

Permanent Resistance to Israel

The Reut Institute – Concepts and Terms

Definition

The term "Permanent Resistance to Israel" in the Israeli-Arab context, refers to political, legal, diplomatic and military declarations and actions aimed at relinquishing the existence of the State of Israel based upon the fundamental rejection of the Jewish right to self-determination.

"Permanent Resistance" implies that the resistance to Israel is constant, even though it may be manifested in various contexts, situations and occasions. It is the practical manifestation of the phenomenon of Anti-Zionism (see Anti-Zionism).

Background

The resistance to Israel's existence (hereinafter, "resistance") is based upon the philosophical, legal or religious rejection of the right of the Jewish People to self-determination, specifically in the Land of Palestine. The resistance is fundamental in essence, deriving from Israel's mere existence (and that of the Jewish Yeshuv previously).

The nature of the resistance varies from time to time, place to place, according to the circumstances. Consequently, any appeasement of it turns out to be local, temporal and circumstantial.

The struggle against the resistance, i.e. the struggle for the realization of the Jewish right to self-determination in the Land of Palestine through the establishment of the State of Israel, has become the central effort of the Zionist movement since its outset. Thus, since the inception of Zionism, the resistance has been manifested in various forms:

- **Philosophical, legal, political and diplomatic struggle** against the right of the Jewish people to self-determination (see, Anti-Zionism, Basic De-Legitimization of Israel, and the One-State Threat).¹ Outstanding examples of this form are the struggle against the Partition Plan (11/47), as well as UN General Assembly Resolution 1379, which compared Zionism to racism (11/75).

¹ Reut Institute distinguishes between the overall negation of the Jewish right to self-determination, whether at the Land of Palestine or not (which is the result of Anti-Semitism), and the fundamental resistance to the Jewish state per-se. This last category derives from the claim that political entities based upon ethnic, religious, national or racial principals, should not exist. The legitimacy of this last claim depends on whether it is directed equally towards all similar political entities- and not just towards Israel.

- **Military struggle against the Jewish Yeshuv in the land of Palestine** and against the State of Israel, with the objective of its elimination. Outstanding examples of this form are the Independence War, the Six Days War and the statements of Iranian President Ahmedinajad. The military struggle waged by the resistance differs from the military campaigns between Israel and its neighboring countries. The former is an existential issue, while the later are directed towards achieving political, economic or locally military aims.
- **Political attempts to prevent the conclusion of political agreements** by means of escalating the demands, extending the negotiation's length or expanding the agenda (see, "the trap of negotiations").
- **Using terror to obstruct political progress** or in order to injure Jews and Israelis, causing damage and maintaining the struggle alive (see the aforementioned "the trap of negotiations").

The phenomenon of basic De-Legitimization of Israel – includes the convergence of movements, unions and organizations, Arab and non-Arab (which are not seemingly linked among themselves) around the current argument against the State of Israel. At the background of this convergence lie the common principles of rejection of the Jewish right to self-determination and of the Jewishness of Israel. The convergence phenomenon justifies itself by linking its argument to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

At the moment, the main manifestations of the resistance to Israel include the current Iranian regime, the Palestinian Ethos of Struggle, Hizbullah in Lebanon and Al-Qaida organization.

End.