Ελληνική Εταιρεία Γεωγραφικών Μελετών
«Ο Στράβων»

STRAVON ON THE GAZA CRISIS

STRAVON has been following closely the disquieting developments since the horrific terror attack of Hamas last Saturday, 10/07.

We stand with Israel. We express our compassion for the civilians killed.

We have exchanged at a very early-stage in-house assessments about the geopolitical implications of the Hamas onslaught, while our attention was turning to the fate of Israeli hostages at the hands of the terrorist formation.

We pointed that,

- The question of strengthening and extending the Abraham accords suffered a blow.
- The normalization of Israeli-Saudi relations is put to the deep freeze.
- The Indian-Mediterranean transport corridor being a long-term project, was not seriously affected.
- The thaw in the ties of Israel with Turkey is likewise relegated to a more propitious future.
- Egypt, bordering to Gaza via Raffa, faces a renewed humanitarian, security, refugee and ultimately a political challenge of magnitude. The same applies to the Hasemite Kingdom of Jordan.
- Iran, directly involved or not, is at first look, a beneficiary of this grave crisis, as, beyond the influence it already exerts via proxies, it has a plain field to get closer to Saudi Arabia. At the same time, they might be tempted to think that the prospect of facing an attack by Israel goes in the dustbin.
- The longer the crisis lasts, the more the probability of spikes in the oil prices rises.
- Western Europe, and Greece, hosting very large numbers of Moslem immigrants, citizens as well as legal or illegal migrants, will have to deal with an explosion of religiously motivated sympathy to Gazans and the Palestinians at large. This will stand at odds with the policy of support of Israel by the European governments and a large part of the European public.
- If PM Netanyahu s policies of razing to the ground Gaza in order to eradicate Hamas prevail, then a new wave of Palestinian refugees will knock the doors of Egypt and the other Arab League states, Turkey and Europe across the sea.

- Hostilities in Ukraine must cease.

Therefore, STRAVO, integral part of the Hellenic citizens society, in view of the gathering storm, thinks as follows:

- Israel risks losing the moral high ground by pushing aside any sense of analogy in its war against Hamas, bombing and destroying indiscriminately the Gaza exclave.
- US got to safeguard “equilibrium of suffering” between Israelis and Palestinians, if the remaining western influence is to be preserved in the Middle East and across the Moslem world.
- Paradoxically, the Hamas terror operation and the Israeli counterattack, bring back to the table the issue of definitive settlement of the question of Palestine; on the basis of the UN two states formula, in principle along the lines of pre-1967 borders.
- The longer this crisis festers the more state actors like Iran and Turkey, will benefit and the world public opinion will be galvanized not just against Israel but against the West and Christianity.
- Europe will have an acute domestic problem, with legions of Moslem inhabitants demonstrating against Israel and harbouring hatred against their respective host countries.

That’s why this war between Israel and Hamas must come to an end, before the Armageddon is unleashed.

Stravon of Amaseia,
Athens, 13/10/2023