

April 20, 2010.

The Editor,

The Chronicle Herald.

Dear editor:

Paul Schneidereit in a part of his article today,[April 20], brings about South African apartheid and refers critically to Saudi apartheid. I, too, find Saudi practices against women abhorrent and worthy of criticism. But, Interestingly, Mr. Shneidereit makes no mention of Israeli apartheid practices against Palestinians in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and against Muslim and Christian citizens of Israel. These racist Practices have been condemned, as apartheid by many prominent international and Israeli observers, including Archbishop Desmond Tutu, Dr. John Dugard, President Carter and Shulamit Aloni, former Israeli Minister of education, amongst many others. Their testimonies confirm that:

"I've been very distressed in my visit to the Holy Land; it reminded me so much of what happened to us blacks in South Africa. I have seen the humiliation of the Palestinians at checkpoints and roadblocks, suffering like us when young white police officers prevented us from moving about... {Archbishop Desmond Tutu, The Guardian, April 29, 2002}

On, [Nov. 29, 2006], the Atlanta Journal-Constitution ran the following op-ed, by John Dugard, a South African former anti-apartheid leader. He was then the Special Rapporteur on Palestine to the United Nations Human Rights Council. He not only compares Israeli policies to apartheid, but says that in many ways Israeli policies are worse than South African apartheid was.

" The State of Israel practices its own, quite violent, form of Apartheid." {"Yes There is Apartheid in Israel" Shulamit Aloni. CounterPunch, Jan. 8, 2007.}

In March 2002, former Israeli attorney-general, **Michael Ben-Yair**, admitted Israel's apartheid essence:

"We enthusiastically chose to become a colonial society, ignoring international treaties, expropriating lands, transferring settlers from Israel to the occupied territories, engaging in theft and finding justification for all these activities. Passionately desiring to keep the occupied territories, we developed two judicial systems: one —progressive, liberal—in Israel; and the other—cruel, injurious—in the occupied territories. In effect, we established an apartheid regime in the occupied territories immediately following their capture. That oppressive regime exists to this day." {Haaretz. March 3, 2002}

I think some balance and fairness in reporting is called for.

Yours sincerely,

Ismail Zayid, MD.