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Dear ...,

In recent weeks, Palestine is once again witnessing heinous and bloody days and nights. What is happening to the oppressed people of that country in these weeks is not a new story, but what adds to the severity of this wound is the silence and inaction of the international community in the face of reckless and direct attacks on civilians, women, children and civil targets including hospitals.

Currently, this fabricated narrative is being propagated by mainstream media that Israel's inhumane actions are caused by the October 7 attacks by Hamas. But awakened consciences acknowledge that what is happening these days in Palestine and Gaza is not an incident, but a history; an ongoing history of occupation and consistent oppression and subjugation. This makes us, as think-tankers, try to de-construct this fabricated narrative by a glimpse on the context and root causes of these developments.

Distant history aside, let's look at the trends of recent years together; Where the Israeli regime has gradually been expanding the occupation and tightening the encirclement of the Palestinians. It has reached the point where Gaza is now the most densely populated territory on the planet. Especially in current ultra- radical administration, the pressure and assault on Palestinians has been constantly increasing with the settlement process, daily attacks and crimes against the Palestinians.

In just one recent year- ending on October 7th- the United Nations has recorded numerous cases of massive attacks, violence, destruction of Palestinian homes, killing and wounding of Palestinian people. During this period, according to official statistics, 6,400 Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces, most of whom were civilians and at least 20% women and children. Just during six weeks leading up to the Hamas attack, and in Gaza alone, two hundred people have been killed and 2,600 people have been captured by Israeli forces.



Just Imagine that more than two million people living in Gaza are under constant siege and under daily bombardment and are exposed to killing and open cruelty regardless of the world public opinion and the basic rules of international and humanitarian law, and surprisingly no protest is heard from the international community and human rights claimants. This silence has emboldened Israeli regime in a way that their officials explicitly declare that Palestinians are not considered human and therefore, they are not subjects of human rights! Or an Israeli official stated a few days ago that children should not be spared in the attack on Gaza, because these children will be resistance forces against Israel in the future!

The West strongly condemns Hamas operation regardless the context and Palestinian's inherent right of legitimate self- defense against occupation. For deep understanding the situation, one should consider that many Palestinians, including Hamas forces, have never experienced a free life away from occupation, assault and bombing; have never felt safe even for a day; have never seen a place beyond Gaza and life under siege; they have not started a celebration with joy and assurance of its happy ending; and they have never escorted their children to school with the assurance of their return.

One should keep in mind that Palestine is not bound to Gaza and Hamas. In this country, various political groups are active, most of which are formed based on efforts to resist the occupation. Hamas is just one of the 17 Palestinian political-military groups that won the most seats in the Palestinian parliamentary elections in 2006, and this shows that this group is one integral part of the society and has the necessary political legitimacy and popular base in Palestine. Therefore, Hamas cannot be reduced to a militant group or a terrorist group. At the same time, Israel's increasing crimes have led to the formation of a new generation of resistance groups in response to injustice, oppression and occupation, in addition to traditional and old resistance groups. This means, with or without Hamas, the cause and goal of Palestine persists as long as the occupation exists.

To conclude, the fact that Hamas carried out unprecedented attacks against Israel in the occupied lands is not a reason to close our eyes to the countless crimes committed by Israel in the past few decades, most of which have been acknowledged by the United Nations and international organizations. Based on this record, no one can claim that the root of Israel's crimes was Hamas's resistance; Because these crimes and brutalities have



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continued in any situation. Within 5 weeks of so-called collective punishment based on the notion of de-humanizing of Palestinian people, over 14000 people, most of them civilians and about half children, have been killed which is almost 4 times as many minors as have fallen victim from the beginning of Ukraine crisis.

The aforementioned realities recall our responsibility not only as think- tankers but beyond that, as human beings to abide by our responsibilities in standing with the truth, contemplating the root causes of this long and protracted crisis and raising public awareness about ground realities.

Sincerely yours,

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President