



## The Zionist Project from a non Zionist perspective - a lecture by Reuven Abergil

Friday, 5 June 2009

*Reuven Abergil - one of the key figures of the former Israeli movement known as the "[Black Panthers](#)" gave a lecture on June 5, 2009 to a group of American students from Idaho University. The lecture was translated into English by Michal Zak and transcribed by WAS-NS intern Diana Webster.*

*Note that the accuracy of the information brought here has not been verified, and that the opinions expressed by the speaker (who is not a community resident) do not necessarily reflect those of the community of Wahat al-Salam - Neve Shalom or its members. The transcript has been included as an example of an activity that may be ordered by visiting groups, and in order to present a narrative that is rarely heard.*

*Readers are welcome to leave comments below the article or by writing to the community.*

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Everytime I sit with people I am excited over and over again. Over the years I may have met one million people. Every time I think what should I do to get people to understand the real story of this place. Sometimes people leave the meeting with questions and doubts because it is hard for them to believe the wrongdoing and the evil that was done here. It is very hard to grasp that the group that tells the world about their pain and the wrongdoing done to them is at the same time doing something just as wrong to others.

It is hard to argue with them because they tell about their suffering in the Holocaust. When you tell them that they are doing horrible things, they tell you: you don't know the meaning of horrible, you weren't in the Holocaust.

But, that's not the story.

The real story is that the Zionist movement uses the Holocaust as a tool to oppress other people who were not in the Holocaust. The Zionist movement justifies its actions by discriminating and controlling the natives. They're using the Holocaust in a way that can be misleading to the whole world and to the local people as well. The people here are victims to this abuse.

The people in the world know that the story here is between the Zionists and Palestinians, that's what most people see when they talk about this area. No one has heard any other story. The reason for that is that the Zionist movement uses its power to camouflage the different minorities here.

This is where my personal story intertwines with the Palestinian story. I am Jewish and I came from an Arab country. My culture, the culture of my parents and all of my ancestors were rooted in Arab culture. You can say that I am an Arab Jew. How can it be that I am an Arab Jew? Shimon Peres, our President, can say "I am a Polish Jew." I am Arab. I was looked at by the European hegemonic group here as an Arab and not as a Jew. The ideology and dream of the Zionist movement was for Israel to be a Western country. So when they went forward to control land, they also began deporting the Arabs that lived here. It started before the 1948 war; in 1947 under the supervision of the British they had already succeeded in destroying 514 Arab villages and towns and to deport the Palestinians.

If you look at this from a demographic point of view, the Jewish Zionist movement, who were the oppressors at that time were the minority here. The Zionist movement decided to recruit Jews from Arab countries to replace the Palestinian Arabs who were deported. Jews had been living in Arab countries for thousands of years, they didn't have the aspiration to come here, and they lived in prosperity. They were well off and they lived in peace with the Arabs of their respective countries. This is in contrast with what happened to Jews in Europe and Eastern Europe

especially, since they were always persecuted and there were pogroms, with the biggest one, the Holocaust, which killed six million Jews.

The Jews in Europe had a reason to find another place to live. But they found a place which was not empty. There were people here who at first received them with open arms and saw them as partners in building this land. I am telling this from my own personal perspective as a person who grew up in an Arab country. The custom is that you always welcome those who come to you even if you don't particularly agree or like them. Being a good host is part of the culture.

From my experience I can also say the Palestinians were very welcoming. They opened their homes and lands to those who came. Because of that custom they didn't notice that they were bringing into their tents a poisonous snake. That snake ate and ate and became bigger and bigger until it became a monstrous animal; then it was too hard to oppose it.

The Jews here were often supported by Western colonial powers, which supported the movement for their colonial interests. After World War II they supposedly supported the Zionist movement to compensate for what happened in the Holocaust. But their real interests were the need to have a hold in the Middle East. After many countries under colonialism were getting their independence, the West needed some kind of hold in the Middle East, so the Zionist movement used the Western countries and the Western countries used the Zionist movement. They had a mutual interest.

A metaphor for where the West can have a base to control the Middle East.

We should not confuse ourselves; the Zionists' rhetoric never stopped stressing that they face toward the West. They see themselves as part of the West. Even yesterday after Obama's speech in Cairo, Landau, the right-wing member of government said: "What does Obama want from us? .... We are guarding the West in this area."

If you look back and read Theodor Herzl's book (he is the one who envisioned the state of Israel, and was the spokesperson for the Zionist movement), you see that when he first came here and saw the land he wrote that he was so disappointed. He wrote that it was very primitive, stinking, not developed and was not at all what he envisioned.

They're always trying to convince themselves that they are part of the West but they are actually living in the Levant, in the blackest place in the Middle East surrounded by 300 million Arabs. It is as far from the West as can be.

This lie hit them in the face in '48 and '49 when they expelled one million Palestinians and instead brought in one million Arab Jews. What did they do? They expelled Arabs and brought other Arabs in their place. They were very calculated. It's a known colonial practice: if you want to prosper economically you need to have people who are weak that you can control for your needs. That was the reasoning behind bringing Jews from the Arab countries.

Like we said the Jews in the Arab countries were prosperous, had jobs, had families, communities, so what would make them want to come here?

Between 1906-1929, in spite of the Balfour Declaration which allowed Jews to come to Palestine, Jews from Europe didn't want to come. Three and a half million Jews preferred to emigrate from East Europe to the United States. The plans to have a big Jewish community here were not working.

Since the Europeans didn't want to come, and the Jews from Arab countries didn't have a reason to come, the demographic situation here was a mess. They started to cooperate with Arab leaders, in a manipulative and corrupt ways, in order to persuade the Jews to come here. At that time there were colonial countries controlling the Arab countries, mainly France and Britain, and it was under their eyes that this was going on.

All these players worked together in order to try and persuade the Jews to leave, but it didn't work. They had a good reason not to come. Their situation in the Arab countries was excellent. The situation of the Jews in Europe after the Second World War was very different. The European Jews were devastated; they were stripped of everything they had, both spiritually and economically.

The deal with the Arab leaders was: You will expel the Jews from your countries. We'll take them and leave all of their possessions behind. Their jobs and homes will remain, which makes this a good economic deal because the Jews were quite prosperous. There was a lot of money under the table but the Jews still didn't want to leave. So the Zionists started to contact mercenaries, local criminals, both Jews and Muslims, who made trouble in the community. Mercenaries were paid to set fire to a synagogue, throw grenades into a synagogue or kill people in the streets. When that started to happen, the Zionist leaders called it pogroms and suggested that the Jews leave and come to Israel.

These practices are not new. The CIA used similar practices to try to break down the Black Panthers in the U.S. In order to break their unity, the CIA infiltrated drugs into their community which started fights between the members. The Israelis are also doing similar things with the Arabs today.

Until today, the Zionist movement denies the use of such practices. We have a lot of witnesses who confess that they collaborated and committed these acts. There are eye-witnesses as well, so we know that these things happened.

The Jews that were brought from Europe after World War II came straight to the port of Haifa, while the Jews from North Africa were taken to Europe, mostly France, where they had to stay for more than a year. The stopover was supposed to destroy our family structure and make us use up all the money we had so that when we came to Israel we would be with even less power, less united than we really were and less able to do anything.

"Selection" was the term used by the Zionists to justify the tour from North Africa via Europe to Israel. We were nine in my family, and it took us two years until we reached Israel. We were first taken to Algeria, then to Toulouse, then to Marseilles. It was a kind of prison camp that the Zionist movement created for the Jews from North Africa.

On top of that we didn't know what was going on in Israel at the time, and how our private piece of horrified history was reflected here. Journalists were sent from Israel to cover what was going on in the camps and they wrote very vicious, hateful articles about how primitive we are. We said before that the communities in North Africa were prosperous and developed but those journalists wrote things that were very similar to what the anti-Semites wrote about Jews in Europe.

We know our history, how people like the Nazi [Joseph] Goebbels, used propaganda against Jews in Europe. There are films that show that Jews are like rats, that they are eating up all the food, and contaminating Germany with diseases, and that they are parasites and live like leeches. Those journalists were using the same terminology and projecting what was done to them onto us. We didn't know this was the atmosphere that was developing in Israel and when we came we met a very antagonistic society.

Just as an example, the state of Israel cynically asked the UN Health Commission to donate money to the new State because it needed to combat all these diseases which we didn't really have. In the report they wrote that the Jews from Iraq are coming with syphilis, and the Jews from N. Africa are coming with very contagious eye and skin diseases and there is a danger that the whole country will be infected.

One untold story that happened was that criminal gangs that were part of the governing bodies kidnapped our babies for money. They told families they were taking the babies for a medical examination at the hospital, or said the baby had died. They took the babies away from us. This chapter in our history is called the capture of Yemenite babies, since most of the babies were from Yemen. We are talking about thousands of babies who disappeared.

Until today, people are struggling to find out the truth about the children; where they are and who the criminals are. The State doesn't allow us to investigate this big incident.

Another story that we did manage to un-cover is very scary. It could be compared to what Dr. [Josef] Mengele did. This affair took place in cooperation with the U.S. Government. I encourage you to check in Google what I am about to tell you, it has been written about. There was a scientist called Rontgen, who invented the x-ray machine and later died from his own experiments in radiation. The U.S. Government wanted to continue to develop the x-ray machine. It was around the time the bombs were dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and part of the interest was to check the affect of radiation on humans.

The company that was incooperation with the government to development the X-ray machine was the Pickard company.

There were two fields of research at that time: scientists looked at the effects of the bombs and at the effects of x-ray machines on humans. The researchers of the bomb made a radiation spectrum to know the effects of the bomb. To know if when you are closer to the effects of the bomb, if you are in a wider surface to measure the affects of the radiation from that point of view. Tests were conducted mostly on Native Americans and Japanese in the camps during the war, in order to test the effects of radiation from the machines. People who passed those experiments in the US were later found to be sick and deformed, and some years later human rights organizations appealed to the high courts for compensation. Compensation was given in millions of dollars to people who were hurt and eventually the Pickard Company had to stop these tests in the US. That brought them to look for other countries; mostly 3rd world countries, where they could find corrupt leaders who allowed them to continue the research.

The Americans also found partners in the Zionist movement. The US promised whoever took part in this experiment hundreds of millions of dollars. The head of the research team in Israel was the young Dr. Sheba: Today Dr. Sheba in my opinion is a criminal who has become an Israeli hero. Half of the state of Israel is named after him. There are institutions and roads in his name including a big governmental hospital, he is commemorated and very well-known.

The research started in the camps in Europe when the North African Jews were waiting to immigrate to Israel. The French knew about it and agreed to the Zionists opening clinics to experiment with the x-ray machine on humans.

Each one of us has sat under an x-ray machine, and we see how the technicians run out of the room and how they put a big lead coat on us. Today the whole process is controlled with good safety codes. From all the research that was done from Hiroshima and Nagasaki, in the clinics I am talking about, the scientists knew that there was a limit to how much radiation a person should be exposed to. According to international health codes, you can expose an adult to maximum 350 rad (units) and a child to maximum 200 rad.

One hundred thousand Jewish children from North Africa participated in the experiments without their parents' consent and knowledge. Twenty thousand died immediately. They were burned because the radiation level that was used on them in a series of irradiations, was 20,000 rad . Four of my brothers died of cancer as a result of these experiments. Today, most of the people who were exposed to these experiments have cancer or are severely sick.

What did the Zionists achieve from being part of this big experiment? They received payment of 300,000 Israeli Lira, an amount which was six times higher than the health budget at that time.

From 1948 to the early 1970s we saw people dying and we didn't know why. Nobody told us that we were part of an experiment. We started to see there was a pattern and all those who were sick were treated against what we thought was a skin disease called ringworm. This is a skin disease where you have a bald spot in your hair. Children get it - it is similar to lice. Parents in North Africa would treat it with vinegar and other home remedies. Usually it goes away after a few weeks and it is not contagious.

As I mentioned before, the Israeli government spread propaganda that we were spreading diseases. They said that a good way to fight this terrible disease, which is not terrible at all, with radiation. That is what they told our families. When we started to investigate what had happened, we found similar things were done to the Palestinians. We were in enclosed camps in France, the Palestinians here were under military regime (from 1948- 1965 the Arabs living in Israel were kept under a military regime). Similar to when the U.S. took Japanese citizens during World War II and

put then under encampment. The Palestinians in proper Israel were under military regime and they also took Palestinian children, not just Jewish children. They experimented with anyone who could be controlled.

We can start to see that the Zionist leadership was a group of criminals with a lot of power. You probably think I am hallucinating: it sounds like something the Nazis would do, and it is so horrible. It is hard to believe a Jew would do this to another Jew. When we started to ask questions and started an investigation, the State closed in on us. They didn't let us investigate, and we couldn't get access to any of the documents.

The Zionist Jews are known for being well-organized. How do we know they are well-organized? When you go to their archives you can see they have kept little notes and scraps from everyone. You can find what Anne Frank wrote, you can find what some man wrote in a village from Poland, and they archive and collect all data. We started to ask questions about the Yemenite babies and the ringworm children and we were told the archives were set on fire, and the data we asked for was burned.

The health minister gave Prof. Modan a mandate to check what happen during the "ringworm treatments," to see if they were successful. Prof. Modan got material from the government. This data was more confidential than the information about the atom bomb that Israel has. When we reached him, he said he only had 18,000 medical files, all the files were of people who had died and he had said it was not ethical to give files of people who have past. So, the minister of health refused to make them public. We wanted the files so we could be informed what was done to us and maybe prepare ourselves, since no one knew how much radiation they were exposed to.

One man from Beer Sheba was very sick and he wanted to invest his money and find the criminals who had done this to him. I also would have done it but I don't have the money. He used his money to go and look through the archives. He finally got to the Spielberg archives and that's where we first saw pictures of the barracks where we stayed in France. It looks like the camps in Germany, with lines of children waiting. They don't have numbers on their arms, but you can see a note with their number tied around their neck and they are waiting to go into the treatment room.

We publicized these pictures and the government became very nervous. It was the first time that we had documents and pictures. They asked us to keep quiet because it wouldn't look good for the Jewish people if this came out. In order to keep us quiet they passed a law in parliament in 1994, that we would get compensation. But the criminal continued to act like a criminal, and their law was cruel. If a person wants to claim compensation, he or she has to prove that they were indeed exposed to this experiment. The law says that if the committee thinks that you don't have enough evidence, you don't have a right to appeal to a higher committee.

Take me for example. I was six years old when I was put under this x-ray machine and now I am almost 70. My parents are dead, so who would I bring in as my witnesses? The only truth that I can bring as evidence is the cancer that I have in my head. The committee decided that if you have cancer from the neck down that's not from the radiations, and if you have cancer from the neck up then it could be from the radiation. A lot of times the cancer spreads. How can I prove that this was done to me? It's like proving that I was raped.

The stories I told you until now are things that happened inside "the family". One brother hurting another brother. If I can't even tell that and have people believe me, how can I tell you that this brother is also hitting the neighbor? I can only imagine if one brother hits another brother so hard that if he is hitting the neighbor then he is probably hitting him much harder.

But what I find out is that these people don't have a brother, they don't have a God. They aren't afraid of anything.

I grew up in this place for more than sixty years I can feel, I can see what is happening. It is difficult for me to tell my story when my neighbors (the Palestinians) are going through a much worse kind of oppression. It is as if I never have the space to tell about my suffering, since there is a bigger oppression that is going on. Sometimes it gets even more complex because I am also part of the Zionist story that is oppressing the Palestinians. Even if I personally don't oppress the Palestinians, and on the contrary I fight side by side with them, my son and grandson by law have to go to the army and they do oppress the Palestinians.

As people who try to do good deeds in the world, we ask questions and we try to be on the side of the victims. So how can we explain that there are a lot of people who want to do good, and there are more and more people in the world who are victimized. My question is, Are we doing the right thing? Maybe we are not doing the right thing; maybe we are not asking the right questions. Maybe what we are doing is trying to clean our own conscience. What should be done, that's my question? I want to ask if we even have the ability to create change. I say one person can change the world, if there is belief. It doesn't matter what you believe in, it has to be a strong belief with no doubt, because evil is everywhere. The big picture is so huge, that it makes it hard for me to tell you my small story, of how I go to sleep, what I think about, how I wake up, what I say when I wake up, what I gave my children to eat in the morning, who is waiting for me at the checkpoint, what will I find when I come back from there - maybe I might not even come back.

There is a way to break down this group of criminals, like criminals everywhere in the world, since the evil is not only here. The way to do it is to be persistent. It is important to understand that not everything is about money. Sometimes the financial aid you send becomes a means to continue the problem and not solve it.

The colonialists and the oppressors know that if you pour in a lot of money it will make everyone fall asleep and stop them from struggling or opposing the issue at stake. I speak to you. Even if you don't live here it is not enough to send a check. You need to constantly question the people who are running your countries. You have to send letters and demonstrate. You don't have to come here and demonstrate in Bi'lin. You should demonstrate under the windows of your leaders in Europe or in the US, who support the criminals here. If the Zionists will be isolated they will not be able to continue to do the crimes they are doing now. Our aim should be to find their partners and struggle against them.

The partnership between Palestinians and Arab Jews is an impossible partnership. From a psychological point of view, as an Arab Jew I want to associate myself with the ones who have power in the country. That is why the solution here is abnormal and sick. Both the Palestinians and the Arab Jews are looking at the criminal to solve their oppression. We are all falling into that same trap, a trap that is set by the Zionist leaders and their European partners.

What we have here is a profile of a criminal who is also oppressing; he is my doctor, my psychologist and my social worker. He also heads the human rights organizations that I go to. One such person is our president Shimon Peres who received the Noble Peace Prize.

Let us look at this phenomenon empirically: who is Shimon Peres, How come he deserves a Noble Prize? All the doors are open to him. The leaders in the world, including the Arab leaders welcome him. Are all the criminals cooperating with him or am I paranoid?

I'm not paranoid. I know him; I grew up with him in this country. I also know his "landlord", Ben-Gurion. This man is the leader of a peace group here in Israel. Peres is the head of The Peres Peace Center which is built like a monument, like the Roman King Herod who built castles to glorify himself. The Peres Peace Center is built in Jaffa on land that was confiscated from Palestinian families. This man receives donations from Europe to lead groups like Peace Now, Peace Later, Peace Tomorrow. This is the same man who established the first settlements in the West Bank. We are still fighting this cancerous settlements project and we don't have x-ray machines to help us. That is not all; he is also responsible for building the biggest nuclear plant in the Middle East and Europe, right here in Israel, with the help of the British and the French.

So you understand how these people work; on the one hand they commit all these crimes and on the other hand you can't say anything critical against them, because they were in the Holocaust. They are developing the biggest nuclear centers in the region and at the same time complaining that Ahmadinejad is building a nuclear power plant in Iran.

Don't get me wrong, I'm against nuclear power everywhere. I personally went through the ringworm treatment. I know exactly what it means to be irradiated. Peres is the architect of crime, he is the top of the pyramid, we can call him the Pope of the crime. If we want to analyze and break down the crime it will take us a long time. It has been going on for 120 years. I don't expect you to be part of my research of this 120-year-old crime. But what I want you

to do when you are here in this area is open your eyes, ask questions and think all the time what happens to the individual, simple person that leaves his home in the morning to go to work; what happens to him. Try to expose the lies that are told to you.

I want to thank you for listening to me; I apologize that I couldn't do it in your language. In the 60 years I have been here I didn't get the opportunity to get an education. I only have a small ability to express myself in Hebrew. I was not given the opportunity to learn and get a higher education.

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