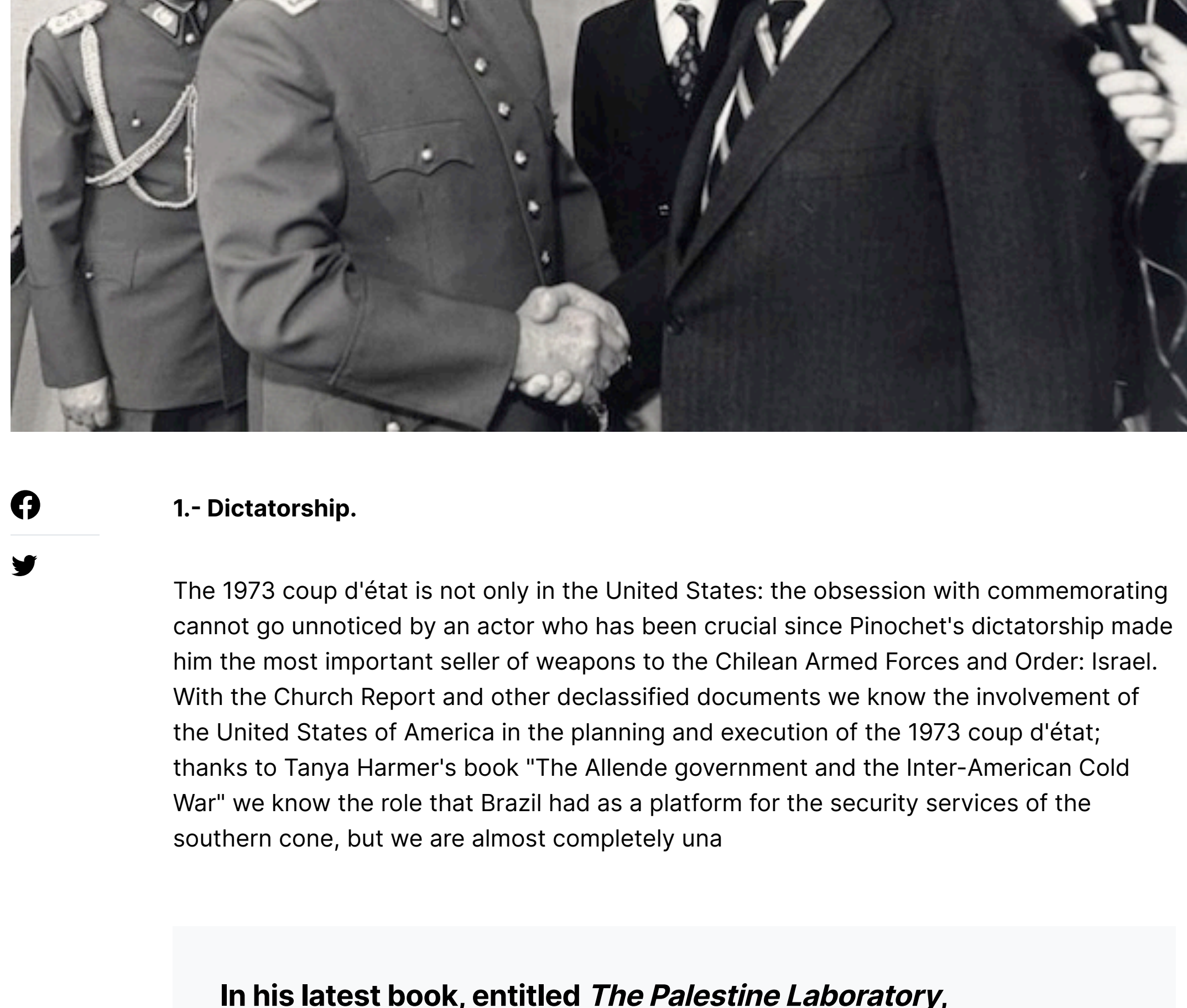


OPINION

Israel and Pinochet: On the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the 1973 coup d'état

On the 50th anniversary of the coup d'état, the massacre that restored the oligarchic usurpation of Chile, it is decisive to hold Israel accountable for its participation in the Pinochet dictatorship and in the prolongation of its industry during the period of democracy. What involvement did Israel have in the dictatorship? We know that the coup was forged in the United States, which had the necessary support from Brazil, but it remains to elucidate the place that Israel had in this equation.

BY RODRIGO KARMY · JULY 19, 2023 · 7 MINUTE READ



1.- Dictatorship.

The 1973 coup d'état is not only in the United States: the obsession with commemorating cannot go unnoticed by an actor who has been crucial since Pinochet's dictatorship made him the most important seller of weapons to the Chilean Armed Forces and Order: Israel. With the Church Report and other declassified documents we know the involvement of the United States of America in the planning and execution of the 1973 coup d'état; thanks to Tanya Harner's book "The Allende government and the Inter-American Cold War" we know the role that Brazil had as a platform for the security services of the southern cone, but we are almost completely una

In his latest book, entitled *The Palestine Laboratory*, investigative journalist Antony Loewenstein offers a detailed journey of Israeli interventions in various dictatorial regimes throughout the second half of the twentieth century and the way in which these interventions have strengthened its military industry focused on three aspects: cybersecurity, counterterrorism and border security[1].

Beyond the *hasbara*, Israeli propaganda that insists that Israel is the "victim" besieged everywhere because it would be nothing less than the "only democracy in the Middle East", the truth is that the Zionist State plays from a double strategy: on the one hand, it dresses in liberal and democratic clothes and, on the other, it exercises uninterrupted colonialism against the Palestinian people.

The Israeli dopity explains, on the one hand, that Israel has welcomed Jewish Chilean citizens persecuted by the dictatorship and, at the same time, has been secretly involved in the strengthening of the same dictatorship that persecuted its citizens. Moreover, this fold allows us to understand why the far right has triumphed in recent decades. Phenomenon that is not the "cause" of the colonial intensification, but precisely its most pristine effect underpinned thanks to the consolidation and testing of its security industry on the occupied Palestinian territories.

However, it is striking that much of the first chapter of the book is dedicated to the relationship that Israel established with Pinochet's Chile: "Israel not only trained Chilean personnel to help repression against its own people. After the arms embargo against Chile approved by the US Congress in 1976, a cable from the US embassy in Chile shows that Israel was the largest arms distributor to Pinochet. Another U.S. cable, on April 10, 1984, indicates that the U.S. Undersecretary of State pointed out that Israel was one of the most important arms distributors to the regime."^[4]As is known, two Israeli citizens, David Silbermann whose father was arrested and disappeared since 1974 and Lily Traubmann, daughter of a political executioner in 1973^[5], have demanded that the Zionist State declassify the documents that implicate him with the Pinochet dictatorship, without success^[6]. There are still about 19,000 documents that Israel has not declassified and their role in the Pinochet dictatorship is still kept secret^[7]. And not only regarding his role in Chile but in the set of dictatorships installed in the Southern Cone.

It is key, however, to warn that, beyond the documents, there is an undeniable fact: the Pinochet dictatorship, above all, after the embargo sponsored by the US Congress against the sale of weapons to Chile in 1976, made Israel the main provider of "security": **Elbit systems, IAI and Rafael**, among others, became the main companies associated with the Chilean security. In this light, Loewenstein warns of a key issue: Israel became the main provider of "security" globally because, among other reasons, it always replaced the United States to prevent the latter from appearing involved in destabilization operations and coups d'état. But this was possible - Loewenstein insists - because Israeli companies sell their products under "quality" certification: the occupied Palestinian territories function as a "laboratory" of their tests. Moreover, the occupation of Palestine, with regard to the neoliberal reforms implemented in Israel since the 1980s, has been privatized and opened an absolutely unpunished terrain of experimentation on the Palestinian population, by the Israeli arms industry.

In this sense, on the 50th anniversary of the coup d'état, a massacre that restored the oligarchic usurpation of Chile, **it is decisive to hold Israel accountable for its participation in the Pinochet dictatorship and in the prolongation of its industry during the period of democracy.** What involvement did Israel have in the dictatorship? We know that the coup was forged in the United States, which had the necessary support from Brazil, but it remains to elucidate the place that Israel had in this equation. Well, in the same way that it was with the Guatemala of Ríos Montt, with the "white" South Africa of **apartheid**, Israel has not stopped intervening in certain regimes to consolidate its industry via the diverse security offer that goes from military and police training (just as Israel did to the US forces during the "war against terrorism"), cybersecurity (drone and digitization of surveillance) and

The question about Israeli involvement should be raised, especially when Piñera's government was one of the governments that invested the most money in the purchase of weapons from Israel since the dictatorship[8]. The devices used by the police and the various branches of the Chilean Armed Forces are Israeli, that is, they are tested in the Palestinian laboratory of the occupied territories and then used against the Chilean population (2019 revolt) and above all, against Wallmapu who, tragically, functions as our true Chilean Gaza.

2.- Idea.

The point, by the way, is to make visible the complicity of the Chilean State in the systematic crime of Israeli colonialism on the Palestinian people and, at the same time, of the State terrorism exercised by the Pinochet dictatorship and the transition on Wallmapu against Chilean citizens thanks to Israeli support. Who are the Palestinians, who are the Chileans?

Showing the crime within the monument of morality (the Zionist State) allows you to attend to a crucial fact: when you buy security devices you do not buy a simple "instrument" that can be used "for better or for worse" according to the dominant opinion, but you buy a concept, an "idea" of the same "security", if you want, a theoretical and practical *design* at. Therefore, the strengthening of the control societies that surround us with security devices, obey the Israeli "idea", to the extent that its large corporations have become the most important companies worldwide that, for example, have the capacity to produce 60% of the drones used in various parts of the planet.

Moving our gaze from the "anthropological and instrumental" figure to the notion of "device" allows us to warn that when we buy Israeli weapons (as well as when we buy any merchandise, as Marx already warned us) we are actually buying an "idea" that turns "security" into an *ontological support* that *becomes the suture of the subject to the world*. The subject becomes, then, a subject of *security* and the world a huge field of devices aimed at controlling every movement of life whose fundamental political passion is knotted to terror. Full of dehumanized enemies that besiege an order that never stabilizes, the safety suture today is a completely Zionist suture.

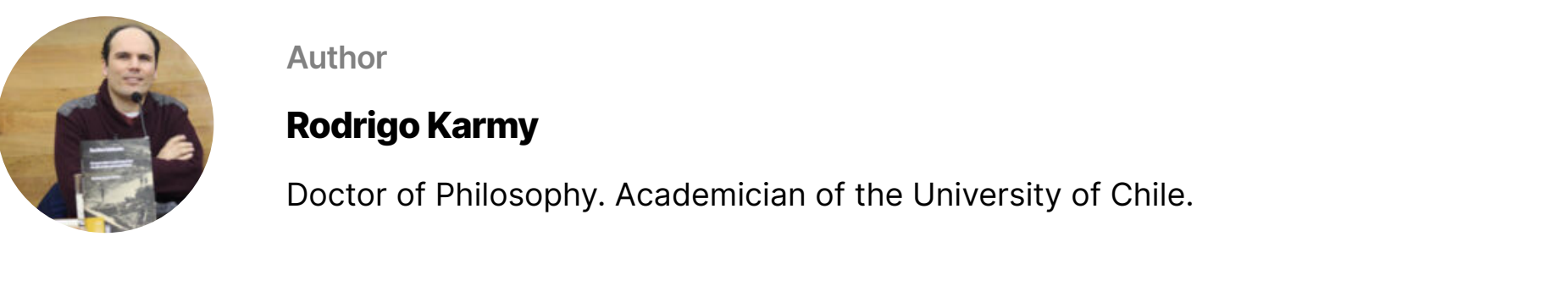
Let this suture allow us to understand the words of Nikki Haley, once US ambassador to the United Nations during the Trump administration, who has been a crucial defender of the Zionist regime: Israel would not be a simple state but an "idea," she said. The Israeli "idea" is nothing more than that of "security" whose globalized form crystallizes politically in contemporary neo-fascism whose model has been Israel^[9]. A model that expresses the totalization of the Euro-Atlantic imperial project, which functions as its fundamental theological-political reference^[10].

What is neo-fascism? Nothing more than the political consciousness of the society of "security" or, as Gilles Deleuze called it, the "society of danger." In this light, Israel as an "idea" turns the world into a danger and human beings into eventual "absolute enemies," that is, dehumanized.

To buy Israeli "security" is to buy its "idea" that Chilean citizens will be seen as "absolute enemies" as conceived by the Pinochet dictatorship and, although in a "democratic" way, as the police forces operated in the 2019 revolt. Today, what liberal jargon continues to call "democracy" is nothing more than a society of control in which the state of emergency *palectinating* the whole of our lives.

[1] Joel Beinín *The US-Israeli Alliance*. En: Joel Beinín, Bassam Haddad, Sherene Seikaly (eds) *A critical political economy of the middle east and north africa*. Ed. Stanford University Press. 2021.
[2] Idem.
[3] Idem. p. 209.
[4] Antony Loewenstein *The Palestine Laboratory: How Israel exports the technology of occupation around the World*. Ed. Verse, London, p. 20. (my translation).
[5] <https://www.elmostrador.cl/noticias/pais/2016/07/20/israel-estudia-abrir-archivos-secretos-sobre-relaciones-con-pinochet/>
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[6] Antony Loewenstein *The Palestine Laboratory*. Op.cit.
[7] [https://orientxxi.info/magazine/chile-terreno-de-pruebas-para-las-armas-israelites,3519?](https://orientxxi.info/magazine/chile-terreno-de-pruebas-para-las-armas-israelites,3519?fbclid=IwAR3eJVV5BqJuoMpnFt1fKH8Sc0ycatEhah4sc2uPv00cxCMJL65UeYrU)
fbclid=IwAR3eJVV5BqJuoMpnFt1fKH8Sc0ycatEhah4sc2uPv00cxCMJL65UeYrU
[8] Sofia Alvarado. *Israeli militarism in Chile*. Ed. BDS Chile Movement, 2021.
[9] Ali Abunimah *The battle for justice in palestine*. Ed. Haymaker books. Canada, 2014.
[10] Nur Masalha *The Bible and Zionism*. Ed. Bellaterra, Barcelona, 1998.

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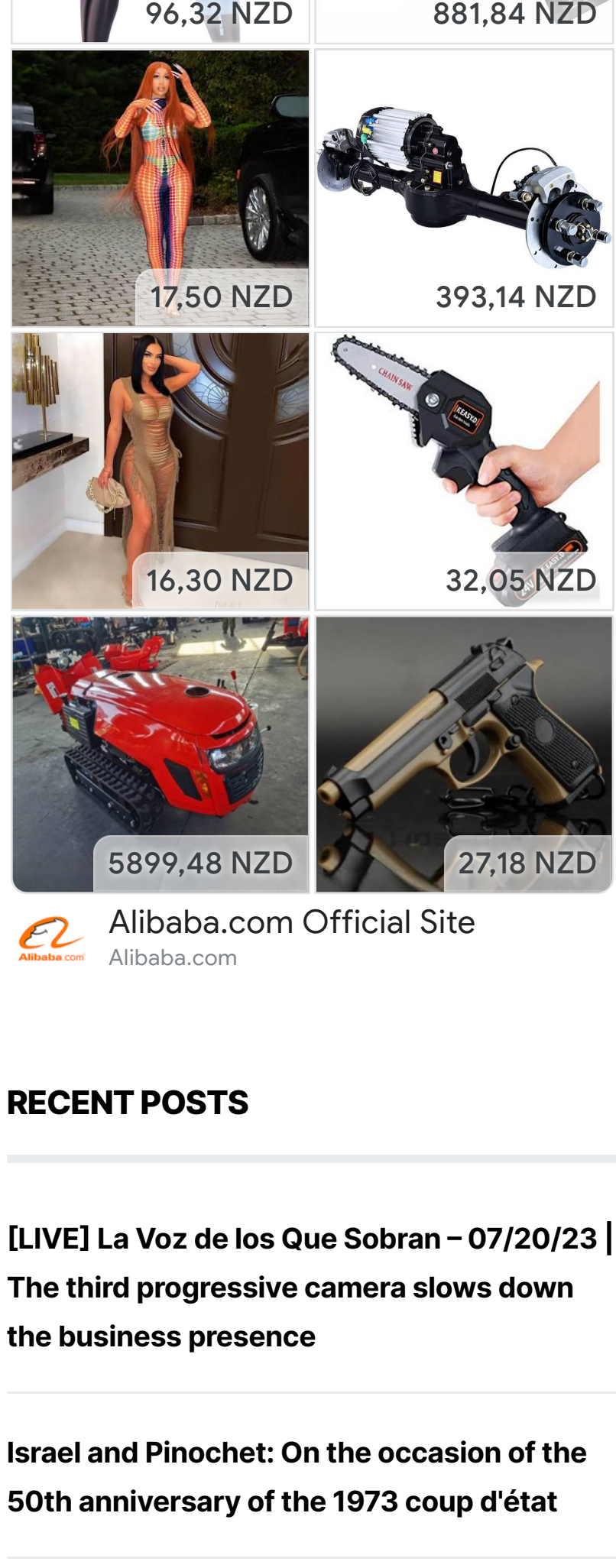
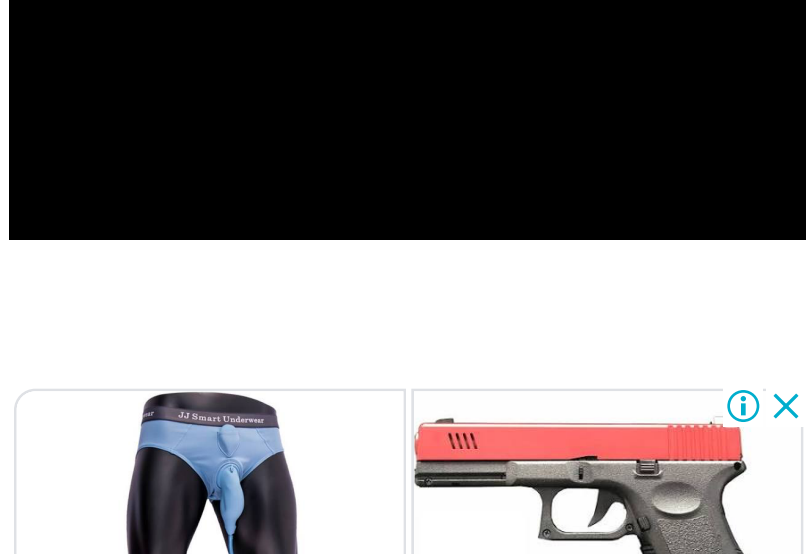


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