

PHOTO: AFP

Netanyahu and Obama, during the American president's first visit to Israel.

Though the media and the White House have stated that both Turkey and Israel have concerns that the conflict in Syria will spill over their borders and this is the why they should be allied. That is the truth, but it's the only bit the White House will want us to see.

I say, since you're at it Israel how about apologising for, say, the massacres at Sabra and Shatila refugee camps decades ago—though Lebanon would have to apologise for that too. That gets me thinking however, there is a power to this type of symbolic gesture and if Bebe can acknowledge that his country, which, as we know, is beyond reproach in every way, can admit that brutally murdering unarmed activists on a boat might be viewed as a misstep then perhaps Pakistan could bring itself to admit that killing and raping scores of Bangladeshis in 1971 was and is not the proudest moment in their history? Just a fanciful notion on my part, I suppose. One would think that being pummeled by American drones on a regular basis would humble one.

Yes, indeed, as long as Syria is taken care of, i.e. Assad toppled. Let me explain: this was not about Israel or Palestine, or peace. This was about maintaining control in the country of Syria and perhaps sending a message to Iran. France is already selling arms to the rebels in Syria and the US has sent "humanitarian" supplies to them, stressing that no weapons were being sent. It's all about democracy. Yeah, and I'm, Indira Gandhi. If weapons are not being sent now, they will be in the form of surgical NATO missile strikes on Assad's troops and the innocent people of Syria—the collateral damage.

What alerted me was the apology Obama bartered between Bebe-who's meanness and bigotry I have already referenced—and Turkey for the tragic flotilla deaths in 2010. A flotilla of Turkish activists were headed to Gaza to provide much needed medical and humanitarian aid and supplies. The Israeli navy attacked the flotilla and killed several unarmed activists. Three years later, Netanyahu is finally apologising. It's all very unlikely and there is no way it's done because he suddenly developed a conscience. Please, this is the man who gave the order to drop white phosphorus on Arab children and aid workers in Gaza in 2008 and has given the settlers in the West Bank carte blanche to keep building on, encroaching, and stealing Palestinian land. The latest speed bump on the road map to peace is Israel segregating buses in and out of the West Bank "for security reasons"—the same way NATO will soon bomb Syria for "humanitarian" ones. Therefore, it follows, that a man who espouses apartheid, relegating Arabs as inferior, would not be inclined to apologise to a Turk. He is obviously being asked to do it in return for something else. It's posturing.



PHOTO: AFP

Netanyahu has given the settlers in the West Bank carte blanch to keep building on Palestinian land.

Based on what I am reading and seeing, Syria, Iran and Africa will be in the news more and more in the coming months, leading to more tension between the US, China and Russia. Obama cultivating a "friendship" with Israel now –in his second term—when he has nothing to lose by NOT warming up to them is, in my opinion, a stratagem for keeping the most powerful entity in the region cooperative and ready to do his bidding in the next three years. We shall see.