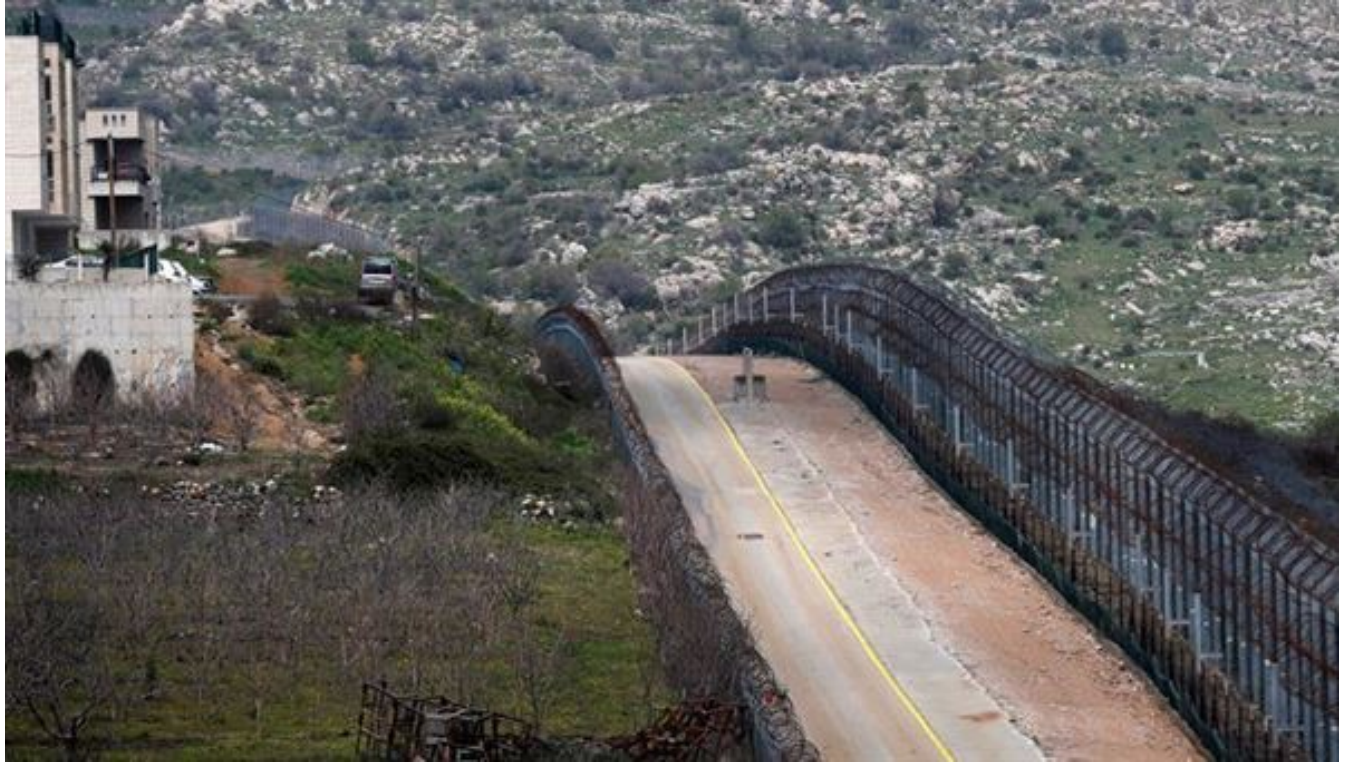


Occupation in the Heights



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By Roberto Morejón

Israel's occupation of the Syrian Golan by force, even if the administration of former U.S. President Donald Trump lavished Tel Aviv with official support, is far from being ethically, much less politically and morally, expounded.

At a recent UN Security Council open debate on the situation in West Asia, voices were again raised for Israel's full and unconditional withdrawal from the Syrian Arab territory of the Golan Heights.

The meeting followed the adoption last December by the UN General Assembly of a new resolution demanding Israel to implement international decisions regarding the Syrian Golan.

The usurpation of this strategic plateau, rich in groundwater, is part of a series of Israeli attacks against Syria.

Tel Aviv occupied most of the site after the Six-Day War in 1967 and added it to its legal system in an abrupt and untimely manner, interpreted as a de facto annexation.

The UN, many countries and organizations rejected the said incorporation in tune with the methods of the main gendarme in the Middle East of the United States, a country that also subjugates militarily other areas of Syria and exploits oil fields.

With Washington's approval, the area controlled by Israel in the Golan Heights, located in the extreme southwest of Syria along its border with Palestine, now amounts to 1,200 square kilometers.

Effective raptors change the geographic and demographic characteristics through the destruction of settlements and farms.

As in the occupied West Bank, the nearly 20,000 settlers sent by the Zionist regime set up settlements in the Syrian Golan, built seven thousand homes, plundered natural resources and displaced the indigenous population.

Many areas of the Syrian Golan Heights under Israeli control became the seat of Israeli army camps, whose troops commit violations described as atrocious by Syrian diplomacy.

Damascus denounced the planting of mines in the agricultural lands and near the villages, in what is presented as an extended militarization.

As the permanent representative of Cuba to the UN, Pedro Luis Pedroso, pointed out, it is time for Israel to withdraw totally and unconditionally from the usurped Syrian Golan.

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