

# GAZA

## A More Secure Israel?

If it were to be accepted as legitimate for a country to punish the whole population of an opponent because of the behavior of extremist politicians, then it would be hard to find a population on the planet that would not be vulnerable. Israel, long a rogue state violating international law and defying the U.N., has received a warning message over the past week. **If it has the maturity to put up with the embarrassment and learn the right lesson, Israel's future could as a result become much more secure.**

So far, Israel has created a situation which:

- Has put Egypt in the position of having in effect recognized the Hamas government of Gaza;
- Has made Hamas, which has accepted the offer to negotiate and has called for a truce with Israel, appear the reasonable, rational, moderate actor while Israel appears the terrorist;
- Has given Hamas nationalist credentials that seem likely to ensure its ability to win any democratic election in the near future.

## The Future...

- [Will Hamas learn anything positive](#) from this week's events and cooperate with the efforts of the human rights organizations and the suddenly cautious Egyptian government to return the situation to a position of reason?
- [Will Egypt](#), fearful of its own harshly suppressed democratic movement, take this opportunity to [establish normal border processes](#) with Gaza rather than going back to serving as assistant jailers to the Israeli regime?
- [Will both regional and other involved actors ultimately respond with professionalism](#) and thoughtfulness, benefiting from this experience to move away from the viciousness of the last year [by offering Hamas a real alternative](#) to renewed fighting?
- [Will the illegal coup by Abbas](#), but engineered by Washington and Tel Aviv, against the democratically elected Hamas government of all Palestine [be replaced by either new elections or a Palestine government of national consensus](#)?

## Why do you care?

- 1) Palestine is now split between two regimes – Fatah on West Bank & Hamas in Gaza, making resolution of Palestinian-Israeli dispute very difficult.
- 2) Failure to resolve Gaza issue may destabilize Egypt (Hamas is closely linked to Moslem Brotherhood, which is fighting for democracy in Egypt).
- 3) The longer the people of Gaza are oppressed, the greater is the chance that al Qua'ida will gain support.

## Analyst Views:

Uri Avnery: "For a moment, the Rafah crossing was the Brandenburg Gate."

## In Their Own Words:

### HAMAS:

*"Talking about a partial role contradicts reality. The reality is that there is a legitimate government."*

### Palestinian President Abbas:

*"We do not accept any new agreements. We are committed to the international agreements as they are.... Hamas has to end its coup in Gaza, accept all international obligations and accept holding early elections."*