

Reply to Ramon Villar, Scij member, Catalonia, Spain

from: Rom Nachman, Member of the Scij Israel Delegation

Hello dear friend Ramon, how are you? I hope you and your family are well. You asked if everything is fine here in Israel in an email two weeks ago. I am honored to respond to you as your good friend. That's how I feel, and I'm sure you also see me as a friend after over two decades of friendship and skiing together around the world on various ski trips organized by the World Skiing Organization, including twice in beautiful Catalonia and the meeting in Israel in 2017. I apologize in advance for my lengthy response

So, in my family and also in Israel, not everything is fine. After a cold-blooded murder and a massacre of 1,400 Israelis, some of whom also hold Spanish, other European or American citizenship. A real trauma followed the abduction of 240 Israelis and other Europeans, including babies and the elderly, who were held captive by Hamas in the tunnels for a month and a half since the brutal Hamas attack on October 7, 2023.

Hamas, the extreme terrorist organization that unveiled its cruelty in a way that shocked us (and many around the world). How can one understand savages who behead children, shoot at pregnant women, and then burn them together? (You can see this from their own GoPro cameras. They proudly published it, which is repulsive).

I was very disappointed to read in your email that it mentions the death of 40 Palestinian journalists in Israel's retaliatory attack in the Gaza Strip, and that we, as "skiing journalists," should talk about it. I haven't read a single word about condemnation and anger against Hamas, the insane organization that murdered entire families with their children and caused all the suffering in Gaza, yes, to its own citizens, its own children. It uses them shamelessly as human shields. It uses schools, mosques, and hospitals as bases to launch massive missile attacks against Israel (3,000 missiles just on the day of the attack on October 7, 2023, and another 6,500 missiles since then until writing these lines).

Hamas hides there and knows that Israel won't harm these places. Hamas, contrary to all international humanism and convention, is the cause of the greatest suffering for Muslims themselves. They shoot at their own people and prevent those who want humanitarian aid for southern Gaza from leaving only because they serve as a pitiful human shield. The cowards of Hamas hide deep in their tunnels and don't care about what happens above them. The poor civilians die while their leaders continue to celebrate in different countries around the world, staying in luxurious hotels in Qatar and say how the Muslims in Gaza are poor and in danger. But their leadership enjoys a luxurious life outside of Gaza...

My friend Ramon, did you know that Hamas built a 500 km metro system of tunnels under Gaza? And for what? Not to transport civilians and children for their comfort and well-being. The tunnels serve as a terrorist base for all their weapon warehouses, for constructing explosives and for murder. Imagine that the entire metro system in Barcelona, the capital of Catalonia, is shorter than the length of the metro built by Hamas under Gaza! And ask yourself Ramon, where did all the vast amount of money required for such a large and destructive project come from? It comes from funds that the Muslim Arabs (commonly referred to as "Muslims") received from so many humanitarian organizations around the world who wanted to help them. Also from wealthy Muslim countries, so that they can build educational institutions, roads, hospitals, urban development for the well-being of their residents. To benefit from the prosperity that this region can offer, if they only wished.

Instead, billions of dollars were diverted to build terror tunnels and missiles to launch indiscriminately against Israel in an attempt to kill as many Israelis/Jews as possible. It's sad. It's tragic

My friend Ramon, even in Catalonia there were attempts to gain independence from the central government in Madrid. I myself witnessed protests in Barcelona and saw the yellow ribbons you tied as a symbol of demanding and protesting for Catalonia's independence and detenies. I haven't heard of Catalans entering villages and other cities in Spain, killing children and mothers in order to win their struggle.

I suppose that if that were happening, we wouldn't even be able to communicate. Tanks from Madrid would have erased Catalonia. Furthermore, even during the difficult period that Spain went through with the Basque Country's independence attempts, the Basque underground organization, ETA (Euskadi Ta Askatasuna), never resorted to entering villages in Spain to slaughter elders and children in their struggle. They also never kidnapped infants and women for barbaric purposes. To the best of my knowledge, they usually even issued warnings before carrying out attacks. And this is while they claim independence that they believe is owed to them for about 2,000 years, dating back to the Roman era.

My friend Ramon, since I already mentioned the aspirations of the Catalans and the Basques for independence, a brief historical summary of our region will remind you that here in Israel, the Israelis/Jews have been in the Holy Land for 4,000 years continuously, from the time of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, until today.

My friend, I know that you are knowledgeable and interested in history. It is well-known to you that Muslims did not exist at all during that period, neither in Israel nor in the entire world. If we move on in time, 1,000 years later, 3,000 years ago, the first kingdom of King David and his son Solomon arose in Israel. Muslims, still, did not exist in the world. When the Greeks arrived with Alexander the Great, around the 4th century BCE, and later the Romans in the 1st century BCE, Muslims still did not exist in Israel or in the world. Do you agree with me up to this point? Thank you.

The first time that Muslims entered our world was only in the 7th century CE (approximately 2,700 years after the Israelites in Israel...!!), when the Prophet Muhammad founded the religion of Islam. Yes, only then.

It was the dream of the Prophet Muhammad, as written in the Quran in Chapter 17, where Muhammad flew in his dream on a miraculous horse called "Al-Buraq" and landed in Jerusalem. But only in a dream. Since then, the desire of Muslims to be in Jerusalem in the Holy Land has been strong because Muhammad landed there in his dream. And for that purpose, many have been killed along the way.

For this reason, Muslims come to Israel and stay here, intermittently, amidst the Christians (crusaders) and the Ottomans who also seek to control this land.

My friend Ramon, I certainly don't need to remind you that Muslims also conquered your land, Spain, in 711 CE (around the same time they arrived in Israel). It took you 800 years to expel them in the Reconquista - the reconquest. You managed to expel them only in the year 1492. Yes, together with the expulsion of the Jews. The expulsion of Spain. In one package. The only difference is that Muslims wanted and still want to control you, while the Jews in your land only contributed to the prosperity of the Spanish Empire and strengthened it without any aspirations to replace you in power. Long live the small difference.

I read an article by the famous Spanish writer Sebastian Villar Rodríguez. Surely you are familiar with him. This is what he writes:

"I was walking the streets of Barcelona and suddenly I discovered a terrible truth - Europe is dying in Auschwitz! We killed six million Jews and replaced them with 20 million Muslims in the past four decades..."

And continuing: **"They (the Muslims) have bombed our trains and turned our beautiful Spanish cities into third world, stained with filth and crime... In the apartments they receive and with free money from the government, they plan the murder and destruction of their innocent hosts...."** End of quote.

Dear Ramon, you know very well that this is not only in Spain. It is the aspiration of Muslims in all of Europe and the free world. To control the world through Islam against the "infidels" (Christians and Jews). And against whom not? They say this with arrogance, throwing insults at the enlightened countries that, in their foolishness, agreed to accept them as immigrants. There are many places in Europe where you might be afraid to go because Muslims live there.

Recently, I visited Marseille, and if it weren't for local warnings, I could have been attacked in a Muslim neighborhood, where even the French police are afraid to enter.

What Muslims want to do in Israel - destroy it - is exactly what they want to do everywhere. So maybe it's not right to look at this issue only as a problem in Israel. It is a problem of the free and democratic world.

My friend Ramon, if you'll allow me, just for the sake of order, to you and perhaps to others, I will briefly summarize the continuation of the essence of the history here in Israel.

After the Muslims, in 1917 the British arrived in Israel. Israel was ruled by the British Empire. In fact, the entire Middle East was ruled by the French and the British. Even the Muslim countries around us, our neighbors today.

It was the decision of the United Nations in 1947 to divide the land between the Muslims and the Jews, and thus the borders of the countries in our region were drawn. Israel was given a very small country, less than 20,000 square kilometers (for comparison, Catalonia has an area of 32,108 square kilometers and the state of New Jersey in the United States has an area of 22,591 square kilometers). The Israelis had no choice, we accepted the decision and wanted to live in peace in a quiet country. However, the Muslims did not accept the decision and started a war, which was the War of Independence for Israel in 1948.

Just to clarify, the Muslims around us have hundreds of millions of square kilometers. It was not enough for them. They wanted the small land of Israel. In Hebrew, we call it 'Kivsat Harash', which means To take everything. In fact, our annihilation.

I won't dwell on the many wars that Israel has had to fight for its right to live in peace on this small piece of land, dating back to the distant days of the Old Testament, centuries before the Muslims. I will only mention the Six-Day War in 1967. Israel once again fought against three surrounding Muslim countries (Jordan, Egypt, Syria), emerged victorious in a brilliant way, and expanded its territory.

I mostly know about this war from my father, who was a combat pilot in the Israeli Air Force. He told me that the Six-Day War essentially ended after just three hours on its first day. The Air Force completely destroyed the airports and planes of Jordan, Syria, and Egypt within three hours on the morning of June 5, 1967. It took another five days to conquer the land with the help of ground troops.

From this war, we see the problems of today. The Muslims in the occupied territories, of course, did not accept the occupation, and we suffered from their acts of terror and suicide bombings in Israel. Therefore, it was decided to return those occupied territories. The Sinai Peninsula was returned to Egypt, and the West Bank was returned to

Jordan. A peace agreement regarding this was signed between Israel, Egypt, and Jordan.

What's the problem?

Egypt signed a peace agreement in 1979 in the presence of US President Jimmy Carter, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, and Egyptian President Anwar Sadat. But what happened? President Sadat refused to take back the Gaza Strip. When Menachem Begin asked the Egyptian President (who claimed to have made a peace agreement with braves and was assassinated for it by extremist Muslims), why he wouldn't take back the Gaza Strip, President Sadat answered that he knows the Muslims who live there very well. They have caused him enough trouble in the past and he is not willing to take them back to Egypt.

A similar response was given by King Hussein of Jordan to Mr. Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister of Israel who signed the peace agreement with Jordan in 1994. King Hussein refused to take control of the West Bank. According to him, the Muslims in the West Bank have caused him so much trouble and he would be happy not to have them return to Jordan. Therefore, the territories that were occupied in the Six-Day War in 1967 could not be returned to Egypt and Jordan.

As a result, the new entity of Muslims in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank (formerly part of Egypt and Jordan) was created, the Palestinian autonomy, and they call themselves Palestinians.

Why this name? They are trying to deceive and claim that they have been here since the 12th century BCE (the period of the Philistines) by misleadingly using the name of the Philistines.

The names may sound similar, right? Well, no. They are not the same people. Who were the Philistines? They were seafaring people from Europe, primarily from Greece, Italy, and Cyprus, who arrived on trade ships to the shores of Israel and built along it 6-7 cities. Among them are Gaza, Gat, Ashkelon, Ashdod, Jaffa, Ekron, and even Tel Aviv (which was originally called Tel Qasila). The Philistines were in constant struggle and, alternately, in cooperation with the Israelites since they settled here around 1200 BCE and completely left Israel around 604 BCE (they were actually expelled by the Babylonian Empire under Nebuchadnezzar). Only the name of the Philistines remains for the entire southern coastal strip of Israel, which is still called "Philistia" to this day. That's the origin of the name.

My friend Ramon, many years later, in the year 132 AD, the Roman Emperor Hadrian arrives in the land of Israel to deal with the Jewish rebellion against the Romans. Yes, Jews have continuously lived in Israel throughout history. The rebellion from the year 132 AD is known as the Bar Kokhba revolt. The entire Roman Tenth Legion *prætensis* fought in Israel. Eventually, the day ended with Hadrian's victory over the Jews. However, this victory came at a great cost, and the famous letter that Hadrian sent to the Senate in Rome is not in the usual wording: **'If you and your children have peace, how good. As for me and my legions, peace.'**

That's not what Emperor Hadrian wrote in his letter, and from that, we understand the severity of his losses.

My friend Ramon, why am I mentioning this? Because after the rebellion, Hadrian was so furious and vengeful that he decided to erase the name of Judea and Israel and change it to Palestine. He wanted the place to be forgotten and restored the previous name of the Philistines.

Now, the Palestinians of this days use this name (with some variation) and claim to be the Philistines who were in Israel in the distant past, from the time of the Philistines... But we must not be confused !

The Philistines come from the west, while the Palestinians (Muslims) come from the east. They are two different places and two different times. However, it is very easy to confuse people who are not familiar with history. I have asked many tourists who come to Israel if they are aware of these differences. They were amazed that this is the correct history. It is difficult for them to believe that Islam entered our world only in the 7th century AD, many years after Israelis have been living in Israel continuously (despite deportations and migrations) and many years after the Christians.

Similarly, according to the sacred book of Muslims, the Quran, it is not someone else's invention. It is written in the Quran. But it is easy for the Palestinians to deceive and manipulate enlightened Western countries.

For example, to claim that Israel bombed the Shifa Hospital in Gaza and killed 500 patients, while a malfunctioning rocket of theirs hit the hospital. This false propaganda was exposed from the Hamas recordings themselves and other objective footage. The BBC network hastily documented and claimed that Israel bombed a hospital contrary to all truth. So, without checking, they rushed to document the injuries to Hamas and the residents of Gaza and give it the main focus. The murder

of 1,400 Israelis and foreign nationals seemingly bothered them less. There was also no proper examination of the data.

Regarding the abduction of 240 Israelis and foreign nationals and the visits of the Red Cross to them, there was nothing to talk about. It saddened me to see biased and unprofessional coverage from that network.

And overall, my friend Ramon, how can you believe Hamas, which uses ambulances to smuggle weapons and terrorists instead of saving the sick? To see Hamas members forcefully stealing fuel and supplies that are meant for the people of Gaza instead of reaching them. Yes, Hamas hoards everything and stores it in their underground tunnels.

It is shameful to witness the directing of a photographer/journalist from Gaza who, with the help of a makeup artist, smears red paint on a small Gazan girl, pulls at her shirt, and writes, 'Look what the Israeli army is doing to our children...' or photographers/journalists, both Palestinian and possibly others, are riding freely and joyfully on motorcycles/trucks- with a Hamas member and weapons on the day of the infiltration into Israel, actively participating in the breach. Standing and capturing the inhumane act (a flattering term for Hamas), shooting at children, teenagers, and young girls and boys celebrating in the peace festival held on the same day. They burn them with fire, cut them, while the "journalists" by their side document it. Are you asking to talk about those Palestinian journalists and photographers who were "innocently" killed in Gaza? Let's please discuss.

My dear friend Ramon, if I may ask you, have you ever heard of an Israeli soldier beheading a Palestinian child or burning a pregnant woman? They don't even say such things. In Israel, it is the most moral army in the world. So moral that it costs us human lives. Where have you heard that before a house is bombed, they call its occupants and tell them to evacuate? What's known as "knocking on the roof." They warn Palestinian civilians in advance. This way, the wicked terrorists manage to escape. Yes, because one Israeli soldier has more morality and restraint than a thousand bloodthirsty Hamas.

Have you seen my friend Ramon, an Arab town in Israel, where we have 2 million Muslims, surrounded by fences and security measures against Israelis? You haven't seen that. And you have been in our country several times, most recently with me in 2017. In fact, it is only Israeli towns that have to enclose themselves with fences to protect

themselves. In Israel! In our own country! And that is the reality here, living alongside Muslims.

Ramon, you can also ask the Muslims living in Israel about their changed lives as equal rights citizens. They can share their experiences with you. Yes, they can live and study anywhere. Women can drive cars and go to the movies wearing skirts. They choose and are elected to the Israeli Knesset (Parliament). They currently have 10 seats representing them in the Knesset. Try asking those same Muslims living in Israel if they want to live or return to one of the surrounding Muslim countries. They will tremble. In no way will they leave Israel. And why? It is the only democracy in the Middle East where they can feel safe.

This is Israel. And it could have been the same for those Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank if only they had the intelligence to seize the opportunity to live with us in peace and harmony. This is a land flowing with milk and honey, there is room for everyone. But there is no place for those who want to destroy us.

Ramon my friend, do you know that until today, the Palestinian National Charter from 1964 (revised in 1968) includes Article 3, which states that the struggle will only end after the liberation of their homeland (Palestine), and Article 15 of the Charter quotes: **"To cleanse Palestine from the Zionist existence..."**. Furthermore, Article 19 cancels the establishment of Israel by the United Nations. There are other absurd clauses as well.

So, how can you make peace with people who seek to destroy you?

Does it seem logical to you that we need to endure another Holocaust? And why, because of false allegations that the Palestinians were here before us? Perhaps it would be better if they reread their own Quran and learned the facts of history.

Do you think there is any country in the world that could allow such a situation, where its citizens live in constant fear? Under the daily possibility of missiles and destruction in every area of Israel, constant fear of deranged terrorists infiltrating peaceful settlements just to kill?

I don't believe Catalonia would tolerate that as a daily routine, nor would Spain or any other civilized country.

In many countries in the Islamic world, killing one another is almost a norm, without law and without condemnation. However, that does not mean they are allowed to do so in Israel. It is Israel's full right to always protect its citizens, especially after a murderous attack on its civilians.

The right to self-defense allows for an attack on all Hamas targets in the Gaza Strip.

Let's look at Article 28 of the Geneva Convention, as quoted below:

"The presence of a protected person may not be used as a reason for immunity from military action aimed at specific military objectives or areas."

And yet, as I mentioned in the beginning of my response to you, Hamas cynically and unlawfully uses those hospitals and schools. They are exploiting human shields. Can they hide there and enjoy a protection that is not rightfully theirs?

Perhaps it is time for the world to understand that Israel's war against Hamas, which has proven to be more ruthless than ISIS and the Taliban, is a war that belongs to the enlightened world against extremist Islam. Don't leave Israel alone against them, turn a blind eye, and say, "But you also harm civilians..." Hey, wake up!

To conclude, I have chosen to quote a powerful statement made by former Israeli Prime Minister Miss Golda Meir, after the Yom Kippur War in 1973. When asked if she ever sees hope for peace between Arabs and Israelis, she responded: **"There will be peace when the Arabs love their children more than they hate the Jews."**

Ramon, my friend, with these words and warm greetings, I conclude my letter to you and hope to see you soon in better times.

With friendship, Rom Nachman, member of the SCIJ delegation - Israel.
Besos y abrazos.