

## **Life in GAZA the media does not show !**

Please circulate to your friends. Tom Gross is a respected British born journalist and an international columnist who specializes in the Middle East. He is a contributor to the WSJ. Please just take a moment to glance at the information and photos he provides below. This is a side of Gaza that the media overlooks in their reporting. His web site is below and has better pictures of recent stocked food markets in Gaza:

<http://www.tomgrossmedia.com/mideastdispatches/archives/001114.html>

While many Palestinians live in undesirable conditions in Gaza, it is a direct result of their terrorist leadership. It is not a result of the measures Israel has had to undertake to control the flow of weapons into Gaza. Israel has ensured that enough aid flows to Gaza to avoid necessary food and medical shortages.

Fancy restaurants and Olympic-size swim pools: what the media won't report about Gaza

May 25, 2010

\* While prominent Western media continue to lead their viewers and readers astray with accounts of a non-existent <sup>3</sup>mass humanitarian catastrophe<sup>2</sup> in Gaza, fancy restaurants (video below) and an Olympic-size swimming pool open there

\* Most Israeli towns don't have Olympic-size swimming pools

\* Many Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza live a middle class (and in some cases an upper class) lifestyle that Western journalists refuse to report on because it doesn't fit with the simplistic story they were sent to write

\* If you drop into the Roots Club in Gaza, according to the Lonely Planet guidebook, you can <sup>3</sup>dine on steak au poivre and chicken cordon bleu<sup>2</sup> (video, photos below)

\* UN-run summer camp for Palestinian children burned to the ground for being <sup>3</sup>un-Islamic<sup>2</sup>; UN staff there threatened with murder; UN Security Council fails to react

\* It is quite something when the president of a country (Shimon Peres) sees the need to criticize a foreign newspaper, such are the depths that The Guardian sunk to yesterday

Above: the courtyard of the Roots restaurant in Gaza.

Above: A part of the restaurant's 12-page menu, which includes a wide range of meat, poultry and seafood dishes. The restaurant is popular with Gazans holding weddings and other celebrations, UN and NGO workers, and foreign journalists.

Above: A Palestinian newspaper photo (May 18, 2010) shows Gazan children in the newly built Olympic-sized swimming pool which opened earlier this month, despite continuing claims by some Western journalists and NGOs that there are no building materials and a severe shortage of water in Gaza.

Above: Recent photos from one of Gaza's fruit and vegetable markets, from a cake shop, and from a children's toy store in Gaza city. Hardly the <sup>3</sup>World War II-era concentration camp<sup>2</sup> that some Western journalists have claimed Gaza resembles.

\*\*\*

(There will be no dispatches next week or the week after while I engage in other work.)

## CONTENTS

1. The lies the media and NGOs tell about Gaza
2. Steak au poivre and chicken cordon bleu
3. Starved of water and building materials?
4. An industry of lies
5. Gaza's Olympic-sized swimming pool
6. Who burned down the summer camp?
7. <sup>3</sup>A summer program of arts and sport<sup>2</sup> unacceptable to Islamists
8. <sup>3</sup>Teaching schoolgirls dancing and immorality<sup>2</sup>
9. Foreign governments and NGOs ignore Hamas's worsening human rights record
10. Dozens more West Bank roadblocks to be dismantled
11. Shimon Peres attacks The Guardian's blatant lies
12. Obama slowly paving the way for military strikes on Iran's nuclear program?

## THE LIES THE MEDIA AND NGOS TELL ABOUT GAZA

[All notes below by Tom Gross]

In recent days, the international media, particularly in Europe and the Mideast, has been full of stories about <sup>3</sup>activist boats sailing to Gaza carrying desperately-needed humanitarian aid and building materials.<sup>2</sup> The BBC World Service even led its world news broadcasts with this story at one point over the weekend. (The BBC yesterday boasted that its global news audience has now risen to 220 million persons a week, making it by far the biggest news broadcaster in the world.)

Yet the BBC and other media fail to report on the fancy new restaurants and swimming pools of Gaza, or about the wind surfing competitions on Gaza beaches, or the Strip's crowded shops and markets.

No, this would spoil their agenda. Playing the manipulative game of the BBC is easy. If we had their vast taxpayer funded resources, we too could produce reports about parts of London, Manchester and Glasgow and make it look as though there is a humanitarian catastrophe throughout the UK. We could produce the same effect by selectively filming seedy parts of Paris and Rome and New York and Los Angeles too.

Of course there is poverty in Gaza. There is poverty in parts of Israel too. (When was the last time a foreign journalist based in Israel left the

pampered lounge bars and restaurants of the King David and American Colony hotels in Jerusalem and went to check out the slum-like areas of southern Tel Aviv? Or the hard-hit Negev towns of Netivot or Rahat?)  
But the way the BBC and other prominent Western news media are deliberately misleading global audiences and systematically creating the false impression that people are somehow starving in Gaza, and that it is all Israel's fault, can only serve to increase hatred for the Jewish state - which one suspects was the goal of many of the editors and reporters involved in the first place.

#### STEAK AU POIVRE AND CHICKEN CORDON BLEU

If you drop by the Roots Club in Gaza, according to the Lonely Planet guidebook for Gaza and the West Bank, you can <sup>3</sup>dine on steak au poivre and chicken cordon bleu<sup>2</sup>.

The restaurant's website in Arabic <<http://www.rootsclub.ps/services-ar.php>> gives a window into middle class dining and the lifestyle of Hamas officials in Gaza.

And here it is in English <<http://www.rootsclub.ps/index.php>, for all the journalists, UN types and NGO staff who regularly frequent this and other nice Gaza restaurants (but don't tell their readers about them).

Please take a look at the pictures on the above website. They are not the kind of things you see in The New York Times or CNN or in Newsweek, whose international edition last week had one of the most disgracefully misleading stories about Gaza I have ever seen, portraying it in terms which were virtually reminiscent of Hiroshima after a nuclear blast.

And here is a promotional video of the club restaurant:

In case anyone doubts the authenticity of this video (which is up on the club's own website), I just called the club in Gaza City and had a nice chat with the manager who proudly confirmed business is booming and many Palestinians and international guests are dining there.

In a piece for The Wall Street Journal last year, I documented the <sup>3</sup>after effects<sup>2</sup> of a previous <sup>3</sup>emergency Gaza boat flotilla,<sup>2</sup> when the arrivals were seen afterwards purchasing souvenirs in well-stocked shops

<<http://www.tomgrossmedia.com/mideastdispatches/archives/001072.html>.

And please see here for more pictures of Gaza's <sup>3</sup>impoverished<sup>2</sup> shops

<<http://www.tomgrossmedia.com/mideastdispatches/archives/000973.html>.

\*\*\*

The front of the Roots Club flyer reads:

Ambiance galore.

Beautifully designed buffets.

Every detail handled for you.

Lillian Pinkus  
469-261-8223

Arturo & Ditta