

Shaw: I stand with Israel

"It's very painful to see the civilian deaths in Gaza, but if Hamas really cared about its own people, then it wouldn't attack Israel," columnist Jim Shaw writes.



Jim Shaw

I proudly stand with Israel. The atrocities and brutality that bloodthirsty Hamas terrorists have committed against Israelis are heartbreaking and inexcusable. No matter the issue, massacring innocent people is never justified.

So, [how did we get here?](#) In the 1940s, the British owned Palestine.

Palestine became too much of a burden for the British, so they turned it over to the United Nations. In turn, the UN divided Palestine into two small distinct countries. One for Palestinian Arabs and one for the Jewish people called Israel.

Fresh from the horrors of the Holocaust, where six million Jews were murdered, the Jewish people were thrilled. They presumably had a democratic homeland where they could live in peace. The Arabs refused to accept the existence of Israel and attacked it.

Israel won that war, but there would be several more wars to come. Israel was victorious in the Six-Day War in 1967. In that war, Israel acquired territory in the Golan Heights, Sinai Peninsula, West Bank and Gaza Strip. After the 1973 Yom Kippur War, Egypt made peace with Israel and was given back control of the Sinai Peninsula.

The Israeli occupation of Gaza was a nightmare for both sides. Without a peace agreement, Israel unilaterally pulled out of Gaza in 2005 and gave control of the land back to the people who lived there. With Israel gone, the terrorist group Hamas took control of Gaza. The Hamas charter calls for the extermination of Israel.

Gaza had a chance to prosper in peace. Instead of using much of its money for basic human needs, Hamas spent its money on weapons to attack Israel. Over the last 16 years, Hamas has frequently fired rockets into Israel, leading to several deadly clashes with Israel, which was simply defending itself.

Can you imagine living in North Dakota, while the people of South Dakota have called for your destruction, and are firing deadly rockets at innocent North Dakotans? That's what it has been like for Israelis dealing with neighboring Gaza.

Yes, it's very painful to see the civilian deaths in Gaza, but if Hamas really cared about its own people, then it wouldn't attack Israel. Hamas leaders knew that Israel would justifiably respond to the barbaric attacks against innocent Israelis. Hamas deliberately beheads babies. Israel does not.

People ask, why can't the two sides live in peace? Well, that's not possible when one of the sides is calling for your destruction. All hostages must be released, while Israel should make sure Gaza residents have food and medicine.

There have rightfully been attempts to create a Palestinian state. Palestine Liberation Organization Chairman Yasser Arafat was offered everything he asked for but turned it down. Arafat and the PLO couldn't take yes for an answer. That's possibly because they would have to live side-by-side in peace with Israel.

So, how does this end? Perhaps, as former Israeli Prime Minister Golda Meir said, when they "will love their children more than they hate us."