



QUESTION MORE



Kremlin issues update on preparations for potential Ukraine talks | Russia-Ukraine conflict

LIVE

Russia & Former Soviet Union World News Business India Africa RT Features Analysis Opinion Entertainment Shows Projects

UPCOMING RUSSIA-UKRAINE TALKS IN TÜRKIYE: LIVE UPDATES

13 May, 2025 17:37 / Home / World News

Friends of genocide: Has Germany learned nothing from the Holocaust?

A prominent Jewish restaurant in Berlin chose to celebrate Israel Day with a joke about the slaughter of Palestinians



By **Tarik Cyril Amar**, a historian from Germany working at Koç University, Istanbul, on Russia, Ukraine, and Eastern Europe, the history of World

✉ [@tarikcyrilamar](#)
[tarikcyrilamar.substack.com](#)
[tarikcyrilamar.com](#)

Top stories



Zelenskyy claims ban on Russia talks doesn't apply to him

Trump envoy reveals NATO troop deployment plans for Ukraine

India and Pakistan engage in tit-for-tat expulsion of diplomats

War II, the cultural Cold War, and the politics of memory



FILE PHOTO. People gather near Brandenburg Gate before the start of a march commemorating the victims of the October 7, 2023 Hamas attack and massacre in southern Israel on October 6, 2024 in Berlin, Germany. © Tamir Kalifa/Getty Images

A single, small, low-quality do-it-yourself poster recently displayed in the center of Germany's capital Berlin has caused a minor scandal that has gone against the grain of the country's usually unshakable support for Israel while the latter is committing genocide.

The essence of the incident is simple: in late April, the Deutsch-Israelische Gesellschaft (DIG) –

“*German-Israeli Society*” – held one of its “*Israel Days*” in Berlin. In Germany, the DIG is a prominent and powerful organization. Its main source of funding, [according to the country's official lobbying register](#) for 2023, is the German state. The latter's Federal Agency for Civic Education – in essence, Germany's office of Centrist ideological orthodoxy and indoctrination – describes it as the country's “*central organization [...] where friends of Israel come together in non-partisan cooperation.*”

“*Israel Day*” in Berlin was a largely informal event, really a [street party with speeches](#). To make things even more fun, there was catering by the restaurant Feinberg's. In particular, Feinberg's, specializing in what it calls Israeli cuisine – Palestinians recognize many dishes as plagiarized from their tradition – offered a

Warsaw contradicts US on possible Ukraine deployment

Brazil's Lula to ask Putin to negotiate with Ukraine

NATO militarization pressure mounts ahead of summit – Bloomberg

Trump defends \$400mn ‘flying palace’ gift

Germany arrests ‘King Peter’

Subscribe to RT newsletter to get news highlights of the day right in your mailbox

E-mail

- We offer you the possibility to receive RT's news highlights every Monday, Wednesday and Friday by email.

very special melon smoothie.

The poster advertising the drink showed a lion (used by Israelis as a national symbol) wearing an apron emblazoned with the Israeli flag (just to make sure). The lion held two large glass tumblers, one with pieces of melon (an already traditional and well-known symbol of Palestine and its resistance), the other with the finished smoothie and a small Israeli flag.

The background consisted of a pile of melons, often cut open, many featuring instantly recognizable baby faces. The poster's text said (partly in English and partly in German): *"Watermelon meets Zion. Israeli-style watermelon, shredded, mashed, and hacked to pieces."*

Subscribe

RT Features



Russian shield for India: How S-400s gave New Delhi an edge over Pakistan

FEATURE



After fire, fear: Kashmiri locals remain on edge as shaky ceasefire appears to take hold









FEATURE



Gaddafi warned them. Now the EU is living out his grim prophecy FEATURE

Podcasts

[All podcasts](#)

-  **Istanbul 2.0?**
0:00 27:37   
-  **Prof. John Mearsheimer: Israel owns the Trump administration, Israel is a liability for the US**
0:00 27:12   

The watermelons evoked what is known as *“Kindchenschema”* or *“cuteness”* (in [the scientific sense](#)): an almost universally recognized pattern of features that signals babies and children and – with psychologically normal individuals – stirring deep hormonal and neurological responses of sympathy and care or at least restraint.

The message was obvious and not at all funny: The Israeli *“lion”* was crushing the Palestinian *“watermelons”* into an enjoyably refreshing ice-cold and blood-red pulp, available with a *“shot”* of – presumably celebratory – vodka, too. That the faces on the anthropomorphized *“melons”* were childlike made everything even more repulsive: clearly, whoever felt this picture was a good idea is not normal enough for the *Kindchenschema* to work on them.

Those who study genocide have long agreed that the [deliberate dehumanizing](#) of the victims by propaganda and indoctrination is one of its elementary methods and signs. Those who pretend to fail to recognize a textbook case of such dehumanization in this poster are deliberately obtuse.

The poster was, of course, an unmistakable allusion to Israel’s ongoing combined [genocide-ethnic cleansing](#)



Read more: [Israel issues warning over Palestine recognition](#)

operation, with its main ([though not sole](#)) target the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. That is the place where the majority of Israel's victims, many of them babies and children, have literally been "*shredded*" and "*cut to pieces*" by air raids and bombing as well as [systematically starved](#) and deprived of housing and vital infrastructure, especially medical institutions, and, not to forget, their caretakers: it is Gaza under Israeli assault for which doctors had to invent a new abbreviation: [WCNSF](#) – wounded child, no surviving family.

[In the words of Jonathan Whittall](#), head of the UN humanitarian office responsible for Gaza, Israel is practicing "*deprivation by design*" and the "*deliberate dismantling of Palestinian life.*"

The [latest - de facto minimum - death toll](#) among the Palestinians is approaching 63,000. Almost 112,000 victims have been injured, often severely, leading to lifelong consequences, such as amputated limbs. Horrifying as they are, these figures, generated by Gaza's health ministry – which, contrary to Israeli and Western propaganda, is conservative in its counting – are only the tip of the iceberg. For one thing, a study in the authoritative medical journal *The Lancet* has long maintained that the real figures are likely [to be substantially higher](#).



Read more: [US aid mission in Gaza more disastrous than](#)

Killing, injuring, and maiming are, of course, only one part of Israeli violence. Mass displacement and the literal razing of the Gaza Strip, much of which has been pounded into toxic dust, and deep and pervasive psychological trauma are others. There is no room here to even sketch all the vicious methods of Israel's genocide or all its horrendous consequences. And as with genocides

acknowledged – investigation before, there is also a limit to language: It is hard to even accommodate in ordinary words both what the Israeli perpetrators have been doing, together with their Western accomplices, and the [vicious sadism](#) that not a few but many Israelis, in and [out of](#) uniform, are proudly displaying.

Yet this is, after all, what Amnesty International – and many others – have rightly identified as a [“live-streamed genocide.”](#) Due to the stunning shamelessness of many Israeli perpetrators and the development of modern media and especially social media, this is a genocide in the global public eye as never before.

That is why it is entirely impossible to believe the silly attempts [to obfuscate and backpedal now made by the clearly anything but “leonine” creators of the poster.](#) Obviously stung by protests and afraid of possible legal consequences, Yorai Feinberg, owner of Feinberg’s, has retreated to claiming that the melons were meant to stand for – drum roll – [“antisemitism,”](#) and that the whole thing was just satire anyhow.

Both claims are offensively absurd: Everyone knows that watermelons stand for Palestine, Palestinians, and their resistance, not [“antisemitism.”](#) It may, of course, be that in the unwell minds of the poster’s creators those two things appear to be the same. That would be a classical Zionist delusion as well as a propaganda trick. And still, obviously, a lie.

Also, it is very, very hard to explain why things now allegedly representing merely [“antisemitism”](#) needed to be drawn with cute, childlike faces. No, this is, let’s print it, for-crying-out-loud bullshit, nonsense of the same evil, brazen sort as the Israeli



genociders' endless, daft lies about Hamas here and Hamas there, whenever they feel – which is often – like bombing yet another hospital, tent encampment, or residential building.



Read more: US-Israeli hostage released by Hamas

Regarding “*satire*” – a cop-out publicly endorsed by (surprise, surprise) the DIG – where to even start? If the makers of this revolting picture really felt that they were producing something akin to a “*witty*” or “*edgy*” statement, a kind of “*joke*,” then that simply means that they find “*joking*” about genocide and especially the mass murder of children “*normal*.” And there can’t be anything *less* normal and more morally rotten than such a sense of “*humor*.” Seriously boasting of mass murder or “*just kidding*”? You know what: It does not matter – either means you are a monster.

But this scandal involves more than the bloody bigotry of one German and Israeli restaurant. Consider that this was an official DIG event, attended by both its president Volker Beck and the Israeli ambassador to Germany Ron Prosor. They cannot have been unaware of the ‘lion-exterminates-melons’ poster: [an Instagram picture showed both of them](#) in front of the stand displaying it.

Beck is a major – if past his prime – politician from Germany’s Green Party, a fanatical supporter of Israel, and, as it happens, also a figure with a less than shining past. He has [argued for the decriminalization of “pedosexuality,” that is, de facto the unpunished sexual abuse of minors](#), a fact he later tried to conceal without success; he has [also been caught with serious drugs](#). Prosor is a veteran Israeli diplomat who does what Israeli diplomats do: Past highlights include [attacking UNRWA](#), a signature move of Israeli aggression against Palestinians designed to cut them off from any support that might disturb Israeli siege and starvation operations. Indeed, [Israeli assaults on UNRWA are currently the](#)

subject of yet another case against it at the International Court of Justice (ICJ).



Read more: 'Israel cannot beat Hamas': Afshin Rattansi challenges Jerusalem Center President Dr. Dan Diker

Recently, Prosor has sought to suppress critical voices in Germany, including [Israeli philosopher Omri Boehm](#), and, for good measure, police German universities [by defaming resistance to Israeli crimes and German complicity as "new antisemitism."](#) How original.

It's not hard to imagine that both gentlemen saw nothing wrong with that melon-shredding lion and may even have enjoyed a splash of genocide-'joke' smoothie. And they won't face any consequences, of course. For – and this

is the widest and saddest context of this vile affair – Germany has chosen to side with Israel with a 'to-the-bitter-end' obstinacy reminiscent of that other very disappointing Germany that failed to ever stop being loyal to – and fighting for – Nazism until finally stopped by others, mostly the Soviets.

Berlin, the capital, has been at the forefront of this new, as it were, transferred nationalism-without-restraint and *Nibelungentreue* for pure, obvious evil. Its mayor Kai Wegner has acquired a reputation for [genocide denial](#); its [police for brutality](#) against those showing solidarity with Israel's Palestinian victims. And it is the city where an anti-genocide protester [has just been convicted for "trivializing the Holocaust"](#) simply for peacefully holding up a sign saying "*Have we learned nothing from the Holocaust?*" Clearly, that judge has not.

Against this background of pervasive, dominant ethical perversion, a poster

viciously dehumanizing Palestinians came as no surprise. What is intriguing is that this time there has been some protest even, if all too faintly, in some mainstream media outlets. Maybe Germany is not entirely lost yet. Or is it, as before in German history, only a minority that shows decency but cannot change the deeply indecent course of the country's morally and intellectually *kaput* elites and the majority still following them?

The statements, views and opinions expressed in this column are solely those of the author and do not necessarily represent those of RT.

OPINION

You can share this story on social media:

Follow RT on



[Berlin](#), [Germany](#), [Israel](#), [State of Palestine](#)

Dear readers! Thank you for your vibrant engagement with our content and for sharing your points of view. Please note that we have switched to a new commenting system. To leave comments, you will need to register. We are working on some adjustments so if you have questions or suggestions feel free to send them to feedback@rttv.ru. Please check our [commenting policy](#)