

**A compilation of my posts to the 'nettime' academic email list on the subject of the Hamas terror attacks. My last post of 19 October was censored by the list.**

**Date: Mon, 9 Oct 2023 19:25:03 +0530**  
**Subject: Re: silence on Palestine?**  
**To: nettime-l@lists.nettime.org**  
**From: Rahul Goswami <makana@pobox.com>**

Hamas is a terrorist organisation, there is no other way to see it. The Palestinian Authority permits this terrorist organisation, which is well supplied with arms and ammunition, to operate from Gaza. Hamas is a creation of the Muslim Brotherhood, which has been described as "the world's incubator of modern Islamic terrorism" and for 35 years Hamas has brought bloody violence against Israelis and Palestinians. Which Palestinians? The many who conduct their business with Israel, and who take medical treatment there. Gaza still gets a significant part of its electricity and water from Israel, and when those services need repair or maintenance it has been Israeli technicians sent - into harm's way - to do it.

**Date: Thu, 12 Oct 2023 11:31:29 +0530**  
**Subject: Re: silence on Palestine?**  
**To: nettime-l@lists.nettime.org**  
**From: Rahul Goswami <makana@pobox.com>**

I present a few points here to bring balance to the subject:

1. On 29 November 1947, the UN General Assembly adopted Resolution 181, known as the Partition Plan. Acceptance of the Partition Plan would have meant the establishment of two states, but the surrounding Arab countries and the local Arab population vehemently rejected the proposal.
2. After the May 1948 war, Israel (other Western countries too) immediately absorbed Jewish refugees. Palestinian refugees were placed in camps and kept there generation after generation as a matter of Arab policy. Israel withdrew entirely from Gaza in 2005, but there are still eight UN-run refugee camps there. Why should there be? Gaza is completely under Palestinian control. But dismantling the camps would mean removing symbols of Palestinian "resistance".
3. During the 1990-91 Gulf War, Kuwait expelled over 300,000 Palestinians working in the country when Yasser Arafat supported Saddam Hussein. The Palestinians were seen as a likely fifth column. There was scant objection from other Arab countries, or pro-Palestine voices in the West, about the expulsion.

Rahul Goswami

**Date: Sat, 14 Oct 2023 11:02:49 +0530**  
**Subject: Re: silence on Palestine?**  
**To: nettime-l@lists.nettime.org**  
**From: Rahul Goswami <makana@pobox.com>**

Yes, I have picked out aspects of the post-1948 period. Historical events and eras anterior to the formation of the state of Israel are a subject too voluminous for a discussion in this forum.

The immediate and recent facts remain:

1. What happened on 7 October 2023 was a terrorist attack. The death toll from that attack is now at least 1,300 which is an enormous number. The number of injured is much higher. This was an organised and deliberate terrorist attack.
2. The modes of killing and savage humiliation by Hamas terrorists against Israeli citizens (and other citizens) have gone far beyond what the world has come to associate with terrorism in recent decades. These cannot and must never be sanitised.
3. In a number of cities in Europe, North America and Australia, later on 7 October and during the days following, 'celebrations' for the attack were on public display by supporters in those cities of Hamas, the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian "resistance". This points to the globalisation of the support for terrorism of this nature. That this has happened is a concern serious enough for those in the West, but that it has yet to be recognised academically signals a blind spot that is already deadly.
4. Media and commentary about the Israeli armed response to the 7 October terror attack has been generally one-sided. The Israeli Defence Force has been criticised. However the IDF's methods have not changed. As before, it warns civilians before an attack. What has escaped even passing comment by the Western media is the wretched development track record of the Palestinian Authority and Hamas (in Gaza), which collect huge sums every year (a) by taxing Egyptian business in and with Gaza, (b) taxing Gazans who commute to work daily to and from Israel, (c) from Qatar which has for the last several years paid upwards of USD 200 million a year. To what uses has this money been put?
5. The Palestinian Authority and its supporters demand the right to the existence of a Palestinian state. However Mahmoud Abbas has not only repeatedly vowed never to recognise Israel as a Jewish state, but in March 2014 lobbied the Arab League to issue a statement expressing its "absolute and decisive rejection to recognising Israel as a Jewish state." This symbolises the growing Islamism within Palestinian society, and its apparent acceptance by particularly Western supporters of the PA, which is as serious a matter as point 3 above.

Rahul Goswami

**Date: Mon, 16 Oct 2023 22:09:31 +0530**  
**Subject: Re: silence on Palestine?**  
**To: [nettime-l@lists.nettime.org](mailto:nettime-l@lists.nettime.org)**  
**From: Rahul Goswami <[makanaka@pobox.com](mailto:makanaka@pobox.com)>**

My thanks to the admins and moderators of nettime, who have given the space for this discussion which - so far as my limited knowledge of net cultures extends to - is not a core subject for the list.

During the last 3-4 days there have been comments on my posts by Allan Siegel, Ted Byfield and David Opp. What links their comments is the legitimacy of the state of Israel and the presence of the Jewish people. There is undoubtedly a historical record that stretches back to remote antiquity. Insofar as it can be telegraphed, the Hebrews entered the land of Israel about 1300 BCE, living under a tribal confederation until being united under the first king, Saul. The second king, David, established Jerusalem as the capital around 1000 BCE. David's son, Solomon, built the Temple soon thereafter. Of all the people who lived in the area at that time - such as the Phoenicians, Moabites, and Philistines - only the Jews remain today.

To better understand the Jewish attachment to the land, this is a passage from a fairly recent volume.

"In 1921, the Jewish National Fund had purchased large tracts of land in the Valley of Jezreel known as the Emek. The region was swampy and ridden with malaria and blackwater fever. It had to be drained and cultivated. Merhavia, the kibbutz which Golda chose because some Americans who had come over with the Jewish Legion had settled there, was one of the oldest cooperatives in the Emek. Originally founded in 1909 by members of the legendary Second Aliyah, it had proved to be a difficult spot. After ten years most of the marshland was drained, but the original group had been physically broken in the process." (From 'Golda Meir, Israel's Leader', Marie Syrkin, G P Putnam's Sons, 1969.)

Keith Sanborn has asked: "What is the difference between an attack and a terrorist attack? Wholesale vs retail?"

Reliable sources are to be found in the legal texts on International Humanitarian Law. Hamas, even if taken to be a non-state entity or part of a non-state entity, is considered by all accepted criteria to be fully accountable under International Humanitarian Law for its actions in terror attacks (it is a listed terror organisation by the European Union and by the USA) against Israeli civilians and using its own civilians (Arab Palestinians) as human shields. Its leadership, commanders, and fighters are therefore punishable for crimes against humanity and war crimes. The indiscriminate firing of more than 3,300 rockets into Israel's towns and villages violates the rule of distinction in international humanitarian law, which requires combatants to limit attacks to legitimate military targets, and there is the difference about which you ask.

Furthermore, also consult (a) Yoram Dinstein, 'The Conduct of Hostilities Under the Law of International Armed Conflict' (Cambridge UP, 2004), (b) Jean-Marie Henckaerts and Louise Doswald-Beck, 'Customary International Humanitarian Law' (ICRC, Cambridge UP, 2005). (c) First Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions (1977), W J Fenrick, 'The Rule of Proportionality and Protocol I in Conventional Warfare' (98 Mil. L. Rev., 1982).

Sanborn: "No one has ever tried to sanitize this."

What happened on 7 October 2023 was the biggest massacre in one day of Jewish civilians since the Holocaust, and it is the second highest death toll because of terrorist action after the events of 11 September 2001 in USA. The death toll is now above 1,300, the count of the injured is much higher than that number, and there are nearly 200 hostages still held by Hamas. No amount of academic and activist justification can obscure or distort these facts.

In a previous post I had written, "In a number of cities in Europe, North America and Australia, later on 7 October and during the days following, 'celebrations' for the attack were on public display by supporters in those cities of Hamas, the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian "resistance".

Sanborn asked "I wd like to see some references substantiating this."

Here they are:

<https://news.sky.com/story/london-protest-thousands-attend-pro-palestinian-march-amid-escalating-israel-hamas-conflict-12984380>

<https://www.dw.com/en/berlin-police-break-up-banned-pro-palestinian-rally/a-67104373>

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/12/scholz-pledges-zero-tolerance-as-antisemitic-incidents-rise-in-europe>

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/europe/german-police-ban-palestinian-solidarity-rallies-in-berlin/3015651>

<https://www.swr.de/swraktuell/baden-wuerttemberg/israel-palaestina-konflikt-bw-100.html>

(protests forbidden in German cities)

<https://www.politico.eu/article/france-gerald-darmanin-aims-to-ban-all-pro-palestine-protests/>

<https://www.lefigaro.fr/actualite-france/les-enseignants-en-premiere-ligne-face-a-la-terreur-islamiste-20231015>

(Teachers on the front line of Islamic terror)

<https://www.lefigaro.fr/vox/societe/barbarie-islamiste-mecanique-mortifere-20231015>

<https://www.dutchnews.nl/2023/10/10000-demonstrate-in-amsterdam-in-support-of-palestine/>

<https://www.profil.at/oesterreich/judenhass-im-herzen-wiens-wer-hinter-den-demos-steckt/402631148>

(Jew hatred in Vienna)

<https://www.usatoday.com/story/opinion/columnist/2023/10/12/hamas-attack-harvard-students-blame-israel/71152750007/>

Rahul Goswami

**Date: Thu, 19 Oct 2023 20:19:15 +0530**

**Subject: Re: silence on Palestine?**

**To: [nettime-l@lists.nettime.org](mailto:nettime-l@lists.nettime.org)**

**From: Rahul Goswami <[makanaka@pobox.com](mailto:makanaka@pobox.com)>**

1. It is 12 days since the attacks by the terrorist group Hamas on the kibbutzes in Israel and on a music festival. The death toll from those savage attacks - they are in fact atrocities of the worst kind imaginable - is now 1,400 with many more injured. Moreover, just over 200 hostages continue to be held captive by the terrorist organisation.

2. It is the terrorist organisation Hamas which has, calculatedly and deliberately, turned hellish the lives of two million Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. In 2007 Hamas killed and injured hundreds of Palestinian Authority loyalists, some of whom were thrown to their deaths from rooftops. Other Palestinians were dragged into the street and lynched by Hamas members. In response, PA leader Mahmoud Abbas said that he decided to "reconsider the [Hamas] Executive Unit and the militias of the Hamas movement illegal, due to their military coup against the Palestinian legitimacy and its institutions."

(<https://al-akhbar.com/International/192303>)

In 2006, Jordan accused Hamas members of smuggling missiles and other weapons into the country. A Jordanian official told Associated Press at that time that "missiles, explosives and automatic weapons were seized in the last couple of days."

([https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2006-04/19/content\\_571173.htm](https://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2006-04/19/content_571173.htm))

In 2014, an Egyptian court declared Hamas a "terrorist organization." Egyptian prosecutors told a Cairo court: "Hamas is a terrorist organization whose involvement in terrorist attacks killing Egyptian soldiers and officers from the armed forces and interior ministry has been proven." The Egyptian military, in addition, said that over the past decade it has destroyed most of the tunnels that had been used to smuggle weapons from Egypt to the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip.

(<https://www.newarab.com/news/egypt-outlaws-hamas-terrorist-organisation>)

This is the terrorist organisation that was celebrated for its "resistance" - a completely distorted term - at protest meetings that I mentioned in my last post on the subject, complete with reference links, all of which are valid.

3. Nor is this a recent deviation by the "resistance". In 1983, Amin Gemayel, then president of Lebanon, signed a peace treaty with Israel. A year later, Syria forced Gemayel to renege on the

agreement. The war then became drawn out as the IDF captured Beirut and surrounded Yasser Arafat and his Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) guerrillas. For Arab residents of south Lebanon, PLO rule was a nightmare. After the PLO was expelled from Jordan by King Hussein in 1970, many of its cadres went to Lebanon. The PLO seized whole areas of the country, where it brutalised the population and usurped Lebanese government authority.

On 14 October 1976, Lebanese Ambassador Edward Ghorra told the UN General Assembly the PLO was bringing ruin upon his country: "Palestinian elements belonging to various splinter organizations resorted to kidnapping Lebanese, and sometimes foreigners, holding them prisoners, questioning them, and even sometimes killing them."

4. And still attempts are made - such as by members of this list - to fix moral equivalence between the defence forces of the state of Israel and the Palestinian terrorist organisation. Democratic societies uphold the principles of due process, justice and proportionality in their efforts to safeguard citizens. In stark contrast is the disregard by Hamas (and its allied terrorist groups such as Hezbollah) of these principles, for they deliberately target civilians, launch rockets from densely populated areas and use human shields as part of their strategy.

"After the 1973 Yom Kippur war, attacks by Palestinians against Israel in the north along the border of Israel and Lebanon increased. Between 1973 and 1982, the PLO shelled Israeli settlements more than 1,500 times killing 108 people. The PLO strategy was to avoid attacks on military targets for fear of greater Israeli retaliation, and to focus primarily on civilian targets. In fact, the majority of Israelis killed during the period were civilians. During one nine-month period in 1980, the PLO launched 69 military operations against Israel from the UNIFIL zone, which was supposed to ensure security in the buffer zone."

(See the paper by Major Christopher Arantz, US Marine Corps, 2002) As you see, it is 40 years and their barbaric methods remain the same.

5. The deranged 'left' of 2023 has caused the metastasis of anti-semitism (but more properly, outright and overt hatred for Jews and Israelis). That is why - when the Hamas terrorists fired guns and rocket-propelled grenades at young Israelis (and many other nationalities) attending an outdoor music festival, slashed the throats of their victims, shot babies and cut off their heads, shot handcuffed children, dragged and raped women in front of their families before shooting them dead - no condemnation of the Hamas atrocities has come from their ranks, nor even acknowledgement of the atrocities of 7 October 2023

(<https://europeanconservative.com/articles/news/leftist-politicians-refuse-to-condemn-hamas/>).

Decades ago the left supported attacks only on what they called "legitimate military targets". Today, any Israeli infant or Holocaust survivor is considered a fair target for the "Palestinian resistance".

Rahul Goswami