

April 4, 2011.

The Editor,

Calgary Herald,

Dear Editor,

The letters attacking Gary Keenan are unjustified. Mr. Keenan's letter [March 26] did not excuse the horrible and monstrous crime murdering the Fogel parents and their innocent children. He merely stated that before any charges are directed against any individual or group, evidence has to be provided to convict them. This is a fundamental basic principle in the legal system.

As to the statement made by Platon Werbicky that the Jews : " lived in this area for thousands of years before the Arabs displaced them and threw them out of their own country", this statement is simply re-writing history. The Palestinians of today are the descendents of the Canaanites, the Jebusites and other tribes that lived in this land since history began. Their roots in this land are confirmed in the statement by the distinguished Jewish Professor Maxime Rodinson, Professor of History at the Sorbonne University, Paris. He stated: "The Arab population of Palestine was native in all the senses of the word and their roots in Palestine can be traced back at least forty centuries." [Maxime Rodinson. [*Israel and The Arabs.*" Pelican. 1968]. The Hebrew tribes came to the Land of Canaan as invaders and were driven out by other invaders, the Romans and not by the Arabs.

Jews, Muslims and Christians lived together in peace in Palestine until the introduction of political Zionism, which was determined, as from its onset, to drive the Palestinians out of their homeland, as confirmed by the statement by Theodor Herzl and other Zionist leaders, including David Ben Gurion, who was instrumental in the ethnic cleansing and dispossession of the Palestinian people from their homeland, as well documented by Israeli historians like Ilan Pappé and Benny Morris.

I think your readers deserve correct and historic information.

Yours sincerely,

Ismail Zayid, MD.