

Oct. 6, 2011.

The Editor,

The Globe & Mail.

Dear Editor,

Yossi Klein Halevi, [" The real obstacle to Palestinian statehood" Oct. 6], argues that the obstacle to peace in the Middle East is the refusal of Abbas to recognise Israel as "The Jewish State". In making this claim, Mr. Halevi is re-writing the history of this conflict. The real cause of this conflict and the true obstacle to peace is the the basis of the Zionist programme bringing about the ethnic cleansing of the Palestinian people from their homeland and the continuing illegal occupation of Palestinian land, in defiance of international law and repeated Security Council resolutions. The Israeli new leaders' demand for the Palestinians and Arabs to recognise Israel as a Jewish state is a new demand that has been newly created and clearly threatens the rights of Muslims and Christian citizens of the state of Israel as well as denying the dispossessed Palestinian refugees the right to return to their homes, as stipulated in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and repeated UN resolutions.

As to the claim that the Arabs are the ones who deny the Jews as an ethnic nation, this is simply a denial of historic facts. I think Shlomo Sand, Professor of History at Tel Aviv University, answers that in his recent book: "The Invention of the Jewish People." The Palestinians of today are the descendents of the Canaanites, Jebusites and other tribes that lived in that land since history began, and long before the Hebrew tribes invaded the Land of Canaan and were driven out by other invaders, the Romans. That the Palestinian people are the true indigenous people of Palestine is affirmed by Professor Maxime Rodinson, who is Jewish and Professor of Law at the Sorbonne University in Paris, in his statement: " 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 40 centuries." {**Professor Maxime Rodinson**, " *Israel and the Arabs*, 1968".}.

I think it is time that we let the facts speak for themselves.

Yours sincerely,

Ismail Zayid, MD.