CHAPTER TWO

Ongoing Palestinian Genocide

GIDEON POLYA

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Israel-US and Nazi Death Ratios Compared

The world continues to look on with horror as apartheid Israel continues to police its Gaza concentration camp with tanks, shells, bombs, and rockets. According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for 4.2 million United Nations (UN)-registered Palestinian refugees in the Middle East, 254 Palestinians have been killed by the Israeli military so far in 2008 as compared to 301 in 2007. Last week alone, 123 Palestinians, 27 of them children and 28 of them unarmed civilians, died in Israeli attacks. Five Israelis were killed in the same period, four in Palestinian-killing military operations in Gaza, and one by a rocket that landed in Israel1 (and which, together with hundreds of home-made rocket attacks, precipitated the latest horrendous instance of Israeli violence).

How do civilized, antiracist humanitarians respond linguistically to such utterly disproportionate, misplaced, and deadly violence? It is perhaps most useful and surely most evidently “unbiased” in relation to Zionist Jewish Israelis to see the views of outstanding, antiracist, humanitarian Jewish scholars—noting that the primary messages from the Jewish Holocaust (6 million dead) are “zero tolerance for racism” and “never again to anyone.”

Thus, the outstanding Jewish Israeli scholar Dr. Ilan Pappe has described what is happening in 2008 as a “Gaza Genocide” and a “West Bank ethnic
cleansing.” The outstanding Jewish American linguistics scholar Professor Noam Chomsky of MIT describes the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) as a highly abusive “prison”—noting that half of the 4 million inmates are children. Others use the term “concentration camp,” noting that we have to go back to the Nazi-era, postwar U.S. atrocities in Asia and apartheid atrocities in South Africa to see routine, violent, deadly, military policing of indigenous people in concentration camps. Indeed, the Jewish South African Ronnie Kasrils—leader in the fight against apartheid and now a South African government minister—has described apartheid Israel rule over the Holy Land thus: “Israel 2007: Worse Than Apartheid.”

What do Palestinians, Scholars Think?

The situation has been recently described as a Palestinian Holocaust by the Palestinian scholar Dr. Elias Akleh, who is exiled from his homeland and is now living in the United States. It has been frequently described by others as a Palestinian genocide, a term that is amply justified in relation to the definitions [of Article 2} of the UN Genocide Convention as outlined below.

In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group, as such: a) Killing members of the group; b) Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; c) Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; d) Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; e) Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.

Using the latest available UN Agency data we can systematically analyze these UN Genocide Convention points thus:

“Intent to destroy in whole or in part”—sustained (and frequently asserted) intent over about 150 years of the Zionist colonial project; 0.75 million Palestinian refugees in 1948; currently 7 million Palestinian refugees, and 4.2 million Palestinian refugees registered with the UN in the Middle East; over forty years of illegal Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza; post-1967 excess deaths 0.3 million; post-1967 under-five infant deaths 0.2 million; 2,400 OPT (Occupied Palestinian Territory) infants under five years of age die avoidably each year in the OPT “prison” owing to apartheid Israeli war crimes.