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GLOBAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST THE NORMALIZATION OF EVIL

Jurists, lawyers, intellectuals, artists, advocates of justice, defenders of freedom, and the oppressed of the world, Just as the ambitions and hegemonic designs of great powers helped pave the way for devastating wars, including the First World War; and just as, following Germany's defeat and the collapse of the Ottoman Empire, the ambitions of the victors and the humiliation imposed upon the German people under the Treaty of Versailles contributed to creating the conditions for the Second World War; and just as Nazi injustices against the Jews ultimately gave rise to an eighty-year-long tragedy in our region, so that Palestinians in Asia would be made to pay the price for the crimes of European Nazis; and just as the mechanism proposed by the victors of the First World War—the League of Nations—proved incapable of preserving “international peace and security,” with the Second World War erupting barely twenty years later; so too, in 1945, the ambitions of the victors of the war gave birth to the United Nations, an institution which, in my view, undermined one of the fundamental principles of international law and one of the major achievements associated with the Peace of Westphalia and the Congress of Vienna: the equality of states. In practice, the victorious powers created for themselves the unequal privilege of permanent membership, coupled with the veto power, in the Security Council. The result, in my view, has been an organization increasingly incapable of fulfilling its fundamental responsibility—maintaining international peace and security—and, instead, increasingly transformed into an arena for the normalization of evil. Thus, individuals facing proceedings or allegations concerning genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes before the International Criminal Court can appear before the General Assembly while threatening others with annihilation; while the leader of the country hosting the Organization

engages in conduct that, in the author's view, is directly contrary to the spirit and principles of the UN Charter and threatens other countries with destruction. It is particularly striking that some of the victors of the Second World War who enjoy privileged status in the Security Council had themselves either collaborated with Nazi Germany—as in the case of France, which, according to historical accounts, handed more than 76,000 Jews over to the Nazis—or played a major role in the circumstances leading to the outbreak of the war, such as the Stalin–Hitler agreement embodied in the secret protocols associated with the Molotov–Ribbentrop Pact and its annexes, which contributed to the conditions surrounding the outbreak of war in 1939. Beyond proxy wars, some of the most destructive conflicts since the establishment of the United Nations have also involved powers possessing these exceptional privileges in the Security Council, including the wars in Indochina, Vietnam, Korea, Afghanistan, Iraq, Ukraine, Iran, and elsewhere. Today, as the condition of the world bears an unmistakable resemblance to the circumstances preceding the First and Second World Wars—so much so that many argue that a Third World War has already been underway for some time—and at a moment when, in the author's view, the “Butcher of Gaza,” the leader accused of aggression against Yazidi women and the people of Kobani, and Donald Trump, described here as Epstein's associate, have turned the United Nations into a theatre in which international law, the UN Charter, and the normalization of evil are treated with contempt, I sound the alarm and declare: 1. Particularly since Donald Trump returned to the White House, and in an age of the “collapse of international law,” when, according to the author, kidnapping has reached the level of heads of state for the purpose of plundering the wealth of nations, and democracy has fallen so far that voters are openly offered five-thousand-dollar payments, threats are being made against others within the very halls of the United Nations—an act fundamentally at odds with the prohibition on the threat or use of force enshrined in Article 2 of the UN Charter. 2. Not only is the Palestinian leader denied a visa under a policy of double standards, while a red carpet is simultaneously laid out for the “Butcher of Gaza,” but the International Criminal Court itself is subjected to sanctions by Trump because it issued an arrest warrant concerning the killing of thousands of women, children, and innocent civilians in Gaza. 3. Today, on the one hand, despite extraordinary advances in science and technology, the world has become so afflicted by what the author calls a “moral collapse” that a movement comparable to the Age of Enlightenment appears necessary. On the other

hand, we are witnessing a form of “terrorism” defined under the label of “Islamic terrorism,” whose alleged “heartlands” are described here as Afghanistan and Iran—regardless of the author’s reference to statements attributed to Hillary Clinton concerning the origins of ISIS; the author’s contention that the Taliban, as a movement supported by the United States, returned to power in Afghanistan following an agreement under Trump and its implementation under Joe Biden; the author’s assertion that the Guadeloupe Conference played an important role in Khomeini’s rise to power; and the historical fact that Afghanistan was invaded by the Soviet Union, contributing to the circumstances from which the Taliban later emerged. All of this, in the author’s view, calls for a movement comparable to a Renaissance.

4. When Libya is dismantled and plunged into civil war in the name of democratization; when Iraq is invaded on the pretext of weapons that were never found, even without authorization from the United Nations, and Paul Bremer assumes its administration; when Syria is effectively divided into three zones, each coming under the control of a different state, while ISIS takes control of the remaining territory; when individuals accused of killing women and assaulting Yazidi girls and people in Kobani lecture others at the United Nations; and when thousands of women and children in Gaza become victims—is it not legitimate to question the established narratives surrounding September 11, 2001, and October 7, 2023? This question becomes all the more pressing, the author argues, given claims that Gaza was under Netanyahu’s surveillance and that Egyptian and Emirati officials had warned him about developments surrounding October 7.

5. The fundamental question today is not merely why individuals described here as Epstein’s alleged sexual offenders, the “Butcher of Gaza,” and those accused of atrocities against Yazidi women and girls and in Kobani have arrogated to themselves the right to turn the United Nations into a killing ground for its own Charter and for international law. The fundamental question is this: Why do those who seek justice, those who defend freedom, and the oppressed remain silent in the face of such conduct? How can the silence of victims be justified? Even if Spartacus ultimately failed in his struggle to liberate the slaves; even if the Occupy movement and the 99% failed to prevail against the one percent who wield power; even if the Yellow Vest movement in France did not achieve all of its objectives; even if institutions described as evil and the holders of political and economic power continue to sow disorder and issue arrogant challenges—how can the victims of evil, oppression, and war participate in the normalization of evil through silence, and sometimes even

through applause? It is for this reason that I call upon my fellow jurists, lawyers, defenders of freedom, advocates of justice, and opponents of oppression throughout the world to join a Global Campaign Against the Normalization of Evil. Let us not merely seek to prevent war. Let us build mechanisms capable of ensuring that no bully or warmonger is ever again given the opportunity to unleash conflict, and let us restore the dignity of the human being, which has been taken hostage by those who wield power. I have no doubt that, in this endeavor, my fellow jurists and lawyers in the United States, Israel, Iran, France, Russia, and Syria bear a responsibility greater than that of others and can take the lead in this movement, thereby encouraging other oppressed communities to join them.

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