

*I urge everyone to watch this **60 Minutes** piece on the plight of the Palestinians on the West Bank. If we understand the daily humiliations inflicted by the Israelis, we might understand why the Palestinians are resisting.*

<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2009/01/23/60minutes/main4749723.shtml>

Comment left on the web site that was almost immediately buried. Less than 12 hours afterwards, there were already 1690 comments!

Thank you, thank you CBS! Finally the daily humiliation of Palestinians under Israeli occupation is shown to Americans.

The soldiers in the Palestinian house are particularly instructive - if there was a real military need, the IDF would just build a tower and leave the family alone. Clearly their real aim is to make life so utterly impossible for the family that they are forced to leave and as the Palestinian doctor found, once you leave, you are never allowed back - slow-motion ethnic cleansing.

The PLO recognized Israel and renounced violence so it could participate in the Oslo accords with the aim of securing a Palestinian state but rather than help lay the foundations of a Palestinian state, Israel made its intentions clear by accelerating construction of Jewish. Many Palestinians therefore took away the lesson that talking was a ruse to keep them quiet and therefore the only option is to fight but then they are labeled "terrorists".

Jewish groups have been successful recovering art stolen by the Nazis and bank accounts stolen by the Swiss. Why can't they recognize that the Palestinians want their land and houses back? Until the dispossession of the Palestinians is addressed, there can never be peace. If Israel refuses them the Right of Return, it needs to compensate them so they can make a new life wherever they are now. Instead of bombing infrastructure as they just did in Gaza, they need to be building it for the people whose land they have taken.

Feedback left for 60 Minutes staff:

Thank you, thank you CBS!!! Bob Simon's piece last night on the "2-state solution" is the most honest thing I've seen on American TV about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Finally we get to see the daily suffering and humiliation of the Palestinian people. I wish every American had been watching.

I see that there are already 1690 comments less than 12 hours after the piece aired and that many of them blast you for being "one-sided" or worse. I think they are shocked

because the pro-Israel side has had a virtual monopoly in coverage. Please be brave and report what is happening. We need to know if we are ever to reach a just peace.

Many comments lamented the lack of coverage of the rockets fired by Hamas. It would be wonderful if you could do a follow-up report and go into Gaza to report on the blockade the Israelis have imposed making daily life desperate for those trapped inside. Of course they are going to dig tunnels to bring in food, fuel and even building materials - and weapons to fight back with. If the dispossession caused by the founding of Israel in 1948 is addressed, perhaps by compensation, then the rockets will stop. If we understand that Hamas is fundamentally a resistance organization we might make some progress. Merely labeling them "terrorists" doesn't get us toward a solution.

Thank you again.