Jan. 17, 2009.

The Editor,

The Halifax Herald.

Dear Editor:

Mark David and Dov Bercovici [Letters, Jan. 17] attack Miles Tompkins [letter Jan. 14] for stating the facts. Mr. Mark David is critical of Miles Tompkins for listing Israeli practices in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and he, Mark David, describes them as "alleged Israeli crimes." These practices include extra-judicial assassination, detention of thousands without charge or trial, torture, denial of medical care, demolition of thousands of homes, expropriation of property for the creation of illegal settlements. These acts are in violation of virtually every article of the Fourth Geneva Convention, and are defined by international law as war crimes.

Miles Tompkins criticism of Paul Schneidereit's staetements, [Jan. 6], is accurate. Schneidereit's statements are false. He states: "In 2005. Israel pulled completely out of Gaza:" This pull-out left Gaza completely closed- in and denied all access to the ouside world and simply transformed to an open prison. As to the breach of ceasefire between Hamas and Israel and the firing of rockets by Hamas, it was Israel which first broke the truce, on Nov. 4, 2008. as reported by UN and international observers as well as Israeli Peace Group, Gush Shalom, which confirmed, in its report on Dec. 27, stating: "**It was the State of Israel which broke the truce, in the 'ticking tunnel' raid on the night of the US elections two months ago. Since then the army went on stoking the fires of escalation with calculated raids and killings, whenever the shooting of missiles on Israel decreased.**"

It is time that Israel's apologists must come to understand that peace and security for Israelis and Palestinians will be assured only when Israel is made to comply with international law and the principles of justice and treat the palestinians as human beings.

Yours sincerely,

Ismail Zayid, MD.