

The Revolution of the Stones and Palestinian Culture

An essay on the significance of Palestinian national consciousness by Faysal Darraj.

Upon arrival in Palestine, the Zionist project claimed «a land without a people for a people without a land.» After the establishment of its state, Zionism did not change its attitude. Once Golda Meir said, «Palestinians do not exist.»

Years later, Rafael Eitan declared, «A Palestinian is no more than a cockroach.» Quite extraordinarily, this «cockroach» has been occupying the political stage in the Middle East for more than twenty years. I'm not going to quote the German saying that: «In the mirror, an ape can only see an ape,» to avoid a possible racist trap. Yet, I would say that the struggle of the Palestinian militant does clearly show that Zionism has just been raving. Cockroaches can never throw stones.

The tragedy of Palestine stemmed from the emergence of the Zionist project, more exactly, from the position and function of the Zionist entity in the imperialist strategy for the Middle East. It is impossible to talk about the present, past or future of the Palestinians without reference to the history of the

Zionist movement. The Palestinian or militant Arab fighting against imperialism is incapable of scoring victory without defeating the Zionist project. Palestinian victory, when realised, doesn't mean more than enabling the Palestinians to restore the conditions of their existence as ordinary human beings, with the right to freedom, peace, security and happiness in a democratic state.

Zionism is not only a racist political movement, it is the movement in which the Palestinians read the whole history of their innumerable tragedies: Deir Yasin, Kafr Qassem, Samuu', Sabra and Shatila, the bombardment of peaceful camps, the siege of Beirut, etc. Thus, the struggle of the Palestinian against the Zionist project is a moral necessity and defense of human values like freedom, dignity, reason and independence. The Zionist entity is not a state in the traditional sense of the term; it is the political expression of an obscurant, racist, colonial ideology, which confiscates land, ruins people and violates all standards of democracy and rationalism. In

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