

Good text republished
because the file was
unprintable and quite ink
intensive. So it was
reworked a bit for ease of
printing.

ANTI EXUSIA
DISTR0

ANTI EEOYΣIA
ΔΙΣΤΡΟ

ANTI EXUSIA
DISTR0

exusia.noblogs.org

RETVRN FIRE - SVPPLEMENT

THE ATROCITY



**This edition to supplement Return Fire vol.6 chap.7 & 8
(winter 2024-2025)**

**PDFs of this & all other Return Fire magazines
& supplements can be read, downloaded &
printed from returnfire.noblogs.org**



June 2024: campaign of attacks against Barclays bank sees 21 branches across England & Scotland hit in one night, while elsewhere anarchists had sealed their ATMs (by simply applying superglue to pieces of card & them into the slot). Barclays held shares in Elbit Systems (supplier to Israel of various weaponry including 85% of Israel's military drone fleet); in Bristol, Palestine Action drove a repurposed prison van through the perimeter of Elbit System's research & production facility for electronic warfare, land vehicle, simulation & vision technologies (including those used in Gaza) to cause damages.

Before the end of 2024, Barclays announced completing divestment from Elbit (but not from the fossil fuel companies they gave \$190.5 billion to between 2016 & 2022, also motive for the pictured attacks)

“The conflict is becoming more widespread, Russia and NATO are promising us a third world war. So, faced with this unstable world, don't we want to ask ourselves a few questions? How long can we afford to look the other way, or make do with a meager humanitarian contribution? How do we imagine reacting if the conflict draws closer? If, as the state plans, military service is reestablished, and a whole category of people are sent to fight in the war? If the factory, the offices where you work are requisitioned and put to the service of this same war? Do we know where the military supply convoys pass through? Do we know how to provide care? Do we want to rely on the state to guarantee our security, which has proven time and time again that this is not its primary concern? After all, if it does not hesitate to expose us to industrial risks, why would it be more concerned about our security in the event of war?”

There are still old men and women who remember the times when the word war was not a distant abstraction. People have always had to resist the warlike tendencies of their leaders. We will not escape it. They refused to be cannon fodder, we will refuse to be drone fodder. Far from wanting to seem alarmist, this is an invitation to reflection, to discussion, to the refusal of passivity. Talk about it to your neighbor, in the queue at the bakery, after the next war movie you go to see. Talk away from prying ears (phones are ears!). Ask yourself who you can count on, and how to defend yourself against those who could harm you.

[...] Faced with their wars of conquest and colonization, inter-state rivalries and control over the raw materials essential to the mutation of capitalism, we have chosen our side. Faced with their industrial wars against rivers and oceans, against mountains and ice caps, from the subsoil to the stars, we have chosen our side. Faced with their social wars against the exploited, women, the misfits, the deserters of gender and race, the indigenous people, we have chosen our side. Faced with their technological wars against what grows and what resists the machine, we have chosen our side. Against their wars: our side is that of solidarity, of struggle, of mutual aid, of the offensive and of rebellious love against all States, all industries, all the slaughterers of life... and of freedom.”

– claim for the attack on three electrical transformers supplying companies in the north and south of Toulouse – site of the largest hub of the aeronautics and space sector in France (itself the leader in Europe in both civil and military fields) – by lifting manholes and burning the cables beneath, on the eve of the industry's annual show, December 2nd-3rd 2024, amid other Toulouse anti-militarist actions





profits on all fronts; from the industry and resource extraction that often leads to war, from war itself, and from the aftermath when people try to migrate by selling industrial and military vessels around the world to the highest bidder.

On June 24th and 25th the latest NATO summit will be held in Den Haag, where politicians, military personnel, and representatives from the arms industry will come together to discuss how to most effectively wage war on the rest of the world. This summit will be accompanied by the largest police operation in Dutch history involving half of the nations police force. The cops have politely asked the general public to please not organize any other events during this time as their capacity will be stretched to the limit. So what's your plan?



10.10.24, Philadelphia, USA: Attack on \$1.9 million home of Gavin Kenneally, co-founder & CEO of Ghost Robotics (who made robotic dogs that patrol in Palestine & at the US/Mexican border): windows smashed, walls & 'smart' doorbell painted, & anarchists return November 28th to flood the (under sale) house

Pông. Damen has already sold four Sigma major surface vessels to the Vietnamese navy. The ships will be fitted with missiles made by European missile company MBDA, three Italian Oto Melara guns and will be equipped with Thales Netherlands sensors, fire control and combat management system. This wharf is one of the largest in the Damen Group and is located near the South China sea, a region that is constantly present in the news as the U.S., China, and their proxies flex their muscles and politicians sow fear of a third world war. With each step towards war Damen rakes in immense profits.

Outside the scope of the navy, the Damen company provides a range of vessels for the network of companies that serve the oil industry with personnel transport and offshore activities like building platforms and pipe laying in Nigeria. Shell and other oil companies have devastated the Niger Delta and mercenaries, militias and the state have murdered countless protesters and insurgents seeking to free their territory from the neocolonial grip of big oil. Of course Damen also supplies the Nigerian navy with small ships like the LST-100, suited to transport 235 troops, with bow and stern ramps capable of carrying 70 tons (just below the weight of a main battle tank), and able to transport smaller vessels and (armoured) vehicles, board helicopters and surface and aerial drones. These boats are used in anti-piracy operations that serve to protect the oil industry.

When people attempt to flee this devastation, wrought by European states and companies through colonialism and war, in order to seek refuge in Europe they are often intercepted by the coast guard or border patrol in ships built by Damen. The Damen group supplies Morocco, Tunisia, and the United Kingdom with vessels used to patrol the external and internal borders of fortress Europe. They also supply the Libyan coast guard which has been known to forcefully intercept and sometimes shoot at migrants and search and rescue vessels. Damen

The doors slide open, and the conspirators get on board. In seats of comfortless plastic, they recline and avoid one another's eyes. One retrieves a book, another does crosswords. A few begin to nap. In an hour the bombs will go off.

Doors closing.

In an hour the bombs will go off, and eighty-three people will die. But the conspirators are not afraid. They have practice. The train glides forward and they remain invisible to one another. What their calm demeanors both hide and reveal is that this sort of thing happens all the time. And though it is routine, they do not acknowledge their fellow conspirators. They look at the floor, at cars out the window, at their newspapers and palm pilots. And they are not afraid because they are impervious. The bombs will go off in less than an hour, but the conspirators fear no bombs. They rest, because the whole day is ahead of them, and the day brings more work. On the highway beside the train, drivers hurtle towards their destination, oblivious to bombs and everything else as they jockey between lanes for the most favorable position.

This is Dunn Loring, doors will open on the left.

More commuters enter the train and take their seats, the doors close and the clock steadily counts down to zero, but still the conspirators do not trade glances, perspire or cringe.

Orange Line train to New Carrollton. Next station is West Falls Church.

In fifty minutes the bombs will go off, and eighty-three people will die. A little boy will run away from what was his house with his ears bleeding and his arm bleeding and his back scratched to ribbons, and he will live,

but only for a week, and his death will come too late to count. Others will die because the water pipes broke again, and more still will be devoured years later by strange cancers, but it is still not enough. There is more work to be done. That is why they rise so early, the conspirators. They are already planning the next atrocity. As the train lurches around a bend the electric lights flicker and their shadows appear demonic on the footworn floor. The shadows grapple and claw, disembowel rivals and wear the organs with prestige, then fall bucking and heaving in orgiastic brotherhood and consummating a shared congratulation for their bloody exploits. The shadows are tearing each other to bits and lapping at opened jugulars and erecting monuments to gratuitous suicides and digesting themselves as a whole until there is only one shadow left and it belches out a fetid commandment, sweet as shit to the flies. And the people in their plastic seats are all flies and they hop into the air and chase the breath of their shadow and throw themselves on the image of a carcass that the shadow offers them. And a whole new generation of eggs and flies is born out of the ecstasy the thought of those eighty-three corpses gives them. The light-flicker ends and the flies are people again and they are sitting still in their comfortless plastic chairs, lips pursed guardedly over gold fillings and hands hunched in to caress their wallets of human skin.

Doors opening.

But they are not flies, and they do not have demon shadows, or wallets of human skin. The woman with graying hair will not even buy a wallet made of cow skin. When the doors slide open, more people get on, but they are not conspirators. They are people going to work. Normal people, with marriages and mortgages. The man with the messenger bag has a new job, which he thinks he can do well. He smiles inside when his boss shows he's impressed, and he grimaces inside when the project manager gives inane advice. In an hour he will be designing software. He will not be dropping a block of concrete through the stomach of a woman making love. The man with the messenger bag has figured out an effective way to archive large quantities of files, stored in multiple databases, accessed by multiple agencies. The files are satellite photos. A photo yesterday showed buildings. By the end of the day a photo will show craters. The satellites can capture so much detail that tomorrow a photo will show twenty- one graves, and the next day, fifty-six.

here, and millions of migrants flee from wars present and past.

We as anarchists must ask ourselves how we will act, today and tomorrow. Will we complain online about the latest outrage or join those marching in circles begging the politicians for crumbs; to do something, anything, other than funding these merchants of death? Or will we take matters into our own hands? Organizing mutual aid for those displaced by conflict, climate and the economy. Blockading and sabotaging the arms companies that make war, colonialism, and genocide possible in the first place. On the first day of christmas [2024] some anarchists chose to do the latter.

Breaking into the floating dock of the Oranjewerf in Amsterdam, owned by Damen, and sabotaging two cranes by smashing the computer consoles and joysticks. Damen is a Dutch ship building and repair company that owns more than 30 wharves and operates in 120 countries around the world. The company produces work vessels as well as military ships and patrol boats used by the border patrol of many countries.

Damen has designed and exported military ships to many different navies around the world, including to the United Arab Emirates. The UAE is a part of the Saudi Arabian led coalition of countries that waged war against the Houthis in Yemen, a war in which over 150,000 people were killed. Another 227,000 people died due to famine and inadequate health care resulting in part from a Saudi coalition naval blockade. Ships built or designed by Damen were almost certainly involved in this humanitarian disaster.

Damen profits from the increasing militarization of countries around the globe. For example through the Song Cam Shipyard, a joint venture with a Vietnamese partner, not far from the Chinese border and in the direct vicinity of the headquarters of the Vietnamese Navy in Hai



08.02.25, Newcastle, UK: The group Palestine Action blockades Armstrong Works factory (owned by Israel's third biggest weapons firm, Rafael) producing military vehicles & tanks, including armoured bulldozers & robotic combat vehicles, & supplying remote-controlled killing machines deployed in Gaza and southern Lebanon. The previous (May 2023) blockade of the factory caused £69,000 in damage plus £600,000 in losses

Appendix II:

In a recent speech NATO chief Mark Rutte warned that “we are not ready for what is coming our way in four to five years,” and that Europe needs to “shift to a wartime mindset and turbocharge defense production and defense spending.” While NATO prepares for the war to come, arms companies worldwide make millions on war that is already

This is East Falls Church, doors opening on the left- and side.

Some day the well shaven man will be able to say that fifty-six graves is fewer than eighty-three graves, and if certain people say there are eighty-three deaths then certain people must be liars, and if liars say the country is killing innocent people they must be wrong, and the atrocity must be a good thing. But for now the databases are too cumbersome, and the well shaven man does not know that there will only be fifty-six graves. There is more work to be done, because the well shaven man does not know how many graves there will be and he cannot know that some bodies won't ever collect themselves into graves because his job is to let people know the atrocity must be a good thing.

Orange Line to New Carrollton. Next stop, Ballston.

There is an election, and the point of the election is for the right people to win, and bombs falling in the right places keep the wrong people from voting, so the point of the well shaven man is to let everyone know that the election and the bombs falling are good things, and one in the same. His jurisdiction is video games. He finds incentives for companies to make video games so people can play at shooting the wrong people and protecting the right people and their fragile elections. But he doesn't believe in propaganda, so yes, it's okay if the right people aren't portrayed perfectly, it's okay if they act stupid and run into the crossfire sometimes. Polls, after all, suggest this kind of comedic relief will improve the product's popularity, which means a better delivery of the message. The well shaven man is on his way to a promotion for having authored a report showing that video games are widespread among more demographics than previously assumed.

Doors opening.

Information is the basis of democracy, right? It's the well shaven man's job to get information to the public.

Doors closing. Please stand clear of the doors. Doors closing.

The woman with the graying hair sips her coffee and meditates. This will be a difficult day. In forty-five minutes the bombs will explode, and she will get the news before lunch break, while she is reviewing a report. The report is prepared by subordinates. It is a list of verified incidents. The woman with graying hair will select exemplary incidents and send them on to fundraising, who will use them in a letter to donors. The letter is to encourage more donations to the agency, so the agency can continue its humanitarian work. The last incident on the list is about five men with signs of torture and bullets in their heads found floating in a river last night. Well, over there it would have been morning. She thinks about it briefly during lunch.

Virginia Square, GMU. Doors opening on the right. This is the Orange Line to New Carrollton. Next stop Clarendon.

After lunch there will a meeting and the woman with the graying hair will agree that the relief camp should be set up fifty miles away. With the news of the bombs exploding and the eighty-three people dying comes news that more bombs would fall and were falling. Normally, they would like to set up the camp closer, but the military want people getting aid to leave the area. The woman with the graying hair does not know why— perhaps to move noncombatants out of harm's way, perhaps to locate the relief camp protectively near the military base. But she does know that the agency operates throughout most of that country only with the help of the military. And if they agree to set up the relief camp at the requested location, the military will fly in medical supplies for free. The woman with graying hair cannot think of medical supplies as weapons, so she agrees, and the meeting ends unanimously.

Doors opening.

The balding man knows what weapons are. He makes them. The woman with graying hair might strangle babies with stethoscopes but the balding man can level whole cities. In forty minutes some of his bombs will turn eighty-three people into ghosts, and the woman wearing earrings will turn them into “dead militants.” The balding man wouldn't make bombs if he didn't get pleasure out of every intimate detail. He knows what will happen to the eighty-three people before they do— in fact, they will never

The historical context:

Israel was founded in 1948 in the Nakba, an organized act of ethnic cleansing that stole 78% of Palestinian lands, forced 750,000 people out of their homes (mostly Muslim Arabs but also many Christians and Musta'arabim or Palestinian Jews), and killed at least 15,000 and possibly many more. Even if one were able to forgive and accept the atrocities of 1948, in the last half century Israel has turned Gaza into an open air refugee camp while continuing to steal more Palestinian lands in the West Bank. Many of the half a million illegal Israeli settlers in the West Bank are organized into highly armed paramilitary groups, on average they are extremely racist, and they kill a large number of Palestinians every year. (In 2023, by mid-September, it's estimated that Israeli settlers or soldiers working in concert with settlers had killed 189 Palestinians in their own homes in the West Bank, and wounded 8,192.)⁷ Settlers also systematically destroy Palestinian fields and olive orchards, deliberately trying to undermine their ability to feed themselves.

In 6 months, the Israeli war on Gaza has killed 33,600 Palestinians and wounded over 76,200, while pushing a million into conditions of starvation. The vast majority of the killed and wounded have been noncombatants. However, I don't want to overemphasize the fact that most of the dead and wounded are unarmed civilians. Palestinians in Gaza and in the West Bank have every ethical right to shoot back at Israeli invaders.



7 <https://www.theguardian.com/commentisfree/2023/oct/21/gaza-palestinians-west-bank-violence-attacks-israeli-settlers>

former Soviet Union and now Russia being the countries most in breach of international law since 1945), it is a system that governments and journalistic organizations around the world are explicitly committed to upholding. According to international law, an attack on a country's embassy or consulate is considered an attack on that country's territory. This moment is a useful lens for seeing the hypocrisy of governments and media as they try to contort what was objectively a violation of the system they claim to believe in.

Though I do not think Hamas is an organization anyone should support, given their use of torture, sexual violence, and the authoritarian world they are fighting for, there are some important points of context everyone should consider. Hamas has committed far fewer human rights violations than the governments of Israel, the US, the UK, Russia, China... They won the last elections that could be held in Palestine. They received clandestine support from the Israeli military, who believed they could improve their image if their enemy were reactionary fundamentalists rather than an internationalist anticolonial movement. And Israel has permanently invaded and occupied Palestine. A Palestine ruled by Hamas would be authoritarian, and many Palestinians—based on their gender, their sexuality, their religious and political beliefs—would neither be safe or free. But making that criticism without denouncing Israel as a genocidal state is hypocritical, since the level of Israeli violence is far greater.

As an anarchist I believe that not only do the ends not justify the means, but that it is delusional to think we can ever even separate ends and means. Regardless, everyone needs to accept the reality of the situation:

Everything that Palestinians do against the state of Israel and Israeli settlers, they do in a context of self-defense. They do it in a context of survival.

know. In a radius of diminishing intensity around the point of impact, the buildings will quiver and subside, wind will sweep out and curl up, with it a skirt of dust that billows and folds, hiding the bodies before they fall. The nearest ones (and he knows the exact radius) will die instantaneously and in many pieces. Beyond that they will be sliced open from shrapnel, or roofs will fall on them. Some others will appear well but their ruptured organs are leaking irreparably. Beyond that is a crapshoot of flying glass, random dismemberment by the farther flying shrapnel, the dead weight of falling structures weakened by neglect or previous bombings, or survival and a lifetime of debilitating trauma. One, two, three, four, the balding man imagines all the stages of explosion in sequence, seeing all the ways his bombs can kill and maim, he weeps and obsesses, reviews the test data, scrolls the internet for war photos, puts his children's hamsters in the microwave, just to witness his precious work for himself. Such a slight diversion in career track could have put him with phosphorous bombs, so simple, so clean, so easily filmed and captured in all their straightforward brilliance, that burns the skin off a body's bones without raising even a wisp of dust. He curses the skirt of dust that hides his artistry, curses the miles and oceans in between, curses his poor imagination, curses the bodies he will never see, curses the smashed and maimed who will never know his name.

This is Court House, doors will be opening on the left.

No, no. He doesn't do any of that. In fact, he doesn't really make bombs. He just heads one of the divisions assigned to weapons development. Scientists design the weapons systems, and private contractors do the actual production. The balding man just rubber stamps the whole thing, really. He's never even lit a firecracker.

Doors closing.

The woman wearing earrings lights firecrackers with her children every Fourth of July—she always puts on a good show—and at night they go to the Mall to watch an even grander display. She likes her time with her children much more than she likes her job. Though she is getting bylines almost every week now, she has as little control over her work as before, when she was one among many uncredited cogs, editing and fact-checking

the conglomerated regurgitations of the envied journalists. Half of the end-product isn't even hers, and all of it is both formulaic and slapdash after so many revisions. But in the end, perhaps an impersonal writing process is the best way to render impartial writing. The juxtaposition of enough subjectivities will inevitably give rise to contradictions, and contradictions cannot exist in objective journalism. Her job is to be objective.

In a few hours, the report will come from a government spokesperson that such-and-such type of plane bombed a terrorist stronghold, killing eighty-three militants, spearheading a new campaign to stabilize such-and-such region in time for the elections. The woman wearing earrings won't have any other cogent information, because the on-site correspondent over there will still be in the hotel waiting for the natives to come back from the field with firsthand accounts that doubtlessly contain the word "civilians." In the meantime, the news won't wait, so before quitting time she will have to type up a summary of the report with a few good quotes. Paragraphs reiterating the general political situation, written by whom no one even remembers anymore, will be slapped in, and the whole thing will come out the next morning. Hardly her idealized conception of journalism, essentially plagiarizing government press releases, but she can't find logical fault with any one aspect of the job. No point fact-checking facts that no one will contest. After all, people never lose their jobs for trusting the government. The eighty-three bodies will be militants, or they will be nothing at all. In objective journalism, contradictions do not exist.

This is Rosslyn, transfer to the Blue Line and last stop in Virginia.

The man with the attaché case is the only one on the train who knows about the atrocity before it happens. Thirty minutes before the bombs go off, he is already thinking about the next raid. Two days ago, domestic police trained by his agency carried out a raid over there and arrested five men whom prior interrogations suggested might have useful information. The locals are being trusted to gather actionable intelligence in a short amount of time. That intelligence is directing the bombs that are now en route. The bombing itself is an impatience. Tomorrow, the police unit will conduct more raids, to learn whether the right people were killed. The man with the attaché case will review the results, and assess the training program. There is always more work to do.

Haniyeh's family, including 14 people in one bomb attack against the family home. The strike targeting his children and grandchildren came as they were traveling to celebrate the Eid religious holiday.

Another longstanding Israeli practice is to weaponize humanitarian assistance or deny aid. This was thrown into relief on April 1 when they deliberately targeted an aid convoy in Gaza, shooting precision missiles at one vehicle after another and killing 7 foreign volunteers. On February 29, Israeli troops opened fire on an aid distribution site, killing 100 Palestinians seeking food for their families, and injuring 700. Throughout the invasion of Gaza, around 200 aid workers have been killed.

Meanwhile, Israeli settlers in the West Bank are itching to get in on the violence. They have attacked and burned down hundreds of homes⁴ in dozens of villages, killing several Palestinians and sending dozens more to the hospital with bullet wounds. Israeli troops and paramilitaries have killed over 460 Palestinians in the West Bank since this latest war began.

It doesn't stop there: at the beginning of April, the Israeli government granted itself the right to ban foreign media outlets⁵ like al-Jazeera. Israeli forces have arrested, assaulted, and murdered multiple al Jazeera journalists over the course of the invasion of Gaza. This was also a frequent practice by the United States during its occupation of Iraq.

The same day, April 1, Israel bombed the Iranian consulate in Damascus, Syria.⁶ Though it is clear that human rights and international law constitute a failed system (with Israel, the United States, and the

4 <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2024/4/13/palestinian-man-killed-in-israeli-settler-raids-in-occupied-west-bank>

5 <https://www.cnn.com/2024/04/01/middleeast/israel-al-jazeera-media-law-intl-hnk/index.html>

6 <https://www.cnn.com/2024/04/02/middleeast/iran-response-israel-damascus-consulate-attack-intl-hnk/index.html>

would claim some young Palestinian was a member of Hamas, because someone he was seen talking to had been identified as a Hamas member. Drone surveillance would follow him back to his house, where the computer registered 15 other people, from grandmothers to babies, as also residing in that moment. The computer would ask permission to authorize a strike. An Israeli would look at a few images of surveillance footage and the strike location, and give the go-ahead. Shortly thereafter, a jet would drop a bomb or a drone would fire a missile. Everyone in the house would be murdered, 16 dead. And the single target would, maybe, be a member of Hamas.

This is not a dramatized or exaggerated example. One Israeli intelligence source admitted that they preferred killing Palestinian militants in their homes, together with their families, rather than to attack military command posts. “It’s much easier to bomb a family’s home. The system is built to look for them in these situations.” They also admit that many times they would kill more civilians than they were allowed to according to their own horrific limits, because they would not know exactly how many people were in a house. What’s more, attacking low-level Hamas targets (and in many cases, people who were wrongly suspected of being Hamas members) led to more civilian casualties, because the IDF tended to save their precision missiles for “high-value targets” and use massive bombs instead, which were more destructive, less accurate, but—the most important consideration for the Israeli military—cheaper.

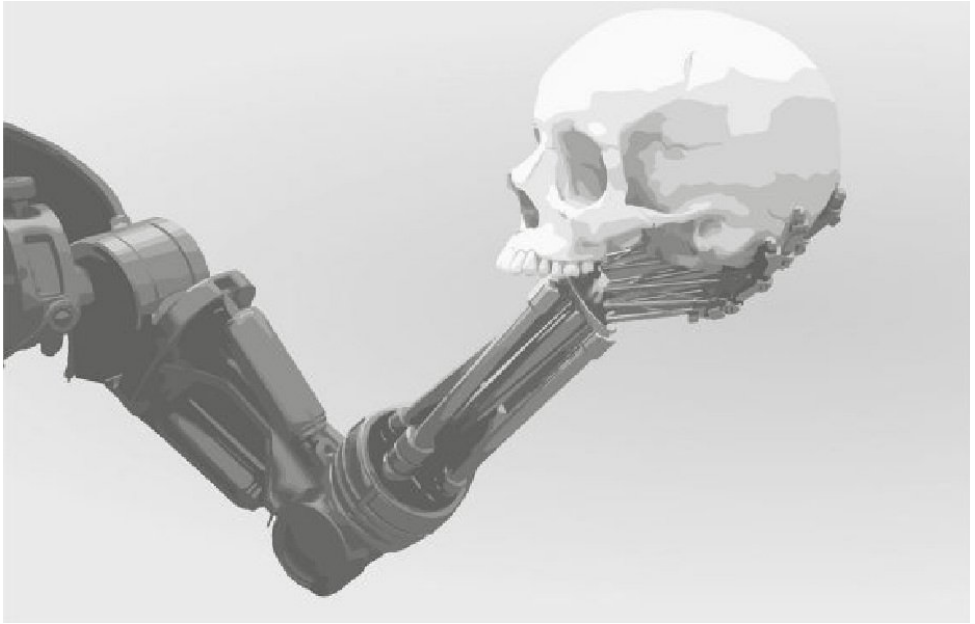
The Israeli government has a longstanding practice of targeting entire families. Recently, they killed three children and several grandchildren³ of a Hamas leader living overseas, claiming a Hamas member was in the household. In total, Israel has killed 60 members of Ismail

3 <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/apr/10/gaza-hamas-israel-ismail-haniyeh-sons-killed>

Doors opening.

More conspirators get on the train. They are standing in the aisles now, holding onto railings, leaning over one another, breathing down perfumed necks and stepping on the toes of polished shoes. But they never look the others in the eyes. In thirty minutes a grandmother unfortunate enough to be lying near a can of hoarded fuel will have her eyes burned shut in thirty minutes a father cleaning a gun and thinking about revenge will fly apart without hearing a sound in thirty minutes a son will look down and notice what color his intestines are in thirty minutes a sister will open her eyes and see bricks where her brother was and in thirty minutes these people will be getting off the train and walking into offices and sitting down at cubicles and getting promotions and winking at interns and planning the next atrocity and fumbling through their boring lives but for now they will not look each other in the eye. No, they are not guilty. They are polite.





Israel is making sure it will be remembered in history as a pioneer of genocide. Multiple Israeli military sources have testified that the Israeli military is using AI to guide missile and bomb strikes against Palestinians.¹ If the Israeli military's Artificial Intelligence determines that a person is a military member of Hamas, the Israeli military will systematically approve of a missile or bomb strike to murder that person and any civilians in the immediate vicinity.

The AI program used by the IDF, called 'Lavender,' can also determine the likely number of civilians who will be killed by a strike. It has been Israeli policy to approve of strikes that they estimate would kill up to 15 or 20 civilians for every low-level Hamas member, and kill

1 <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/apr/03/israel-gaza-ai-database-hamas-airstrikes>

over 100 civilians for every high-ranking Hamas member.

How accurate is the program? According to the Israeli government itself, Lavender has a 90% accuracy. However, the Israeli government is an objectively disreputable source that frequently gives misinformation to the media. But even according to their own claims, 10 supposed high-ranking Hamas members identified by Lavender could result in the killing of 1000 civilians. Statistically, one strike out of ten would be a case of mistaken identity, so the 100 civilians killed in that strike would be a “mistake”. And the 900 civilians killed in strikes against 9 actual Hamas leaders would be, according to Israel, justified collateral. Hamas, in its October 7 attack, showed who they were when they killed and assaulted a large amount of noncombatants, but even they were less calloused than the IDF.

But the idea that Lavender is 90% accurate is contradicted by Israel’s own intelligence reports. Just before the invasion of Gaza, Israeli and US intelligence both estimated the Hamas military wing to consist of 25-30,000 people. And yet Lavender has identified 37,000 low-level Hamas members, according to sources, suggesting it may have generated well over 12,000 false identifications.

We know that this kind of AI program works through association. In this case, guilt by association. The targets aren’t identified because they are armed and carrying out attacks against Israeli forces. They are identified because they are surveilled associating with those who have already been identified as Hamas.

We also know that AI tends to be racist,² and it tends to be much less accurate in identifying racialized people. And Israeli sources admitted that they would usually spend only a few seconds to rubber stamp each attack request coming from Lavender. In other words, the computer

2 <https://www.media.mit.edu/articles/artificial-intelligence-has-a-problem-with-gender-and-racial-bias-here-s-how-to-solve-it/>