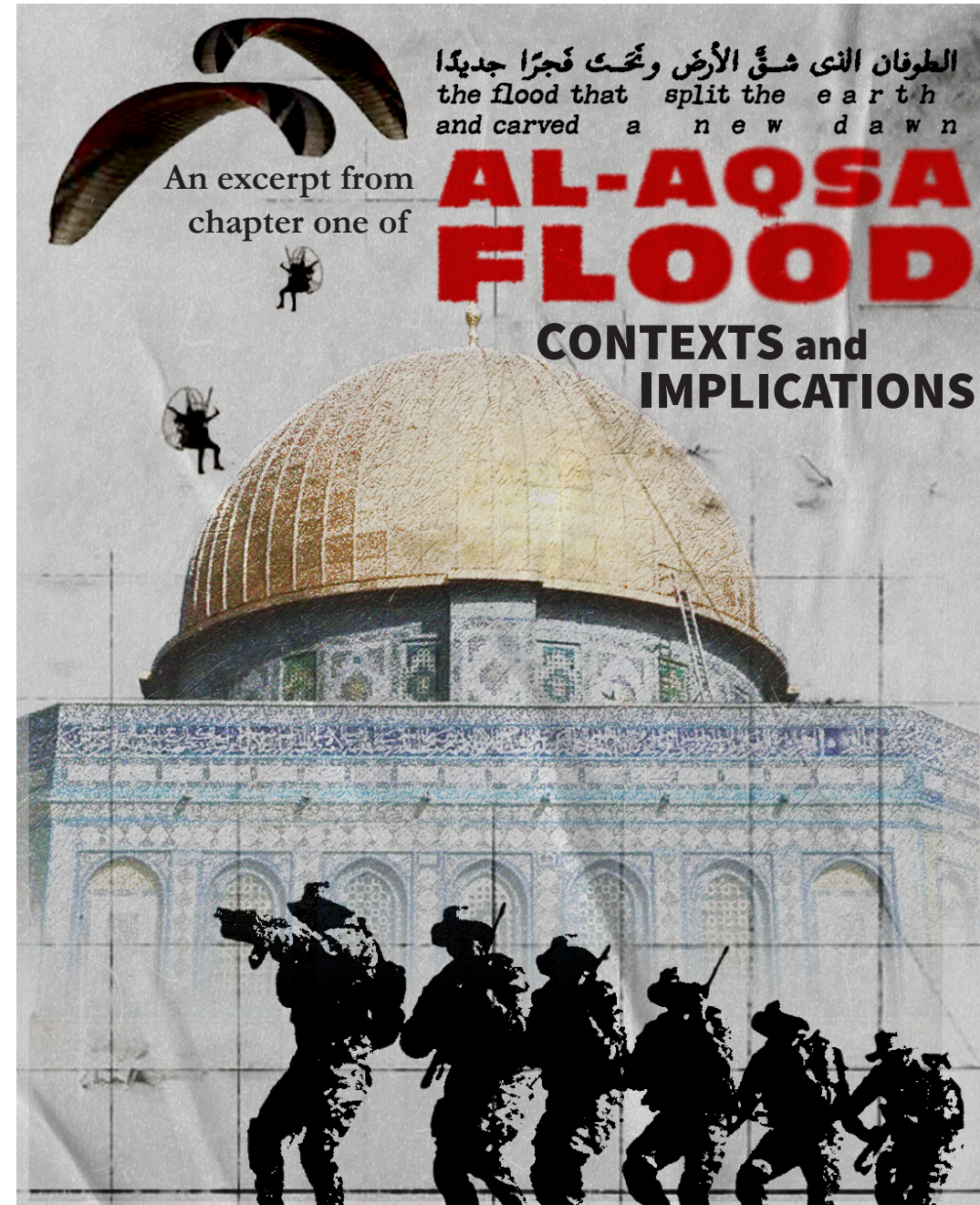


*This book is an attempt to deconstruct events and to look at them rationally and objectively, according to the principles governing the national liberation project, because any dealing with the Palestinian cause and its events away from considering it a national liberation project will always lead us to erroneous positions and distorted conclusions.*



by  
Ahmed Abu Suhaib

many opinions, we are still only two groups, a group that wants freedom and is ready to pay the price, and a group that is immersed in wishes. Some will think that I am talking about our political division, but the truth is that I am talking about our fundamental division, which for those who do not know, is a division that crosses all our national parties of different colors. All our parties contain both groups to varying degrees. We are not divided into Hamas, Fatah, and other factions. We are all divided into those who want to be liberated and those who only wish for it...!

Every talk about the next stage or intellectual and political theorizing about the reality or the future should start from the same question. I personally have reserved my role in advance with those who want to liberate their homeland and I have prepared myself to find that the price paid so far is still a small price. There are many who are surprised by the description of its asceticism, but those whom Allah will honor by seeing their homeland free will discover that it is even more ascetic.

## The Right Question:

There is no doubt that the price paid so far is a great, expensive, and costly price: the precious blood that was shed, the homes that were demolished, the infrastructure that was destroyed, and the children of the cause and its heroes who dismounted (martyred). But whoever carries a real liberation project, not just wishful dreams or beautiful fantasies, will find that all of these prices are necessary and deserved prices for the sake of our liberation project. Every conscious person realizes that the liberation of Palestine in particular, which is the center of global conflict, will not be easy or simple, and that the price of the freedom of our cause, by virtue of its reality, context, and the nature of its occupation, which is a replacement and not a colonial one, will be multiples of any of the prices of the liberation experiences in the modern century, and in the course of this cause. Only great sacrifices will reveal the secrets of souls and answer the hidden thoughts of consciences. Do we really want to liberate Palestine or are we only wishing? Because whoever is true to their will, will not be startled by the cost... And not everyone who awaits Saladin will not, upon his arrival, be anticipating peace with the Franks (Crusaders), content with safety as spoils and considering the price before conquest as defeat...!

We, as Palestinians, have been asking the wrong question throughout the life of our cause. We were asking: Do we really want to liberate Palestine? It was an empty question, a question that was extremely easy but extremely deceptive. The right question should have been: Are we really ready to pay the price...?

What we have seen and are still seeing at the moment is part of the price that we do not know how much it will reach now or how much it will be in the future. Although we are divided in

An excerpt from chapter one of

# **AL-AQSA FLOOD: CONTEXTS and IMPLICATIONS**

by

**Ahmed Abu Suhaib**

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[t.me/PalestineTunes](https://t.me/PalestineTunes)

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[archive.org/details/@rifle\\_pen](https://archive.org/details/@rifle_pen)

opinion against these brutal atrocities?

What if a portion of the Palestinians inside 'israel' played a tenth of the role assigned to them in such a pivotal battle, raising the cost of aggression and depriving the enemy of the euphoria of security from close by, after Gaza was no longer able to apply rocket pressure from afar?

What if the Palestinian community in the surrounding countries marched roarily towards the borders, no matter how much the clash cost them in terms of heavy prices, painful bruises, and deep wounds? How could they have thought the price to be too great, while the blood of the Gazans flows in rivers in every street and alley?

What if the Palestinians of the diaspora played their proper role, and continued day and night, holding sit-ins by the thousands in the capitals of Western countries, exposing the crimes and atrocities of the occupation around the clock and every moment?

These essential and deserved questions are meant to disappear behind the most unjust and easiest question, what if Gaza had not done so? They do not answer the question that concerns them, what if they had done so...?!

Perhaps the resistance was wrong in betting on some other Palestinian parties to play their required role, but what is certain and definitive is that the parties that did not play their role are not wrong, but criminals...criminals against themselves before they are criminals against the cause and the afflicted region, and there is a vast and big difference between the one who is wrong and the criminal.

and knowingly ignore the essential and most important question, which is what if everyone had done their part perfectly, just as the resistance did its part perfectly?

What if the West Bank rose up in full force, and used all available means, popular or military, to revolt against the occupation, which was humiliating and insulting it many times more than what was inflicted on Gaza, and the number of settlers affected by the battle increased, pressuring their government and demanding the lost security, to be a pressure card and a brake on the enemy's madness and unlimited brutality?

What if the official Palestinian regime [Fatah] exploited this event to ignite a political and diplomatic revolution in all forums of the world, clarifying the oppression of the Palestinian people and returning the cause to its essence as a national liberation project and a usurped Palestinian right, and linking Zionist security to the Palestinian right, not in order to defend Gaza, but in order to strengthen its negotiating cards, and protect the walls of its district from being urinated on by the occupation soldiers if they find them surrounded...!

What if our sole legitimate representative led a relentless shuttle movement to the Arab and Western capitals, to form an effective international coalition, preventing the enemy from isolating Gaza, or brutalizing it without accountability, or at least imposing the entry of the necessary aid to sustain life? If it does not do that in these circumstances, what are the appropriate circumstances for it to do anything...!

What if the overwhelming torrent of Palestinian Foreign Ministry employees, who are allocated a budget of salaries with astronomical figures, were to spend day and night exposing the crimes and violations of the occupation and inciting world

## Essential Questions:

The [Al-Aqsa] Flood has happened, and there is no doubt that the October 7 attack, as a military and revolutionary act, is the most brilliant and complex military attack in the modern era. Whether we agree or disagree, it will be recorded among a group of the most brilliant military plans in history, and it will remain a source of pride and honor for the Palestinian fighter, who created from nothingness and the impossible under the strict siege from all sides of the world, the most successful military crossing against an enemy for which all the material and technological capabilities from all sides of the world were harnessed.

Then the aggression followed, and there is no doubt that it was the most brutal and barbaric aggression that any of the peoples of the region have ever experienced, in light of an absolute siege and absolute silence, and the enemy's absolute hand without accountability or supervision. The Palestinian people paid prices that we cannot say were heavy or exorbitant, because what happened in reality cannot be adequately described in any word in the dictionary of language.

As a result of this horrific, barbaric aggression, which had as its core objectives the bloody brutality of causing the greatest shock to the Palestinian consciousness and inflicting the greatest possible psychological defeat, many questions and numerous debates were raised by the opponents of the resistance, its supporters, and even many of its elements, some of which were objective, some of which were fabricated, and many of which were an outlet for pain under the pressure of killing and suffering.

In my opinion, among all the questions raised, there are three fundamental and essential questions. The first question is whether

the attack should have been postponed until we were stronger. The second question is whether it would have been better to reduce the attack to be small and limited so as not to provoke a reaction from the enemy. The third question is whether the attack provided a pretext for the brutality of the occupation.

## Postponing the Attack

We must not forget that the essence of the conflict with the occupation revolves around the land, I mean around the liberation of the land as the final outcome of the revolution. This is in the witnessed and proven reality, and will not be achieved by small battles alone. Whether we like it or not, and as an inevitability and certainty, the liberation of the land will not be easy and feasible, and it will not happen by a sudden miracle or by a knockout blow in the first rounds of the fight.

Postponing the major attack today will not prevent the historical inevitability that it will inevitably be major tomorrow or the day after. What will be the difference between the price paid today and the price paid tomorrow? Except for the time period added to the life of the occupation, until we reach the same station that we have reached today, and are intended to reach tomorrow...!!

Then what are we betting on to postpone the clash?

Gaza, since the Zionist withdrawal 18 years ago, has been in a freezing room, hovering in a limbo between semi-life and semi-death, struggling, jostling, clashing, exploding, raging, calming down, bleeding, recovering, escalating, and reconciling. But whether we like it or not, the overall outcome of the conflict curve is “staying where you are.”

forest of rifles that, if they moved, could at least curb the enemy's madness, if they could not stop it.

Let us abandon the armed and violent struggle “God forbid,” where are the sweeping popular marches, which appear in Madrid, Spain, to be many times more than the timid crowds in Ramallah, Palestine... Where are the effective and influential means of non-violent struggle?!! Where is the reaction within its less than worldly limits?!! Where...a thousand wheres and wheres.

The resistance bears the natural price of resisting the occupation, and it is a price we pay with pride, honor, and dignity. As for the insane price without restraints, it is borne entirely by everyone who was in a position of failure and negligence, not by those who offered their blood, their best men, and their children in defense of their people and the thawabets (principles) of their cause. In the battle to distort national awareness, those who have neglected are launching a fierce media attack with extreme impudence, to hold the resistance responsible for the painful price, which would not have been so painful, had the inaction not been so dull...!

You are astonished to the point of astonishment that all the surrounding regimes, which play a clear conspiratorial role no matter how much they dress themselves in the clothes of solidarity, have received a generous share of flattery, praise and solidarity from the group of inaction, both old and new.

## A Missing Question

The most common question is what if the resistance had not launched its large-scale attack on October 7, while they deliberately

conspiracy, the occupation would not have lost its logical brakes, and would not have found its hand free to do evil to our people, and to make the price paid double without accountability or consequences.

In fact, the one who bears responsibility for this insane price is not the one who did their natural duty in resisting an enemy that imprisons thousands of Palestinians in inhumane conditions for very long years without any hope of freedom, an enemy that nibbles at the land, violates sovereignty, increases settlements, violates Al-Quds, targets Al-Aqsa, and imposes new facts every day without restraint or deterrent.

Rather, the one who bears responsibility for this enormous price is the one who did not perform their natural, even instinctive, role in curbing the machine of oppression and creating tools of influence on the enemy, and there are many of them, forcing them to control their reactions and preventing them from taking absolute control of people's lives and suffering.

How does all this happen in Gaza, while the vast settlements of the West Bank remain safe and secure, and are a stone's throw away from every village and city in the West Bank, which is no less miserable in terms of occupation than its sister, how is it that the Palestinian in Gaza is literally slaughtered and their blood runs in the valleys of the streets, while the other Palestinian lives their life completely normally, and they have almost every minute the opportunity to clash at zero distance with an occupation patrol, a security checkpoint, a checkpoint, or a settlement gate.

We are not talking about attacking the occupied interior, God forbid. We are talking about the settlements within the 1967 borders, which all the laws of the world have guaranteed a legitimate right to resist. The Palestinian in the West Bank has a

The West Bank is on a steep and accelerating downward slope, with formal control by the [Palestinian] Authority and actual control by the occupation, a complete occupation but one that is ambiguous and convincing, to the point that people are accustomed to its fluctuations and have become complacent with its ferocity, anesthetized from the natural reaction to the increase in settlements, the nibbling of land, and the imposition of accelerating facts in Al-Quds, which is the core of the conflict and the axis of the cause.

The Palestinian political system and its effects have been frozen for more than ten years, in the refrigerator of President Abbas's expected death, so that the most likely scenario is that he will be succeeded by one of the boys of the occupation's civil administration, in an expected political system that is more helpless than its predecessor and no less bad...!!

On the Arab and regional level, the Arab regime was becoming increasingly hostile to the resistance, and the resistance was losing areas of influence and official or popular support in Egypt, Sudan, Libya, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, and Syria, while the regimes were rushing towards impudent normalization.

The most dangerous thing is that the Palestinian cause has become a target in the collective consciousness of the peoples, and targeted, systematic, and escalating attacks have begun to attack the cause, and consider it a Palestinian cause for the Palestinians. It does not appear that this trend is in a state of decline, but it is clear that it was a rising trend, and there is no doubt that it was slow to grow, but the problem is that there were no brakes to stop it and no effective tools to confront it in the future, especially with the weakness of the Islamic movements and the exaggerated distortion of them after the events of the disappointing Arab Spring...!

It is clear that it is not hoped that a radical change will occur in the next 20 years that we can bet on, and there is nothing to indicate that we will pay a lower price if the attack were after the next 20 or 30 years, and that will be nothing but a long life wasted in the history of the people and the cause.

## Balances of Power

There are those who think that accumulating more power over the next 10 or 20 years is the best option, in the hope of directing a stronger and more severe blow to the occupation, which might enable us to win the knockout blow. This is a belief that is more dominated by wishful thinking than by correct, objective knowledge of the true reality of the balance of power, far from emotional charging and exaggerated display of achievements.

The gap in the balance of power between us and the occupation, for those who do not know, was never narrowing, but rather it was constantly widening in favor of the occupation, simply because the scientific, technological, artistic, and economic resources were very abundant in favor of the occupation, and we are not saying that they were scarce for the resistance, but in fact they were very close to zero...! The resistance was literally doing the impossible and achieving great accomplishments that were almost out of nothing, and this is a source of pride and honor, and even a miracle, but the final outcome is that the gap is widening, and time is not working in our favor at all.

When the resistance reached the manufacture of powerful and effective rockets during 20 years of development, the enemy was advancing faster in the field of the Iron Dome. Imagine if our development speed had brought us to these rockets before the

own destruction rather than of the suppression of the revolution that opposes it.

The first is that it creates a difference, even if only formal, between the oppressed people (the good guys) and the handful of revolutionaries and their aides (the bad guys), then it directs its brutality at what it considers the revolutionaries, in order to create distortion, deception, and awareness that gives it the opportunity to isolate the revolutionaries while preserving the submissiveness of the remaining majority, since it is natural in all revolutions that the revolutionaries are a minority in themselves, even if they represent the conscience of the majority.

The second is that if it uses excessive force and violence, it does not exceed the limit that the oppressed cannot bear, and thus it faces a comprehensive revolution without limits, and it does not use absolute force that is extremely brutal so as not to attract the alignment of the surrounding peoples, whose natural human nature responds to helping their neighbors, or defends itself if it remains silent from what has befallen them being extended to them.

You stand stunned and astonished, not in front of the brutality of the occupation that exceeds all limits of human reason, nor in front of its launching of a fierce battle in which it opens its fire on all people without distinction or discrimination, so that neither the elderly nor the newborn child are safe from it, and every day it commits a series of massacres that history would have stopped at the occurrence of such things every two decades in different and vast regions.

You are truly astonished by the unprecedented human dullness, from the national relative before the Arab ally before the global foreigner, which had it not become rampant in decadence or

stable countries and regimes with huge resources.

It is unimaginably difficult for all decision-making layers to be in a position of brutal targeting, and for the means of the lower leaderships, which have become burdened with the follow-up—to interpret the reality and thus change it, through correspondents and some of those around them, and even this primitive means is often a reason for targeting these civilian leaderships by the enemy, even though they are at the bottom of the leadership pyramid.

Here I cannot respect any process of comprehensive criticism or blame, or even criticism at specific points without presenting a mature alternative, with my certainty that many of the alternatives that we think are mature, when implemented, lead to other problems that were solved by the previous alternatives. Nevertheless, I find room for reproach in this regard, especially that honest and careful reproach, and I do not want to go into details at this time.

## **The Price Paid: “Who’s Responsible?”**

Many people like to hold the resistance responsible for the enemy’s absolute hand in its insane crimes against the people besieged from all sides in the Gaza Strip, as if there is any act in the world that can justify this blatant brutality committed in front of the world without any movement.

Every occupation in the world throughout history, in its brutal suppression of revolutions, has observed two broad lines that govern its actions and curb its brutality, so that the crisis of affairs does not get out of hand, and its brutality becomes a cause of its

enemy reached this level of ability to confront with this Dome?! While we were trying to escape through large bursts to mislead the [Iron] Dome and raise its material cost, the occupation had begun to develop the laser system, which we do not know how much it needs to complete to have a non-trivial air defense system, capable of confronting the resistance’s rockets effectively, as it will be able to deploy its batteries many times more than the Iron Dome system. Then the question will be: What if the circumstances allowed for the use of our rockets before the development of this system and not after it...?!?

We used to require years to develop a capability in air or sea, while the enemy can develop defenses that limit its impact in a year or two, and the same applies to all fields, especially the field of intelligence, eavesdropping, and the ability to uncover the secrets of the resistance and the locations of its capabilities, including tunnels.

The rockets possessed by the resistance could have suddenly become worthless if a technological breakthrough occurred that would enable the enemy to scan the surface layers of the earth and identify their locations. There was much data indicating the enemy’s efforts in this area.

The same applies if there is a technological breakthrough in detecting tunnels, communications systems, or other systems and capabilities that the resistance has been developing for many years with very, very limited resources, while the enemy confronts it with an arsenal of technology and resources that are available in an unlimited manner.

The legendary crossing plan that took place on October 7 could have become worthless if an engineering, industrial, or water barrier had been added to the border system with the Strip, as a

result of a security loophole from which the enemy understood or deduced the broad outlines of the attack.

The success of a very small quadcopter in planting a very precise eavesdropping device in a sensitive location, intentionally or by chance, could blow up the balance of power. Anyone who knows the daily, exhausting intelligence war between the resistance and its enemy knows how many secret projects have been exposed, and also knows how admirable the miracle is that many of them remain secret.

The experience of the Lebanese front, and what surprised Hezbollah with the infiltration of pagers and wireless devices, and the places where political and field leaders were secured, is an example of the ability of any security breach or technological progress to reposition the balance of power in favor of the enemy while increasing the gap even more.

The final and overall result of the power race within the framework of time is that time never worked in our favor and time did not give the resistance any comfort to postpone the clash.

## **Minimizing the Attack**

The official narrative presented by the resistance is that it did not expect the attack to succeed on this scale, and that the goal was much less than what was achieved, and that the resistance's surprise at the collapse of the Gaza Division with such ease was no less than the occupation's surprise at the attack.

However, what if the attack was limited to several military sites, with limited success in abducting 10–20 soldiers, or even an attack

we saw?

I am certain that a rare few, not exceeding the fingers of one hand, expected the extent of the enemy's reaction, based on a conscious assessment of the political and field situation on the part of the world, the region, the enemy, and the ally. As for those whose assessment of the situation is governed by innate cowardice or psychological hatred, it is very natural for them to expect the extent of the reaction that even the enemy has not thought of until now...!!

All of this talk is just retrospective wisdom, after we saw with our own eyes what our analytical mind did not see before what happened happened, and we do not dare to claim that we are more aware and wise than those who wrote this heroic epic that will be recorded in human history as one of the best, creative, and professional military plans throughout ancient and contemporary history.

## **Legitimate Reproach**

If there is anything for which we can rightly blame the leadership of the resistance, it is the lack of a mature plan to manage the internal front, while acknowledging that a large part of the failure is based on previous failure related to assessing the enemy's reaction, and despite our knowledge of the existence of a ready plan for a state of emergency and our realization that the battle was beyond expectations, I think it could have been better than it was, but at the same time we find many who are biased on this point more than necessary, and that a war of this cruelty and a brutal, comprehensive targeting of all components of the movement and government work was enough to bring down

lines and reach the vital areas, the “hearts” of the cities, under this inferno of unprecedented bombing and bloody killing.

If the enemy’s reaction had been fully calculated, the size of the tunnels and combat nodes in the vital areas, the “hearts” of the “cities,” would have been ten times what they were, the attack would have taken into account a very large number of captives, the combat fire support weapons, including rockets and artillery, would have been rationed in proportion to the length of the battle, engineering and explosive equipment would have been created in proportion to the size of the enemy’s attack, and a sufficient reserve of various types of equipment would have been prepared for the battle of attrition and expulsion.

## **Retrospective Wisdom:**

Fairness requires that we not place too much blame on the resistance regarding its assessment of the enemy’s reaction, first because the narrow circle of decision-making in such an attack deprives the decision-maker of the breadth of thought and diversity of opinions, and an attack with this tactic cannot succeed with the expansion of the circle of its makers.

Secondly, because the overwhelming majority of analysts, politicians, and even leaders of political action, especially the geniuses among them, did not expect even on October 10th the extent of the enemy’s reaction today, and I say October 10th, that is, after the extent of the attack by the resistance became clear, and samples of the enemy’s reactions became clear, so how can we ask to place the utmost blame on someone who did not expect the enemy’s reaction in the way we saw, while they are planning an attack whose results will be much less than this success that

on one military site to abduct only 3 soldiers...?

In the strategic dimension, what will change in the essence of the conflict then? A new small battle that Gaza pays the price for fiercely, consuming a large part of its weapons and equipment that need years to be restored due to the tripartite siege by the occupation, Egypt, and the [Palestinian] Authority, then Gaza returns to the same point it ended at in the rounds of 2008, 2012, 2014, and 2021, with a further tightening of the siege and a greater crisis in the resistance project, and remaining in the outcome of “stay where you are.”

Then what guarantees the enemy’s reaction in the first place? Who other than the enemy has the right to classify the attack as small or large? What is the guarantee that prevents the enemy, if we minimize the attack, from carrying out a large-scale aggression as happened exactly and completely, under the pretext of removing Hamas from power and recovering the three abducted soldiers or even one soldier, then rallying behind them all the conspiring forces that rallied behind them in the 2006 Lebanon War and then rallied behind them after October 7th?

Hezbollah’s attack from Lebanon in 2006 was classified as minor, while the enemy’s response was a fierce war on southern Lebanon with international support. Things could have been worse had its forces not failed miserably to achieve victory on the ground, the terrain of which served the Party, given the occupation’s lack of readiness for such a battle. Even Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, may Allah have mercy on him, announced that he did not expect the enemy’s response to be this large and this cruel.

Almost all of the Zionist training in the recent period has been for urban warfare, and whether the expected battle was initiated by the enemy or a reaction from it, the indicators suggest that

the intention to bring about a radical change in the reality of the resistance in Gaza was present and strong.

Then all the intelligence indicators of the resistance, and the indicators of the enemy's media and political escalation, suggested a sudden, large, and harsh strike coming, in which the enemy's planes would target all the senior leadership of the resistance, all the way to the executive leadership in some influential files. The previous strike on the leaders of the Al-Quds Brigades was a very small model of what was awaiting the Al-Qassam Brigades, the spearhead of the resistance in Gaza.

Then the resistance will be forced to fight back, in which the enemy will have won with its first shot. Then the enemy may deal with the resistance's response as a justification for launching a broad attack on Gaza, and we will pay the same price that was paid after the October 7 Battle, but without having the negotiating power that we had acquired as a result of the attack.

The strongest pressure card we have today, and the main gain that gives us the margin of presence at the negotiating table, is the large number of captives in the hands of the resistance, which is a result of the size of the major attack on October 7, which some think that reducing it might give us a better position...!

Imagine the battle today, if the resistance did not have this number of captives, who represent the strongest pressure factor in the effects of the enemy's internal politics. You will not find anyone in the enemy's political ranks who disagrees with the principle of war or complains about its cost. Rather, the internal political disagreement and contradiction among the enemy revolves around the enemy's captives held by the resistance, and the necessity of their return.

the enemy would receive such international cover and regional disregard for this horrific, illogical, and unprecedented scale of the brutal use of force against civilians.

In my opinion, this flaw is the fundamental reason explaining all the policies before and after the October 7 attack, because the resistance's assessment of the enemy's reaction is the basis for the attack plan, and more importantly the defense plan, as well as the plan to deal with the home front.

Some people think that correctly assessing the enemy's reaction means that the resistance will not launch its attack, or that it will be small and limited. This is in fact a recipe for repeating the repeated and trying the tried, or it is in essence a recipe for capitulation disguised as a mask of wise insight, because as long as you resist, nothing in the whole world can guarantee the level of the enemy's reaction, because in reality the enemy's reaction is always proportionate to what he wants, not to what we have done, and Palestinian history is a renewed witness.

Therefore, when talking about this flaw, I do not mean not carrying out the [October] 7th attack based on a sound expectation of the enemy's reaction, but rather setting the defensive and offensive plans based on a sound assessment of the situation, which means a change in the style and structure of defense, as well as a change in some details related to attack. I do not mean at all reducing the size of the attack or reducing its objectives.

The defense and combat support fire management were designed based on the assessment of the situation, which dictates that the battle time is short, the enemy is not prepared to pay the price of occupying the region at the present time, and the enemy is not able to use what we have seen of excessive force with international cover and support, which would enable it to break the defensive

the necessary proof of their docileness, and striving to avoid their excuses to attack them, it will not hesitate to devour them or bite off some of their superfluous limbs, perhaps because it only saw in a dream a disturbing vision about the future of its seventh grandchild, and that, as you know, is a strong excuse and the world always understands it easily...!

Those who advise the resistance not to give the enemy a pretext for aggression are only ashamed to demand that it surrender. Unfortunately, some people, out of ignorance and on purpose, like to hold the resistance responsible for the zionist barbarity, because it is easy for cowards and those with distorted consciousness, and there are many of them, to find someone to hold responsible for their suffering without finding themselves forced to bear the cost of fighting them. Therefore, instead of fighting the enemy and achieving our revenge on them, they called for the easiest options and cursed those who resist, and this is a model found in all the revolutions of the world.

## Fundamental Flaw

I do not find that the resistance had made a mistake in the attack, neither in the idea of the attack, nor in its size or timing. The only fundamental mistake that the resistance made was its assessment of the stable intelligence situation regarding the size of the enemy's reaction.

The assessment of the situation was centered around the expectation of a violent reaction similar to the 2014 battle, with a broader ground invasion, but in the overall outcome it remains limited, without reaching the depths of the densely populated residential areas, "vital areas," as it was not in the imagination that

The most regrettable thing in this case is not that the attack was large, but that the attack was not large enough to capture 3,500 captives instead of the number of captives which was approximately 250–350 captives. The resistance cannot be blamed for that, except as a kind of wisdom in retrospect, because the resistance actually, and in its best ambitions, did not expect its attack to succeed on 10% of the sites it attacked, and planning a successful attack that would lead to the capture of 3,000 captives was not reasonable at the time, before the facts on the ground in the Flood showed the fragility of this enemy in the face of the might of the Palestinian fighter.

Minimizing the attack would have made no difference except for the loss of our most important bargaining chip with the enemy to stop the aggression.

## The Pretext for Brutality

It is a mistake to think that the plan for a comprehensive attack on the Gaza Strip is a reaction to the events of October 7. Political matters in our conflict with the occupation are not proceeding in this direction at all.

The occupation deals strategically according to the logic of cost and threat, and its plans to occupy the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, Lebanon, or even a ground war with Egypt, Jordan, or Syria, are ready and are developed annually. The essence of the matter is when it will use this plan and add the latest improvements to it for implementation.

Plans for a ground attack on Gaza were ready, but they were locked in drawers, because the cost of the attack did not match

the size of the threat. When the threat from Gaza rose above the cost, the plan came to light, final improvements were hastily made, and then implementation took place.

Whether the [October] 7th attack happened or not, the occupation's plan for the attack was ready, and whether Gaza turned from a state of disturbance to a state of threat, in October 2023 or December 2050, the plan will also be ready and proportionate to what the resistance is preparing with differences in the balance of power, perhaps in our favor and perhaps in favor of the occupation.

More importantly, and what we must be absolutely certain of, is that the enemy was not avoiding the battle with Gaza but rather postponing it, searching for an appropriate time when it would possess a decisive security or technological superiority that would reduce the cost of attack and reoccupation. But suddenly it found itself in the heart of the battle, and the resistance had advanced a step ahead of it, depriving it of the element of surprise, and seizing from it a tiring pressure card, represented by the large number of captives, and this in itself was a baffling blow to the occupation's strategic plan.

It may be said that it gave it at the same time a justification for the attack, and a pretext for brutality, but I am absolutely certain that this enemy does not need a justification, and that this world did not need pretexts in its support for the [zionist] entity. If the enemy had decided to occupy Gaza as a pre-emptive strike against a potential threat, its behavior would have been similar, and it would certainly have announced that it was a temporary operation to ensure the security of the [zionist] entity. The world has an amazing ability to understand the sons of Uncle Sam, and the model of the crushing strike on the Syrian army and the blatant violation of Syrian land following the fall of the regime is

a simple and miniature model of the insolence of the occupation and its dispensation with pretexts.

The brutality used in the war was not an element of luxury, or just an act of retaliation. The brutality used was part of the attack plan prepared in advance before the brutal war. It was a condition for the success of the plan and not an investment in it. The enemy could not have reached the depth it reached, and achieved the field results it wanted to achieve, without this brutal force that terrorized the people. The brutality was necessary, according to its estimates, to make the resistance lose the command and control system, by eliminating everything available to it from the leadership ranks, and emptying the field of civilians, considering them an operational obstacle that requires taking into account the prolongation of the battle and the slow movement of the forces, which makes them valuable prey that drowns them in the mud of the field.

The brutality used in Lebanon, the complete desecration of civilians, and the total destruction of a number of villages after their inhabitants were forcibly evacuated, was not, for the enemy, a reaction to a massive attack, but merely an operational need to reduce the cost of a ground attack, just as happened in Gaza.

In conclusion, if the enemy had decided to attack Gaza as part of its strategic plans, without the October 7 event, its field behavior would have been completely identical to the behavior it adopted in this battle, and thus the October 7 attack was not the reason for this brutality on the part of the enemy nor the complete silence of the world.

We are facing an enemy that throughout its history does not need excuses but creates them. While its opponents stand like docile lambs, offering all the duties of obedience, providing all