

Gaza is burning ! And it was all foreseeable

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Noone should pretend to be shocked by the extent of the crime being committed in Gaza - which was carefully prepared and even announced!

All the Israeli politicians had made public statements about it, competing to outbid each other. All of the United Nations officials had sounded the alert about the situation in Gaza, which was already unbearable even before the bombs started falling. Even the lorries which were authorised to carry supplies across the border on the eve of the attack appear to have been part of the preparations for the current military offensive, in order to distract attention and give a false sign of calm, by delivering certain materials necessary to manage a town under fire - such as a small quantity of petrol so that some hospital generators could function and so that a few ambulances could be driven.

If it is not genocide being carried out in Gaza, what can we call it? Tzipi Livni, just one month ago while in Brussels, sought to justify the siege of Gaza by the need to strangle Hamas - "unfortunately" as she added. Just like Madeleine Albright who, when asked once by a journalist if the aim of getting rid of Saddam Hussein was worth the deaths of one million Iraqi children during the embargo, replied "yes, unfortunately we think it was worth it". Both of them follow the same credo expressed by Samuel Huntingdon: "dry up the sea where the fish swim". The sea being the people: the Vietnamese for the "Shock of civilisations" author; the Iraqis for the former American secretary of state; and the Palestinians for the Israeli foreign minister.... however, the difference in Palestine is that this has lasted for 60 years and this is not a case of colonialism wishing just to conquer and dominate a people; it aims instead to wipe them out.

The crime in Gaza did not begin on that dark Saturday - it began when the siege of Gaza was allowed to take place, when the hypocritical fiction of a "peace process" was accepted by the Quartet, the Annapolis conference and all the rest. Everyone knew perfectly well that it was all a sham, while seeing certain Arab regimes maintaining official or unofficial relations with Israel, supposedly to "encourage" it to follow the path of peace, and even witnessing the European Union upgrading the level of its cooperation with Israel.

But now is not the time for analyses or rhetoric. Witnessing the blood being spilt in Gaza, the men and women of this world will either feel a jolt of conscience or it will be too late: not only for Gaza and Palestine but, especially, for they themselves. They will also have become slaves. In the face of such a crime, we must protest, shout aloud our indignation, condemn and boycott Israel. We must demand an

international protection force for Palestine. We must demand the resignation of the Palestinian Authority, which has become a camouflage for the occupation. And we must punish Israel by defining the war crime committed and bringing the culprits before an international tribunal.

P.S.

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