



Unfair reproach of Israel

July 06, 2006

BRIAN Hail (Letters, 4/7) asks some interesting questions while condemning Israel's attempts to save Corporal Gilad Shalit. However, he would have done well to also ask these questions: After Israel disengaged from Gaza, thus providing a genuine opportunity for peace, why was the Palestinians' immediate response a bombing campaign of Israeli civilian targets that continues today?

Are Palestinians being collectively punished when they freely chose a government whose explicit goal is Israel's destruction and the creation of an Islamic state? Why does Hail regard Israel's careful targeting of Palestinian infrastructure (rather than civilians) as more heinous than the murder of 18-year-old Israeli settler Eliyahu Asheri by his Palestinian abductors on the West Bank last week?

And finally, why reproach Israelis for caring so much about one of their children while their neighbours strap explosive-filled belts on theirs?

Geoffrey Zygier,

Executive Director,

Executive Council of Australian Jewry