

“Israel’s 9/11” Is a Slogan to Rationalize Open-Ended Massacre of Palestinian Civilians

By [Norman Solomon](#)

Global Research, October 11, 2023

[Common Dreams](#) 10 October 2023

Region: [Middle East & North Africa](#)

Theme: [Law and Justice](#), [Media Disinformation](#)

In-depth Report: [PALESTINE](#)

All Global Research articles can be read in 51 languages by activating the Translate Website button below the author’s name.

To receive Global Research’s Daily Newsletter (selected articles), [click here](#).

Click the share button above to email/forward this article to your friends and colleagues. Follow us on [Instagram](#) and [Twitter](#) and subscribe to our [Telegram Channel](#). Feel free to repost and share widely Global Research articles.

As in the aftermath of 9/11, official claims to be only fighting terrorism will continue to serve as PR smokescreens for a government terrorizing and inflicting mass carnage on Palestinians.

When Israel’s ambassador to the United Nations spoke outside the Security Council on Sunday, he [said](#): “This is Israel’s 9/11. This is Israel’s 9/11.” Meanwhile, in a *PBS NewsHour* [interview](#), Israel’s ambassador to the United States said: “This is, as someone said, our 9/11.”

While the phrase might seem logical, “Israel’s 9/11” is already being used as a huge propaganda weapon by Israel’s government—now engaged in massive war crimes against civilians in Gaza, after mass murder of Israelis by Hamas last weekend.

On the surface, an analogy between the atrocities just suffered by Israelis and what happened on Sept. 11, 2001 might seem to justify calls for unequivocal solidarity with Israel. But horrific actions are in process from an Israeli government that has long maintained a system of apartheid while crushing basic human rights of Palestinian people.

What is very sinister about trumpeting “Israel’s 9/11” is what happened after America’s 9/11. Wearing the shroud of victim, the United States proceeded to use the horrible tragedy suffered inside its own borders as a license to kill vast numbers of people in the name of retaliation, righteousness, and, of course, the “war on terror.”

It’s a playbook that the government of Benjamin Netanyahu is currently adapting and implementing with a vengeance. Now underway, Israel’s collective punishment of 2.3 million people in Gaza is an intensification of what Israel has been doing to Palestinians for decades. But Israel’s extremism, more than ever touting itself as a matter of self-defense, is

at new racist depths of willingness to treat human beings as suitable for extermination.

Now underway, Israel's collective punishment of 2.3 million people in Gaza is an intensification of what Israel has been doing to Palestinians for decades.

On Monday, Israel's Defense Minister Yoav Gallant [described](#) Palestinians as "beastly people" and [said](#): "We are fighting animals and are acting accordingly."

Indiscriminate bombing is now happening along with a cutoff of food, water, electricity, and fuel. Noting that "even before the latest restrictions, residents of Gaza already faced widespread food insecurity, restrictions on movement and water shortages," the [BBC reported](#) that a UN official said people in Gaza "were 'terrified' by the current situation and worried for their safety—as well as that of their children and families."

This is a terrible echo from the post-9/11 approach of the U.S. government, which from the outset after Sept. 11, 2001 conferred advance absolution on itself for any and all of its future crimes against humanity.

In the name of fighting terrorism, the United States inflicted collective punishment on huge numbers of people who had absolutely nothing to do with 9/11. The Costs of War project at Brown University [calculates](#) more than 400,000 *direct* civilian deaths "in the violence of the U.S. post-9/11 wars in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen and elsewhere."

Early in the "war on terror," Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld had fashioned a template to provide approval for virtually any killing by the U.S. military.

"We did not start this war," he said at a [news briefing](#) in December 2001, two months into the Afghanistan war. "So understand, responsibility for every single casualty in this war, whether they're innocent Afghans or innocent Americans, rests at the feet of the al Qaeda and the Taliban."

Rumsfeld was [showered with acclaim](#) from the U.S. media establishment. While he not only insisted that the U.S. government had no responsibility for the deaths caused by its armed forces, he also attested to the American military's notable decency.

"The targeting capabilities, and the care that goes into targeting, to see that the precise targets are struck, and that other targets are not struck, is as impressive as anything anyone could see," Rumsfeld said. He lauded "the care that goes into it, the humanity that goes into it."

Even before its current high-tech attack on Gaza, Israel had amassed a long track record of killing civilians there, while denying it every step of the way. For instance, the United Nations [found](#) that during Israel's 2014 "Operation Protective Edge" assault, 1,462 Palestinian civilians died, including 495 children.

There's no reason to doubt that the civilian death toll from the present Israeli military actions in Gaza will soon climb far above the number of people killed by the Hamas assault days ago. As in the aftermath of 9/11, official claims to be only fighting terrorism will continue to serve as PR smokescreens for a government terrorizing and inflicting mass carnage on Palestinians. Deserving only unequivocal condemnation, Hamas's killing and abduction of civilians set the stage for Israel's slaughter of civilians now underway in Gaza.

Absent from the *New York Times* home page Monday night and relegated to page 9 of the newspaper's print edition on Tuesday, a grisly [news story](#) began this way:

"Israeli airstrikes pounded Gaza on Monday, flattening mosques over the heads of worshipers, wiping away a busy marketplace full of shoppers and killing entire families, witnesses and authorities in Gaza said. Five Israeli airstrikes ripped through the marketplace in the Jabaliya refugee camp, reducing it to rubble and killing dozens, the authorities said. Other strikes hit four mosques in the Shati refugee camp and killed people worshipping inside, they said. Witnesses said boys had been playing soccer outside one of the mosques when it was struck."

Along with releasing a [statement](#) about the latest tragic turn of events, at RootsAction.org we've offered supporters of a just peace [a quick way](#) to email their members of Congress and President Biden. The gist of the message is that "the horrific cycle of violence in the Middle East will not end until the Israeli occupation ends—and a huge obstacle to ending the occupation has been the U.S. government."

[From Common Dreams: Our work is licensed under Creative Commons (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0). Feel free to republish and share widely.]

*

Note to readers: Please click the share button above. Follow us on Instagram and Twitter and subscribe to our Telegram Channel. Feel free to repost and share widely Global Research articles.

Norman Solomon is the national director of RootsAction.org and executive director of the Institute for Public Accuracy. His new book, [War Made Invisible: How America Hides the Human Toll of Its Military Machine](#), was published in June 2023 by The New Press.

Featured image: Pro-Palestinian protest in Istanbul, Turkey (Licensed under the Public Domain)

The original source of this article is [Common Dreams](#)
Copyright © [Norman Solomon](#), [Common Dreams](#), 2023

[Comment on Global Research Articles on our Facebook page](#)

[Become a Member of Global Research](#)

Articles by: [Norman Solomon](#)

Disclaimer: The contents of this article are of sole responsibility of the author(s). The Centre for Research on Globalization will not be responsible for any inaccurate or incorrect statement in this article. The Centre of Research on Globalization grants permission to cross-post Global Research articles on community internet sites as long the source and copyright are acknowledged together with a hyperlink to the original Global Research article. For publication of Global Research articles in print or other forms including commercial internet sites, contact: publications@globalresearch.ca
www.globalresearch.ca contains copyrighted material the use of which has not always been specifically authorized by the copyright owner. We are making such material available to our readers under the provisions of "fair use" in an effort to advance a better understanding of political, economic and social issues. The material on this site is distributed without profit to those

who have expressed a prior interest in receiving it for research and educational purposes. If you wish to use copyrighted material for purposes other than "fair use" you must request permission from the copyright owner.

For media inquiries: publications@globalresearch.ca