

Q&A – Session 3 – Israel on Trial

Question 1: Is Gaza still occupied as long as no peace deal is agreed between the parties or an international accepted border established?

There are several issues here. From a legal point of view Gaza is (arguably) still under a kind of occupation. But from a strategic/military point of view, Israel must decide how to manage this difficult situation. Clearly, Hamas will never agree to a peace agreement of any kind with Israel. So, what options does Israel have? One possibility is to continue the status quo and "manage" the conflict with Hamas, which would involve repeated missile attacks from and incursions into Gaza as we have seen in recent years. Another option could be to re-enter Gaza, eliminate Hamas and take back control.

Question 2: the "Palestinian Loss of Land" slide is a dangerous map, as it sticks to people's minds very easily. An easy way to challenge it is to ask, what does the green color mean? In infographics the meaning of the colors should always remain the same in order to draw conclusions from graphics. The meaning changes all the time. Do you want to comment on this?

This is a correct observation. The point was to show that the Palestinians have a completely opposite paradigm than Israel: their "Palestine" replaces Israel, it does not exist in peace side-by-side with Israel.

Question 3: Given that the Palestinian leadership continues to refuse to recognise the right of the Jewish State of Israel to exist – as the PLO Charter (1964/8) and the Hamas Charter (1988) clearly state, why is it the international community (the UN, the EU and the Biden Administration and the British Foreign Office) continue to force the "Two-State Solution"? Why is it not abandoned?

Given what Einat Wilf is saying – why doesn't the international community insist that the Palestinians change, or their right of self-determination won't happen?

Einat Wilf has answered this question during the Q&A following her presentation.

think.

ISRAEL *and* INTERNATIONAL LAW