased with the realisation of real intentions of settlers. It resulted in Palestinian uprising in 1929 against Britain. With brutal

and ruthless attacks on Palestinian countryside, British military subdued the revolt during 1933 to 1936. Many villagers were arrested and killed. Palestinian leadership was exiled, paramilitary units conducting guerrilla war were disbanded. (The absence of Palestinian leadership and fighting units gave Jews an early ride on Palestinian villages in 1947 and 1948). Meanwhile, Jews were preparing their secret plans to colonise Palestine after British leave. They co-operated with British in suppressing Palestinian Revolt, and in the World War II. Ben-Gurion was the leader of Jewish plans, and master minded the later ethnic cleansing of Palestinians. (Ben-Gurion is in many ways the founder of Israel State, and was its first Prime Minister). Jewish Agency created paramilitary organisation called “Hagana” (literally means ‘defence’) of the Jewish community in Palestine. It became quickly military arm of Jewish Agency and Jewish Consultancy. Two other extreme groups operated — called “Irgun” and “Stern Gang”. A special Commando unit called “Palmach” was founded in 1941 for ethnic cleansing of Palestinians.

British helped Jewish Agency in two ways — by helping Jews to build military organisations and training them. Secondly, by destroying the Palestinian leadership and its defence capabilities when they suppressed 1936 Revolt. This help enabled ethnic cleansing of Palestinians by Jews later.

2.3 Preparations for ethnic cleansing and settler colonisation :

Ethnic cleansing is a well-defined policy of a particular group of persons to systematically eliminate another group from a given territory on the basis of religious, ethnic or racial origin. Such a policy involves violence, and very often connected with military operations. It involves massacres (as a part of genocide), and unplanned massacres as a result of hatred created. Political leadership delegates the implementation of ethnic cleansing to the military or vigilante groups.

Jewish leadership's goal, prior to 1947, was to establish a Jewish State in all of Palestine. For that to happen, they had to get rid of 80 to 90% of population of Palestine who are native Arabs. Hence, they had to resort to ethnic cleansing. The Zionists prepared in two ways — one, to create violent armed groups, and the second — to collect all information about Palestine as intelligence gathering.

Village Files : Zionist experts build up by 1930s detailed files for each of Palestine's villages. Details recorded were topographic location of each village, its access roads, quality of land, water springs, main sources of income, its socio-political composition, names of mukhtars, its relationship with other villages, the age of individual men, and many more. An important category was an index of "hostility" towards Zionist project decided by the level of village's participation in 1936 revolt. There was a list of everyone who had been involved in the revolt, and the families who had lost someone in the fight against the British. Particular attention was given to people who had allegedly killed Jews.

Post 1943, the files included detailed description of husbandry, cultivated land, number of trees in plantations, the quality of each fruit grove, the average amount of land per family, the number of cars, shops, workshops, and names of artisans.

Meticulous detail was added about political affiliations, social stratification between notables and common peasants, and names of civil servants in the Mandatory government

The final update of the Village Files took place in 1947. it focused on creating 'wanted persons' in each village. Criteria were involvement in the Palestine National Movement having close ties with the leader of the movement the Mufti al-Hajj Amin al-Hussayni, and having participated in the actions against British and Zionists.

These Village Files and information fuelled worst atrocities in the villages during 'Nakba' of 1947-48, which followed the UN's resolution on Palestine Partition Plan.

2.4. UN's Resolution on Partition of Palestine, and creation of State of Israel:

British transferred the problem they created to the young and inexperienced United Nations (UN), to continue their manoeuvres from behind. UN established a Special Committee on Palestine (UN-SCOP) which recommended establishment of two States of Israel and Palestine. Jews wanted their State in the whole of Palestine. UN Partition Plan allotted 56% of land to Israel, 42% to the Palestine, and rest — Jerusalem to be international city under direct UN control. Palestine consisted of West Bank and Gaza.

The Arab League (the regional inter-Arab States organisation), and the Arab Higher Committee (the embryonic Palestinian Government) decided to boycott negotiations with UN-SCOP and did not take part in the deliberations on how to implement UN Plan.

UN adopted its Partition Resolution on 29th November 1947, and it became UN-GA Resolution 181. As per this Resolution, Palestine was divided into three parts with population of 8,18,000 Palestinians and 10,000 Jews. Israel was also made of three parts with population of 4,99,000 Jews and 4,38,000 Palestinians. Jerusalem was to be a small enclave with a population of 2,00,000 equally divided between Palestinians and Jews.

By drawing the Map as they did, the UN Members who voted in favour of the Partition Resolution contributed directly to the crime that was about to take place. UN abandoned the people whose land they had divided and whose welfare and lives they surrendered to Jews, who since late 19th century wished to uproot them and take their land in the Country which they deemed as theirs. The support of USA and USSR to the UN Partition Resolution gave legitimacy to the establishment of the State of Israel, regardless of the wishes of the Arab population.

Israel's strategy was, and is, to achieve a homogenous State with smallest possible Arab minority in the largest area of Palestine.

Hence, it accepted UN Partition Plan tactically, and immediately started to find ways to implement its strategy. Declaration of independence and formation of Provisional Government of Israel occurred on 14th May 1948.

Neither the Palestinian Arabs nor the Arab League (an alliance of Arab States) accepted the UN Partition Plan. Upon adoption of UN Resolution, local Palestinian Arab fighting units emerged, and Arab Liberation Army was formed. By the end of British Mandate, almost all of cultivated land in Palestine was held by indigenous population - only 5.8% was in Jewish ownership in 1947. Palestinians felt deceived by UN. The promised Palestinian State never came into being. Instead, the land not occupied by Israel was taken over by two countries — the West Bank and half of Jerusalem by Trans-Jordan, and the Gaza strip by Egypt. This remained the case until 6-day War of 1967.

Israel started preparations to achieve its goal the moment British declared their exit, even before UN Resolution. It had to get rid of a lot of Palestinians, and capture maximum land. Thus started Palestinian ‘Nakba’.

2.5. The Nakba of 1947- 49 :

“Nakba” in Arabic means “the catastrophe”. Wikipedia describes Nakba as: “The Nakba is the ethnic cleansing of Palestinian Arabs through their violent displacement and dispossession of land, property, and belongings, along with the destruction of their society, and suppression of their culture, identity, political rights, and national aspirations. As a whole, it covers the fracturing of Palestinian society and the long-running rejection of the right of return for Palestinian refugees and their descendants’.

The Zionist leadership planned on all fronts for its goal of colonising Palestine — the “settler colonisation’. In the late 1946, Jewish Agency embarked on intensive negotiations with king Abdulla of Jordan to make certain portions of Eastern Palestine to become

part of Greater Jordan. Abdulla in turn promised not to join any all-Arab military operation against the Jewish State.

Ben Gurion was the real villain in the whole story. In December 1947 he wrote — “The Palestinian Community in the Jewish area would be ‘at our mercy’, and **anything Jews wanted could be done to them, including “starving them to death”**. The Zionist leadership incited armed gangs in the name of Holocaust, and declaring ‘second Holocaust’ is imminent and coming. Hagana, Irgun, Palmach and Stern Gang implemented worst atrocities during subsequent ethnic cleansing.

Ben Gurion gave instructions to them that — “Every attack has to end with occupation, destruction, and expulsionduring operations there in no need to distinguish between guilty and non-guilty ... **we need to harm them without mercy, women and children included.**”

As soon as UN Partition Plan was declared, the Jewish armed militias and gangs moved in to secure the lands allotted to them — not normally by takeover, but destroying and driving away indigenous Palestinians. In 1948 Jewish troops used the “Village Files” (created by Zionists from 1930s onwards and updated in 1943 and 1947) to hunt Palestinians. They conducted search and arrest operations as soon as they occupied a village. The men in the village would be lined up and those appearing on the lists would then be identified. They used the same persons who earlier had informed on them, but who would now be wearing a cloth sack over their heads with two holes for their eyes for identification of ‘listed’ persons. (Cloth sack is not to get informers recognised by villagers). The men would be picked out and shot on the spot. They destroyed homes, mosques, and public buildings. They forced the people to flee.

In Jaffa houses were randomly selected and then dynamited with people still in there. Haifa, the only port city of Palestinians was given by UN to Israel. In April 1948, Jewish militias “eliminated” 75,000 Palestinians of the port city. In May 1948, Hagana injected

Typhoid germs into the water going to Acre town. They also tried to poison the water supply in Gaza on 27th May 1948.

During 1948 Nakba, 531 villages, and 11 towns and urban neighbourhoods were destroyed and their inhabitants expelled under the direct orders of “Jewish Consultancy” put in place in March 1948 (to become future government of Israel).

Arab armies (from Iraq, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, and TransJordan) entered Israel and attacked on several fronts. Until May 1948, both sides of war were poorly equipped. The newly found Israeli Army, with the help of country’s Communist Party, received large shipments of heavy arms from Czechoslovakia and Soviet Union. By early 1949, Israeli fighting forces proved their superiority. They preserved the new born State, and also obtained additional territory before entering into peace negotiations. The separate treaties signed with each of the warring Arab nations demarcated military truce lines, which before long became de-facto political boundaries.

The territory acquired during wars of 1948 and 1949 expanded Israel’s area by almost 40% as compared to original UN allotment. Between end of 1947 (and through 1949), 6,00,000 to 7,00,000 Palestinian Arabs were evicted or fled from areas that were allotted to the Jewish State or occupied by Jewish forces. Elites and rich people emigrated to other Arab countries, but hundreds of thousands of others were driven out by Jewish army and militias.

Reacting to the plight of Palestinians, UN-GA adopted Resolution 194 on 11th December 1948, which stipulated return of refugees. But one million refugees ended up in the camps, even to this day. Israel and USA continue to violate implementing this UN resolution. There was by then International Refugee Organisation (IRO) of UN, to deal with post-WWII refugees. But Jews wanted to keep IRO out of Palestinian refugees, because IRO works always for repatriation of refugees. That is how UN-Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) came into being to deal with mainly Palestinian refugees. It

was not mandated to work for return of refugees to their original lands and villages. (More about Israel's contempt for this UNRWA during recent war later). By 1990, there were over four million Palestinian refugees dispersed in the occupied territories, Arab States, and elsewhere in the world. Israel moved closer to its target of occupying the whole Palestine with its war in 1967, and then onwards with each war and aggression it carried out in Palestine.

3. Israel's wars, expansion, and Annexations :

Israel continues to regard itself in terms of Holocaust, as a victim of unconquerable, blood-thirsty enemy. Hence, whatever Israel does, it justifies as last-ditch self-defence. That is how Zionists incite their people and army with jingoistic national pitch. (But note it, Israel does not fight with those criminal European States which carried out Holocaust, but target the weaker and vulnerable — a feature of all fascist regimes). Also, since 1948, the Israeli Army and government searched for adequate pretext for any massive operations against Palestinians.

The most significant war waged by Israel on Arab states was in 1967 - the third Arab-Israeli war. (the second war was the combined tripartite aggression on Egypt by Israel, France, and Britain in the name of avenging refugee attacks).

The youngsters who bore the scars of Nakba and became refugees, established in October 1959 "Palestinian Liberation Movement. It was named "Fatah" — reverse acronym of its Arab name "Harakat al-tahrir al- Filastiniyya". The Fatah was founded in great secrecy. Fatah's goal was to liberate the whole of Palestine and destroy the foundations of what it termed as 'Colonialist Zionist occupation state and society'.

Establishment of Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) with Yasser Arafat as its leader was announced in May 1964. Palestinian National Covenant is the founding document of PLO. The covenant

asserted that UN Partition Plan and establishment of Israel were illegal acts, and it called for the liberation of all of Palestine as an Arab homeland.

PLO organised and conducted individual attacks in Israel, its members entering from Syria, Lebanon, Egypt, and Jordan. The mass sympathy to the Palestinian cause and PLO grew tremendously in all these countries. This forced these four Arab states to denounce Israel and plan for attack, more as a “sabre rattling”. Israel conducted a massive air and ground attack in 1967 against these Arab states, as a pre-emptive war. The war started on 5th June and ended on 11th June with a ceasefire. The 5th June air strikes destroyed most of the Egyptian Air Force, while it was on ground itself. Israeli air strikes also destroyed two-thirds of Syrian Air Force. Jordan forces pulled back leaving West Bank and Jerusalem.

Israel occupied Sinai, part of Gaza, West Bank, Golan Heights, and Jerusalem — they are all gains to Israel from 1967 war. Israel never left any of these annexations even after truce deals with each State were reached, except Sinai.

The 1967 war resulted in 40% more land in the control of Israel compared to original UN Partition Plan. All subsequent “Peace accords” were on how to ratify these annexations and on how to force Palestinian delegations to accept them. Incorporating West Bank and Gaza Strip within Israel had been Israeli plan since 1948, and was implemented in 1967.

Again in 1982, under the famous excuse of “self-defence” with armed aggression, Israel conducted heavy air raids on PLO infrastructure in Lebanon — followed by massive invasion of Lebanon. 40,000 Palestinians and Lebanese were killed, tens of thousands wounded, and hundreds of thousands were left home-less. All this was to liquidate PLO, and eliminate Palestinian leadership permanently.

And on another plane, Post-1982, Israel supported Hamas to undermine the secular PLO.

The map showing the UN allotments, and illegal annexations and occupation by Israel from then on is given at the end of this paper as Annexure. This map is reproduced from the written Statement submitted by the State of Palestine to International Court of Justice in July 2023.

3.1 The Peace-Accord dramas:

The Peace Accords and summits brokered by USA for peace in Palestine were always a farce, and they were to protect the expansion of Israel in the land of Palestine. Madrid Conference of 1991, Oslo Accords of 1993, and Camp David Summit of 2000 were always aimed at pressurising PLO to accept Israeli conditions. Denial of Palestinian identity, rejection of Palestinian Arab State, and the refusal to acknowledge the leading role of PLO as the representative of Palestinian people - excluded the real options for peace.

The year 1948 and return of refugees to their lands were excluded from peace agenda; and the peace processes were always aimed at the areas occupied by Israel in 1967 war. Clinton (of USA) and Hosni Mubarak (of Egypt) cheated Arafat with Oslo Accords. Oslo in 1993 and Camp David in 2000 left Palestine with no sovereignty or economic independence, and no solution to the fate of Jerusalem or the refugee problem.

Oslo Accords were marked by Israel freezing Gaza Strip as 'enclave'. Israel held, and continues to hold till today, the water and electricity infrastructure of Gaza. Oslo Accords also established that Gaza and West Bank are indivisible territorial unity, whose integrity cannot be broken up. Since then, US and Israel have been dedicated to separate Gaza and West Bank in violation of accords that they had designed and accepted.

USA and Israel always labelled Arafat as 'terrorist' not as a leader of national liberation movement of Palestinians. Opposing militarily powerful enemy (i.e. Israel which does not care for any

agreements), Opposed to USA, the biggest thug in the world, backing Israel, depending on the backing of dishonest, reluctant, and unwilling Arab states - Arafat had really no options than to agree to some sort of foothold in his own country, Palestine. Finally, Israeli Army confined Yasser Arafat to Ramallah compound for over two years from 2002, until his death in November 2004.

Israel's Peace is conditional — Palestinians should give up all their hopes for return of refugees, hope for equal rights for Palestinians in Israel, hope for restoring the status of Jerusalem, and hope for normal life as human beings in their own home land. If this condition is accepted by any Palestinian representative, Israel will 'magnanimously' grant peace - and USA will guarantee it.

The sincerity of Israel and USA can be gauged from the historical fact: In 1976 USA vetoed a UN Resolution (incorporating same basic wording of UN Resolution 242 of 1967) calling for a Palestinian State alongside Israel. From then on to the present, US has blocked the possibility of diplomatic settlement — i.e., a "two-state solution". Clinton even went a step further to call UN Resolutions "obsolete and anachronistic". (Do not believe some noises US Presidents, and their Ambassadors make, whenever USA is getting badly isolated diplomatically, about 'Two-State solution' - they are insincere cheats).

This brings us to the question of why USA supports Israel to this senseless illogical level, ignoring horrible actions Israel conducts against Palestinians, and other Arab States. Let us examine.

4. USA's Policy and support to Israel :

The policies and actions of USA with respect to Israel and Middle East are decided by many factors. A few major factors are: USA's economic interests in terms of military, arms, and ammunition industries; Influence and actions of Israeli Lobby in USA, Christian fundamentalist influences, USA's oil interests in Middle East; and the general Islamophobia deliberately created after 9/11 terrorist attacks on USA.

Since 1949 and up to 2005, USA passed to Israel more than \$100 Billion in grants (equal to Indian Rs. 1 lakh crore with dollar average exchange rate over the period), and \$10 Bn as loans (Rs. 10,000 crores). Further Bush provided \$21 Billion (Rs. 95,000 crore with exchange rate of 2006) military aid to Israel. Obama gave \$30 Billion (Rs. 1,35,000 Crores with exchange rate of 2010) as unconditional military aid to Israel.

This is a huge bonanza to US arms manufacturers, who fund the US Presidential candidates with large donations as investments. Biden is still worse - he gave military aid of \$17 Billion in 2023 alone to Israel (equal to Rs.1,40,000 Cr.) - that is in the year Israel started Genocide in Gaza. As per Council on Foreign Relations of USA, Israel is the largest recipient of US aid. Total aid between 1946 to 2024 equal to \$300 Billion, out of which 220 Bn. dollars is Military aid. Even if we take US dollar to Indian Rupee exchange rate average at 1\$=Rs.50, the military aid total works out to 11,00,000 crore Rupees (Israel used this money to buy military planes, arms, ammunition, tanks, etc., from US mainly, and from Europe partly). This means USA is responsible for Eleven Lakh Crore Rupees worth of crimes of Israel — a great record for a great “democratic champion” of the world! USA is the only country which maintains a large number of Military Bases in other countries. It has large military bases in Middle East - with almost 45,000 military strength. For what purpose do they maintain these bases - to oversee, guide, back-up and assist Israel’s criminal military forces and their genocidal actions against Palestinians; to threaten Arab States into submission; and of course to guard supply of oil from the region. This huge military spending of USA is to maintain and sustain military industrial complexes of US Corporates. It is a fact known to everybody, that US economy will collapse if there is no war or fighting in some part or other of the world. And do not mistake, USA is a ‘great democratic’ country and a ‘great civilised country’!

The second factor is Israeli lobby in USA. The Zionist diaspora in US are richest Jews. They fund US Presidential candidates to

influence US policy in Middle East. American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC) is the Israeli Lobby in Washington. “Near East Policy” journal became the mouth piece of pro-Israel Lobby. The levels of integration of Jews into the American financial, cultural, and academic power are very high.

All politicians in USA are afraid of AIPAC. It succeeded in ending the political careers of many who were critics of pro-Israeli policies. (Like William Fulbright, Paul Findley, etc.).

Under Israeli Lobby’s influence, USA’s Middle East policies were always to protect Israel (and its interests). When Nixon spelled out his doctrine to safeguard the American national interest, it included a total reliance on Israel as the main pillar of US policy in the Middle East. Clinton, under pressure from pro-Israeli lobby, gave Israel a free hand to “develop” East Jerusalem. And Israel settled 2 lakh Jews in the eastern part of the city by transferring and chasing away 2 lakh Palestinians from there.

The third factor is the Christian fundamentalist support to Jews and Israel. There is a solid alliance between Christian fundamentalists and State of Israel.

For the fundamentalist Christians, the creation of State of Israel is the decisive proof that the divine apocalyptic schemes are about to materialise — the return of Jews, their conversion to Christianity, and the second coming of Messiah. These fundamentalists preach for full support to Israel, and hence they are officially dubbed as “Christian Zionists”. Average Christian Zionist believes, and preaches, is “what Israel wants is what God wants”, and “He who stands against Israel, stands against God”. And in USA, (though it being a leader in scientific and technology fields), superstitions and religious dogmatism are much more than our Country. Hence, US policies in Middle East are shaped by this type of Christian fundamentalist faith.

The fourth factor is safeguarding revenues and investments in Middle East Oil. Four US Companies — Standard Oil of California,

Standard Oil of New Jersey, Standard Oil of New York, and Texaco won the first concessions (or contracts) to explore for oil in Saudi Arabia in the first half of Twentieth Century. In 1938, they discovered oil there and in Bahrain. A fifth company, Gulf Oil, found oil a few months later in Kuwait.

As post-WWII agreements, Iran's oil interests were given to the British, but with the Islamic revolution in 1979 and the overthrow of the last Shah of Iran, Britain's interests in particular, and the oil interests of Western powers in general were and continue to be directly threatened. Now British revenues and investments in oil are entirely in the UAE (Dubai and Abu Dhabi).

Hence, US Policy aims at safeguarding the flow of Middle East oil at all costs. Thus, its policies had been conflict and balance between oil interests and pro-Israeli lobby. An advisory to National Security Council of USA stated "if we choose to combat radical Arab nationalists and to hold Persian Gulf oil by force, if necessary, a logical corollary would be to support Israel as the only strong pro-west power left in the Near East".

The fifth factor had been "Islamophobia" created and fuelled by USA post 9/11 — 2001 terrorist attacks on US twin-towers. Instead of concentrating on terrorists, US political leadership directed its "war on Terror" practically as "war on Muslims". They created and carried out propaganda that all Muslims are violent barbarians and messengers of terror. (This helped many fascist forces in the world to target Muslims and marginalise them, including carrying out brutal atrocities on them).

Post 2001, American leadership considered substantial aid to, and fortification of, Israel as the most significant part of its so called "war on Terror". Unfortunately, it is the vulnerable civilians in Palestine who are facing brunt of it.

American journalist, Bob Woodward, in his recent book "War" has quoted US President Biden telling Israel's Prime Minister

Netanyahu that “the perception of Israel around the world increasingly is that you are a rogue State, a rough actor’. After seeing US policies and military aids to Israel, the above looks like “the biggest rogue State and the biggest rogue actor” is chiding his client and “local cop on beat” in Middle East for his rogue actions!

5. The Tragedy called Gaza :

“Tragedy” may be an understatement when we consider the Genocide being conducted by Israel in Gaza for more than one year since 27th October 2023. Gaza was made a “Hell” for Palestinians by Israel during this more-than-one-year war.

Gaza is strategically important for Palestine as one of its principal land and sea gates to the rest of the world. Without Gaza, there is no practical meaning of “autonomy” of Palestinian State or West Bank — which is surrounded by enemy or unwilling allies. Between 1948 and 1967, Gaza became a large refugee camp of Palestinians. It was restricted severely by Israeli and Egyptian policies. Israel occupied Gaza strip in 1967 war, and reduced it to less than half of what was demarcated / notified as Gaza strip by UN in 1948. By 1967, this once pastoral coastal part of southern Palestine became the world’s densest area of habitation

Presently Gaza strip is roughly 41 Km long, and 6 to 12 kilometres wide — roughly less than one third of any of our metro cities. It has a population now of 2.1 million people (i.e., 21 lakh people). Unlike West Bank, there was no chunk of land in Gaza that Israel coveted, and there is no hinterland (like Jordon) to which Palestinians of Gaza can be expelled. This feature is a boon and curse at the same time for Palestinians.

Aerial Sharon, Ehud Barak, Shimon Peres, Tizpi Livni, and Netanyahu — all the Prime Ministers of Israel — maintained the same policy of controlling Gaza strip from outside, and carving West Bank into manageable Bantustan.

The Gaza Strip was encircled with an electric fence by Israel in 1994. Quite promising gas fields were discovered in the Gaza's territorial waters in 2000 by BG Group. Attacks on fishing boats began after this discovery. The regular attacks gradually drove fishing boats towards shore by threat and violence. State owned Israeli Electric Corporation negotiated for 1.5 billion cubic meters of natural gas from Marine Field, located off the Mediterranean coast of Palestinian controlled Gaza Strip — outright stealing of valuable resources from Palestine.

Militarily, the Gaza Strip has seen four full-fledged military campaigns by Israel since 2006.

In 2004, Israel army built the “Dummy City of Gaza” in Negev desert at a cost of US dollars 45 million (equal to Rs. 200 Crore with that year's exchange rate). It had replicas of all streets, Mosques, public buildings, cars, and parking, etc. Israel army was trained there in that ‘dummy city’ in 2006 to fight “improved war” against Hamas.

Violence raged in Gaza from 2004 to 2009. In 2005, Israel withdrew its military forces from Gaza, apparently due to international pressure — but actually to attack Gaza in future more efficiently with minimum losses to its military. A massacre of people of Gaza took place in 2009. Israel conducted “operation First Rains” on Gaza in 2005. There was a ‘cease fire’ agreement in November 2005, which lasted for a few weeks.

In January 2006, the first full free election (in Arab world) took place in Palestine. Hamas won the control of Parliament. US and Israel did not want that. USA, a great “promotor of democracy”, instantly decided along with Israel to punish the Palestinians for the crime of voting the ‘wrong way’. Harsh siege, violence, and other punishments followed. In 2007, Hamas committed even a greater crime than winning a fair election — it pre-empted the planned military coup (organised by USA) and took over Gaza with its own forces. This was described in the West as ‘Hamas taking over Gaza by force’! |

Israel conducted in 2006 the military operations, named as “Summer Rains” and “Autumn Clouds” — cynical names for the bombing of Gaza with heavy artillery and air strikes. In 2006, Israel — with the help of inciting media and jingoistic public mood — used brutal military power against Gaza, to avoid humiliation of Hamas capturing an Israeli soldier as hostage. Israel used forbidden weapons against civilians and indiscriminate and reckless bombing of civilian targets like schools, hospitals, refugee camps.

Since 2000, Israeli forces killed almost 4000 Palestinians including a large number of children. More than 20,000 people wounded. (These numbers look nothing compared to the present Genocide).

On 24th November 2008, Hamas attacked with missiles with three casualties on Israeli side. Israel took this as a justification to bombard one and half million Palestinians of Gaza from 25th November 2008 to 25 January 2009 from air, land, and sea. Israel endlessly repeats that it had the right to use force to defend itself as if nobody else has that right against it (of course, as a regional ‘goonda’ of USA, it feels justified in doing what its master does all over the world).

In April 2014, Palestinians committed another ‘crime’ — Gaza based Hamas and West-Bank based Palestinian Authority signed unity agreement. Israel was infuriated, and launched major assault targeting Hamas in West Bank, this finally elicited Hamas response — and again as a “self-defence” Israel carried out brutal destruction of Gaza.

Israel has straight forward way if it wants to defend itself — put an end to its criminal activities in the occupied territories, and accept long standing international consensus on a two-state settlement (which has been blocked by USA and Israel for over fifty years). Instead, Israel has taken Genocide as strategy against Gaza. Inflicting horrible pain on civilians and starving them as collective punishment is another long-standing doctrine of state terror, in fact its guiding principle. Israel

has turned itself into one of the most hated countries in the world. Its actions are not only criminal, murderous, and destructive, but are also eroding its own long-term security.

Israel continues to enjoy immunity due to blind support of USA, impotence of Europe in the international affairs, and powerless UN to implement its own Resolutions. It is believed that Israel has several hundred nuclear weapons (as per US intelligence), and has been developing chemical and biological weapons. Israel is a true appendage of US power and criminality in Middle East.

Israel's strategy in West Bank is different — it is one of expansion, illegal annexation, maintaining a myth of “Palestinian Authority”, and keeping it as “apartheid” client under its military force. Let us look at it.

6. West Bank, illegal settlements, and ‘apartheid’ system :

While Israel practises ‘Genocide’ as strategy in Gaza, it practises “Settler Colonialism” as strategy in West Bank and other Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT).

Settler Colonialism is the settler movement in already inhabited countries — they destroy the local populations by various means, foremost among them genocide, to recreate themselves as owners of the country, and reinvent themselves as native population. Examples are USA, New Zealand, and Australia. Israel is the latest case before our own eyes.

Since 1967, Israel has established hundreds of settlements to which hundreds of thousands of Jews (Israeli Citizens) have been transferred and implanted to create permanent facts on the ground as a basis for claiming “sovereignty” over West Bank and Jerusalem. Starting from 5000 settlers in 1970, today there are 4,65,000 Jewish settlers in more than 270 Israeli settlements in West Bank. In addition,

there are 14 settlements in East Jerusalem with a Jewish settler population of 2,33,000.

Israel constructed in 1990s a “separation wall” that incorporates parts of West Bank into Israel. The wall incorporated some of the richest agricultural lands of West Bank and 1,00,000 Palestinians to Israeli side with constant harassment and violence from new settlers. The Palestinians, sometimes were paid compensation for the confiscated agricultural lands equal to market value of one year harvest!. UN special Rapporteur stated in its Report of 2018 — “throughout the years of occupation since 1967, Israel has continuously entrenched its de-facto annexation of the West Bank by imposing intentionally irreversible changes to occupied territory that are proscribed by International Humanitarian Law — the establishment of settlements, the physical and political enclosure of 2.6 million West Bank Palestinians; the extension of Israeli laws to West Bank; creation of a discriminatory legal regime; the unequal access to natural resources, social services, property and land for Palestinians in the occupied West Bank’ .

The International Court of Justice (ICJ) in its “wall opinion” delivered in July 2004 ruled — “The construction of wall by Israel in the OPT, including in and around East Jerusalem, and associated regime are contrary to international law; and Israel is obliged under the law to cease construction of the wall, to dismantle it, and make reparations for the construction”. And what is the response of Israel? — three hoots to ICJ!

UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA) reported that between 2009 and 2022, the number of Palestinian-owned structures in the West Bank which had been demolished by Israel stands at more than 7500, resulting in more than 10,000 Palestinians homeless. Huge, US supplied bull dozers were called into action to destroy dwellings, fields, olive groves, and all existing structures. These policies and actions made Israel ‘synonymous with bull dozer’.

Israel neither regards itself, nor behaves, as a temporary occupant of West Bank. It treats Palestinian West Bank as its own “sovereign” territory, which Israel claims it is entitled to control, to exploit, and to rule for ever. By constructing roads, hundreds of kilometres of walls and other barriers, Israel has sought to bind all illegal Jewish settlements to each other and to Israel itself, creating “fait accompli” on ground. Israel is attempting to radically and permanently alter the character, status, and demographic composition of West Bank. It is doing now what colonial powers have unlawfully done throughout history in others’ Countries.

Israel insists what it does, it does in the name of Judaism. But Judaism was a religion - not nationality, Zionism is a colonialist movement - aggressive and expansionist, racist and segregationist, fascist in its aims and means. Israel today segregates, separates, and discriminates openly on the basis of ethnicity, religion, and nationality.

The Palestinians are offered only two options by Israel (and of course USA). 1) To accept life in an Israeli open prison and enjoy limited autonomy and the right to work as underpaid captive labourers without any rights in Israel, or 2) To resist, even mildly, and risk living in a maximum- security prison, subjected to instruments of collective punishments, including house demolitions, arrests, expulsions, assassinations, and murders.

To cover these blatant and barbaric actions, the “civilised” Western Countries and their TV channels create a lot of myths to ‘manufacture consent’ from middle class intellectuals. They project themselves as ‘peace promoters’ and others who are opposing them as ‘terrorists’.

Any criticism of these myths is branded as “anti-Semitism”, by the same countries whose history was full of anti-Semitic horrors.

The Palestinian Authority’s failure to obtain anything by negotiating with Israel and continuing security cooperation while settlement activity increased had undermined its authority and credibility.

That gave rise to armed resistance favoured by Islamists like Hamas and Hezbollah.

This is the context and 80 years of background in which we have to view the attack by Hamas on southern Israel on October 7th 2023. Hamas killed 1139 Israelis (including some army personnel) and had taken 251 people as hostages (about half of them foreign nationals). At the start of war Hamas offered to release all hostages in exchange for Israel releasing all Palestinian prisoners (of around 5000) — but Israel did not accept. Subsequently 117 hostages were released in exchange to some prisoners, still around 100 are in captivity under Hamas, and rest killed in the war as collateral victims. In the words of murdered Hamas leader Yahya Sinwar — “world cannot expect Palestinians to be ‘well behaved victims’ ”.

The response of Israel in conducting most horrible “Genocide” in Gaza is highly and brutally disproportionate to the actions of Hamas. Israel in the last 425 days successfully achieved one great result — the whole world hates not only criminal Israeli government and its military, but also hates anybody who is a Jew and supporter of criminal Netanyahu. This brings us back to look at some significant developments in the on-going Genocide, and important international responses.

7. Significant developments around the Genocide:

In addition to the level of Genocide detailed in the beginning of the paper there are some significant aspects of this latest Israeli war on Gaza. They are listed below with brief description. All are equally significant; they are not listed as per importance. They are:

- ❖ Hamas taking 251 hostages in its attack on 7th October 2023. (May be the experience of 1982 when one soldier of Israel was taken hostage gave them the importance of hostages). The ability of Hamas holding still 100 of them for more than a year, despite terrible attacks by Israel, shows their mass support and their extent of network in Gaza Strip.

- ❖ Displacement of people of Gaza from their houses and places of living under orders and threats of bombings by Israel, is sickening and despicable. Many of them had to flee multiple times, only to find out that there is no safe place in Gaza, or to get murdered on roads or in strange places. The whole plan seems to be 'to wipe out Gaza' by Israel.
- ❖ 70% of more than 44,000 people killed in Gaza were women and children. Almost half of them were children. No curse is sufficient to condemn those rascals who carried out these heinous attacks. Israel in this war is trying to erase from earth one future generation of Palestinians.
- ❖ Importance of Rafah crossing: This check post and crossing between Egypt and Gaza Strip played important role. First - Egypt closed it not allowing Palestinians to flood into Egypt through this crossing when Israel was chasing all Gaza people to south. Second — Israel blocked the humanitarian aid coming through this crossing into Gaza to use 'starvation of people' as a means of war. Third — this crossing was used to send some patients who were critically ill to the Egyptian hospitals for treatment. Finally — this crossing was used by Red Cross to hand over released hostages to Israel.
- ❖ Blocking of Humanitarian aid of food, medicines, and fuel by Israel to Palestinians is criminal act of first grade, before war, hundreds of trucks used to enter Gaza daily, and during war when Israel "granted passage" hardly tens of trucks entered Gaza per day. The worst part was total blockage of North Gaza by Israel after October 2024, and bombing and shelling it daily.
- ❖ condemned to blockage, taking water from puddles and collecting flour from sand. Hope their own God will fry the perpetrators of these crimes in hell!
- ❖ **Attacks on Hospitals :** The worst crime by Israel is targeting and attacking Hospitals. Their excuse is to "hunt down" Hamas cadre -

and Directors of all attacked Hospitals stated that Hamas is not using their hospitals as hiding places. The important Hospitals attacked are

❖ Al-Ahli Arab Hospital

- ❖ Al-Shifa Hospital
- ❖ Indonesian Hospital
- ❖ Al-Quds Hospital
- ❖ Al-Amar Hospital
- ❖ Turkish -Palestinian Friendship Hospital
- ❖ Jordon Field Hospital
- ❖ Al-Awda Hospital, and now latest is
- ❖ Kamal Adwan Hospital

The World Health Organisation (WHO) reported 165 “attacks on healthcare” in Gaza since 7 October 2023. According to Palestinian Ministry of Health, 26 out of 35 Hospitals across Gaza are non-functional due to Israel’s military attacks and cutting-off of power and fuel. Israeli forces have also struck ambulances marked with Red Cross or Red Crescent emblems.

Israel’s brazen, repeated targeting of hospitals has led to the complete breakdown of health care systems, which is already battered by 16- year blockade of Gaza Strip.

❖ **Support to Hamas :**

Only Hezbollah (based in Lebanon), Houti rebels of Yemen, Islamic Group of Syria, and Islamic Republic of Iran gave direct support to Hamas in the Israeli-Gaza war. Of these international supporters, Yemen’s attacks on Israeli-related ships in Red Sea brought Netanyahu’s war to the realm of whole world. Hezbollah’s support is significant due to its strength and commitment through missile attacks on Israel in support of Hamas. Support of Iran is the real deterrent because with chips down, Israel cannot really match and face Iran.

It is unfortunate that no secular country in the world directly Opposed Israel (we are not talking here diplomatic support through UN) and warned it against the worst crimes it is committing.

May be all big countries feel the small and dwarfish Israel is only a fly not worth talking on ~ but unfortunately, they are not seeing humanitarian suffering of, and injustice to Palestinians.

❖ **International Protests by students :**

The University students across the world showed their solidarity with Palestinians and protested against Israel's Gaza War. Many protests are led by Jewish students also in support of Palestinians. (Netanyahu — please note, they are not 'anti-semitic'). Large protests were held in US cities, London, Paris, Berlin, Amsterdam, in Australia, Spain, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Indonesia, etc., by students and Palestinians supporters. They demanded their countries not to supply arms to Israel, and isolate the rogue country Israel. In some of the protests, Jews supporting Israel were also attacked (like in Russia, Amsterdam...). It is very significant that Jewish diaspora (except rich Jews in USA) is against the humanitarian crimes of Netanyahu and his gang. The student protests are a small ray of hope for the future.

❖ **Protests in Israel :**

Right from the start of the war, there were protests in Israel by relatives of captives supported by tens of thousands of others. In a way, they are continuation of earlier weekly protests in Tel Aviv against Netanyahu (against his moves to curb powers of their Supreme Court and taking PM, himself, out of judicial purview). But 'captive-release' protests were led by the relatives of captives. They claimed that Netanyahu is a big hurdle for any "ceasefire & release of hostages" deals.

Of course, there are also Jewish fundamentalist rallies and dances in Israel, whenever IDF murdered or "eliminated" important Palestinian leaders.

❖ **Assassination of Hamas, Hezbollah, and Iranian Leaders by IDF + MOSSAD :**

The Israeli intelligence agency MOSSAD organised and IDF conducted the worst terrorist activity of assassination of important leaders on the soil of foreign countries — Iran, and Lebanon. The top leaders murdered by Israel includes:

- ❖ Smail Haniyeh — of Hamas on 31st July
- ❖ Mohammad Deif of Hamas on 24th July
- ❖ Yahya Sinwar of Hamas on 7th October
- ❖ Hassan Nasrallah of Hezbollah — on 27th September
- ❖ Ali Karaki of Hezbollah on 27th September
- ❖ Ibrahim Aquil of Hezbollah on 20th September

All these leaders were killed by using intelligence gathered by MOSSAD (and aided by CIA) in blatant cross country UAV attacks — ignoring sovereignty of those countries.

Iran attacked Israel with missiles twice, more to show its capabilities, and unwilling directly to escalate the war into Middle East.

❖ **War on Lebanon :** Israel expanded its war to Lebanon in October 2024 by declaring its new “war objective” of eliminating Hezbollah. It bombed Beirut (capital of Lebanon), and southern Lebanon villages and towns almost for forty days. Many doubt all these moves are to provoke Iran and Arab States and to escalate the war, so that Israel can draw USA directly into war. Every time Israel escalates the war, USA advises other attacked countries ‘not to escalate the war’ — such a pity for USA.

Israel is reminding Lebanon its earlier attacks and war in 1982, where a total of 40,000 people died in aerial bombings of Israel. But still support to Hezbollah in Lebanon looks solid for the present.

❖ **Attacks on UN :** From the time UN Secretary General spoke his mind on Israeli-Gaza war (and reminding all the Countries

about the real culprit of the war - Israel), UN had become biggest target for Israel. One feels anger and hatred whenever the TV's show Israeli Ambassador to UN, Danny Danon, speaking with such arrogance creating revulsion. (Equally repelling is US Ambassador, Linda Thomas, in her UN Security Council speeches — both in form and content).

In addition to repeatedly violating UN Resolutions without any guilt, Israel has the audacity to declare UN Secretary General cannot enter Israel — “persona non grata”. Sometimes we feel UN deserves this kicking by the Country which it created (way back in 1947) which had become unfaithful rogue nation.

Israel banned the operations of UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Israel — and by default its operations in Palestine which is under Israel's military control — through a legislation on 28th October 2024. UNRWA is the only agency doing its best possible relief activities to the displaced, hapless victims in Gaza.

UNRWA's relief works are the only help for almost six million (ie, sixty lakh) Palestinian refugees across West Bank, Gaza, Lebanon, and Jordan. It employs 33,000 persons, runs 150 hospitals, and a large number of schools. Six lakh students' study in the schools run by UNRWA.

Part of 'starvation strategy' of Israel is denying even the support from UN. See what it did as part of its Starvation Strategy:

- ❖ Killed 233 UN employees in Gaza.
- ❖ Block the aid trucks entering Gaza.
- ❖ Fire on the people gathered to collect aid.
- ❖ Bomb the school buildings.
- ❖ Fire on UN vehicles and convoys.
- ❖ Siege the whole of north Gaza for more than a month
- ❖ Stop water supply to Gaza.

Finally ban operations of UNRWA. All this points to one fact:

Israel is not a civilized country and does not deserve to be a Member of UN — It should be immediately expelled.

❖ **Attack on Journalists** : Israel military killed 180 journalists and media persons in Gaza since October 7th 2023. IDF labels and brands anybody whom they want to kill, as terrorists, or linked to Hamas, or inciting violence — and they are not answerable to anybody and do not show any proof of their accusations. Of course, most of the TV channels and other mass media of Western countries (and their appendages) are hero-worshippers of worst criminals — real impact of corporate ownership and Hollywood. They are all ‘propaganda media’, and any war or any violence for them has only “Breaking News” value. They care nothing about victims and injustice.

But there are few TV channels — like Al Jazeera and some on-line portals which are credible and truthful. Netanyahu of Israel is a sworn enemy to truth and core practitioner of lies — so naturally they hate truthful reporting. So, they kill good journalists.

In fact, even before Gaza war, in 2022, Shireen Abu Akleh was shot by Israeli forces in occupied West Bank killing her. The Israeli soldiers shot her in head, as she was wearing Press Vest — they shot deliberately to kill her. She was reporting on attacks of Israeli army in the city of Jenin, north of Ramallah. She was Palestine-US citizen. No justice to victim’s family, no answerability for the deliberate murder, and no shame to Israel and USA.

Israel also ordered Al Jazeera to shut down its operations in Israel with an hour’s notice.

❖ **USA’s hypocrisy of highest level:**

During the present Gaza Genocide, USA’s Hypocrisy of highest level is on excellent display. It was everyday telling the victims of the bombing and attacks “Maintain Restraint”, “Do not escalate tensions” and “Israel has right to self-defence”. US President supplied, in addition

to massive arms and ammunition, 'cluster bombs' to Israel — which were banned even in wars — to be used against civilians. He even went to the extent to say that he does not believe in number of people dead in Gaza - He and his country, USA, is blind and deaf by choice. US Secretary of State made Twelve visits to Middle East in this one year of war — only to be bluffed and slapped by Netanyahu every time.

USA vetoed four times UN Security Council Resolutions for ceasefire in Gaza since November 2023 to November 2024 — when all others voted for it. The one Resolution it proposed and got approved unanimously in Security Council was kicked with left leg by Netanyahu.

Still USA has no shame — its President repeats his “iron-clad” support to Israel every time he is slapped by Israel’s PM. The reasons - it wants a ‘local goonda’ in Middle East, it wants money for Presidential elections from pro-Israeli lobby in USA, and it has to protect its military industry complex.

USA (and other western countries) raise hue and cry if one citizen from their country is injured, or killed, or captive — but they do not care for more than 44,000 Palestinians killed, 1,06,000 injured, and whole population is denied every facility in Gaza and subjected to Starvation as a Strategy. Maybe they will invent tomorrow, when they have to exit from guilt, another “Greta Thunberg” to tell them what they did and doing is nonsense and crime against humanity.

❖ **China’s silence** : China, which is going to take world leadership as the ‘era of USA is over, maintained silence all through the present Genocide in Gaza. Of course it worked positively at UN on ceasefire proposals, without splitting hair on language etc., - even it supported USA’s draft resolution in UNSC.

We do not know the reason — maybe it wants solution to come from local population, or maybe it wants Arab states to teach fitting lesson to Israel, or maybe it is worried about its trade with USA. One thing is clear — it did not do any damage to Palestinians by citing

religious fundamentalist leadership which is conducting the fight on behalf of Palestinians.

On the other hand, in July 2024, fourteen different Palestinian factions met in Beijing, and signed an agreement on 23rd July. Peoples Republic of China offered its good offices and facilitated to reach this agreement. The negotiations were witnessed by representatives of Egypt, Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Turkey, and Russia. The main participants in negotiations and reaching agreement are Fatah and Hamas.

According to the agreement, the factions agreed to achieve “a comprehensive Palestinian national unity that included all Palestinian factions under the PLO frame work, and commit to the establishment of an independent Palestinian State with Jerusalem as its capital... with the help of Egypt, Algeria, China, and Russia”.

The declaration also stressed the Palestinian People’s right to resist Israeli occupation in accordance with UN charter, and to thwart any attempt to displace Palestinians from their land.

Malaysia, Pakistan, Turkey also supported the agreement. As expected, USA, Israel, and Germany criticised the agreement.

The future will tell us how effective will be the ‘agreement’ on the ground, and how pro-active will be China.

8. Significant International Responses:

Many countries, except USA and a few Western Countries, are fed up with the brutality and arrogance of Israel in its 450 days of Genocide in Gaza. A few countries and organisations are bold enough to take some action despite the dominating influence of USA. They are

❖ **Diplomatic severance of ties** : Eleven countries have either withdrawn their ambassadors from Israel, or severed diplomatic relations with Israel. They are — Bahrain, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile,

Chad, Colombia, Honduras, Jordan, Turkey, and South Africa. In addition, seven countries severely condemned Israel for its “unacceptable violations of International Humanitarian law — like Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Bangladesh, etc.”

A large number of countries already recognised Palestinian State after Gaza war started and during this one year, nine more countries have recognised Palestine. The above facts show growing international support for Palestinian people’s rights.

❖ **Ceasefire Proposals in UN-SC** : There were 13 ceasefire proposals mooted in UN Security Council during 16 October 2023 to 20 November 2024. USA vetoed four of the proposals — where in all other members voted in favour, or one or two abstained.

Four draft resolutions were passed — one for pauses for aid, second to create conditions for peace, third for cessation of hostilities during last two weeks of Ramadan, and the fourth for ceasefire in three phases. The last one (out of these four) is really for a ceasefire and proposed by USA on June 10th 2024. It was passed, but only to be thrown into dustbin by Israel.

The UN-SC votings and discussions show how USA is isolated diplomatically in the world. We could also see most repulsive speeches by Ambassadors of Israel and USA in all those debates — both in form and content.

❖ **UNGA Resolution** : In an Emergency special session on 9th May 2024, UN General Assembly determined that the State of Palestine is qualified for full membership in UN. It recommended to Security Council to reconsider the matter favourably (as UN-SC Resolution on this subject was vetoed by USA). 143 Member States voted favourably to the Resolution, with 9 voting against - of course including USA and Israel. UN GA also upgraded Palestine’s status to ‘observer State’ in UN.

This move is indicative of support to Palestine, and diplomatic isolation of Israel and USA.

UN GA also reaffirmed the right of Palestinian people to self-determination including the right to their independent State of Palestine - based on pre-1967 borders.

❖ **ICJ, ICC, and HRW :**

The UN General Assembly requested International Court of Justice (ICJ), popularly known as World Court, opinion on the legal consequences of continued occupation of Palestinian lands by Israel. The ICJ in July 2024 gave the opinion / ruling as below: “State of Israel’s continued presence in the Occupied Palestine Territory (OPT) is unlawful. State of Israel is under obligation to cease immediately all new settlement activities, and to evacuate all settlers from the OPT. State of Israel is under an obligation to bring to an end its unlawful presence in the OPT as rapidly as possible”. It also opined that all States not to render any aid or assistance in this matter to the State of Israel.

What else is needed to direct any State, if it is “civilised and law abiding”.

South Africa also petitioned ICJ to declare current Israel attacks in Gaza as “Genocide”. ICJ completed hearings, but is yet to give its verdict.

International Criminal Court (ICC) issued arrest warrants on 21st November 2024 to Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu and Mr. Yoav Gallant for their crimes against humanity and the war crimes committed from 8th October 2023. ICC found reasonable grounds to believe that Mr. Netanyahu, and Mr. Yoav Gallant (who was Defence Minister of Israel till 6th November 2024) each bear criminal responsibility for the war crime of starvation as a method of warfare, the crimes against humanity of murder, persecution, and other inhuman acts. These two denied the Gaza population food, water, medicines and medical supplies, fuel and electricity.

This ruling simply means Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant are mass murderers, and worst war criminals. People should follow up this daring and legally binding ruling of ICC — with suitable punishment which should be historic and which deters other rascals from such acts.

Human Rights Watch (HRW) is a large independent international organisation working as a part of movement to advance the cause of Human Rights. It released a report in November 2024, titled “Hopeless, Starving, and Besieged — Israel’s forced displacement of Palestinians in Gaza”. HRW conducted extensive interviews, and research and came to the following conclusions:

“Israeli authorities have caused massive, deliberate forced displacement of Palestinian civilians in Gaza since October 2023 and are responsible for war crimes and crimes against humanity. There is no plausible imperative military reason to justify Israel’s mass displacement of nearly all of Gaza’s population, often multiple times”.

HRW recommended “Governments should adopt targeted sanctions and other measures to halt weapon sales to Israel”.

They also investigated extensively and concluded that 70% of all those killed were women and children who have nothing to do with Hamas, or on-going war.

All these rulings/opinions/conclusions of ICJ, ICC, and HRW mean only one thing — Israel is war-hungry and trigger-happy racist State backed and supported by bigger monster, USA.

❖ **USA’s two actions in support of Palestinians:** USA carried out two ‘important’ actions — one is to declare sanctions against some Israel settlers in West Bank, and the second is to deploy a floating pier in the Mediterranean Sea to deliver aid to Gaza as Israel was not allowing any aid to reach Gaza by land routes.

The first one elicited angry reaction from Israel for this ‘unjust action’ — though otherwise it was receiving magnanimous help from

USA, militarily, financially, and diplomatically. The issue died down very fast without giving USA any positive propaganda time even.

The floating pier is a technology feat in constructing and deploying it for operation. After a few weeks of use it failed, and it had to be towed away by US Navy. A threat from USA to Israel that it will suspend all support could have brought Israel to senses, and would have brought more aid trucks to Gaza, than this ill-fated technology demonstration.

Both these actions of USA appear to be its Halloween masks and bonfires to ward off spirits of Palestinians (in Gaza) murdered by Israel with US supplied arms and ammunition.

These actions of USA appear to be laughable at the best, and ridiculous at the worst, and unbecoming of a Super power stature of the Country.

9. The Indian Connection :

India was, I repeat was, a strong supporter of Palestinian cause for a long time till “Non-Aligned Movement” was alive and strong. We were the first to recognise PLO as representative of Palestinians, in 1974, after UN affirmed this position officially. Again, we were one of the first few countries to recognise Palestinian Statehood in November 1988.

Later, our relations with Palestinian fights and leaders became lukewarm. The trade and defence exchanges with Israel became more prominent. With BJP coming to power in Centre, the equations fully changed. Major deals with Israel in terms of phone-tapping technologies, and intelligence gathering increased many folds. The port development contracts of Haifa Port were awarded by Israel to Adani’s Company. Military trade increased between both countries. During the current “Genocide” in Gaza, India generally stood with Israel and USA (mainly in UN votings).

The unemployment in the country in general, and in Northern States of India is very high. UP State government organised recruitment of workers and labourers for Israel from India - as the Israel is killing all its Palestinian labour and workers. Hollow preachings by Indian Government about peace to other countries has no relevance to anybody in the World. Nobody takes those preachings seriously.

The Indian TV channels generally ignore the developments in Israel's Gaza war, but when they cover, they display their blind acceptance of Western narrative when it comes to atrocities against Palestinians.

As a large country, and as a candidate aspiring for UN Security Council's Permanent Membership, India should show its independent stand in opposing violation of international agreements and human rights commitments by Israel. Support to fascist regimes does not get us any credit from other Countries.

10. Summary and conclusion:

It is a great tragedy to see more than 44,750 people killed, 70% of them being children and women, and 1,06,000 injured in a small but densely populated Gaza. It is a bigger tragedy to live in a world where no Country challenges this genocide, and punish the rogue nation, Israel. Support of the biggest thug in the world, USA, to Israel gives it the type of arrogance to do anything it wants with impunity.

Historically the Jewish immigrants were given free hand by British Mandatory power to start settler colonialist regime and its secret military groups. The UN Partition Plan in 1947 formalised the occupation by creating state of Israel. The aftermath was the 'Nakba' in which Israel drove away 7,00,000 Palestinians from their lands and villages. The 1967 war resulted in practically 80% of original Palestinian land under the military occupation of Israel, and only 20% of land under Palestinian West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israeli's aggressions, violence, and wars left West Bank to be subservient, Palestinian Authority without any real authority, and Gaza Strip as a large open prison. Rise of Islamic Resistance Group Hamas to power in Gaza is used by Israel as a justification for its repeated "self-defence" with the worst offensive arms and air strikes.

The military, financial, ideological, and diplomatic support by the worst "Rogue and Evil" nation USA to Israel sustains local goonda in the Middle East. Protection of its military — industrial complex and corporates, its oil interests in Middle East, and its neo-imperial interests are the real reasons for USA to support its client Israel, tolerating all its criminal actions. The influence of USA and other (real anti-semitic) European countries could not hide the injustice. The UN, ICC, ICJ, HRW and around 20 countries condemned on-going Genocide, and supported Palestinian cause.

India, presently, strongly supports Israel - materially and with labourers, in spite of babbles about "Peace". We should not stoop down to support all the crimes of Israel to please USA.

There were so many main villains in this history — Balfour (of UK), Ben-Gurion, King Hussein of Jordan, various Prime Ministers of Israel, various Presidents of USA (Nixon, Bush, Clinton, Obama, and Biden making bigger contributions), and top leaders of UK, Germany, France, and Saudi Arabia. It is a pity there is no strong socialist country in the world to punish these villains. The most devilish and hatred rascal is Netanyahu, present PM of Israel. All those who are dead among the villains is that much better for the world, and those living among the villains deserve to be killed.

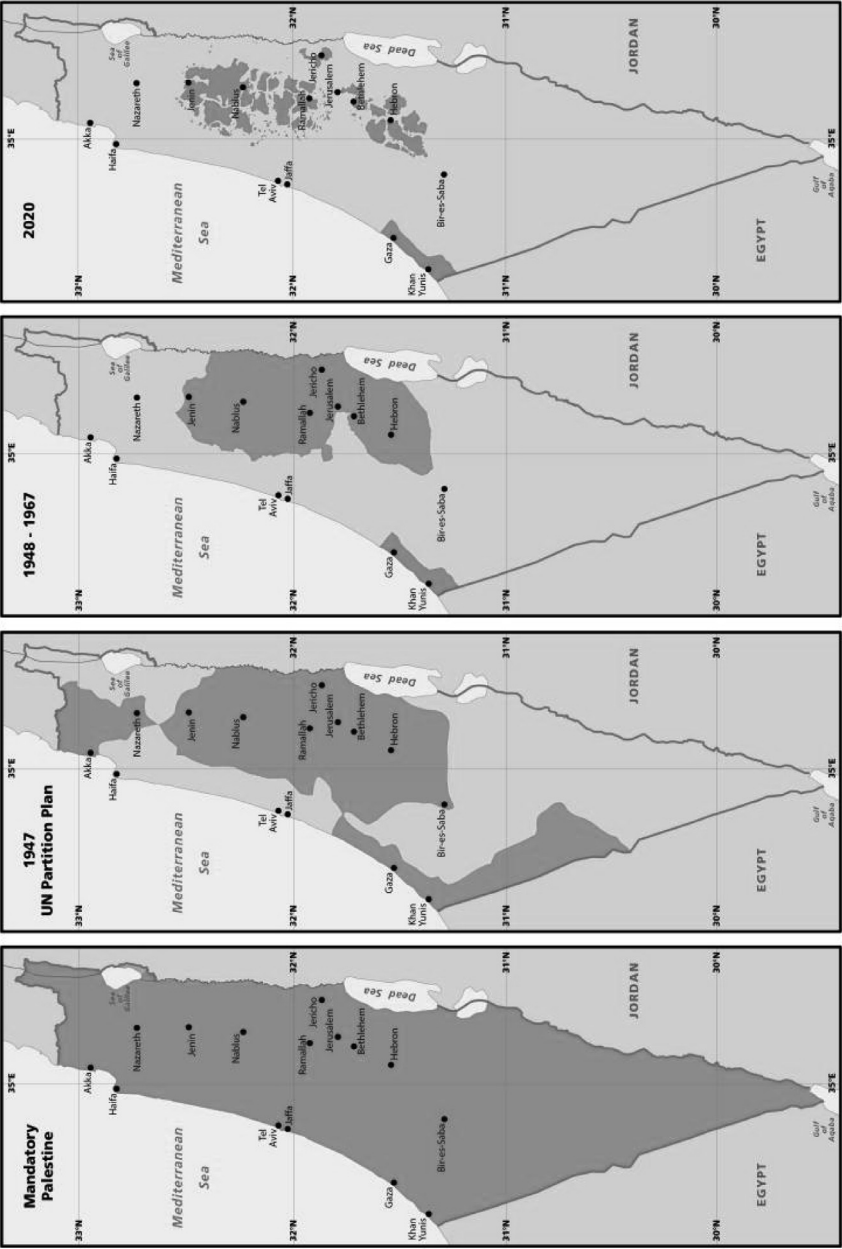
Marxist and anti-Zionist Socialist Organisation of Israel "Matzpen" once wrote: "Occupation brings foreign rule, foreign rule brings resistance, resistance brings repression, repression brings terror and counter terror..." — This is what we are witnessing in the last

seventy-five-year history of Palestinians under illegal occupation of Israel. This has to end. It is highly relevant here to quote from the Report of UN Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Palestinian territory. The report concluded “Israel’s genocide on the Palestinians in Gaza is an escalatory stage of a long standing settler colonial process of erasure. For over seven decades this process has suffocated the Palestinian people as a group — demographically, culturally, economically, and politically, - seeking to displace it and expropriate and control its land and resources. The Ongoing Nakba must be stopped and remedied once for all. This is an imperative owed to the victims of this tragedy and to future generations of that land”.

There is a ‘historic obligation’ to remove “the threat of Israel’ — threat to Palestine, threat to the human rights, and threat to peace in the world. How, when, and by whom this threat will be removed will be decided ultimately by Palestinians, Arabs, Arab Countries, and other progressive countries in the world.

But for the present, urgent need is to hang Netanyahu publicly by the civilised people of Palestine and Israel.

(This article is prepared in December 2024, and hence the figures quoted are upto that period.)



GLIMPSES OF PALESTINE

Israel War on Gaza 2023-2024



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