

# **Pakistani Academic Muhammad Maaz Arif interviews for 2<sup>nd</sup> time: A notable voice on Gaza and Israel-Palestine conflict Harry Fear**

## **Speakers:**

Harry Fear

(Journalist, Filmmaker and Speaker)

Muhammad Maaz Arif

(Pakistani Academic/Researcher)

**[03-Oct-2025]**

## **Summary:**

Harry Fear frames the Gaza genocide as the latest chapter in a long history of Palestinian dispossession, arguing that Israel has no real incentive for a ceasefire and that Netanyahu is prolonging the war for political survival, aided rather than restrained by the US and Trump's so-called peace plan, which he sees as a surrender document designed to cement permanent occupation. He sees the Global Sumud Flotilla as strategically important for limiting Israeli violence, exposing illegality, and inspiring global solidarity, while emphasizing that international law bodies such as the ICJ and UN lack force in the absence of Western political will, with Europe and the UK remaining complicit despite mounting public pressure. Fear dismisses most versions of the two-state solution as hollow and colonial, insisting that any settlement will fail without recognition of Palestinian rights and self-determination, predicting continued resistance, deeper international delegitimization of Israel, rising grassroots action, and eventual accountability, albeit only after prolonged suffering.

## **Text/Transcript:**

Harry Fear<sup>1</sup> **analyzes** the Gaza war within the larger history of Palestine, contending that the current crisis is part of a continuum of displacement, occupation, and resistance rather than an isolated incident.

On the **Global Sumud Flotilla**, Fear says European naval involvement (Italy, Spain, Turkey) ultimately fell short of direct protection, but their presence likely restrained Israel from harsher actions. He claims that the flotilla was strategically effective in exposing Israeli conduct, entering the global media cycle, and encouraging nonviolent opposition and mass mobilization, particularly in Europe<sup>2,3</sup>.

Regarding a **ceasefire**, Fear maintains that Israel has no real incentive to end the war. He claims Netanyahu is extending the conflict for political reasons and may utilize a "victory narrative" to win future elections. Fear sees Trump's Gaza "peace plan" as a surrender paper intended to entrench occupation rather than halt conflict, predicting Hamas would reject it and Israel will escalate further.

Regarding **USA influence and Trump**, Fear dismisses the notion that Trump is squeezing Netanyahu. Instead, Netanyahu sees Trump as protecting him, afraid to use the enormous power the US wields over Israel. He highlights the significance of Israeli lobbying in the United States and the United Kingdom, stating that Western countries continue to view Israel as an ally despite claims of genocide.

Concerning the two-state option, Fear claims that there are "**many shades**" of **two states**. He claims that Trump's version provides Palestinians with no genuine sovereignty and is similar to the West Bank model of limited autonomy under perpetual occupation. He claims that any political solution will fail unless Palestinian rights and self-determination are explicitly recognized.

Fear is doubtful of the usefulness of the **International Court of Justice and United Nations** processes in the absence of political will from powerful governments. He condemns British and European complicity, pointing out that Israeli politicians accused of inciting are diplomatically welcomed. He believes that legal responsibility will only be achieved by internal political pressure, unions, rallies, and civil disobedience.

Reflecting on **his time in Gaza** over a decade ago, Fear says the extended embargo made an eruption of violence unavoidable, though he never expected the situation to escalate to what many now term genocide. He sees today's disaster as part of a larger cycle in which injustice deepens before resistance and change emerge.

Concerning **UNRWA**, Fear appreciates Philippe Lazzarini's professionalism but emphasizes that UN organizations are structurally constrained. Fear contends that efforts to defund UNRWA and weaponize aid have failed to weaken Palestinian resolve, praising humanitarian professionalism while questioning whether Europe would eventually force Israel to reinstall UNRWA.

Regionally, he sees Israel under pressure but dismisses the possibility of a "Samson option," citing **Iran and Yemen** as significant deterrents to Israeli aggression. Egypt's militarization of Sinai is regarded as an insurance policy against widespread Palestinian relocation, reflecting Cairo's red line on any spillover from Gaza.

Concerning the political future, Fear is extremely dubious of the two-state solution, claiming it has become empty and symbolic, providing Palestinians with limited autonomy but no sovereignty. He believes that the amount of violence and the expose of Israeli supremacism are driving momentum toward a **rights-based, potentially one-state solution**. He contends that Palestinians will neither accept "lesser" statehood under permanent Israeli control, nor the technocratic or non-democratic systems outlined in Trump's plan.

He emphasizes that **Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem are inseparable**, warning that attempts to divide Palestinian territory are purposeful maneuvers to weaken Palestinian rights. Resistance groups oppose this disintegration, focusing their effort on reintegration, freedom of movement, and access to Jerusalem and sacred places. He warns against presenting the conflict as a religious battle, questioning the association of Judaism with Israeli state policy and claiming that such narratives support authoritarian and far-right goals.

Fear observes a growing psychological, social, and moral burden in Israel in the promise of security. He anticipates **long-term accountability** through universal jurisdiction, as Israeli soldiers may face legal ramifications abroad.

Finally, Fear claims that **social and independent media** have played an important role in exposing the genocide, despite censorship, shadow-banning, and deplatforming. While traditional power has regained control of online spaces, social media remains an important, if imperfect tool for raising awareness, connecting people, and resisting. He concludes by acknowledging the psychological toll of watching a live-streamed genocide and recognizing Palestinian journalists and camera operators whose work has influenced world awareness at great personal cost.

## 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. “100 Shades of the Two-State Solution”: IR21C Interview | Harry Fear [Internet]. Harry Fear’s Blog | Website of Journalist–filmmaker, Harry Fear. 2025. Available from: <https://www.harryfear.com/blog/2025/10/ir21c-interview/>
  3. Iqbal’s Response 21C. Harry Fear - “Quiet” occupation and “100 shades” of two-state solution (IR21C Podcast #16) [Internet]. YouTube. 2025. Available from: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cnsd6G2MCBA>
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