



## **NATO Parliamentarians Refuse To Acknowledge Value of Palestinian Lives**

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**Dimitri Lascaris (DL):** This is Dimitri Lascaris, coming to you for Reason2Resist from Montreal, Canada, on November 25th, 2024. I'm standing outside the Palais de Congrès in the center of Montreal. This huge conference facility is the venue for the 70th Parliamentary Assembly of NATO countries, which began on Friday of last week. Today is the fourth and final day of this assembly, and they will be holding the plenary session. And the deputy secretary general of NATO will be here and will be speaking momentarily to the assembly. Also, the prime minister of Canada is scheduled to speak today and may already be in the process of doing so. I applied for media accreditation to this event before the deadline on Monday of last week. They asked for various items of information, including a letter from an assigning media organization. I was assigned to cover this event by The Maple, a reputable independent media outlet that is known to the Canadian government. They deal with it as a media organization. And I submitted, of course, my press card. I'm a member of the Freelance Journalist Union here in Canada. And I didn't hear from them until the 11th hour, literally on Thursday night at around 11:00, I received an email from the media accreditation department for this assembly and they told me that I had been denied accreditation without giving me any explanation whatsoever. I immediately wrote back. I asked them why and I was ignored. This is consistent with my prior experience. Whenever the Canadian government holds events like these and I apply for media accreditation, I am denied accreditation even though I fulfill all the requirements and they never explain to me why.

So today, after having been denied entry, I decided to come here to the one entrance through which the delegates are coming into the building today. And as the delegates were going by me, I peacefully and in a normal voice, asked them the following question: Are Ukrainian lives worth more than Palestinian lives? I believe that to be a perfectly fair question. Considering NATO is arming the country that is committing a genocide against Palestinians while claiming that it is sending hundreds of billions of dollars worth of economic and military aid to Ukraine because it cares about international law and human rights. So I'm going to share with you momentarily the footage of my attempts to get an answer to that

question from dozens of delegates as they entered the building. When I began asking that question about an hour ago, there were maybe two or three police officers here. And within, I would say, five minutes of my beginning to ask the question, a great many more of them showed up. Now there's just a few of them. But there were at one point something like 25 or 30 police officers, including these characters on these bikes who weren't here when I originally showed up. And frankly, they became quite aggressive and they began pushing me away from the door, insisting that I not get anywhere close to the delegates, even though, as I said, I wasn't impeding their entry into the building or posing any kind of a threat to them. This is par for the course in Canada nowadays. Members of the media who ask, you know, uncomfortable questions for government officials are systematically excluded from events like this. And then when they try to get access to these officials, the police act as their protection – actually protection from uncomfortable questions, That's really the long and the short of it.

Also, while I was out here, I encountered a member of the Chinese media and I interviewed him briefly about why he was not in the building with other media. And I think you'll be interested to know what he had to say. It's very important to understand that this conference is happening against the backdrop of an extraordinary risk of nuclear confrontation with Russia. Around the time that this parliamentary assembly began last week, Russia responded to an attack on the city of Bryansk in the Russian Federation, on Russian territory, with six ATACM missiles supplied by the United States. It's well known that those missiles could not be fired into Russia without targeting data and direct assistance by the United States military. And the Russian government had said prior to the attack that it would regard the use of these missiles on Russian territory as an entry by the United States into the war. So they did it nonetheless, the Americans used these ATACMS using their proxy, the Ukrainian military, to deliver the weapons at a target in Bryansk. It's not clear whether they actually struck the target, but it was provocative enough that the Russian military responded by firing a new missile, a very sophisticated missile at a missile production factory in the Dnipro, a Ukrainian city near the Dnieper River. And this weapon, which I discussed in my live stream last night, is a hypersonic missile. It's medium range, about 1000 to 3000 km. It was fired far away from the Ukrainian border from Russian territory, streaked across the sky and then released six warheads, each of which had six sub munitions and struck this factory in a devastating strike, after which the Russian president made an emergency address to the Russian Federation and obviously to the international community in which he said that this was a demonstration of what Russia is capable of doing, that this weapon was not capable of being stopped by any air defense system possessed by NATO, and that if they continued to attack Russia with long range missiles supplied by NATO countries, that NATO would be considered – all NATO countries – would be considered fair game and there was nothing they could do to prevent a retaliation with conventional weapons.

And so this assembly is happening against the backdrop of that warning, that dire warning. And after the speech by Russian President Vladimir Putin, NATO announced that it would be holding an emergency meeting with the Ukrainian government tomorrow on the day after this parliamentary assembly concludes. So I imagine that there are some very tense and sensitive

discussions going on in that building behind me. Unfortunately, I'm not going to be able to get any kind of an insight into what is going on. We can only speculate. But let us hope that the people in that building who are through their governments and militaries enabling Israel's genocide and escalating an existentially dangerous war in Ukraine will come to their senses. So now I'm going to share with you my footage of my interactions with delegates as they were entering the building today. You'll also see my brief interview of a Chinese journalist about why he is out here and not in the building. And finally, you'll see some footage of peace activists Tamara Lorincz and Yves Engler, who were also here today making their presence felt.

Hello, gentlemen. I'm a member of the press. Are Ukrainian lives worth more than Palestinian lives? You don't know? Is that a tough one to answer, gentlemen?

**NATO delegate:** Is that a question?

**DL:** Yes, that's a question.

**NATO delegate:** You think that it is a normal question?

**DL:** For NATO? Yes. You people apparently think Palestinian lives are worthless.

Excuse me, are Ukrainian lives worth more than Palestinian lives? Are Ukrainian lives worth more than Palestinian lives? What does NATO think about this? Are Ukrainian lives worth more than Palestinian lives, sir? Hello?

Excuse me, sir. Are Ukrainian lives worth more than Palestinian lives? Hello, sir? Do you care to venture an answer, sir? Are Ukrainian lives worth more than Palestinian lives?

**Security:** I'm not going to answer that question,

**DL:** You're not going to answer?

**Security:** No.

**DL:** Is that a difficult question, sir?

**Security:** No because I'm actually working in the safety here, so.

**DL:** Right. Okay. All right. I guess it is hazardous to your job to answer that question.

**Security:** No. I'm not allowed.

**DL:** Are Ukrainian lives worth more than Palestinian lives, gentlemen? Gentlemen, do you have a view about this? Do Ukrainians matter more than Palestinians? Hello? Do Ukrainians

matter more than Palestinians? Does anybody from NATO want to answer? Anybody care to say whether Ukrainian lives matter more than Palestinian lives? Hello? Anybody? Just one person will do.

Excuse me, gentlemen. Are Ukrainian lives worth more than Palestinian lives? Yes or no? Anybody? Are Ukrainians worth more than Palestinians? Does anybody from NATO want to answer this question?

So you see, Yves Engler is out here with me. There's probably four police officers for each of us. Sir, are Ukrainian lives worth more than Palestinian lives? Sir? Hello? Excuse me, ma'am, are Ukrainian lives worth more than Palestinian lives? Hello? Gentlemen, are Ukrainian lives worth more than Palestinian lives? This is a very simple question, I would have thought. Are Ukrainian lives worth more than Palestinian lives, Sir? Sir?

**Police officer:** Just clear the doors. Okay?

**DL:** Are Ukrainian lives worth more than Palestinian lives? Are Ukrainian lives worth more than Palestinian lives? Hello? Are Ukrainian lives worth more than Palestinian lives? Hi, are Ukrainian lives worth more than Palestinian lives? Does NATO believe that Ukrainians are worth more than Palestinians? Hello? Does NATO believe that Ukrainians are worth more than Palestinians? Hello? Does NATO believe Ukrainians are worth more than Palestinians? Hello?

Are Ukrainian lives worth more than Palestinian lives, ma'am? You don't know the answer to that question?

**Police officer:** [laughing]

**DL:** This is what happens when you ask tough questions to these depraved NATO delegates. They send out an army of police officers who make up laws and who pretend that it's a criminal offense to ask questions at representatives of NATO. A perfectly legitimate question. This is how the Montreal police react to fair questions by journalists. They bring out the goon squad.

**Tamara Lorincz (TL):** It destroyed Libya and Afghanistan and Yugoslavia and Iraq.

**DL:** Sir, are Ukrainian lives worth more than Palestinian lives, sir? Simple yes or no will do, sir.

Sir, are Ukrainian lives worth more than Palestinian lives?

**TL:** We're heading into World War Three! Shame on you!

**DL:** [00:12:45] Are Ukrainian lives worth more than Palestinian lives, sir? Are Ukrainian lives are worth more than Palestinian lives?

Are Ukrainian lives worth more than Palestinian lives? Gentleman? Are Ukrainian lives worth more than Palestinian lives? What do you think? You think Palestinians deserve our protection as much as Ukrainians, gentlemen? Hello?

Hi. Are Ukrainian lives worth more than Palestinian lives? What do you think, sir? Do Palestinians matter as much as Ukrainians?

**TL:** Everybody in the world knows that NATO is a US warmachine!

**DL:** Sir, are Ukrainian lives worth more than Palestinian lives? Hello?

Sir, are Ukrainian lives worth more than Palestinian lives? Are Ukrainian lives are worth more than Palestinian lives, sir? Is that such a hard question to answer, sir? Does NATO attach any value to Palestinian life? Any value for Palestinians to NATO?

Excuse me, gentlemen. Are Ukrainians worth more than Palestinians? Does NATO think that Palestinian life has any value at all? Why are you arming a genocidal regime? Sir? You purport to be for human rights.

Excuse me, sir. Does NATO believe Ukrainians are worth more than Palestinians? Isn't that a simple question to answer, sir? Shouldn't you be saying readily that they are equally valuable? Palestinian and Ukrainian lives?

Could you tell us your name and what organization you represent?

**Journalist:** I'm [inaudible] and I work for China Central Television.

**DL:** Right. So I notice you're outside the building where the NATO Parliamentary Assembly is being held, not on the inside. Why is that? Why are you not inside the building?

**Journalist:** Because the organization refused any press or media not belonging to NATO or partnered with NATO. I applied for the accreditation for the assembly but they refused.

**DL:** Right. So you'll be doing all of your work from outside today, is that right?

**Journalist:** Yes, I have to do it from outside of the building and interview some protesters and peace lovers.

**DL:** Right. Thank you very much for speaking with me.

**Journalist:** Thank you.

**DL:** That's my report from the 70th Parliamentary Assembly of NATO from the Palais de Congrès in downtown Montreal on November 25th, 2024.

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