



**Executive Council  
of Australian Jewry Inc.**

**ABC upholds ECAJ complaint and apologises**  
**2 April 2019**

The ABC has upheld a complaint made by the ECAJ that the headline of an ABC online story about Gaza was 'misleading'. The headline read "Israel attacks targets in Gaza following signing of Golan Heights proclamation".

The ECAJ stated:

"This is a misleading headline for two reasons. Firstly the headline falsely implies that there was some kind of connection between the US "presidential proclamation recognising Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights" and the Israeli Air Force strikes in Gaza. There is no evidence to support that proposition. Secondly, the headline fails to reveal that the Israeli air strikes were a response to renewed rocket fire at Israel by armed Palestinian groups in Gaza, which caused injuries and destruction of property in central Israel the previous day. We understand that at least six people in Israel, including two babies, suffered burns and shrapnel injuries, and that one Israeli home was totally destroyed in the attack. In a tragic and oft-overlooked aspect of such acts of war, four pet dogs also died from the impact of the rocket.

The firing of rockets intentionally at civilian populations is a war crime. Not only is it designed to terrorise and cause maximum loss of civilian life in Israel, the rockets are often deliberately fired by Palestinian terrorists from densely populated civilian areas in Gaza, to provide cover from Israeli return fire. This also is a war crime that endangers the very people Palestinian militants claim to be protecting, and turns civilian infrastructure into legitimate military targets.

It appears that these rocket attacks are timed to distract international attention from the growing popular uprising by Palestinians against Hamas's tyrannical rule in Gaza, which is being brutally repressed by Palestinian security forces using methods including live fire and torture. This too has for the most part escaped the focus of international media and activists who claim to champion Palestinian human rights."

The reply stated: "ABC News agrees that the headline erroneously linked two separate events, and it was corrected shortly after receiving your complaint to 'Israel targets Gaza following rocket attack, Golan Heights proclamation signed'".

**Contact**

**Peter Wertheim AM I co-CEO**

**ph: 02 8353 8500 I m: 0408 160 904 I fax 02 9361 5888**

**e: [pwertheim@ecaj.org.au](mailto:pwertheim@ecaj.org.au) I [www.ecaj.org.au](http://www.ecaj.org.au)**