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## OPERATION CAST LEAD AND AFTERMATH

Deepa Viswam

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**Abstract:**-Israel unleashed “operation cast lead” on December 27 with the declared aim of ending rocket attacks into Israel from Gaza that resumed after six month truce ended. International efforts to halt the conflict sought new impetus after the UN Security council failed even to agree the wording of the statement on the conflict with the US giving strong backing to Israel . Meanwhile the U.N. Security council failed to agree on a Libyan draft calling for an immediate halt to fighting on account of U.S. objections. The number of Palestine death during the period-935 wounding 4260.Hamas offered stiff resistance against the Israelis with no credible support to stop the war.

Mr. Brown is accused toeing line like his predecessor Tony Blair in the Iraqi invasion and the Israeli attacks of Lebanon in 2006.The 21 day intense and relentless campaign did not put an end to the barrage of rockets from Gaza strip.

**Keywords:**Truce, ceasefire accord, diplomacy, Muslim extremism, conflict resolution, negotiation

### INTRODUCTION

#### Gaza and the origin of the conflict

The poverty and restrictions strengthened the growth of the Palestinian nationalist movement in the 1950s.

The conflict spiral began with the encouragement received from Gamal Abdel Nasser the Egypt's President in 1954 staging attacks into the southern Israel . Israel with the support of French and British invaded gaza during the suez war and the people lived under the Israel military administration for three years. Israel was forced to withdraw in 1957.The real revolution for gaza started in 1967 with six day war and this was the start of Israeli occupation. Though the Palestinians moved out off Gaza into Israel the Palestinian resistance began in 1970-71 with Ariel Sharon asking the military commanders for southern Israel to destroy the terror cells in gaza . The first intifada erupted in December 1987 at jabaliya refugee camp in northern Gaza . The Oslo peace accords of 1983 and the return of Palestine liberation organization leader Arafat to Gaza in 1994 marked the start of the break which led to israel's definitive withdrawal in 2005.Unilateral ceasefire was declared after the withdrawal of 8,000 troops who had settled there since 1967. Rockets were fired from gaza after the start of the second Intifada in September 2000.It soon started after Ariel Sharon the opposition leader of likud party paid a visit to the temple mount area where Muslims call Al-Haram as—sharif the holiest place for Judaism too. A wave of rioting began in the days after Sharon 's visit. In June 2007 the Hamas routed forces loyal to Palestinian president Mahmud Abbas and there is no end to war.

### REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Dunsky, Marda FOR 23 DAYS in December and January, Israel struck targets throughout the Gaza Strip by air and then on the ground using tanks; Hamas sent an almost-daily barrage of mortar shells, unguided rockets and slightly more Sophisticated missiles to towns across a 25-mile range in southern Israel. In the end, approximately 1,300 Palestinians (more than half of them civilians and several hundred Hamas fighters) and 13 Israelis (three civilians and ten soldiers, Four or five of the latter by "friendly fire"), were dead, and more than 4,000 Palestinians and dozens of Israelis were wounded. Prospects for renewed progress toward peace were all the more remote. Media coverage of the war in Gaza was intense, but, not surprisingly, American and Arab media covered the same war in significantly different ways.

Denie Elliott, balance and context maintaining media ethics I will start with scattering of example from January to march 2003 to illustarte how news media have failed to report stories in a timely manner and they have demonstrated the lack of balance and context that is required for comprehensive reporting.

Cooper ann(1999) I think just being aware and asking correspondents about it and telling them they shouldn't be aware of it or they need some time off go see a therapist do whatever they need to do they should do it and its perfectly after covering war.

Anonymous (May/June 2003)Some people want to see the war they want to see now they want to project their politics onto the events that flow out of war. The journalist job is to present the world as it is .digitized American flags cut it. Real reporting and analysis do.

## **METHODOLOGY**

Deductive and Inductive are two methods of logical reasoning. Deductive reasoning works from the more general to the more specific, often referred to as a top down approach. We may start by thinking up a theory about our topic, and then narrow it down to a more specific hypotheses that we can test. We then narrow it down even more where we use observations to address the hypothesis, and then Draw our conclusion. Inductive reasoning works the other way, moving from more specific observations to broader generalizations and theories. This is often called a bottom up approach. In inductive reasoning, we begin with specific observations and measures, begin to detect patterns and regularities, formulate some tentative hypotheses that we can explore, and finally end up developing some general conclusions or theories. To study the paper the inductive method has been used.

### **Hypothesis**

R1: The newspaper highlighted the failure of the international community.

NH: the newspaper did not high light the failure of the international community.

### **The rise of Hamas**

After the death of the Palestinain leader Yasser Arafat in 2004 PLO the question of fatah to lead the independence was in doubt. In an atmosphere of political desperation the Hamas grew up as the alternative. Unlike the PLO it did not recognize the state of Israel . Many of its leaders like the Abdul azis al Rantiisi and ismail abu shanab was liquidated. Hamas won the election in 2006 , but was denied office with Fatah in west bank stronghold and Hamas in Gaza .

Egypt was working on brokering a deal between the two Palestinian parties. A split began to emerge in Hamas between leaders who wanted to make that deal and extend peace with Israel and the Iranian backed Hardliners who wanted to draw Israel into a fight. Israel probably could have ensured the moderates won the argument by offering to lift its economic blockade of Gaza than in exchange for a continued cease fire.

### **Hamas and its in difference to the truce**

Especially after the withdrawal of troops from Gaza in august 2005 the Israeli Strikes have increased. The six month lull period in December where Hamas failed to renew the contract in the summer of 2008 the hostilities began. The Franco-Egyptian initiative does not contribute toward finding a solution since it is a threat to the resistance and Palestinian cause allowing the enemy to continue aggression. The Damascus based movements reject the presence of international observers or observers in Gaza since this is aimed at defending the security of th tore occupation and reinforcing the blockade against resistance. The London based Palestinian daily Al quds al arabi reported that contrary to the U.N. resolution and another plan drafted by Egypt and France , Hamas supported an alternative proposal jointly by Syria and Turkey . The Turkey –Syrian initiative features the following points: The joint cessation of fire by Israel and Hamas and the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli army from Gaza strip. Their commitment to the truce agreement that they had signed in 2008.It advocated the formation of special international committee to monitor the Gaza strip.

Hamas is highly critical of UN resolution 1860 passed on January 8, 2008 which did not call for an immediate withdrawal of Israeli forces, it did not call for the lifting of the siege of Gaza, opening up of all crossings into territory. Hamas also opposed the return of monitors from the European Union and the Palestinian authority at the border crossing.

Israeli's felt that by reducing the military capacity of the Hamas truce can be brought about but from today's standards it is near from far. Israel cannot hope of truce unless Hamas received sanctions from economic blockade.

The hamas administration in Gaza leader Ismail Haniya proclaimed that the Israelis do not have the will of gaza .

After the conditional ceasefire by Israel Ismail Haniyeh top leader of the Hamas in Palestinian territories declared in televised address that Israel three week offensive in the Gaza strip had been failure.

### **Lull in ceasefire accord**

Hamas failed publicly not to renew the agreement even after Egypt brokered ceasefire ended with lull in mid-decemeber. Categorical assertions also came from Damacscus based leader khalid mashaal. The policy of appeasement will not help the Israelis with elections only weeks away. Israel needs international monitoring as the rockets shelled into cannot be stopped unless there is a kind of similar approach by Israel which should stop protracted siege of gaza city. Hamas has earned

the wrath of Egyptians as they have failed to renew the agreement in the six-month lull agreed by Hamas in the summer of 2008.

The Mecca agreement resulted in the takeover of the agreement between the Hamas and the Palestine leader mahammoud abbas as a result a state in the making has two executive heads, One prime minister for the west bank another one for gaza. A two state solution is the only option.(TnieJan6,09).

### **Diplomacy gaining momentum**

After ten days of fighting there was surge of diplomatic activity. A wave of protests in Turkey , Jordon , Syria , Iran , Indonesia and Morrocco demanding an end to the Israeli attack did begin to have some political impact. Ham as announced that it would participate in talks on a possible ceasefire in Cairo . These talks would coincide with the presence of French President Nicholas Sarkozy in the region. Jordon and Egypt are the only two countries that have normalized their relations with Israel . Turkey has been outspoken in its criticism of Israel following the Gaza strikes. An international summit meeting on Gaza in sharm El Sheikh in Egypt with the country's President Hosni Mubarak and the French President Nicolas sarkozy which was hastily convened had main protagonists Israel and Hamas kept out. It was a strong attempt by President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt to reinforce his efforts for peace and the global dynamic to put an end to the Gaza crisis. The other invitees include British Prime Minister Gordon Brown, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, President of the Palestinian authority Mahmmoud Abbas and the UN secretary-general Ban Ki-moo, Italian and Spanish prime minister's Silvio Berlusconi and Jose Luis Roderiguez as well as Amr Moussa secretary gernal of the Arab league and Czech Prime Minister Mirek Topolannek. France and Egypt which is co-President of the union for the Mediterranean had proposed a staged end to the crisis which since has turned into a major humanitarian crisis. The first phase of the plan, Egypt would invite Israel to hold negotiations to secure borders of Gaza to prevent smuggling of arms destined for Hamas. During the second phase the Israelis were to announce the end of their offensive and withdrawal of their forces as well as a lifting of the blockade against Gaza . UN Chief Ban-ki-moon paid a visit to the war battered Gaza strip since Hamas seized power in june 2007.

### **Arab world divided**

The Arab foreign ministerial meeting held at Kuwait and in qatar where several heads of state met in separate forums where the gazan situation was discussed The radical groups including Hamas, Islamic jihad, and the popular front for the liberation of Palestine along with Presidents of Syria Iran, and representatives from Turkey. All direct and indirect ties and indirect peace negotiations with Israel should be halted was the ruling of Syrian President Bashar al assad, .Turkish president recap tayyip Erdogan denied Israel UN member ship in UN as Israel does not care about UN Resolution.

Syria and Qatar had been playing a leading role in support of hamas led Palestinian groups that battled Israel for 22 days. Syrian President called upon member countries to declare Israel "a terrorist state". At a recent conference in Doha Syrian President had urged Arab countries to sever ties with Israel . Qatar and Muritania have snapped their relations with Israel following his call. Egypt and Jordan are only two countries that have full diplomatic relations with Israel . A patch –up between Hamas and Fatah led by Palestinian authority President Mahmohud abbas was also a prominent theme which featured during the Kuwait summit.

### **Reactionary Muslim extremism**

The attacks against the Palestinians by Israel had given new lease of life to Muslim extremist Britain .The Muslim anger has been directed against as much against Britain which is seen to have sided with Israel . Prime Minister golden Brown's refusal to condemn the Israel attack against Gaza is seen to be partisan and pro-Israel position. Prominent progressive muslim have condemned the attacks and written to mosques saying the Muslim anger over the killing of Palestinian civilians in Gaza by Israeli forces "does not justify attacks on our fellow Jewish settlements in Britain ".

### **Anti-Semitic attacks**

The muslim backlash had perpetrated especially during the Gazan attacks giving rise to Anti-semitic attacks. Muslim organizations and protestor's world over condemn the attack as they feel that muslim anger cannot destroy fellow jews settled in their country and faith.

### **Jews for justice**

They demanded an end to arms embargo against Israel and investigation into war crimes of any party involved in the conflict.

### **Indian role in the Palestinian conflict**

Differences between India and Israel were quoted for India is secular, democratic nation and not theocratic state. Moreover India is borne out of colonial strifedom and not grabbing land like Israel . Till today they have not given up its Zionist ideology. India does not suffer from the sense of siege that Israel has cultivated to keep its right wing extremist government in power. Man Mohan singh in his remark stated that the hostilities in the region and took exceptional care not to speak of Israel and the war it is waging on the Palestinian people.

### **Initiatives taken to end the conflict**

A wave of protests to end the Israeli attack began in Turkey , Syria , Iran , Indonesia , and Morocco to have some political impact. Hamas has insisted that the ceasefire is possible only if Israel lifts its siege on Gaza by opening all border crossings. French President Nicholas Sarkozy said that it's up to Syria to put pressure on the players in the conflict and notably peace returns.

International Mid east envoy Tony Blair said stopping Hamas rocket supply would be a very significant advance in terms of Israel 's security.

Pope Benedict XVI said that he wanted to encourage efforts to get Israelis and Palestinians to sit down together in peace talks.

France President Nicholas Sarkozy brought forth the "Franco-Egyptian plan" for ceasefire in Gaza . Under the Franco-Egyptian plan, European or other observers could be sent to control the border. This would be done by reviving a suspended EU monitoring mission currently under French command, and would be eventually be extended to other crossings into Gaza to allow a lifting of Israel's blockaded for.

According to Israeli military officials the problem that has bedeviled Israel for years is to stop Hamas from digging tunnels into Egypt in order to bring tons of rockets and other weaponry into Gaza . Israeli leaders have rejected any ceasefire proposals that would involve sending international observers to Gaza unless they would have the power to destroy tunnels or engage Hamas.

The Syrian-Turkish plan envisaged a ceasefire and the immediate withdrawal of the Israeli army from the Gaza strip .It also proposed the formation of a special international committee to monitor Gaza 's strip border. The Franco-Egyptian plan had called for a temporary ceasefire to allow humanitarian supplies to flow into Gaza .

The Damascus based movements reject the presence of international forces or observers in Gaza since this is aimed at defending the security of occupation and reinforcing the blockade against resistance. The statement called for a halt to the aggression a withdrawal of Israeli forces without delay, lifting the blockade and opening the crossing points.

Hamas had opposed the deployment of foreign forces along the Gaza Egyptian border and also the deployment of international forces within Palestinian territories.

The U.N Security Council did not gain much ground in bringing about a ceasefire.

The Arab world is divided over the conflict. Many attribute the present rocket fire into Gaza for they were provoked by Hamas groups. As Isarel sent envoys to Egypt for more talks on Cairo truce plan and to the US to sign an agreement on preventing arms smuggling into Gaza its key demand for halting further attacks.

During the Kuwait summit Mr. Abbas advocated the formation of a national unity government with Fatah and Hamas followed simultaneously presidential and legislative elections. France 2 television did report that a Palestine unity government is formed. Europe would be willing to recognize the Palestinians leadership. Consequently sanctions would be lifted. In Kuwait summit Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak obvious reference to Hamas resistance insisted to exercise more responsibly. The Kuwait summit is set to approve a \$ 2 billion fund for the rebuilding of Gaza .

### **Conflict resolution as sought by print media**

As much international community needs stoppage of firing rockets into Israel , Israel must present the status quo of the nation wherein Israel avoids protracted siege of Gaza . Hamas will not accept truce unless Israel lifts up the quarantine. If Israel 's objective was to turn the people of gaza against Hamas by imposing sanctions then it has failed. Hamas has failed to understand the benefactors and friends has shown utter disregard for its enemies and the Palestinians paying back in blood. While US, and Israel has been condemned, a lot of anger has been directed against Egyptian leaders. The French-Egypt efforts to bring to halt the rocket barrage against Gaza as it would receive accolade from the international community. When the rocket campaign comes to end Israel would be pressed by international community to stop the economic blockade imposed on Gaza . The on going attack is useless as it entails on Israel to live peacefully with Palestinians controlling part of their homeland.

The Bush Presidency with only few days left took the Manichean view that the world was an endless battle between the forces of pure good and of those pure evil. A mindset that any action no matter how brutal or immoral is justified because it is being done by righteous in the name of virtue. Israel should be stripped of this automatic righteousness.

The only means of defeating Hamas are political. Palestinians have no history of religious fundamentalism have to choose a moderate leader the Fatah. In the meantime Hamas existence must be tolerated and should be encouraged to channel

politics rather than military activity.

Analogies were drawn from Zionist ideology and the siege that they suffer from compared to the self respecting nation India was as it has emerged from colonizers as an independent nation not guarded by theocracy but democracy and never pursued a policy of self aggrandizement. Israel was created from the spill of blood of people who suffered at the hands of Hitler later settled in alien land with temporary homes given goodwill gesture by different governments and started pushing for more territory and when resisted with stones, bullets and rockets now they were branded as terrorists.

The United States felt that an international monitoring mechanism to stop the inflow of ammunitions through tunnels from Sinai Peninsula and the opening of borders would about the justification of ending rocket attack by Hamas .

A patch up between Hamas and fatah led by Palestinian authority president Mahmoud Abbas, otherwise the two -state solutions would get sinister meaning. Eventually the compromise is one state for all, an "Isratine" that they would feel that the people in each party to feel that they live in disputed land and they are not deprived of any part of it.

### **CONCLUSION**

The Gaza crisis exposed the failure of the international community. Hamas has rejected the United Nations resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza strips because it served Israel 's interests and ignored the needs of the Palestinians. The militant group did not feel concerned by the UN resolution which was carried by 14 of the Security Council's 15 members. The United States abstained. Though Ham as were main actors on ground they were not consulted about this resolution and they have not taken into account our vision and interests of our people. Hamas has also opposed the return of monitors from European Union and Palestinian authority at border crossing points.

The UN chief Ban ki moon was greatly affected by the destruction of the UN compound in Gaza . People of Palestinian do not feel happy with the take over the administration by Obama for pro-Israel policy. Different pacts are being struck by neighboring countries to bring about normalcy when UN itself has become a pawn in the hands of major world players. A set of peace plans inducing both sides for a meaningful introspection over the long term usefulness of war as an option which would recreate the real impact of ceasefire.

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