

The Editor,
The Daily Mail

Sir,

The suicidal intransigence of Hamas to agree an unconditional cease fire (which Israel has readily accepted on several occasions), its failure to provide any shelter for the Gazan population though it was preparing for years for such a fight to the death, its positioning of rocket launchers next to, and under, mosques, schools, hospitals and private homes, its recent massacre of 30 Gazan civilians who had staged a demonstration against their terrorist leaders, and its total devaluation of human life, are all responsible for the present tragedy inflicted upon its people.

That, combined with Hamas's conversion of its territory (ceded by Israel), with the potential for cultivation, development and trade under peaceful conditions, into a mighty arsenal of potential destruction, and its misappropriation of billions of pounds of UN funds for destruction instead of construction, makes it self-evident that the responsibility for the present situation lies exclusively with that terror group.

In the history of warfare, any country, having reached such a stage of devastation, invasion, death toll and defeat, as has been inflicted by Israel, would have long since surrendered and sued for peace in order to avoid further loss and suffering.

Not so Hamas, which clearly views the Gaza citizens, that it has imprisoned and made hostage to its violent ambitions, as dispensable cannon fodder. In my book, that is a war crime of the highest order.

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