

Sept. 21, 2011.

The Editor,

The Globe & Mail.

Dear Editor,

"Mr. Harper opposes Palestinian statehood bid" [Sept. 21], and places "the onus on the Palestinians to re-launch peace talks with Israel". Apart from the fact that the Palestinians have been in continuous talks with Israel for decades, to no avail, and with continuing Israeli violation of such agreements as the Oslo Accords, and continuing the creation of illegal settlements on illegally-occupied Palestinian land, why is the occupied required to negotiate with the occupier? When Iraq illegally- occupied Kuwaiti territory in 1990, no one called on the Kuwaitis to negotiate with the Iraqis. One Security Council resolution was passed calling on Iraq to withdraw. When Iraq did not withdraw within few weeks, hundreds of thousands of US and other troops were ordered to drive Iraq out and proceeded to demolish the infrastructure of Iraq, and imposed sanctions for years that starved Iraqi children and civilians killing hundreds of thousands of them.

The illegal Israeli occupation has continued for 44 years in defiance of international law and repeated Security Council resolutions. Is it not the responsibility of the international community to order the peaceful withdrawal of Israeli troops and terminate completely this illegal occupation without shedding any blood, and without the need for any negotiations?

Yours sincerely,

Ismail Zayid, MD.