

Pakistani Academic Muhammad Maaz Arif interviews notable voice on Gaza and Israel-Palestine conflict Harry Fear

Speakers:

Harry Fear

(Journalist, Filmmaker and Speaker)

Muhammad Maaz Arif

(Pakistani Academic/Researcher)

[01-Jul-2025]

Summary:

A journalist and filmmaker with considerable on-the-ground experience in Gaza depicts the post-2023 devastation as a long-term campaign that has damaged Gaza's people, infrastructure, and civil society, while emphasizing Palestinian resilience. He claims Israel is not pursuing a genuine ceasefire, with USA support allowing for continuous military operations, assistance restrictions, and the disintegration of UNRWA. The interview criticizes Western double standards, discusses genocide allegations, dismisses the possibility of a near-term recovery or meaningful ceasefire, outlines bleak post-war governance scenarios, and concludes that accountability, reconciliation, and reparations can only be achieved through sustained international pressure.

Text/Transcript:

A journalist and filmmaker Harry Fear¹ with extensive on-the-ground experience in Gaza discusses the terrible humanitarian devastation since 2023, arguing that the situation has evolved into a long-term, **systematic destruction of Gaza's** inhabitants, infrastructure, and civil society. He describes previous Israeli military operations he

witnessed, discusses how daily life and the physical landscape have been destroyed, and underlines Palestinians' perseverance in the face of enormous suffering^{2,3}.

Fear contends that Israel is not pursuing a long-term peace, and that present political dynamics, particularly **USA support**, allow for continuing military operations, repeated ceasefire violations, and tight control over supplies. He highlights Israel's disintegration of UNRWA, which caused turmoil, food scarcity, and damaged Palestinian social systems^{2,3}.

The speaker also analyzes the high casualty estimates, the **role of international law**, genocide charges from experts, and what he perceives as Western governments' hypocritical standards and culpability. He discusses how Israeli military objectives, the tunnel network, and Hamas' incapacity to be defeated militarily all lead to a long, deadly battle^{2,3}.

The interview covers **Israeli military control** over major portions of Gaza, the possibility of future settlement construction, and how the land has been fractured and suffocated by buffer zones, access roads, and forced displacement^{2,3}.

The speaker examines the uncertainties surrounding a **potential ceasefire in Gaza**, stating that reconstruction would take decades and is unlikely to begin quickly due to political impediments, particularly US and Israeli policy dynamics. They argue that even a truce may not fundamentally alter conditions if Israel continues to strike and maintains tight control over Gaza^{2,3}.

Fear outlines a variety of **post-war governance scenarios**, including instability among local clans, a heavily Israeli-controlled military administration with limited humanitarian access, and a PA-linked arrangement that may involve new Palestinian entities^{2,3}.

The speaker also discusses the October 7 attacks, implying faults and possibly strategic neglect by Israeli leadership but casting doubt on a premeditated conspiracy. They say that the war proves that the conflict was **never simply about Hamas**^{2,3}.

The speakers accuse Western nations for classifying Hamas as a **terrorist organization** while not labeling the IDF or Israeli political parties, citing geopolitical relationships and US influence. Despite widespread criticism, they maintain that Israel is protected by Western countries^{2,3}.

Regarding regional reactions, the speaker states that **Arab and Muslim countries** avoid outright military engagement owing to political dependence on the United States or links to Israel, despite public outrage^{2,3}.

Finally, they endorse the concept of future **truth, reconciliation, and restitution**, claiming that international pressure, particularly from Europe and other regions, might finally modify policies, but with great political daring^{2,3}.

References:

1. Harry Fear – broadcast journalist, filmmaker, speaker (harryfear.com) [Internet]. Harry Fear’s Blog | Website of Journalist–filmmaker, Harry Fear. Available from: <https://www.harryfear.com/>
 2. Hamas ineliminable: Maaz Arif interview | Harry Fear [Internet]. Harry Fear’s Blog | Website of Journalist–filmmaker, Harry Fear. 2025. Available from: <https://www.harryfear.com/blog/2025/07/maaz-arif-interview/>
 3. Iqbal’s Response 21C. Harry Fear - Israel couldn’t exterminate the “Adam & Eve of Resistance” in Gaza (IR21C Podcast #10) [Internet]. YouTube. 2025. Available from: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eM_n5yppJXE
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