

TANZEEM-E-ISLAMI



Striving for the Law of Allah, on the Land of Allah

PERSPECTIVE

The online journal newsletter of Tanzeem-e-Islami

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PATRON: Ameer of Tanzeem-e-Islami, Mohtaram Shujaiddin Shaikh

'PERSPECTIVE' is a trend-setting journal issued by Tanzeem-e-Islami that focuses on a candid commentary on the current national and international issues, in the light of the Qur'an and the Sunnah.

A blend that gives Muslims an insight into the events of the past, those happenings at present and the Signs of things to come...

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The Online Journal of Tanzeem-e-Islami

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From the Qur'an

When My servants ask you about Me, then (tell them that) I am near. I respond to the call of one when he prays to Me; so they should respond to Me, and have faith in Me, so that they may be on the right path.

(*Surah Al-Baqarah: 186*)

Hadith

It has been narrated on the authority of Abdullah (RA) who said:

On the day he returned from the Battle of Ahzab, the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) made for us an announcement that nobody would say his Zuhr prayer but in the quarters of Banu Quraiza (Some) people, being afraid that the time for prayer would expire, said their prayers before reaching the street of Banu Quraiza. The others said: We will not say our prayer except where the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) has ordered us to say it even if the time expires. When he learned of the difference in the view of the two groups of the people, the Messenger of Allah (ﷺ) did not blame anyone from the two groups.”

(*Sahih Muslim*)

All praise is due to Allah (SWT), and peace & blessing on his noble Messengers (AS), in particular, on the last of them all the blessed Prophet Muhammad (SAAW).

Gaza is under continued siege and vicious bombardment by the Israelis during the holy month of Ramadan despite the UNSC resolution calling for a ceasefire. The heartbreaking toll of the Israeli genocide continues to mount, with the latest victim being a five-year-old boy who succumbed to malnutrition, one of hundreds if not thousands already killed by the Israelis using famine as a weapon. As the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) issues dire warnings of impending famine, urging Israel to lift aid restrictions immediately, the world watches in horror as Palestinians mourn the loss of loved ones amidst relentless bombardment.

Oxfam's recent report underscores the escalating humanitarian crisis in Gaza, amidst international outcry over acute shortages of food, water, and medicine. The UN-backed Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC) paints a grim picture, indicating that famine could devastate northern Gaza between mid-March and May, with over 70% of the population facing dire hunger.

The Israeli army's relentless targeting of healthcare workers and infrastructure in Gaza is not a new phenomenon but rather a longstanding tactic employed by the Zionist state. Health has been systematically weaponized against the occupied Palestinian population, demonstrating a cruel and calculated strategy aimed at exacerbating human suffering and pushing survivors into exodus.

While the use of healthcare as a weapon in modern warfare is not unprecedented, the scale and intensity of its application in Gaza represent a disturbing escalation. Deliberate targeting of health infrastructure, manipulation of medical supplies and fuel availability, and imposition of restrictions on basic necessities all contribute to the destruction of healthcare as a tool of war.

Israel's objective in this strategy is clear: to amplify civilian casualties in Gaza and coerce the remaining population into fleeing their homes. By systematically dismantling healthcare systems, Israel aims to further incapacitate an already vulnerable population, leaving them without access to essential medical services in times of crisis.

Even before October 2023, Gaza's healthcare infrastructure was precariously balanced, with only 36 hospitals operating at full capacity and a meager total of 3,412 beds serving a population exceeding two million people. This translates to a maximum ratio of merely 1.55 hospital beds per 1,000 individuals across the entire region, highlighting the dire inadequacy of healthcare resources.

The deliberate destruction of healthcare infrastructure compounds the suffering of Palestinian civilians, depriving them of vital medical assistance and exacerbating the humanitarian crisis in Gaza. It underscores the urgent need for international intervention to hold Israel accountable for its systematic targeting of healthcare, ensuring the protection of civilians and upholding the principles of humanitarian law in conflict zones.

In January this year, the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) released statistics related to the medical situation being faced in Gaza due to the unrelenting Israeli aggression:

- 337 healthcare workers have been killed.
- 145 UN staff have been killed.
- 8 of 36 hospitals in Gaza are only partially functional, and they suffer from outages and major shortages of medical supplies.
- 26 of 36 hospitals in Gaza are damaged.
- 122 ambulances have been damaged.

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- 1.9 million Gaza residents are displaced.

The numbers are shocking, and the extent of damage is unfathomable, difficult to comprehend through numbers alone.

Furthermore, a recent report published by Médecins Sans Frontières / Doctors Without Borders (MSF) gives the harrowing details as follows:

- High levels of displacement and overcrowding in collective centres and scattered sites in the Gaza Strip continue with extremely challenging hygiene and sanitation conditions. On average, 340 individuals share one toilet, and 1,290 persons share one shower.
- The babies of 5,500 women who are due to give birth in the next month in the Gaza Strip are at risk of dying, as their mothers do not have access to prenatal or postnatal check-ups because of bombings and need to flee for safety. Anxiety is also leading to premature births, as reported by the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA).
- Over 90% of children aged 6-23 months and pregnant, breastfeeding women face severe food poverty with access to two or fewer food groups per day.

In addition to the above, withdrawal of fuel and power sources and the closure of all humanitarian corridors for the delivery of aid has created dire conditions for the outbreak of multiple epidemics. Cases of scabies, lice, chickenpox, skin rash, hepatitis A, and upper respiratory infections have been reportedly rising, in a context of disrupted vaccination campaigns and disease surveillance systems.

The weaponization of healthcare negates the right to exist and resist.

It is a means of collectively punishing a population and discouraging or deterring any form of resistance, whether peaceful or violent.

Francesca Albanese, UN Special Rapporteur on human rights in the Palestinian territories, has made damning allegations against Israel, suggesting violations of the UN Genocide Convention. In her report titled "Anatomy of a Genocide," Albanese has furnished irrefutable evidence accusing Israel of intentionally perpetrating genocidal violence against Palestinians in Gaza. Despite facing threats and pressure, Albanese remains steadfast in her pursuit of justice, calling for an end to the ongoing atrocities and the historical injustices of the Nakba.

Meanwhile, the introduction of the US-South Africa Bilateral Relations Review Act highlights the real face of the US. Hiding behind allegations and accusations against South Africa of aligning with Hamas and forging ties with China and Russia, the bill underscores the extent to which the lawmakers in the US are willing to gladly embrace moral depravity while defending Israeli crimes against humanity. Of course, South Africa is a 'pariah' that must be taught a lesson for bringing a case of genocide against Israel in the International court of Justice (ICJ)!

Meanwhile, a Gallup poll has revealed a significant shift in American sentiment towards Israel's actions in Gaza, with a majority now disapproving of the war on Gaza. As innocent lives in Gaza continue to be taken and communities ravaged by the Israeli military juggernaut, fully supported by US and Western Europe, the international community faces a moral imperative to act swiftly and decisively. The plight of Gaza underscores the urgent need for intervention, humanitarian aid, and a commitment to justice for the Palestinians, while holding Israel accountable to the fullest extent for its atrocities.

The recent surge of brutal violence and widespread destruction in Gaza is a deliberate and calculated strategy employed by Israeli authorities. From the very onset of the genocidal war, Israeli officials have openly expressed their intention to inflict significant civilian casualties, drawing chilling parallels to infamous historical events to justify their actions. Israeli authorities have shamelessly referenced historical atrocities such as the devastating bombing of Dresden and the use of nuclear weapons in Japan as templates for modern warfare, demonstrating a disturbing willingness to emulate past horrors. This deliberate invocation of mass civilian casualties as a tactic of war reflects a callous disregard for human life and a willingness to resort to extreme measures to achieve military objectives. Tzipi Hotovely, the genocidal Israeli ambassador to the UK, has brazenly echoed these sentiments, almost reveling in the death toll of 600,000 civilians in the Allied bombardment of Germany. Her callous remarks serve as a stark reminder of the dehumanizing rhetoric that underpins Israel's genocidal campaign in the region.

As the world bears witness to the horrors of genocidal warfare unleashed by Israel on Gaza, it is imperative that Muslim countries take decisive action to hold Israeli authorities accountable for their crimes against humanity. The lives of innocent civilians hang in the balance, and the perpetrators of such atrocities must be brought to justice to prevent further bloodshed and ensure a future of peace and justice for all inhabitants of the region and the world at large.

The need of the hour is for Muslim countries to unite under the banner of faith and Islamic brotherhood and come forward to practically help their oppressed Palestinian brothers and sisters. All diplomatic and economic means against Israel and its allies should be fully utilized. Furthermore, according to the OIC mandate, military assistance should also be provided to Palestinian Muslims. The truth is that if (God forbid) Gaza falls, then Israel's next target will be the entire Arab world and then other Muslim countries. May Allah grant victory to the Palestinian Muslims and bestow the Muslim Ummah with the zeal of faith. *Ameen!*

Signing off...

Raza ul Haq (Editor)

What Aida of Khan Younis can teach us about courage

Amid the rubble and pain of Gaza, stories emerge of Palestinian bravery and generosity.

Ghada Ageel

In the days leading up to Ramadan, we heard the hopeful word “ceasefire”. The US president uttered it, and the media repeated it. For a short moment, the lives of Palestinians in Gaza hung in the balance, caught between the possibility of a truce for the holy month and Israel’s relentless drive to eliminate my people from the face of the Earth. International Women’s Day came and went; women in Canada, where I physically live, celebrated; women in Gaza, where my heart is, faced another day struggling to help their families survive. Still, no sign of a ceasefire.

In the evening, on the TV – which we have not turned off in our house since October 7 – we heard breaking news: the Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) had targeted the area around al-Masri Tower in Rafah. Al-Masri is one of the oldest residential blocks in Rafah. It used to house dozens of families, but many more were sheltering there since the war began. My Uncle Fathi and his extended family were among them. I screamed in disbelief.

Seeing my anguish, my youngest son Aziz whispered, trying to console me. “Mom, at least the tower is not struck directly like the homes of Uncle Nayif or Uncle Harb. Uncle Fathi is lucky. Thank Allah.” This is the new marker of luck in Gaza: not dying, managing to escape an Israeli attack that renders you homeless. The weight of loss and uncertainty loomed heavy while I waited to hear about my relatives’ fate. Uncle Fathi, his wife, his adult children and their families, his brothers and their families, nephews and nieces and other members of the extended family, had fled to Rafah after the Israeli army invaded Khan Younis. Uncle Fathi worked for many years in Saudi Arabia before returning to Gaza to work as a teacher with the United Nations in Khan Younis refugee camp. The whole family are highly educated professionals who lived in a beautiful home in Khan Younis, which was destroyed in December by an Israeli air strike.

Shortly after, Uncle Fathi posted to Facebook showing a before and after image of their house. He wrote, “This is our beloved home, that has vanished. The fruit of hard work and toil for 40 years was destroyed and annihilated by the occupation army who claim to be moral. I wonder what my home did to them ... Did it fight them? ... This is the collective punishment of humans, of stones, and all forms of life... Allah is sufficient for us, and the best disposer of affairs.” My cousin Ahmad, Uncle Fathi’s son, had gone back to see what was left of their home. That is when he learned that some neighbours – relatives of my husband – had stayed behind to care for elderly and disabled people who could not be moved. They had all sheltered in the diwan (the family hall for social gatherings) of one house. Then the bombs struck and killed 18 of them.

Ahmad recounted the horror, his words searing into my soul. He told me how he collected the body parts of my husband’s family – old people, children, and women – scattered everywhere. He did what he could for the dead, then he had to think of the living. He went through the rubble of his family home, looking for children’s toys and clothes to take to their new shelter in al-Masri Tower. As the attack on al-Masri Tower unfolded, I stayed glued to the TV, praying that my relatives had survived. I was worried that even if they had, my uncle with his heart problems and high blood pressure, would be at risk. Ahmad had expressed deep fear for his father’s health the last time we had spoken. A few hours later, it was confirmed that the tower had been hit. People documented it with their cell phone cameras. I tried to sleep.

The first thing I saw upon opening my eyes the next morning was a video clip recorded by a young man showing the raw emotions, the chaos and the uncertainty on the faces of the young and the old amid the darkness; the heartbreaking cries of little children could be heard in the background. “It’s 3am, and I’m still in the street with my family. The tower was hit with five rockets. We don’t know where to go, but thank God, we are alive,” he said. Then a message came from my cousin Mohammed, Uncle Fathi’s other son, a professor in Oman, saying, “Ghada, my dad and the families left the building 30 minutes before it got hit. My father is okay.” Relief flooded over me.

The weekend moved on from Uncle Fathi and his family’s fate to new horrors unfolding as Ramadan drew closer. I was involved in a constant stream of phone calls and text messages with family members in Canada and the Middle East. We sought news to reassure ourselves that one family member or another had survived some terrible suffering. My Aunt Aziza’s trembling voice over the phone from the United Arab Emirates relayed the harrowing news of the arrest of several of our relatives by the IOF in Hamad town, Khan Younis. They had returned to their abandoned home to retrieve some items, thinking the Israeli military had withdrawn from the area. But IOF soldiers showed up and surrounded them. Part of the large group were three of my cousins. They, along with all other men, were stripped to their underwear, their dignity torn apart in an act of unfathomable humiliation before their families. They were subjected to interrogation and cruel beatings before being taken to an unknown place.

(Continued on page 4)

The agony of witnessing such horror proved too much for one of my relatives. Jamal, the nine-year-old disabled son of one of my cousins, Shaima, suffered convulsive seizures. The Israeli soldiers, not knowing what to do with her and her ill and hungry child, released them after several hours of being held in the street. She was ordered to run away without looking back. Terrified of being shot if she turned her head to see the fate of the others, she immediately left with her son in her arms, looking only ahead. She walked, carrying her son all the way from Hamad to al-Mawasi and crying over the horror she had just witnessed, not knowing how she would deliver the devastating news to our family.

This news shattered my heart. Would we ever see our cousins again? Would they be released, or would they suffer the same fate as the many Gaza men taken hostage by the IOF, then either shot dead or imprisoned in torture centres? I could not sleep. The next day I spent time on Facebook searching for news about my family. The crescent moon was anticipated that night to usher in the holy month. I wondered about those of us who chose to fast and those who were enduring forced starvation in Gaza.

Then I saw a post by my uncle Hany, about his experience returning to check on his home in Khan Younis refugee camp, after evacuating on Christmas Eve. He wrote:

“I went home. There was severe destruction in the place. In front of me is a rectangular building that I know, which sustained minor damage. I was able to determine the coordinates of my house. Someone shouted from among the mountains of rubble, ‘Don’t take this rugged path, take that path,’ and he pointed with his hand. I arrived with difficulty, the place was filled with rubble. A shell cut off the neck of my only palm tree ... Even my tree has a place in my heart. I searched for Abu Khudair, my cat, but I could not find him. Someone told me that he had seen the cat and that he was alive. I didn’t stay long. I didn’t come to mourn stones. I left from the other side of the camp. I turned around when a girl shouted, ‘Thank Allah for your safety.’ It was [our neighbour] Aida! I shouted in surprise, ‘What has brought you here, you crazy girl?’ She said, ‘I did not leave at all. I stayed with my father.’ Aida had little luck in life. She had little education and came from a poor family and her father had lost his movement and his memory. ‘How could I leave him? Either we live together or we die together’ she said.”

His post continued: “How was Aida able to take care of her father for all this time while death hovered over their heads for weeks? That girl is the greatest, bravest, smartest and most pious ... Aida is an icon. I said to myself as I controlled my steps to balance on the hills of rubble: Who among us could measure up to Aida’s strength? No one. She is a martyr living on Earth.”

Across the Gaza Strip, as the Ramadan moon came into view, people would greet each other with the words “Ramadan Kareem” which means “Ramadan is generous”. Others would respond “Allah Akram” which means “Allah is the most generous”.

Indeed, Allah is the most generous and Aida’s lived experience is one more proof of it.

Aida stands in stark contrast to those who have chosen to ignore the genocide. She is a beacon of courage and hope in the darkest moments. Her very presence among us exposes the barbarity of global politics and the cowardice of political leaders who choose to tolerate genocide and refuse to stop it. Who among them could ever rise to Aida’s level? Thank Allah she has lived to see another day.

Link: <https://www.aljazeera.com/opinions/2024/3/23/what-aida-of-khan-younis-can-teach-us-about-courage>

Press Release issued by Tanzeem-e-Islami

27 March 2024

The battle of Badr was the first big stride towards the supremacy and prevalence of the Truth (Islam).

Lahore (PR): This was said by the Ameer of Tanzeem e Islami, **Shujaiddin Shaikh**, in a statement. The Ameer said that on the 17th Day of Ramadan in the 2nd year of Hijrah, 313 Muslims (Companions RA) under the leadership of the Holy Prophet (SAAW) challenged an army of the polytheists three time their size and equipped to the teeth with weaponry, setting an illustrious example of courage and bravery for all times to come during the battle of Badr. Allah (SWT) declared it as “Yuum al Furqan” (the decisive day) and granted Muslims a glorious victory in this great battle between Truth and falsehood and merely 6 years later the Muslims captured the city of Makkah during the holy month of Ramadan in the 8th year of Hijrah, thus paving the way for the imminent establishment of the Deen of Allah (SWT) in the Arabian Peninsula. The truth is that the mighty struggle waged for the establishment of the Deen of Allah (SWT) almost 1450 years ago is a beacon for every member of the Muslim Ummah. The Muslims are subjugated today because they have failed to enforce and establish the Deen of Allah (SWT) on the individual and collective levels. Allah (SWT) has removed the terror of the Muslims from the hearts of the disbelievers due to the weakness of faith and avoidance of the Quran and Jihad by them, and Muslims today are being oppressed and brutalized by the malevolent force all over the globe. The Ameer said that the need of the hour is to revive the spirit of the Battle of Badr. If the aura of ‘Badr’ is recreated, then Muslims may expect to receive the succor of Allah (SWT) and would become eligible for success in this world and the Hereafter.



Press Releases issued by Tanzeem-e-Islami

22 March 2024

The Muslims of the Indo-Pak subcontinent affirmed their commitment to the two-nation theory on March 23rd.

Lahore (PR): This was said by the Ameer of Tanzeem e Islami, **Shujauddin Shaikh**, in a statement. The Ameer said that the resolution passed on the 23rd of March, 1940, was the first step towards the direction which the visionary of Pakistan, Allama Iqbal, had set for the nation in Muslim League's annual conference in Allahabad. He added that following this, Muslims all over Hindustan formally initiated a struggle for attaining a separate homeland under the motto: "*Pakistan Ka Matlab Kya La Ilaha Ilallah*". This slogan gave birth to such a public awakening and consciousness that the British Raj along with the Hindu majority were incapacitated, and within a span of 7 short years, the vision of Pakistan materialized. This miracle only occurred because of that motto, but unfortunately, practicing on the shariah and enforcing it in the country did not remain in our priorities and we started to progress towards secularism instead of adopting the Islamic system. No civilian or military government in the country's history made any progress towards the enforcement of Islam. Every successive government did not even hesitate to stake the national security to obtain riba-based loans from the IMF. Therefore, we became destined for humiliation and ignominy. The Ameer said that the meekness and lack of courage of the Pakistani government and establishment is evident from the fact that besieged Gaza, which has been the target of vicious Zionist bombing for the last five and a half months, is now facing acute famine, yet we are not prepared to openly support our Muslim brothers and sisters in Gaza even morally, let alone provide any practical assistance. This, despite the fact that the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, had declared Israel an illegitimate child of the West and had expressed his determination that Pakistan would provide all kinds of financial and military assistance to the Palestinians in times of need. The Ameer said that on March 23rd, our nation must make a firm commitment that it will strive to fulfill its promise to Allah (SWT) and work towards making Pakistan a genuine Islamic welfare state, so that Pakistan could achieve strength and stability, and we could be eligible for success in the Hereafter.

16 March 2024

Pakistan and Afghanistan should demonstrate patience and tolerance instead of incitement.

Lahore (PR): This was said by the Ameer of Tanzeem e Islami, **Shujauddin Shaikh**, in a statement. The Ameer said that Pakistan and Afghanistan are not only brotherly countries but also neighbors, bound in the bonds of Islamic brotherhood and respect. He said that the reality is that America is still licking its wounds from the humiliating defeat in Afghanistan. The US has been looking to get Pakistani bases once again against Afghanistan and it is also orchestrating terrorism in Pakistan through its agents in the TTP. He said that indeed terrorism is unbearable for Pakistan, but the Pakistani government should also understand that the perennial enemy of Muslims, is on one hand is supporting Israel with munitions and money to perpetrates the genocide of Palestinians, and on the other hand engaged in intrigues, through CIA, RAW, and Mossad agents, to disrupt relations in Pakistan and Afghanistan. The Ameer said that it is imperative for both Afghanistan and Pakistan to comprehend the intrigues of our common enemy and negotiate to find a solution through dialogue to their problems so that this bloodshed in Pakistan can be stopped, and the nefarious US designs can be thwarted.

24 March 2024

We should make every possible effort to become eligible for absolution and salvation during the holy month of Ramadan.

Lahore (PR): This was said by the Ameer of Tanzeem e Islami, **Shujauddin Shaikh**, in a statement. The Ameer said that the second ten days of Ramadan have been described as the period to seek forgiveness and salvation in a hadith. The holy month of Ramadan is the 'spring season' for accumulating good deeds and reaping rewards, and Allah's (SWT) divine attribute of forgiving and giving salvation gushes infinitely during this month. We should see the pleasure and nearness of Allah (SWT), sincerely repent for our sins with humility, while fasting during day and standing for the night prayers. We should pray for the reward of Jannat ul Firdous and seek refuge from the punishment of the Hellfire. We should offer supererogatory prayers and make supplications for the oppressed Muslims of the world. By virtue of this sacred month, may Allah (SWT) bestow on us the inspiration for reflecting on our deeds throughout the year, during our entire life. *Aameen!*