

REASON AND THE MIDDLE EAST

(see maps in last two slides)

One could think that a “*right to human dignity*” is quite irrelevant in the matter of the Middle Eastern conflicts.

1. For one thing, what dignity is there for the 2.4 million residents of the Gaza Strip to live in a territory that is half the size of the tiny island of Menorca, although with 25 times as many people, and significantly smaller than even miniscule Andorra, although with 30 times the population thereof?

For reference, the population density of the tiny Gaza Strip is the same as if six times the entire population of the world, or 50 billion, were packed into Australia.

2. Meanwhile, what dignity is there for the residents of the West Bank to live in an area only twice the size of Luxembourg, but with a population five times as numerous?
3. Also, what is the dignity of living in a country consisting of two parts with no practical, or possible, link between the two?
4. Finally, what is the dignity for the population of Israel to live in a country smaller than Sardinia, although with six times the population?

Here's a brilliant (rhetorical) idea: since the average population density worldwide is 50 per square kilometer and the population density of Western Australia is only 1, let's gift 108,000 sq. km thereof to the 5.4 million people living currently in Palestinian territories, or, conversely, 200,000 sq. km for the relocation of Israelis. That would only increase the population of Australia by 10 million, max. See map below.

These populations would of course be relocated, but after all most Israelis were originally relocated from distant places, and 97% of Australians were originally relocated from even more distant places, many of them involuntarily.

Come to think of it, the 45,000 or so who emigrated to Australia from the Palestine show no sign of an urgent yearning to return to the Gaza Strip. The same goes for the 255,00 currently living in the U.S.

One could venture that the pre-condition for a feasible solution in the Middle East (and one would seek a solution not necessarily just, but only reasonable), would be that the world at large cease once and for all to use big pompous words devoid of any real significance, and attempt to be reasonable, at long last.

However, on a scale from 0 to 10, what likelihood is there that such a generous gesture would see the light of day?

Luxembourg, Andorra, Menorca, Sardinia



Palestine and Israel

