

Antoine Raffoul, RIBA, ICOMOS(UK)
Founder and Coordinator
info@1948.org.uk



13 October 2023

The Al-Aqsa Flood Operation on 7 October 2023. Why, when, and then?

Part Two of Two

We founded 1948.Lest.We.Forget in 2006, to seek and document the causes of the Palestinian tragedy and to research, without prejudice, information from reliable & trusted sources from organisations to news outlets, respected historians, UN and World Agencies and Human Rights Groups. This is done in the hope that readers, if in disagreement, would re-think, research and inform themselves to be able to help re-shape their societies.

As we write Part Two of the Al-Aqsa Flood Operation and its resulting Genocide by Israel on Gaza, we are fully aware that the Propaganda and Hasbara machine of the Israeli state will go into high gear to paint Hamas as the ‘terrorists’ and ‘Inhuman Animals’ who invaded the peaceful tranquil ‘Israeli enclave around Gaza’ and killed thousands of its civilian population. This whitewash is understandable since the Operation caught the Israeli military might unaware and unprepared. That is totally expected from a state born out of a lie.

It is important here to recall what the U.S. Progressive Republican Senator Hiram Johnson said during WW2: ‘The first casualty of war is the truth’. Not long after he said that, he died aged 79 on Aug 6, 1945, the very day his country, the United States of America, dropped the first nuclear bomb, named ‘Little Boy’ on the city of Hiroshima, killing more than 120,000 innocent civilians instantly.

That war crime has been replayed in a different form but with more intensity since 10 October, 2023 in the skies of Gaza. It has been estimated that, during the first 4 weeks of Israel’s indiscriminate bombardment of Gaza in retaliation for The Al-Aqsa Flood Operation, more that 25,000 tons of explosives were dropped on the 2.2 Million civilians of Gaza. That tonnage is equivalent to 2 of the Hiroshima bombs dropped by Israel’s main supporter, America. Naturally, it’s in the genes.

The Israeli Hasbara machine went into full swing within two days after the military elite woke up a couple of days after the Hamas Operation, with their pants down, and having surveyed the ‘crime’ scene, the lies and fabrications as to what

happened hit the air and TV-waves as they say. This propaganda machine was led by no lesser a liar than Bibi Netanyahu himself, a Prime Minister wanted for corruption in his own 'country' who heads the most right-wing government in 'Israel's history. Not only WE believe he is a liar, but some world leaders who know him well, believe so too. Take this case: during the G20 Meeting in Cannes, France, on November 3, 2011, the then French President Nicolas Sarkozy, annoyed by Netanyahu's manipulations and lying, whispered to the then-U.S. president Barak Obama sitting next to him: "I cannot bear Netanyahu. He is a Liar", to which Obama candidly responded: "You're fed up with him! But I have to deal with him more often than you do!". This bit of conversation was caught by an 'open' microphone at the Conference, to the joy of the listening press. It has also been reported that the German Chancellor Angela Merkel accused Netanyahu to his face of being a liar.

The sad part of it all, is that because of the lies about what happened on October 7, (no different from the lies about WMD in Iraq in 2003) 'Israel' with the support of its main ally, the United States and many other western nations, was able to commit a Genocide in Gaza unlike anything seen since WW2.

Incidentally, since we mention WW2, here is a starter: Between 1940 and 1945, it is estimated that 200,000 mainly Jewish children were killed by the Nazis. That's 127 children per day. **During the present Genocide by Israel on the Gaza Strip for only October-November (and counting), more than 5,000 Palestinian children were killed. That's 178 children per day....and counting.**

It is in this context of the Hasbara and propaganda avalanche that we spent many days sifting through and researching and reading mounds of published reports, TV interviews and independent investigations relating to what the Hasbara machine told us happened on 7 October, and what ACTUALLY happened on that eventful day. We hope that only an independent, unbiased, International and Legal body can possibly confirm what we found so far. Yet, we know where would such independent investigations may end up – in the dusty shelves of the UN Archives, as did the famous or infamous Goldstone Report of 2009 written by Judge Richard Goldstone about his findings on the Israeli-Hamas war that year.

But the Genocide is still ongoing in front of our eyes in Gaza brought to us live on TV screens by the courageous Al-Jazeera Arabic Channel reporters, day and night, showing the true horrors of a genocide impossible to dispute.

The first thought that comes to mind as we narrate these events is actually what the Hasbara wanted us to hear: babies were butchered and beheaded, woman were raped, old people were massacred in their homes, etc. etc. It is certainly an effective and horrific piece of news to start a conversation.

And many people fell for it. More about this later.

Suffice it to say now that In order for this image to be kept imbedded in our minds, the Zionist Hasbara added the sweetener; ISIS Hamas terrorists who are nothing but 'Human Animals'. ISIS, Babies, Rape. Add to that: "This is our 9/11" followed by "Remember Pearl harbour". The best of their Hasbara.

If you know anything about Islam, no matter your religious affiliations, then you know that Islam values life – and in particular the lives of women, children and babies. This is in their DNA.

Muslim Arabs protected and saved thousands of Jews in the Spain of the Middle Ages, and during the Spanish Inquisition when both Muslims and Jews, suffered horrific deaths ranging between 30,000 and 300,000 at the hands of the Spaniards and consequent to Pope Paul Sixtus IV's Decree authorising their expulsion unless, of course, they convert to Christianity.

There are many instances in history, should the reader seek them, where Jews were not massacred by Muslim Arabs, but by other ethnic groups.

To add the label ISIS to the Hamas narrative is a shameful attempt by the Zionists to conjure up horrific images which had nothing to do with Islam, Muslims, Arabs, or any other ethnic group. ISIS, it must be added, was an evil creation born out of the West's invasion of Iraq and Syria. Full Stop.

Let's move on.

Some of the news sources we dug out include: The Grayzone, The Cradle Journal, Mondoweiss, Middle East Monitor, Al-Mayadeen, Haaretz, Israeli Radio-Show, Israeli Army statements, The Forward Online Journal (Jewish.Independent.Non-Profit); Statements by Israeli victims who survived; CNN (refers to Israelis as "PEOPLE", while Palestinians are called "Palestinians" with the colour map displayed during their evening broadcasts showing the West Bank as "Palestinian Controlled"!!); MSNBC (who referred to the Al-Qassam Brigade members as "Terrorists"); The NY Times and The Washington Post (they called them "militants, Phew and thank you!!); NBC; Fox News, and some others.

Last but not least, in this narrative, we will refer to statements by the President of the United States of America himself, Joe Biden.

One month into this Israeli Genocide on Gaza, a clear picture is slowly emerging regarding the events of 7 October:

First of all the victims: The Hasbara machine, parroted by the international western media, announced that more than 1,400 Israelis were 'slaughtered' by the ISIS Hamas including beheaded babies, raped women and music lovers.

Shamefully, The U.S administration immediately and on queue, parroted those allegations especially the beheaded babies without evidence and relying on imagery provided by the Hasbara machine in Tel-Aviv. A Day later, the Administration withdrew that statement. No mention of babies was ever made.

The Israeli newspaper Haaretz confirmed and identified only 683 victims with their names and the locations where they died (others yet to be identified). Of those identified, 331 are female, 13 rescue police, and 339 civilians. In age groups: 7 were aged 4-7 years old; 9 at 10-17 years old, and the rest adults. No Babies. And no recorded deaths of children under the age of 3.

Moreover, with about 50% of the victims (according to Haaretz) being military combatants and security police – they should be officially considered "prisoners of war' and not civilians.

There is no doubt that Al-Qassam Brigade during their Operation in the Gaza envelope killed "Israelis' as would happen in any military operation. But their main aim was to take back to Gaza as many hostages as they could – military, preferably, and civilians, in order to exchange them for the thousands of Palestinians prisoners in Israeli jails as mentioned earlier.

As Netanyahu and his right-wing ministers concentrated on ethnically cleaning the West Bank and promoting the constant building of the illegal settlements on stolen Palestinian land, they actually ignored the southern region of Occupied Palestine near the Gaza enclave. Despite the fact that it was protected by a high tech security HQ, it was a sleepy region. Presumably, they figured that no Gaza penetration is possible through that giant of a fence – and how wrong they were.

The bulk of the investigation of what happened on 7 October, was taken by The Grayzone Online News Outlet. Max Blumenthall, its editor-in-Chief, and its founder, is a well known award-winning journalist. His report is an eye opener.

From testimonies compiled from survivors and examination of images of charred bodies and buildings, it has become clear that most of the Israeli dead were the victims of 'friendly fire'. Why?

Hamas fighters went for the intelligence HQ protecting the 'Israeli' settlements throughout the enclave surrounding Gaza in order to 'blind' the enemy and to provide a safe space to maintain their operation. It was early on that Saturday morning - and a holiday. Hamas attacked 15 points and a further 10 military

intervention points, according to The Cradle Report which had examined video footage from social media and from Palestinian fighters filming their own operation.

One infamous report was of that of the rape of a German-Israeli woman named Shani Louk whose charred body was spotted in the back of a charred vehicle with other “dead bodies of Hamas operatives”. Upon examination, these were not Hamas Operatives as they did not “sport the uniforms or insignia of the Al-Qassam troops” identified in other videos captured. Equally, later, the mother of Shani Louk announced that her daughter was alive with head injuries. Hamas confirmed that Louk was being treated in a Gaza hospital.

Yet, in his statement to the press, President Biden alleged that Israeli women were “raped, assaulted, paraded as trophies” by the Hamas terrorists. We all know that such inflammatory allegations can take on a life of their own, which stay imbedded in our memory even after they are proven to be baseless. Suffice it to say that, as The Forward reported on 11 October, even the ‘Israeli’ military acknowledged that they had no evidence of such allegation”.

No Rape, and No charred Shani Louk as Hasbara would want you to believe.

The Cradle Journal confirmed that there is no credible evidence that “the Palestinian fighters had a plan to deliberately kill or harm unarmed civilians on 7 October”. It goes on to report that “there are some videos depicting possible unarmed Israelis killed in their vehicles or at entrances to facilities” victims of shooting to enable the Fighters to access the facilities.

As for the Music Festival, The Cradle reports that ‘videos emerged that appeared to show Israeli forces and helicopters, opening fire through a crowd of unarmed civilians toward targets [they believed to be Hamas members]. ABC News also reported that an Israeli tank had headed to the festival site”. The report continues to describe from video evidence seen, that damaged homes appeared to have been hit by ammunition, which the Hamas fighters did not carry.

The Cradle refers to a Mondoweiss article which paints a very different story received, of what went down in Be’eri settlement that day. A Kibbutz resident who had been away from his home - whose partner was killed in the melee - reveals stunning new details:

“His voice trembles when his partner, who was besieged in her home shelter at the time, comes to mind. According to him, only on Monday night (9 October) and only after the commanders in the field made difficult decisions — including shelling houses with all their occupants inside in order to eliminate the terrorists along with the hostages — did the IDF complete the takeover of the kibbutz. The price was terrible: at least 112

Be'eri people were killed. Others were kidnapped. Yesterday, 11 days after the massacre, the bodies of a mother and her son were discovered in one of the destroyed houses. It is believed that more bodies are still lying in the rubble."

The Cradle continues: ***"It is essential to recognize that in many reports by western journalists on the ground, the majority of information regarding the actions of Hamas fighters comes from the Israeli army - an active participant in the conflict."***

As the evidence grows, it is becoming clear that a major reason for the massive structural destruction was due to Israeli military forces deliberately killing captives, firing on incorrect targets, or mistaken Israelis for Palestinians in their firefights. Any information coming out of the 'Israeli' military must be taken with a grain of salt as they would not admit citizens were killed by 'Friendly Fire'. A street seen in videos with charred cars, can only be the result of Israeli Apache Helicopter fire aimed at what they thought were fleeing Hamas fighters, when in fact they were Israelis. The Helicopter pilots were unable to pinpoint and identify enemy combatants on 'Israeli soil', so they fired at anything that moved.

The Cradle reports that friendly fire was rampant on that day and "even in the days that followed, from an army with very little actual combat experience. In the city of Ashkelon (Askalan in Arabic) on 8 October, Israeli soldiers shot dead and shouted insults at the body of a man they believed to have been a Hamas fighter, yet later realized they had executed a fellow Israeli."

"Amid the fog of war, parties to the conflict have different perspectives on what occurred during the initial raid and its aftermath. It's not disputed that Palestinian armed groups inflicted significant losses on the Israeli military, but there will be plenty of ongoing debate regarding everything else in the weeks and months to come."

"An independent, impartial, international investigation is urgently needed, one that has access to information from all sides involved in the conflict. Neither the Israelis nor the Americans will agree to this, which itself suggests that Tel Aviv has much to conceal."

As the bombardment of the Palestinian civilian population of Gaza continues, it is a fact that this blitz is possible only by the flood of unsubstantiated and false 'Hamas atrocities' that the international media circulated on and after 7 October.

END