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*Comment left after Washington Post article "As the Troops Enter, We Fear the Worst"*

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2009/01/02/AR2009010202195.html>

Thank you to the Washington Post for publishing this article since Palestinian voices are heard so rarely in the American media.

I believe that the majority of people living in Gaza are there because they were fled the fighting in 1948 and were never allowed to return home, despite UN Resolution 194. Since WW2, Jewish groups have been relatively successful recovering art stolen by the Nazis and bank accounts stolen by the Swiss yet they will not allow themselves to think that the Palestinians want their houses and land back.

There will be no peace until the dispossession of the Palestinian people is recognized and addressed, if not by return to their former homes, then by making possible a good life where they are now, including but not limited to Gaza. Israel should be building infrastructure rather than bombing it.

More bombs, more bullets and more death will not make the Palestinians back down but only deepen their hatred and drive even more to support Hamas since they are the ones vowing resistance and revenge. Why don't the Israeli's get this? The policy has failed for 60 years and it will not work now.

Palestinians tried negotiations but during the Oslo Accords, Israel's settlement construction and associated theft of Palestinian land continued. I imagine that most Palestinians see violent resistance as their only option.

To MTantor's assertion that "Israel left Gaza in 2005, giving Palestinians the chance to run their own lives.", this is simply not true. Israel retained control of the borders, airspace and access to the sea and greatly restricted the movement of people and goods resulting in massive unemployment and serious shortages of just about everything. Cross-border traffic was essentially shut down completely after Hamas took over and now not even lentils are available as Dr. El-Sarraj notes. These are impossible conditions to live under; of course Palestinians will blame Israel and seek some way, any way, to seek redress. (The border to Egypt is closed because of an agreement made with Israel, Egypt and the Palestinian Authority under which EU monitors manned the crossing but they pulled out after the PA lost control to Hamas. I personally think Egypt should completely open the border since Israel has utterly failed to maintain the welfare of the population under their control.)

I urge everyone to educate yourselves on the history of the conflict and to write to our elected representatives. I want to believe that the pen is mightier than the sword but so far Mao has been proved right that "power comes from the barrel of a gun" - and Israel has by far the biggest guns.