

# Transcript

00:00:00

Doctor is speaking the invitation.

00:00:05

Welcome.

00:00:08 Speaker 1

Thank you so much, my dear friend, Professor Eugene.

00:00:13 Speaker 1

And it gives me a great pleasure really to be here with very distinguished audience. And I would like to recognise the presence of my dear brother and friend, Dafif. Sofi, my dear brother and friend. Ambassador. Husam and my colleagues who are here and it's a pleasure to have.

00:00:29 Speaker 1

Also, Professor Abish Lim will have written intensively about Palestine and genocide in Gaza. His latest book, So Thank you, professor for what you have done.

00:00:45 Speaker 1

Maybe I should start by saying.

00:00:50 Speaker 1

If I want to go back to history, maybe this is the most difficult period of our time.

00:00:57 Speaker 1

This is the most difficult time that we have seen.

00:01:01 Speaker 1

Genocide in Gaza, we have seen difficult times. 1948 was a difficult time. 1967 was a difficult time.

00:01:10 Speaker 1

1970 was a difficult time. 1982 was a difficult time.

00:01:14 Speaker 1

But maybe this is actually the most difficult time that we have seen in our recent history.

00:01:22 Speaker 1

More than 60,000 Palestinians have lost their lives in Gaza. 1000 have been killed in the West Bank as well. 120,000 Palestinians have been injured.

00:01:37 Speaker 1

75% of those who were killed and injured were women, children, innocent people.

00:01:43 Speaker 1

210,000 houses have been destroyed between partial destruction and complete destruction.

00:01:50 Speaker 1

So Gaza today, that used to be a big prison. Today Gaza is a big destruction field and genocide is committed every single day, including yesterday, 120 people.

00:02:04 Speaker 1

Have been killed.

00:02:06 Speaker 1

So that does that hurts me.

00:02:11 Speaker 1

For Sam's family.

00:02:13 Speaker 1

Has been there and Hosam has lost some of his family in US.

00:02:17 Speaker 1

But what really concerns me more is this international silence.

00:02:23 Speaker 1

That has been seen from the very beginning and certain countries who have given the greenest of a green light to Israel to continue this genocide in Gaza. This is really the most painful experience that we have seen.

00:02:40 Speaker 1

Having said that, what you see also in the West Bank is is systematic destruction of refugee camps. President Trump, God bless his soul.

00:02:53 Speaker 1

Has decided to financially drain United Nations Relief and Works agency during his first stop.

00:03:02 Speaker 1

And then the Israeli Government has considered another as illegal entity.

00:03:08 Speaker 1

The Israelis army said, well, this is a good opportunity. Let's destroy the refugee camps. So what is happening now in Jenin into Karim Annapolis is a systematic destruction of refugee camps, which is the third episode of fully eliminating the whole issue of the Palestinian refugees. And that is what?

00:03:27 Speaker 1

We see today, yesterday they've decided to close to close all UNRWA schools in the vicinity of Jerusalem and the rest of the of the region. More than that, what do we see today?

00:03:41 Speaker 1

Is that Israel has reoccupied every single part of the Palestinian territory, from Rafa to Gini, every single refugee camp is occupied, every single village, every single city, and the Israeli army encourages into area Area B, area C there is no meaning whatsoever of this categorization of regions.

00:04:03 Speaker 1

Israel does not recognise either area A or B or C and so on and so.

00:04:09 Speaker 1

What does this really mean? This means that the contractual relation.

00:04:14 Speaker 1

Between the BLO and Israel that has created the Palestinian Authority is not anymore, so the contractual relationship has been eroded fully and Israel does not respect the signed agreement between us and them. Having said that.

00:04:33 Speaker 1

Also.

00:04:35 Speaker 1

We have seen under this current Israeli Government a serious move from secular resilience.

00:04:44 Speaker 1

2.

00:04:45 Speaker 1

National Zionism to religious Zionism. Today, the political platform of Netanyahu's government, explicitly states that the Jewish people have every right to settle in every part of Earth Israel.

00:04:59 Speaker 1

That means.

00:05:02 Speaker 1

Recently, under Netanyahu's government, the number of Jewish settlers who today live in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, is up to 771,000 settlers who live in 285 Jewish settlements and.

00:05:19 Speaker 1

What they call outposts, quote, unquote, illegal. But that's the process of colonisation. It starts with an outburst and then it becomes recognised settlement and it becomes a city. And and and and so on. So that is what we have today in the Palestinian territories.

00:05:38 Speaker 1

In area C, which is 62% of the total area of the West Bank, every Palestinian national has four settlers.

00:05:47 Speaker 1

So the Democrat.

00:05:48 Speaker 1

Traffic.

00:05:50 Speaker 1

The demography of certain areas now is in favour of the settlers, especially in Area C, which is, as I said, 62% of the total area of the West.

00:06:00 Speaker 1

Bank.

00:06:01 Speaker 1

Now, what does this mean? This means that Netanyahu and his government.

00:06:07 Speaker 1

They have used settlement and colonisation as a tool for a total erosion of a trusted solution.

00:06:16 Speaker 1

Because simply Netanyahu and his government, they never believed in peace. I was reviewing the the cabinet.

00:06:27 Speaker 1

Minutes of meetings of the attacker are being on the 30th of August 1993 when the government approved the Oslo Agreement. What did Robin say? This is an experimental process. If anybody is going to erode this peace process is going to be Netanyahu. When he was at that time, only the leader of the liquid.

00:06:48 Speaker 1

Party.

00:06:50 Speaker 1

Having said that, let me just shed some light on what is happening in Gaza now.

00:06:57 Speaker 1

There are three unanswered questions that has to do with Gaza.

00:07:02 Speaker 1

1st.

00:07:03 Speaker 1

How long Israel is going to continue occupying Gaza?

00:07:08 Speaker 1

Gaza that used to be part of Palestine before 1948.

00:07:14 Speaker 1

After 1948, Gaza became.

00:07:18 Speaker 1

With a total area of 550 square kilometres.

00:07:23 Speaker 1

With the.

00:07:25 Speaker 1

Ceasefire agreement between the Arabs and the Israelis and Rhodes in Greece, the size of Gaza did shrink from 550 square kilometres to 364.

00:07:40 Speaker 1

And now, with the Israelis are going to annex what they call buffer zones, it means Gaza will shrink by another 75 kilometres. So Gaza that is hosting 2.5 million people. It will only have an area of 290 square kilometres.

00:08:00 Speaker 1

Now, so how long Israel is going to go to stay in Gaza? I think it's going to be long. It's not this Israel occupation in Gaza is not going to finish next month, regardless of what Trump is saying, regardless of what the pressure, regardless of the news that now Netanyahu and Trump are on certain friction.

00:08:21 Speaker 1

It's not a honeymoon anymore with with, with, with.

00:08:25 Speaker 1

The second important question for us to answer is.

00:08:30 Speaker 1

What sort of Hamas we will have after gas now.

00:08:37 Speaker 1

The Americans have proposed to Hamas the following.

00:08:41 Speaker 1

One disarm.

00:08:43 Speaker 1

Second, leave Gaza and 3rd you're not any more in charge of gas.

00:08:50 Speaker 1

Whether Hamas is going to accept this or not.

00:08:54 Speaker 1

There are certain dealings. The biggest problem today with Hamas is that there is no leadership that one can talk.

00:09:01 Speaker 1

To.

00:09:02 Speaker 1

Even when it comes to exchange of prisoners and hostages and so on.

00:09:09 Speaker 1

The third question.

00:09:11 Speaker 1

Under what circumstances will the Palestinian Authority take over Gaza?

00:09:17 Speaker 1

By all means, not under, not in the shape of an Israeli military tank.

00:09:23 Speaker 1

And not in confrontation with Hamas.

00:09:26 Speaker 1

So therefore, the only way for the Palestinian Authority to take over Gaza is to reconcile.

00:09:34 Speaker 1

And to come together in a national formula that will enable the Palestinian leadership.

00:09:43 Speaker 1

There be a law. The Palestinian Authority, the state of Palestine, to become in control of Gaza because what is proposed today is something they call multinational authors.

00:09:57 Speaker 1

And this multinational authority is an interim arrangement proposed by United Arab Emirates.

00:10:03 Speaker 1

And Trump, of course, is saying that we want Gaza to become a Riviera and force transfer everybody out. So we reconstruct gas.

00:10:13 Speaker 1

This force transformation, this force transfer this force transfer.

00:10:19 Speaker 1

We have seen it before.

00:10:23 Speaker 1

In 1948, a number of people were pushed out.

00:10:29 Speaker 1

But in 1970.

00:10:32 Speaker 1

The Israelis wanted to rehabilitate the Palestinians from Gaza into the Sinai region, nearly especially Al Arish of the Egyptian Rafah, not the Palestinian Rafa.

00:10:46 Speaker 1

And in 19.

00:10:48 Speaker 1

54 Before 1970 also there was an attempt to rehabilitate the Palestinians. All attempts have failed, and I think this current this recent attempt or proposal, quote unquote by Trump will fail. But designers will not leave Gaza. They will. It's our national home.

00:11:09 Speaker 1

We're not looking for a Rivera and we are not looking for improving the living conditions of the Palestinians. What we are looking for is dignity, national, independent sovereignty and independent Palestinian state now.

00:11:23 Speaker 1

So having said that, these three questions then it takes me to say the following. We are wherever we are, the Palestinians, we are facing very serious challenges one.

00:11:39 Speaker 1

Today, Israel is launching 4 wars on the Palestinian people.

00:11:44 Speaker 1

A war on geography and land. So our land is shrinking through colonisation programmes.

00:11:51 Speaker 1

A war on people and demography. The killing in the West Bank, 15,000 Palestinians have been put in gaol since October seven in the West Bank.

00:12:03 Speaker 1

Saw a third war on money.

00:12:08 Speaker 1

In the economic Palestinian Israeli relationship.



00:12:14 Speaker 1

We and the Israelis, we live in what can call one what 1 can call a custom info which is a distorted version of a custom union because in a custom union, European Union or South African Namibia and DeSoto you usually share.

00:12:34 Speaker 1

There is a revenue sharing.

00:12:37 Speaker 1

That does not include the Palestinians and Israelis, so there is no revenue sharing mechanism, which means that we lose \$350 million every year because of tax leakage and so on. So communities that are imported by Israeli importers, it ends in the Palestinian market and we don't really.

00:12:56 Speaker 1

They recover the taxes, customs excises and VAT's, and so on.

00:13:02 Speaker 1

Now Israel has decided to deduct from our taxes money that they could act on our behalf.

00:13:09 Speaker 1

They deduct from it every single penny that we pay to prisoners. Every single penny we pay to martyr families. And they say this is incitement for more violence. I mean, what do you incite for more violence when you just simply take care of orphans, widows and so on and so forth? If we don't do take care of these people, they.

00:13:29 Speaker 1

Some easy targets for whoever radical from Iranians to whoever. So we're just simply doing our responsibility towards these orphans and widows and children. And so so.

00:13:44 Speaker 1

According to Mahmoud Darwish, today we are actually standing at the edge of the age. We are not fully falling down and we are not parents.

00:13:54 Speaker 1

What Israel is doing is that they're pushing this Palestinian Authority to collapse certain ministers in the cabinet, Smotrich, Penafiel and others. They don't want to see a Palestinian entity as a nucleus of a future Palestinian state. Therefore, they're pushing things to collapse. Others are simply trying to keep us at the edge of the age.

00:14:16 Speaker 1

As I just mentioned, so financially we have not been able to pay the salaries in full.

00:14:23 Speaker 1

For the last three years.

00:14:28 Speaker 1

Second challenge.

00:14:30 Speaker 1

Which is Gaza?

00:14:32 Speaker 1

What do you do?

00:14:35 Speaker 1

With.

00:14:37 Speaker 1

60,000 martyrs. What do you do with their families? What do you do with 120,000 people killed?

00:14:45 Speaker 1

What do you do with 220,000 houses have been fully destroyed and partial destruction according to the World Bank, we need \$53 billion. Who's going to give us the three \$53 billion?

00:15:01 Speaker 1

Now we have to compete with Yemen, with Syria, with Lebanon, with other parts of the world that needs this construction. My order is my dear friend Eugene. My worry is that Israel might use this reconstruction of Gaza as a force transfer mechanism to push people.

00:15:21 Speaker 1

Out because it takes you or a good contractor, maybe 2 years to build a house.

00:15:28 Speaker 1

And if somebody goes to a family.

00:15:30 Speaker 1

And say OK, here is \$50,000 try to manage yourself, maybe they will find a way out and then.

00:15:37 Speaker 1

Go somewhere else.

00:15:38 Speaker 1

So my what my worry is that this reconstruction might be used as another. I don't call it voluntary transfer. There isn't anything called voluntary when you don't have house.

00:15:50 Speaker 1

When you don't have have a house, you're pushed out.

00:15:54 Speaker 1

Now the third and here I will conclude.

00:15:59 Speaker 1

The third challenge that we are facing.

00:16:01 Speaker 1

Is the absence of a political horizon.

00:16:06 Speaker 1

I say with 60,000 people killed, 120,000 injured, 220,000 houses have been destroyed.

00:16:16 Speaker 1

With all these sort of losses and sacrifices, without any political horizon, when is the political horizon is going to come?

00:16:25 Speaker 1

Now the Saudis and the French are saying we are organising an international conference and under the auspices of United Nation in June.

00:16:34 Speaker 1

What if Netanyahu decides not to go?

00:16:38 Speaker 1

We asked the French to recognise Palestine as a state.

00:16:43 Speaker 1

We asked the British Government to recognise Palestine as a state so the United Nation Conference due in June might put some principles, but it will not put a solution.

00:16:58 Speaker 1

Because the international community, the silence and the absence of a serious sanctions on Israel to oblige and force Israel to accept an international law and United Nation resolution, that pressure is not there and my worry is that Netanyahu will continue to really put an end to the 2.

00:17:18 Speaker 1

The solution now where do we go from here?

00:17:24 Speaker 1

I think that.

00:17:30 Speaker 1

We need.

00:17:31 Speaker 1

To look at the following realities.

00:17:36 Speaker 1

1.

00:17:38 Speaker 1

If.

00:17:40 Speaker 1

The contractual relationship between US and Israel is over.

00:17:45 Speaker 1

That has produced the Palestinian Authority.

00:17:49 Speaker 1

And that a Palestinian sovereign, contiguous viable state is part of the right of self determination not.

00:17:58 Speaker 1

It has nothing to do with a contractual relationship with Israel. Then I think the Palestinian leadership should declare a state under occupation tomorrow and put an end to this contractual relationship between US and Israel one.

00:18:14 Speaker 1

2nd.

00:18:17 Speaker 1

The pressure or the American pressure on Saudis to normalise with Israel?

00:18:23 Speaker 1

The Saudis have both 3 conditions.

00:18:26 Speaker 1

Defence Pact nuclear reactor and a solution to the Palestinian Israeli economy.

00:18:34 Speaker 1

In the absence of a partner in the side of Israel that is not going to happen.

00:18:40 Speaker 1

Going back to a peace process with asymmetrical relationship between US and Israel is not going to produce anything.

00:18:47 Speaker 1

I was the.

00:18:48 Speaker 1

First Palestinian, who landed in Madrid, October 1991.

00:18:53 Speaker 1

And the peace process has been ongoing for 34 years now.

00:18:58 Speaker 1

Can we afford another 30-4 years at a time when Israel continued to construct settlements and erode Palestinian territory and and and and obviously not.

00:19:11 Speaker 1

More than that.

00:19:12 Speaker 1

All the solutions.

00:19:15 Speaker 1

That has been proposed to end the Israeli Palestinian conflict.

00:19:20 Speaker 1

Were based on the partition of land.

00:19:23 Speaker 1

19361974 duster solution all these proposals is about partition of.

00:19:31 Speaker 1

I think it is still possible until now, but tomorrow is going to be too late.

00:19:38 Speaker 1

If we miss the opportunity of land partition or partition of Palestine on the basis of two states, the question is what is next?

00:19:48 Speaker 1

A1 state the Israelis didn't want 2 states. They don't want one state or what Israelis care for is a continuation of the status quo.

00:19:59 Speaker 1

All what we care for is to destroy the status quo and create a new reality.

00:20:06 Speaker 1

Now there are 149 countries who have recognised Palestine as a state on the borders of 1967.

00:20:13 Speaker 1

But that state is not sovereign, is not independent yet.

00:20:17 Speaker 1

And we're fighting for that to end.

00:20:21 Speaker 1

Now.

00:20:23 Speaker 1

Under.

00:20:25 Speaker 1

The current Palestinian internal divided house.

00:20:30 Speaker 1

What can we do?

00:20:33 Speaker 1

You will tell me? Of course. It's that. The answer is very obvious. Get united.

00:20:39 Speaker 1

We have proposed.

00:20:42 Speaker 1

A formula for unity to Hamas and to all others. Very simple formula.

00:20:49 Speaker 1

One machine gun, one law, one country, one litre ship, one legitimacy 1111.

00:20:55 Speaker 1

Until now, we have not been able to achieve that. Did you to?

00:21:00 Speaker 1

Regional influence?

00:21:02 Speaker 1

On Hamas mainly.

00:21:05 Speaker 1

Having said that, my dear friend Eugene, the book or the work that you have heard the speakers today.

00:21:15 Speaker 1

It is true that it does cover 1.5 million years. It's true that does. It does cover 1350 pages.

00:21:26 Speaker 1

The work that has been there, the uniqueness of it, is not only because it has been written by Palestinian scholars.

00:21:35 Speaker 1

But the real value of the book that it was mainly based on scientific evidence.

00:21:42 Speaker 1

And that is where the real added value of the book.

00:21:47 Speaker 1

We are going to publish it in many languages. The first copy will be handed to you in person.

00:21:55 Speaker 1

And I hope that this work will continue as my colleagues have just mentioned. I want to thank you again for hosting us and I want to assure you that while we continue fighting for peace and justice.

00:22:11 Speaker 1

The literature component and the mental struggle and the intellectual struggle.

00:22:18 Speaker 1

Is not with the least value than any other tools of struggle. Thank you very much for having us. I appreciate it.

00:22:31

OK.