

The Rocket's Red Glare

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You know this line from our own national anthem. Francis Scott Key wrote it as a prisoner on board a British ship watching the British fleet bombard Fort McHenry outside of Baltimore during the War of 1812. He was inspired to do so because in spite of the best British efforts the American flag still flew.

There is a similar situation being played out amongst the Israeli towns, villages and kibbutzim outside of the Gaza Strip. Hamas and other murderous groups have been launching rockets on a regular basis in an effort to convince the Israelis to give in and eventually let Hamas rule in the name of Islam throughout the Holy Land. Hamas is convinced that all Christians and Jews, though presently misguided, would eventually be thrilled at such an outcome because then true justice would reign.

Thankfully, the Israeli flag still flies.

A year ago, Suzanne and I were at Kibbutz Or Haner three kilometers from the Gaza border. We heard the alarms blaring "Red Dawn" in Hebrew warning of an impending rocket strike, and we heard the rumbling of Israeli artillery shells in Gaza. So, it was very personal for us when we saw the recent photos of the damage done by a rocket that hit the main school where we have friends and colleagues.

It seems strange to us that part of the world is still pressing the Israelis to stop their "collective punishment" (i.e., a selective blockade) against those living in Gaza. All too many forget that less than two years ago, the Israelis withdrew entirely from Gaza with the hope that this would lessen the violence. The opposite happened.

Let us assume for a moment that the Israeli public and government gave in to international pressure to open up the border. Would that stop the rockets from coming? Would the Hamas/Fatah "unity" government then put an end to all mayhem aimed at their Jewish neighbors? And, accept and even welcome Israel as their partners in a peaceful Middle East?

Or, would suicide bombers flow across that now opened border? Would Israeli pizza parlors, bar and bat mitzvah parties, and shopping centers again be blown to bits?

Can anyone seriously doubt that it would be the latter?

If you would like to understand how Gaza became the chaotic mess that it is today, please visit www.professorshouse.net.