

## **An American Set-back In Gaza**

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My Korean readers remember my expectations on the Palestinian internal fighting in Gaza. I told my readers that the fighting will go on for several reasons atop of which is that Oslo accord builds for the fighting, and that the Palestinian factions are similar to the traditional Arab tribes in their political behavior. Due to this fighting, Fatah has been driven out of Gaza. But this isn't the end, the rivalry between Hamas and Fatah will persist in the West Bank although the tactics will be different from those applied in Gaza. Again Fatah will lose.

In this article, I put this internal feud in its regional and international dimensions. The US pushed very hard after the fall of the Soviet Union to hammer out a solution for the pending Palestinian question. She thought that there was a good opportunity that the Palestinians will accept an interim agreement that will open the doors for lengthy negotiations between the Palestinians and the Israelis, that will finally end in a lasting final solution. Arafat who was the head of the PLO and Fatah organization went for the negotiations that culminated in the Oslo accord.

Oslo was rejected by so many Palestinians including Hamas which is a widespread organization. At the same time, so many Arabs and Moslems including some states such as Syria and Iran labeled the accord as un-acceptable. Back in 1993, the year of signing the accord, the US was pulling its horns and getting ready to attack those who would oppose its policies. That is why the anti-American forces in the region decided to play it softly, and avoid the retaliatory responses of the US.

Internally, Hamas and Jihad Islami (a small Palestinian group that adopts armed resistance) could bring the development of Oslo into a halt through military actions in the Israeli population centers. Instead of concentrating on negotiations, the US, Israel, the Palestinian Authority and some Arab regimes consumed their time and effort in fighting what they label as terrorism. These four parties orchestrated their efforts against the Palestinian resistance, but achieved no success.

Externally, Syria and Iran decided to hold on without taking any adventurous steps. Their efforts to support the resistance movements in the area proved to be fruitful when Hizballah drove Israel out of Southern Lebanon in 2000. Both countries continued to provide Haven and support for Hizballah, Hamas and Jihad Islami.

The US and Israel have been investing so much money and effort in building the Palestinian security service with the hope of subduing Hamas and other resistance movements. It is imperative for the Palestinian Authority to fight terrorism as a precondition to proceed in the negotiations process. The US and Israel have been offering money, arms and training to this security service, and even recruiting some Arab regimes such as Egypt and Jordan to provide training.

The Palestinian Authority, since the time of Arafat, has been trying to fulfill its obligations but with no success. It tried so many measures including arrests, but the resistance movement grew stronger. Due to that, the US, Israel and the Arab regimes failed in meeting all announced time tables. President Bush promised in his "Road Map" that the Palestinian state will be established in 2005. By this time, he has been unable to implement the first stage of his Map.

Certainly, President Bush has been dismayed with the news coming out of Gaza. His patrons who have been receiving American and Israeli aid just fled the battle field, and Hamas could hold control of Gaza without actual fighting. Hamas took over the headquarters of the different branches of the Palestinian security service which were built by American money, confiscated all weapons provided by the Israelis, and put its hand on documents that prove Fatah,s betrayal of the Palestinian cause.

Will the Americans continue to assist the Palestinian president whose security service proved to be a Punch of lust seeker cowards? According to my evaluation of the performance of the American administration, the American President is far from rationality, and he will persist in his clumsy and unproductive approach.

What happened in Gaza is a major setback for the American policy in the Arab-Islamic region. The Americans thought the region might be the necessary example that would bring the world into their knees extending submission. President Bush thought that the road to globalizing America starts with the Arab-Islamic region, and, most probably, he is now biting his fingers.

The problem with the US leaders that they think that devotion could be bought, and that their policies could be implemented through loyalty sellers. Loyalty could be bought, but devotion isn't a commodity. Those who trade loyalty don't stand in the battle-field, but devoted people are ready to fight to death. The US appeared jubilant with the invasion of Afghanistan, and even exultant with the invasion of Iraq. Now the US is in a tight-full spam in both Iraq and Afghanistan.

The US lost the war in Lebanon in August/2006, lost Gaza, crippled in Iraq, losing grounds in Afghanistan. Its opponents have been winning almost every-where in the Arab-Islamic region, and Al-Qaeda has been gaining strength. The US has been following the wrong approach and cooperating with the wrong people. But it is of extreme importance that countries like South Korea should think before submitting to the American uncalculated adventures.