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## **ISRAEL: FIGHTING FOR SURVIVAL NOT PUBLIC OPINION**

By Steve Bakke  May 23, 2018



*Here's what provoked me:*

*I continue to be puzzled by the incessant pounding of criticism directed at Israel for its policy of aggressive self defense in the ongoing conflict with Hamas. What would these critics have the Israelis do?*

*Here's my response:*

### **Israel: Fighting for Survival, Not Public Opinion**

Subsequent to the U.S opening its embassy in Jerusalem, pundits have been criticizing Israel for losing the public relations battle. This criticism involves the aggressive actions taken by Israeli soldiers, resulting in several dozen Palestinians being killed after making a charge to approach or cross the secured border.

We must stop "taking for granted" seven decades of a mutually beneficial close relationship with our only true friend and ally in the mid-east. It's awfully easy to cast stones from afar without having experienced the constant attacks on Israel and its citizens, which have continued for many years. It's totally fair to disagree with the aggressive strategy chosen for the day of the Embassy ceremony and celebration, but to level criticism against Israel on the basis of "public relations" diminishes the entire situation in the region to the level of a popularity contest.

I think too many commentators are missing the point entirely! Hamas, which is ruling the "Palestinians," has sworn to eliminate Israel from the map. The "optics" may have been less than ideal, but Israel isn't fighting a war of public opinion – it's fighting a war for survival.