

The Palestinian Conflict

A Metaphor for understand the problem

Dear Reader

Let's suppose that you, your wife, your five children and your parents are living in a nice two floor house. Your home has a car box and a small handicraft business attached, a garden, a field and a stable with some cows. It is your family's property since ages and where you make a living with your handicraft business and by growing crops and farming your cows.

One day a man comes up and asks you if he could stay at your place for some days with his family. You let them in the guest room at the ground floor. He pays you a small rent. As time goes by **They** (your guest and his relatives) grow bolder and start using your laundry, then your garden, then also your car, and then they stop paying you the rent.

One day your patience comes to end. You call them to order but they threaten you with killing. You're scared and search shelter at your cousin's. While you are absent **They** (the zionists) make themselves comfortable on the first floor. When you are back they don't let you in. You have no other choice but to stay at the guest room on the ground floor. If you go upstairs to the first floor **They** hit you. As it wouldn't be enough, **They** also shoot at you and kill one of your sons. You call the police, but you're answered that they have no time.

One day **They** start using your laboratory. They also expand it. With their ability, their international relations and the underpaid labor of two of your sons they make a small factory out of your former business.

One day relatives of **Theirs** arrive. They suffered difficult times and are in trouble. Needless to say, you are forced to free the guest room and move to the garage. Your sons have to sleep in a tent and your parents camp on the road.

One day you are so fed up that try to get them out by force: you kill one of their sons, but **They** fire back and kill another one of your sons, und **They** also damage your garage and destroy your tent. In the mean time in your home and in the neighborhood any trace of yours has been removed and replaced by the emblem of **Their** family, which sticks on everything. You call the police (the English), but they don't know what to do because they also fear **Them** und they suggest you to go stay at your cousin's.

One day the issue ends up at court (UN) : unashamed **They** affirm that the property is theirs because nobody lived there when they arrived, their ancestors already lived there 2000 years ago with the help of God, **They** transformed the once dry land into a green garden, **They** created a solid industry and now, thanks to **Them**, everything is tidy and clean. **They** do not forget to remind of their brothers who got killed by the gangsters (the Nazis) in a foreign country. You too are a believer, but **They**, lying, claim that God is on their side, not yours, and yours is but a pure religious dispute.

Considering the current situation and facing the fact that **They** destroyed the land registers and all kind of documents, the judge "impartially" decides that the house and the laboratory belongs to **Them**, the garden, the car box, the field and the stable to you.

Them as next they kill the judge's supervisor (Bernadotte) and raise a fence overnight to prevent you from accessing the stable and the field. You helplessly look at them milking your cows and using your equipment. You become furious and want to conquer back your house with the help of friends and neighbors (Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon). But **They** fight back and hit everyone, and on top **They** occupy all the property and the neighbors' vegetable-gardens (the Sinai + Golan) to also get their vegetables.

Back again at court the judge grants the permission to your sons to stay in the guest room. You are allowed to stay in the car box, but you have to repair it at your own expense.

They employ to your sons in the stable from time to time.

One day, with the help of a powerful friend (the US), and by alternating threats with the promise of giving back a part of the vegetable-garden, **They** convince your neighbors to no longer help you. In the meantime **They** work steadily at your definitive expulsion: to convince you to leave **They** destroy the car box where you live, check your mail and your phone calls, watch any move of yours, seize your car, smash your TV set.... **They** finance all of these interventions with the taxes they collect from you to pay **Their** administration. And as if this is not enough, they also receive an indemnity for the death of their brothers abroad. You are reduced in misery, and **They** prosper.

The judge gives you a tent as a gift and grants a miserable indemnity to your parents, who are living in a temporarily but definitive shelter on the land of one of your neighbors Two of your sons live as good as they can at the ground floor, while your third son has emigrated abroad and sends you at intervals some money.

One day **They** put a gate at the entry of your garden and one at the entrance of the house. You can neither visit your sons nor your parents; you can not even go to work, to the market, to school or to the hospital. Your parents and your emigrant son are denied entrance. In the meantime, other relatives of **Theirs** arrive and stay in a camper parked in the garden. Saying that he can become dangerous **They** kill your faithful dog.

One day you give in and admit your defeat. You renounce to your house and accept it is now **Theirs** in change of the possibility of living in freedom in the garden and of rebuilding the garage. **They** say they are glad you finally admitted that **They** are the legitimate owners of the properties, but they demur on the others subjects. Unfortunately, in the meantime some of **Them** swear at you, destroy your tent again, chop the olive trees from which you got your income and turn off the water supply. **They** also "generously" offer you to settle down in a corner of the garden under their control.

One day, because the situation degenerates and becomes unbearable: you take a gun, shoot at the house and wound one of them. **They** reply by killing another son of yours, hit you, imprison you in the closet, state that you're a dangerous terrorist and declare that **They** no longer talk to you until you get reasonable. And on top of this your wife blames you for your ineptitude and threatens to hit her own road and leave you alone.

One day, at the top of desperation your son starts throwing stones at **Them**. **Their** reply with rifles, cannons, bombs, helicopters, tanks, prohibitions, controls, destruction and imprisonment with a high separation wall. The public opinion only gets one-sided information (**Their** side), think that you're violent and refuse to help you. Many people, including the judge, keep silent because they are afraid of **Their** powerful friend, or feel sorry for the slaughter of their brothers in another land.

Someone starts saying that you just create disorder, that helping you is too expensive, that you should have accepted their generous offer and that maybe it would be better that you go away.

Others stigmatize the situation but do not dare an intervention, others simply have no interest.

Dear Reader: if you are in this miserable condition you can be nobody else than a **Palestinian**.

Who are the other "actors"? **They** are the Zionists, the police are the English during the mandate, the judge is the UN, the people (public opinion) are the international community, the neighbors are Egypt, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, their powerful friend the US, the wife is Hamas, ...

Now how can we convince **Them** to give back the stolen goods, or at least allow an acceptable cohabitation?

Ask the CD free of charges with the history of Palestine in PowerPoint

(1000 historic images, 50 maps, comments, etc. – French, Italian, German, English or Spanish) to:

imparalavita@bluemail.ch (with your postmail address)

