

# Goldstone Report 2009

The UN Fact-Finding Mission led by Justice Richard Goldstone released its long-awaited report on the Gaza conflict [1], in which it concluded there is evidence indicating serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law were committed by Israel during the Gaza conflict [2], and that Israel committed actions amounting to war crimes, and possibly crimes against humanity.

To comfort the Israelis, the reports also describes the Palestinian use of Qassam-rockets (somewhat heavier than fireworks but equally imprecise) as a war-crime and dedicates it to Hamas which, other than the IDF paternity to the Israeli war-crimes, is most disputable.

The Palestinian Authority is urging the UN Human Rights Council to adopt the Goldstone Commission report in full on a meeting October 1-2. Israel and the United States are furious with the PA initiative and are seeking to recruit the European Union to help foil it. Israel had immediately refused to carry out any investigation, then decided upon a single case where a South African Jewish (coincidence?) officer Bernard shall be examined for possible war-crimes. However, the Israeli justice has always been very tolerant to even grotesque crimes of its soldiers or police, so I doubt that Mr. Bernard really has anything to fear.

The commission recommended that the Security Council require both parties to conduct such investigations and report back within 6 months on the results. If either party fails to do so, the Security Council should refer the matter to the International Criminal Court in The Hague. This is the weak point in their actions. For many years, the United States have vetoed any resolution, critical of Israel, and also European nations (in particular France and Germany) play a dubious loyalty to the racist regime.

It deserves mention, that also Israel's 1<sup>st</sup> Gaza and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lebanon War [3] was rich in (largely similar) war-crimes.

September 30, 2009

## October 2009

The month opened with the report of a threat by Netanyahu: Trying war crimes alleged in Goldstone report in Hague would cripple peace efforts [4] – as if these had any chance with him. The day after, it was decided by the Palestinian Authority to drop its draft resolution condemning Israel's conduct during the Gaza Strip offensive, in effect deferring its adoption of the Goldstone's Commission report [5]. This brought, in consequence, UN to put off taking action on the report, after US pressure aimed at getting the peace process back on track [6]. It was not reported if Israel took any action in this direction.

The day after, Obama received notion of the peace price, but it is difficult to determine which peace process. One blog congratulated but added, "now deserve it." Libya, currently a member of the UN security council tried to discuss it [7], but Security Council rejects special Goldstone report session and thus clearly which interests were taking care of by the US, which believed that "it was in the interest of all concerned, of all who share this common goal of re-launching these negotiations, to delay discussion of this report" [8].

The weakness of Abbas surprised everybody. A mixture of anger and frustration arose, not only in Israel/Palestine. Israeli Arab party urges him to quit [9] and he was advised by some of his aides to delay this return to Ramallah in the West Bank until the

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1 [http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/specialsession/9/docs/UNFFMGC\\_Report.pdf](http://www2.ohchr.org/english/bodies/hrcouncil/specialsession/9/docs/UNFFMGC_Report.pdf)

2 <http://www.schou.de/terrorwar/2nd%20Gaza%20Warx.pdf>

3 <http://www.schou.de/terrorwar/Israels%20New%20War.pdf>

4 <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1117893.html>

5 <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1118235.html>

6 [http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2009-10/02/content\\_8762080.htm](http://www.chinadaily.com.cn/world/2009-10/02/content_8762080.htm)

7 <http://en.rian.ru/world/20091007/156377497.html>

8 <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1119555.html>

9 <http://www.maannews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=230267>

popular anger and the scandal he caused by his position regarding Goldstone's report would subside [10]. The Swedish Foreign Minister Carl Bildt stated that he supports report [11], and Richard Falk, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, even said that that the Palestinian authority in Ramallah betrayed its own people at a moment when the international community was so close to endorse Goldstone's report [12]. Throwing the basket over the American President, an editorial in the Israeli daily Haaretz stated that "Obama's disgraceful silence about the Gaza siege is not the conduct of a Nobel laureate" [13]:



While Turkey banned Israel from an international air force drill, arguing that Israel should not be allowed to participate while its planes are bombing the Gaza Strip [14], NATO has no inhibitions to cooperate with the racist state: Israel to Join NATO Mediterranean Patrol as Part of War on Terror [15].

The Israeli comment to it all is ... 'No comment.' Netanyahu vows never to let Israelis be tried for war crimes [16]. Perhaps we shall consider it is just a normal Israeli way of life. The threat against Israeli politicians is obvious. The Israeli Minister of 'Defence,' Ehud Barak, visited Britain in the beginning of the month, and Palestinians in Britain required his arrest for war-crimes. After a day of delays and legal wrangling the bid failed on the grounds that Barak enjoyed diplomatic immunity from prosecution [17]. The same day, a Vice Premier cancelled UK visit over arrest fears; Pro-Palestinian groups had wanted Ya'alon put on trial for his role as IDF chief during the 2<sup>nd</sup> Intifada [18]. It is perhaps a chance to compare the Gaza-War with the South-African massacre in Sharpeville 1960, a crucial event in the fight against apartheid. The blockade against Israel already caused a decline of the Israeli export of 21% [19].

Following criticism over deferring action on Gaza war report, Abbas asked envoy to bring proposal back to UN on October 11 [20]. There, it was well received: only two days later, the UN Human Rights Council decided to debate Goldstone report – after all, they had commissioned it themselves. Still, there is no danger for Israeli war-criminals. The UN security should decide about further persecution, and its majority decision will, as mentioned above, be vetoed by Israel's American colony. Palestinian circles expressed that h Hopes that US President Barack Obama would breathe new life into a peace process with Israel have "evaporated" [21]. In Jerusalem, the ethnic cleansing goes on.

October 15, 2009

On October 16, the UN Human Rights Council [**HRC**] voted on the Goldstone Report, giving the Israeli prostitutes the occasion to show their loyalty. Whereas only Canada voted against the formation of an investigation of the alleged war-crimes in January, the majority was now less clear: 25 of the Council's 47 members voted in favour of endorsing the report. Another six voted against [U.S., Italy, Holland, Hungary, Slovakia and Ukraine] and 11 abstained [incl. Norway]. Further three simply did not participate in the vote. The French delegates joined Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's recent diplomatic attempts to lobby European counterparts, including Holland, Spain and Denmark, to back Israel's rejection [22].

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10 <http://alethonews.blogspot.com/2009/10/informed-sources-abbas-advised-not-to.html>

11 <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1119725.html>

12 <http://uruknet.com/index.php?p=m58659&hd=&size=1&l=e>

13 <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1120118.html>

14 <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1120206.html>

15 <http://politicaltheatrics.org/2009/10/13/israel-to-join-nato-mediterranean-patrol-as-part-of-war-on-terror/>

16 <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1120248.html>

17 <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2009/sep/29/ehud-barak-war-crimes-israel>

18 <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1118866.html>

19 <http://www.heise.de/tp/r4/artikel/31/31258/1.html>

20 <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1120248.html>

21 <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/un-to-debate-goldstone-report-after-abbas-uturn-1802255.html>

22 <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1121610.html>

American officials say Washington will likely exercise its veto power if report accusing Israel of war crimes in Gaza is brought to a Security Council vote [23]. Therefore, there is no point in involving the Security Council at all. The report is a matter for the general plenary session, where the cowards have no veto rights.

Various initiatives have been made to distract the civilized public's attention from Israel's crimes, which have blossomed from bad to worse under their present government. Here, German TV is filled up with Holocaust memories, as if 70 years old ethnic cleansing could be an excuse for present days. The war-drums for Iran are being moved in a propagandistic manner. And Netanyahu tries to change the rules of war [24] (retroactively, of course), thereby strangely supported by EU's Solana [25]. In the meantime, EU lawyers draw up list of IDF officers suspected of Gaza war crimes [26]. The Netherlands, Spain, Belgium, Britain and Norway have laws which allow the issuance of arrest warrants against foreign citizens suspected of war crimes.



Big Brother's allies unite

October 29, 2009

## The Goldstone-Deniers – November 2009

Michael Rivero found a good concept for the allies, who defended Israel's right to commit war-crimes, foremost American and European politicians: the Goldstone-deniers [27]. Ask your politicians: **are you a Goldstone-Denier?** It ought, more than historical Holocaust-Denial, to be punishable by law to stand up to present-day war-crimes.

In the meantime, the American Congress voted to back a resolution to condemn the Goldstone Gaza report [28] and simultaneously the EU started a new initiative, which is a list of "red lines" backed by 27 members of the EU and includes the assurance that the Goldstone report will not reach the Security Council or the International Criminal Court [29]. On November 5, the UN General Assembly adopted the Goldstone report with 118:14 votes [30]. Among those who voted against was Israel and its prostitutes USA, Canada, Australia, Italy, the Netherlands, Germany, Poland, Hungary, Slovakia, the Czech Republic Panama, Macedonia, Ukraine and some pacific states. 44 countries abstained, including the rest of EU and Russia.

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23 <http://www.ynetnews.com/articles/0,7340,L-3791110,00.html>

24 <http://haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1122327.html>

25 <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1123034.html>

26 <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1123814.html>

27 <http://whatreallyhappened.com/WRHARTICLES/goldstonedeniers.php>

28 <http://www.haaretz.com/hasen/spages/1125593.html>

29 <http://www.maanneews.net/eng/ViewDetails.aspx?ID=236903>

30 <http://www.unmultimedia.org/radio/english/detail/85247.html>