

PITCHING FOR PALESTINE:

NEW THINKING FOR AN OLD CONFLICT





"Sometimes it's very hard to reflect that we had such hope at moments like the Geneva talks in 1988, when we thought something was happening. Today we're pretty confident that nothing is happening, which is why we need to see if we can get some wheels turning.

The media generally is totally overwhelmed with Middle East fatigue. It's extremely difficult to get stories aired. People are much more dependent on social networks, which are beginning to cut some serious mustard, but this bypasses all the decision-making processes that are needed.

Health, though, is the genesis of this whole meeting – it is what brought us all here."

JON SNOW

Channel 4 News

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INTRODUCTION



Pitching for Palestine event

Photograph: Nuriya Oswald

Welcome to 'Pitching for Palestine'. In April 2012, Medical Aid for Palestinians (MAP) and the Council of Arab-British Understanding (Caabu), organised an event at Church House in Westminster and we were very pleased to have hosted such an illustrious panel to generate new, imaginative and practical ways forward.

Our advocacy programmes are an ongoing process, aimed at raising public awareness of key issues affecting Palestinians living under occupation and as refugees, and building strong networks of likeminded organisations and individuals. Inside this report you will hear from the Commissioner-General of UNRWA, a British parliamentarian, two renowned professors, the editor of a world famous medical journal and a former Palestinian negotiator. A stellar line up I'm sure you'd agree.

The difficulty today is that the only game in town seems just that – a game. Palestinians are angered by the lack of urgency in resolving the conflict, ending the colonisation and occupation of their lands, the blockade of Gaza and their enforced exile, while Israel is

isolated and no closer to making peace with its neighbours. As a result, the debate has been reduced to the question of how to have more talks about talks, while governments still refer to a 'peace process' that has been non-existent for years.

The need for new thinking on this conflict couldn't be more crucial and we are delighted that our panel rose to the challenge, putting forward a whole host of constructive ideas to kick-start a move forward.

We would like to thank Antoine Mattar from Consolidated Contractors Company for his support and Jon Snow for his continued commitment to MAP and for chairing the meeting. A very special thank you also goes to Magdalena Kincaid, without whom this event would never have happened.

STEVEN JAMES

Chief Executive, Medical Aid for Palestinians

CHRIS DOYLE

Director, Council for Arab-British Understanding

PITCH ONE

BRINGING THE REFUGEES BACK TO THE CENTRE OF THE DEBATE



BACKGROUND

- Today, 5 million Palestine refugees are eligible for UNRWA services.
- One-third of registered Palestinian refugees, more than 1.4 million people, live in 58 recognised refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, Gaza and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem.
- There is a higher proportion of Palestinian UN hardship cases in Lebanon than anywhere else in the Middle East.



FILIPPO GRANDI, COMMISSIONER-GENERAL OF UNRWA

"I thought it would be good to go back to the old ideas that have been left unimplemented at the side of the road. There are thousands of them that could move the peace process forward.

I've been in Palestine for seven years and have never seen a situation in which all the political avenues for the Palestinians to make progress are as closed as this.

'Peace process' language is a now only a euphemism. The UN process that started in 2011 is not going anywhere. The inter-Palestinian process, which is very important for Palestinians, is also seemingly static.

So the situation is grim and, although I think we can speak of hopes and new ideas, we have to be realistic as a starting point.

My message concerns a constituency that is often ignored when peace is talked about – the Palestinian refugees. Let us not forget there are around five million Palestinian refugees registered with UNRWA. That's the bulk of the refugees spread over a number of countries.

One of the messages I would like to promote is that it is important not to neglect this constituency. How? That is a little bit more complicated.

There are two aspects:

1) Should the peace process be properly restarted ever again, I think it is important to be more serious about including the refugees within these discussions. Maybe I am being naïve but, in this 'Arab Spring' context, it is difficult to ignore five million people anywhere in the Middle East. And it will become more difficult to ignore the wishes and aspirations of these refugees. They want to make their own choices, yet have been largely neglected over the past 20 years – which is a mistake and a missed opportunity.

2) Meanwhile – albeit a 'meanwhile' that risks being quite long – refugees need to be supported. There is a very dangerous tendency towards fatigue, coupled with many other problems such as the crises within Western economies. It is important not to stop assisting and giving opportunities to the refugees. They have rights as refugees – above all a right to a political solution to their plight and exile.

There is a clear crossroads – if refugees are listened to and assisted they can truly become a very important constituency for peace. The contrary would mean that, most likely, any progress (if any) will be undermined by a constituency that will be lost to the cause of peace."



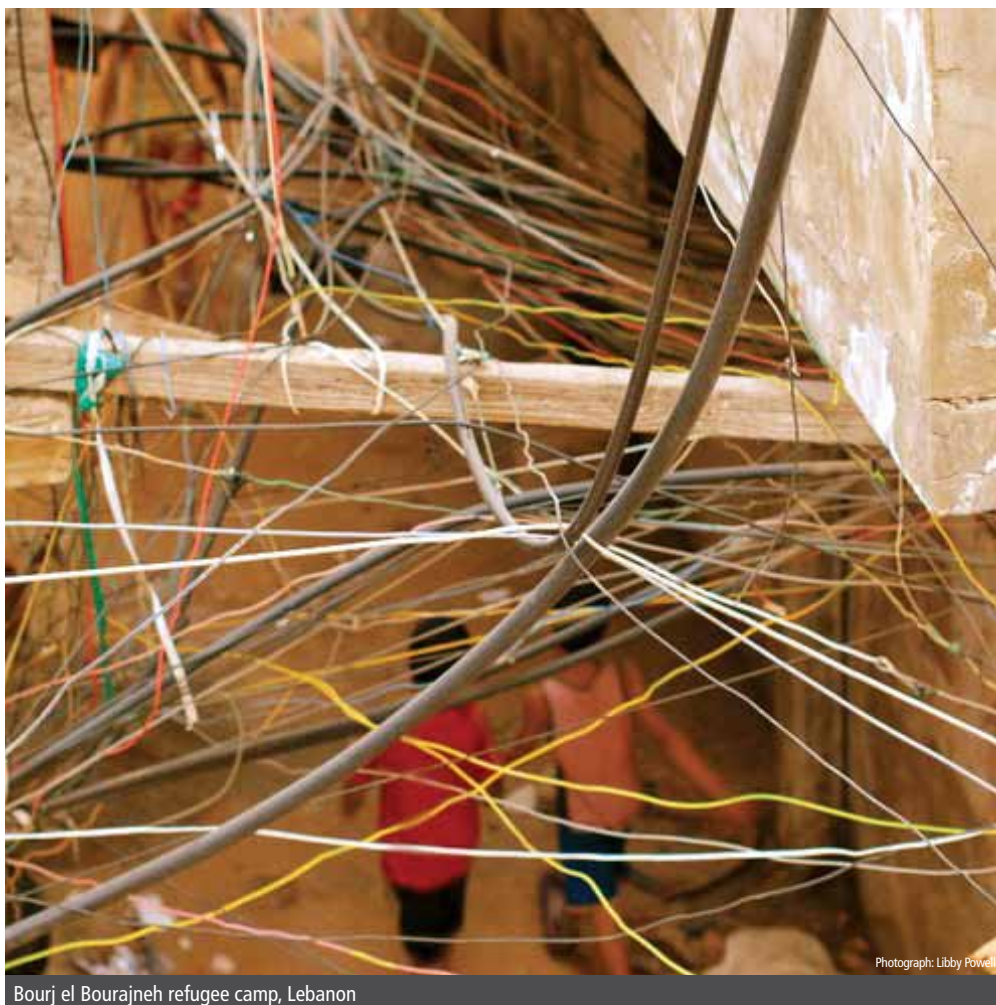
RESPONSE – AHMAD KHALIDI: OXFORD UNIVERSITY

“There is no way there will be any settlement without the consent and active participation of the refugee population and the Diaspora at large. It’s not just about people in the camps; it’s about the Diaspora that has a stake.

This conflict is essentially about a people who have been turfed out of their homeland. It’s these people who have to be brought in, if there is to be a resolution.

It’s not just about the people in Gaza and the West Bank who are living under an occupation that needs to be lifted. The core of the conflict is about those of us who are essentially in exile.

If there is ever going to be a solution, then those with the biggest stake have to have, I think, the biggest say. They are the majority and a potential source of undermining any agreement that doesn’t include them. Very often people think this conflict is just about the West Bank and Gaza and forget that this conflict has much deeper roots.”



Photograph: Libby Powell

Bourj el Bourajneh refugee camp, Lebanon

PITCH TWO

USING HEALTH AS AN INSTRUMENT OF SOCIAL JUSTICE



BACKGROUND

- In Gaza, stunting, or long-term exposure to chronic malnutrition, remains high, found among 10% of children under five.
- Anaemia, usually caused by dietary iron deficiency, affects most children in Gaza (58.6% of schoolchildren, 68.1% of children 9-12 months) and one-third (36.8%) of pregnant women.
- In Lebanon UN health services are increasingly under-resourced and overstretched with doctors in the camps seeing an average of 107 patients a day.

DR RICHARD HORTON, EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, THE LANCET MEDICAL JOURNAL

"I think that we know from our own history, from William Beveridge to the Attlee government, that health can be an instrument of social justice – that health can be a catalyst to promote unprecedented social solidarity that can transform society forever. We've seen for example that, globally, civil society and the HIV/AIDs movement made a disease an issue about justice, not just for gay men, but for women and children who are suffering from living with HIV. Health has that power.

In the year 2000, issues around women and children's health were largely ignored at a global level. Then a group of scientists came together to say that this was unacceptable. They were some of the best public health scientists in the world, they brought together the best evidence and over the years, we at the Lancet have had the privilege of publishing their work. They created a global social movement for women's and children's health. Then, in 2010, Ban Ki Moon stood up and launched 'Every Woman, Every Child', a global health strategy that 193 nations around the world signed up to, in order to support health in the 49 most vulnerable countries in the world.

We can do that for that for the people of Palestine. And by that I mean all those living as refugees in other countries as well as those living in Gaza, the West Bank and in East Jerusalem.

In 2007, I made my first trip to these places. Two years later under the leadership of Rita Giacaman and many others from Birzeit University, Palestinians told their story themselves (too often the story of the Palestinians is told by others). Via the Lancet-Palestinian Health Alliance, a network of health researchers committed to illuminating the conditions under which Palestinians live today – they talked about their women; their children; their men; the stunting; the malnutrition; the lack of access to drugs; the lack of maternity care and the lack of facilities for renal failure. We were seeing an atrocious predicament for millions of human beings that was being called 'disqualified knowledge'. They used science to make the invisible, visible.

Every year since 2009, we've been going back and listening to their stories again, and again, and again. This year (2012), in March we went to Beirut. We visited the camps and we heard the stories of the people living there, which we'll be bringing together and publishing.

Science, telling stories, can be a catalyst, an instrument to create a global social movement that will say: "This is unacceptable". We can change the political conditions for Palestinians. I am a total optimist about what can be achieved. It was done in 1945, it was done for people living with HIV/AIDS, we can do it for the Palestinian people. We just have to have the vision, the passion and the commitment to take the action to achieve it.

Using the power of civil society can undercut the 'moral' pillar that Israel so depends upon. We can do that by chronicling the small atrocities that take place every day in the lives of Palestinians.

So what do we need? In honour of Channel 4, we need 'Big Brother' in a Palestinian village.

And this is what you'll see if you have 24-hour cameras in this village: You will see if a child falls ill with pneumonia, the mother will not be able to get access to antibiotics. You will see when a man injures himself, he will not have access to trauma care. You will see that when a young family gets married, they will not be able to build a house because they have to get a permit to build the house, which will be denied to them. You will see that a village that wants to build a clinic or a school will be denied the possibility of building that clinic or school. You will see a woman who is pregnant unable to get access to maternity care. You will see all of these things. And when the world sees the reality of Palestinian society, right now, today, this second, there will be an uprising and shame will be brought upon Israel."



Photograph: Nuriya Oswald

Nasser Hospital in Southern Gaza

PITCH THREE

UNDERTAKING A COMPREHENSIVE HEALTH SURVEY



PROFESSOR ROSEMARY HOLLIS, CITY UNIVERSITY

"I'm proposing that the European Union, or another international body, sets up an initiative to conduct a comprehensive survey of the health, sanitation risks and needs of all the people living between the Jordan River and the Red Sea, to identify where standards fall below those adopted by aid and developmental agencies in terms of health, water and sanitation.

The goal of undertaking this survey will be then to roll out a programme to tackle the biggest health risks and sanitation problems in all deprived areas, which may turn out to include some Jewish areas. The survey will be done in a colour-blind fashion and won't make any

distinction between areas A, B or C*, military, closed, urban, or rural. Nor will any distinction be made between people based on ethnicity or religion – be they Jewish, Christian, Muslim, Arab, Israeli or Palestinian.

It will be an equal opportunity programme that refuses to recognise national distinctions and boundaries. Because the labyrinth of regulations and laws makes so many distinctions, we have to work with this labyrinth, setting up a plan, ideally funded by EU tax payers, for an even-handed, non-sectarian approach to address the urgent health and sanitation needs on an equal rights basis."



Photograph: Nuriya Oswald

Children in Khan Younis use the water tap on the back of a water truck to fill their containers

PITCH FOUR

USING TECHNOLOGY TO OVERCOME THE BARRIERS OF OCCUPATION



BACKGROUND

- Area C, under total Israeli control, accounts for 60% of the West Bank and is home to 150,000 Palestinians, including 18,000 Bedouin.
- Since the autumn of 2007 the Israeli government has viewed Gaza as a “hostile entity”. It has imposed a crippling blockade built on existing restrictions.
- The number of settlers inside the West Bank has now surpassed 500,000. They are spread out across 149 settlements and 100 so-called ‘outposts’. All are explicitly illegal under international law, while ‘outposts’ are also illegal under Israeli law.

RUSHANARA ALI MP, SHADOW DEVELOPMENT MINISTER

“What I am pitching today – focuses on how to try and connect people despite the barriers, checkpoints and daily challenges. How we can use technology to highlight what those challenges are, despite the lack of coverage, and focus on the everyday nature of trying to get by.

I’ll never forget the story I was told of a doctor having to give medical treatment to a child across a fence.

We need to use these stories to build a movement that is much wider, not about the geopolitics but about individual, everyday lives that people around the world can connect too. We have to start from the grassroots.”



Israeli soldiers check Palestinian women and children at the Bethlehem checkpoint, West Bank

PITCH FIVE

HIGHLIGHTING THE PRISONER ISSUE



BACKGROUND

- Approximately 700 Palestinian children are prosecuted every year in Israeli military courts.
- Since 2000, more than 7,000 children have been detained.
- Israel's actions in relation to the treatment of minors constitute serious breaches of the Fourth Geneva Convention, the UN Convention Against Torture and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

AHMAD KHALIDI

"I want to concentrate on the fact that since 1967, there have been an estimated 750,000 acts of imprisonment, detention and arrest of Palestinians. On a base of 3.8 million, roughly 60-70% of all adult males over the age of 14 (something like 20% of the population) have, in one way or another, passed through the judicial system, or have been arrested or stopped.

This is unparalleled in the whole history of conflict, certainly since the Second World War. An entire nation has gone through this process of incarceration, unnoticed and unrecorded by the outside world – unless there is the very occasional and peculiar event when someone

from the other side is taken prisoner and becomes an international *cause celeb*, followed by the extraordinary exchanges that we see.

We need to think about personalising and highlighting the plight of roughly 4,000 Palestinians in Israeli prisons. Choosing from the many long-term prisoners whose leaders the Israelis shake hands with, it makes no sense to keep the foot soldiers. We need to look at ways of turning this mass of 750,000 acts of imprisonment, detention and arrest into the personal stories of people who have, in many cases, been unjustly put in jail."



The slogan "Palestine will Be free" is painted on the Israeli separation wall in the West Bank town of Qalqilya

PITCH SIX

ADDRESSING THE LABYRINTH ON ITS OWN TERMS



BACKGROUND

- 522 roadblocks and checkpoints obstruct Palestinian movement in the West Bank.
- Additional ad-hoc 'flying' checkpoints further obstruct movement around the West Bank each month.

PROFESSOR ROSEMARY HOLLIS

"I've come up with an idea that is based on two premises:

One is the palliative effect – beware of measures which make occupation marginally more tolerable and thus end up helping to sustain occupation.

The second concern is to do with pseudo-legal traps. Almost all measures to extend Israel's grip and erode the Palestinian position are couched in legal terms or based on regulations, such that if the Palestinians resort to 'the law' for redress within the Israeli court system, they end up legitimising that 'law' or the Israeli system.

What is absent is a clear, definitive, political deal that can cut through this labyrinth of legalisms or regulations, which we've heard is not on the cards. It is irresponsible for all of us to sit back and wait for whatever happens.

So my suggestion is to address this labyrinth on its own terms. Take it as an invitation to address the needs of all the people living under the labyrinth."



PITCH SEVEN

REASSESSING THE VIABILITY OF THE TWO-STATE SOLUTION



BACKGROUND

- When the remaining sections of the Israeli barrier are completed, 85% of the route will lie on Palestinian land and nearly 10% of the West Bank will become de facto Israeli territory.
- Since the Israeli occupation of East Jerusalem began in June 1967, Israel has pursued a policy of reducing the Arab identity of the city.
- In Hebron 500 Israeli settlers are guarded by thousands of Israeli police and soldiers.

PROFESSOR ILAN PAPPE, EXETER UNIVERSITY

“New ideas are there, and have been there, parallel to the main efforts of the political and diplomatic elites trying to find a solution. Alternative ideas have been aired outside the main highway of diplomacy ever since the beginning of this conflict. However, they are not addressed or taken seriously until there is an explosion, until there is a catastrophe. And that still doesn’t mean they become policy, because there are vested interests in inertia. It is important, at least at this stage, to point out

three false assumptions that have directed and motivated the main effort to bring peace and justice to Palestine.

After years of occupation, we’re told the basic formula for progress is around the corner. The two-state solution may be just around the corner, but it might take 100 years to turn it. It’s time to understand that this idea is not going anywhere.



Photograph: Ryan Rodrick Beiler / Shutterstock.com

Palestinian residents of Bethlehem walk near an Israeli tank guarding Manger Square



1) Through diplomacy and the balance-of-power game – the concept of Palestine and the Palestinians is being shrunk to a size that is acceptable and digestible to the Israelis.

What is Palestine in the eyes of the Israelis? At first it seemed they were willing to say that it was the West Bank and Gaza. They are not willing to say that now. Palestine today is half of the West Bank and a besieged Gaza, a mere 12-14% of what Palestine really is.

Who are the Palestinians according to the Israelis? Mostly those who live in the West Bank and Gaza, but not all of them. Those who live in the greater Jerusalem area are not considered to be really Palestinian. And the rest of the Palestinians in the Diaspora, who are the majority, are not in the equation. It is a very bad assumption yet everybody is accepting it.

The whole premise of the Oslo Accords, and all peace efforts since 1967, has been about shrinking the Palestinians into acceptable sizes for the Israelis.

2) There is a false assumption that there is a genuine impulse for peace in Israel.

There is a practical approach amongst Israelis concerning how best to control Palestine with as few Palestinians in it as possible. This practical, tactical idea can be called a

'peace process'. That's fine and serves the Israeli political elite, but it has nothing to do with reconciliation or peace. It has to do with Zionism still being a settler-colonialist movement in 2012, which seeks to complete the project of colonising Palestine and trying to do it with as few Palestinians in it as possible remaining.

3) The third false approach is that you can continue with a business-like approach.

Former Secretary of State, Madeline Albright, used to say that the best approach for Israel-Palestine was to consider everything that is visible to be divisible and everything that is invisible to be indivisible, and then she went on to quantify the kind of thing that could be divided. This approach is not working in a place where peace is not the problem. The problem is liberation from oppression, decolonisation and the end of apartheid.

I don't remember anyone in apartheid South Africa talking about 'peace'. We talked about the end of apartheid and that's what we should talk about in Israel - the end of Zionism, the end of Israeli apartheid and the end of Israeli colonisation. Then we can start talking about peace. These are the new thoughts we should put forward, without being called anti-Semitic or being accused of denying the existence of Israel or all the other kind of language Israel uses to evade the situation on the ground."

PITCH EIGHT

DISSOLVING THE QUARTET



BACKGROUND

- Since being appointed in June 2007 Tony Blair, the Quartet representative, has made over 87 trips to Jerusalem.

CHRIS DOYLE – CAABU’S DIRECTOR

“I am fed up with Foreign Office officials who keep referring to the Middle East peace process as if there is something alive. Should the Quartet be kicked out? You can call it the ‘sack Tony Blair option’.”

PROFESSOR ILAN PAPPE

“The Quartet is an obsolete outfit that does more harm than good. It is far worse when an international community says it is interested and has a Quartet that doesn’t actually do anything, as it provides Israel with immunity to carry on with its policies of dispossession and land expropriation.”



Photograph: Ryan Rodrick Beiler / Shutterstock.com

Palestinians seeking access to Jerusalem pass through the steel cage of the Israeli military checkpoint at Bethlehem

PITCH NINE

FOCUSING INVESTMENT IN AREA C



BACKGROUND

- Area A: 18% of the West Bank – mainly the large urban areas, such as Ramallah, under Palestinian administrative and security control.
- Area B: 22% of the West Bank - under Palestinian administrative, but Israeli security control.
- Area C: 60% of the West Bank- under total Israeli control.

FILIPPO GRANDI

"One of the illusions is that a status quo exists. In dark times such as now, I often hear that there is a status quo that everybody has to stick to until the US elections or the next deadline. But this isn't workable.

Today, I was on the phone to my office in Jerusalem coordinating a statement that the UN, a member of Quartet, made to jointly protest against another huge round of evictions in Jerusalem. In this case, an entirely Arab quarter of Jerusalem is being evicted by Israeli settlers.

The occupation project advances all the time and unfortunately the illusion of the peace process generates a misperception.

'Confidence-building measures' is too small a term. There are fundamental issues of rights that need to be addressed. We have to invest in Area C in order to help Palestinians stay where they are through development projects. We need to keep saying that the blockade of Gaza is illegal and must be lifted. We have to keep fighting for ALL Palestinians, including those in Lebanon and Syria. "



Photograph: Nuriya Oswald

Visiting Bedouin communities with Islah Charitable Society

PITCH TEN

ADDRESSING THE POLITICS OF AID



BACKGROUND

- On 24 March 2012, the BBC reported that US lawmakers had released \$88.6m (£56m) in development aid for the Palestinians that had been frozen for more than six months. The move came after two senior Republicans from the House of Representatives dropped their opposition to freeing the funds. One of them, Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, said the money must not go to Gaza.

STEVEN JAMES, MEDICAL AID FOR PALESTINIANS

"How do we ensure that aid is neutral in such a political conflict?"

RUSHANARA ALI MP

"Aid has to be distributed within a political context. Humanitarian space should be developed and protected to ensure that aid can get to those who need it... it is a matter of life and death."

PROFESSOR ROSEMARY HOLLIS

"There is a distinction between those working for aid agencies and the political decision makers. There is a demand for 'boutique' projects that a politician can stand in front of – a new water project or sewage system.

There is a tendency for Blair, amongst others, to spend money on new gadgets at the checkpoints to examine and process cargoes, so governments can say they've helped. But have they?"

DR RICHARD HORTON

"I think it's worse than that. Aid is dividing the Palestinians from one another. You go to the West Bank and you see USAID spending tens of millions of dollars on health programmes, but sending none of it to Gaza. The idea is to buy off the support of West Bank Palestinian leaders and separate them from Gaza. Aid is used specifically to destroy Palestinian solidarity and union. That is more dangerous than just cementing the occupation. It is setting one group of Palestinians against another."

AHMAD KHALIDI

"Aid is never without strings. In this particular case, aid is highly politicised. The fundamental purpose of aid is to relieve Israel of the burden of the cost of occupation. The Palestinians receive one of the highest per-capita amounts of aid in the world. The purpose is not really to serve the Palestinians, but to remove the alternative burden the Israelis would have to bear were there not aid from the international community – particularly the Americans and the EU.

American aid is given for security and for security purposes alone. That is, for Israel's security – not for the Palestinians. EU aid substitutes the money Israel would have to pay to run the occupation.



Aid is not just sustaining the occupation, it is making it cost free for the Israelis, so they don't even have to feel the pain of paying for their occupation.

Those who give aid could say: 'We're not going to give it *unless* the Israelis do A, B and C'. But here is never any 'unless'. As taxpayers, it is extraordinary that all of this money is being paid without any strings or conditions. The worst the Israelis are told when they build in East Jerusalem is that it is 'unhelpful'."

FILIPPO GRANDI

"I am always worried when I hear the discussion about aid being an instrument of something else. Not because it is not true – I've been working in aid for 30 years and I've never seen aid not being politicised. But the problem is I've also not seen aid not being needed. We have to be careful not to throw away the baby with the bathwater. Aid is essential and aid is important. Palestinians need aid because without aid people in Gaza would be hungry.

You have to be careful about hitting the right targets. The occupation should be resolved through political means, not by ending aid.

In Gaza the trickle of aid is really outrageous. If it stopped, the last shred of a link between Gaza and the West Bank will go, and there may be a plan for that to happen."



Prof Rosemary Hollis, Jon Snow, Rushanara Ali MP and Dr Richard Horton

Photograph: Nuriya Oswald

PITCH ELEVEN

GETTING EUROPE TO DO MORE



BACKGROUND

- On 23 July the Guardian newspaper reported that the EU will offer Israel upgraded trade and diplomatic relations in more than 60 areas at a high-level meeting in Brussels, just weeks after European foreign ministers warned that Israeli policies in the West Bank “threaten to make a two-state solution impossible”.

AHMAD KHALIDI

“Do the Europeans have the gumption to stand out against the United States? I think this is very unlikely. There used to be a voice for Europe in the 1980s. Today, the Quartet simply sucks Europe into this anodyne process of issuing statement upon statement that never actually has any any traction or teeth.

Is there one European foreign policy? The answer is ‘no’ and if there is, it’s at the lowest possible common denominator.”

PROFESSOR ILAN PAPPE

“I find it amazing, after 60 years of European involvement in the issue of Palestine, that people have hopes that the current elites will behave any differently to the way they have behaved in the past. The war on Gaza in 2008/09 was not enough to prompt any fundamental change in any European government policy. Even a triple Gaza catastrophe wouldn’t be enough.

In 1948, Israel expelled half of Palestine’s population and Europe was particularly silent – even more than the Americans who made much more noise about the ethnic cleansing. So there is not much hope for politics from above. There is inertia when it comes to how to deal with Palestine. If you become too noisy about Palestine as an issue, you face the Israeli lobby and the Americans.

The new members of the EU are countries that are particularly and embarrassingly pro-Israeli. In fact, the more anti-Semitic the country was during the Second World War, the more pro-Israeli it is now. There is no chance in the world for a common EU position. There are two countries in particular that should be targeted, and those are Britain and Germany because of their historical responsibility.”



Palestinian Ambassador, Manuel Hassassian, Prof Ilan Pappé, Ahmad Khalidi, Prof Rosemary Hollis, Jon Snow, Rushanara Ali MP, Dr Richard Horton and Filippo Grandi

WHAT NEXT?



Based in the community and sharing the risks the community faces on a daily basis, Medical Aid for Palestinians is not only a direct deliverer of much needed assistance, but one of the voices of conscience speaking out about the chronic conditions Palestinian communities continue to face. MAP plays an important role in challenging violations of the universal right to health, which is persistently threatened by ongoing conflict, prolonged occupation and displacement.

Working in partnership with Palestinian communities and in coalition with likeminded organisations, the scope of our advocacy programme is extensive, from raising public awareness about specific issues to lobbying governments and policy makers.

Our publications are a central aspect of this work and 'Pitching for Palestine' is one of a series of briefing papers aimed at ensuring that the Palestinian issue is not neglected. Other papers include: 'Terminal Decline', a special report on Palestinian refugee health in Lebanon; 'Britain and Palestine: a Parliamentary Focus', a joint report with the Council for Arab British Understanding outlining the obstacles Palestinians face in the occupied Palestinian territory; and 'The Sabra and Shatila Massacre: 30 Years On', which puts the voices of the survivors at its core and should serve as a wake-up call about the current situation of Palestinian refugees in Lebanon.

In addition, 'Gaza's Children: Falling Behind', a joint report with Save the Children about the effect of the blockade on child health in Gaza, was launched in June 2012.

MAP will be distributing 'Pitching for Palestine' to politicians both in Westminster and at party conferences, not only to generate further discussion of the ideas outlined in this publication, but also as a call for action.

As a result of increasing political, social and economic instability, Palestinians in Lebanon and the occupied Palestinian territory have little control over their lives, much less their own security and health. The failure to make any substantial political progress is having a catastrophic effect, as conditions on the ground deteriorate day on day.

In the shadow of the 'Arab Spring', Palestinians living under occupation and as refugees feel forgotten by the international community. MAP is committed to challenging the policies which impact on their health and to putting forward recommendations that would make a real difference. With so much focus on other countries in the region, it is all the more important for organisations like MAP to work to keep Palestine on the international agenda.

AIMEE SHALAN
MAP's Director of Advocacy
and Communications

ABOUT MAP

MAP works for the health and dignity of Palestinians living under occupation and as refugees.

Established in the aftermath of the massacre at Sabra and Shatila, MAP delivers health and medical care to those worst affected by conflict, occupation and displacement. Working in partnership with local health providers and hospitals, MAP addresses a wide range of health issues and challenges faced by the Palestinian people. With offices located in Beirut, Ramallah and Gaza City, MAP responds rapidly in times of crisis, and works directly with communities in the longer term on health development.



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