



Executive Council of Australian Jewry

The Palestinians can't have it all

David Langsam states external agents must resolve the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians because they won't or can't do it themselves (Letters, 4/7). His statement suggests equal responsibility for this failure. Is this really the case?

For decades, the Palestinians and the international community demanded Israel's withdrawal from the disputed territories. In a brave, bold and painful measure, Israel disengaged from Gaza last year. As David Bernstein wrote ("Saving Corporal Shalit", Opinion, 4/7): "The pull-out had produced a glimmer of hope among many Israelis that a significant step had been taken towards some form of peaceful rapprochement with the Palestinians."

The very next day, Qassam rockets were launched at Israel's civilian population and have continued without cease. A short time later, Palestinians elected a government whose explicit goal is the destruction of Israel and the creation of an Islamic state. The events of the past 10 days are the direct outcome of this.

Langsam writes of squabbling siblings. This is a belittling description of two peoples who desperately want homes. And it is wrong not to acknowledge Israel's efforts to come up with at least a partial solution. Peace will remain a distant dream until the Palestinians accept they just can't have it all.

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