Gaza Report Reveals Nothing But UN’s Cluelessness

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The UN report on Operation Protective Edge is far from surprising, offering no far-reaching conclusions. As expected, the report blamed Israel and the “Palestinian organizations” for possible war crimes. The UN didn’t reveal any findings that weren’t already known, or expose any startling discoveries.

Hundreds of Palestinian children were indeed killed in last summer’s war, and the Palestinian organizations, led by Hamas, fired thousands of rockets at Israeli cities.

The bottom line, and most salient fact, is absent from this report: Israel did not initiate the war and was primarily focused on stopping Hamas’s rocket fire. From nearly day one, Israel agreed to stop the fighting, but Hamas insisted on continuing the rocket fire from within residential areas, knowing that it would carry a heavy price. This price — the sizable death toll — was not only anticipated by the terror group, but welcomed. The Gazan rulers knew that the international condemnation of Israel would come, and this report proves that.

What is surprising is the hysterical statements by members of Israel’s parliament about the UN report, that don’t necessarily have anything to do with its contents. Rather than be satisfied by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s reaction, politicians from across the political spectrum got caught up in the game of “who will respond more quickly and more forcefully.” The comments by those Israeli personalities won’t change the international public opinion against Israel. The UN will continue to antagonize Israel.

The report, which purports to be objective, sounds at times like a bad joke.

To indicate that the use of tunnels by Hamas is legitimate and to assert that the group issues warnings before striking Tel Aviv are not serious claims, but rather a case of Hamas propaganda being served by researchers who don’t have the faintest idea about what is happening here, nor what is happening among Israel’s enemies.

The report notes that the probe “cannot conclusively determine the intent of Palestinian armed groups with regard to the construction and use of these tunnels. However, the commission observes that during the period under examination, the tunnels were only used to conduct attacks directed at IDF positions in Israel in the vicinity of the Green Line, which are legitimate military targets.”

With regard to warnings, the UN report risibly interpreted threats by Hamas that it would target Tel Aviv and Ben Gurion Airport as concrete warnings to Israeli civilians.

Hamas, of course, praised the decision by the UN inquiry to condemn Israel. Why wouldn’t it?

The inquiry also accused “officials in Gaza” who haven’t expressed willingness to investigate the war crimes, as if the violent attacks were actions by some foreign organization that visited Gaza, and not the Hamas leadership itself.

Moreover, the rocket fire is ascribed to “armed Palestinian groups” or the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades, barely mentioning that these have any connection to Hamas.

At the end of the day, this report will likely change nothing. Despite the secret talks between Hamas and Israel, the next escalation is coming, and the only question is when. Hamas will fire rockets on Israel again. Israel will bomb the sites where the rockets were launched, even if they are residential areas, and the UN will condemn Israel.

With Gaza, everything stays the same.