

A large, solid red silhouette of a handgun is positioned on the left side of the page, partially overlapping the title text.

The Colonial War of Terminologies

Excerpts by Razan Zuayter





A deliberate strategy is employed in international platforms to avoid naming things as they are, ostensibly to steer clear of political discussions and assert “professionalism” by selecting terms based on prevailing international law.

However, it has become widely recognized that these terms are constructed by colonial powers to advance their political agendas and legitimize their crimes.





Gaza is a vivid example of double standards and the tactic of **playing for time** to protect Israel and maintain the status quo.

UN officials refrain from calling the situation in Gaza as **famine** and **genocide**, due to fears over political repercussions, pressure from major donors, and the risk of losing their positions.





Instead of feeding the hundreds of thousands of hungry people in Gaza, there are those who have the luxury of time to assess whether the conditions meet the criteria for "famine" according to the IPC (a global initiative focused on enhancing food security and nutrition analysis), which require that 20% of households have an extreme lack of food, and 30% of children suffer from acute malnutrition. **These conditions have been met!**





The third condition states that two adults or four children out of every 10,000 die daily to either starvation or the combined effects of malnutrition and disease. However, this condition can only be assessed by organized and mobile official teams. Given the dangerous conditions on the ground caused by ongoing Israeli bombings and sniping, conducting such assessments is impossible.





What is needed now is to urgently exert pressure on international organizations to:

1. Unequivocally names things as they are; **hunger is not famine and crisis is not genocide.**
2. Finding solutions and ensuring respect for international law, including **extraterritorial obligations.**



Thus, countries that have instigated wars within our region are to be held accountable. The global community has the right to take action and pursue those responsible. They have the right to counter acts of genocide and famine through every possible means of resistance.