

Resistance to Israeli occupation can and must take many forms

Susan Abulhawa >>



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The truth about Israel's new war on Gaza – the energy rush

Catherine Shakdam

Tuesday, 22 July 2014 12:27

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While Israel has deployed its media machine, telling the world that it has the right to defend itself against foreign aggression, arguing that no country should ever be made to tolerate systematic terror, even though under international law such narrative holds no legal ground as Israel has been de facto occupying Gaza, rendering null and void the notion of Gaza as a foreign entity, little has been said of Israel's real motives.

To quickly settle Israel's argument that it legally and morally can and should defend itself against any aggression coming from Gaza, it is important to understand that the Gaza Strip is not, under international law, a sovereign state, it is an occupied land, therefore Israel cannot declare war on its people, rather it owes its people protection.

As explained by Nura Erakat in a report published in *Intifada Palestine*, "Military occupation is a recognised status under international law and since 1967, the international community has designated the West Bank and the Gaza Strip as militarily occupied. As long as the occupation continues, Israel has the right to protect itself and its citizens from attacks by Palestinians who reside in the occupied territories. However, Israel also has a duty to maintain law and order, also known as 'normal life', within territory it occupies. This obligation includes not only ensuring, but prioritising, the security and well-being of the occupied population. That responsibility and those duties are enumerated in **Occupation Law**."

As for Palestinians in Gaza they do however have an inherent right to resist foreign occupation. Such right is again, protected under international law.



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Israel has so far destroyed 161 mosques in the Gaza Strip, Palestinian Awqaf Minister Yousef Dois said yesterday.



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But as the following arguments will attempt to demonstrate all the above, the contradicting narratives, the political manipulations and media campaigns, are but a distraction from far more pragmatic realities and maybe truth – the war on Gaza has little to do with sovereignty, terror, politics or even religion, rather it has everything to do with energy.

If Israel is so keen on levelling Hamas it is essentially because the faction has categorically refused to discuss an energy sharing agreement whereby Israel would have access to Gaza's gas resources.

Let us all remember that Israel faces an energy crisis of biblical proportion and that Gaza's untapped and unexploited billions of dollars represent a fortune and a lifeline which Tel Aviv will not tolerate to go to waste.

As noted by Tascha Shahriari-Parsa: "Operation Protective Edge is the war of a colonial state dedicated to expanding its theft of Palestine's natural resources ... incarcerating and bombing its people in the world's biggest open air prison, while growing rich at their expense."

Rather than a bunch of lunatic radicals animated by the savagery of the crusades, Zionists are actually quite a practical bunch. What they seek in Gaza is merely access to Palestine's underground riches. Whatever happens on the surface is just there to act as a public distraction, a ploy designed for the masses so that Israel could commit grand larceny in perfect impunity under the very nose of the ever pliable world community. Who after all would dare deny the plight of martyr Israel?

To borrow the words of Tascha Shahriari-Parsa when she wrote a report for The Ecologist: "Behind the operation, behind the mass Israeli and US propaganda attempting to justify the massacre, and behind the death of every child in Gaza is a conflict rarely discussed - an imperialist conflict and a contradiction that rests on Israel's ambitions to appropriate and profit from Gaza's natural gas resources."

Palestine's vast natural resources

Let us go back to 2000 when British Gas (BG) discovered that Gaza sat on an estimated \$4 billion worth of natural gas. Needless to say that this discovery came as a shock to Israel, as suddenly Gaza, this little slither of land which Palestinians have been discarded upon, this purgatory which Zionists imagined to crush Palestinians' hopes and dreams, became a key geo-strategic priority. Come hail and high waters, Israel would have to gain access to those resources.

Since BG made its first estimation, it was established that Gaza's gas reserves are far greater than first anticipated. According to Michel Chossudovsky, a Canadian economist and prominent analyst, Gaza is basking in as much wealth as the State of Kuwait.

Rather than live in abject poverty, Gaza should be a vibrant business hub, a brilliant economic success. Instead, it has been withering away under Israel's blockade, forced to scrap and beg for its daily bread, its people reduced to servitude.

Let us remember that Israel's maritime blockade coincides with BG's discovery. Let us remember that it is since 2000 that Israel has denied Palestine access to its territorial waters, thus infringing on international law and de facto putting Gaza under siege; all because Israel wants to pillage Palestine's resources.

Not convinced yet?

Well, let us refer to an interesting and rather revealing comment made by former **Israeli army Chief of Staff Moshe Ya'alon** back in 2007 when he laid bare Israel's true motives. Answering comments in regards to Gaza's gas riches, he noted: "Proceeds of a Palestinian gas sale to Israel would likely not trickle down to help an impoverished Palestinian public. Rather, based on Israel's past experience, the proceeds will likely serve to fund further terror attacks against Israel. A gas transaction with the Palestinian Authority will, by definition, involve Hamas. Hamas will either benefit from the royalties or it will sabotage the project and launch attacks against Fatah, the gas installations, Israel - or all three ... It is clear that without an overall military operation to uproot Hamas control of Gaza, no drilling work can take place without the consent of the radical Islamic movement."

What Ya'alon is really saying is that since Hamas will unlikely agree to a deal with Israel,

operation in Libya



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It is said that historical facts can be distorted but geographical facts can't. The latter help to shape external policies in the world of geopolitics, which connect Egypt and Palestine, esp...

Israel needs therefore to eliminate Hamas, by declaring its faction a terror organisation – even though many would argue that it is a resistance movement, according to international law.

Israel needs gas now!

So why a war now? To put it bluntly, Israel cannot wait any longer. Plagued by high unemployment and rising inflation, Israel needs to find a viable solution to both its energy crisis and mounting economic difficulties – financing an eternal war can be rather costly.

According to Israel's own projection, the state will face an aggravated energy crisis by 2020. Earlier this July, *Haaretz* published a report in which it quoted the excerpt of a report written by chief scientists from the Energy and Water Ministry and the Environmental Protection Ministry, explicitly mapping out Israel's energy crisis. It read "We believe Israel should increase its [domestic] use of natural gas by 2020 and should not export gas. The Natural Gas Authority's estimates are lacking. There's a gap of 100 to 150 billion cubic metres between the demand projections that were presented to the committee and the most recent projections. The gas reserves are likely to last even less than 40 years!"

Israel is quite simply running out of time. If recent mass protests in Israel in regards to depreciating living conditions and social injustice are anything to go by, officials indeed feel a great sense of urgency.

As Israel's needs increase, so has its determination to by-pass international law, as before Israel's will nations should only bow and recoil in awe.

Since whatever Israel cannot negotiate it will obliterate, beginning of course with Hamas, the war on Gaza came as a natural development to Israel's geo-strategic realities.

Let us remember that the last time Israel marched on Gaza, in 2008, its military deployment also aligned with its contracting of BG to discuss critical negotiations around Gaza's natural gas. A coincidence? Maybe not.

This new war on Gaza is a colonial war. This new war on Gaza has little to do with self-defence or terror or sovereignty... it has however everything to do with Israel's neo-imperialistic ambitions.



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Muhammad Zia

Very informative. But genocide is not the answer. Earth is vast and plentiful enough for all of us! When will we learn?


Reply · Like · 44 · 22 July at 10:07



Rasmus Bonde Stouby · Copenhagen, Denmark

It's not a genocide. Stop saying that. It takes focus away from the abundant atrocities that really ARE being committed...


Reply · Like · 4 · 22 July at 15:18



Nadim Azar

Rasmus Bonde Stouby It is genocide, denying it makes no difference. Live with it.

Reply · Like · 51 · 23 July at 03:03



Bruna Mush · Works at National Gallery

Rasmus Bonde Stouby: I'm sure ur being paid to give this answer



nasmas Dinde Cloudy , I'm sure u r being payed to give this answer:

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 13 · 24 July at 23:43

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Achilles Yiangoulli · Operations at SBS

...follow the money trail. It will always lead to the toppling of governments,murder and extortion. History will inevitably repeat itself. This is an old story being re-told. Excellent synopsis.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 34 · 22 July at 13:26



Jennifer Gavin · Works at Sacyr

This is so dumb. It doesn't bother to mention that Hamas is the cause of the Palestinian deaths, and uses them to gain international sympathies. They openly call for the destruction of Israel and all the Jews. Everyone sympathizes with the people in Gaza, as well they should, but Israel has to protect its people!

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 28 · 24 July at 02:53



Shahd W. · Top commenter

you know obviously NOTHING about the region. Maybe you should consider a visit?? People like you who visited Palestinian areas have been ashamed of such comments. or maybe you should hear what Israeli soldiers who commit atrocities in occupied Palestine on a daily basis say after they finish or refuse their service. Listen to soldiers of Breaking the Silence in Hebron... thousands of testimonies I am sure you're smart enough to be able to google it. Much better than making an idiotic comment that is formulated based only on western media.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 107 · 24 July at 04:41



Jasmin Ac

Shahd W. probably she's NOT smart enough , like a lot of others around the world who just believe that this war is about the hamas -why would israel kill innocent unarmed children then,which are just playing at the beach !? why is the amount of killed children so high ? did they even killed anyone of the hamas follower?

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 17 · 25 July at 12:27



Marlene Ross · Top commenter · Wheelock College

Jasmin Ac When underground tunnels built by Hamas stem out of schools; when Hamas won't allow civilians to flee, even when Israel sends out fliers/warning to evacuate, then yes children get killed...that is the fault of Hamas, who has no respect for human life. That is using human life as shields...holding Palestian women and children, their own people as human hostages.

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Hillorie Monsour

I don't think the article defends Israel. Quite the contrary! The first several paragraphs debunk Israel's "self-defense" argument by recognizing it is an Occupying Force and stating International Law, which states that Palestinians have a right to defend themselves against occupation!

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 18 · 22 July at 15:33



Nina Hallmann

Who said it was meant to defend Israel?

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 13 · 23 July at 02:55



Neek Skie Wolkor · Top commenter · Anchorage, Alaska

Nina Hallmann: There is a comment below accusing someone of doing it. It's not clear who is accused.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 23 July at 21:02



Melaknee Burgers · Binghamton University

this is a war over energy? you're an idiot

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 16 · 22 July at 08:55



Ali Shah · Top commenter


You should consider changing your surname. Idiot.


[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 50 · 22 July at 12:36

Jamal Kanj

Henriette
Johansen

 [Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 30 · 22 July at 12:00


 **Sam El Rifai** · Top commenter · Calgary, Alberta
Ali Shah LMFAO!!
[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 11 · 22 July at 14:20


 **Huzaifa Kapadia** · Symbiosis
ya tat last name actually suits ur face too :P
[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 4 · 24 July at 12:08

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Fred Smith
Good article-the truth always hurts
[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 15 · 22 July at 09:03


 **Emmanuël B Turinawe** · Institute of Social Studies
Fortunately, this truth is not new, it is always known, whether it is Tibet, Crimea, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, the falklands etc, it will always be some economic imperative, otherwise, why then?
[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 22 · 22 July at 16:01


 **Dave England** · University of Plymouth
The truth is never fully based on the facts, just those aspects people choose to believe or report on.
[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 1 · 1 August at 23:37



Jeffrey Dean · Agitator at Communist revolution
<http://anti-imperialism.com/2014/07/22/israels-operation-protective-edge-is-really-about-natural-gas/>
[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 11 · 22 July at 08:47

 **Ellen Kaufmann** · Top commenter · Free University of Berlin
This penalty bombing of targeted live supporting infrastructure obviously has the aim of ethnic cleansing and pushing the palestinians out of their country. I would not be suprised, if they were behind the missile shootings of Hamas or within Hamas in order to create such "excuses" for killings and destruction.
[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 18 · 24 July at 06:35

 **Marlene Ross** · Top commenter · Wheelock College
Hamas is harboring rockets/missiles in structures that house schools/hospitals and the like...they built cement tunnels from these dwellings as well. Then they use the civilians as human hostages forbidding them to leave even when Israel sends out fliers to evacuate prior to targeting them. Is it any wonder more Palestinians are killed and mamed? This is how Hamas gains its sympathy...hold civilans hostage, then cry for sympathy when they are killed. What would you do if your land was the constant target from Hamas, a terrorist group who has publically announced its desire to destroy Israel and its people?
[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 12 · 25 July at 17:52


 **David Crowley** · University of Limerick
Hmm. I probably wouldn't have systematically displaced, oppressed, murdered and humiliated a whole population in the first place. I certainly wouldn't do it for decades and act surprised when they fight back.
[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 40 · 25 July at 18:51


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Jamie Murphy · In college
To defend Israel for wat there doing makes u sound stupid an cold you are just as bad it's discusting
[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 8 · 22 July at 11:09


 **Emmanuël B Turinawe** · Institute of Social Studies
And defending Hamas makes you worse
[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 10 · 22 July at 15:59

 **Dzulkarnain Nasir** · Top commenter · Developer at Geta Latvia
Emmanuël B Turinawe Actually no. Both are just as crazy, except for the fact



Emmanuel D. Tunnawe Actually NO. Both are just as crazy, except for the fact that one of them has access to some of the most advanced weaponry currently available. That, and our tax money.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 25 · 23 July at 03:05




Marlene Ross · Top commenter · Wheelock College

And Hamas has access to money from rich Arab countries, Iran and others, but has as its sole goal to destroy Israel and the Jews who live there....this is what they have said publically and they are using their own people as human shields and hostages while they are attempting to do just that.

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 7 · 25 July at 17:55


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P Anthony Graham · Top commenter · SANTA CLARA CUBA

WICKED BABYLON!!!!!!!!!!!! One day! The tables will again turn

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 7 · 22 July at 13:57



Molly Riley · Top commenter

Excellent synopsis.

This too: <http://scgnews.com/the-gaza-bombardment-what-youre-not-being-told>

[Reply](#) · [Like](#) · 6 · 22 July at 07:28

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