

Gazans should abandon "the struggle" if they want a better life

Mark Humphrys, for the Sunday Times
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Books of condolence have opened in Ireland for some hideous people, like Fidel Castro in 2016 and Yasser Arafat in 2004. But the opening last week in Dublin of a [book of condolence](#) for the Hamas rioters in Gaza takes the biscuit. [Over 100 rioters](#) were killed attacking the border with Israel, and reaction in Ireland was hysterical. Calls to expel the Israeli Ambassador and boycott Israeli goods. The [Hezbollah flag](#) flying at the Ireland-Palestine Solidarity [protest](#) in Derry. [One popular Irish Twitter account](#) even called for a terrorist attack against the Israeli embassy.

What happened in Gaza?

So what actually happened? What happened was 50,000 rioters tried to break through the border and storm into Israel to kill Jewish families in houses nearby. They were open about that. Social media in Gaza was [full of calls](#) to attack and [kill](#) local Jews. [One post](#) said: "*Kibbutz Kerem Abu Salem is .. 200 meters from the fence .. and only 15 families live there. Attack them with knives!*"

[One video](#) showed a group of rioters breaking through the fence. They shout: "*Allah Akbar! Remember Khaybar! Oh Jews, we're coming to slaughter you!*" [Khaybar](#) is the battle where Muhammad slaughtered the Jews and took [their women](#) as war booty.

Now you may say we don't *know* the rioters wanted to lynch local Jewish families. Maybe they wanted to bring tea and cakes. But the point is, it doesn't matter. The IDF *believed* the mobs wanted to lynch Jewish families, so it used force to stop them. And if tear gas and live fire are not enough, it will use helicopters and fighter jets. The IDF will *never* allow 50,000 jihadis raid a local Jewish village to see what happens. The only logical thing for Gazans to do is *stay away from the fence*.

Could the IDF stop them with less bloodshed? Claims were made that the IDF was shooting indiscriminately. This was rather disproved by the emergence of photos of [military funerals](#) for about half of those killed. [A Hamas official](#) said most of the dead were Hamas: *"62 people were martyred; 50 of them are from Hamas and 12 from the people."* If the IDF was shooting at random, then it had the luckiest shooting day of any army in history.

Gazans were clearly safe if they *left Israel alone*. On 14 May, huge mobs attacked the fence. 60 died. The next day, few people attacked it. Two died. The next day, the rioters stayed away. No one died. Incredible. This, and bear with me, may indicate a possible way to *keep Gazans safe*.

Yes indeed, all Gazans had to do was *stay away from the fence*. We heard the claim they were driven by "despair". Of course, this is nonsense. They were driven by hatred, anti-semitism, jihad, and the excitement of a march on Israel to cleanse the land of the Jews. They were driven by *hope*, not despair.

Gazans could have a great future

The tragedy of Gaza is that ever since the Jews left, a wonderful new life has been there for the taking. All they have to do is ignore Israel, stop terrorism, stop thinking about the Jews, and build a state in Gaza. They should abandon "the struggle" and pursue money and life. If they did, and if they were serious, Israel would drop the security barriers, and partner with them to pump money into Gaza. They could become some of the richest and happiest Arabs in the Middle East.

But Gazans do not want to be rich and happy. They want other things: honour, blood, soil, revenge and jihad. These things will not make them happy, but that is what they want, so their misery will continue.

They do not need books of condolence. They need someone to talk sense to them.

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