

Dear Editor

In December 2008 and January 2009 there was an outbreak of conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. Subsequently, the UN sent a fact-finding Mission to the area led by Justice Richard Goldstone. His report has been rejected by both parties but it has been debated and adopted by the UN Human Rights Council.

The above mentioned Mission found evidence of war crimes, and Justice Goldstone called "for an end to impunity for those found to have committed human rights violations...it is accountability above all that is called for in the aftermath of the regrettable violence that has caused so much misery for so many".

This matter once again raises the issue of the enforcement of international law. When evidence of violations is found, individuals must be prosecuted. The rule of law must transcend political considerations. That the US voted against the above-mentioned report gives the impression that the US is more concerned with giving succour to its political friends and ignoring the need for justice. No one is above the law, not even Presidents or Prime Ministers.

The UN Security Council must not indulge in diplomatic pussy-footing regarding this issue and initiate the due process of law. The international community must not turn a blind eye to these events. Justice must be done and be seen to be done. There will be no peace without justice.

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