

The Gaza Trap: A Calculated Strategy by Hamas and Qatar

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Many continue to believe that Gaza remains under Israeli occupation, even though Israel completely withdrew from the territory in 2006. Often overlooked in the public discourse is that Gaza also shares a border with Egypt. Despite widespread claims in the media of an exclusively Israeli blockade, Israel continued, up until October 7, to provide Gaza with water, electricity, fuel, and medical care. In 2023, the Gaza Strip, home to two million people, had 36 hospitals developed with Israeli support. Plans were even underway to expand the number of Gazan workers allowed into Israel from 18,000 to 50,000.

This reality stands in stark contrast to the accusations of genocide leveled against Israel. The Palestinian birth rate is among the highest in the world, and Gazans had ongoing access to Israeli healthcare. It is also worth recalling that the Palestinian Authority rejected a two-state solution offered by Israel on two occasions. The waves of suicide bombings that followed these rejections discredited the Israeli left and entrenched long-term mistrust.

Hamas: Architect of a Human Trap

Within this context, Hamas, with massive backing from Qatar, has carefully constructed a strategic trap. Diverting substantial international aid, it built a vast tunnel network stretching hundreds of kilometers to store missiles and embed its operatives among civilians. While its leaders claim to be starving, Hamas has amassed a military arsenal befitting a state. This stark contradiction underscores the cynical exploitation of Gazan suffering.

The October 7 massacre, whose brutality was openly embraced by its perpetrators, aimed to derail any prospect of negotiation. In contrast to the Nazis who sought to hide their crimes, Hamas proudly broadcasts its own. Its ideology, rooted in the Muslim Brotherhood, glorifies martyrdom and even the sacrifice of children. The movement's founder, Hassan al-Banna, summed up its ethos with the phrase: "Sacrifice is our greatest hope."

The objective was unambiguous: to provoke a massive Israeli response, ignite international outrage, and destroy any momentum toward peace—particularly between Israel and Saudi Arabia.

Gaza as a Media Battlefield

This strategy could not have succeeded without the active support of Qatar, which funds both Hamas and an extensive media influence campaign. Through Al Jazeera and significant investments in Western universities, Qatar helps shape public narratives, even within mainstream outlets. As early as October 8—before any major Israeli military response—pro-Palestinian demonstrations erupted on North American campuses. Many Western media outlets continue to cite figures from the so-called “Hamas Ministry of Health,” disregarding the fact that it is directly controlled by a terrorist organization.

Meanwhile, Gaza’s civilian population is exploited as a human shield. Hamas hoards humanitarian aid, bars civilians from sheltering in its tunnels, and sends children to beg with empty pots in front of cameras. It sabotages every peace initiative while presenting itself as the victim.

A Tragic Dilemma for Israel

Israel faces a dire dilemma. A prolonged military campaign to eradicate Hamas could fracture its own society and worsen its standing with the international community. But a ceasefire would allow Hamas to rearm and prepare for future massacres. Either way, the trap is working: Israel is forced to strike, drawing condemnation, while Hamas maintains control of the narrative.

Hamas’s strategy is ruthlessly effective: provoke war, manufacture civilian casualties, weaponize those casualties for global sympathy, and erode Israel’s legitimacy on the world stage.

Qatar, for its part, plays a perilous double game. It bankrolls Hamas and hosts its leadership, while simultaneously positioning itself as a diplomatic mediator. With billions invested in Western academic institutions (documented by the Institute for the study of Global Antisemitism & Policy)

and its media empire, it shapes public opinion. This sophisticated influence campaign has undermined the West's ability to assess the conflict with clarity.

What Lies Ahead?

Hamas has recently proposed a deal: release the hostages in exchange for the freedom to rearm. Israel has rejected the offer. The situation is reminiscent of a historical precedent—during World War II, the Allies demanded the unconditional surrender of Nazi Germany and conducted large-scale bombings without prior warning. Every war brings tragedy. Gaza is no exception.

Reconstruction will be long and difficult. But as long as the Muslim Brotherhood and the Iranian regime continue to pursue destabilization, peace will remain out of reach. Their actions should serve as a wake-up call for democratic societies. The teaching of hatred—still prevalent even under the Palestinian Authority—is the primary obstacle to lasting peace. This is not just rhetoric; it is a system, a political culture.

The trap set by Hamas and Qatar is more than a regional confrontation. It has become a global lever to undermine the West and delegitimize Israel. Escaping this trap will require not only military and diplomatic responses but, above all, a long-term effort toward deradicalization and education for peace.