

Science Buzz Café

November 11, 2024 * 6pm

The HopMonk 'Abbey'

230 Petaluma Ave. Sebastopol, CA

Host, Daniel Osmer (daniel@economicbuzzcafe.com)

Come Early for Food & Drink - RSVP \$7 - DOOR \$10

APOLOGY TO GAZA FROM AN PARATROOPER

Ofer Zur Ph.D.

In August 2024 I flew to Israel into the warzone, which started on October 7th, 2023 with the massacre at the Nova music festival next to the Gaza Strip. Unlike the shock response that almost all Israelis and the world experienced, I understood the frustration of the Palestinians in Gaza who have been occupied by Israel since 1967. In fact, putting October 7th, 2023, in the historical context of occupation, I personally felt partly responsible and guilty for the massacre. In my mind's eye, the Hamas soldiers who committed the atrocities of the Oct. 7th massacre, were the children of the Palestinians *whom I myself killed* when I served in Gaza as an officer/paratrooper in the Israeli army in 1970. The same guilt & moral reasons compelled me to leave Israel in 1979.

In this last visit, I was driven to *fly a paper airplane* with an apology (in Arabic) over the fence from Israel into Gaza, asking for forgiveness for what I did back in 1970. View here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=E7Ykj9y1jEY> My idea of an apology airplane outraged many Jewish-Israelis, in fact, it has totally alienated me from most of my family and friends in Israel. My Palestinian guides and colleagues were emotionally moved with my unusual gesture and gave me enormous heartfelt support and appreciation.

We will also discuss: Iran's support of Hezbollah & Hamas, U.S. involvement via ties to the US Military Industrial Complex, how at least \$20 billion of 'our' tax money has been spent on military aid to Israel since Oct. 7th, Bibi's leadership, Gaza/Hamas, Lebanon/Hezbollah, West Bank, US Military Industrial Complex on US campuses, and how radical Palestinians & extreme Jewish Settlers ALL claim: "From the River to the Sea".

Ofer Zur, PhD, is a psychologist, fellow of the American Psychological Association, ethics consultant, and forensic expert. He has been practicing psychotherapy for over 25 years. Dr. Zur is one of the top experts in the field of psychological ethics and enmity. Website: www.drzur.com