The messenger of God exhorted ﷺ his companions رضي الله عنهم: "…and guard yourself against incurring the prayers of the oppressed, for, indeed, there is not between them and between God, any obstruction." Bukhārī and Muslim.

A *Mawlawī's* Guide to Ghazzah and the Occupation

Hamzah wald Maqbūl



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The Occupation and Dismembering of Palestine

The land of Palestine was liberated from the tyranny of the Byzantine Empire by the noble companions of the Prophet ﷺ, under the reign of 'Umar bin Khaṭṭāb رضى الله عنه.

The Christian patriarch of Jerusalem, wisely chose to surrender the city to the Muslims, but conditioned his surrender on the Caliph accepting the city's acquiescence personally. In a nearly messianic scene, he had reverently entered the city on foot, traveling by donkey from Madīnah, the Radiant, switching riding turns daily between himself and his assistant; it so happened to be his assistant's day to ride.

I say "tyrannical," because although the Byzantines, as the successors of the unified Imperium of Rome, had accepted Christianity, they continued to desecrate the sacred city and banned Jewish presence until the Muslims came to it. 'Umar, after having accepted its surrender, asked to see the site of the Temple Mount. Finding it still in waste and filled with garbage, he began to clean it personally, and had it rededicated for the worship of God. He also allowed Jews to come back and take up residence in the land.

Previously, when the time of prayer had come in during his official business in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, he refused the patriarch's offer to pray in the church, saying that if he prayed there, subsequent Muslims would turn the site into a mosque, breaking the terms of their agreement. He prayed outside of the church, and the site of his prayers is a mosque to this day.

^cUmar dedicated the lands of Palestine as a *waqf* or charitable endowment for the benefit of his people, and the Muslims defended it through the centuries at great cost from the predations of the fanatical Fatimids, generations of marauding Crusaders, Mongols and others, until the aftermath of World War I, when the Ottoman state was no longer able to hold it. Unlike the great cities of Europe, Jerusalem and the metropoli of the heartland of Islam could boast within their old cities the simultaneous presence of mosques, synagogues, catholic and protestant churches.

The Allies entered the city triumphantly under British General Allenby in 1917. Earlier that year, the British government had issued the Balfour Declaration expressing its support for a Jewish national home in Palestine. Between then and 1947, Zionists, or the political movement dedicated to establishing Palestine as a Jewish national home and state, proceeded to facilitate emigration, use their affiliation with the colonial powers to secure and usurp land, and organized themselves into armed terrorist groups such as the Irgun and Lehi, both radical offshoots of the larger Haganah militia, with the aim of consolidating power. Between a coordinated effort to facilitate the emigration of Jewish communities from around the world and the violent displacement of indigenous populations, both of which continue to this day, they would go on to consolidate their hold on expanding swathes of land. They would be responsible for the infamous bombing of the King David Hotel, as well as flirt with Italian fascists and even early Nazis in order to do so, as their relationship with the British Mandate that established them in Palestine later soured. The catastrophic events of the Holocaust, combined with a general antisemitic nonchalantness by Europe at the prospect of a large proportion of European Jewry departing for Palestine, would telescope this process.

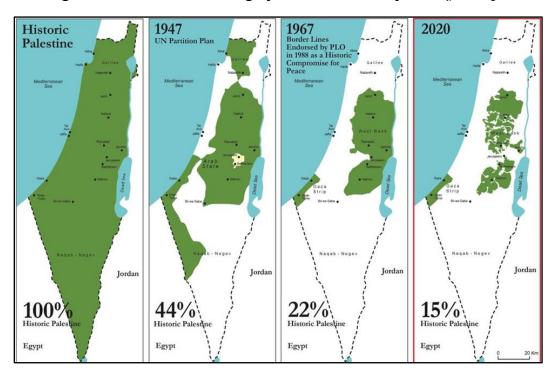
In 1947 the UN partitioned Palestine into Jewish and Arab areas, administering areas around Jerusalem itself. Armed Jewish groups not only held off subsequent poorly executed attacks from surrounding Arab polities, they showed ruthless determination in appropriating land through genocide, such as the infamous Deir Yasin massacre, knowing that they had an opportunity to alter the demographics of the land within the chaos of the time.

Known to the Palestinian people as the *Nakbah* or Catastrophe, it resulted in thousands of deaths, and the expulsion of hundreds of thousands of refugees being displaced and dispossessed, many of which, with their descendants, are still charges of UN refuges camps in neighboring countries, often relegated to second class citizen status in beleaguered host countries, with Israel steadfastly refusing to acknowledge the right of return that international law grants to all non-combatant refugees fleeing violence. Thus a native of Palestine might be denied entry to the city where they were born and where their ancestral

home is, despite having all of the legal paperwork, and even house keys, whereas a seventh generation native of New York, Paris, Moscow or London can receive near instant legal, economic and social aid in moving to Israel, sometimes literally moving into the aforementioned house, just based on their ability to prove descent from a Jewish ancestor, even if they do not profess Judaism as a belief system.

Over the course of the intervening decades and several wars with neighboring states, Israel was able to achieve stunning military successes due to the synchronized effects of radical militarization, diligent planning and annexation and ethnic cleansing of land, all with unflinching diplomatic, strategic and military support from Western powers. The US and UK would be at the forefront of this support, driven by their affinity to Israel based on the strong bonds it had with their own respected and influential Jewish communities, as well as the desire to have a semicolonial asset in what is an important region in terms of trade, resources, shipping, geostrategic clout, and of course, oil.

1967 was a particularly tragic year for Palestine, for it is in that year, al-Quds, Jerusalem, was lost to the *Ummah*, with Israeli soldiers raising their flag and dancing on its sacred precincts. Although, it has since, been largely administered by a *waqf*, frequent incursions upon its



sanctity, including riot police firing tear gas at congregants during prayer and lockdowns in Ramaḍān and other sacred occasions seem to now be, by now, frequent yearly occurrences. Nearly 1,000 settlers barged onto its precincts just a few days ago, in an unsanctioned provocation.

The map above shows something close to the effective territory under the "administration" of any of the various Palestinian factions. The archipelago of small territories to the west, is the West Bank, which is completely fractured.

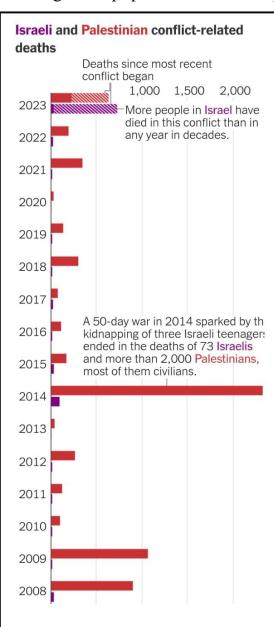
I put "administration" in quotes, because Israel simultaneously invokes unilateral sovereignty in those lands at its whims, imposing its military, economic, and other interests, controlling external borders, and international dealings, all while demanding complete compliance with its rule by those caged into shrinking islands of territory, and their supposed rulers.

The best land and water resources are usurped by Israeli "settlers," who are illegal squatters by international law. They are heavily armed and protected by the might of the Israeli army. Traversing any useful distance within so-called Palestinian territory requires having to cross any number of militarized checkpoints, which can be passed freely by Jewish settlers and Israeli citizens, who, in an ironically Nazi-esque scene, actually have different colored license plates; by contrast Palestinian ambulances, pregnant women, school children and senior citizens must wait for hours and endure invasives searches and harassment to cross on their daily commutes, which are theoretically completely within Palestinian territory.

Harassment by settlers, including theft, arson, vandalism, assault and the desecration of graves and places of worship is frequent and rarely prosecuted; however, any resistance to them is met with a heavy hand. It should be noted that the chokehold which killed Eric Garner, sparking protests across the US, was taught by Israeli forces to US police in trainings given to the former on suppressing civilians.

Ghazzah and Its Condition

Gaza, or Ghazzat al-Hāshim, contains the shrine of the great grandfather of the prophet Muḥammad ﷺ, and was a historic defense outpost of the Muslims, inhabited by many from the family of the prophet ﷺ. Lying at the crossroads of Asia, Arabia and Africa, it was always a place of frequent lively cultural and mercantile exchange, as well as tumult. In the aftermath of the War of 1967, it was shrunk down into small 25-mile-long coastal strip, about four to seven miles wide, not counting the heavily militarized wall and buffer zone into the strip built and maintained by the Israelis. Within it, are a number of refugee camps as well as Gaza City and Khan Younis, and an impossibly large population of over two million. Before 2005, Gaza had illegal Israeli occupation "settlements," however due to the tenacity of its indigenous population, the then president and widely acknowledged war criminal Ariel



Note: Data for 2023 are current as of Oct. 8 at 10:20 p.m. in Israel. Sources: U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, Israeli foreign ministry, Gaza Health Ministry * The New York Times Sharon found those settlements untenable, and decided instead to evacuate Ghazzah of Israelis and seal it with what had been touted as, until last Saturday, a billion dollar high tech impenetrable barrier.

Due to its large population and the lack of need to come and go, Israel has pursued the policy of keeping Ghazzah as a large open air concentration camp. They sealed its borders, controling everyone and everything that comes and goes, and have pursued a policy of slowly starving it of food, medicine, trade, education, basic building materials, and other basic human needs, under the pretense of security. The idea is to slowly diminish its population through malnourishment, economic and intellectual backwardness, lack of medical care, pressured immigration, and general despair. Yitzhak Rabin, perhaps unironically a Nobel Peace Prize winner once purportedly commented, "I would like Gaza to sink into the sea, but that won't happen, and a solution must be found."

This is all punctuated by periodic strife in which the local authorities in Ghazzah launch attacks against their prison guards, wishing for some modicum of a free existence, which is met by an Israeli Airforce bombing some of the most heavily populated urban areas on Earth with sophisticated and powerful bombs, sadly, often using American made and financed munitions and planes.

Frustratingly for the occupier, despite all of that, the people of Ghazzah remain some of the most bright, lively, joyous, pious and tenacious people on Earth.

Lest anyone think that Israel's bombing campaigns have anything to do with security, rather than being a form of faster culling of the indigenous population, instead of the normal starvation, see the New York Time graphic counting the casualties on both sides from the flare ups in recent years. Note, this doesn't count any deaths due to the occupation's enforcement of squalid and horrifying living conditions on Ghazzah's populace. (Note, the graphic is from the 8th of October. The number of Palestinian deaths since then has surpassed that of the number of Israeli deaths, and, as of the time of writing this paper, it seems like Israel's rage is still just warming up.)

The Events of October $\mathbf{7}^{th}$ and Those Subsequent

On the morning of Saturday, the 8th of October, 2023, a number of armed militant groups, preeminent of which is Hamas, the group which currently administers the government in Ghazzah, mounted a daring breach of Israel's vaunted high tech and supposedly impenetrable barrier. With hundreds of fighters and operatives streaming through the now porous border, traversing the 1967 borders through breach points opened up underground, bulldozed through the barrier, flown over through improvised paragliding machines, and by sea, suddenly, Palestinian fighters were not just let out of their cages, but they were moving through their ancestral farms, villages and lands.

They overran a number of military checkpoints, bases, installations, police stations, and other strategic targets. Knowing that they were completely outgunned and outmanned when facing the world's most heavily radicalized and militarized armed and trained population, they took the precaution of taking hostages back with them to Gaza. They would not be able to hold their gains for too long, and the brutal collective retaliation against all Palestinians, regardless of status as civilian or combatant, could be counted on like clockwork.

All verifiable news to this point seems to indicate that the hostages generally have been treated with dignity, with one mother, who was a freed hostage with her children reporting that they were told, "We are Muslims. You have nothing to fear." Of course, this doesn't include much of the fake news being spun by media who obligingly repeats Israeli military and government talking points.

Combatants, on the other hand, have not fared as well. Israel has a mandatory military conscription for all teenagers, who can be later called up to fight through middle age. They are issued weapons, uniforms, ongoing training, and are personal participants in the occupation. There are exceptions, but this is the general rule. The shocking number of combatants killed, seem to have come near, if not outnumber any of the single day death counts of Israelis in the past, even from wars fought against the professional armies of Egypt, Syria and Jordan. As of the time of writing this piece, it doesn't seem to be clear that the breaches in the barrier or fighters outside the 1967 lines have been completely contained, although the fighting has died down greatly.

The Occupier's Response

The initial response from Israel's military command has been one of unpreparedness and shock. It doesn't seem like they even understood what had happened until several hours after the breach. Then the recriminations started. Israel's intelligence services, Shin Bet and Mossad, are vaunted the world over and held up as the gold standard in technological and human information gathering, the ability to disrupt individuals and groups, and general talent at wreaking havoc on enemies. They seem to have access to the highest levels of power within the governments of the Arab world, and have been involved in any number of operations intersecting with the most important people and places in the world, including undeniable connections with Jeffrey Epstein and Ghislaine Maxwell, Jonathan Pollard, and

countless others who might never be known. So how were they caught so off guard this time?

The internal fractures within Israeli society have been growing deeper and deeper as years go by. The largely secularized technically proficient, urbanized and modern Israeli intelligentsia which can be credited with its great advances in trade, science, technology, medicine, and strategic hegemony, have taken a demographic dive off the cliff, while the sector of society most unlike them seems to be a ballooning proportion of the population and electorate: the most conservative of Orthodox Jews. A large proportion of the latter do not serve in the military, abjure modern education, do not fruitfully participate in the economy, and yet, form a progressively larger and larger part of the electorate and Israeli society. They have formed a political pact with the most hawkish of rightwing elements, giving them the votes needed to hold power, while still not quite able to lead in any fruitful way within the Israeli economy, politics, culture, or society at large.

All of this has come to a head this year, where the rightwing Likud party, under the leadership of Binyamin Netanyahu, overseeing a reactionary ethno-nationalist cabinet, where ministerial roles are given to people like Bezalel Smotrich, who this very year advocated genocide in the Palestinian village of Huwara and the Kahanist Itamar Ben-Gvir; fanatical hate-mongers who backed Netanyahu's attempted parliamentary coup, removing the ability of the Supreme Court to ensure constitutional oversight over the government. It has been a contentious issue that has brought Israeli society to the brink of rupture, while investing power in individuals more interested in ideological and ethnic hate-mongering, than the actual business of regional hegemony.

The attacks of the past few days have done much to force erstwhile political foes to close ranks. However, while Netanyahu's government, its allies, shocked and angry citizens and others are so angry as to openly speak the language of genocide, wiser voices within the Israeli media, intelligentsia and establishment have started to question whether or not such a dystopian occupation is feasible or desirable in the long run.

While anger paints the world red, some question whether or not killing more civilians for not tolerating nightmarish conditions for decades, thus earning the spite of an ever growing part of the world not spellbound by the cultural and media hegemony of the US, UK, and EU can be sustained for very long.

What Does It Mean to Us Outside Palestine?

The Israeli lobby in the United States is one of the most powerful political forces inside and outside of Washington DC. The US Federal government spends billions of dollars a year in military and other types of aid to Israel. It frequently uses its UN Security Council veto and other diplomatic channels to cover for what can only objectively be described as Israel's war crimes. Lawmakers regularly kowtow to Israeli interest groups, traveling to Israel as a

The continued fighting came as Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu warned of a "long and difficult war" ahead, saying in a statement that Israeli forces were moving into an "offensive phase, which will continue with neither limitations nor respite until the objectives are achieved."

Mr Netanyahu warned Hamas that Israel held it responsible for the hostages' well-being and would "settle accounts with anyone who harms one hair on their heads".

He also said the IDF would "immediately use all its strength to destroy Hamas's capabilities," and told Gazans to leave their homes and take shelter.



political rite of passage, and, when they run afoul of the Israeli lobby, they can find themselves politically dead in the water, as their opponents will be lavishly funded in both primary and main election campaigns.

In countries that pride themselves on free speech, speaking ill of Israel is a very quick way of getting blacklisted in politics, government, academia, business, and media, like Marc Lamont Hill (who is currently desperately pandering to those who effected his petty dismissal in order to salvage his career). Those few souls who do dare point out the crimes of Israel, will often quickly walk their comments back under pressure.

Even now, despite the harrowing realities of an indigenous population being crushed under

colonial occupation, I have yet to hear US politicians mention or acknowledge the existence of the grievances of the Palestinian people, or check the genocidal language of Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, even though such discourse is present within Israel. Contrast the above two quotes, repeated unchallenged by the New York Times and BBC respectively.

Contrast American coverage with the words of regular Haaretz columnist Gideon Levy: "We now have to cry bitterly for the Israeli victims, but we should also cry for Gaza:

Behind all this lies Israeli arrogance; the idea that we can do whatever we like, that we'll never pay the price and be punished for it. We'll carry on undisturbed. We'll arrest, kill, harass, dispossess and protect the settlers busy with their pogroms. We'll visit Joseph's Tomb, Othniel's Tomb and Joshua's Altar in the Palestinian territories, and of course the Temple Mount – over 5,000 Jews on Sukkot alone.

We'll fire at innocent people, take out people's eyes and smash their faces, expel, confiscate, rob, grab people from their beds, carry out ethnic cleansing and of course continue with the unbelievable siege of the Gaza Strip, and everything will be all right."

This is just a small excerpt, and he goes on. This is not, by any stretch of the imagination, the most popular take on the matter in Israel currently, but it is one that is present and can be spoken. Contrast that to the near silence of voices like this in American and British mainstream media and politics, coupled with bold, nonsensical and spiteful accusations of antisemitism with the enforcers of pro-Israeli political orthodoxy here.

This is relevant to the Muslim community in the United States and around the world. Even if we are conflict averse and many of us try to keep our heads down and focus on our lives

Israel-Hamas War U.N. Warns of 'Disaster' in Gaza as Israel Strikes Back at Hamas

More than 300,000 people are homeless as Israeli airstrikes pound Gaza in retaliation for the Hamas attack, which Secretary of State Antony Blinken said carried "harrowing echoes" of Nazi massacres. here, the Israeli lobby had decided decades ago that the Muslim community at home and abroad are an enemy, and between AIPAC, the Anti-Defamation League, an organization supposedly made to end the blight of antisemitic hate, and any number of other prominent pro-Israeli groups seem to spend an inordinate amount of time pushing anti-Muslim propaganda.

Thus, even if we feel too beleaguered after bearing the brunt of post 9/11 vitriol, to show any Islamic or even just basic human solidarity with the occupied indigenous population of Palestine, we cannot ignore the Palestine question, because the enemies of Palestine will not leave us be. In fact, it is the very forces that are most irrationally pro-Israel, that always seem to have the most anti-Muslim talking points and policy agendas.

Even more disgusting, the legitimate work of fighting antisemitism is being thrown under the bus for cheap propaganda points. Comparing the plight of an admittedly exasperated, but still well armed and heavily militarized Israeli population and forces and the casualties of Hamas' invasion across the Gaza barrier to that of the victims of the holocaust is a disgusting misappropriation. It is also a very nearsighted run, which will only empower and enable antisemites and holocaust deniers in the near future by conflating legitimate struggle with

Mr. Blinken opened his statement with an emotional reference to his Jewish background and the Holocaust. His stepfather, Samuel Pisar, escaped Nazi concentration camps and found safety with American troops on his desperate flight to safety.

"I come before you not only as the U.S. secretary of state, but also as a Jew," he said. "I understand on a personal level the harrowing echoes that Hamas's massacres carry for Israeli Jews and for Jews everywhere." the tragic genocide of European Jews under Nazi Germany.

As I write this tract, the US Secretary of State Anthony Blinken is foolishly engaged in precisely such a misappropriation as reported by the New York Times.

The Military War vs. The Media War

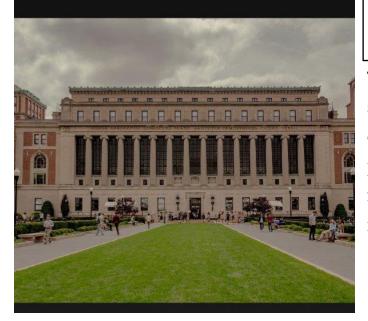
Having already touched on the issue of gross media bias, it must be mentioned that the media war goes a lot deeper than just the bias that comes with fraternal congeniality. *Hasbara*, or the concerted propaganda efforts of Israel around the world, is a full-time enterprise which is engaged with a war mentality. Israel is a pioneer in propaganda and misinformation campaigns. It pioneered the use of troll farms in social media and to comment on news stories, and recognizes that there is no need to fight your own battles

when you have gullible idiots to fight for you, regardless of whether or not they have accurate stock of what is actually going on. Far from crying about a Jewish conspiracy, I do recognize that many world powers often engage in some level of deception. However, as a seeker of truth, and a supporter of the oppressed, it is very important to expose false narratives and know what kind of entities you are dealing with.

Already a number of Israeli claims regarding Hamas' blitz have thus far shown to be seeming fabrications; the supposed beheading of 40 babies, which President Biden claims to have seen, but even the Israeli Defense Forces will not yet go on record to confirm. The supposed rape and murder of Shani Louk, only to find footage of her alive and captive in Ghazzah. The claim of going on a murderous rampage at a rave, while neglecting to mention the presence of IDF forces firing from within the venue, as well as claiming that women were stripped and

Columbia University Closes Campus Ahead of Israel-Hamas War Protests

Tensions have risen around the city as supporters of each side stage protests and police investigate possible hate crimes.



raped, even though footage seems to show that they were so dressed by choice in order to attend the rave, and without evidence of rape.

Berlin police have also banned planned pro-Palestinian demonstrations, citing the risk of antisemitic statements and glorification of violence. Authorities said around 60 demonstrators complied with an order to leave Berlin's Potsdamer Platz on Thursday.

To the contrary, commercial media is not showing the footage of Israeli's kicking, defiling, and urinating on corpses, torturing prisoners, and the pulling of dead toddlers from the rubble in Gaza. In fact, the mainstream media is reporting the banning of



Most political parties in France have condemned what they called Hamas's "terrorist attack"

France bans all pro-Palestinian demonstrations

By Ido Vock BBC News

2 hours ago | Europe

France's interior minister has banned all pro-Palestinian demonstrations in the country.

pro-Palestine protests, at US universities, and in general, in France and Germany, as well as the criminalization of the Palestinian flag in the UK by Home Secretary Suella Braverman, out of fear of political momentum in favor of the occupied.

They don't even have the energy to hide Israeli politicians promises to flatten Ghazzah or call for the extermination of its populations, whom they are regularly calling animals at this point.

Does This Mean We Support Hamas?

At this point, any criticism of the occupation, genocidal words or deeds of the Israeli Military or government, or anything but blind rage against the audacious people of Ghazzah to try to break through the

cages of their concentration camp are painted as "support for Hamas."

This is indeed a serious allegation, as supporting Hamas, a legally designated terror group, is a crime in many jurisdictions.

No, I do not support Hamas. Not as a political entity, nor as a theologian. For that matter I do not support Palestine as a nation state. The very flag of the country itself is something designed by TE Lawrence's rabble who betrayed the Ottoman state in order to have a map filled with nonsensical statelets, none of which seem to do anything helpful for their people, even though they served early 20th century British interests well enough.

But guess what? None of that is the point. The point is that the two million people of Ghazzah are Muslims, and human beings, trying to raise families, eat, sleep, pray and work. They are trying to get an education, live in homes, and enjoy the same life that you and I cherish. Their only crime was to live in a land that was usurped by heavily armed foreigners, who themselves very quickly forgot what it was like to be treated like subhuman vermin and exterminated, sadly.

Individual Hamas fighters might have committed crimes; some due to the adrenaline of fighting, some because of foolishness, and a few because they as individuals are just bad human beings. Such people should be liable for their crimes and punished accordingly.

But do you know what the most important difference between them and the IDF pilots raining white phosphorus out of the sky on the fathers, mothers and children of Ghazzah? The former are just fighting to see their father's village, whereas the latter often still have dual citizenship with the USA, UK, EU and other countries. I understand that Jews did not get a fair shake in places like Russia, or sadly, the Arab world, after secular nationalist governments betrayed the sacred pact of protection afforded to their forefathers by the pious forebears of Islām; but none of them had to live like anything remotely like what is happening in Ghazzah right now in the Muslim world. Even in Europe where the shameful horrors of the holocaust were perpetrated by the Nazis and silently enabled by many hateful individuals in countries occupied by them, the occupiers often have comfortable, prosperous places to go back to. Even in a place like Putin's Russia, nothing like Ghazzah exists. Even in Ukraine, Putin hasn't done anything like Ghazzah, even though he brought great suffering.

So no. I do not support Hamas. But one need not support Hamas in order to understand that any brave and sane person with the will to live would ever accept an excruciating and tortuous death where one lives long enough to see everyone they love suffer needlessly, and every one of their dreams snuffed out slowly.

Our Sacred Beliefs Regarding Those Who Resist

Knowing the horrible price being exacted by the people of Ghazzah as we speak: those people, who currently have no water, no electricity, no food, no medicine and are unable to even sleep due to the non-stop thunder of munitions raining on the heads of their children, one has to wonder, was it worth it? Is life and living even worth it?

As a *mawlawī* entrusted with a message from the Lord, I exhort you to gather your courage in your heart and remember, that the messenger of Allāh said, that whoever is killed protecting his *Dīn*, dies a martyr. And whoever is killed protecting his life, dies a martyr. And whoever is killed protecting his rightful property, dies a martyr. And whoever is killed protecting his rightful honor, dies a martyr.

Who is a martyr? He is one who bears witness to God's supreme right and, even though his life in this world ends, he never dies. God is pleased with him and his sacrifice and he receives eternal life in Paradise, in honor and bliss.

His wounds will flow on the Day of Judgment, crimson red, but with the fragrance of Musk. He will be given intercession on behalf of his loved ones in faith, and he will not ever again morn or grieve. No one in Paradise will ever miss anything from this life such that they wish to go back, except the martyr, who when he sees the honor God has prepared for him, will want to go back and give his life for His sake again and again.

Contrast this with the judgment that awaits every arrogant one, every tyrant, who loves to steal but hates to be stolen from. Every usurper who loves to be safe and happy himself, but does not hesitate to harm or hurt another. Jew or Muslim, Christian, Hindu or Atheist, the Day of Judgment will be a day where the only thing we bring to define who we are is our deeds; identity politics will do no one any good that day.

Remember, that we are here temporarily to show who we are and what we are made of, and then we will take a place eternally, either in Paradise or in flames of the Hellfire accordingly.

Just like no joy in this world is permanent, no evil, harm, sickness, oppression, or injustice lasts forever., rather each of them has a decreed time.

Never give up hope or courage. From Abū Jahl, through the Sassanians, Byzantines, Crusaders, Fāṭimids, Mongols, and many others, to today's miscreants; they all tried to efface the light Allāh's *Dīn*, and all of them have perished to dust on the burning garbage heap of history.

The righteous and wicked die, but the wicked regret their wickedness, whereas the righteous bask in the light of the goodness they were given by the Lord.

Just like every tyrant before us has fallen, there is no Pharoah, except God, Most High, has decreed his appointed moment of drowning from which he will never gasp again, after which he will return to the most severe of torment, and all praise is to God, Lord of the worlds.

What You Can and Must Do

This depends on who you are and what your position is in your life. If you have the ears of people in government or media, then gather your courage and say something. You are not alive in order to fill the toilets of the municipality with digested waste.

On the other extreme, if you are in a very precarious situation where speaking will bring you or a loved one great harm, at least take a moment to give space in your heart for the truth, as painful as it may seem. Give space on your tongue for prayers for those in difficulty, and repeat them daily, even if only for a few moments. Read the four *Quls*, or the *Aḥzab* written for protection of the oppressed, like the *Ḥizb al-Naṣr*. Sit with the people of *dhikr* wherever they are and pray with them when you can.

Even if you are in a situation between the two, you can do a few more thing in addition. Talk to your friends in real life about the situation. Don't expect them to agree with you all at once, but do try to engage them on a level that they will understand. We don't need everyone to go full Palestine rally mode. If enough people can just understand that Israel isn't infallible and that the Palestinians aren't evil incarnate, they will get enough of the picture to say I'm no longer interested in sending my tax dollars and deploying my country's military and diplomatic bandwith to fund an apartheid ethnocult.

It is patently ridiculous that the US is sending aircraft carriers so back up Israel as we speak. If people knew how small and how battered Ghazzah was, they would see how completely nonsensical it all is.

Take a moment to encourage any politician, reporter or celebrity who acknowledges the humanity of the Palestinians. We aren't looking for fanatical supporters: but merely just-minded people willing to look at things fairly.

Write to your political leaders. A handwritten letter is better than a typed email. An email is better than a social media post, unless it goes viral. They might not respond, but they do count and notice.

Take note of those who equivocate on moral issues that are unequivocal. They might have their reasons and be good people inside, but they definitely don't have what it takes to be a leader.

Take note of those who are silent. It is a well-known saying of the Ṣūfīs:

The one who is silent when it is time to speak the truth, is a tongueless devil.

And finally, give. Give to the reconstruction of Ghazzah by whatever lawful channels are available. Sponsor orphans and the medical care of the disabled. Netanyahu called them animals, but they are human beings. Such a person is God's beloved one. It is related that if you are looking for God, you will find Him where you find a broken heart.

Give also to those politicians, journalists and leaders willing to stand up and advocate. It is a scary time. I myself don't know what will happen to me for writing this, and I pray I never care for any repercussion except what my Lord sees of me. That being said, there are brave people out there who are saying the good word and doing the good work. If we are thankful for them, we must show it by supporting them. If we are thankful for them, God promises us increase.

Who Is Writing This Tract and What Is the Point?

I am a servant of the sacred knowledge of the revelation given as a mercy to mankind by God, Almighty, to His messenger ﷺ, for the benefit of all without bias to race, ethnicity, socioeconomic class or nationality.

The traditional title given to such a servant in the Persianate Islamic sphere is *mawlawī*, meaning a man of the Lord; this is not a claim of infallibility or a boast of assumed righteousness, but a desire, and a passion.

As such, I have no care about the nation-state aspirations of any ethnic group, nor who makes money or gets power out of any of this. All I wish to see is that justice is done by all, friend and foe, because that is what will please my Lord. If tomorrow every devil who is causing mischief in the earth were to repent and take the path of righteousness, I will be the first to take his hand and congratulate him, for without the grace of God on His creation, neither was Hebrew hallowed, nor Arabic sacred, nor any land, house, temple or shrine holy; all is but a manifestation of His grace.

I can work with others who don't agree with me on common goals, but state clearly, that I neither see that Jews or Palestinians have a right to a state, and that the only mandate to rule comes from God.

Many Palestinian nationalists find no place for people like me in their activism. When the hypocrisy of claiming to be a Muslim while holding such a view is pointed out, it is said that by giving a theocratic and theocentric grounding to the cause, we will exclude the roughly one-third of the Palestinian population from our cause; I disagree and say that as long as the sacred mantle of the prophet and partook in it with dignity and were defended from fanatical and impious usurpers from both within, and outside the ranks of all three religions. Ever since people started looking to materialist and humanist reason to guide them, people have been shooting each other, detonating places of worship, and spilling the blood of innocents without cessation, neither in the past, nor in the foreseeable future.

If you also see virtue in the *mawlawī* path, even if you don't tread it, then please consider what I have to say carefully.

Resources

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The Israeli Lobby: <u>https://www.amazon.com/Israel-Lobby-U-S-Foreign-</u> Policy/dp/0374531501

Hizb al-Nașr:

مَسُوقاً إِلَيْهَا وَمُصَاداً فِيهَا وَأُسيراً لَدَيْهَا * اللَّهُمَّ بِحَقٍّ كَهِيعَصّ اكْفِنَا الْعِدَا وَلَقِّهِمُ الرَّدَىٰ * وَاجْعَلْهُمْ لِكُلِّ حَبِيبٍ فِدَا * وَسَلُّطِ اللَّهُمَّ عَلَيْهِم عَاجِلَ النِّقَم في اليوم والغدا * اللَّهُمَّ بَدِّدْ شَمَلَهُمْ * اللَّهُمَّ فَرِّقْ جَمْعَهُمْ * اللَّهُمَّ فُلَّ حَدَّهُمْ * وَأَقَلَّ عَدَدَهُمْ * اللَّهُمَّ اجْعَل الدَّائِرَةَ عَلَيْهِمْ * اللَّهُمَّ أرْسِل العَذَابَ إلَيْهِمْ * اللَّهُمَّ أخرجْهُمْ عَنْ دَائِرَةِ الحلم واللطف * واسْلُبْهم مَدَدَ الإمهال * وَغُلَّ أَيْدِيَهُمْ وَارْبُطْ عَلَىٰ قُلُوبِهِمْ وَلا تُبَلِّغُهُمُ الآمَالَ * اللَّهُمَّ مزَّفْهُمْ كل مُمَزَّقٍ مَزَّفْتَهُ أَعْدَائَكَ انْتِصَاراً لأنبياَئِكَ وَرُسُلِكَ وَأَوْلِيَائِكَ * اللَّهُمَّ انْتَصرْ لَنَا انْتِصَارَكَ لأَحْبَابِكَ عَلَىٰ أَعْدَائِكَ (ثلاثاً) * اللَّهُمَّ لا تُمَكِّن الأَعْدَاءَ فِينَا وَلاَ مِنَّا وَلاَ تُسَلِّطْهُمْ عَلَيْنَا بِذُنُوبِنَا (ثلاثاً) * حمَّ لاَ يُنْصَرُونَ (سبعاً) * اللَّهُمَّ بِحَق حَمّ عَسَقٌ جِمَايَتُنَا مِمَّا نَخَافُ * اللَّهُمَّ قَنَا شَرَّ

الأَسْوَاءِ وَلا تَجْعَلَنَا مَجَلًا لِلْبَلُوَىٰ * اللَّهُمَّ اغْطِنَا أَمَلَ الرَّجَاءِ وَفَوقَ الأَمَلِ * اللَّهُمَّ يَا مَنْ بِفَضْلِهِ لِفَضْلِهِ * نَسْأَلُكَ يا إلَّهي العَجَلَ العَجَلَ العَجَلَ العَجَلَ * الإجَابَةَ الإجَابَةَ الإجَابَةَ * يَا مَنْ أَجَابَ نُوحاً في قَوْمِهِ * يَا مَنْ نَصَرَ إِبْراهِيم عَلَىٰ أَعْدائِهِ * يَا مَنْ رَدًّ يُوسْفَ علَى يَعْقُوبٍ * يَا مَنْ كَشَفَ ضُرَّ أَيُّوبَ * يَا مَنْ أَجَابَ دَعْوَةَ زِكَرِيًّا * يَا مَنْ قَبِلَ تَسْبِيحَ يُونسَ بْن مَتَّىٰ * أَسْأَلُكَ اللَّهُمَّ بِأَسْرَارِ أَصْحَابٍ هٰذِهِ الدَّعَوَاتِ المُسْتجَابَاتِ * أَنْ تَقْبَلَ مَا بِهِ دَعَوْنَاكَ * وَأَنْ تُعْطِينَا مَا سَأَلْنَاكَ * وَأَنْجِزْ لَنَا وَعْدَكَ الَّذِي وعَدْتَهُ لِعِبَادِكَ الصَّالِحِينَ المُؤْمِنِينَ * لاَ إِلٰهَ إِلاَّ أَنْتَ سُبْحَانَكَ إِنِّي كُنْتُ مِنَ الظَّالِمِينَ * ٱنْقَطَعَتْ آمالُنَا وَعَزَّتِكَ إِلاّ منْكَ * وَخَابَ رَجَاؤُنَا وَحَقِّكَ إِلَّا فِيكَ .