

*Round Table Discussion on:*  
**"Gaza Israel Current Conflict & Responsibilities of International  
Community"**

**Dated: Nov 19, 2012**

**Guest Speakers:**

Mr Husni Abu Ghosh

*First Secretary*

*Embassy of Palestine in Pakistan*

Prof. Amir Anwar Shadani

*Former Ambassador*

Mr Rana Abdul Baqi

*Renowned Columnist & Researcher*

**Organized By:**

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MUSLIM Institute organized a round table discussion on "Gaza Israel Current Conflict and Responsibilities of International Community" on 19 Nov, 2012 in Islamabad. Mr. Husni M. Abu Ghosh, representative of the Palestinian mission in Pakistan, renowned columnist Rana Abdul Baqi and former Ambassador Amir Anwar Shadani were speakers on the occasion. Research associates of the MUSLIM Institute as well as from other think-tanks participated in the same.

The Palestinian representative Mr. Husni M. Abu Ghosh thanked MUSLIM Institute for arranging the event as the same would be helpful in highlighting the Palestinian issue and promote public awareness about the same. In his address, he highlighted the plight of people of Gaza, who are not allowed to move outside Gaza or undertake some construction work. He stated that Gaza has been under attack in the past too. The Israelis always have so-called pretext of self-defense which is also supported by the west. He revealed that during the current offensive, more than hundred persons have been killed so far, more than fifty percent of them are children. The Israeli forces are also targeting buildings of TV channels as well as journalists to stop them from reporting about Israel's barbarities. He regretted that though UN Security Council held its session to discuss the issue but the same remained inconclusive, reflecting its apathy towards persecution of Palestinians and helplessness in front of Israel and its patrons.

Renowned columnist Rana Abdul Baqi expressing his views stated that Palestinian issue is not new; it is the outcome of conspiracies hatched to dismember Ottoman Caliphate. France and Britain deceived the Arabs to assist them in toppling Ottoman Empire and in return assured that the Arabs would remain safe. In reality, they created Israel in the heart of Arab lands. He highlighted that Quaid-i-Azam, on a number of occasions, condemned persecution of Palestinians and opposed division of Palestine/ creation of Israel. In 1937 addressing Muslim League's meeting in Lucknow, he flayed Britain for conspiring to divide Palestine. In his address at Patna, he reiterated support of Indian Muslims for the Palestinian Muslims. In 1946, Quaid-i-Azam urged to resist the plans of settling to Jews in Palestine. Due to Quaid's affiliation with Palestine, Pakistani public has great sympathy for the Palestinian brethren who are victims of Israeli brutalities. Rana Abdul Baqi further stated that Jews should not take revenge from Muslims of persecution perpetrated on them (Jews) in the past. The current conflict in Gaza may be seen in the backdrop of conspiracies to weaken Muslims worldwide. In fact, the West is well aware rather afraid of the might of Muslims as they helped America during cold war era. They want instability in the Muslim countries so as they do not put up united stance on challenges being confronted by them. The same powers are also conspiring to destabilize Pakistan so as it cannot extend any kind of assistance to Palestine. In Karachi target killings US and Indian agencies are involved. Syrian destabilization is also due to Syria's support for Palestine. When Iran supported Syria in this regard, the Jewish and western lobby started destabilizing Baluchistan to affect Iran. Phenomenon of clash of civilization was to divert attention of western people towards Islam. Turkey's change towards Islam from secularism is a hope for Palestine but it will take time to change policies of Turkey which they have in past. One of the reasons of recent conflict is also to stop raising issue of Palestine in UN General Assembly as Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas started efforts to elicit support at the forum.

Former Ambassador Amir Anwar Shadani, in his address, stated that Palestinians are leading miserable life like open air prisoners and have been facing crisis like situation since long. The current spate seems to be an

attempt to eliminate Hamas leadership. The Israeli propaganda that Iran made rockets being fired from Gaza have been intercepted may be a ploy to prepare ground for some kind of offensive against Iran. He opined that the Palestinian issue may not be resolved through armed means; instead negotiations may lead to its settlement. However, negotiations between both parties should be on equality basis. He said that today Israel is the leading power in the region and it has peace treaties with many Arab countries. Egypt had peace treaty with Israel due to close relations with United States. Many other Arab countries also had peace treaties with Israel. The Arab spring has brought changes in the policies of many Arab countries towards Israel and they are now looking to support Palestine. U.S is not happy with this change especially from Egypt. Mr. Amir Anwar Shadani further stated that the Muslim countries are, unfortunately, not united and economically not very strong. They need to have united stance on the issue and then pursue it on all forums unitedly and actively. Besides, they should strengthen their economies and achieve economic emancipation. Collectively, the Muslim brotherhood can find solution of Palestinian crisis. He explained that Pakistan is not in the position of playing direct role due to our geographical distance and economic conditions. We need to strengthen ourselves and then we can play major role on international level.

In the end following resolutions were adopted:-

- The ongoing Israeli aggression against Palestinians is condemnable and world powers should take all necessary steps to immediately stop the same.
- The UN and other humanitarian agencies should make necessary arrangements for provision of food, medical facilities and other amenities to those besieged in Gaza.
- The UN should honor its own resolutions regarding settlement of Palestinian issue and ensure the same are implemented in letter and spirit.
- The Muslim countries should have a serious review of their policies on the Palestinian crisis; they should adopt a united stance for its peaceful settlement and take practical steps in that direction.

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