

The Scourging of Gaza: Diary of a Genocidal War

BY JEFFREY ST. CLAIR



Destroyed houses in northern Gaza. Map by Corey Scher of the City University of New York and Jamon Van Den Hoek of Oregon State University / <u>The</u> <u>Guardian</u>.

+ Since the ICJ ordered preventive measures to ensure that Israel stop committing genocide in Gaza, Israeli forces have killed nearly <u>900 more</u> Palestinians.

+ Of course, the ICJ's groundbreaking ruling was swept off the headlines of Western media by a leaked report that 12 UNRWA workers had participated in the Hamas-led offensive on October 7.

+ Curiously, the Israeli government submitted the information to UNRWA about its dozen employees allegedly

complicit in the Oct 7 attack <u>eight days *before*</u> the International Court of Justice genocide ruling, but the mediafeeding frenzy began only after the ICJ ruling.

+ The Israeli dossier against UNRWA was based largely on interrogations, likely involving torture, by Mossad and Shin Bet of Gazans seized on October 7. The allegations had not been verified when they hit the front pages of the Wall Street Journal and the New York Times; yet, the US immediately suspended funding for UNRWA, the primary source of food and shelter for 1.6 million displaced Gazans. The US's rash decision was swiftly followed by 14 other nations...

United States, \$343.9 M: "The United States … has temporarily paused additional funding for UNRWA while we review these allegations and the steps the United Nations is taking to address them." (<u>U.S. Department of</u> <u>State</u>)

Germany, \$202.1 M: "Until the end of the investigation, Germany, in coordination with other donor countries, will temporarily not approve any new funds for UNRWA ." (<u>German Foreign Office</u>)

European Union, \$114.1 M: "Currently, no additional funding to UNRWA is foreseen until the end of February. ... The European Commission expects UNRWA to agree to carry out an audit of the Agency to be conducted by EUappointed independent external experts." (<u>European</u> <u>Commission</u>)

Sweden, \$61 M: "Aid funds must go to the right organizations and not come close to terrorism." (Johan Forssel, Swedish Minister for International Development <u>Cooperation and Foreign Trade</u>)

Japan, \$30.2 M: "Japan is extremely concerned about the alleged involvement of UNRWA staff members in the terror attack on Israel on October 7 last year. In response, Japan has decided to suspend additional

funding to UNRWA for the time being while UNRWA conducts an investigation into the matter and considers measures to address the allegations." (<u>Ministry of</u> <u>Foreign Affairs of Japan</u>)

France, \$28.9 M: "France has not planned any further payments in the first quarter of 2024, and will decide when the time comes how to act in conjunction with the United Nations and the main donors." (<u>French Ministry</u> <u>for Europe and Foreign Affairs</u>)

Switzerland, \$25.5 M: " The Swiss foreign ministry indicated that the contributions to UNRWA planned for this year, which have not yet been paid, would only be paid once it had more information on these serious allegations." (SwissInfo.ch)

Canada. \$23.7 M: " I am deeply troubled by the allegations relating to some UNRWA employees. I have instructed Global Affairs Canada to pause all additional funding to UNRWA pending the outcome of the investigation." (Ahmed Hussen, Minister of International Development of Canada)

United Kingdom, \$21.2 M: "The UK is temporarily pausing any future funding of UNRWA whilst we review these concerning allegations." (<u>United Kingdom Foreign,</u> <u>Commonwealth, and Development Office</u>)

The Netherlands, \$21.2 M: "The Netherlands will closely follow and weigh the outcome of the investigation when considering future Dutch financial contributions to UNRWA." (Dutch Minister for Trade and Development Geoffrey Van Leeuwen)

Australia, \$13.8 M: "Australia welcomes UNRWA's swift response and will engage closely on investigations. We are speaking with partners and will temporarily pause disbursement of recent funding." (<u>Australian Minister for</u> <u>Foreign Affairs Senator Penny Wong</u>) **Italy, \$18 M:** "The Italian government has suspended funding after Hamas' heinous attack on Israel on October 7th. Allied countries have recently made the same decision. " (<u>Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International</u> <u>Cooperation of Italy</u>)

Austria, \$8.1 M: "Until these allegations are fully clarified, and there is clarity about the resulting consequences, Austria, in coordination with international partners, will temporarily suspend all further payments to UNRWA." (Federal Ministry for European and International Affairs)

Finland, \$7.8 M: "Finland's payments to UNRWA will be suspended due to the allegations. We must make sure that not a single euro of Finland's money goes to Hamas or other terrorists. The suspicion that employees of an organization receiving humanitarian assistance are involved in a terrorist attack is the reason for suspending the payments. The case must be investigated thoroughly." (<u>Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Finland</u>)

New Zealand, \$560.8 K: "The allegations are incredibly serious, it's important they are properly understood and investigated, we won't be making any further contributions until the Foreign Minister says it's good to do so." (<u>New Zealand Prime Minister Christopher Luxon,</u> <u>RNZ</u>)

Iceland, \$558.7 K: "The Icelandic Foreign Minister, Bjarni Benediktsson, called for a thorough investigations and said contributions would be frozen until consultations, with the other Nordic countries." (<u>United</u> <u>Nations Regional Information Center</u>)

Romania,\$210.7 K: "No new [Romanian] voluntary contribution to UNRWA until the investigation is finalized." (<u>Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs</u>)

Estonia, \$90 K: "Concerning the recent very serious allegations against UNRWA, Estonia will not continue

with the funding of the organization." (<u>Margus Tsahkna,</u> <u>Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Estonia</u>)

+ UNRWA has 30,000 employees serving in the Occupied Territories of Palestine, many of those working in Gaza have also been displaced by the Israeli bombardment. At least 152, UNRWA workers have been killed and 147 UNRWA facilities have been destroyed or damaged by Israeli airstrikes. UNRWA has been providing shelter for 1.7 internally displaced Gazans, at least 376 of whom have been killed and another 1,365 injured in Israeli airstrikes on UNRWA shelters. Originally, UNRWA operated 21 healthcare facilities in Gaza. Only four are still operational. Those four clinics have treated 16,187 patients since November.

+ Philippe Lazzarini, Commissioner-General of UNRWA: "If funding remains suspended, we will most likely be forced to shut down our operations by end of February."

+ The Biden administration's decision to cut off critical funding to UNRWA is the default form of collective punishment for Clintonian liberals, where the denial of humanitarian aid is used as a weapon to punish (ie., starve) people who have no responsibility for the alleged transgression.

+ <u>US Secretary of State Tony Blinken</u>: "We haven't had the ability to investigate [the allegations against UNRWA employees] ourselves. But they are highly, highly credible." Is he basing that on another memo from Curveball?

+ The initial "high, highly credible" reports claimed that 12 UNRWA employees in Gaza (out of <u>30,000</u>) were involved in some way in the October 7 attacks. Now, according to <u>SkyNews</u>, the number is down to 6 (or perhaps even 4), and the Israeli intelligence documents make several claims without proof, and many of the assertions don't directly implicate UNRWA anyway. + UNRWA's Gaza Director Greta Gunnarsdottir told the UN on Wednesday: "Of the 12 people against whom Israel made allegations, two are dead, one cannot be identified and one does not work for UNRWA."

+ In response to the coordinated financial threats to UNRWA, the Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention issued a warning to several nations about their direct involvement in the intensification of genocidal acts against the Palestinian people. In <u>its letter</u>, the Institute wrote:

"The Lemkin Institute worries this action is timed in such a way to be made in retaliation against the ICJ's order for preventative measures in South Africa v. Israel. It certainly acts in furtherance of a long-term goal of Israeli factions that hope to strip refugee status from UNRWA's constituent populations. Tania Hary, the Executive Director of Gisha, a Tel Aviv-based Human Rights Organization, swiftly denounced the international coalition, warning the international community that this act represented "part of the plan of an extremist Israeli government causing unfettered destruction and suffering[,] and determined to unravel Palestinian aspirations for self-determination and even survival. It has nothing to do with any allegations." To her point, the Lemkin Institute reminds readers that Noga Arbell, a former Israeli Foreign Ministry official and currently the head of the right-wing Kohelet Foundation, urged the emergency Israeli government in early January to take swift action on weakening UNRWA, stating "it will be impossible to win the war if we do not destroy UNRWA, and this destruction must begin immediately."

+ Belgium is one of a handful of Western countries that has refused to cut funding to UNRWA. On Thursday, Israel bombed the offices of the Belgian Agency for Development Cooperation in Gaza.

...



The office building of @Enabel, the Belgian Agency for Development Cooperation, in #Gaza has been bombed and is completely destroyed.

Attacking civilian buildings is and remains totally unacceptable.

Together with @hadjalahbib, I will summon the Israeli ambassador.



1:03 PM · Feb 1, 2024 · 885.4K Views

+ There are two UN refugee agencies, UNCHR and UNRWA. in 1948 Israel's Western backers wanted UNRWA to exist separately from the main UN Refugee Agency because Israel wanted to settle Jews from Europe in Israel without being forced to allow Palestinian refugees to return to the homes they had just fled from at gunpoint.

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+ In a historic lawsuit filed by the Center for Constitutional Rights on behalf of Palestinians, a US federal court found "undisputed evidence" that Israel's actions in Gaza "may plausibly constitute a genocide", and "that the ongoing military siege in Gaza is intended to eradicate a whole people" The court determined it lacked the authority power to resolve the case, but "implores" the US government "to examine the results of their unflagging support of the military siege against the Palestinians in Gaza."

+ More than 800 officials currently serving in the US and Europe have signed <u>a public statement</u> warning that the policies of their own governments on the Israel-Gaza war could amount to "grave violations of international law, war crimes and even ethnic cleansing and genocide."

+ South Africa's Minister of International Relations, Naledi Pandor, met with the International Criminal Court's chief prosecutor Karim Khan last week and asked him "Why was he able to issue an arrest warrant for Mr Putin and is unable to do so for the Prime Minister of Israel." Pandor said, Khan "could not answer and did not answer that question."

+ Haaretz editor Aluf Benn: "Instead of bolstering the status of Israel among the international community, as he promised in his first book, "A Place Among the Nations," Netanyahu has brought it to the status of a criminal and murderous state."

+ Sara Bashi writing in the <u>NY Review of Books</u> on the right of Palestinians to return to their homes: "Palestinians in Gaza have the right to return under international law—not just to homes they've recently lost in Gaza, but also to the homes they fled or were expelled from 75 years ago in what's now Israel."

+ Mustafa Barghouti in an interview with the German magazine *Taz:*

Taz: What do you expect from Europe?

Barghouti: Nothing.

Taz" Not even sanctions?

Barghouti: You have imposed thousands of sanctions on Putin, but at the same time you are vacationing in AirBnBs in the settlements. You no longer have any credibility.

Taz: Israel is accused of genocide at the International Court of Justice. Do you think this is the right word to describe this war?

Barghouti: This is a question for you.

Taz: What do you mean?

Barghouti: Can I quote Elie Wiesel? In every war, there are three categories: the murderers, the victims and those who stand and watch. One day you will ask: where have you been?

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Barghouti: What is the problem? That the barbed wire has been broken or that this barbed wire exists? I'm a doctor and I don't focus on the symptoms but on the causes. October 7th is a symptom. Hamas itself is a symptom. In 1948...

Taz: No, please don't start with 1948. We know the story. Let's stick with current developments.

Barghouti: If you ask the wrong question, you will get the wrong answer. It looks like I'm trying to dodge questions, but it's you who's dodging answers.

+ According to Emily Dische-Becker, a Berlin-based writer and researcher for Forensic Architecture, Jews make up less than 1% of Germany's population. But they account for close to <u>30% of the people</u> canceled in recent years by state-funded German institutions for alleged antisemitism.

+ Israeli military and intelligence officials have concluded that a significant number of weapons used by Hamas in the October 7 attack and in the war in Gaza are Israeli military issues, whether stolen from IDF bases or built out of Israeli munitions launched at Gaza that failed to detonate

+ Israel has destroyed all of Gaza's hospitals, schools, clinics, water treatment plants & 60% of its homes, but 80% of the "tunnels" it claims to be targeting remain intact, according to the Wall Street Journal. I guess the tunnels need to remain intact to justify bombing the rest of Gaza's homes.

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+ NSC spokesman John Kirby: "The right number of civilian casualties [in Gaza] is zero."

So 30,000 is within the margin of error?

+ Genocide scholar <u>Raz Segal</u> on the ICJ ruling: "It separated the Holocaust from the piles of bodies and destroyed cultures that European imperialism & colonialism (still very much ongoing at the time) had left around the world in the preceding centuries."

+ Thousands of Israelis, including several ministers in Netanyahu's government (you can guess their names, <u>attended a far-right conference in Jerusalem on Sunday night</u> calling for the establishment of Jewish settlements in Gaza and the transfer, or expulsion, of Palestinians. Far-right ministers Bezalel Smotrich and Itamar Ben-Gvir were key speakers.

+ Itamar Ben-Gvir reiterated his support for encouraging the voluntary emigration of Palestinians out of Gaza as "the most moral and logical solution." Likud communications minister Shlomo Karhi said that "voluntary" emigration may need to become forcible expulsion.

+ Gil Dikman, whose cousin Carmel Gat is a hostage, denounced the conference calling for the re-settlement of Gaza, saying: "In the morning you throw mud at each other, and in the evening you dance at an event that only harms us. In Gaza, the hostages do not dance."

+ Daniel Levin: "The Israeli political leadership, from the prime minister all the way to the person he appointed to coordinate hostage negotiations, <u>has conducted itself in a</u> <u>disgraceful manner</u>, focused more on photo-ops and gaslighting the hostages' families than on a disciplined, effective campaign."

+ Four Israeli settlers were arrested on suspicion of assaulting truck drivers delivering aid to Gaza.

+ Apparently, the Biden administration, desperate to prove that it's doing something concrete to slow the killing in the Occupied Territories, briefly considered sanctioning Israeli ministers Itamar Ben-Gvir and Bezalel Smotrich, but decided to target only four Israeli settlers for committing acts of unprovoked violence in the West Bank (a daily occurrence since October 7 and a regular occurrence before then).

But if the Israeli government isn't arresting the murderous settlers, then it's tacitly–and in most cases explicitly– supporting them and not just Ben Gvir and Smotrich. (In fact, it's arming them and the IDF is often working alongside them.)

+ Smotrich responded to the US sanctions against the four settlers by denouncing <u>Biden as an antisemite</u> and doubled down on his view that preventing a Palestinian state must remain a priority, even if he ends up sanctioned.

+ Time and time again, Biden puts himself in the position to be treated like this...Psychologically, he must crave humiliation.

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+ Tariq Ali: "Why are the Houthis the most popular force in much of the non-Western world? Because they have taught other Arab states the meaning of real solidarity as compared to meaningless bullshit. Expanding the war to Yemen or Iran will backfire badly."

+ The Saudi government said it wouldn't normalize relations with Israel until there was an irrevocable path to a Palestinian state, but it is <u>secretly discussing</u> plans to help Israel run Gaza while the Occupation remains in place.

+ Biden says he has made a decision on how to respond to the drone attack in Jordan (bomb Syria and Iraq) and that he holds Iran responsible. The only rational response is to stop arming Israel, demand an end to military operations in Gaza, get US troops out of Syria and Jordan and resume negotiations on an Iranian nuclear deal. He'll do the opposite...

As <u>Stephen Semler</u> has demonstrated, the attacks on US bases in the Middle East largely ended during the weeklong ceasefire.

+ Secretary of Defense Austin: "In terms of escalation in the Middle East, you know, our goal was to make sure that we contain this crisis in Gaza and that we prevented things from spreading to a wider conflict. Now, there's a lot of activity in the region but there's always been a lot of activity in the region...We don't see a conflict, an all-out conflict, between Israel and Lebanese Hezbollah. And so I think managing that, I think, has been artfully done." Artfully, if the artist was Francis Bacon or Anselm Keifer, perhaps.

+"We will continue to work to <u>avoid a wider conflict</u> in the region"...as they launched a wider conflict in the region.

+ Biden announcing the retaliatory airstrikes against Shia militias in Iraq and Syria...President Biden warns, "<u>If you</u> <u>harm an American, we will respond</u>." Except if you are killed by the IDF...like <u>Tawfic Abdeljabbar</u> or <u>Rachel Corrie</u> or <u>Shireen Abu Akleh</u> or <u>Furkan Doğan</u> or <u>Omar Assad</u>.

+ Stephen Walt: "Even I seem to have underestimated Washington's ability to keep making the same foreign policy mistakes no matter who is in the White House."

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+ On Tuesday morning an undercover Israeli military unit (ie., death squad)—dressed as doctors and women in civilian clothing— entered Ibn Sina Hospital in Jenin and assassinated three Palestinian young men using silenced firearms. "This is a new precedent," a hospital spokesman said."There was never an assassination *inside* a hospital. There were arrests and assaults, but not an assassination."

+ One of the people the IDF death squad assassinated was an 18-year-old boy named Bassel Ghazzawi, who was "shot in the head at point-blank range." Ghazzawi had been in the hospital for almost four months, after his back was shattered by missile fragments from an Israeli drone strike, leaving him paralyzed from the waist down. The hospital's director, <u>Dr. Tawfiq al Shobaki</u>, said: "What happened was the assassination of a wounded man who was unable to move or manage his needs on his own. We, as a medical institution, guarantee the right of all patients to obtain treatment, regardless of their backgrounds."

+ Israeli Security Minister Itamar Bin-Gvir celebrated the hospital killings by posing for a photo with the death squad members...

Mustafa Barghouti @Mustafa_Barghouti @MustafaBarghou1 · Follow		
sraeli execu	xtreme minister Ben - Gvir celebrated tion troops which disguise as Palestini their crimes.	
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+ This is clearly a war crime, but when asked about whether this was appropriate for a nation getting US arms and financial aid, State Dept. flack <u>Matthew Miller</u> said: "We think it is appropriate that they [Israel] have the ability to bring members of Hamas to justice."

+ When Israel got caught bulldozing a cemetery in Gaza, the IOF claimed that there were Hamas tunnels below the graves. CNN went to the site to investigate, but IOF censors refused to permit CNN to examine it. CNN later used geolocation technology to determine that the tunnel entrances were <u>well</u> <u>outside</u> the cemetery grounds... Israeli military: we had to raze the cemetery because of a tunnel

CNN reporter: Can we see the hole proving that?

Israeli military: Nah, you'll fall in...

+ Former Obama aide Van Jackson claims the intensity of protests from federal employees is unprecedented: "No presidential administration the past 40 years has been denounced by its own staff like this – not collectively, not so publicly, and not with this regularity." Yet, there have only been two mid-level resignations (Josh Paul & Tariq Habash) that I'm aware of....

+ During a visit to a pre-military academy in a West Bank settlement, Netanyahu reiterated that he would not agree to release thousands of Palestinian prisoners and withdraw Israeli forces from Gaza as part of a hostage deal. Who thought he would, Blinken?

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Ken Klippenstein & X @kenklippenstein · Follow			
Q: "Now that US troops have been attacked in another country, are you willing to say that the [Gaza] conflict is no longer contained and it's spreading?			
Pentagon spokesperson: "We don't see this conflict widening as it still remains contained to Gaza"			
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+ And the West Bank and Lebanon and Syria and Yemen and Jordan and Iraq and Iran and Turkey...Sabrina Singh can't even keep a straight face while flogging this nonsense. She really needs to study the tapes of seasoned professional liars like Ron Ziegler, Marlin Fitzwater, Mike McCurry and Ari Fleischer.

+ Sabrina Singh's husband is Mike Smith, political director for Nancy Pelosi. Someone should ask Singh at the next press briefing whether the Pentagon agrees with the former speaker that anti-war protests in the US are being financed by Russia and China... + After a piece in the Times of Israel suggesting that the US State Department was considering issuing a statement calling for a Palestinian state after the Gaza War, former US Ambassador to Israel <u>David Friedman</u> lost his mind, calling such a plan worse than the attacks of October 7:

I'm hoping this is just unauthorized and false messaging from one of the many at State who despise Israel. But make no mistake — this "recognition" would be even more devastating to Israel than the attacks of October 7!! Not to mention rewarding terrorists for their brutality! Unconscionable!

+ In concert with Biden, David Cameron told the BBC this week that the U.K. is also considering, together with its allies, to recognize a Palestinian state as part of a diplomatic move to achieve "irreversible progress" towards a two-state solution.

+ Not long after word leaked out that the UK is considering recognizing some kind of truncated Palestinian state, Amichai Chikli, Israel's Minister for Diaspora Affairs, lashed out at Cameron, comparing the Foreign Minister to former Prime Minister Neville Chamberlain and his policy of Nazi appeasement.

Hello to David Cameron, who wants to bring 'Peace in Our Time' and grant the Nazis who committed the atrocities of October 7th a prize in the form of a Palestinian state as a token of recognition for murdering babies in their cribs, mass rape and abducting mothers with their children. The march of Folly.

+ Craig Mokhiber: "The new strategy of Israel's Western allies and co-opted international institutions is to return to the status quo ante, resume the two-state smokescreen, recognize a bantustan, leave the root causes in place and oppose accountability for the genocidaires. A formula for more hell."

+ In addition to the 12,000 children killed by Israeli airstrikes with US munitions, there are at least 19,000 children in Gaza who have now been orphaned or ended up alone with no adult to look after them, according to UNICEF.

+ A Politico piece acknowledged the peril Biden's backing of Israel's genocidal war on Gaza has placed him in Michigan: "Biden's support for Israel has hurt the campaign badly with the sizable Arab-American population in Michigan, and his team is scrambling to find other paths to victory in the battleground state."

+ Dahlia Scheindlin in Haaretz: "The 'meaningless fringe' excuse is dead. In Israel, what looks insane one minute becomes state policy the next."

+ In direct contravention of the ICJ's provisional orders, Israeli war cabinet ministers Benny Gantz and Gadi Eisenkot are "<u>examining the possibility of limiting the entry of</u> <u>humanitarian aid</u>" to Gaza, allegedly to press for a non-Hamas entity to distribute it.

+ Tony Blinken: "The situation in the Middle East is the most dangerous since at least 1973." He ought to know. He helped make it so.

+ <u>Dr. Tariq Haddad</u> on why he refused to meet with Blinken: "How does one meet for what I was told would be 3 minutes, with a person you hold responsible for not just the killing of your child, but rather the murder of over 80 of your family members?"

+ Even at an accelerated speed, the names of the 11,500-plus kids known to have been killed by Israel in Gaza take 7 minutes to scroll by...

Al Jazeera English 🧇 @AJEnglish · Follow	X
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+ China's UN ambassador, Zhang Jun, told the UN Security Council it must take action on the decision of the ICJ: The ICJ has taken forceful action in the face of repeated violations of international law and repeated breaches of human dignity, morality, and conscience."

The Security Council has no alternative but to take further action—swiftly—with the greatest sense of responsibility and the strongest determination to safeguard justice, save lives, and achieve peace.

There has long been an overwhelming consensus in the international community for an immediate ceasefire. Yet, it's regrettable that a certain country has persisted in their obstruction..."

The Security Council should take strong action to [pool/pull] all diplomatic efforts towards an immediate ceasefire. Israel should immediately cease its indiscriminate military attacks and destruction in Gaza...

+ Hamid, a 10-year-old boy, on the US-made Israeli bomb that <u>killed his mother</u>: "The bomb fell on my mum's lap. It took us days to take all her body parts from the rubble."

+ Bodies of <u>30 Palestinian civilians</u> were found hidden in plastic bags under garbage piles at a schoolyard in northern Gaza this week. The corpses had been blindfolded with their hands cuffed, apparently executed by the Israeli army.

+ Ralph Nader: "The U.S. conflicts in the Middle East keep escalating. What are our soldiers doing at a remote post in Jordan—with 35 more U.S. military installations in the backyards of these countries—that the American people are required to fund without their knowledge? This is Empire."

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There are few things more satisfying than watching a highlyregarded (and even more highly-self-regarded) politician demolish their public image at the end of a (very) prolonged career, as they let all of the arrogance, hatred and prejudice they'd carefully repressed for decades gush forth in one unhinged moment. Nancy Pelosi, who had cultivated one of the most meticulously manufactured political personas in US history, let the mask drop twice in a few days, first during an appearance on CNN, where she fumed that Vladimir Putin might be funding the anti-war protests in the US and, in true McCarthyite style, called on the FBI to investigate.

Paul D. Thacker X@thackerpd · Follow			
On CNN, Nancy Pelosi says that some protestors calling for a Gaza ceasefire and ending arms transfers to Ukraine are telling "Mister Putin's message."			
Some protestors are plants financed by Russia.			
"I'm gonna ask the FBI to investigate that."			
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Then a couple of days later, Pelosi confronted protesters outside her house, pointing her finger and screaming that they should (somewhat inconsistent with her Russian theory)

"Go back to China, where your headquarters is."



+ Let's not forget that the driving forces behind the internment of American citizens of Japanese descent were Bay Area liberals...

+ A few days after the <u>International Rescue Committee</u> notified the IDF of the location of one of its field clinics in Gaza where its team of British medical personnel was housed, the compound was hit by an <u>Israeli airstrike</u>. A United Nations assessment concluded, "the damage was the result of an airstrike, most likely involving a GBU32 (MK83) missile package." The airstrike injured several staff members, damaged the building and forced the IRC to move six other members of its medical team out of Gaza.

+ Biden's UN Ambassador, Linda Thomas-Greenfield, was sent out once again to defend Israel at the UN Security Council, this time deliberately misreading the ICJ's ruling and provisional measures in the Israeli genocide case: "While we all agree more must be done, and though we are all broken by the extraordinary loss of civilian lives, we must be honest about what the court did not order: Specifically, it has not ordered an immediate ceasefire. It has not made any finding at this preliminary phase of the proceedings that Israel committed genocide or otherwise violated the Genocide Convention, and indeed, the United States continues to believe that such allegations are unfounded and that rather than try and bring a ceasefire into existence when the conditions to sustain it unfortunately don't exist, we must instead work toward a durable solution to this conflict through the hard work of on the ground relentless diplomacy."

+ How many times has Biden used a black diplomat or spokesperson as a human shield for his proapartheid/genocide policies?

+ This may not be an entirely unfamiliar or even uncomfortable role for Thomas-Greenfield, who joined the Foreign Service in 1982, at a time when the Reagan administration was defending South African apartheid, fighting off sanctions at the UN and in Congress and denouncing Nelson Mandela's ANC as Red pawns of Moscow.

+ Thomas-Greenfield credits Madeleine Albright with helping her rise through the ranks and calls Albright "her role model and late friend". They starved a lot of Iraqi kids together. That experience creates a lasting bond.

+ Rep. E. Werner Reschke, a Republican state lawmaker from Southern Oregon, suggested that "you don't want" Muslims, atheists and other non-Christians to serve in elected office: "You go back in history, and you look at men and the struggles that they faced, and the faith that they had. Those are the types of people you want in government making tough decisions at tough times. You don't want a materialist. You don't want an atheist. You don't want a Muslim. You want somebody who understands what truth is, and understands the nature of man, the nature of government and the nature of God."

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+ The coalition government of Spain announced this week that it will make a <u>voluntary contribution</u> to the Prosecutor's Office of the International Court of Court (ICC) to investigate human rights violations by Israel in Gaza.



+ Does the fact that women are doing some of the killing of Gazans make you feel better about the fact that more than half the Gazans they're killing are women and children? The NYT thinks it must. It's sent out two "push alerts" highlighting women fighters in the IDF in the last few weeks...

+ They're stuck on this...

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+ The President believes Israel has the right to defend itself against the threat that Palestinian babies might grow up!

+ Rep. Brian Mast, the Florida Republican who dresses up for work on the Hill in his IDF uniform, said this week that: "<u>Gazan babies are not innocent Palestinian citizens!</u>"

+ In early December, 82-year-old Israeli Fahamiya Khalidi fled her home after it was shelled by IDF for the safety of a nearby school. The school was soon raided by Israeli troops and Khalidi, who has Alzheimer's, was arrested as an "unlawful combatant" and jailed in Damon Prison in northern Israel, where she was held without access to an attorney for two weeks, until being freed after an appeal by Physicians for Human Rights. + According to documents obtained by The Lever, AIPAC hauled in more than <u>\$90 million</u> in the last quarter. Its biggest donors included Leonid Radvinsk, the owner of OnlyFans (\$11 million), Jonathan Gray, president of Blackstone Group private equity firm, Lloyd Blankfein, former CEO and current senior chairman of the investment bank Goldman Sachs, Jeffrey Epstein's longtime patron Les Wexner (of Victoria's Secret fame, and Mark Penn, the former Bill Clinton pollster who now fronts No Labels.

+ An investigation by <u>Haaretz</u> found that IDF commanders have ordered soldiers to set fire to homes in Gaza without legal approval. Several hundred have already been destroyed.

+ Dozens of Israelis, many of them former IDF soldiers, who blocked aid trucks from reaching Gaza through the Ashdod port were joined by far-right lawmaker Tzvi Sukkot, a member of Netanyahu's coalition. Several protesters were filmed accosting Arab truck drivers, one proclaimed: "I'm the master, you're the slave."

+ Biden while being confronted during a speech by <u>anti-war</u> <u>protesters</u>: "It'll go on a while. They've got this planned." Which is Bidenspeak for "Go back to China, your headquarters."

+ You can't say you didn't get what you voted for. Here's a plank from Biden's 2020 platform on Israel and Palestine...



DONATE MENU

- Urge Arab states to move beyond quiet talks and take bolder steps toward normalization with Israel.
- Firmly reject the BDS movement, which singles out Israel — home to millions of Jews — and too often veers into anti-Semitism, while letting Palestinians off the hook for their choices.

+ The wretched Larry Summers unleashed a baseless and treacherous smear against one of the most esteemed scholars in American academia, Rashid Khalidi, after Khalidi had been invited to lecture at Harvard. Not content with traducing Khalidi, Summers, who once claimed women lacked the "intrinsic aptitude" to become mathematicians and scientists, hurled slime at Edward Said as well, a calumny I doubt Summers would've risked making while Said was alive. Even Christopher Hitchens waited until Edward was on his deathbed to stick his slanderous knives in...

2:59 🖌

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cmes.fas.harvard.edu/news/mesa-boar...

There is nothing wrong with anyone in the University taking this position or any other position. That is academic freedom.

It should not be possible and would not be possible if race or gender issues were involved, for a center that proudly uses the Harvard name to support research and debate to take a position that so many see as prejudiced.

I note Edward Said's intellectual heir, Rashid Khalidi, who many see as antisemitic has been invited twice since October 7 to speak at the University. Everyone should be free to speak or invite speakers.

I also note with disappointment, but not actually surprise, that to my knowledge Harvard has not had speakers like Dennis Ross or Bret Stephens who take pro-Israel positions. With all the rhetoric about open dialogue and debate, it is remarkable that in Harvard College there is no yet



...

+ Less than 24 hours after defaming Khalidi Summers issued this grating bit of <u>ass-covering...</u>



Lawrence H. Summers 🔗 @LHSummers

In my Tweet on Monday I made the mistake of linking Professor Rashid Khalidi with antisemitism. While I disagree with Prof. Khalidi and have deep frustrations with Harvard's actions since October 7th, my comments were inappropriate. I have reached out directly to Prof. Khalidi to apologize. This was a violation of my general policy of avoiding ad personam comments and I regret it.

1:28 PM · Jan 31, 2024 · **1.1M** Views

+ You can't unring the libel, even if your lawyer tells you to try...

+ After the IDF claimed that the footage of a Palestinian man being murdered by Israeli soldiers while waving a white flag was "clearly edited," ITV news released a new video showing the war crime in continuous footage.

+ Like Biden, Keir Starmer is now fretting about the damage he may have done to his political future by tying himself to Netanyahu. The UK Labour is furiously pulling its members and holding focus groups around Britain amid mounting fears they're losing support among one of its staunchest bases: Muslims, though it's hard to imagine Labour had any Muslim supporters left after purging Jeremy Corbyn and any other members who expressed so much as a sigh of empathy for Palestinians in the last five years...

+ Abdullah Hammod, mayor of Dearborn, Michigan, on Biden's visit to Michigan: "Summary of the majority of conversations I've had:

Me: One of my residents lost 80 family members in Gaza

Reporter: But how's he gonna vote come November?

Me: It's really dehumanizing to only contextualize this with respect to the upcoming elections

Reporter: Understand what you're saying, but hypothetically, how are you gonna vote?

+ Biden is apparently as obsessed with watching "Morning Joe" as Trump used to be with Fox and Friends. Biden gets a lot of positive feedback for his handling of the Middle East from hacks like Chris Matthews and Joe Scarborough on the MSNBC politics show, where the age of the average viewer is 68. Makes Biden feel young, I guess.

+ This week Hidaya Ahmad, the director of volunteers at the Red Crescent Society, was shot and killed by the IDF in the office of the Red Crescent Society in Khan Younis.



+ The last words this week will be left to Marie-Aure Perreault Revial, emergency coordinator for <u>Médecins Sans Frontières</u> (MSF), who described her experience working in the emergency department of Al-Aqsa Shohada Hospital in central Gaza, where she noted there was "no triaging possible at the bomb sites, it's a race for ambulance crews to save the ones that can still be saved."

By the end of December, the team in our wound-dressing unit were seeing on average 150 patients per day, almost all with burns or blast injuries. Many were children. One of our surgeons told me about dressing the wounds of babies who had lost their legs. It stayed with him. Babies who had never learned to walk, and never will. Some of those children have a new acronym written on their file. "WCNSF", which stands for Wounded Child, No Surviving Family.

Salma*, nine years old, is one of thousands of WCNSF. She suffered a fractured skull after her house was shelled. One of her legs was broken, the other had been amputated. We met her in the intensive care unit. She still didn't know that she was the only one who made it out of the rubble alive: the exhausted staff wanted to let her recover physically first.

Jeffrey St. Clair is editor of CounterPunch. His most recent book is An Orgy of Thieves: Neoliberalism and Its Discontents (with Alexander Cockburn). He can be reached at: sitka@comcast.net or on Twitter @JeffreyStClair3.

[CP Newsletter Archive 1993-2012-400 issues] [Nuclear Fracking] [CP+ Perks]

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