

I knew that sooner or later we would be getting stories about the long suffering people of Gaza. The other morning CNN was full of such stories, focused mainly on the closed (by Egypt) Rafiah crossing and no assurances from Hamas that they would not steal the aid for the people of Gaza. Of course Israel is to blame for Egypt's refusal and the kleptocratic Hamas. Dara Horn wrote a book "People Love Dead Jews". We saw this to be true in the media coverage of the Hamas massacre and atrocities of Oct 7. However, it seems that people don't love Jews fighting back. Well, as Yair Lapid said in his speech to the Knesset as leader of the opposition, "Don't preach to us how to fight Hamas. It was our children they murdered. Not your children."

I have asked myself some questions, probably rhetorical, but I am surprised that humanitarians and other people of good will haven't asked themselves some of these same questions. For instance:

What benefit does a Hamas attack on Israel have for the people of Gaza?

I am trying to determine if such an attack, no matter how successful, increases the welfare of the human beings resident in the Gaza territory. Everyone seems to know the kind of response that will be made by Israel. Does the damage caused by the Israeli response outweigh the benefits of the attack? If not, what were the leaders of Hamas thinking?

How does Israel deal with an organization that is willing to sacrifice the lives of so many of its own citizenry in order to kill a much smaller number of Jews? Why do outside observers not seem to contemplate the moral issues this raises?

Another question that occurs to me comes from the words of critics of Israel and many of the talking heads who tell us that Hamas wants Israel to attack and kill Gazan civilians. Israeli armed forces killing residents of Gaza is seen by such experts as highly desirable on the part of Hamas, because it makes for great anti-Israel propaganda. I have to ask myself, is this a consequence of the Western mass media's desire for stories that fit the criteria of "If it bleeds, it leads" or is there some other factor at work here? Hamas is primed for this and so is the western press. As an example, one only has to look at the Hamas announcement that Israel bombed a Gaza hospital and killed 500 civilians. Not only did much of the western press swallow this lie hook, line and sinker but their response was knee jerk, quickly repeating the lie around the world without the necessity for any independent confirmation.

Now let's look at that hospital incident a little closer. The Gaza Health Ministry, which should be more accurately labeled the Hamas Health Ministry, claimed that 500 people were killed. Later on the claim was reduced to between 100 to 200. In the original press reports neither the casualty claim nor the charge that it was an Israeli bomb or shell that did the damage was preceded by the word "unsubstantiated". In fact whenever Gaza casualty figures are reported, never does the word "unsubstantiated" appear before the number. After all, if there is one thing that the hospital bombing proves, it is that Hamas inflates the number of killed. In addition why is the Hamas Ministry of health not queried on how many of the dead are innocent civilians or Hamas terrorists? The numbers are just reported as factual and assumed to be only civilians.

I have often heard it claimed that the 1949 armistice lines are widely recognized as international borders. Why has no press report indicated that Hamas invaded across a widely recognized international border? In fact, why has the word aggression not been used to describe the attack?

Another absence that I find puzzling is why don't the media which describes the Israeli settlements on the West Bank as "illegal under international law" not bother to declare the Hamas attack as illegal under international law. In fact, why is international law only mentioned very sparsely and only in relation to alleged violations by Israel?

Of course all of this leads back to a general question. How can people of good will lend any support to a leadership whose goal is to kill as many Jews as they can no matter the cost in Palestinian lives and welfare?