

March 27, 2011.

The Editor,

The Chronicle Herald.

Dear Editor,

Your editorial : ["Denying truth about Holocaust" March 27], appears to equate opposition, by Hamas and the Palestinian Authority, to installing a course on the Holocaust in their schools, as a denial of the Holocaust. The facts are that the Palestinian people are fully aware of the Nazi crimes committed against millions of innocent Jewish people. Any denial of this historic fact by any person or authority is abhorrent and must be rejected. The Palestinian people were fully aware of the Nazi crimes which were considered a factor in the Nakba [catastrophe] that befell them in May 1948, when their ethnic cleansing and demolition of over 400 of their towns and villages were effected by Israel.

Moreover, interestingly, your editorial makes no mention of the laws that Israeli Knesset [parliament] passed last week, March 22, banning the mention of the Nakba by any one or authority at school or in public, and considering that as a crime punishable in court. On this issue, the prominent Israeli daily, Haaretz, published, its editorial titled: [" Silence over Nakba law encourages racism" March 25, 2011]. Furthermore, in reference to this, a Haaretz article, March 23, 2011, by Sefi Rachlevsky, titled : " The anti-democratic racism of Israel must end", states : " It is not even "just" the fact that most first-graders in Israel who are defined as Jews receive religious and ultra-Orthodox education in which it is self-evident that a non-Jew is not a human being."

Your selective criticism, of the policies of the Palestinians only, is not fair.

Yours sincerely,

Ismail Zayid, MD