

Dear Sir,

Our media swallows the Israeli political line about the ongoing conflict between them and the Palestinians. I write this as a sincere attempt to get some balance, though this may not be well received by some.

The Allied saturation bombing of German cities in WW2 was protested by churchmen and others in Britain, but the jingoism of a nation triumphant justified the politician's actions. "They did it to us - remember Coventry!"

Over the years one realizes there is another side which needs to be heard. I have met people who were on the receiving end of our actions in Dresden; so I am acutely aware of how our news can be skewed.

There are Israelis, Jewish people here and in other countries, and persons like myself who know there is another narrative, that of the Palestinians, which should be heard. Some of these persons have made the difficult choice to confront their own, often hardly recognised biases, and look openly at the conflict and its history. Their conclusions have made them persona non grata to Israeli politicians, apologists and sometimes to their own families.

The last century has seen enough conflict between peoples. We are all one family and need to get to know each other as different in many ways, but so alike when suffering in war and dislocation. Fear breeds distrust. Can we not reach out with love to change ourselves and the world?

Yours truly

Joy Johnston,