

It destroyed hundreds of buildings in Gaza City and then progressed to the south of the Strip where, between December 28 and June 9, it entirely destroyed Khirbet Khuza'a, a town of 13,000 people close to the fence separating Gaza from Israel.

"We ... destroyed a whole village as a revenge for what they did to Kibbutz Nir Oz on 7/10," wrote Captain Chai Roe Cohen of the 8219 battalion's C Company in an Instagram post on January 7. Nir Oz lies just on the other side of the fence from Khirbet Khuza'a and was attacked on October 7, with about one-quarter of its residents killed or taken captive.

"The revenge rhetoric that we've heard from some Israeli soldiers ... is disturbing. Atrocities don't justify atrocities," Van Esveld told Al Jazeera. The 8219 was commanded during its operations in Gaza by Lt Col Meir Duvedvani.

"The International Criminal Court will ... look for those who are high up the chain of command ... and evidence coming directly from commanders about the orders that they gave and the way in which they command and control the troops would be vital evidence," said Dixon.

The I-Unit also scrutinised a video

placed online by a soldier called Shalom Gilbert, a member of the 202 Paratroopers Battalion. The video shows three unarmed men being killed by snipers.

"Just because a civilian is walking in an area where combat is going on does not make them fair game ... If they get involved in hostilities at a particular moment, yes, they lose their civilian status. They can be targeted. But then you have to show the evidence that they are presenting a threat to you ... It's potentially a matter that the International Criminal Court would want to look at," said Dixon.

The 202 contained a sniper team, known as the Ghost Unit, comprising 21 individuals.

Western complicity

The Israeli regime is currently under investigation for genocide at the International Court of Justice. This raises the possibility that any countries that have lent assistance to Israel's war effort may also be open to charges.

Between 2019 and 2023, 69 percent of Israeli arms imports came from the United States and 30 percent from Germany. Both have continued to supply weaponry throughout this conflict, although German supplies

have dipped since the beginning of this year.

The film features reporting by Declassified UK, which shows the central role played by the British base at RAF Akrotiri on the island of Cyprus. The British have been running surveillance flights over Gaza since early December, supposedly to facilitate the rescue of Israeli captives.

In the film, Declassified's Matt Kennard argued that this "doesn't explain" the flights. There were "only two British hostages in Gaza ... There was up to 1,000 hours of [surveillance] footage by March."

The R1 Shadow planes the British use have target acquisition capacity.

"When you start acting in a conflict to a level that the people on the ground who are doing the fighting are using your information as they fight," you may become "a party to the conflict," Van Esveld explained.

"If you continue to know and continue to supply weapons and targeting information, if you're supplying targeting information, despite knowing what the result is, and the result is a gross human rights violation, then you also get to complicity. So, you know, the deniability that you're deeply involved in what's going on in



▶ Palestinians are treated at the Khan Younis hospital after being wounded during an Israeli army bombardment of the Gaza Strip on December 5, 2023.
● FATIMA SHBAIR/AP

Gaza begins to evaporate," he added. The I-Unit asked the United Kingdom government about its surveillance flights. It told us: "The UK is not a participant in the conflict between Israel and Hamas ... As a matter of principle, we only provide intelligence to our allies where we are satisfied that it will be used in accordance with International Humanitarian Law ... Only information related to captive rescue is

passed to the Israeli authorities." It added: "Our priority remains achieving a ceasefire in Gaza so captives can be released, civilians protected and aid flood in."

The article first appeared on Al Jazeera.

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By Ebrahim Beheshti
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INTERVIEW
EXCLUSIVE

Gaza and Lebanon: Victims of global inaction

It's been a year since the outbreak of the Gaza war and Israel's assault on the region. More than 42,000 people have lost their lives in the past year. In recent weeks, Israel has shifted its attacks to southern Lebanon, and there is no end in sight to the conflict. International organizations have also proven powerless in exerting pressure on the Israeli regime. A similar scenario played out with Russia's war in Ukraine, which is still ongoing. The outbreak of these two wars, particularly the severity of Israel's atrocities in Gaza and Lebanon, and the international community's helplessness and the inaction of major powers, have raised a big question mark in the public's mind: Where is the world and international relations headed? In this regard, Iran Daily had an interview with Sasan Karimi, a scholar and researcher in international relations.



▶ A Palestinian reacts as a child is carried from the rubble of a building after an airstrike in Khan Younis, Gaza Strip, on Oct. 21, 2023.
● FATIMA SHBAIR/AP



▶ Smoke and flames rise over Beirut's southern suburbs after an Israeli strike, as seen from Sin El Fil, Lebanon, October 3, 2024.
● REUTERS

IRANDAILY: Many analysts argue that the Hamas attack on Israel last October, followed by the ensuing war in Gaza, as well as the ongoing conflict in Ukraine, have marked significant changes in the international order. The international community's inability to effectively address these crises has lent credence to this notion. In your opinion, are we witnessing the dawn of a new era in international relations?

KARIMI: I, however, disagree with these experts and believe that the October 7 attack and the subsequent Gaza war are still within the framework of the existing "post-polar" order, and therefore, there haven't been any significant changes in international relations.

After the collapse of the Soviet Union and the bipolar order, or the East-West bloc, the United States thought it could single-handedly manage the world, thus entering a unipolar world. However, it gradually became clear that managing the world in a unipolar manner was an illusion. The US itself realized this reality after the Persian Gulf War. In other words, the world is in a post-unipolar order where there is no single dominant power that can lead the world. In this order, various actors have entered the

scene, and non-state actors have also become players, including anti-security groups like Daesh (ISIS).

The October 7 attack revealed the weakening of the positions of international powers and organizations. There are global powers and organizations, but their determining power has been weakened. The October 7 attack on Israel was not carried out by a state, but by a political-military movement, confirming that in the post-unipolar order, these non-state organizations also have determining power.

What are the characteristics of this post-unipolar order? Does it serve the interests of more countries, or do major powers still reap the most benefits?

One of the key features of the post-unipolar order is the geographical relocation of power. In other words, power or the exercise of power is no longer limited to a specific region, such as the West. Instead, multiple actors are playing roles in different parts of the world on various issues. Another characteristic of this era is that we no longer see long-term alliances or fixed strategic partners. Rather, we see issue-based alliances, where two countries or actors may be united on one

issue while simultaneously disagreeing and competing on another. Furthermore, power has become more diffuse, extending beyond traditional hard power to include cultural, normative, and symbolic power. International actors are no longer limited to states and international organizations; new players have entered the scene.

Do you think this post-unipolar order will continue, or will the two major crises, the Ukraine and Gaza wars, change its trajectory?

After the collapse of the Soviet Union and the bipolar order, everyone was expecting a unipolar order centered on the United States, and the period from collapse to the establishment of the unipolar order was seen as a transitional phase. However, this transitional phase lasted a long time, and it ultimately became clear that the unipolar order was an illusion. It's now unpredictable whether a new order is emerging or not. What is clear is that the world is at a critical juncture, and international or-



ganizations and major powers are experiencing significant inaction in the face of international crises. Even other powers or actors, such as the so-called emerging powers, are also inactive in the face of the two current crises, the Gaza war and the Ukraine war.

How do you see the future of the Gaza and Ukraine conflicts, particularly the Gaza war, which has now spilled over into Lebanon and caused significant damage?

I believe that both crises will be influenced by the upcoming US presidential elections. The next US administration, whether it's Harris or Trump, will have to take a more serious approach to addressing these conflicts. While Harris and Trump may have different scenarios in mind, the US cannot avoid dealing with these crises, especially given its ongoing competition with China.

In such circumstances, how do you think the Islamic Republic of Iran and its new government can continue to play an effective role as a regional

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power and secure its interests?

In my opinion, in the current tense situation, the Islamic Republic of Iran should not fall into the trap of reacting to the initiatives or plans of its opponents or enemies. It seems that so far, Iran has behaved wisely and cautiously, and despite the escalation of tensions and even confrontations with Israel, it has not fallen into Netanyahu's trap. Netanyahu wants to expand the scope of the war to gain more political and military support from the world, especially the West, and to cover up his own crimes in Gaza and Lebanon. Iran has responded to Israel twice, but it has not gotten entangled in a war with this regime. This is a wise policy. At the same time, the Islamic Republic must also have its own initiatives and plans. Having initiative and implementing it requires active diplomacy and presence on the regional and global stage. The fact that the Iranian foreign minister traveled to Lebanon in the midst of the insecurity prevailing in the country, and then went to Syria, means being present on the scene. Abbas Araqchi's presence in Lebanon showed that it is possible to take initiative and be active even in the most critical situations and at the center of the crisis.