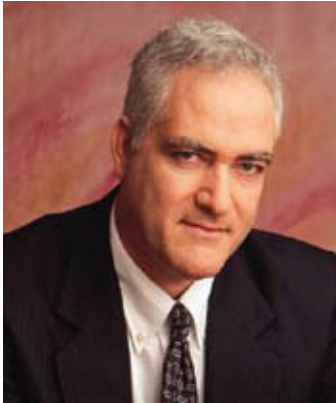


Flotilla of world hypocrisy



Israel is guilty of naively believing that a flotilla from Turkey was carrying peace activists and not violent thugs; the West is guilty of turning a blind eye to the fact that Israel is being attacked because it is the long arm of western society, preventing the expansion of radical Islamism.

By BOAZ GANOR

World news has been flooded by reports of international efforts to break the blockade on Gaza with flotillas filled with so-called good Samaritans and human rights activists transporting humanitarian aid to Gaza.

The Israelis see this as a pre-planned and vicious propaganda campaign coordinated by the radical Islamic terrorist organisation Hamas and its worldwide supporters aimed at delegitimising Israel.

Who's right? Make no mistake, although the guns are (temporarily) silent, Hamas, as a marionette of the Islamic Republic of Iran, together with its new acquisition – Erdoğan, the radical leader of the Islamic JDP Party in Turkey – is waging a war on Israel.

But this is no regular war, one of many that Israel has experienced in its short existence; this is an existential war that undermines the moral foundations of Israel's very existence.

This is a calculated, deceptive and sophisticated war coordinated by Hamas supporters worldwide – a coalition of terrorists, their sponsors and supporters, and their front organisations: NGOs and so-called charities.

Such organisations were founded solely to promote jihadi agendas through *dawah* (winning the battle for the hearts and minds of the public

through radical Islamic indoctrination, education and welfare activities).

These radical Islamic movements – such as IHH (a Turkish humanitarian relief fund that openly supports Hamas's strategy of armed struggle and that sponsored the controversial flotilla at the end of May) – abduct the western liberal narrative in order to further their own aspirations.

Efforts to delegitimise Israel's right to exist are intended to entrap Israel in a spider's web, misrepresenting her self-defence efforts as war crimes and portraying Israel as an occupying apartheid state that uses disproportionate force, unlawful methods and policies of starvation to discriminate against the Palestinian people and their democratically elected leadership, thereby preventing them from realising their legitimate national rights.

This coalition of world hypocrisy unites terrorist sponsors and supporters together with anarchists and neo-fascists who exercise a modern version of anti-Semitism. They are joined by confused human rights activists and misguided liberal youth attracted to a false latter-day David versus Goliath battle.

In an unholy alliance with the one-sided international media, they've brainwashed the public – the last thing that the organisers of the flotilla had in mind was bringing humanitarian aid into Gaza, least of all because there is no humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

In spite of the Israeli-Egyptian blockade against Hamas in Gaza, over a million tons of humanitarian supplies have entered Gaza from Israel over the last 18 months – almost a ton of aid for every person in Gaza. Compare that to the aid provided by the flotilla – less than a quarter of the aid that Israel transfers to Gaza on a daily basis.

Who are the players in this deadly thriller?

The main protagonist is Hamas, presented by the coalition of hypocrisy as a rightfully elected Palestinian democratic regime. In fact, Hamas is a dangerous hybrid terrorist organisation – a modern breed that concomitantly operates two branches: a military arm and a political arm.

This hybrid terrorist organisation is more

Not so plain sailing ... the Mavi Marmara was sponsored by IHH, a Turkish relief fund that openly supports Hamas.

Photo: IDF



dangerous than a 'regular' terrorist organisation since it uses its political and welfare activities to win over public opinion and harness state resources to support its terrorist agenda.

In the case of Hamas the agenda is the destruction of Israel and the establishment of an Islamic-Palestinian state in its place. These goals are clearly outlined in the organisation's covenant. Take this, for example: 'Hamas strives to raise the banner of Allah over every inch of Palestine' (Article 6). Or this: 'Jihad is its path and death for the sake of Allah is the loftiest of its wishes' (Article 8). And if there's an iota of doubt, then this: 'There is no solution for the Palestinian question except through jihad' (Article 13).

After winning the election in 2006, Hamas tortured Fatah opposition activists, seized the Palestinian police and security apparatuses and launched a daily rocket campaign against Israel that has lasted for five years.

Despite representations to the contrary, Hamas is not fighting for the 'freedom' of the Palestinians; those interests are actually subordinate to those of other actors in the hypocrisy coalition, such as Iran and Hezbollah, for which Hamas has become a strategic proxy.

The last thing that the organisers of these flotilla had in mind was carrying humanitarian aid into Gaza, least of all because there is no humanitarian crisis in Gaza.

But this longstanding Islamist alliance has recently received important reinforcement via Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan. Erdoğan is pulling Turkey away from the secular path that Atatürk – the country's mythical leader – founded his nation upon and which has guided Turkey toward prosperity and pragmatism for so many years.

Erdoğan is promoting an Islamic revolution in Turkey of the most dangerous variety – a non-violent cultural revolution. Leading the attack against Israel's legitimacy, destroying Israel-Turkey relations, supporting the flotillas and delivering provocative speeches all serve his political agenda in Turkey.

Surely there is no activity more useful in gaining popular support in the Muslim world than bashing Israel, and Erdoğan is cynically using all possible blood libels, conspiracies and propaganda tactics to achieve this goal.

Lastly, in the rough neighbourhood of the Middle East, the systematic cold shoulder that US President Barack Obama has shown Israel has been translated as a green light to attack Israel. Arab-Muslim dominance in most of the international organisations (including UN agencies) serves as a second strategic tool in the hands of the coalition of hypocrisy.

They can plan, prepare and execute campaigns aimed at delegitimising Israel, and then demand international investigations into Israel's alleged disproportionate reaction.

The immediate goal of this coalition is to shackle and cuff Israel's hands and legs, to paralyse the state and prevent it from exercising its basic, natural right of self-defence.

In so doing, they do not hesitate to attack

Israeli civilians, using their own civilians as human shields, exploiting international humanitarian laws and boomeranging Israel's own liberal democratic values against itself.

Israeli naval commandos were forced to fire in self-defence only after failing to persuade the violent passengers of the flotilla (who had already admitted their goal was to become *shaheeds*, or martyrs) to divert to the Israeli port of Ashdod. Indeed, Israel's army recorded those aboard the ships retorting with screams of 'Go back to Auschwitz' and 'Don't forget 9/11'.

They were forced to resort to live ammunition only after Israel's best soldiers – the navy seals, who were initially sent in with paintball guns to take over the *Mavi Marmara* – were brutally attacked, stabbed, shelled, bitten and mutilated with 'cold weapons'. Then and only then, as a last resort, did they use their pistols.

Israel is not innocent. Israel is guilty of fighting a defensive war for its very existence. Israel is guilty of withdrawing from Gaza in the hope that Palestinians would use their newly granted freedom to build an independent entity and abandon its goal of destroying Israel.

Israel is guilty of not turning a blind eye to the



Arms from Iran (top) ... slingshots found aboard the *Mavi Marmara*.

Lethal weapons ... some of the cache of knives used by the 'peace activists'.

Photos: IDF

ongoing missile attacks and war of attrition that Hamas has waged against Israeli civilians. Israel is guilty of trying to stop the Iranian armament of the Gaza Strip and prevent al-Qaeda from smuggling in its terrorists.

Israel is guilty of risking the lives of its soldiers in order to defend passengers of the *Mavi Marmara*.

Israel is guilty of being naïve in believing that a humanitarian flotilla from Turkey was bringing peace activists and not violent thugs.

The western world, for its part, is guilty of turning a blind eye to the fact that Israel is caught in a situation of reverse asymmetric warfare, in which the so-called Israeli Goliath is actually much weaker than the so-called David, who exploits international law and receives the support of states, organisations and billions of people.

The civilised world must acknowledge that Israel is being attacked because it is regarded as the long arm of western society, preventing the expansion of Islamic radicalism. And the civilised world should closely observe the difficulties Israel faces in defending itself from radical Islamic terrorists and their supporters. Why? Because it may seem right now to be a secluded problem facing Israel alone. However, the radical Islamist campaign against Israel is actually just prolonging a global campaign. Whatever Israel faces today, the western world will face tomorrow.

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