

From: **Ismail Zayid** <izayid@eastlink.ca>
Date: Fri, Jun 11, 2010 at 8:32 PM
Subject: Defending the indefensible.

Feb. 17, 2010.

The Editor,

The Halifax Herald.

Dear Editor:

The comparison of the horrendous conditions in Gaza with the Warsaw Ghetto, that Mark David, [Feb.17], describes as "ridiculously inaccurate", has been made by many independent observers, besides George Galloway, and no one, including Galloway, incited hatred or violence against Israelis or Jews, as Mark David claims. The three-year siege imposed by Israel on Gaza, denying 1.5 million people the basic necessities of life, including food and health care, and the three-week bombardment [the Cast Lead campaign], using phosphorus bombs and other internationally-prohibited weapons, like DIME and flechette explosives, are war crimes that have been condemned by all international and Israeli human rights groups, as well as the UN Goldstone Report. During this atrocious Cast Lead campaign, Israel killed and injured thousands of innocent civilians, half of them children, destroyed thousands of homes, hundreds of schools, many hospitals and health care facilities, UN offices and schools, in the midst of the massive destruction of the infrastructure of Gaza.

Hedy Epstein, a Holocaust survivor, together with many others, described the conditions in Gaza as outrageous. The UK Lancet, the distinguished Medical Journal, described the Israeli acts in Gaza as "lawless" and "deplored the silence of professional bodies worldwide". Amnesty International stated that the siege "continues to suffocate the daily life in Gaza." The World Health Organisation [WHO] condemned the Gaza blockade. The UK Foreign Office Minister, Chris Bryant, MP., stated that "Israel's siege of Gaza is morally indefensible".

In brief, Mark David is simply defending the indefensible. It is time that Israel's apologists must come to accept that Israel must not remain above international law, and they must call on Israel to abide by international law so that peace and security can be brought about to all in the Middle East, including Israelis and Palestinians.

Yours sincerely,

Ismail Zayid, M.D.