



23 January 2017

Norman Finkelstein

GAZA: an inquest into its martyrdom

Fully two-thirds of the Gaza Strip's 1.8 million inhabitants consist of expellees and their descendants from the first Arab-Israeli war in 1948, while more than half of this overwhelmingly refugee population is under 18 years of age. Gaza is among the most densely populated areas in the world, more crowded than even Tokyo. For the past decade, Gaza has been subjected to an illegal blockade by Israel, one consequence of which is, 95 percent of Gaza's drinking water is unfit for human consumption. Former British Prime Minister David Cameron has described Gaza as an "open-air prison." Since 2004, Israel has launched eight high-tech military operations targeting this open-air prison.

Norman Finkelstein's presentation will focus on the last and most destructive of these successive assaults, Operation Protective Edge in 2014. He will argue that dominant depictions of Protective Edge were replete with misinformation and disinformation: on the one hand, Israel did not launch the deadly attack in "self-defense," it did not engage in a "war" with Hamas, and its "Iron Dome" anti-missile defense system did not save many Israeli lives; on the other hand, Hamas did not fire "rockets" at Israel, and it did not construct "terror tunnels" targeting Israel's civilian population. It was not just the major international media, however, that betrayed Gaza. Finkelstein will argue that the community of States and reputable human rights organizations also abandoned Gaza in its hour of trial.



Norman G. Finkelstein received his doctorate in 1988 from the Department of Politics at Princeton University. He taught for many years Western political theory and the Israel-Palestine conflict. He is the author of some ten books that have been translated into 50 foreign editions, including *The Holocaust Industry: Reflections on the exploitation of Jewish suffering* and, most recently, *Gaza: An inquest into its martyrdom*.

Workshop | 23 January 2017 | 14:00 – 18:00

Organiser: Department 'Law & Anthropology'

Max Planck Institute for Social Anthropology

Main Seminar Room | Advokatenweg 36 | 06114 Halle

Preregistration requested by 20 January to marencakova@eth.mpg.de