



Whitewashing war crimes with stale lies

By Khalid Amayreh

I fear very much that the Jews are like all underdogs. When they get on the top they are just as intolerant and cruel as the people were to them when they were underneath. I regret this situation very much because my sympathy has always been on their side." - Harry Truman

Many Zionist Jews are angry and frustrated these days following the ample attention given to the Goldstone report around the world.

This is why huge amounts of classical Zionist lies about the Nazi-like winter onslaught against the Gaza Strip are being pumped through the internet.

One Zionist hasbara (propaganda) activist, whose job is to propagate these lies in order to whitewash the virtual Gaza genocide, has claimed that whatever wrongs Israel committed in Gaza occurred by mistake.

"There is a difference- a great difference-between tragic mistakes that happened during war and radical Islam's indiscriminate wickedness"

Well, how many times "tragic mistakes" are supposed to occur? A hundred times? A thousand times?

In fact, Israel has been knowingly and deliberately making these "mistakes" since time immemorial, so much that we can, without a bit of exaggeration, speak of a consistent modus operandi.

Besides, when mistakes occur and are repeated numerous times, it means they are "the" outstanding "policy." After all, Israel can't consistently murder civilians as a matter of policy and then claim the atrocities were committed by "mistake."

More to the point, when the number of victims is so high and disproportionate to any conceivable provocation, even intention becomes irrelevant.

Hence, the claim that the Nazi-like crimes committed by Israel against the helpless and unprotected Palestinian civilians were mere mistakes should be treated as nothing short of pornographic lies, a sort of fornication with language.

The supremacist Zionist activist, who thinks Jews are not capable of doing evil, quoted Yair Lapid, from Yediot Ahranon, who argued in a recent article that the international community had failed to understand that Israel is an "enlightened western democracy that struggles for its existence in the wild East."

Well, this is another pornographic lie. In fact, the distance between the Judeo-Nazi entity and true enlightenment is so enormous that the two can be perceived as an odious oxymoron. This is so because Israel represents the ultimate antithesis of human civility, and vice versa.

A few years ago, a Jewish intellectual and member of British Parliament lamented the fact that "Israel has made the Star of David look like the Swastika of Hitler." That was before the barbarian blitzkrieg against Gaza. I wonder how he would describe the evil state now.

In the final analysis, it is an insult to language and common sense to call a state that thinks, and behaves and acts like Nazi Germany "enlightened." Calling Israel "enlightened" is analogous to calling the Gestapo or SS "innocent boy scouts."

In truth, Israel is neither enlightened nor a democracy. A true democracy would not murder "goy" children and young men in order to harvest their organs for sale in America or in order to be transplanted in Jewish patients.

Nor would it instruct soldiers manning roadblocks to prevent women about to give birth from reaching nearby hospitals in order to check Arab demographic growth. Does anyone know how many Palestinian women bled to death because the Gestapo of our time wouldn't allow them to reach hospital?

Again, calling Israel "democratic" is also a form of fornication with language. This is so because a true democracy doesn't discriminate against a segment of its citizens because of their "wrong" religion, as Israel does. Nor does it adopt a duplicitous justice system depending on whether one is a Jew or a goy!!!

The Zionist hasbara activist goes on elucidating the virtues of Israel and its army and the vices of the Palestinians.

Well, where is that Jewish morality? Is it a moral act to rain white Phosphorus and other agents of death on helpless children in Gaza?

Is it a moral act to order panicking civilians into buildings and then bomb these buildings from high altitudes, killing everyone inside? Is it a moral act to annihilate so many entire families because a member of these families was suspected of sympathizing with a political party that Israel didn't like?

Indeed, is it a moral act to cut off food, water and basic consumer products from 1.5 million on no ground other than the fact that they had chosen to elect a "non-conformist" political party? Indeed, if these crimes are acts of morality, then Hitler and his colleagues, Stalin and his, and all other mass killers throughout history must be viewed as great paragons of virtue and morality.

The truth of the matter is that Israel has made "Jewish morality" look very much like Nazi morality. In the final analysis, when Jews behave like the Nazis, they become Nazis themselves.

Goldstone tells Moyers: Israel guilty of war crimes



Bill Moyers interviews Judge Richard Goldstone

Highly respected Judge Richard Goldstone, who is both a Jew and a Zionist, rightfully condemns Israel's policy of collective punishment of a people under effective occupation, destroying their means to live a dignified life as well as the trauma caused by the kind of military intervention the Israeli government called Operation Cast Lead.

The highly anticipated Goldstone human rights report has excited universal acclaim as well as some strident and bitter criticism ~ mainly from the Israeli far right ~ however, late last week, the UN's Human Rights Council officially endorsed his findings.

With that in mind Bill Moyers had a classic 20 minute must see interview with Dr Goldstone last week which was fair, impartial and most revealing ~ because Goldstone comes across as extremely fair in his analysis as well as honest and meticulous in his findings.

His report accused both the Israel Defense Forces and Hamas of war crimes

and possibly crimes against humanity. While condemning Palestinian rocket attacks, the report's harshest language was rightfully reserved for Israel's treatment of civilians in Gaza.

This interview took place at the same time the United Nations is calling on Israel to immediately halt forced evictions and demolitions of Palestinian homes in East Beit-ul-Moqaddas, warning that as many as 60,000 people there may be at risk of forced evictions, demolitions and displacement.

Here is the Moyers 20 minute Journal interview and transcript as well as some pertinent excerpts;

BILL MOYERS: "Your report, as you know, basically accuses Israel of waging war on the entire population of Gaza."

RICHARD GOLDSTONE: "That's correct."

BILL MOYERS: "I mean, there are allegations in here, some very tough allegations of Israeli soldiers shooting unarmed civilians who pose no threat,

of shooting people whose hands were shackled behind them, of shooting two teenagers who'd been ordered off a tractor that they were driving, apparently carrying wounded civilians to a hospital, of homes, hundreds, maybe thousands of homes destroyed, left in rubble, of hospitals bombed. I mean there are some questions about one or two of your examples here, but it's a damning indictment of Israel's conduct in Gaza, right?"

RICHARD GOLDSTONE: "Well, it is outrageous, and there should have been an outrage. You know, the response has not been to deal with the substance of those allegations. I've really seen or read no detailed response in respect of the incidents on which we report."

BILL MOYERS: "Why is that?"

RICHARD GOLDSTONE: "Well, you know, I don't know. I suppose people hate being attacked. There's a knee-jerk reaction to attack the messenger rather than the message. And I think this is typical of that. And of course, a lot of the allegations, I certainly don't claim anything like infallibility. But I would like to see a response to the substance, particularly the attack on the infrastructure of Gaza, which seems to me to be absolutely unjustifiable."

Goldstone made an important point, during the interview, when he reminded Moyers that Gaza is not a nation state and alluded to the very important point that no civilian population can be expected not to strike back at illegal settlements built on occupied territory ~ which is obviously, as reported, still going on.

This may very well be wishful thinking ~ but the Obama Administration should support the Goldstone report which urges Israel to investigate its military's documented misdeeds. It should also not equivocate regarding the Goldstone recommendation that the UN Security Council refer the matter to the International Criminal Court ~ if Israel fails to comply.

(Source: thepeoplesvoice.org)

Kirkuk at the heart of Iraq election law deadlock

BAGHDAD (AP) — Iraqi politicians have been turning up their rhetoric over Kirkuk, the oil-rich city that both Kurds in the north and Arabs in the south want to control.

The dispute has caused a deadlock over the country's election law, threatening to delay Iraq's nationwide elections set for mid-January. Any vote setback could, in turn, disrupt American plans to withdraw troops from Iraq, scheduled to ramp up after the vote.

"We are getting to a crisis," said Marina Ottaway, director of the Middle East Program at the Washington-based Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. "They have been trying for over a year to reach a compromise on Kirkuk."

"Now," she warns, "it is becoming a problem for the United States."

For years, tensions have simmered over Kirkuk and its surrounding province of about 1.3 million people, 180 miles (290 kilometers) north of Baghdad. Boasting an ancient citadel, it is in many ways an ordinary, if somewhat shabby, Iraqi city.

But it sits on a political and cultural fault line among ethnic Kurds and smaller groups of Arabs and Turkomen, or ethnic Turks. Vast oil fields, dotted with flaming smoke stacks, lie just to the north and west, raising the stakes.

Kurds consider Kirkuk a Kurdish city and want it part of their self-ruled region. But during the rule of former dictator Saddam Hussein, tens of thousands of Kurds were displaced under a forced plan by Saddam to make Kirkuk predominantly Arab.

Regaining control of the city is thus extremely symbolic for Kurds and many Kurds have returned since the 2003 U.S.-led invasion of Iraq. But other groups claim Kurds have packed more Kurds into the city than before.

The population breakdown remains in dispute but U.S. officials estimated last spring that Kurds make up 52 percent of Kirkuk and its province, with Arabs at 35 percent and Turkomen about 12 percent.

The Arab-led central government vehemently opposes anything that would remove Kirkuk from its control. A referendum on the city's future — required by the Iraqi constitution — has been repeatedly postponed. The Turkomen have generally sided with Arabs, believing they'll be treated better than under the Kurds, a longtime enemy of their Turkish supporters.

The immediate dispute centers on voting rolls listing who can vote in Kirkuk in the January national election. While many proposals have been discussed, Kurds have favored using the 2009 voter registry, which likely reflects the Kurdish growth, while Arabs generally prefer the 2004 voter registry, when the Kurdish population wasn't so large. That has delayed the necessary deal on the election law.

Long term, money also plays a role. Because of the surrounding oil, whoever controls Kirkuk stands to benefit enormously.

The Kurdish-Arab dispute over Kirkuk is different from Iraq's main political dispute between Sunni Arabs and Shiite Arabs, which plays out more in the capital of Baghdad and surrounding areas.

The Sunni-Shiite split has less relevance in Kirkuk where both Kurds and Arabs are mostly Sunni Muslims. There, the fear among Arabs — both Sunnis and Shiites — is that Kurds will gobble up all jobs and government benefits if Kirkuk joins Kurdistan.

The United States has been watching the debate intensely for any repercussions it may have for the American military withdrawal.

Under a plan by President Barack Obama, all U.S. combat troops will be out of the country by the end of August 2010, leaving about 50,000 trainers and support troops in Iraq. Those remaining troops would leave by the end of 2011.

U.S. military commanders say the majority of the troop departures would come about 60 days after the planned Iraqi

election — the idea being to get the country on stable footing before making any major troop changes.

Any delay in the election date could possibly push back the troop withdrawal. U.S. officials have said that they are still hoping the Jan. 16th date will go forward, but say their troop drawdown plan is not set in stone.

As the election approaches, tensions have increased with Arab lawmakers saying Kirkuk is an Iraqi city and Kurdish lawmakers boycotting a parliament session last week over the issue.

Iraq's central government should have tried to resolve the underlying Kirkuk issue long before now, asserts Mohammed Ihsan, the former Minister of Disputed Territories, who is now in the Kurdistan regional government.

"They forget that without sorting out this issue, you cannot develop a serious partnership throughout the country," Ihsan said.

But a Turkomen lawmaker, Abbas al-Bayati, said Iraq's parliament has not given up hopes of a deal on the election law. "Delaying the elections is a red line. Elections must not be postponed at any price."

The tensions over Kirkuk — already high — rose last week after Massoud Barzani, the president of the Kurdish autonomous region in the north, said in a speech: "We refuse to give Kirkuk a special status in the election."

The wording refers to an April U.N. report recommending giving Kirkuk such "special status" with oversight by both the near-autonomous Kurdish region and the central government in Baghdad. Kurds reject that.

The controversy over Barzani's words was further complicated, at least initially, by a mistranslation of his remarks on Iraqi state television, which inaccurately quoted him as saying he pledged to "annex" Kirkuk — a more hardline position.



Iraq parliament speaker calls for death penalty suspension

BAGHDAD (AFP) — Iraq's parliament speaker on Sunday called for a suspension of executions until after elections set for January, to ensure that political parties do not use them as issues during the election campaign.

Iyad al-Samarrai put the request in to the justice ministry after receiving a letter from the head of parliament's legal committee, Baha Hussein al-Araji, who was concerned that Iraq's ruling parties may seek to bolster their support by claiming to have executed various criminals.



"Mr. Samarrai addressed this request to the justice ministry after a request from the chair of the legal committee," a parliamentary official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Araji is a member of the parliamentary bloc loyal to radical Shiite cleric Moqtada al-Sadr.

According to the letter, a copy of which was obtained by AFP, Araji called on Samarrai to "direct the justice ministry to suspend executions which have already been approved (by the presidential council) so that they cannot be used politically by the parties in power."

The presidential council is made up of President Jalal Talabani and his two deputies, who must jointly approve every execution.

At a meeting on Sunday with families of people either killed or imprisoned by Saddam's Baath Party, Prime Minister Nuri al-Maliki urged the council to continue to allow executions.

At least eight former senior officials in the regime of deposed dictator Saddam Hussein have been condemned to death, including Ali Hassan al-Majid, known as "Chemical Ali," and two of Saddam's half-brothers.

Their death sentences were all greeted by celebrations among Shiites and Kurds, two communities violently repressed by Saddam, across Iraq.

Baghdad reintroduced the death penalty in 2004, after a brief moratorium immediately following the U.S.-led invasion of the country in 2003.

The country has at least 1,000 people under sentence of death and hangs dozens of convicts, according to a September report by London-based human rights group Amnesty International.