

# Al-Aqsa Flood: States in the Balance of Responsibility and Consequences

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## Abstract

The sudden “Al-Aqsa Flood” battle launched by the Palestinian Hamas movement against the Israeli army on October 7th, 2023, shook the image of the Israeli political and military intelligence body, constituting a milestone in the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict since the 1940s due to the events it reflects on all levels: humanitarian, political, and social not only in the Arab world but also globally. Because the border countries are the countries most affected by the conditions of neighboring countries, Lebanon, Egypt, and Jordan had the largest share of the suffering of the Palestinians, starting with forced displacement and ending with military interventions and alliances of countries related to the Palestinian issue, at the forefront of which are the United States of America, European countries, Iran, and more recently, Russia. This article deals with a comprehensive overview of the repercussions of the events taking place in Gaza, highlighting the Arab, international, and media reactions and how international and humanitarian organizations deal with the situation of this conflict. Using scientific research, reports, references, and newspaper articles, this article shows the positions of the countries concerned with the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, how the Western media presents it, and its political and security repercussions on the Palestinian interior and neighboring countries, while highlighting the ability of international and humanitarian organizations to respond to the crisis during the conflict. In conclusion, the article provides an alternative solution to the solution proposed by the countries concerned to end the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

**Keywords:** Al-Aqsa Flood Battle, Hamas Movement, Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Arab Neighboring Countries, International Reactions, Western Media, Humanitarian Organizations, Israeli Army

## 1. Introduction

Hamas, short for the Islamic Resistance Movement, was founded in 1987 during the first Palestinian Intifada by its leader Ahmed Yassin<sup>1</sup>, who was martyred in 2004 in an Israeli raid. This movement has carried the ideology of the Muslim Brotherhood, an Islamic organization founded in Egypt in the 1920s to liberate the Palestinian territories from the Israeli occupation, as it rejected the temporary peace talks that were signed in 1993 between Israel and the Fatah movement, which was headed by the late President Yasser Arafat time<sup>2</sup>, loyal to current President Mahmoud Abbas. After Hamas had won the Palestinian

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<sup>1</sup>Oseran S., (2013), “Hezbollah-Hamas cooperation: Motivations, manifestations and future outlook”, JSTOR. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep09436>

<sup>2</sup>Shlaim A., (1994), “The Oslo Accord”, *Journal of Palestine Studies*, 23(3), 24–40. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/2537958>

parliamentary elections in 2006, the movement took control of the Gaza Strip with a security apparatus that included thousands of fighters while the Fatah movement took over the administration of the West Bank. The guerrilla operations carried out by Hamas against Israel continued to achieve the desired goal, the last of which was the “Al-Aqsa Flood” operation on October 7, 2023. In this process, all parties took their real and public positions. For instance, America has always been the primary supporter of Israel and still on. Hamas, although it is a Sunni group, is an important part of a regional alliance that includes Iran (Russia’s ally), Syria, and the Shiite Hezbollah group in Lebanon, in addition to receiving support, financing, and military training from Iran and thus its military wing in the Middle East, Hezbollah. The Palestinian-Israeli “Al-Aqsa Flood” battle, which is considered the most violent for years, crossed the borders of Gaza, expanded to neighboring countries and countries directly linked to this war, and placed it to facing great challenges between responsibilities and consequences.

## 2. Netanyahu's responses reveal the flaws in Israel

On October 7th, 2023, the Al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of the Islamic Resistance Movement "Hamas," launched a massive and sudden military operation on land, sea, and air against the Israeli army, which it called the “Al-Aqsa Flood,” in response to the ongoing Israeli escalations. Israel, which was not expecting a strategic Palestinian strike of this magnitude, was overthrown by the element of surprise, despite all its advanced technology and weapons and a spy apparatus that is considered one of the most dangerous and important intelligence spy apparatuses in the world, according to Daniel Levy, the former Israeli peace negotiator with Israel. The losses incurred by Israel dealt a severe blow to its Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and placed him in front of political obstacles at the internal and external levels due to their exposure of the defect in the unstable Israeli political body.

Internally, the Israeli people are suffering from a crisis of confidence in their current Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, considering that he failed to manage the crisis, which led to an escalation of violence. Of course, this dissatisfaction will reflect negatively on the latter in the upcoming elections, as an opinion poll for the Maarif newspaper showed that the chances of the opposition parties winning are higher, it will certainly rise in exchange for the loss of many seats by the government coalition supporting Netanyahu in the upcoming elections, if they are held during the conflict,<sup>3</sup> due to the latter’s decline in popularity following the mistakes he commits in the war in Gaza that reflect negatively on the Israeli people, starting from the civilians who found themselves on the front lines of the conflict, a nightmare they didn’t want to live, to the loss of civilian and military human lives, in addition to the prisoners held by Hamas. It is not only the Israeli people who are dissatisfied with Netanyahu’s decisions during the war, but also his government, which criticizes his alignment with the Israeli extreme right and how war decisions were made, which resulted in internal disputes that hold Netanyahu responsible for all the oversights and consequences that Israel is witnessing<sup>4</sup>.

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<sup>3</sup> Doha institute, (2023), “The war on Gaza and the future of the Netanyahu government in Israeli public opinion”, Arab center for Research and Policy Studies. <https://www.dohainstitute.org/en/PoliticalStudies/Pages/the-war-on-gaza-and-the-future-of-the-netanyahu-government-in-israeli-public-opinion.aspx>

<sup>4</sup> STAFF T., (2024), “Report: War cabinet sidelines Ben Gvir, rejects Ramadan al aqsa limits on Arab Israelis”, Times of Israel. <https://www.timesofisrael.com/report-war-cabinet-sidelines-ben-gvir-rejects-ramadan-al-aqsa-limits-on-arab-israelis/>

Internationally, Netanyahu's opinions disagree with the opinions of his main allies, such as the United States of America and the European Union, especially regarding the plans for a ground invasion of Gaza, where the American President and some Western leaders declared their fears about the negative effects of this invasion on the humanitarian level, trying to persuade him to back down from his plans, but he stuck to his opinions and committed himself with his military plans, under the pretext that Israel has the right to defend itself<sup>5</sup>, he continued the ground invasion operations while recording thousands of human losses, including children, the elderly, and Palestinian women, in front of the eyes of the world, which greatly strained the leadership of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and reduced his popular and political capital internally. Politically, it hurt his international relations as well.

### 3. States' struggle between responsibility and consequences

#### 3.1 Russia and the Step of Diversion

In light of the intense focus on Russia's movements and decisions related to its war on Ukraine, the United States' fierce support for the latter against Russia, imposing sanctions on it and attempts to isolate it from its surroundings, and European countries' condemnation of the Russian attack on Ukraine, it was necessary for Russian President Vladimir Putin to take a step that would divert the international community's attention from his country and shift the media focus to a new conflict zone. The "Al-Aqsa Flood" operation, which was carried out by the Iranian-backed Hamas movement, one of Russia's allied countries, against the Israeli occupation in Gaza, was a deal that must be exploited, especially since the Palestinian-Israeli battle was transformed by its violence and massacres. Global attention was focused on monitoring and interacting with the escalation of conflict events, which eased the pressure on Russia. In turn, Russia took a diplomatic position between Israel and Hamas, accusing the United States of failure in its foreign policies<sup>6</sup>, positioning itself as a potential mediator between the two sides of the conflict, the Hamas movement and Israel, as it emphasizes the solid relationship with Israel on the one hand and, on the other hand, supports the establishment of a Palestinian state and condemns violence and actions terrorism against civilians. In doing so, it seeks to distort the image of the United States in the Middle East, attract Arab countries to its side, and use the ongoing war in Gaza first to expand its influence in the Middle East through its support for the Hamas movement and its recognition as a legitimate political organization and not a terrorist organization, as the United States and some European countries have classified it. This is a welcome matter for Hamas because it has been recognized as a country with important influence in the world and an ally of Iran, which supports Hamas<sup>7</sup>. Secondly, Putin removed his country from the center of scrutiny, especially by the United States and some European Union countries that monitor military operations against Ukraine. So far, Russia is considered the biggest beneficiary of the Palestinian-Israeli war in Gaza.

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<sup>5</sup>WARAH L., (2024, March 14), "Operation al-aqsa flood day 159: Netanyahu vows to invade rafah", Mondoweiss. <https://mondoweiss.net/2024/03/operation-al-aqsa-flood-day-159-netanyahu-vows-to-invade-rafah/>

<sup>6</sup>Cafiero G., (2023), "What are Russia's stakes in the Israel-hamas war in Gaza?", The New Arab.<https://www.newarab.com/analysis/what-are-russias-stakes-israel-hamas-war-gaza>

<sup>7</sup>Mil-Man A., Feldman C., (2023), "Russia-Hamas Relations and the Israel-Hamas War", JSTOR. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep54535>

### 3.2 United States and European Countries Failure

With the Hamas movement launching the Al-Aqsa Flood Battle, the door to a new conflict was opened for the United States of America in the Middle East after Iraq and Syria. US position since the beginning of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict has been clear and supportive of Israel, and it still continues, but the timing of the newest battle was inappropriate; at a time when the United States was focusing on the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine and supporting the latter financially and militarily, a new front was opened that was not expected. Unlike President of Ukraine Vladymyr Zelensky, Netanyahu is a man of war and stubborn, which became clear when he continued his ground military operations against the Palestinians in Gaza despite the objections of the United States and some European countries to them and their emphasis on the need to protect Palestinian civilians, which is something that does not matter to Netanyahu at all. As for Zelensky, he is not a military expert and a man obedient to the United States of America and the European countries that support him to defend Ukraine against the Russian attack. The US President Joe Biden, who provides material, military, logistical, and intelligence support to Israel, strengthens the alliance between the two parties for the long term, but this support is certainly not provided by Biden to Netanyahu himself but rather to Israel as a partner country of the United States, which is trying during this war to achieve a new approach to balance between providing support to Israel and reducing losses to humanity and the Palestinian humanitarian crisis<sup>8</sup>. Until now, the United States has failed to achieve the balance that it seeks, and it is certain that the image of the country with the decisive decision has been shaken in Middle Eastern countries and even in the United States of America, which is witnessing, lately, student protests in its universities in rejection of Israel's crimes against civilians in Gaza and Washington's ignore for those crimes.

### 3.3 Iran and Hezbollah on the Brink of War

As for the position of Iran and Hezbollah in the Palestinian-Israeli war, its beginning is clear and its end is not clear, as the relationship that brings them together is based on common goals, Hamas seeks to eliminate the Israeli occupation and liberate Al-Aqsa, and its opportunity to do so becomes greater through the military training and combat skills that the movement learns. Hamas is affiliated with Hezbollah and Iran, in addition to receiving financial support and weapons from Iran and learning the skills of achieving a balance between political and military life, following the example of Hezbollah. While Iran and Hezbollah aim to expand their influence in the Middle East and reduce the influence of the United States of America there, and to use them to fight against Israel while they are busy in conflicts in other regional regions<sup>9</sup>. But with the start of the "Al-Aqsa Flood" battle, Hezbollah had to intervene to support its Sunni ally in Gaza, because since its inception, Hezbollah has been singing praises about the Palestinian cause and defending it, thus justifying its carrying of illegal weapons until this moment with the support of Iran and Syria, so it began carrying out maneuvers along the the southern border, in cooperation with Palestinian factions inside Lebanon against the Israeli settlements on the border, but despite the Israeli escalation, which expanded from bombing centers on the Lebanese border to targeting individuals and sites in internal Lebanese towns and villages, Hezbollah is still bombing Israeli border settlements, without actual participation in the Palestinian-Israeli war, and this is unlikely to happen for the following reasons,

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<sup>8</sup>Barakat A., (2023, October 9), "Brief: Operation al-aqsa flood", Institute for Palestine Studies. <https://www.palestine-studies.org/en/node/1654366>

<sup>9</sup>Oseran S., (2013), "Hezbollah-Hamas cooperation: Motivations, manifestations and future outlook", JSTOR. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/resrep09436>

first, Iran believes that the escalation of the war would not be in its interest at the present time due to its internal and political suffering, especially after the death of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in a helicopter crash in May 2024. They were unable to locate the military plane that was carrying him, and they asked Turkey for help to find it, which put Iran in an embarrassing position and raised many questions about the actual ability of the country that has always threatened with its nuclear weapons and entered into regional conflicts throughout these years, while it was unable to determine the location of the crash of the plane that was carrying the president of its country. Secondly, because Iran realizes that Hezbollah is convinced that the collapsed economic and political conditions in Lebanon prevent it from bearing the high cost of escalation, the option of escalation will not be the best option for Hezbollah and Iran at the present time, despite their keeping the escalation options “open” and linked to Israeli reactions. On the other hand, the United States states that it does not seek to escalate or expand the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas into Lebanon, and the National Security Council spokesman confirmed that the potential devastation that would befall Lebanon and its people is unimaginable and unavoidable if Hezbollah enters into a war against Israel. All of these public intimidations and threats carry with them the full knowledge that the skirmishes on the Lebanese border will not turn into war even if Hamas falters in its attack, and despite Israel’s constant threat to Hezbollah that the war on Lebanon will begin after they decide the battle in Gaza against the Hamas movement in their favor.

### **3.4 Egypt.. Transferring the Israeli-Palestinian conflict**

Egypt and Jordan cannot stand violently in the face of American-backed Israel, as this is dictated by common political and military interests. However, what is most talked about and categorically rejected is the displacement of Palestinians to Egypt, specifically North Sinai, which broke Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi's silence, saying that displacing the Palestinians from their lands would be tantamount to transferring the conflict to Egypt, which threatens the country’s national security, stressing that no one should violate the sanctity of his country, which has long called for calming tensions between the two countries and concluding peace agreements with the support of Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and a categorical rejection of the Hamas movement. Today, the “Rafah Crossing” returns to the forefront of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict because of its strategic location in the city of Rafah between the Gaza Strip in Palestine and the Sinai Peninsula in Egypt, which was built in accordance with the peace agreement between Egypt and Israel in 1979<sup>10</sup>, and after the withdrawal of the Israeli army from Sinai in 1982, and between the closure and reopening that continued for years, this crossing was a convenient port of entry for Palestinians with humanitarian needs such as patients, students, or Palestinians with foreign ID cards. Israel aspires to control the Rafah crossing so that it can control all people and goods that enter and exit through it in order to impose taxes and customs duties on goods that will be traded in Israel and Palestine. Therefore, Egypt is trying hard not to be helpless in the face of the exodus of Palestinians to Sinai because it will not be able to bear this burden alone, and it is also a country suffering from increasing rates of inflation, poverty, and unemployment. Egypt will certainly witness a Palestinian exodus to it, and this is what the state is well aware of, but it will try as much as possible to rectify the matter and try to control it, while continuing to call for peace between the two countries involved in this conflict and using the Rafah crossing as a pressure card as much as possible on Israel, as it is the only crossing to get out foreigners from it. In addition to Egypt's attempt to continue to monopolize mediation between the

<sup>10</sup> Cohen, S. P., & Azar, E. E., “From war to peace”, (1981), *Journal of Conflict Resolution*”, 25(1), 87–114. <https://doi.org/10.1177/002200278102500104>

Palestinian resistance and Israel to maximize its influence in the Middle East and its position with the United States, which was impressed by Qatari mediation in the Palestinian issue recently.<sup>11</sup> Therefore, it can be clearly stated that Egyptian President Abdel Fattah El-Sisi's slogan is "Egyptian interests first," and the Egyptian state will maintain its solidarity with the Palestinian people by passing humanitarian aid into the Gaza Strip as much as possible, but it will not open its borders to the Palestinians, who will flock in large numbers towards Sinai without a specific date for return to the Palestinian territories<sup>12</sup>, and this is what Egypt categorically rejects in order to preserve the country's security.

### 3.5 Jordan and the Identity Protection

The matter is not much different in Jordan, a country in which the number of Palestinians is approximately 3 million, which is approximately half the number of Jordanians who own land,<sup>13</sup> which will constitute a threat to the Jordanian existence and identity. Therefore, the Jordanian government resorts to a series of laws to control the situation in the country. On the other hand, although most of the Palestinians there hold Jordanian citizenship, Gazan and non-naturalized Palestinians in Jordan are deprived of the social services that naturalized Palestinians enjoy, such as free education, determining professions in the labor market, buying and selling real estate, and other services, which makes life difficult for Gazans in Jordan and puts them three times below the poverty line compared to other Palestinians in Jordan.<sup>14</sup> As for the position of the Kingdom of Jordan on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, since its beginning, Jordan has supported the "two-state solution" proposal, thus supporting the establishment of an independent Palestinian state on the one hand and, on the other hand, preserving the peace treaty signed between Jordan and Israel after Egypt, which is directly linked to the efforts made to achieve peace between the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel.

As for the current "Al-Aqsa Flood" battle, the Kingdom of Jordan issued a statement calling for stopping the conflict between the two parties, protecting civilians, and moving towards the issue of establishing peace between the two states through Israel stopping the military escalation and its violations against the Palestinians. Jordan and Egypt responded to Israeli calls, supported by the United States, to deport Palestinians from the Gaza Strip towards the north with a statement issued after the Arab League ministerial meeting on October 11, 2023, rejecting the forced displacement of Palestinians under the guise

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<sup>11</sup> Al-Joulani A., (2023), "Operation Al-Aqsa Flood: A rupture in the history of the Palestinian resistance and its implications", Al-Zaytouna Centre. [https://www.researchgate.net/publication/376983403\\_Operation\\_al-Aqsa\\_Flood\\_A\\_Rupture\\_in\\_the\\_History\\_of\\_the\\_Palestinian\\_Resistance\\_and\\_Its\\_Implications](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/376983403_Operation_al-Aqsa_Flood_A_Rupture_in_the_History_of_the_Palestinian_Resistance_and_Its_Implications)

<sup>12</sup> Shay, S. (2023, October 17), "Egypt between "Al-Aqsa Flood" and the "Swords of iron", ICT. <https://ict.org.il/egypt-between-al-aqsa-flood-and-the-sword-of-irons/>

<sup>13</sup> "World directory of minorities and Indigenous Peoples – jordan": Palestinians", (2024, June 5), Refworld.

<https://www.refworld.org/reference/countryrep/mrgi/2008/en/65027#:~:text=There%20are%20around%20three%20million,of%20Amman%2C%20Zarqa%20and%20Irbid.&text=A%20portion%20of%20the%20Palestinian,country%20annexed%20part%20of%20Palestine>

<sup>14</sup> "Palestinians in Jordan", (2024, April 12), Minority Rights Group. <https://minorityrights.org/communities/palestinians-2/>

of opening humanitarian corridors for civilians<sup>15</sup>. Jordan also obtained the approval of the United Nations General Assembly to stop the illegal and hostile Israeli actions towards the Palestinians, but this decision was met with complete Israeli neglect<sup>16</sup>. As the Israeli massacres continued against the Palestinian people in Gaza, thousands of Jordanians demonstrated to demand the severing of diplomatic relations between Jordan and Israel, which led to the evacuation of the Israeli embassy in Jordan for security reasons without a diplomatic decision to close the embassy. In a statement, the Jordanian leadership considered the Israeli ambassador undesirable on Jordanian land, to which the Israeli Foreign Ministry responded by saying that Jordanian-Israeli relations are of strategic importance to the two countries, but it regrets the inflammatory statements issued by a Jordanian official in which he criticized Israeli behavior and the siege it imposes on civilians in the Gaza war.

Years of friendship, military support, and financing brought together the United States of America, the first and largest supporter of Israel, and the Kingdom of Jordan, putting Jordan in an embarrassing position to choose between its political, military, and economic interests and its neighbor, Palestine. Therefore, the Jordanian government is keep to balance its position in support of Palestine and its right to establish its state freely and in peace, and to remove danger from its relations with its ally, America, and its ally, Israel.

### **3.6 Arab-Islamic Countries “Just Condemn”!**

As for the emergency Arab-Islamic conference to register a joint position on the war on Gaza, in the Saudi capital, Jeddah, on November 11, 2023, the positions of the leaders of the Arab-Islamic countries, Turkey and Iran, were unified, calling for an end to the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip while emphasizing the need to punish the illegal violations committed. It is carried out by the Israeli army against the Palestinian people, bringing peace between the two states and establishing two separate states on the Palestinian lands: the State of Palestine and the State of Israel, it is a proposal that was previously put forward after the 1976 war and Israel’s control of all the Palestinian lands, meaning that the Arabs would retreat from completely liberating the Palestinian lands from the Israeli occupation. This was absolutely rejected by the Hamas movement, which forces countries to look for other solutions that satisfy both sides of the conflict, and here lies the difficulty.

## **4. The Fragility of Humanitarian and International**

The Hamas movement began Operation “Al-Aqsa Flood” with awareness of the magnitude of the expected losses, but no one, including Hamas itself, imagined that the Israeli response would turn into massacres committed against children and civilians in Gaza and the West Bank. The Israeli response escalated, and the army carried out its first massacre in the “Al-Mamadan Hospital” in Gaza, killing thousands of children, civilians, paramedics, doctors, and journalists, completing a series of massacres against

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<sup>15</sup> “The Jordanian response to the war on Gaza”, (2023), Arab center for research and policy studies. <https://www.dohainstitute.org/en/PoliticalStudies/Pages/the-jordanian-response-to-the-war-ongaza.aspx>

<sup>16</sup> “The United Nations General Assembly adopts an Arab resolution for a humanitarian truce in Gaza”, (2023, October 27), Al Jazeera Net. <https://www.aljazeera.net/news/2023/10/27/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AC%D9%85%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%85%D8%A9-%D9%84%D9%84%D8%A3%D9%85%D9%85-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AA%D8%AD%D8%AF%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D8%B5%D9%88%D8%AA-2>

Palestinian civilians, from the “Jabalia” massacre to the “Al-Maghazi” camp massacre, and the bombing of Al-Shifa Medical Complex, Al-Saftawi School, and many others. Among the other places that civilians resort to for protection from the indiscriminate bombing that continues until the moment of writing this article, the most recent of which was the massacre of bombings and burning of camps in Rafah in May 2024, ignoring the international laws of war, which prohibit the bombing of places crowded with civilians and the protection of paramedics and journalists, and whose number of victims since the beginning of Operation Al-Aqsa Flood has exceeded 33,000 martyrs, including 14,500 children and 19,560 women, according to the latest statistics of the Hamas media office as of the moment of writing this report<sup>17</sup>. The battle of “Al-Aqsa Flood” revealed that international organizations are unable to move and stop Israeli violations and massacres in Palestine in accordance with international laws that emphasize protecting civilians and not violating the laws of war. As for international aid, which is supposed to meet the needs of the afflicted people, it has decreased by 67 percent since the closure of the Rafah border crossing with Egypt on May 7, according to what was announced by United Nations representative Stephane Dujarric, which makes the catastrophic situation in Gaza even more difficult<sup>18</sup>. For its part, the Hamas movement placed responsibility for the catastrophic humanitarian situation in Gaza on the Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East UNRWA, which failed to carry out its duties towards the Palestinian people, which indicates its collusion with the Israeli government to achieve its desires to forcibly displace Palestinians from their lands. According to the opinion of Salama Maarouf, head of the government media office in Gaza, “History will record that this United Nations agency (UNRWA) and its leadership are complicit in the crime committed by the Nazi occupation against humanity in Gaza<sup>19</sup>”. Despite the latter's criticism of the weakness of UNRWA's work in this war, its Commissioner-General confirmed the killing

<sup>17</sup> “Latest statistics of the Battle of Al-Aqsa Flood”, (2024, April 8), Al-Baraka News. <https://barakanews.info/posts/akhr-ahsayyat-maark-tofan-alaks>

<sup>18</sup> Çetin, Ş., & Çuhadar, Ö. (2024, May 29), “United Nations: Aid entry into Gaza decreased by 67 percent”, Anadolu Ajansı. <https://www.aa.com.tr/ar/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D9%88%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%B1%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%A9/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D9%85%D9%85-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AA%D8%AD%D8%AF%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%86%D8%AE%D9%81%D8%A7%D8%B6-%D8%AF%D8%AE%D9%88%D9%84--%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%B3%D8%A7%D8%B9%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%AA-%D9%84%D8%BA%D8%B2%D8%A9-67-%D8%A8%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%A6%D8%A9/3234730>

<sup>19</sup> (2023, November 8), “Gaza government holds UNRWA responsible for the humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza”, RT Arabic. [https://arabic.rt.com/middle\\_east/1510781-%D8%AD%D9%83%D9%88%D9%85%D8%A9-%D8%BA%D8%B2%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D8%AD%D9%85%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D9%88%D9%86%D8%B1%D9%88%D8%A7-%D9%85%D8%B3%D8%A4%D9%88%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D9%83%D8%A8%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D9%86%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%8A-%D9%8A%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%B4%D9%87%D8%A7-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%B7%D8%A7%D8%B9/](https://arabic.rt.com/middle_east/1510781-%D8%AD%D9%83%D9%88%D9%85%D8%A9-%D8%BA%D8%B2%D8%A9-%D8%AA%D8%AD%D9%85%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D9%88%D9%86%D8%B1%D9%88%D8%A7-%D9%85%D8%B3%D8%A4%D9%88%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D9%83%D8%A8%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D9%86%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%8A-%D9%8A%D8%B9%D9%8A%D8%B4%D9%87%D8%A7-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%B7%D8%A7%D8%B9/)



of more than 100 employees of its agency since the start of the war on Gaza until now while carrying out their humanitarian and professional duties towards the Palestinian people in Gaza, which undermines the idea of negligence that Hamas accuses them of. But it has become clear that the speeches and condemnations launched by international and humanitarian organizations clearly show one of these two options: either the fragility of international organizations in confronting and holding accountable the perpetrators of crimes and massacres against the Palestinian people, or their complicity with those parties or their supporters. In both cases, the massacres in Gaza have removed the masks of strength and equality in the civil and human rights that these organizations sang about and announced in international forums and meetings before the world, and their distinction between defending the safety and rights of Israelis and the rights and safety of Palestinians was evident. Despite this, the involvement of international and humanitarian organizations in Gaza, especially in conflict areas, remains a necessity, while adding a little flexibility and speed during emergency response operations and ensuring permanent and comprehensive international support for the Palestinians, especially in the Gaza Strip.

### **Digital media versus Western media**

At a time when Palestinian civilians are being bombed with phosphorus and indiscriminate artillery without distinguishing between Hamas military centers and schools or refugee camps and medical centers, misinformation dominates the Western media, which is trying not to present the full facts and to obscure news that condemns the Israeli army's crimes and Netanyahu's decisions related to the battle "Al-Aqsa Flood." In addition to the attempts of media institutions and international companies that support Israel to silence influencers and terminate partnership contracts with those who stand in solidarity with the Palestinian cause around the world, this is an attempt to obscure Israeli crimes among Palestinian civilians. But with social networking sites turning into a powerful weapon for transmitting the facts and massacres committed by the Israeli army in Gaza in audio and video to the world, Western positions began to change and sympathize with what is happening in Gaza, in response to the horrific scenes of victims, body parts, and children that were transmitted on social media around the world. It ignited a wave of media and international anger and student protests in universities in the United States of America against all of these crimes, which forced the Western media to convey the image from another perspective, an image in which they do not deceive their people, who are now going out in popular protests and demonstrations alongside the supportive Arab communities for the Palestinian cause in diaspora countries, reject the massacres and genocide of civilians in Gaza. Thus, Hamas was able to move from the image of "the aggressor against the Israelis" to "the aggressor of the Israelis" and to redraw the floundering Western media image in order to increase Western society's support for the Palestinians and gain their sympathy<sup>20</sup>. Here it must be noted, however, that the European Union countries, despite their efforts to maintain peace in the regions of the Middle East, their political role remains limited with the United States' control over the Middle Eastern arena politically, in addition to the disagreement among European countries regarding recognition of the

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<sup>20</sup> Azani , E., & Haberfeld, D. (2023), "Hamas media campaign: Al aqsa flood", The International Institute for Counter-Terrorism. [https://ict.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Haberfeld-Azai\\_Hamas-Media-Campaign-Al-Aqsa-Flood\\_2023\\_10\\_11.pdf](https://ict.org.il/wp-content/uploads/2023/10/Haberfeld-Azai_Hamas-Media-Campaign-Al-Aqsa-Flood_2023_10_11.pdf)

State of Palestine<sup>21</sup>, especially after three European countries, Norway, Spain and Ireland, recently recognized Palestine as a state with an entity, and this difference is reflected in the Western media between supporters and opponents, and between those who present the complete facts and those who mislead them.

## Conclusion

Through this process, the Hamas movement revived the Palestinian issue, which had almost been extinguished after the normalization policies with the majority of Arab countries that agreed and normalized with Israel and the normalization talks that were taking place with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia before the “Al-Aqsa Flood” operation, but Netanyahu’s inhumane reactions made the normalization talks Saudi Arabia-Israel stop as a Saudi response to Israeli crimes. Hamas also wanted to prove that it is the greatest jihadist voice for the Palestinians and a fierce defender of the cause, and it succeeded in doing so, with most Palestinians confirming that a major operation was necessary to liberate them from the Israeli occupation, and as is the case in every war, there are those who pay its price and there are those who rejoice in it.

Netanyahu, it is clear that he is on the verge of an internal political and popular abyss, and the United States, which has been arming and financing him since the beginning of Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, currently has its greatest goal of liberating the hostages held by Hamas, which they are using as a pressure and trump card against the United States to bargain for truces, aid, and the exchange of prisoners from both sides. Even if Israel had a different desire, it must submit to the orders of the United States, which provides it with weapons and funding to complete its war in Palestine, especially since the reactions of United States President Joe Biden negatively affected his popularity internally and internationally. As for Russia, its plan succeeded in distracting America and Western countries from its war against Ukraine and reducing the weight of media and international pressure on it on the one hand. On the other hand, it displaced the American-European interest focused on Ukraine to a new conflict area in the Middle East, which has become the focus of attention.

International and humanitarian organizations, despite their fragility that appeared in the Al-Aqsa flood battle, are trying to provide emergency aid, put pressure on the institutions concerned to alleviate the burden of the siege on the Gaza Strip, and shed light on the humanitarian situation and violations to which the Palestinian people are exposed through periodic reports to increase community awareness of the catastrophic situation in Gaza. At a time when some Western countries support Israel and its right to defend its safety against the attack carried out by Hamas, despite their certainty that the Israeli army is committing massacres against humanity and using internationally banned weapons such as phosphorus bombs against Palestinian civilians. As for the Arabs, some of them are participating in the war alongside the Hamas movement, such as its allies Iran and Hezbollah in Lebanon. Qatar carries out periodic negotiations in an attempt to bring peace between the two countries, which may reach a maximum of a truce. Egypt and Jordan are immersed in their fear of the forced displacement of the Palestinians to their lands with periodic and semi-failed attempts to deliver aid to the Gaza Strip, while the rest of the Arab countries contented themselves with condemnation and calls for a ceasefire.

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