

# Scottish Jews for a Just Peace



Scottish Jews for a Just Peace join with thousands across Scotland and the world in condemning Israel's brutal attack, in international waters, on the international aid convoy that was headed for Gaza.

As people everywhere reel in horror at the atrocities committed by Israeli forces, we must not forget that the Israeli government's callous disregard for human life and human values is an everyday reality for the people of Gaza. The flotilla was only needed because of Israel's appalling (and illegal) use of collective punishment, which has turned Gaza into what is effectively an open prison and deprived the 1 ½ million people who live there of the basic necessities for existence. It is a sad truth that it has taken an attack on people from other nations for politicians and the mainstream media to take notice of what is happening to the Palestinians. The brave people on the flotilla have succeeded in making the world notice the growing brutalisation of Israel's government, which responds to every setback with a greater level of force.

And, as happened at the time of Israel's murderous attack on Gaza last year, the world has also seen how the Israeli government attempts to control the news and to saturate the media with their own distorted picture of what is happening. The same propaganda machine that has been thrust into the limelight by this attack is an everyday reality for the people of Israel. The Israeli government is able to carry through its policies by encouraging a siege mentality among its people and creating a national myth that portrays all Palestinians as enemies. This propaganda has enabled Israel's politicians to pursue a course that is leading their country further down the road of hatred and violence and can never bring the peace and security that they claim as their aim.

The attack on the flotilla has shone a light on what is happening, but already Israel and Gaza are fading from the wider public consciousness. We need to grab this moment and do all we can to ensure that the Israeli government remains in the spotlight and its cynical propaganda is exposed to view. We need to do all we can to undermine support for the Israeli government's actions, and to give encouragement to the growing number of people – especially in Israel's vital ally, the United States, and in Israel itself – who have seen through the propaganda and condemned and rejected this politics of brute force.

<http://sjjp.org.uk>