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Date: Jul 31, 2014 4:31 AM
Subject: "An open letter for the people in Gaza"
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Dear Dr. Horton,

It is with great regret and concern that I have read the “Open Letter...”, published online on 23 July 2014. I have never seen, in a scientific journal, for which I have been a reviewer, anything so blatantly distorting reality. The authors unconditionally assign responsibility for the situation in Gaza, including casualties, to Israel. They accuse this democratic country of deliberate atrocities, “massacres” and attacks that “aim to terrorise, wound the soul and the body of the people, and make their life impossible in the future, as well as also demolishing their homes and prohibiting the means to rebuild,” to list but a few of those numerous accusations. There is no mention of the thousands of rockets launched unprovoked at Israeli towns and kidnappings by Hamas, which forced the blockade of Gaza as well as the current events. In fact, Hamas, governing Gaza and waging the terror war against Israel, is mentioned only once in the letter, as Israel’s “pretext” of eliminating terrorism. This is despite Hamas’s being a designated terrorist organization whose purposes, stated in its ruling Covenant, are the annihilation of Israel and the extermination of the Jews, as well as global domination, “the state of Islam”. It is against this assault by Hamas that Israel has to defend her multiethnic and multireligious citizenry, as is any democratic state’s obligation – after many attempts to stop that assault by diplomatic means. Those attempts, to be sure, were doomed to be futile, because the Hamas Covenant states,

"Article Thirteen: The initiatives, the so-called peace solutions, and the international conferences for resolving the Palestinian problem stand in contradiction to the principles of the Islamic Resistance Movement ... There is no solution to the Palestinian problem except by jihad. Initiatives, proposals and international conferences are a waste of time and a farce."

Article 7 of the Covenant openly calls for the world-wide murder of the Jews:

"... the Islamic Resistance Movement aspires to realize the promise of Allah, no matter how long it takes. The Prophet, Allah's prayer and peace be upon him, says: 'The hour of judgment shall not come until the Muslims fight the Jews and kill them, so that the Jews hide behind trees and stones, and each tree and stone will say: 'Oh Muslim, oh servant of Allah, there is a Jew behind me, come and kill him.'"

This is what the authors attempt to legitimize as *"political parties and resistance to the occupation"*. One political party with similar goals from the still recent past comes to mind, the National Socialist German Workers Party, better known as Nazi.

The authors' accusations, baselessly and absurdly attributing to Israel the intent to *"destroy innocent lives"*, including children's, amount to blood libel, worth of *Der Stürmer* and having the same objective as that Nazi publication's: to incite the world's worst and oldest hatred, antisemitism, so rampant these days in the Muslim countries and Europe. The authors do not

care for the suffering Gazans: if they did, they would demand liberation of Gaza from the mass murderers of Hamas. As virtual collaborators of terrorists, the authors act as numerous German scientists and physicians did just several decades ago, serving the same purpose - to justify and support murder of Jews by lies, slander and pseudo-science derived from a genocidal ideology. As did those physicians, notably Dr. Mengele, SS-Hauptsturmführer and chief physician of the Auschwitz-Birkenau death camp, they hide their evil behind the nobility of science and medical profession. No wonder they could find only a few supporters of their depraved cause among the Israeli doctors - and it is dubious that there were even as few as "5%" the authors cite "with dismay".

I hope *The Lancet* will reestablish its reputation as a respected medical journal by unequivocally disassociating itself, as an explicit editorial policy, from those who obfuscate the true causes of human suffering in Gaza and try to rationalize terror. These causes are in the murderous activity of Hamas and their fellow terrorists, who target Israeli civilians and hide behind the backs of Gazan women and children, deliberately exposing them to defensive Israeli fire and thus committing a double war crime. I consider it your responsibility as Editor-in-Chief to condemn the authors and signatories of the letter, who have used your journal as a platform for their pro-terror propaganda and disinformation. The alternative is for *The Lancet* to end up in the same literary category as the *Protocols of the Learned Elders of Zion* and *Mein Kampf*.

I would appreciate your reply.

Sincerely,
Michael Vanyukov

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