

REMEMBER GAZA

ONE YEAR AGO, ON DECEMBER 27 2008,

Israel launched a military assault on the captive population of Gaza, killing over 1400 Palestinians, mostly non-combatants & including over 400 children. Weapons such as white phosphorus were used illegally. Israel declared a ceasefire on January 18 2009, but has continued sporadic attacks & maintains a siege & blockade, preventing sufficient food or medical supplies or other necessities from entering Gaza. Reconstruction has been impossible. One year later, Gaza is still in ruins.

BEFORE THAT, on November 4 2008, Israel violated an ongoing ceasefire by invading Gaza & killing 6 Palestinians. Palestinians responded by firing rockets, causing no casualties. Israel used this rocket fire as pretext for a military assault.

BEFORE THAT, on June 19 2008, Israel agreed to a 6-month ceasefire with Hamas. The terms were that Hamas would stop firing rockets into Israel, & Israel would stop all invasions into Gaza & reduce its starvation blockade on Gaza. **Israel never fulfilled its obligations under the truce.** The starvation blockade continued, but only after the November 4 invasion & murder of Palestinians did Hamas resume rocket fire.

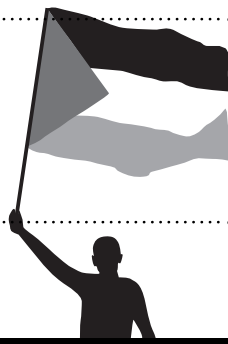
BEFORE THAT, in 2005, the Israeli government removed illegal settlers & military from Gaza, but maintained control of Gaza's borders, airspace, water, electricity, seacoast, imports & exports. **Still effectively occupied by Israel, Gaza has been reduced to an open-air prison for 1.5 million Palestinians.** Ethnic cleansing, in the form of illegal Israeli settlements, continues in the West Bank.

BEFORE THAT, in 1967, Israel occupied Gaza & the West Bank and began displacing Palestinians for illegal Jewish-only settlements.

BEFORE THAT, in 1948, Israel was founded by the ethnic cleansing of 800,000 Palestinians, many of whom were driven out to become refugees in Gaza.

**REMEMBER GAZA
END ISRAELI APARTHEID
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GAZA: WHITE PHOSPHORUS

Like napalm, it burns away falsehood.
The skin of the victim peels off to reveal
the heart and imagination of
the attacker, the perpetrator, the invader.
The hot white smoke which falls toward the ground
with its garlic smell does not obscure
the eye-piercing white of the truth.
The drowning of living organs in pain,
the scream-stretched throats and blackened eyes,
the crushed homes, the incinerated children
all were alive in the hearts of the attackers
before they were brought to being on earth.
The goal of the invaders' hearts was to crush
the hearts of the people invaded, and their bodies
if they didn't submit. The burning of bodies
was imagined, was planned, was calculated.
The invaders danced and sang when their plan
manifested itself on flesh.
The searing and penetrating of flesh
was no regret, no accident,
but a lure, a wish, a state of mind,
an imagination of power, a conviction,
a justification of itself, a need
which ignites when exposed to the air we breathe
and burns without stopping till the oxygen stops
or it burns itself away to nothing.
It burns beyond the victim to expose
the root and bone of the ones who use it
and shows the thoughts you thought were secret
and leaves your heart naked at last
so all can see what has always lived there
waiting to burn and be burned and burn
until all the truths of your heart come to be
and you alone of all the world
are safe, are safe, are safe,
surrounded by flame.

— EDWARD MAST —