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## The Pianist of Ramallah



**Sources:** Rebellion

*Every day, at dusk, in his house perfumed by the orange trees that inhabit his courtyard, Dr. Ibrahim sits in front of his old Czech piano brought from Beirut, and with his eyes closed his fingers remember old Palestinian, Syrian and Lebanese melodies.*

He never misses the appointment, even on those dark days when he can see Israeli tanks from the window, ready to fire. Precisely, in those days of horror, Dr. Ibrahim lengthens his concert making it a way of resistance to the invader. His wife's name is Sarifa and she is like him, sexagenarian. Always attentive, he serves tea very loaded with mint to his lifelong pianist, while listening every afternoon to that music that makes him momentarily forget the tragedy.

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Dr. Ibrahim has made his piano a fighting weapon. Your neighbors They listen to him every evening as we listened to the at dusk Radio Paris or the BBC in a ritual of resistance. When The calm of the street allows it to open the windows wide to May the melodies gladden the ears and regions of their souls Painful. When tanks invade the street, the windows are They close to lime and song, and people mentally remember the music because he needs to live.

Ago A few days I remembered Dr. Ibrahim during the screening of the film *Polanski's Pianist*. I confess that I could not help but do an exercise of Comparisons. I imagined the Warsaw ghetto as a place in Gaza or West Bank populated by Palestinians and I saw in the German executioners the current Israeli soldiers. I twinned the two on my own pianists and I saw in both that combination of anguish, fear, desire to Living and hope.

In The film we can see Hitlerite platoons breaking in without Piety in the houses of the Jews, destroying everything. Today, in the Occupied territories, the Israeli soldiery breaks down the doors of The houses, arrests their occupants and then demolishes the houses with diggers or tank shots. In the Warsaw ghetto the Germans marked the houses of the Jews, destroyed their shops and burned their goods. It is the same thing that happens in Tulkarem, Hebron, Nablus, Jenin, Gaza, in Ramallah. Polanski reconstructs the facts and In them we see thousands of Jews forced to take refuge in a small territory of Warsaw, surrounded by barbed wire and walls, in a large open-air prison. That's exactly how it is today the situation of millions of Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza: Closed their populations can not move and for more derision they must withstand systematic raids by tank columns that make it They destroy everything. I have written it on other occasions: the government of Israel uses Nazi methods, terrible paradox being itself part of a victim people. Travelling around the West Bank with good eyes Open, without prejudices or preconceived ideas, is enough to detect the villainy of the Zionists in power. I remember what Sympathizers of Zionism that greatness is measured by the number of Truth that is able to endure.

The Warsaw pianist cannot understand the persecution he suffers from The fact of being Jewish. The pianist of Ramallah cannot understand the occupation suffered by its people, who are also condemned for exercise their right to defence. Really the latter is not a matter that has to do with understanding, with reason, but with strength. Whoever has the strength determines the rules of the game and Administer doctrine. Zionism has nuclear weapons, airplanes latest model, countless tanks and tens of thousands of settlers, many of whom happen to be Jews at the convenience of the state. Israeli. With such force it allows

itself the luxury of imposing a First condition to the occupied people: "Stop using the And little by little we will stop attacking them." It is true that the Israel's first concern is security and the first danger suicide bombings. But if these end, the Zionist condition It will remain in force because it does not consent to the resistance of the occupied in the very territories that his troops occupy. Arrogance? ¿Or perhaps a ploy never to abandon Samaria and Judea, already that it is not possible to expect Palestinian weapons to be silent because complete when it comes to defending their lands and cities? This Israeli condition has contaminated the famous *Leaves of Route*. A plan that, significantly, so that it can move forward, it suspends the United Nations resolutions always disregarded by Israel.

The Polanski's film moved me, shocked me, made me take Awareness once again of an episode in European history that It should never be repeated. The Nazi Holocaust was not only chilling for the enormous number of victims it generated, if not because it also meant the representation of a systematic policy of extermination, sustained in the belief of spiritual superiority and racial of the Aryan people. The fact is that it is equally tremendous that Zionists behave like *rentiers of the Holocaust* – taking the words of the writer Saramago-, to reproduce with his victims Palestinian values and methods repugnant. As the Aryans believe themselves chosen by God. How the Aryans are convinced that the sword and blood is the method approved by their God to exterminate the contrary. The Zionists exercise the temptation of innocence, it is To say permanent impunity, through recourse to persecutions suffered. Your God is a cruel, violent God, Tax, exclusionary, inhumane. Aryans and Zionists are but the expression of the failure of mankind.

I don't know how I would have acted today the pianist of Polanski's film. But I would have liked it that he was not a Zionist, that he was a Jew – as there are many. Humanist and supportive, willing to play four hands with the doctor Ibrahim, both sitting in front of the old piano in Ramallah, sharing the land and life. I imagine them and I want to see them in that Scene the beautiful photograph of the future.

*Iosu Perales. Author of The Perfume of Palestine.*

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