

BIBI NETANYAHU EXPLAINS ISRAEL'S LATEST ATTACK ON GAZA (August 2014)

“Let me tell you what practically nobody out there—especially John Kerry—understands: I’m fighting a war on three fronts.

First of all, I’m defending Israel against the terrorists of Hamas who are out to destroy us, who have sworn to annihilate Israel, the nation that Jahweh gave to his chosen people more than three thousand years ago. Jahweh did not give it to the Muslims or the Crusaders, who took turns stealing it from us. Nor to the Ottoman Turks, nor the British, nor the Palestinians, nor to Fatah, and above all not to Hamas. Jahweh gave this land to Israel and nobody else. That’s why we must never let Hamas plant a nation of its own here, a nation with its own army, a nation with a right to fight for itself. Only Israel has that right. To defend ourselves and our right to exist as a nation, we must retaliate against Hamas every time it fires a rocket at us, and it’s done that more than 3000 times since this war began. Before this war can end, we must knock out their rocket launchers and destroy all the tunnels they’ve been using to infiltrate our land and smuggle the weapons they use against us.

The second thing I have to fight in this war, believe it or not, is the superhawks of my own party: the guys who want to take out Gaza once and for all, to obliterate the whole strip or at the very least annihilate Gaza City. Whenever I tell them that’s going to far, or whenever I talk about anything like a ceasefire and negotiations, or withdrawing ground troops from Gaza, as I did on Sunday, you know what the superhawks call me? A bleeding heart! But I’m really a man of peace. Whenever I order an attack on any part of Gaza, it’s in the name and in the cause of peace. I don’t mind being called a bleeding heart—I’ve been called much worse. I don’t mind as long as I’m finally remembered as a guy who did everything he could for peace.

The third front is the hardest front of all. Just because civilians have been getting killed in Gaza, I have to fight everyone out there who accuses us of war crimes. War crimes! What about the war crimes

committed by Hamas, who not only use their own civilians as human shields but also fire rockets again and again into Israel—with absolutely no concern about where they land? Now it's true that hardly any Hamas rockets ever hits a populated area—because our iron dome defense system knocks them down first. But do you know that every time we knock one of their rockets down, it costs us \$50,000? That's a lot of money, and it adds up fast. And even though we don't spend it on rockets that we know are headed for open fields where nobody will get hurt, do you have any idea how much damage those rockets do to our fields? Over and over again, they have to be re-turfed and re-seeded. It's a royal and costly pain.

Furthermore, every time Hamas launches a rocket that might threaten our people, they have to hear the wail of a siren and run for cover. Do you know how annoying that is, day after day, hour after hour, minute after minute? You can't think when the siren goes off. All you can do is run and hide. It's an outrageous inconvenience.

Worst of all, Hamas kills. It has not only killed 64 Israeli soldiers; it has also killed three Israeli civilians.

You might say that's a tiny fraction of the number of Palestinian civilians killed in this war. According to the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the war has cost the lives of at least 1,033 Palestinian civilians, including 329 children and 187 women. But of course we all know that the UN is anti-Israel. Just because UN shelters have been struck seven times in this war, we've been wantonly slandered by Ban Ki-moon. Just because the latest airstrike—on Sunday-- took ten more lives at a UN school in Rafah that was holding 3000 people, the Secretary-General has called it a “moral outrage and a criminal act.” Let me tell you about moral outrage. I'm morally outraged that Hamas uses its own civilians—its own women and children—as human shields. We never aim at civilians, and we never aim at UN shelters. Since we've been repeatedly told where they are, we take extraordinary pains to spare them. Unlike Hamas, we know how to

target our airstrikes surgically. But once in a while, accidents happen. On Sunday, we were aiming at three militants on a motorcycle near the UN shelter in Rafah. If those guys insist on riding near the shelter, what are we to do? We have no choice but to strike and hope we do no collateral damage. But have you any idea how hard it is to hit a motorcycle from the air? Just once, just once, I wish the UN and all other critics of Israel could try to see things from our point of view.

One more thing: I don't waste much time weeping for the 329 Palestinian kids who were killed from what may have been—may have been, I stress—Israeli airstrikes. You know why I don't shed too many tears for those Palestinian kids? Let's face it: most of them would have grown up to be terrorists. So we've spared them from a life of terrorism. Now or twenty years from now, the last thing the world needs is more terrorists.

So before you criticize me again, just remember that I'm fighting terrorism and I'm fighting this war on three fronts—all in the name of peace.”