



Israeli Destruction and Massacres Continue with US Backing

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Glenn Greenwald (GG): But you now have a huge amount of evidence from a lot of independent sources who are concluding based on independent investigations and analysis of data - including the deaths of Palestinians, what I said at the top of the show - which is that the war in Gaza is being conducted in a way that is almost unparalleled, and certainly in recent history, in terms of civilian deaths. The Health Ministry of Gaza, which now is called the Hamas-run Health Ministry - you're supposed to immediately discount what they say in terms of the number of Gazans dead - this is not the first time Israel has conducted vicious bombing campaigns of Gaza. It has done so repeatedly over many years. And every time what is found is that the death counts given by the Health Ministry of Gaza ends up being accurate. If anything, they're undercounting because they just count the number of people who entered the morgues. They don't count and can't count the number of dead still trapped under the rubble. There's a huge amount of rubble from buildings that were bombed in Gaza that can't be removed because they don't have electricity, don't have access to heavy machinery. And even the US intelligence agencies have said that the count of the Health Ministry in Gaza, the number of people who have died, which is now 20,000, 8000 or 9000 children, if anything, is an undercount. But you now have independent sources.

Here is from AP, yesterday. There you see the headline: *Israel's military campaign in Gaza is seen as among the most destructive in recent history, experts say*. Quote: "In just over two months, the offensive has wreaked more destruction than the razing of Syria's Aleppo between 2012 and 2016, Ukraine's Mariupol, or proportionately the Allied bombing of Germany in World War II. It has killed more civilians than the US-led coalition did in its three year campaign against ISIS. The Israeli military has said little about what kinds of bombs and artillery it is using in Gaza, but from blast fragments found on-site and analyses of strike footage, experts are confident that the vast majority of bombs dropped on the besieged enclave are US-made. They say the weapons include 2,000-pound 'bunker busters' that have killed hundreds in densely populated areas. With the Palestinian death toll in Gaza surpassing 20,000 -" the overall population of Gaza is 2.2 million, which means 20,000 deaths in ten weeks means the Israelis have killed 1% of the population of Gaza. 1% of the Palestinians

who lived in Gaza before October 7th are now dead. 1%. "With the Palestinian death toll in Gaza surpassing 20,000, the international community is calling for a cease-fire. Israel vows to press ahead, saying it wants to destroy Hamas's military capabilities following the militant group's October 7 cross-border rampage that triggered the war, in which it killed 1200 people and took 240 others hostage." That 1200 number includes at least 350 active soldiers. So you're talking about 750-800 civilians, many of which were killed brutally. We have been very clear from the start that the way in which a mass carried out that attack was morally indefensible because of the way in which it deliberately targeted civilians. No question, had Hamas targeted only the Israeli military, it would have been a justifiable attack. No question that when Palestinians in the West Bank attack Israeli military soldiers or Israeli police that are an occupying force in the West Bank, they are morally justified in doing so. We've always recognised that occupied people have the right to attack a foreign military. But what you can't do is go to a musical festival and gun down civilians. But that doesn't mean that what follows is justified. That's the thing we said on the night of October 8th, the first time we had a show after October 7th. The 911 attack was morally indefensible and killed 3000 innocent Americans. But it didn't mean that the United States had the right to do everything and anything in response. And in fact, much of what the United States did in response to 911 was morally disgraceful and indefensible and counter-productive. Torture regimes around the world, Guantanamo, the invasion of Iraq, the invasion of Afghanistan, the 20 year occupation of those countries, the drone bombing of eight Muslim countries, CIA black-sites and kidnapping programs. And on and on and on. To observe that much of what the United States did in the wake of 911 that was morally indefensible doesn't in any way mitigate the observation that 911 was as well. Just as pointing out that what the Israelis are doing is monstrous, does not in any way suggest that the October 7th attack by Hamas was justifiable.

Here from The New York Times, also this week: *A Times investigation tracked Israel's use of one of its most destructive bombs in south Gaza*. Quote: "During the first six weeks of the war in Gaza, Israel routinely used one of its biggest and most destructive bombs in areas that it designated safe for civilians, according to an analysis of visual evidence by The New York Times." In other words, the Israelis ordered civilians in Gaza to evacuate one place and told them to go to another, saying that place was going to be safe for civilians. They left their homes. They trekked very large distances. Obviously, no cars, on foot with old people and disabled people and young children. And then they would get to the place they were told to go and the Israelis wouldn't only bomb them, but use the biggest bombs that exist in the arsenal that no other country uses in civilian areas - certainly not the United States - and would use them against those civilians in the areas the Israelis told them to go. Quote: "The video investigation focuses on the use of 2,000-pound bombs in an area of southern Gaza where Israel had ordered civilians to move for safety. While bombs of that size are used by several Western militaries, munitions experts say they are almost never dropped by US forces in densely populated areas anymore. In response to questions about the bomb's use in south Gaza, an Israeli military spokesman said in a statement to The Times that Israel's priority was destroying Hamas. And, quote, 'Questions of this kind will be looked into at a later stage'".

So The New York Times went to the Israelis and said, we have evidence that you've been using 2,000-pound bombs that are certain to kill a huge number of civilians, and you're dropping them in exactly the areas that you told the Gazan civilians to go so they would be safe. And the Israelis said, We'll get to that at some other point, we don't really care about that right now. Quote: "Since October, the United States has also sent more than 5000 MK-84 munitions - a type of 2,000-pound bomb." In other words, the bombs the Israelis are using in Gaza to destroy civilian infrastructure, to destroy one hospital after the next, to kill thousands of children, are bombs being supplied to them in real time by the Biden administration. As we said, we covered this at the time. The Israeli Defence Minister promised to use the blockade of Israel to prevent food or water from getting into Gaza. And while a few humanitarian quarters were open, it was nowhere near enough just to keep the population on a basic path to survival.

Human Rights Watch conducted a major investigation that they published on December 18th, 2023, the title of which was *Israel: Starvation Used as a Weapon of War in Gaza*. "Evidence indicates civilians were deliberately denied access to food and water." Let me say that again, "evidence indicates civilians deliberately were denied access to food and water." If denying civilians access to food and water, in a civilian population where half of the people are children is not a war crime, please tell me what is. And if your view is you don't care what the Israelis are doing because war is hell and all these kinds of John Wayne cliches that people like to throw around when they want to feel tough - what basis do you have then for condemning what Hamas did on October 7th? After all, war is hell. The reason I was able to condemn what Hamas did is because I believe that the laws of war and these moral standards have to be abided by. But if you don't believe in that, then what was your basis for condemning what Hamas did? Quote: "Since Hamas-led fighters attacked Israel on October 7th, high ranking Israeli officials, including Defense Minister Yoav Galant, National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir and Energy Minister Israel Katz have made public statements expressing their aim to deprive civilians in Gaza of food, water and fuel - statements reflecting a policy being carried out by Israeli forces. Other Israeli officials have publicly stated that humanitarian aid to Gaza would be conditioned either on the release of hostages unlawfully held by Hamas or Hamas's destruction. On October 9th, Defense Minister Yoav Galant said, quote, 'We are imposing a complete siege on Gaza. No electricity, no food, no water, no fuel - everything is closed. We are fighting human animals and we must act accordingly.' National Security Minister Itamar Ben-Gvir said in a tweet on October 17th, quote, 'So long as Hamas does not release the hostages - the only thing that should enter Gaza is hundreds of tons of air force explosives - not an ounce of humanitarian aid.'" Again, this is not Israel refusing to feed Gaza. This is Israel refusing to allow other people's humanitarian assistance to enter. "On November 4th, Finance Minister Bezalel Smotrich declared that no fuel must enter Gaza, quote, 'under any circumstances.' He later called Israel's war cabinet's decision to permit small amounts to enter the strip, quote, 'a grave mistake' and said that it, quote, 'should stop this scandal immediately and prevent fuel from coming into the Strip', as

reported by the Jerusalem Post.". Fuel is needed for things like machines in hospitals and life-support and incubators for newborn babies. Things like that. "In a video posted online on November 4th, Col. Yogev Bar-Shesht, deputy head of the Civil Administration, said in an interview from inside Gaza, quote, 'Whoever returns here, if they return here after, will find scorched earth. No houses, no agriculture, no nothing. They have no future.'"This is why it's so irrational, even though a lot of people have been trained to do it, to dismiss these reports by human rights groups as some sort of pro-Hamas propaganda campaign. These are all based on the statements of Israeli officials. Statements that are being reported in the Israeli press, that you can watch videos of them making. They actually said these things repeatedly throughout the world. Not obscure officials, but top level officials.

Now, one of the things that has happened in the United States to justify censorship - like when Governor DeSantis banned a pro-Palestinian student group from existing in the University of Florida campuses. Or when there were attempts to justify the decisions by France and Germany to ban all pro-Palestinian protests. Or to insist that colleges needed greater constraints on campus speech. The tactic used was they would find very obscure people, undergraduate students who have no power, random protesters on the street, they would pick the worst signs they could find for the pro-Palestinian cause to try and say, look at these people, what they really believe, they believe in genocide, they're violent, they're savage. You don't have to go look for obscure, random street protesters saying repulsive things about Gaza. You can find them, there's plenty of them as well. But mostly you find it coming from top Israeli officials like we just read you or mainstream Israeli journalists. When they're not speaking on CNN in English, but speaking in Hebrew on their own networks, they reveal what they really think.

Here is one of them on Israeli TV, Shimon Riklin, just last week, December 17th. So not even the excuse that October 7th just happened and he was speaking out of rage. Here he is on December 17th, 2023, saying not only I don't care about war crimes in Gaza, I'm for the war crimes. Here's what he said. I'm going to read this for people who are listening by audio, by podcast. They're kind of having a grand old time. They're chuckling and laughing as they say it. Quote, "I am for the war crimes. I don't care if I am criticised and I honestly don't care. I am unable to sleep if I do not see houses being destroyed in Gaza, what do I say? More, more and more, more houses, more buildings. I want to see more of them destroyed. I want there to be nothing for them to return to. In the Torah it says they used to spread the earth with salt. They must remember they are *Amalek*. This is why we cannot reach a solution with them. And that is what war crimes mean to me." *Amalek* is a biblical term, referring to the entire population that was wiped out by the Israelites. This is the sort of thing in the bloodstream of Israeli discourse. They don't pretend they're trying to defeat Hamas. They don't pretend they're trying to create a security buffer. They're very open about the fact that they want ethnic cleansing of Gaza. They want to eliminate any Arabs or Palestinians from Gaza so that Israel can take it over. The official position of the Likud Party - to say nothing of the more extremist parties in Netanyahu's government - is that all of the land from the river to the sea,

from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea, which consists of what is recognised by the international community is Israel and then the West Bank, which Israel is illegally occupying, and then Gaza all belongs to Israel. Israel to them is all of that land, not just the land that the international community recognises.

Here was a local official in Israel, as reported by the Jerusalem Post on December 17th, who said the following: *Israel should make Gaza look like the Auschwitz Museum.* "David Azoulay, head of the Matola Council", that's a city in Israel, "proposed sending all Gazans to refugee camps in Lebanon and flattening the whole strip so it becomes an empty museum like Auschwitz." A couple of months ago, The New Yorker's Isaac Chotiner interviewed a woman named Daniella Weiss, who is the leader of the Settlement Movement, one of the leaders of the Settlement Movement in Israel that has basically forever destroyed the possibility of a two-state solution, which the United States government for decades has said is foundational to US security. The Israelis have destroyed that. We fund them, we give them the weapons, and then we say to them, the one thing we want is a two-state solution, because we need that in the region, because we're being attacked, because of the failure of the two-state solution. And although there's been this endless propaganda campaign in the West to claim that the Israelis so generously have repeatedly offered the Palestinians a state, but they've turned it down. Netanyahu just this week admitted - admitted! - that he has spent 30 years, along with his allies, blocking any possibility of a two-state solution. That it's not Yasser Arafat or the PLO or Hamas that has done that. It's the Israelis who have blocked a two-state solution. They don't believe in a two-state solution. They want all of that land for themselves. And they have a Settler Movement that is just built tract housing in the West Bank, which the entire world recognises as belonging to the Palestinians. They view the occupation of the West Bank as an illegal occupation and say a foreign army, the Israeli army, is in the West Bank. In addition to the mass murder and killing and slaughter taking place in Gaza, there has been a serious escalation of violence in the West Bank as well. Sadistic violence, often by settlers backed up by the IDF. And here is Daniella Weiss, one of the leaders of that Settler Movement. She gave an interview on December 19, 2023 about what she would like to see in Gaza. And here's what she said: "Gaza must be erased so that the settlers can see the sea. The situation needs to end. What we did in northern Gaza, we must do it to the south of Gaza. Evacuating Gaza of Arabs. And building Jewish settlements in all of Gaza because the settlers of the Gaza Strip want to see the sea. In order to see the sea, all homes in Gaza must be destroyed. There are no homes or Arabs left in Gaza. This is a logical and romantic demand. The settlers want to see the sea. How will they see the sea? We must do it south of Gaza, the settlers will see the sea. Gaza is a Jewish city. Gaza is not a Hamas city. Gaza is one of the cities of Israel. We will simply go back there. A historical mistake has been made. Now we corrected it." Now, it would be one thing if these fanatics, these extremists, these sociopaths were having a little regional war with their neighbours over land. These are the people we are funding. These are the people who hard working Americans are going to work and paying their taxes in order to send to Israel, to make that sick vision a reality. The weapon she's talking about using to cleanse Gaza ethnically of all Arabs so that only the Jews

can have it comes from the United States. And we have certainly many reports that the desire to ethnically cleanse Gaza is not just something that random protesters or college students say, like we focus obsessively here in the United States when we want to indict the pro-Palestinian movement because of a straight comment that some 20 year old made. It is coming from the highest levels of the Israeli government. The idea that we want to ethnically cleanse Gaza of all Arabs.

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