

RATEBEH ALAEDIN'S INTERVENTION WITHIN THE DISCUSSION ON ISREAL AND PALESTINE AT A CROSSROADS

SUMMER UNIVERSITY 2024 – PALESTINE SEMINAR

No one knows exactly what happened in October 7th . All parties hide the truth and replace it with political tales.

But we can talk about what happened before or even after this date.

Before

The competition between the secular right and the religious right in Israel over who is closer to achieving the dream of Greater Israel and ending the possibility of establishing a Palestinian state. By Settlement expansion in the West Bank was accompanied by widespread and mass displacement of Palestinians in the West Bank(in total of 22 community) , whether in the Bedouin communities in the south of Hebron, in Khan al-Ahmar in the middle of the West Bank to the Jordan Valley, leading to the siege of Jerusalem and the mass displacement of Jerusalem neighborhoods with the aim of disrupting the demographics map between the Arab and Israeli population in the region, this was accompanied by a stifling siege on Gaza and its complete separation from the West Bank.

With the arrival of the religious right to the government, this settlement expansion and killing turned into an intellectual doctrinal issue that controls aspects of government spending and the pace of issuing laws that codify settlement and legitimize killing accelerates.

Take a look at Ben Yameen Netanyahu's speech at the United Nations, dated September 7, weeks before October 7, presenting a map of the Middle East that does not include Palestine in front of everyone, without anyone's objection, and talking about normalizing relations with Israel through economic-military alliances in the region. We saw training on A model that simulates a multi-sided attack on Israel in a regional war in which a country, including European countries and others from the Middle East, participates.

Another speech by Finance Minister Smotrich in France in which he lays out the greater map of Israel, which includes parts of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and all of Palestine.

And his demands from the Minister of Finance in the budget discussion for the year 2023, with the government taking over, to increase the settlement budget so that he can reach his goal of increasing the number of settlers in the West Bank from 800,000 settlers to one million settlers.

A competition to deter resistance, according to the Israeli claim in the West Bank, which made the attack on the Palestinian refugee camps in the West Bank a daily news item in the newspapers, and a pledge to eliminate the resistance in the Gaza Strip later after the

end of the work in the West Bank. Perhaps some people will not remember the missile that landed in the Jenin camp on July 4, 2023.

The seventh of October turned attention to the direct action in the genocide suffered by the Palestinian people at the hands of Zionist fascism, and revealed Israel's attempt to end the Palestinian refugee issue as a fundamental threat to Israel's existence through the campaign it leads to end the existence of UNRWA as the sole international witness to the catastrophe of the Palestinian people and to end The story of the Palestinian Nakba.

Some people may not know that 75% of the population of the Gaza Strip are originally refugees from the areas on which the State of Israel was founded, and that trying to eliminate them is an idea that has existed since the establishment of the State of Israel. There was an attempt to bomb the refugee tents in 1956, but this attempt failed in eliminating them.

Netanyahu came in a speech during his election campaign to talk about completing what Ben Gurion did not succeed in doing.

Eliminating the Palestinians as a solution to ending the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

We know that he was one of the strongest opponents of the withdrawal plan in 2005.

It is not Israel's war on Hamas, although I do not agree with Hamas ideologically like most of the Palestinian people.

It is an existential war with regard to the idea of a greater Israel, in which Palestinians do not exist, using the ugliest tools of fascism and ethnic cleansing.

Everyone is following the war on Gaza and knows that those who are being killed are children and women, and the foundations of life are being destroyed. This is not a war against Hamas, but rather against the Palestinian people.

But little is said about the 28,000 weapons distributed in the West Bank to create an irregular army that practices murder and terror without international accountability.

Hundreds of housing units in settlements are built on the land, and tens of dunams of land are confiscated in the West Bank, in addition to military orders to make the establishment of a Palestinian state impossible.

A little bit of what we can do

Of course, our basic demand as Palestinians is to end the occupation and establish a Palestinian state, but how?

We have tried negotiations for more than 30 years to no avail, and things are becoming more complicated, so that the two-state solution has become closer to the State of Israel, next to a state for Israeli settlers without the presence of the Palestinians.

Therefore, the first point to end the occupation is to dry up its sources.

- Economic and scientific boycott

- Lifting international immunity from Israel. Israel is not above international law and must be held accountable. This requires dismantling and redefining imperialist terms. Such as the meaning of anti-Semitism, terrorism and resistance, and the will of the peoples, it is possible to add the word "Nakba" to the terms next to the Holocaust so that the Palestinian issue becomes known.

- Stop arming and supplying Israel with weapons, and reveal all the companies that supply it with equipment used in the war against the Palestinians, starting from the facial recognition cameras that are used to assassinate Palestinians, to the bulldozers that bulldoze olive trees and homes, to heavy military equipment.

- Fighting investment in illegal settlements by all means

Then we come to the two-state solution so that it becomes possible. We have to dismantle the settlements, and this will become possible through the reverse migration of settlers to their countries of origin.

In practical terms, it is possible to support laws to withdraw European citizenship from those who participated in acts of genocide against the Palestinian people, whether in the West Bank or Gaza Strip.

Also, withdrawing citizenship from those who live in illegal settlements will make the settlers face a difficult choice.

We need an international peace conference based on United Nations resolutions, a clear expression of the Palestinians' right to establish their state, and recognition of the State of Palestine in the United Nations. This will accelerate the two-state solution and place it in a practical framework.

The world's creativity in solidarity with the Palestinian people is limitless, and we believe in the power of people's solidarity.

We need courage towards change.