

## LETTER TO THE AGE 4/4/2006

### ISRAEL'S BARRIER LEGITIMATE SELF-PROTECTION

American political commentator Dr Daniel Pipes recently noted that Israel and her Muslim neighbours have incompatible aims. Israel seeks their acceptance as an equal. They, however, want a Middle East where Jews (and members of other religions) will be at best a barely tolerated minority.

It is this truth that makes Petty's depiction of Israel's security barrier as an instrument of apartheid (3/4) so ugly and offensive.

I have two questions for Petty. Firstly, if for 58 years his neighbours had been adamant they would kill him unless he moved out of the ancestral home he loved, would Petty continue to invite them in or finally lock his door in resignation?

Secondly, how does Petty dare dub Israel's self-protection as apartheid with its connotations of racial superiority and enslavement of others? Does he know anything at all about the realities of this conflict? Sadly, Petty's cartoon is evil in its moral and factual inversion. Equally to the point, its biased simplification only makes a tragic and complex situation even worse.

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