

 **LETTER TO THE EDITOR**
ISRAEL ISN'T
FIGHTING A WAR
OF PUBLIC OPINION!
IT'S FIGHTING
A WAR FOR SURVIVAL!



By Stephen L. Bakke  August 15, 2014

Here's what provoked me:

I am puzzled by the incessant pounding of criticism for Israel's policy of self defense in the recent conflict with Hamas. What would these critics have Israel do? The term "suspended disbelief" seems to apply to what many American liberal pundits have done. You may better understand my point if you read what I sent to the newspaper today. Check it out below!

Here's my response:

Israel isn't fighting a war of public opinion, it's fighting a war for survival!

Consider: Ahmed Tharwat, "Traveling Warriors, Treated Inconsistently," 8-13-14 – Tharwat creates equivalency between Israel and Hamas, a U.S. declared terrorist organization. He uses the term "Jewish Jihadists" to describe Jewish Americans who are fighting with Israel.

Consider: Dan Burnett, 8-15-14 – This writer says the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) don't distinguish between combatants and noncombatants.

Consider: Gregg Moder, 8-15-14 – This writer hopes Jewish American IDF volunteers become disillusioned after being part of a massacre of a civilian population in Gaza.

Consider: Mark Lamont Hill's comments on CNN, 8-4-14 – Mr. Hill is bothered by Israel's use of the "Iron Dome" defense to destroy Hamas rockets headed for populated areas. Why? Because it "takes away all of Hamas's military leverage."

One has to "suspend disbelief" about all those Hamas claims that are obvious lies. For example: Hamas does not target Israeli civilians; Israel targets civilians; Israeli does not warn civilians in advance of attacks; Hamas does not use civilians as military shields; Hamas does not place active military assets in hospitals, schools and homes; and so on. In order to oppose Israel's policy of self defense, don't you have to believe all those lies?

Finally Consider: Many pundits wag their collective finger at Israel, admonishing the Jewish state that it should reconsider its military strategy because it's losing the battle for world opinion.

They've missed the point entirely! **Israel isn't fighting a war of public opinion, it's fighting a war for survival!**



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