

WHAT READERS THINK

July 18: The charges Mike Duffy faces – and other letters to the editor

Contributed to The Globe and Mail
Published Thursday, Jul. 17 2014, 6:35 PM EDT
Last updated Thursday, Jul. 17 2014, 6:37 PM EDT

Mideast turmoil

Re Please Don't Revive The Anger That Killed My Daughters (online, July 9):

I am very sympathetic to Dr. Izzeldin Abuelaish regarding the loss of his daughters, as is the wider Jewish community. Peace, including a democratic Palestinian state living side by side with Israel, is the ultimate goal.

However, it is important that Dr. Abuelaish admit that this tragic situation is the consequence of Hamas's continued firing of rockets at Israel and its rejection of a ceasefire. This Russian roulette is terrorizing Israelis and causing untold hardships for the civilian population. As a doctor, he writes about curing the disease of hate. The disease is, in fact, Hamas, whose Charter calls for the destruction of Israel.

Dr. Abuelaish calls Israel an occupier. However, Israel vacated Gaza in 2005 so that Palestinians can run their own affairs. Instead of building a civil society, Gazans elected Hamas.

Equally shocking is his accusation that Israel is committing genocide. This is a denial of what genocide – including the Holocaust, Rwanda, Bosnia and Cambodia – really is. Once we can have an honest discussion without throwing around inflammatory terms, the "cure" for peace will surely be found.

Avi Benlolo, president, Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre for Holocaust Studies

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