

March 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2009

Richard Horton  
The Lancet  
32 Jamestown Road  
London NW1 7BY, UK

Re: Response to critique on Palestinian health care

Dear Sir,

I read with curiosity and interest your series on health in the occupied Palestinian territory which appeared in the March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2009 issue of the journal.

I believe that the facts speak for themselves. The Palestinian authorities should take full responsibility for the poor living and health conditions of their people. This sorry state of affairs is totally unnecessary were the leadership to denounce terrorism, recognize the right of Israel to exist and reach an equitable peace with the Jewish state which has always embraced this philosophy.

In their dedication to defeat Israel Hamas has used hospitals and other public institutions as shields. Hamas operatives have used ambulances for transportation and hospitals as safe havens knowing Israel will not attack these locations.

Based solely on this edition of your journal you are reinforcing a false and unhealthy notion that Israel is the sole perpetrator of the plight of the Palestinian people. This type of bias inspires anti-Semitic sentiments rather than thoughtful appraisal.

Respectfully,

Dr. R. Rahmani M.B.,Ch.B.D.A.B.R, .F.R.C.P.( C ). and Dr. A. Braude M.B.,Ch.B. F.R.C.P. ( C ), A.B.I.M, F.A.C.C.P.