

Nov. 21, 2012.

The Editor,

The Chronicle Herald.

Dear Editor,

Chris Wickens and Mary MacDonald [Letters Nov. 21] appear to overlook the facts, as related to the current Gaza Crisis. M. Wickens is right in stating that the media coverage is one-sided, except for the fact that the coverage by our media and political leaders is totally biased in favour of Israel. The massive brutal bombing and assault in Gaza is described as retaliation for the mostly ineffective rockets that Hamas uses. The facts are that it is Israel which starts the attacks breaking the negotiated ceasefires, as happened on Nov. 4, 2008 and recently on Nov. 8, killing a young disabled Palestinian child, and few days later assassinating Ahmad Jabari, a Hamas leader, who was negotiating a ceasefire agreement, as confirmed by Gershon Baskin, in Haaretz newspaper.

Mr. Wickens asks : "If your child or spouse or family were attacked repeatedly, would you sit back and watch?" Would he apply the same question to the Palestinians, whose families have been subjected, for decades, to an illegal oppressive occupation that practices demolition of thousands of Palestinian homes, expropriation of their property to create illegal colonies [settlements], detention without charge or trial, torture, the uprooting of their trees, daily humiliation, extra-judicial assassination, and not to mention the current bombing and destruction that befalls Gaza now? This Israeli assault has brought about during the last week the killing of over 130 people, mostly innocent civilians , including scores of children, besides the destruction of hundreds of homes, bridges, a sports' stadium and extensive destruction of infrastructure. in a chronically-deprived and assaulted tiny strip of land holding 1.7 million people, mostly refugees who were ethnically-cleansed from their homeland 64 years ago and denied the right to return to their homes as required by UN resolutions.

The blockade imposed on Gaza for the last 5 Years has converted Gaza to an open prison, as recently described by Professor Noam Chomsky, who was visiting Gaza with international linguists. Pofessor Chomsky described, in a recent interview, the people of Gaza as: "Essentially caged animals and subject to constant, random, and sadistic punishment only to humiliate them."

It is time that our people as well as Western and Israeli political leaders begin to understand that the Palestinian people are entitled to a modicum of Justice in their own homeland, so that peace and security will be attained for Palestinians and Israelis in this tortured holy land.

Yours sincerely,

Ismail Zayid, MD.