

CONNECT M3		
Exhausted People Danced	Time	

TB-5415 A

*True peace requires more than a temporary halt to violence!*

- 1 In Khan Younis in the Gaza Strip yesterday, exhausted people danced, celebrated, blew horns, and beat drums after hearing the news of the new ceasefire, summoning sunlight after a 2yr storm of bullets and bombs.

Later that day, despite the pending deal and negotiations taking place in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, Israel continued its attacks on the Strip, including an air strike on a house in Gaza City that killed at least four Palestinians and injured dozens more. A hell of a sadistic way to demonstrate your intentions for "peace."



- 2 This new "deal" didn't come out of respectful negotiation. America, the brutal tyrant of the world, not surprisingly, used its well-honed bullying tactics to push its agenda, like a giant bulldozer flattening everything in its path. When **Trump** and **Netanyahu** gave their joint press conference twelve days ago at the White House to unveil their proposal, **Hamas** was told: "This is a **20-point proposal**, you accept it all unconditionally, or you face total obliteration." This was a one-sided deal forced onto a people who are starving and on the verge of being wiped out. And let's not forget that a month ago, Israel bombed peace negotiators in Doha, murdering six people—another show of savagery.
- 3 This has probably been the most brutal two years any country has ever faced. After **733** days of relentless genocide, ethnic cleansing, mass destruction, bombings, starvation, forced displacement, an estimated **68,000** people killed and tens of thousands injured or missing, perhaps tonight Gazans will finally have a night without the sounds of bombs and drones—

like a city that has been screaming for years suddenly catching a breath. We will never let the world forget Israel's war crimes.

- 4 In real terms, a "deal" after a horrendous two-year criminal genocide seems utterly obscene. Long ago, Israel should have complied with the ICJ orders, including the order to leave all illegally occupied territories. Long ago, the UN should have sent in an international peacekeeping force. Instead, Palestinians had to negotiate for the minimum number of aid trucks needed to sustain life.
- 5 **Trump's** plan is heavily weighted toward Israeli interests, demands, and security concerns. No Palestinian representatives were consulted — and the absence is evident. The proposal offers little in the way of a political horizon for Palestinians, leaving them stranded at the edge of a map drawn by someone else's hand.
- 6 **Trump's** self-aggrandizing motives seem to be two-fold: winning a Nobel Prize—as he loves accolades and awards—and setting up a real estate bonanza, the Gaza Riviera for him and his daughter's husband, Jared Kushner. Kushner has significant investments in Israel through his private equity firm, Affinity Partners. In **February 2024**, during an interview at Harvard University, Kushner referred to Gaza's coastline as "very valuable" and suggested that Israel should relocate Palestinians to areas like the Negev desert or Egypt's Rafah to "clean up" Gaza, treating a living, breathing city like a chessboard to be cleared and redeployed for profit.
- 7 The establishment are all pushing for us to now praise **Trump** for his peace-making and ignore the fact that tens of thousands of Palestinians have been murdered on his watch - with over a trillion dollars-worth of weapons that he donated to Israel. Go figure.
- 8 So many people are now praising **Trump** for bringing "peace to the middle east". They seem to have forgotten that he could have brought the **94** Israeli hostages home alive, and hundreds of thousands of innocent Palestinians in Gaza would not have been murdered - if on his first day in office he refused to help **Netanyahu** with his horrendous genocide. The US has been a key partner in Israel's war on Gaza since the beginning. **Trump** is as bent as a nine-bob note, and as greedy as a toddler in a cookie jar.

Against all odds, the courage of Hamas and the Palestinian people forced the world to sit at the table. It happened because Hamas and Palestinians refused to back down. When courage met the world stage, the Palestinians and Hamas stood firm, like a lone lighthouse cutting through a stormy sea of indifference. The ceasefire deal is not a "gesture of goodwill" from the US and Israel but due to the resilience of the Palestinian people. The people of Gaza survived on their own. Worldwide aid did not reach them. Flotillas did not reach them. Amid the devastation, their victory was to put the fate of Palestinians at the centre of the world's consciousness. Palestine now stands as the moral compass of the world.

I truly hope that the ceasefire holds and that **Netanyahu** doesn't find an excuse to continue the genocide as soon as the Israeli POWs are released.

- 9 Thus far, the "peace plan" doesn't offer much to Palestinians. True peace requires more than a temporary halt to violence. It requires a comprehensive political solution that includes Palestinian representation and addresses humanitarian needs. The plan emphasizes international oversight or governance boards rather than granting real political authority to Palestinian leaders. Little attention is given to Palestinian security needs or protection from arbitrary violence. It does not address contested territories, settlements, or the right of return for refugees. Long-term sovereignty and territorial rights are largely ignored. The plan seems to be designed to turn Gaza into a showcase for outside interests, with Palestinians excluded from controlling economic resources. The Palestinian people may have been given the right to just merely exist.
- 10 The price of this new ceasefire is the blood of innocent Palestinians. The architects and perpetrators of this genocide, the perpetrators of genocide must all be held to account. The right to justice must not be given away or negotiated. It belongs to no one but the survivors of this genocide.
- 11 This moment marks a triumph of resistance, but it is also a spark in the darkness - a signal that our work is far from over. We must intensify pressure, take bold action and persist in civil disobedience until apartheid is torn down and Palestine stands fully free.
- 12 Halting the bombs and ending the starvation is a crucial first step, but it's only the beginning. If the world turns its gaze elsewhere, progress could unravel like sand slipping through our fingers.

Now is not the time to exhale.

- 13 One way that we can keep the pressure up against America - the bully of the world - and its attack dog in the middle East (Israel) - is to introduce people to the reality of the violent nature of the empire and the relentless violence encouraged by the arms dealers and their war machine of conflict creation for profit. ([LINK 13a](#))

So, that's my current thinking and opinion on this subject today - but I wonder - what are your thoughts?

By: **Kym Staton**    Contact CONNECT: [HERE](#)

## ABOUT THE AUTHOR

In **2014**, **Kym Staton – Founder of Films For Change** - started organising very small public screenings in a tiny cinema in Darlighurst, Sydney with an interest in sharing inspiring and awareness building films to a wider audience. It was a weekly event of documentary screening followed by dinner and discussion. In the first few months, sometimes only a few people turned up, but little by little the interest grew, and **Films For Change** expanded.

The aim of **Films For Change** is to share inspiration, insights and information via documentary films.

**Kym Staton's** latest film is: [The Trust Fall: Julian Assange](#)

"A man who risked everything to bring the truth to light".

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