



Monday January 5th 2009

Letters to
The Editor

Dear Sir,

Today, Britain's schools came alive again as children and teachers returned after Christmas. In Gaza City, seven more children were killed by Israeli soldiers.


Schools there are at the centre of the accelerating attack, many housing victims of the violence and destruction brought about by bombing, shelling and ground invasion. Yet others, once standing in the heart of residential communities, are shattered and ruined, the missiles also destroying neighbouring houses, killing whole families.

Many children have died, their final step on a road built over decades by Israeli occupation, border crossing blockade, air strikes, and the denial of life's absolute necessities. The resulting deprivation has massively damaged children's education, and disease and malnutrition plague their lives – as reported by UNICEF and Save The Children. And now the huge ground attack.

Hamas rocket attacks against Israeli villages may be very small scale in comparison, but they are also totally unacceptable, and their random brutality is easily used to attempt to legitimise Israel's massively disproportionate response.

We know well from our own British experience, that the violence of militarism and occupation, and the inevitable resistance, will not come to an end until the real political causes are dealt with. The ambition to see a strong, independent and secure State of Palestine alongside that of Israel must become a reality

But the immediate need is for an immediate ceasefire, an embargo on all military equipment, and an end to the invasion. We all need to make our voices heard loudly, right now. The children of Gaza - and Israel too - demand it of us.

Sincerely,


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