



Interview with Ambassador Dr. Fadi Elhuseini

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We are seeing the devastating and deadly effects of the Israeli-Hamas conflict in Gaza. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas has declared that Hamas does not represent the Palestinian people. Does the Palestinian Authority support the actions of Hamas?

I have to begin by saying the question is poorly framed. It is Downsizing the severity of the prolonged Israeli occupation of Palestine, and describing it as (the Israeli-Hamas conflict). This obsession with Hamas actions deprecates the complexity and background of the situation, in a desperate attempt to justify Israeli genocide in Gaza, and grant it an international greenlight. The Palestinian side has redundantly warned the international community regarding foreseen consequences of the continuous Israeli prosecution practiced on Palestinians and blocking all hopes for peace. For decades Israel stole Palestinian land, expanded settlements, imposed apartheid, forcing Palestinians to live in controlled Bantustans, and they deprive Palestinians from their rights on daily basis. Israel practices incitement, hate speech, provocations, leading the dehumanization of Palestinians and hate crimes against

them. Israeli policies have always served as a blunt violation of IL and IHL, UN resolutions, Multilateral agreements, and peace agreements.

If you are asking about the genocide in Gaza broadcasted worldwide, then Israel is responsible for the deliberate massive killing, and ethnic cleansing of the people in Gaza. over 12,000 tons of explosives dropped by Israeli occupation forces in the past couple of weeks, which is equivalent to the nuclear bomb dropped on Hiroshima in Japan” in 1945. knowingly targeting 2.3 million Palestinians living in 365 square Kilometers in Gaza.

As for the representation part, the UN General Assembly, and the international community recognized the PLO as the “sole legitimate representative of the Palestinian people”. Therefore, there is one legitimate representative of the Palestinian people and it is working towards the realization of an independent Palestinian state, with Jerusalem as its capital.

How do you evaluate Turkey's statements in the face of Israel's brutal and human rights violating attacks on Gaza? How do you interpret Turkey's policy in the conflict?

Turkey supports Palestinians, backs a two-state and on October 11th, 2023 His excellency Turkey’s President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has condemned Israel’s blockade and bombing of the besieged Gaza Strip, calling it a “massacre”, which it is. Turkey has shown its support to Palestine and its just cause, as it goes in harmony with the righteous moral compass. This represents Palestinian and Turkish historical relations and amicable history. Still, we always expect more from Turkey, perhaps through working with all parties to stop relentless, indiscriminate Israeli bombardments on Gaza, and providing the humanitarian aid needed as urgently as possible.

The conflict has had great repercussions not only regionally but also internationally. How do you evaluate the European Union's perspective on the conflict in the context of the protests and demonstrations in Europe?

Let’s establish that any positive development at the moment will be the result of an urgent ceasefire particularly stopping the Israeli attacks on Gaza that has been ongoing for the past three weeks, we also call for international protection and opening of humanitarian corridors to stop the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, as there is no water, food, electricity, and fuel. it has also been declared the total collapse of the health system due to a power outage and the depletion of fuel needed to operate generators in hospitals. There will be an outbreak of a major epidemic wave in Gaza, spreading into a larger scale beyond inter-state geopolitical borders.

Therefore, it is an international responsibility to contain the escalation to prevent a spillover effect over the entire region or internationally. Most likely banning a pro-Palestinian speech or controlling the media, contradicts norms of the free world. European countries must provide a healthy space for expressing solidarity with Palestinians killed in Gaza. Moreover, media must provide an equal platform for all narratives, and prevent incitement and hate speech on Palestinians which leads to hate crimes against Arabs and Muslims in Europe, like we have witnessed the killing of a 6-year-old Palestinian American boy in anti-Muslim attack in Illinois, USA.

Is a lasting peace between Israel and Palestine possible going forward? What do you think should be the dynamics of this peace process?

The reason why there is no peace is because occupation is still standing. Israel is a militant apartheid state. And I say this because it has broken every customary law there is through its exaggerated military arsenal, continuously killing civilians.

The main cause for this mayhem is the Israeli occupation, which must end and resolving all final status issues, with reasonable assurances within a well-defined timeframe. This is the only feasible path towards a just and comprehensive peace, and freedom of the Palestinian people in their own independent State on the 4th of June 1967 borders, with Jerusalem as its eternal capital.

We currently ask for urgent international middling adhering with the resolutions of international legitimacy and international law. We also call upon friendly states to provide humanitarian relief efforts and support towards the people of Gaza.

What steps will Palestine take in the event of a possible Israeli ground attack on Gaza? Do you think this conflict could turn into a regional conflict?

As per the ground operation, it would be another escalation, as if the three-week unabated bombardment was not sufficient. It is already a global not regional strife. You can see the debates at the United Nations Security Council. You can see several events, related to the ongoing genocide, that are taking place across the world, and only in the region.

Some people in Turkey make statements such as "Palestinians betrayed the Ottomans, sold their lands and stabbed the Turks". What is your comment on these allegations?

Well, I also heard the opposite. Yet, for those who make an allegation need to provide an evidence. Throwing a misleading statement distorting a historical

narrative is not acceptable nor defensible. Looking into the recent history of Palestine, would such struggle for freedom come from people who sold their lands?! Or perhaps they are referring to the three quarters of historic Palestine which was stolen by Israel, and 531 Palestinian towns and villages were completely destroyed. This was done under the watch and support of colonial powers who ruled the scene by then. Ottoman betrayal and stabbing Turks in the back is merely Zionist propaganda that aims at cracking our shield of brotherhood and friendship. As many lies and allegations, our bonds are stronger than such allegations.

End of interview