

Font-size:

Print: 

[Ukraine Abandons the Battlefield and Surrenders to Donbass Militia](#)

[Kiev Regime Forces in East Ukraine Surrender](#)

Latest News / Top Stories

Evidence Is Now Conclusive: Two Ukrainian Government Fighter-Jets Shot Down Malaysian Airlines MH17. It Was Not a 'Buk' Surface to Air Missile

Entire Ukraine Military Brigade Abandons the Battlefield and Surrenders to Donbass Militia

Mounting Opposition to Conscription in Ukraine Armed Forces Spreads across the Country

Kiev Regime Forces in East Ukraine Surrender. Negotiations with Donbass Militia

In the Name of Humanity, Stop the Israeli Slaughter in Gaza: More than 1,800 Killed and almost 10,000 Injured

The Subprime Economy is Back—But It Means Death for The Middle East

[All Articles](#)

Want To Publish A Book?

 iuniverse.com

Learn How To Get Published Today. Claim Your Free Publishing Guide.



NEWS

MOST POPULAR

[GEOGRAPHIC REGIONS](#)

[THEMES](#)

I-BOOKS SERIES

[IN-DEPTH REPORTS](#)

THE GLOBAL RESEARCH NEWS HOUR

Is Israel's Operation Protective Edge Really About Natural Gas?

By [Tascha Shahriari-Parsa](#)
Global Research, July 24, 2014
[Counterpunch](#) 18 July 2014

Region: Middle East & North Africa
Theme: Crimes against Humanity, Oil and Energy
In-depth Report: PALESTINE

Like 1.3k

 9

Want To Publish A Book?

 iuniverse.com

Learn How To Get Published Today. Claim Your Free Publishing Guide.



For more details on this issue, read Michel Chossudovsky's article *War and Natural Gas: The Israeli Invasion and Gaza's Offshore Gas Fields*.

While many articles have debunked the myth that Israel is acting out of "self-defense," very few have attempted to establish why Israel is continuing its assault on Palestine through *Operation Protective Edge*, aside from the supposition that Zionists have a fanatic penchant for drawing Palestinian blood. Behind the operation, behind the mass Israeli and U.S. 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*.

To provide some background, the natural gas issue arose in the year 2000 when British Gas (BG) discovered what they claimed to be \$4 billion worth of natural gas reserves off the coast of Gaza. The Palestinian Investment Fund (PIF) and British Gas (BG) both invested in the project, with BG holding 60% of the rights. Since then, more gas has been found in the region. Michel Chossudovsky, a Canadian economist, has estimated that the amount of gas in Palestine is so grand that it could make Palestine as rich as Kuwait. In due reaction, since 2000, Israel has strengthened its maritime blockade on Gaza, denying Palestine basic rights over its territorial waters, driving away Palestinian fishing boats, and contaminating the waters so heavily from its naval attacks that the fishing industry essentially collapsed. "On its coastal littoral," reported Peter Beaumont from Gaza several years ago, "Gaza's limitations are marked by a different fence where the bars are Israeli gunboats with their huge wakes, scurrying beyond the Palestinian fishing boats and preventing them from going outside a zone imposed by the warships." It is discernible that this is directly due to Israel's appetite for Palestinian gas.

In recent years, Israel's energy crisis has deepened, as marked by a letter by two Israeli scientists. "We believe Israel should increase its [domestic] use of natural gas by 2020 and should not export gas," the letter reads. "The Natural Gas Authority's estimates are lacking. There's a gap of 100 to 150 billion cubic meters 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!" As the need for energy has grown in Israel, so have their ruthless attempts to seek it.

After the election of Hamas in 2006, Israel began negotiating with BG since, according to the former chief of staff of the IDF Moshe Ya'alon, the previously negotiated investment meant that a portion of the revenue could fall into the hands of Hamas and 'threaten' Israel. In other words, Israel wanted the gas, but they did not want part of the revenue to go to Hamas. Their solution,

SEARCH ARREST RECORDS

FIRST NAME

LAST NAME

STATE

therefore, was to get rid of Hamas. More accurately, it is safe to affirm that Israel both desires a financially and militarily weaker opposition *as well* as a more subservient entity that may agree to willingly hand over its natural gas to Israeli profiteers.

Operation Cast Lead began in June 2008, at the exact same time that Israel contacted BG to discuss critical negotiations around Gaza's natural gas. As these negotiations continued, Israel was killing 1,417 Palestinians, displacing over 50,000 Gazans and destroying over 4,000 homes through air strikes and a deadly ground invasion with the declared purpose of securing areas within the Gaza strip that rockets were fired from. In reality, it had nothing to do with the rockets, or a notion of "self defense", considering how disproportionate the casualties were—just as they are now under operation protective edge. It was merely a means as part of Israel's overall goal of appropriating Palestinian natural gas, both through territorial control and the failed attempt to defeat Hamas.

While Israel was fighting to get rid of Hamas, they were simultaneously supporting and negotiating with Fatah. In 2011, a new round of negotiations with Fatah completely excluded Hamas from the process; in turn, Hamas declared these talks as illegitimate. Even more shocking, [wikileaks cables from December 2010](#) confirmed that Fatah had asked Israel to attack Hamas. Yuval Diskin, the head of Israel's security agency *Shin Bet*, made comments on Israel's desire to strengthen Fatah. "Fatah is in a very bad shape in Gaza. We have received requests to train their forces in Egypt and Yemen. We would like to get them to get the training they need, and to be more powerful, but they do not have anyone to lead them". Before that, in 2006 after the election of Hamas, Israel authorized the delivery of "light weapons and ammunition" to armed forces loyal to Fatah.

All in all, it is clear that Fatah, heavily criticized by the People's Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and other liberation-seeking groups in Palestine, has at least to a great extent sold itself out to Israel. It is also evident that Israel would much prefer Fatah over Hamas in negotiations on natural gas. Operation Protective Edge, very much like Operation Cast Lead, has neither anything to do with self-defense (as the right may tell us), nor is it a meaningless slaughter motivated principally by a hatred for Palestinians (as the confused left may believe). It is very clear what it is: *a war driven by the hankering yet callous lust of the imperialist capital of a colonial state to expand its appropriation of Palestinian natural resources and profit at the severe expense of the Palestinian people.*

While Palestine must receive the full support of people around the world in its struggle for national liberation, Israel must be unequivocally condemned for its indefensible war crimes and occupation of Palestine. It is clear that Israel's *Operation Protective Edge* is a misnomer, as it should be renamed to something along the lines of *Operation Capital-driven Genocide*. The truth is, Israel's brutality will continue and Palestine will never be free *until the Zionist apparatuses of colonialism and occupation are dismantled once and for all.*

Tascha Shahriari-Parsa is a student from Vancouver, British Columbia, who has recently found himself unable to allow an hour to pass by without seeking updates on the situation in Palestine. Angered and frustrated by the horrors of Israeli war crimes and occupation, he has been involved in Palestine-solidarity activism and does what he can to spread the truth about Palestine in his community. More generally, he is interested in the liberation of the oppressed from their oppressors across the globe and in the contradictions that necessitate such liberation

"One of the most important books currently available. The information it contains is heart rending, scary and absolutely accurate."
-Helen Caldicott
Co-founder, Physicians for Social Responsibility

TOWARDS A WORLD WAR III SCENARIO

THE DANGERS OF NUCLEAR WAR

MICHEL CHOSSUDOVSKY

Click for info on the new book from GLOBAL RESEARCH

Global Research Newsletter:

enter your email

"Artworks for Peace": Support Global Research

9/11 Truth in 2014: Is a Breakthrough Possible?

Become a Member of Global Research – Receive Free Books!

Donate to Global Research

Support & Advice for Caregivers.

GET STARTED

AARP

ONLY YOU CAN PREVENT WILDFIRES.

Like Smokey on Facebook »

Global Research Related Articles

Israel Authorises Mining of Natural Gas off Gaza Shore in Defiance of Palestinian Sovereignty

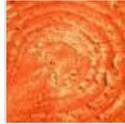
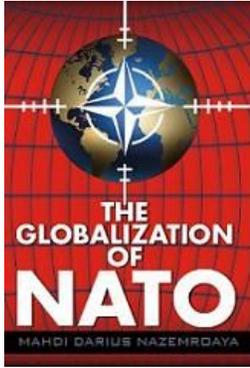
Global Research Editor's Note This is the real reason for the maritime blockade of Gaza: Gaza's offshore natural gas. Denying Palestine its rights over Gaza territorial waters is intent upon appropriating Gaza's extensive reserv of natural gas. Michel Chossudovsky, ...

Advanced Search

Index by Countries

Index by Author

Global Research Publishers



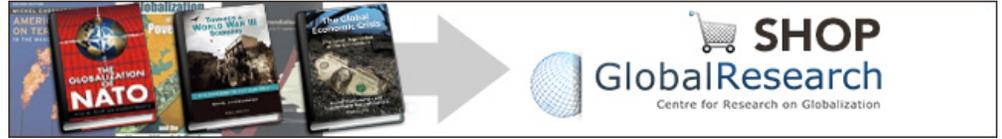
Two fronts in Israel's brutal war

Two Israeli soldiers were captured on July 12 by members of Hezbollah, the radical Lebanese Islamic movement. Eight Israeli soldiers were killed during clashes, reported the Haaretz newspaper. According to a Deutsche Press Agentur article, Israeli media reports claimed that ...



Geopolitical Time Line: War, Natural Gas and Gaza's Marine Zone

BACKGROUND: There is an historical connection between the Gazan community and the off shore fishery. In recent times some 3000 fishermen in over 700 boats made their livelihood in the waters off the shores of Gaza. Before 1978 when ...



Like 1.3k 9

Articles by:

Tascha Shahriari-Parsa

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Center of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post original Global Research articles on community internet sites as long as the text & title are not modified. The source and the author's copyright must be displayed. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca

www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca

Copyright © Tascha Shahriari-Parsa, Counterpunch, 2014

Join us on Facebook



Partner Websites

Project Censored

Stop NATO

Strategic Culture Foundation

The Corbett Report

Washington's Blog

The 4th Media

clarity press 
an independent publisher on global issues and alternatives

English Français
Español Italiano
Deutsch Português
srpski العربية

Global Research News

I-BOOKS SERIES

Countries Index

Authors Index

Most Popular

Links

Contact

Membership

Online Store

Themes

US NATO War Agenda
Global Economy
Crimes against Humanity
Militarization and WMD
Law and Justice
Police State & Civil Rights
Culture, Society & History
9/11 & 'War on Terrorism'
Media Disinformation

Militarization and WMD
Oil and Energy
Police State & Civil Rights
Politics and Religion
Poverty & Social Inequality
Science and Medicine
United Nations
US NATO War Agenda
Women's Rights

Geographic Regions

USA
Canada
Middle East & North Africa
Latin America & Caribbean
Europe
sub-Saharan Africa
Russia and FSU
Asia
Oceania

[Privacy Policy](#)

Copyright © 2005-2014 GlobalResearch.ca

»