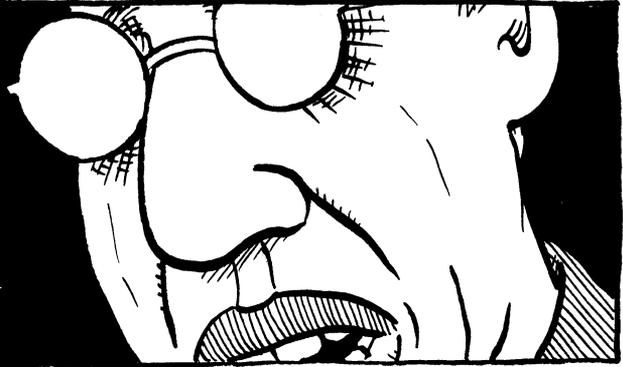




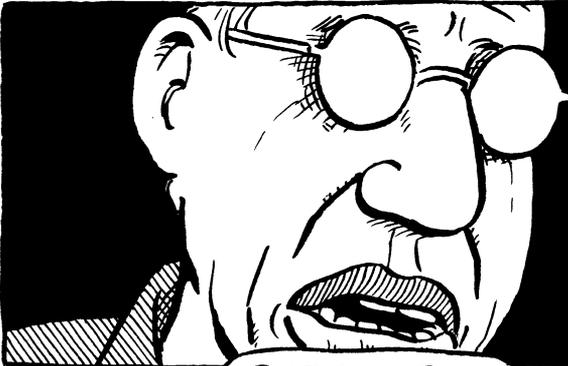
JOE SACCO

WAR
ON GAZA

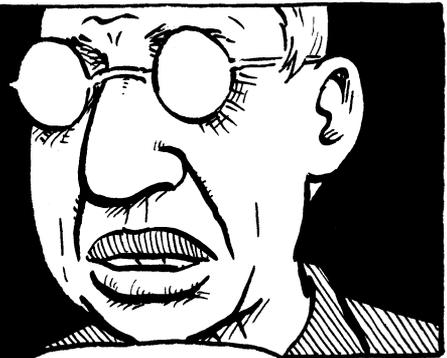
MY INITIAL RESPONSE TO HAMAS'S OCTOBER 7 RAID INTO ISRAEL WAS PARALYSIS. THE SCALE OF THE DEATHS OF ISRAELI CIVILIANS LEFT ME HORRIFIED AND OVERWHELMED. WHATEVER JUSTIFICATION I COULD ACCEPT FOR THE MILITARY COMPONENT OF THE ATTACK.



ANYONE WHO HAS FOLLOWED EVENTS IN THE MIDDLE EAST EVEN CASUALLY KNEW THAT ISRAEL'S RESPONSE WOULD BE SWIFT AND DISPROPORTIONATE.



BUT I WAS ONLY THEORETICALLY PREPARED FOR THE WORST; THE REALITY OF THE ASSAULT ON GAZA, AS REPORTED BY THE BRAVE PALESTINIAN JOURNALISTS STILL AT THEIR DEADLY POSTS, WAS ALMOST BEYOND MY COMPREHENSION.



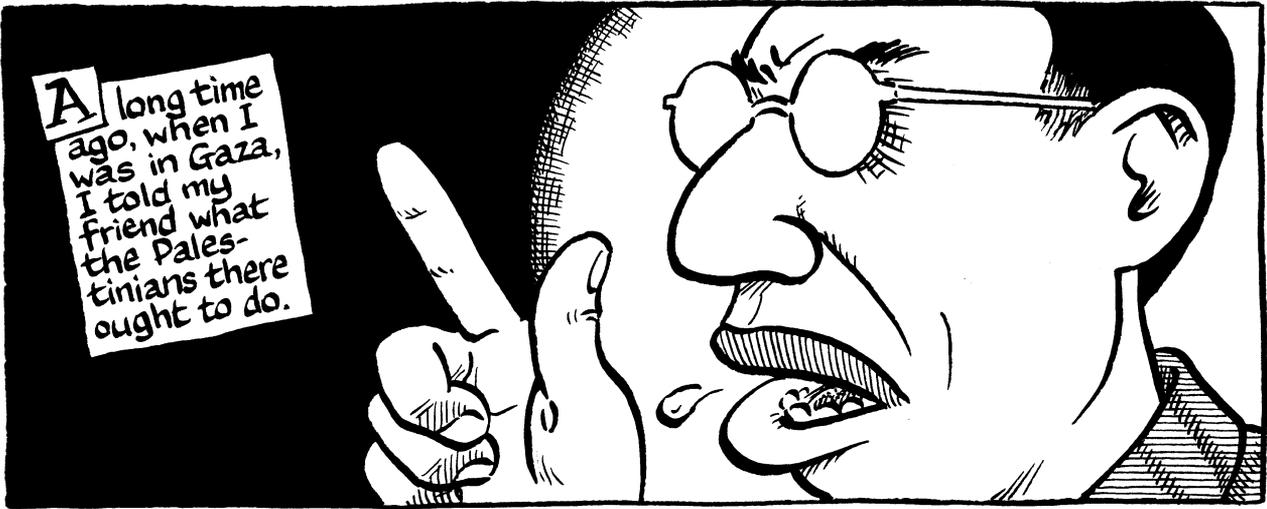
AS SOMEONE WHO HAS WRITTEN AND DRAWN MUCH ABOUT THE PALESTINIAN ISSUE, SURELY I SHOULD SAY SOMETHING. IN FACT, ONE OF MY FRIENDS IN GAZA WROTE ME, "PLZ RAISE THE VOICE UP AGAINST THESE CRIMES." HIS PLEA RATTLED IN MY HEAD FOR WEEKS AS I SLOWLY—PERHAPS TOO SLOWLY—WAITED FOR MY THOUGHTS TO CONGEAL.



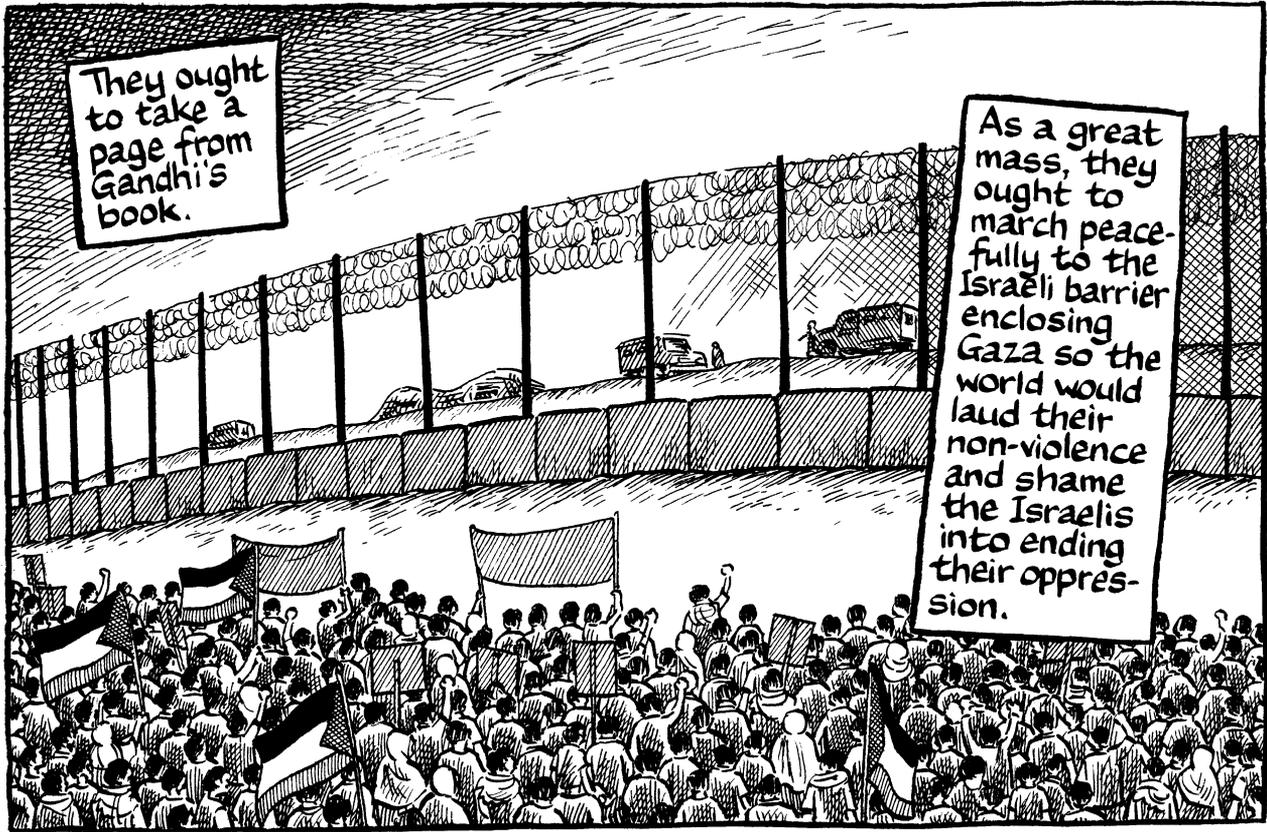
AND NOW I PRESENT THEM —AS I TURN THEM OUT— THROUGH THIS FORUM KINDLY PROVIDED TO ME BY THE COMICS JOURNAL AND FANTAGRAPHICS BOOKS, WHO WITHOUT HESITATION PUBLISHED MY COMIC BOOK SERIES 'PALESTINE' ALL THOSE YEARS AGO AND STUCK WITH IT THROUGH ITS ENTIRE LOW-SELLING, NINE-ISSUE RUN.

SO HERE, MY FRIEND, FOR WHATEVER IT'S WORTH, I "RAISE THE VOICE UP."



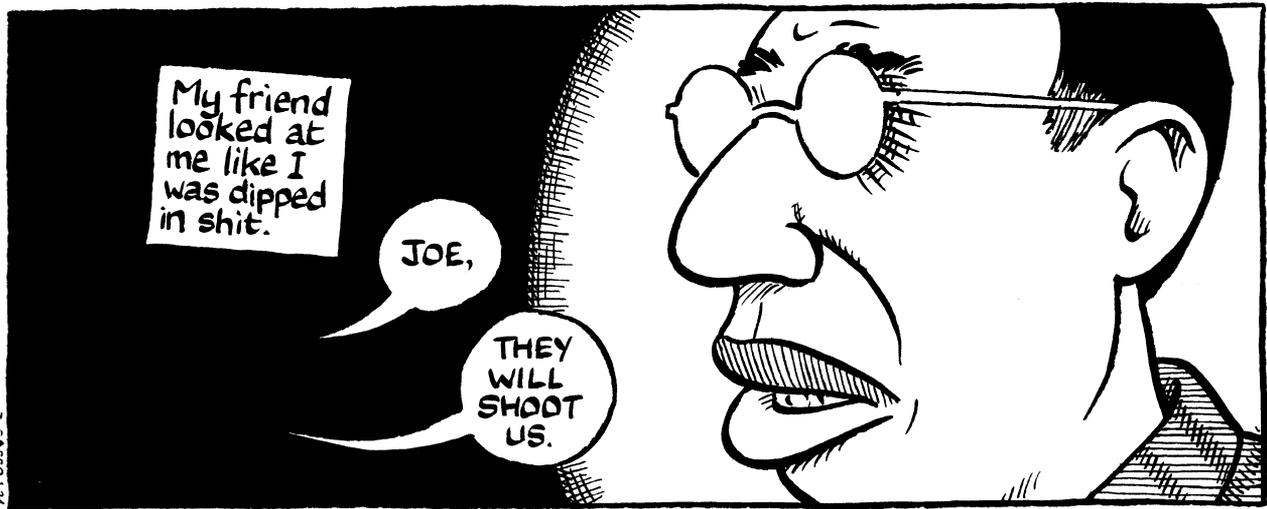


A long time ago, when I was in Gaza, I told my friend what the Palestinians there ought to do.



They ought to take a page from Gandhi's book.

As a great mass, they ought to march peacefully to the Israeli barrier enclosing Gaza so the world would laud their non-violence and shame the Israelis into ending their oppression.



My friend looked at me like I was dipped in shit.

JOE,

THEY WILL SHOOT US.

© SACCO 1974

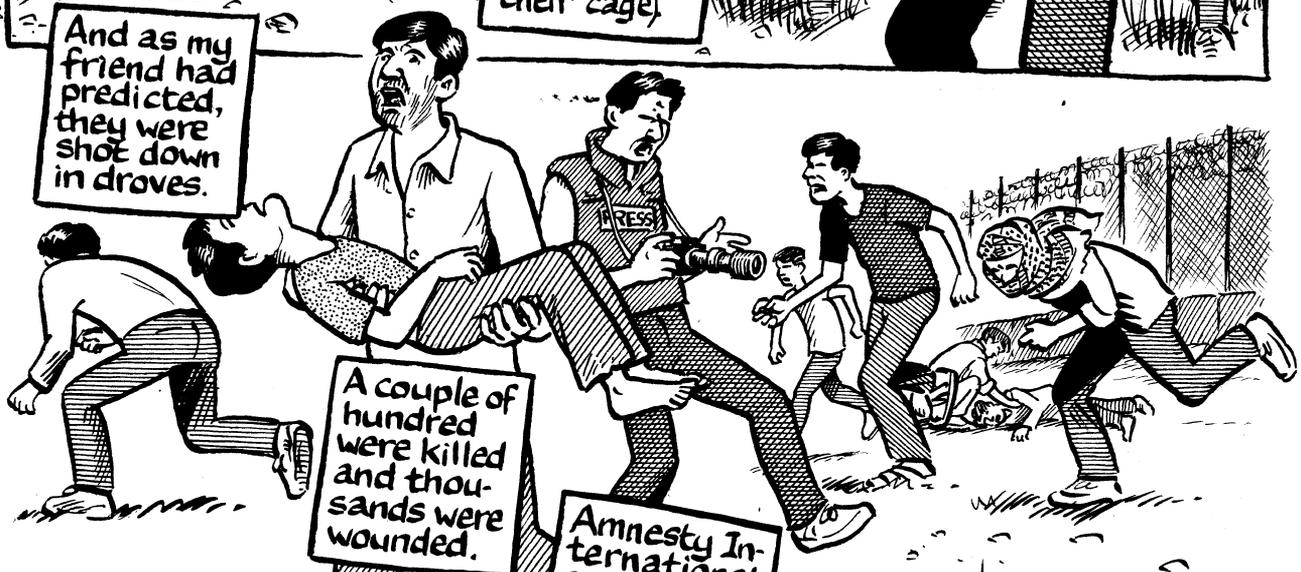


Some years later, in 2018 and 2019, the Gazans did something similar to what I had suggested.

In the Great March of Return, they spent week after week at the fortified fence protesting the blockade of Gaza and demanding their rights as stipulated by long-ignored U.N. resolutions.

The demonstrators were overwhelmingly peaceful (though some threw stones at their cage).

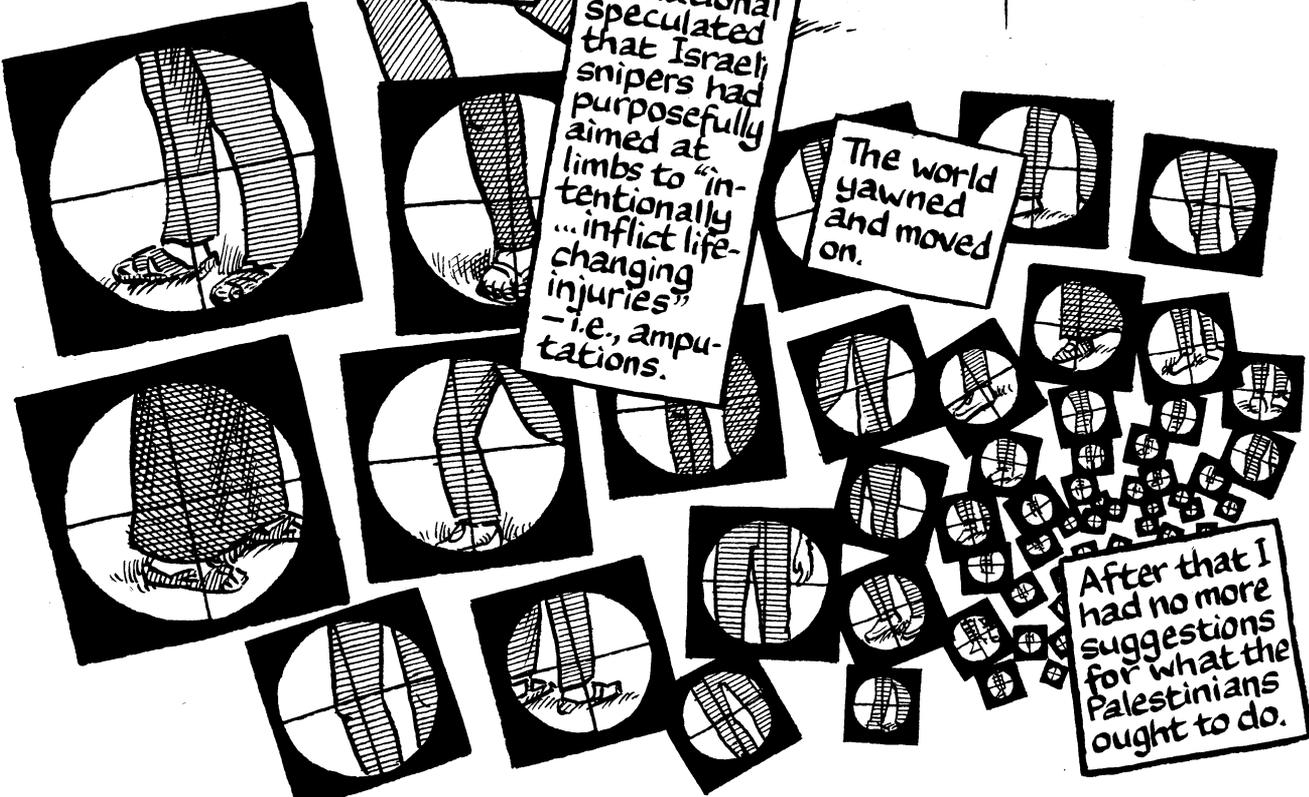
And as my friend had predicted, they were shot down in droves.



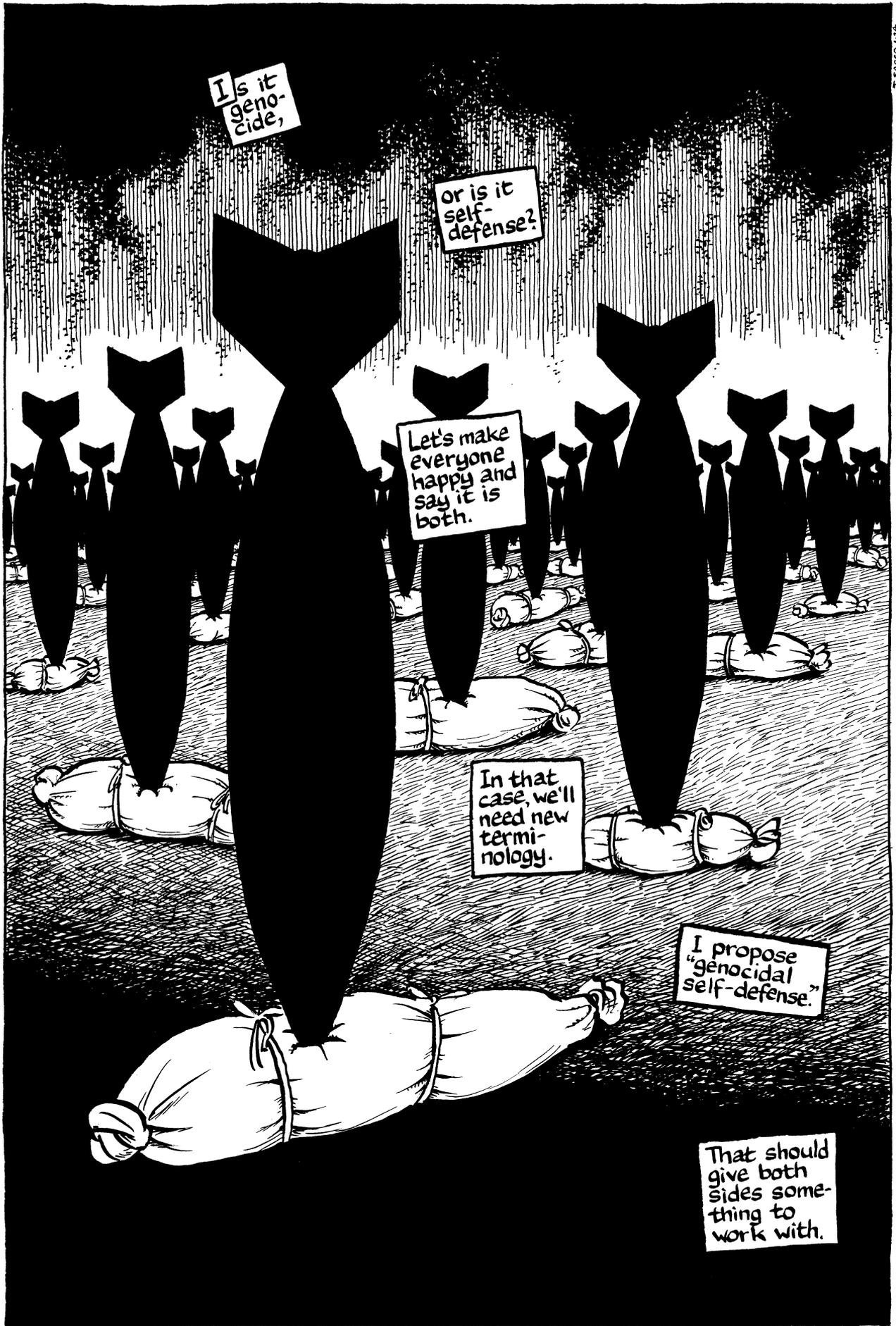
A couple of hundred were killed and thousands were wounded.

Amnesty International speculated that Israeli snipers had purposefully aimed at limbs to "intentionally ... inflict life-changing injuries" - i.e., amputations.

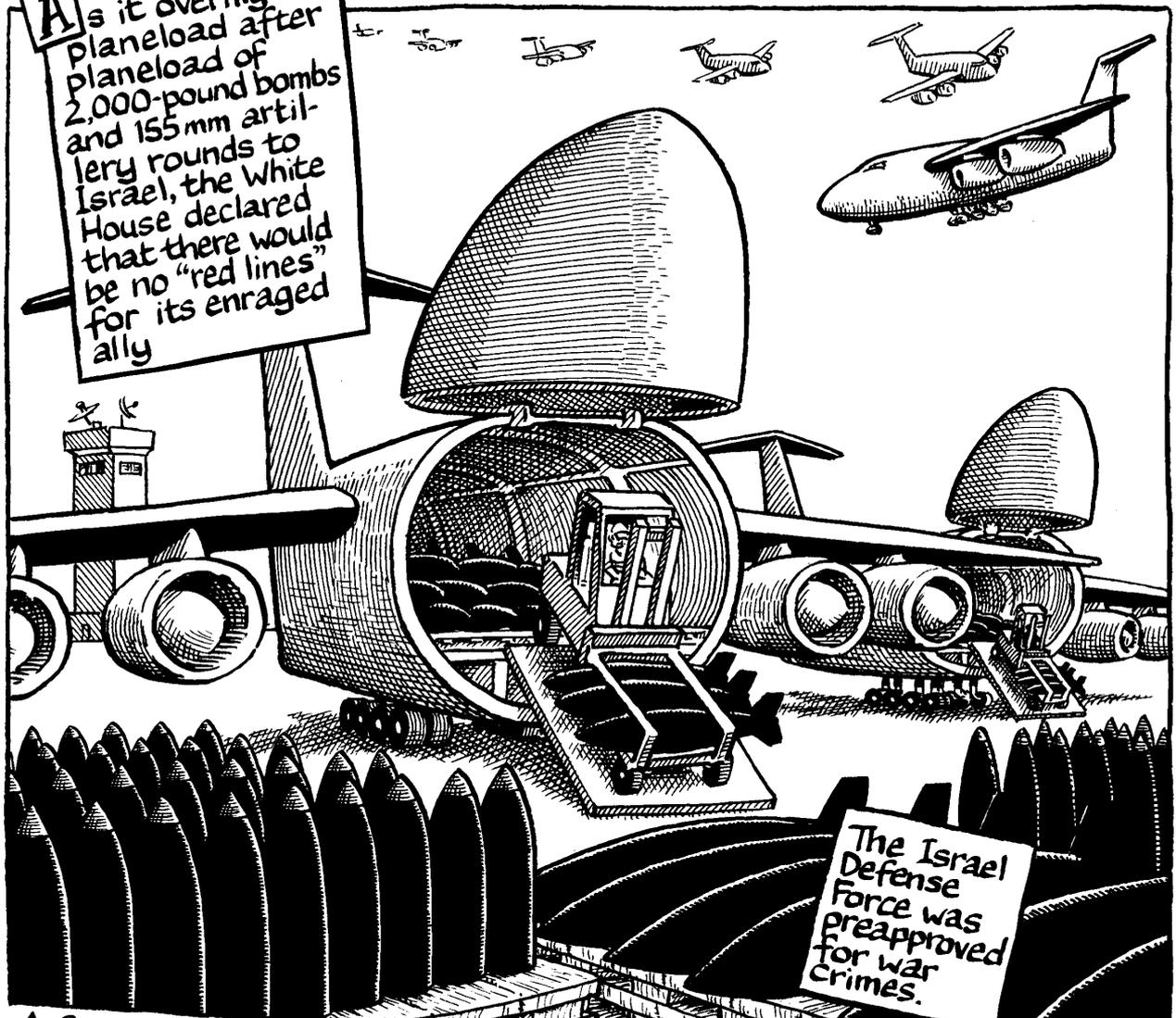
The world yawned and moved on.



After that I had no more suggestions for what the Palestinians ought to do.

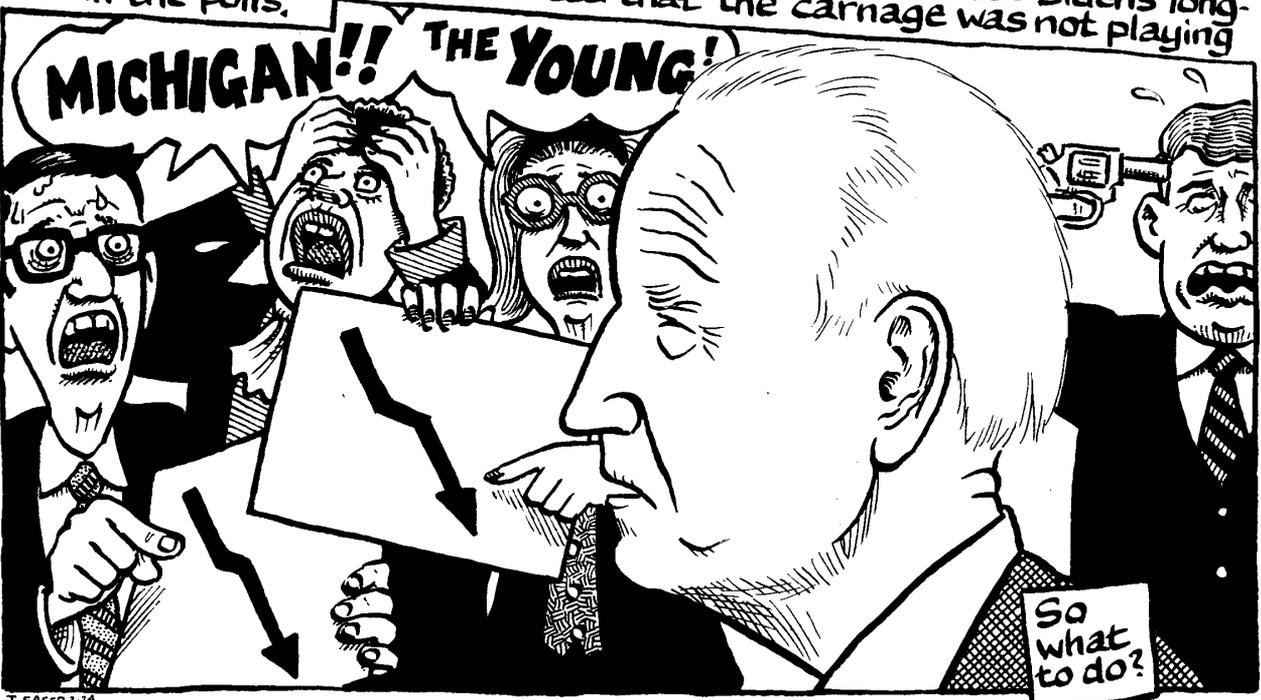


As it overnighed planeload after 2,000-pound bombs and 155mm artillery rounds to Israel, the White House declared that there would be no "red lines" for its enraged ally



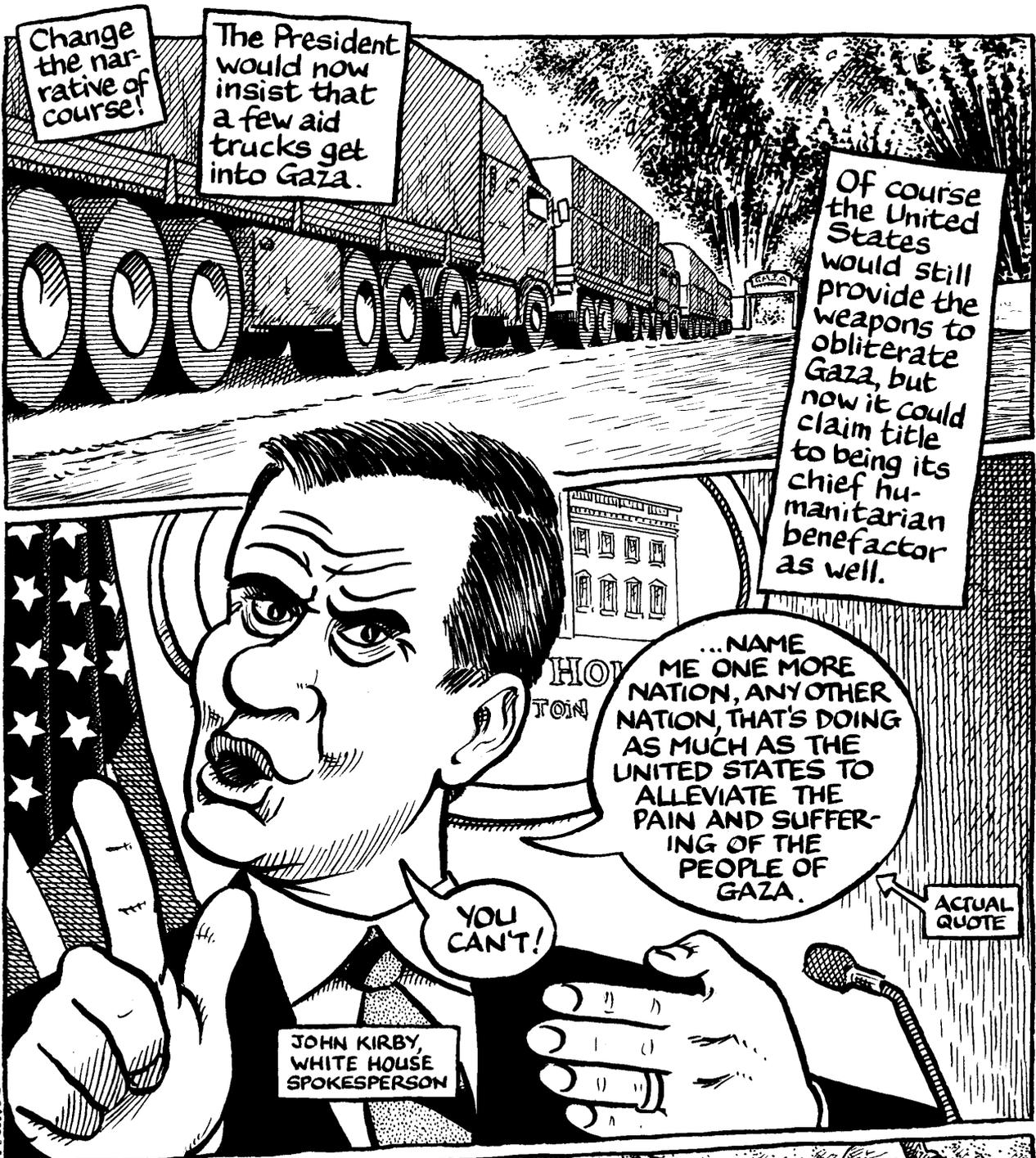
The Israel Defense Force was preapproved for war crimes.

A few tens of thousands of corpses later, President Joe Biden's long-suffering re-election team noticed that the carnage was not playing well in the polls.



MICHIGAN!! THE YOUNG!

So what to do?



Change the narrative of course!

The President would now insist that a few aid trucks get into Gaza.

Of course the United States would still provide the weapons to obliterate Gaza, but now it could claim title to being its chief humanitarian benefactor as well.

...NAME ME ONE MORE NATION, ANY OTHER NATION, THAT'S DOING AS MUCH AS THE UNITED STATES TO ALLEVIATE THE PAIN AND SUFFERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GAZA.

YOU CAN'T!

JOHN KIRBY, WHITE HOUSE SPOKESPERSON

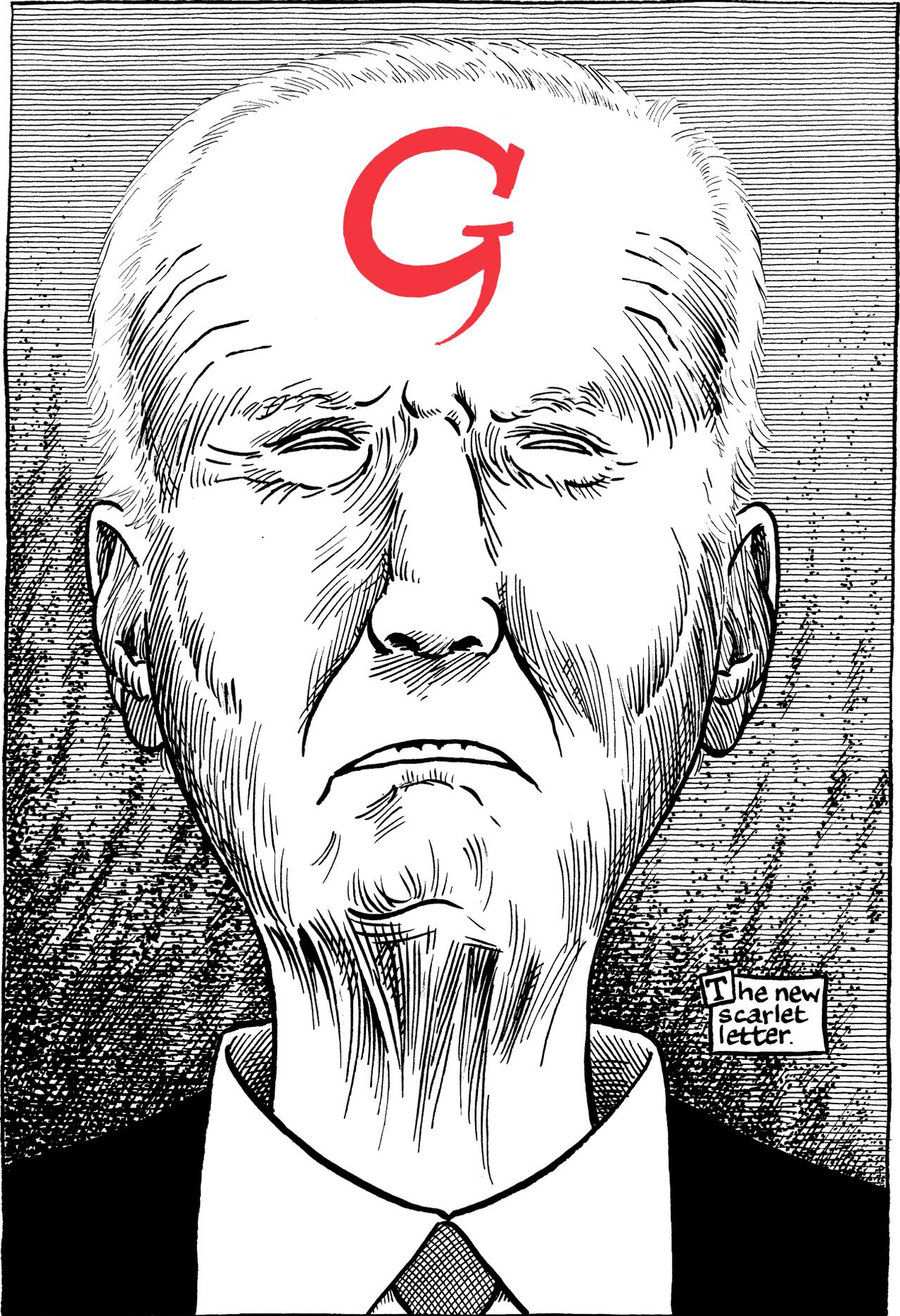
ACTUAL QUOTE



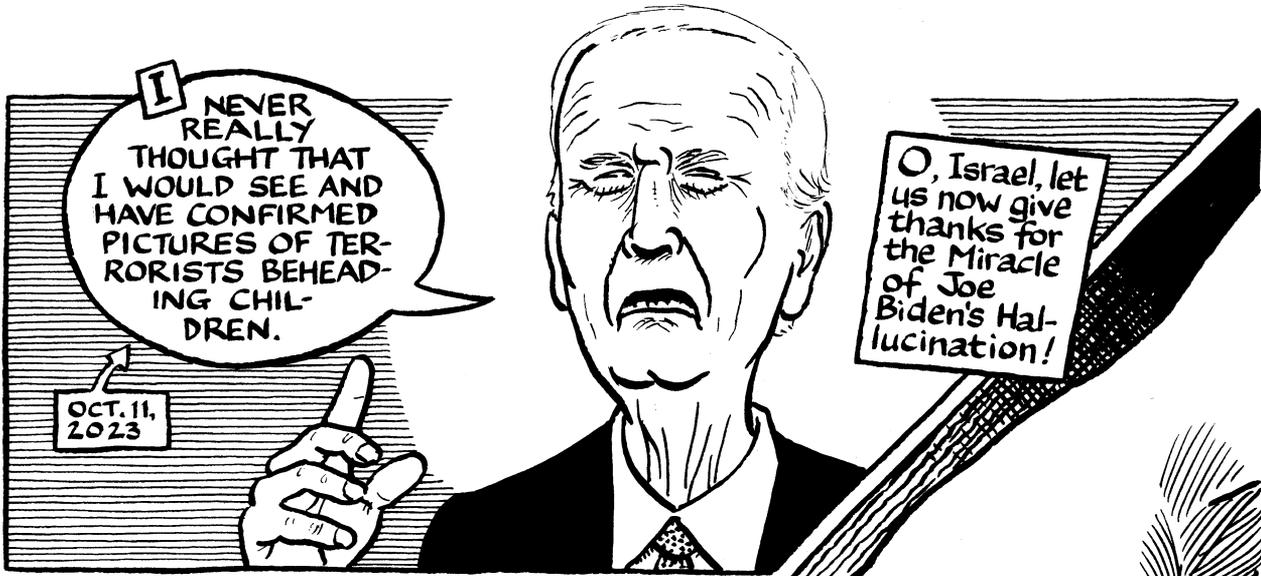
America had just invented Kinder, Gentler Genocide.

The patent is pending.

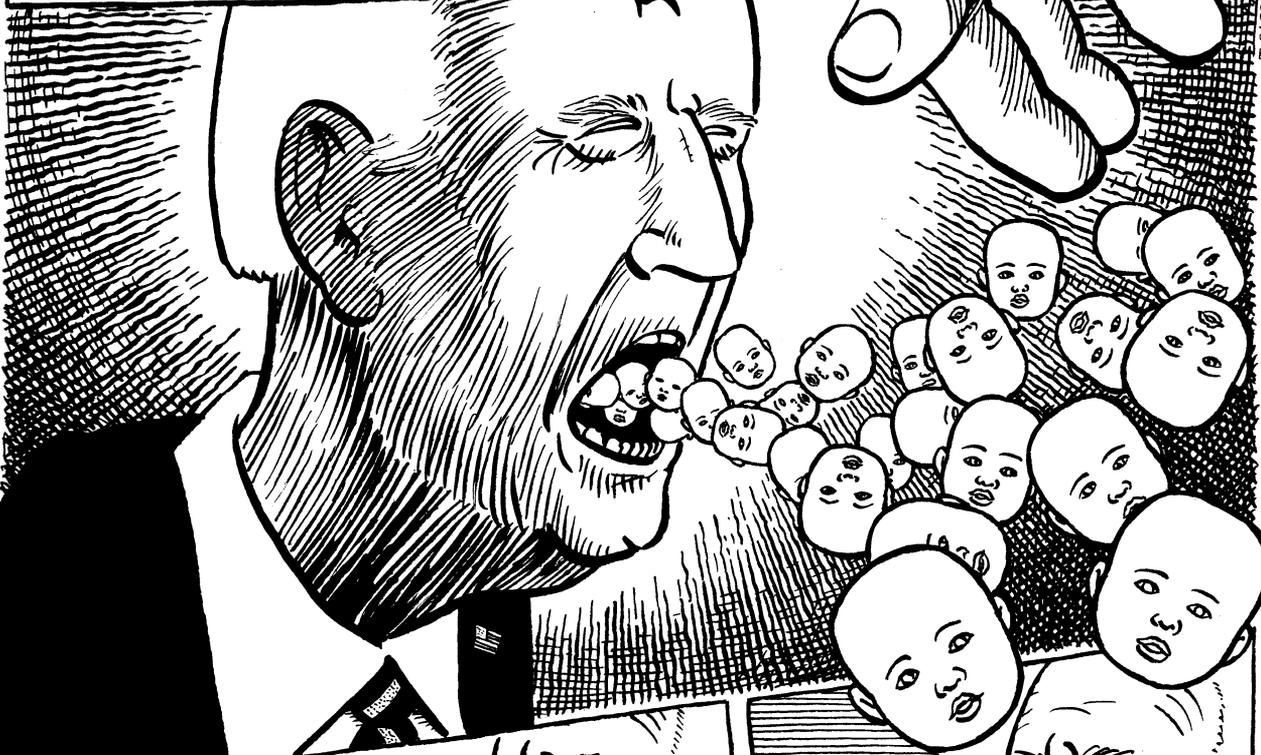
J. SARGO 2/14



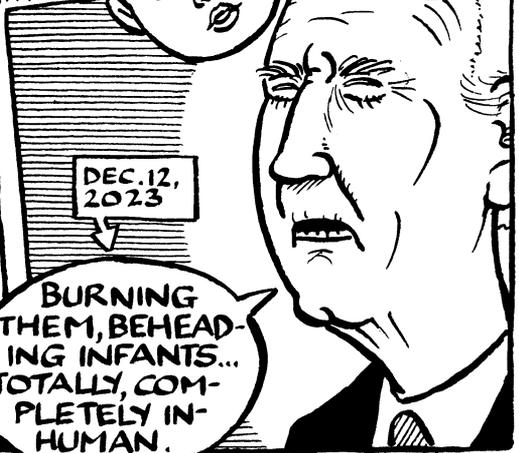
J. SACCO 2-24

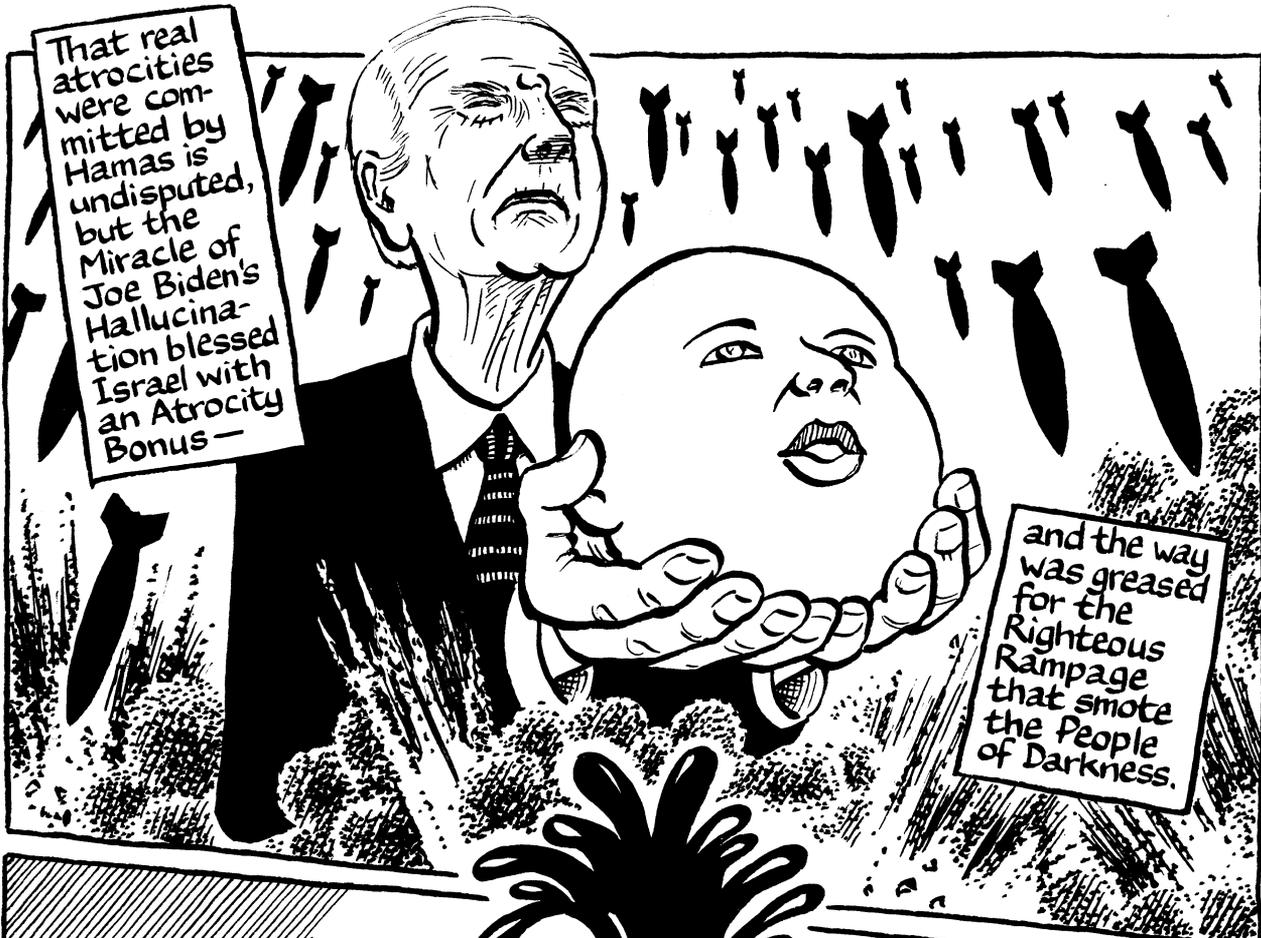


Surely it was the Divine that implanted images of beheaded babies and children into the mind of the President for, in fact, there were neither beheaded babies nor beheaded children (and no images thereof).



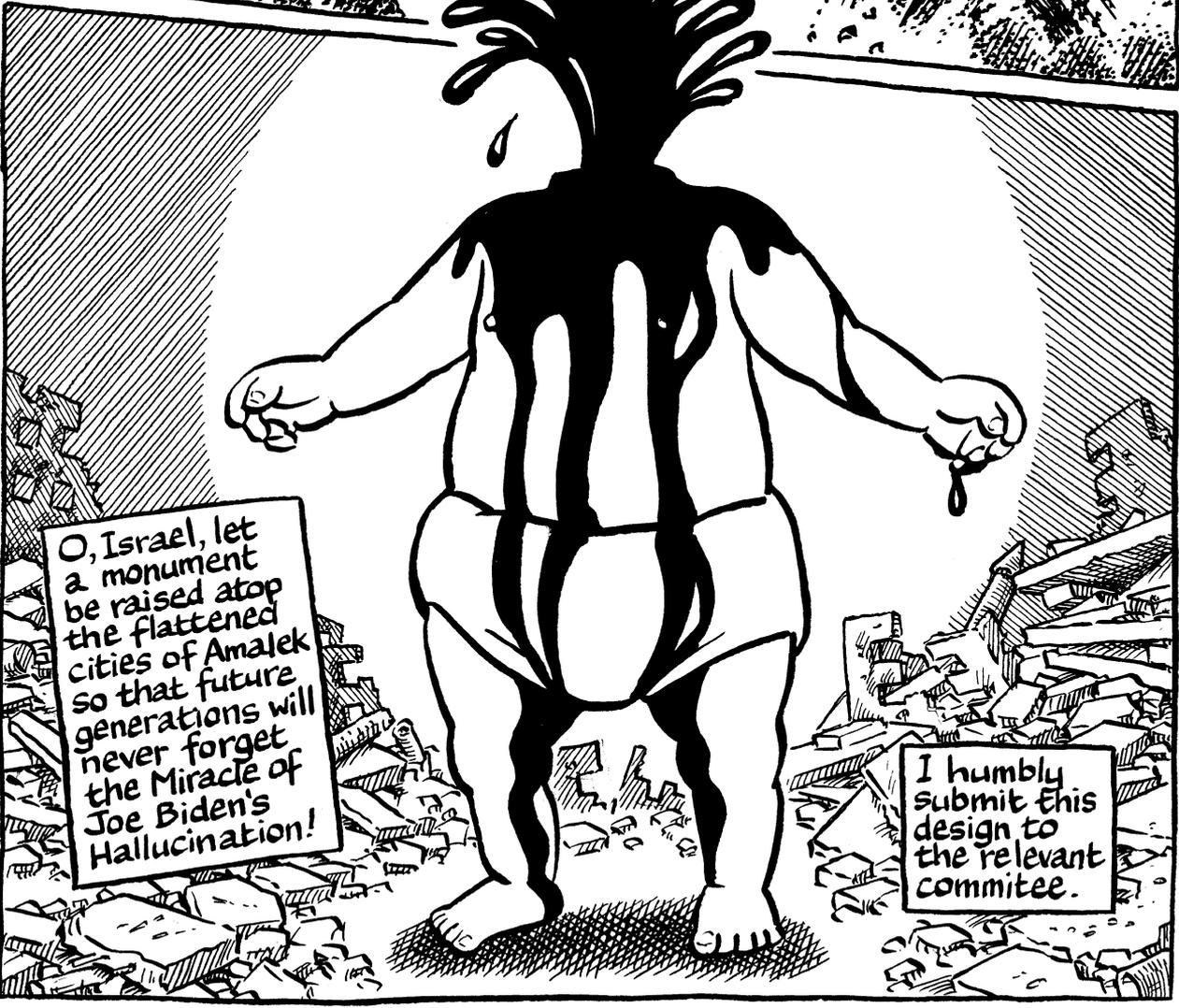
The White House disavowed the President's vision the next day, but, lo, the Miracle could not be suppressed!





That real atrocities were committed by Hamas is undisputed, but the Miracle of Joe Biden's Hallucination blessed Israel with an Atrocity Bonus —

and the way was greased for the Righteous Rampage that smote the People of Darkness.



O, Israel, let a monument be raised atop the flattened cities of Amalek so that future generations will never forget the Miracle of Joe Biden's Hallucination!

I humbly submit this design to the relevant committee.

© SAKCO 2024

Every few weeks I visit my mum and sister on the other side of the country

Mum is 95 years old, and though she might not remember what was said five minutes ago, the deep past is an ever-bubbling wellspring of recollections, especially traumatic ones.



WE SLEPT IN THE SHELTER WITH SO MANY PEOPLE.

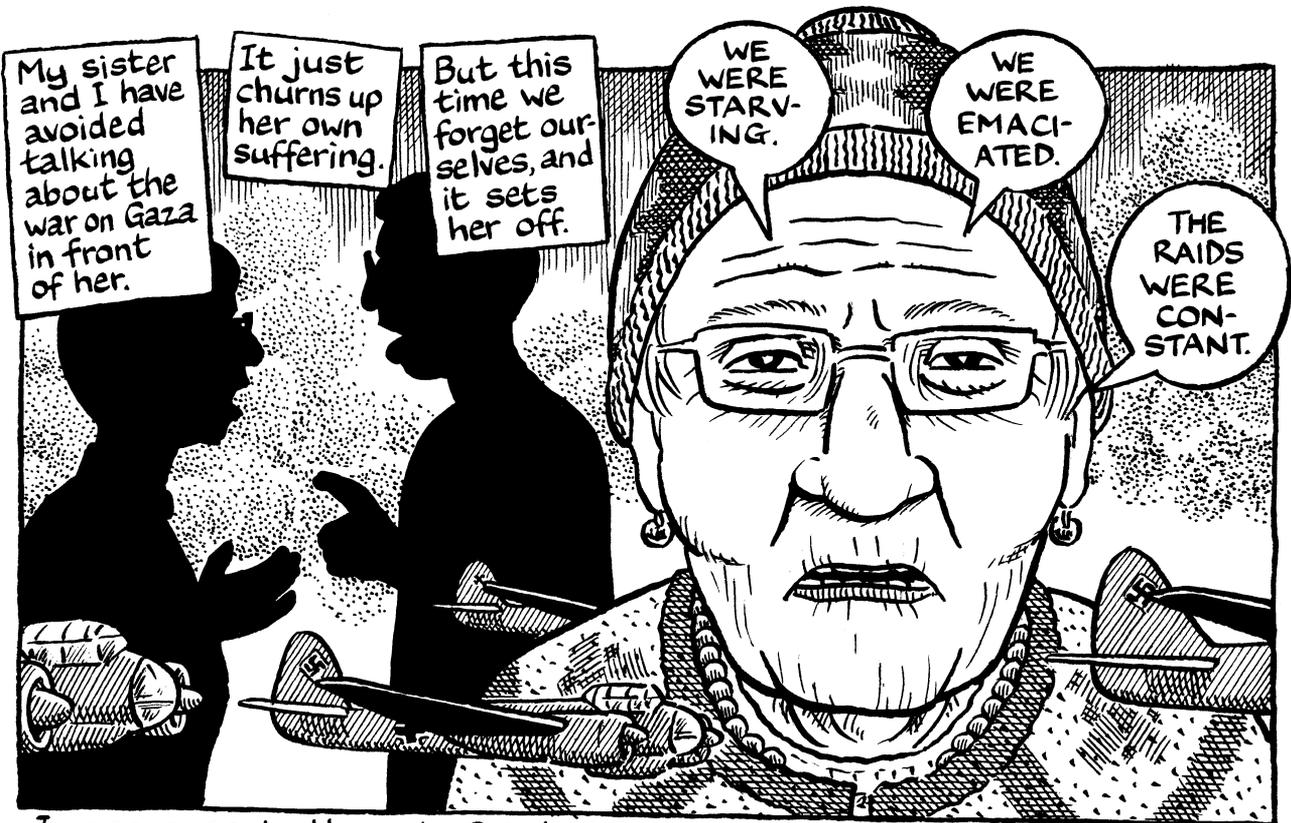
WE THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BETTER IF WE WERE DEAD.

IT WAS A TERRIBLE TIME.

She grew up in Malta during World War Two under what was then considered the most relentless bombing ever conducted.

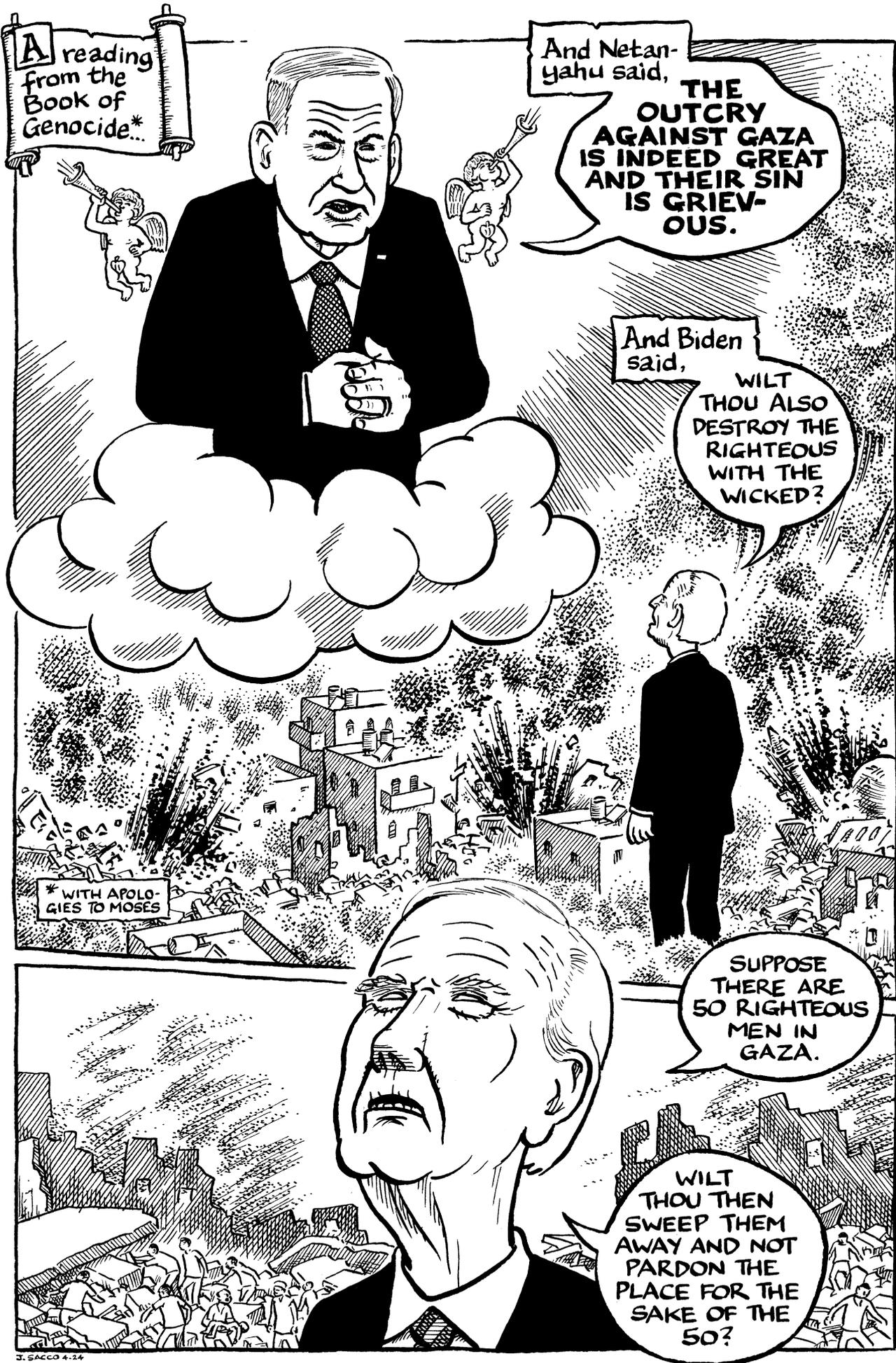


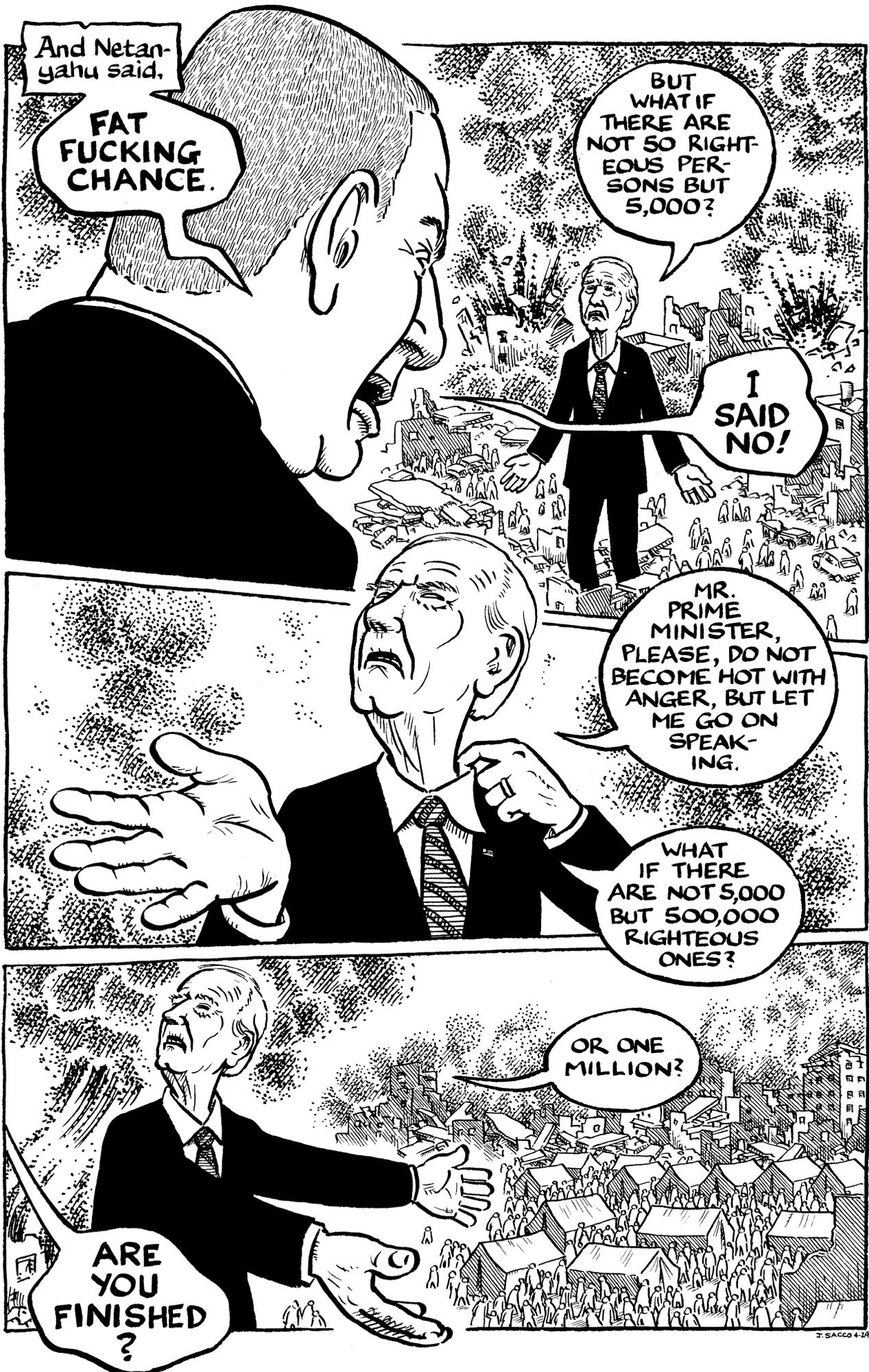
J. SACCO 33/4



In response to Hamas's October 7 attack, May Golan, Minister of Social Equality and the Advancement of the Status of Women of Israel, told a Knesset hearing,







And Netanyahu said,

FAT
FUCKING
CHANCE.

BUT
WHAT IF
THERE ARE
NOT SO RIGHTEOUS
PERSONS BUT
5,000?

I
SAID
NO!

MR.
PRIME
MINISTER,
PLEASE, DO NOT
BECOME HOT WITH
ANGER, BUT LET
ME GO ON
SPEAKING.

WHAT
IF THERE
ARE NOT 5,000
BUT 500,000
RIGHTEOUS
ONES?

OR ONE
MILLION?

ARE
YOU
FINISHED
?

T. SACCO 4-24

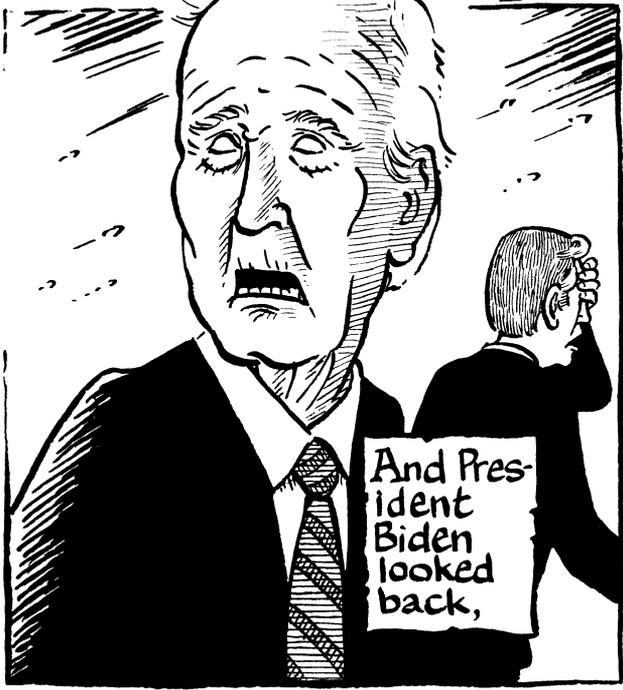




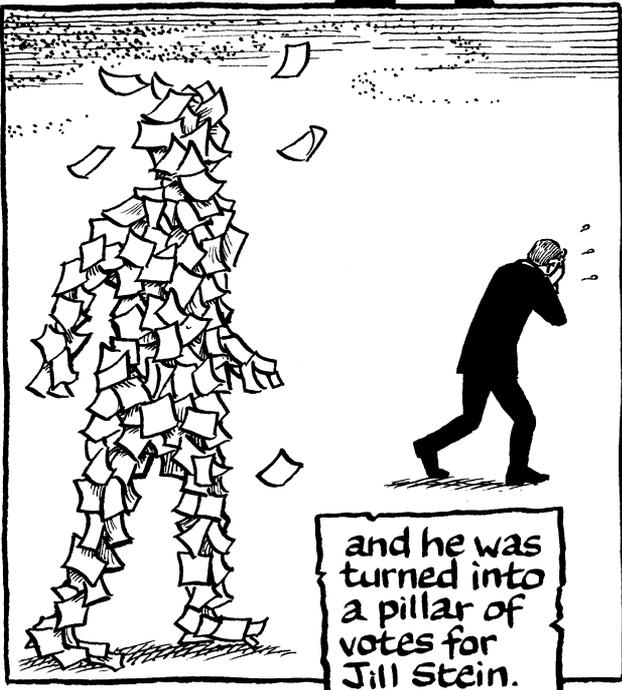
Then Netanyahu made it rain sulfur and fire on Gaza - it came from the heavens.



So He overthrew Gaza, yes, the entire Strip, including all the inhabitants and the plants of the ground.



And President Biden looked back,



and he was turned into a pillar of votes for Jill Stein.

Is it any wonder that on a beautiful spring day we find our cartoonist hero out for a stroll?

THE HORROR...

Hmm...

It seems that the poor fellow can't shake an impending sense of catastrophe for even a single minute.

PEOPLE IN TENTS!

LIVING IN SQUALOR!

THEIR HOMES GONE!

WITH NO PLACE TO WASH UP OR RELIEVE THEMSELVES!

WITH LITTLE TO EAT!

UNCERTAIN WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS!

DE-TESTED BY A CRUEL WORLD WHICH WOULD SOONER SEE THEM DISAPPEAR!



INDEED, THE STREETS OF AMERICA SEEM TO PORTEND A WIDER SOCIETAL COLLAPSE.

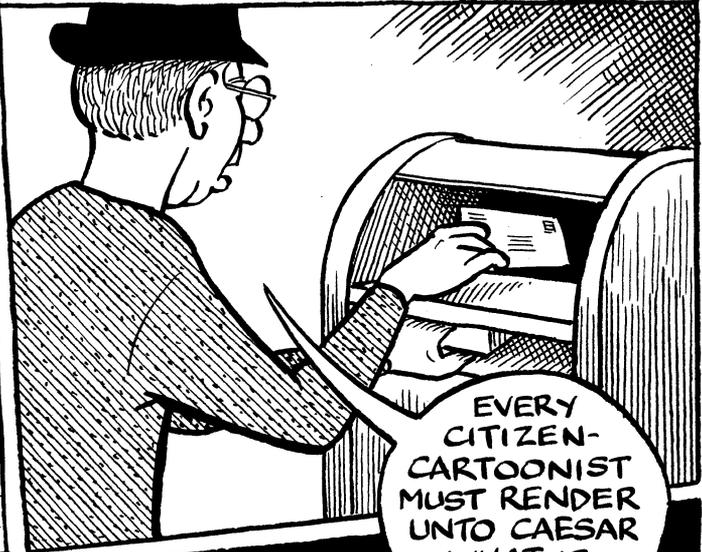
Anything Helps



By the way, our hero is not out for any idle reason.



He is engaged in the holiest of secular obligations: posting a check to the Internal Revenue Service.



EVERY CITIZEN-CARTOONIST MUST RENDER UNTO CAESAR WHAT IS CAESAR'S.



PERHAPS SOME SMALL PORTION OF MY TAX CONTRIBUTION WILL GO TOWARDS HELPING THOSE PEOPLE AND OTHERS ON THE VERGE OF A SIMILAR OUTCOME.

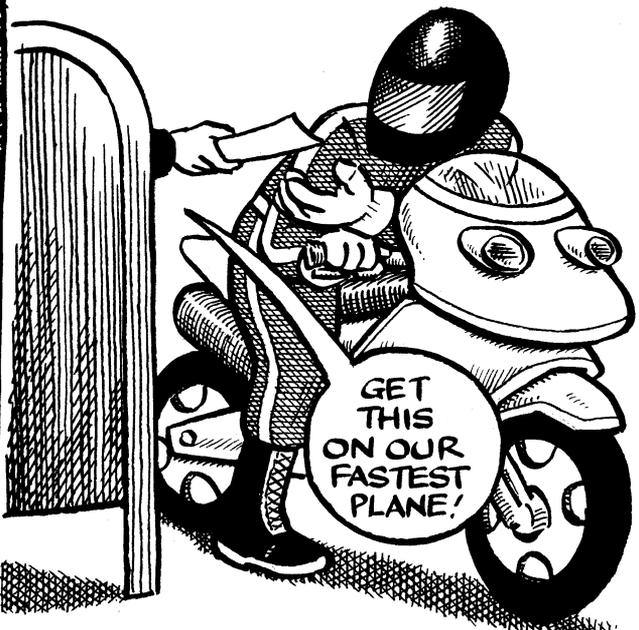
I CAN ONLY HOPE ZZZZ

Meanwhile, back in the mailbox...

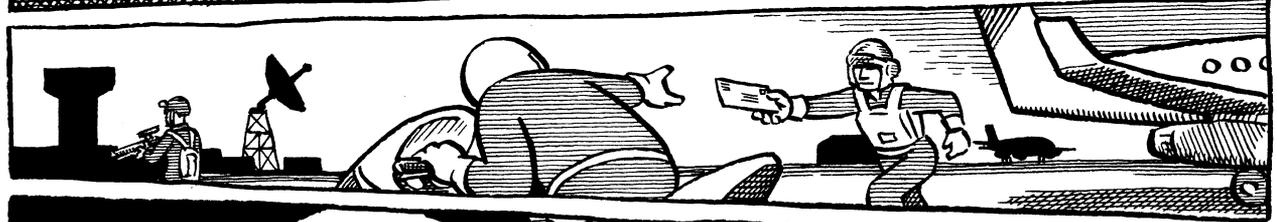
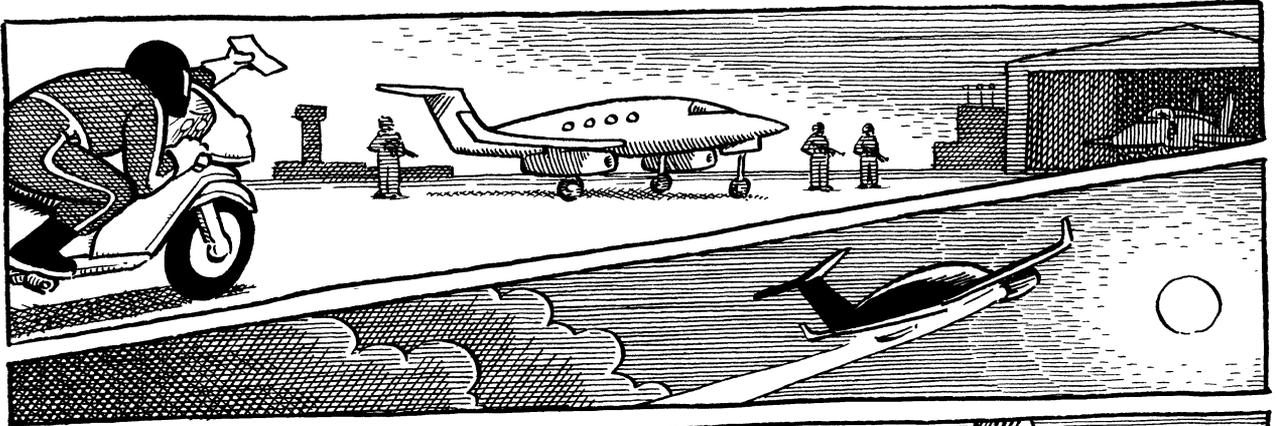


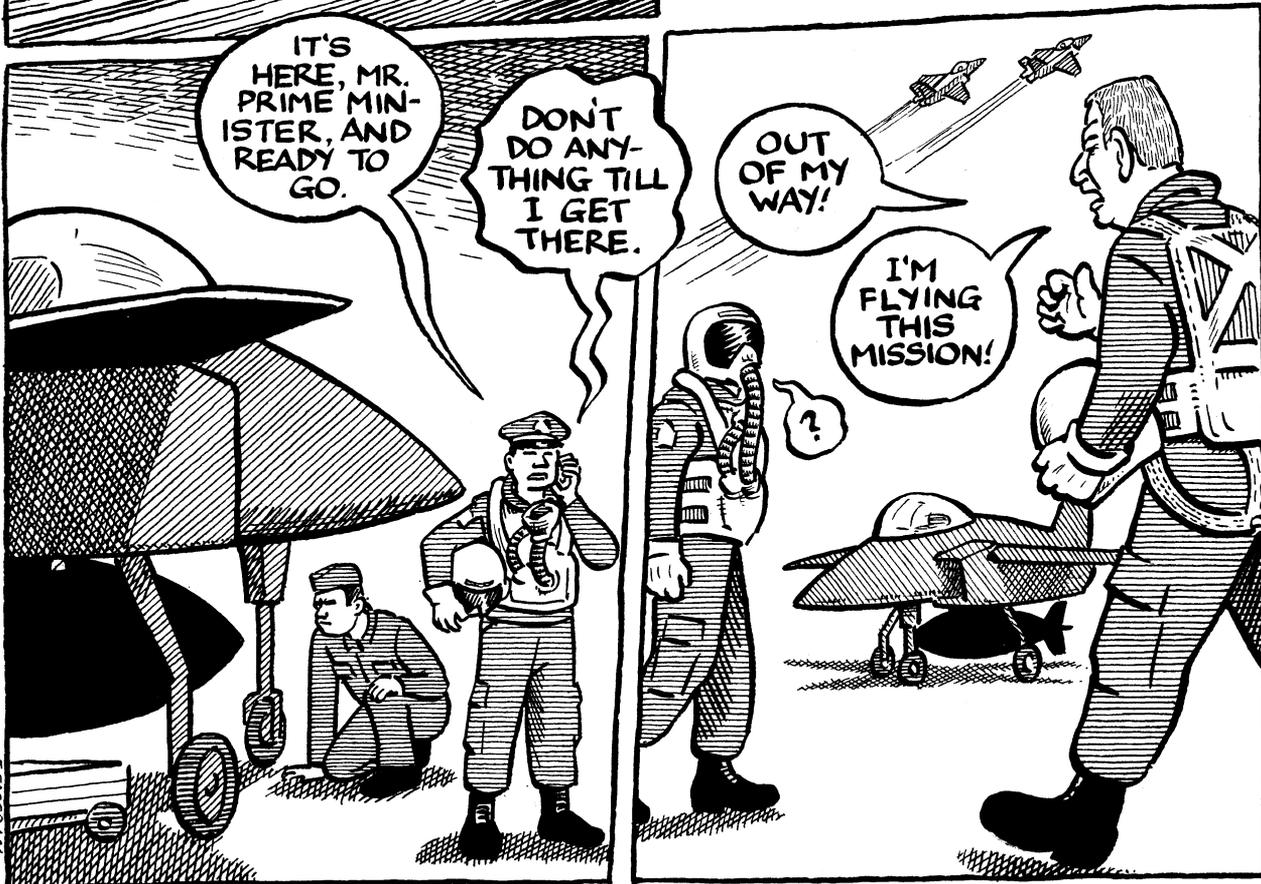
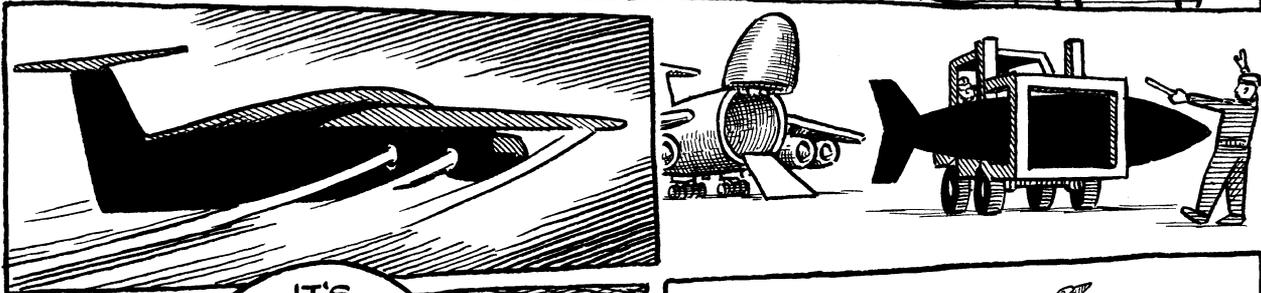
HERE IT IS!

SACCO'S CHECK!



GET THIS ON OUR FASTEST PLANE!





755AC0 414



In the forthcoming election, the American people will have to decide between —



a president who facilitated a genocide



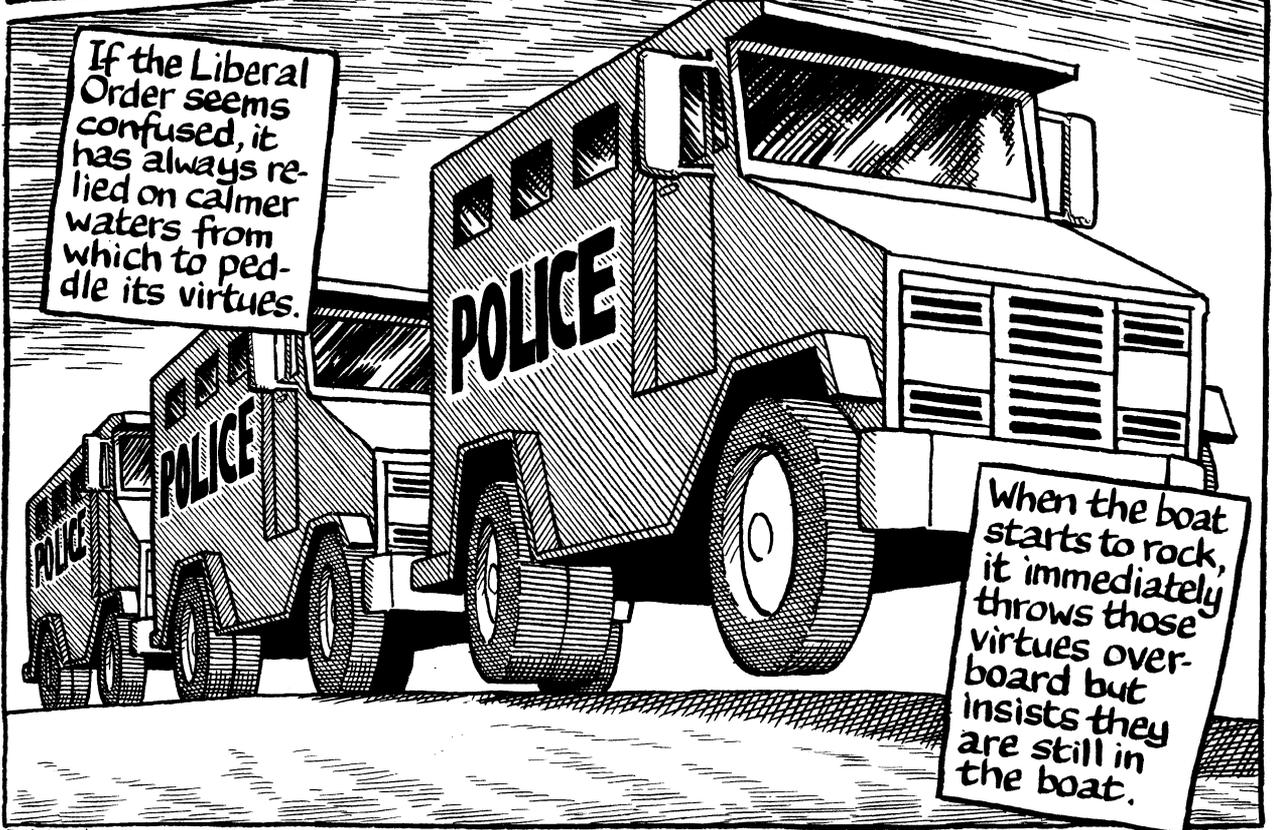
and a former president who will "end our democracy."



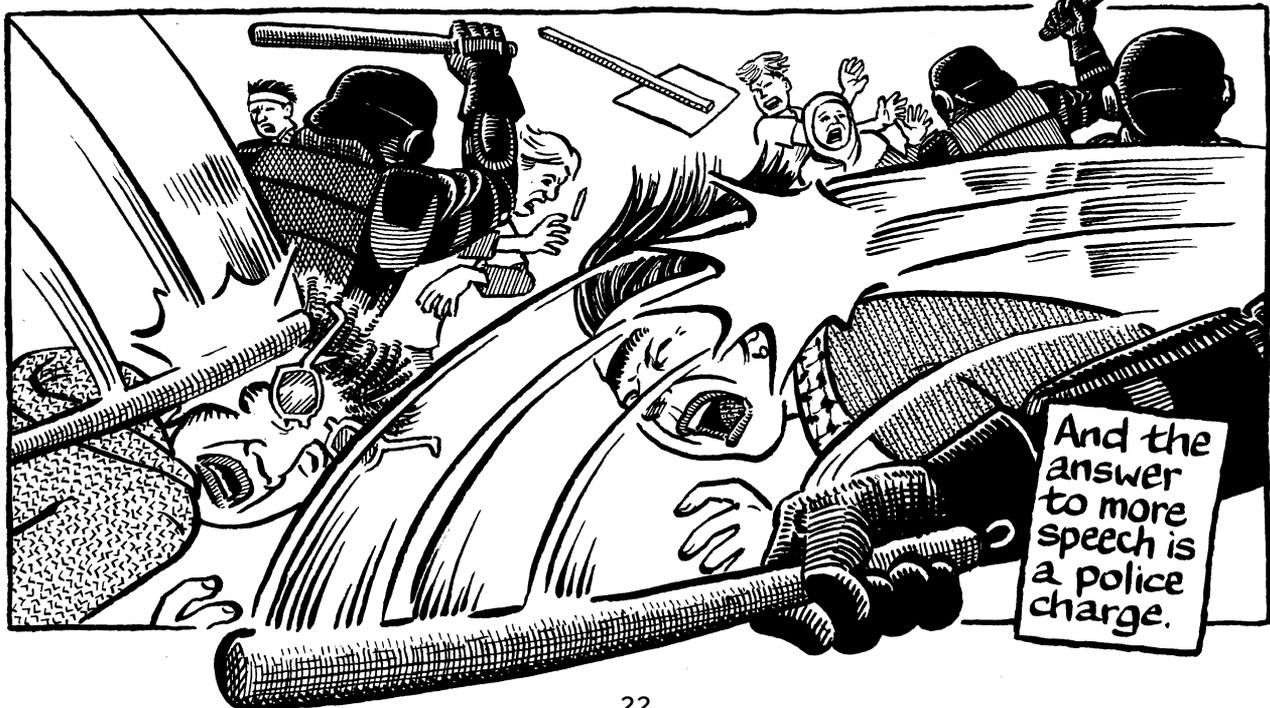
Perhaps the Lesser of Two Evils argument is the conversation a rotting republic deserves.

© SACCO 5/14

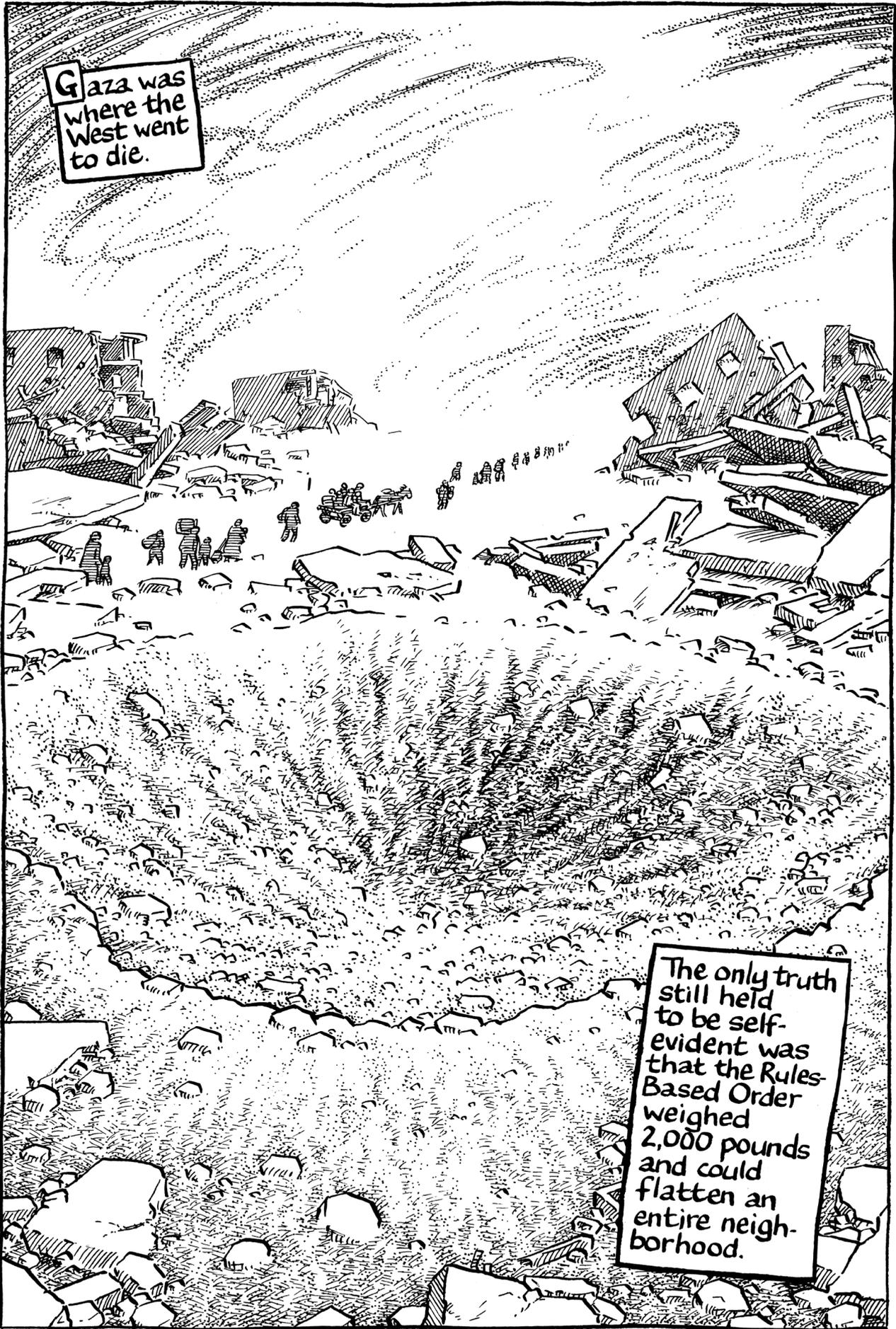
One thing this war taught us is that "Never Again" is a registered trademark, licensed only under certain conditions, and that anyone trespassing on this intellectual property will be severely reprimanded.



T. SACCO 5-24



Gaza was where the West went to die.



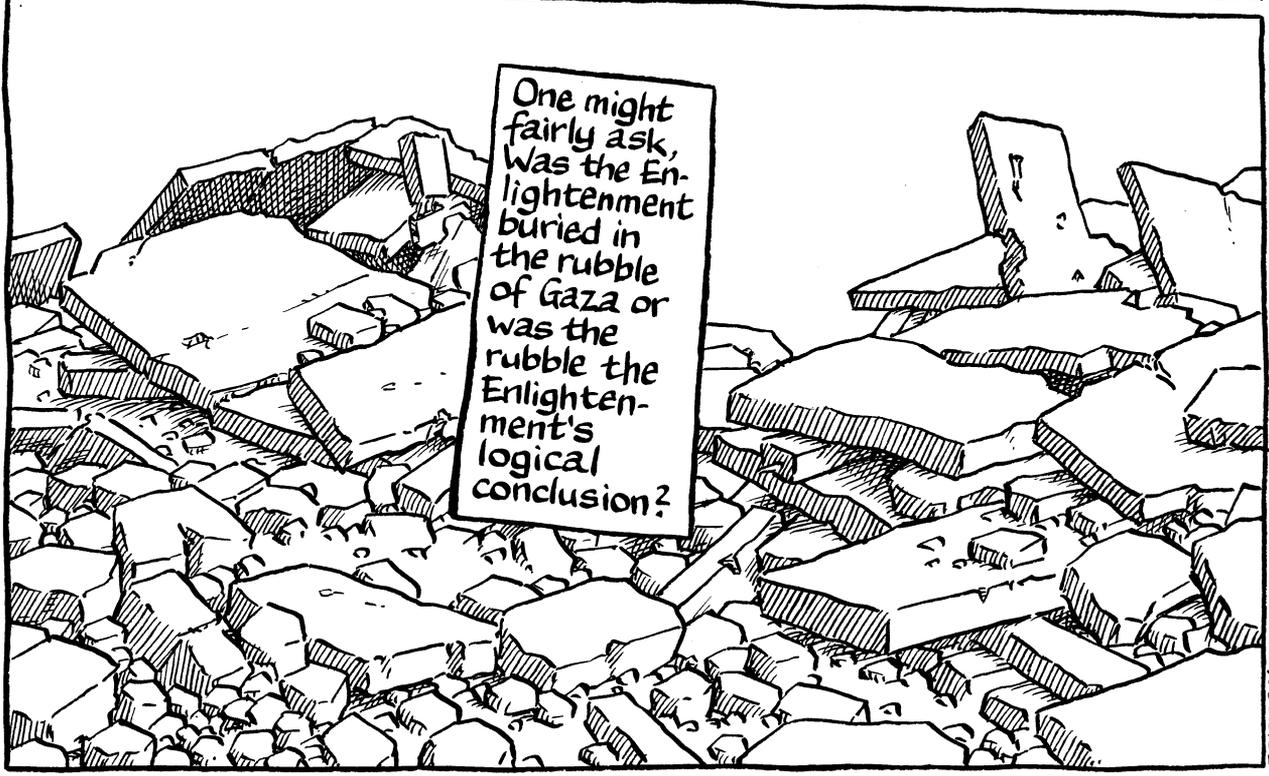
The only truth still held to be self-evident was that the Rules-Based Order weighed 2,000 pounds and could flatten an entire neighborhood.

12.6.0003.21

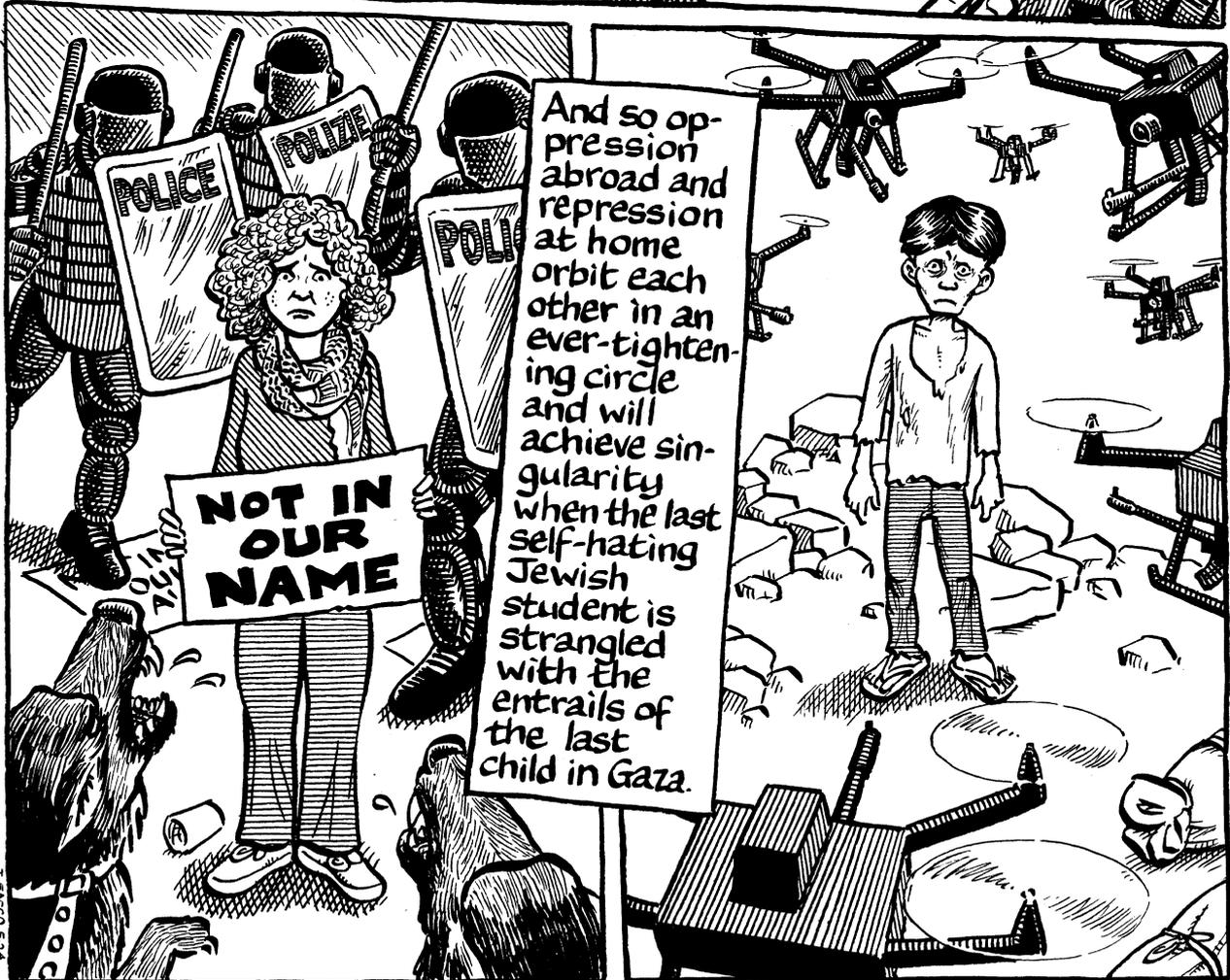
Human animals would have no right to water, much less to The Rights of Man, and the only inalienable rights endowed with Amalek would be Death, Servitude, and the Pursuit of Airdrops.



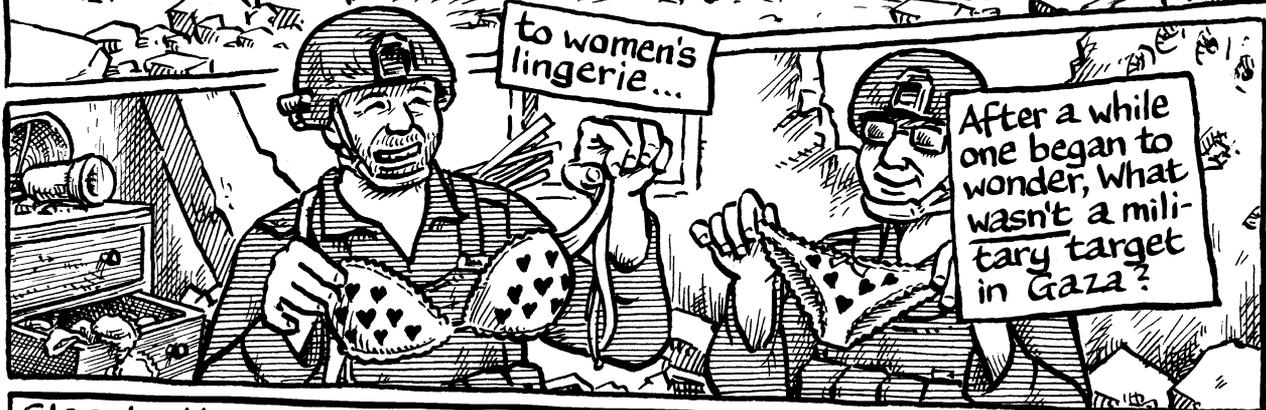
One might fairly ask, Was the Enlightenment buried in the rubble of Gaza or was the rubble the Enlightenment's logical conclusion?



T. SACCO 6/24



3 JANUARY 2014



Clearly, the category of "civilian"—already stretched to the breaking point on October 7—was now definitively null and void.

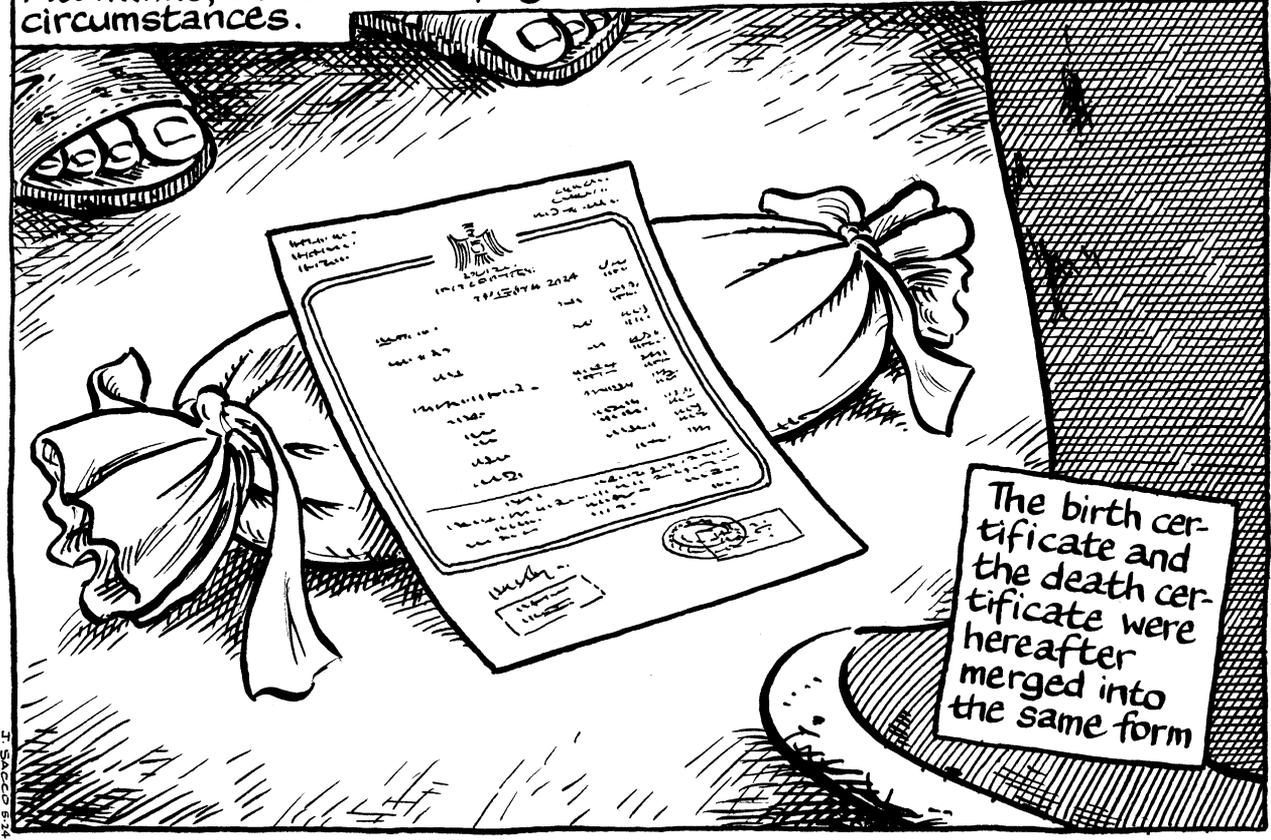




Having redefined non-combatants as flesh-and-blood fortifications, the "World's Most Moral Army" could then destroy them in a state of Instagram grace.

Its pilots and tank crews were almost as innocent as the infants they turned into pink mist.

Meanwhile, those still keeping records in Gaza would have to adapt to circumstances.



The birth certificate and the death certificate were hereafter merged into the same form

J. Sacco 8/24

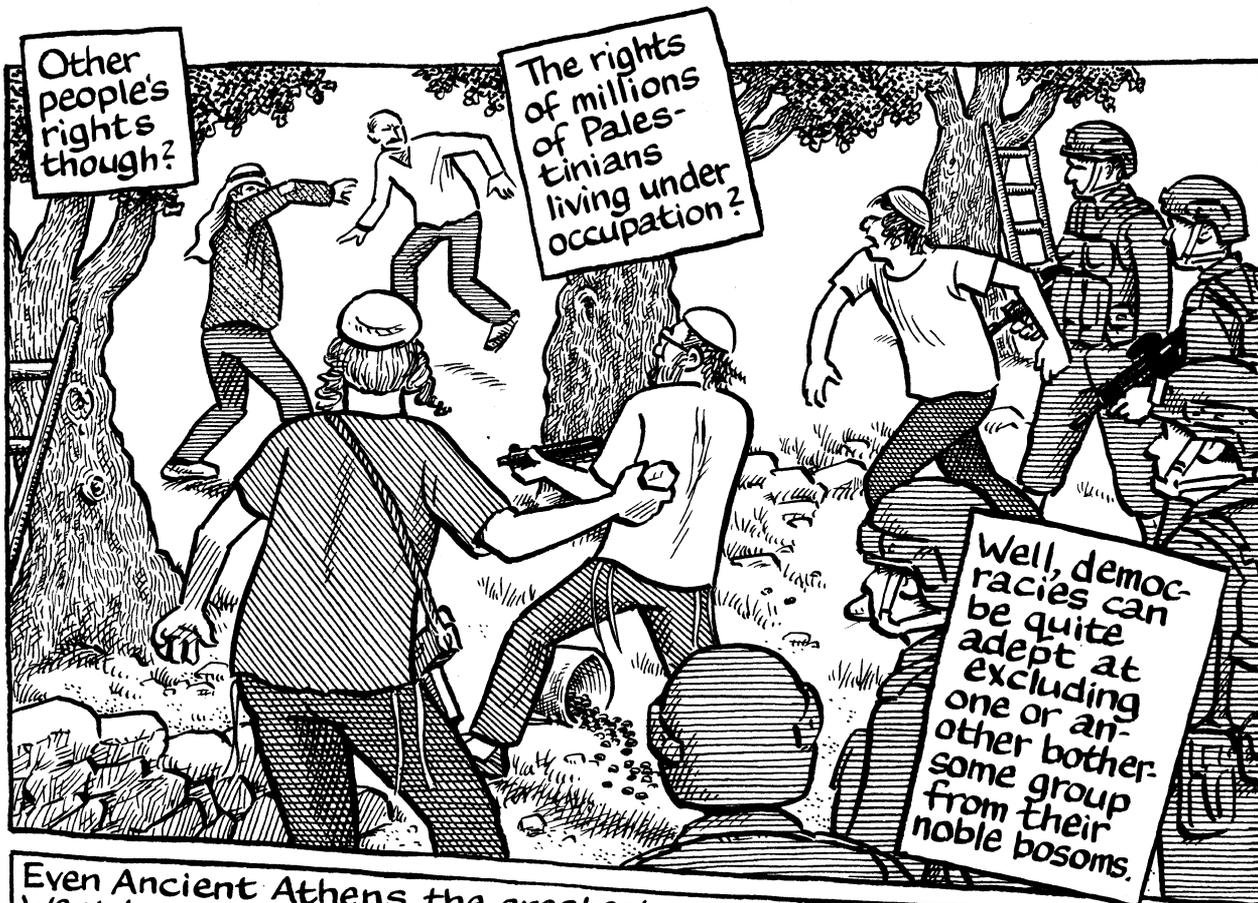
How many more times do we need to be reminded of our shared values with Israel?



Because who didn't cheer when Israelis took to the streets in their tens of thousands to protest Netanyahu's judicial "reforms"?



J. SACCO 6-24



Even Ancient Athens, the greatest example of pure democracy the West has ever known, famously left out women and depended on slave labor to make its political experiment work.



AND SPEAKING OF ANCIENT ATHENS, HAVE WE ALL READ OUR THUCYDIDES?



DO WE ALL RECALL THE STORY OF THE ISLAND-STATE MELOS?

J. SAKCO 6.24

In the late 5th century B.C., after Melos refused an Athenian ultimatum to join its alliance, Athens killed all the Melian men, sold everyone else into slavery, and sent colonists to fill the island's now empty homes.



J. SACCO 6/24

According to the most recent Pew poll,* 39 percent of Israelis believe the actions of the Israel Defense Forces in Gaza have "been about right," and 34 percent think those actions have "not gone far enough."



*CONDUCTED IN MARCH-APRIL 2024

Civilizing has always been the West's default burden and mass murder the shiniest tool in its box. The Americans had their Manifest Destiny, the French had their Algeria, the British had their Kenya, the Australians had their Tasmania, and the Germans...



The multi-White coalition insisted that the slaughter on October 7 must beget slaughter for months on end (only exponentially more of it), and the axiom seemed beyond doubt — until doubt set in.





Because only a poet can conjure up an inferno fitting for those who incited and armed a genocide, and Gaza's dead must surely know that the only justice they can count on will remain in the province of fiction.



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Associate Publisher: **ERIC REYNOLDS**
Publisher: **GARY GROTH**

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JOE SACCO is well known as an unflinching chronicler of the injustice inflicted on the Palestinian people (*Palestine*, 1993; *Footnotes in Gaza*, 2010). He continues this mission with *War on Gaza*, a series of graphic commentaries on Israeli's rampage that began more than a year ago and continues relentlessly today. Published in installments on *The Comics Journal's* website, *War on Gaza* is a series of comics and single-panel illustrations that lay bare the naked immorality of the "war" itself and its dire and tragic consequences. Employing his trademark combination of honesty, compassion, and dark humor, Sacco's *War on Gaza* is an uncompromising critique of Israeli's genocide and the complicity of President Joe Biden and the United States.

