AUGUST 2020 PALESTINIAN JUSTPEACE BLOG
Ed Crouch, Seattle, WA

Rod Such, a Portland Activist, wrote a riveting book review of An Army Like No Other. Haim Bresheeth-Zabner, now a filmmaker in London, served in the Israel Defense Force in Israel, but reacted to orders to execute prisoners in 1967 by leaving the military and Israel. The author states that “militarism is at the core of the Zionist project” even before 1948. The “military option has always been chosen before diplomacy” and endless “war is the preferred option” as Israel is “never safe”, plus “a deliberate policy of ambiguity to deflect responsibility for war crimes.”

Since August 10th, Israeli fighter jets have bombed Gaza every night, damaging a UN school, killing and wounding others. Incendiary balloons from Palestine do little harm. On Aug. 23rd, Israeli Navy ships attacked Palestinian fishermen within one nautical mile of the Gaza shore. (The 1993 Oslo Accords permitted Gazans to fish out to 20 nautical miles!) A day earlier, soldiers fired live machine gun rounds at Palestinian farmers and shepherds. Israel has now stopped essential fuel delivery. Reserves are low in factories, homes, and hospitals. More Gazans will die.

When Palestinians are shot, they are often left to bleed out – and Palestinian medics prevented from rendering aid. Unemployed Palestinians, usually between 14 and 30, seek to escape Gaza to find work in Israel. They risk their lives at the border. In January 2020, three teenagers attempting to flee Gaza were killed at the border. Much to their families' heartbreak, the bodies have never been returned.

Israel claimed to halt annexation of the West Bank, with Trump’s newest “peace plan” brokered between the United Arab Emirates and Israel. But Palestinians see annexation continuing, as plans for new settlements creep daily. Mondoweiss reports that Palestinians in Jerusalem are now forced to demolish their own unpermitted homes or pay the high cost. Ahmed Amarneh, a 30 year old civil engineer and his family received a demolition order, even though they live in a mountain cave! An East Jerusalem family lived in their home for 30 years. It was just demolished rendering 25 members homeless – without compensation!

Israel is now refusing to issue birth certificates to 25,000 Palestinian babies born in recent months, the Palestinian Interior Ministry said on August 20th! What next?

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