

Jan. 19, 2011

The Editor,

The Chronicle Herald.

Dear Editor,

Paul Schneidereit, in his column [Jan. 18], makes a derisive comment, about the right of return of the Palestinian refugees, calling it " the so-called "right of return" ". The right of return of the Palestinian refugees to their homes is a fundamental right enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UNGA resolution #194, which was passed on Dec. 11, 1948. It "Resolves that the refugees wishing to return to their homes and live at peace with their neighbours should be permitted to do so at the earliest practicable date." This resolution has been re-affirmed, during the last 62 years, over 100 times. Yet, sadly, this practicable date has not been allowed to be implemented, due to Israel's predetermined policy of ethnic cleansing and dispossession.

Furthermore, it should be pointed out that Israel's admission to the UN, as per UNGA resolution # 273, of May 11, 1949, was conditional on the basis of the implementation of this very resolution.

Yours sincerely,

Ismail Zayid, MD,