

From: Bryson XXXXXX
Sent: Tuesday, June 07, 2011 10:42 AM
To: bmaoz@GMX.com
Subject: Re: Israel's Borders and Peaceful Palestinian Protest

Dear brother,

I think you are missing the point here. You are taking a strongly defensive position because you are up against a strong international point of view. The international community - if there is such a thing - do not agree with Israel's action of killing unarmed civilians. Clearly this protest was aimed at gaining international support.

I can't believe that even one of the protesters thought that they would get into Israel never mind continue to stay there! If I am right then there was at least a mishandling of the protest. No one is convinced by the kind of argument you are putting forward. What are you trying to accomplish by such a defense?

There is no question that the Palestinians were in the wrong perhaps they were inspired by the Arab Spring; which Israel needed to take account of. However they were unarmed civilians who do have a case. Whether you agree or not, there is no right of return for the displaced Palestinians - and you know where they were displaced from, and they didn't all flee in 48. If we are to consider the rules of the just war then clearly they were not kept to in this defense of the border. Conversely as I understand it there is a right of return of any bona fide Jewish person. What is being communicated (even if we can understand it) is a hatred of Arabs.

Also you appear to leave your Christian heart behind when you make the strong general statement against the other Arab states. I know you a bit and you are definitely not a bigot but to a neutral mind this sounds like bigotry. In any case my dear brother, and I mean that, there is nothing of a Christian perspective in your piece. The way you argue is from an entrenched -support the state at any cost - position or it appears to be so. Where is the application of the teaching of Christian your reckoning? You are a leading Messianic believer but you have adopted a *remoto Christo* - leave Christ aside. Your argument has as its essence the concept of justice.

The teaching of the NT is that Justice derives from agape. And that is my final question where is love?

Bryson

Rev Dr Bryson Arthur
President
NETS

Dear Bryson,

Thank you for responding, and for responding so frankly, to my article on the purportedly Palestinian effort to breach Israel's northern borders.

I am well known as an open critic of my country and of my government when immoral actions are involved. In the present case, I do not believe there was anything immoral about Israel's response. Those "unarmed civilians" threw stones and, in some cases, burning tires and Molotov bottles – what police or military body would not respond, and rightly so, with force? Israel took every precaution necessary, far more than any of its neighbors would take. It reinforced the fence. It warned the mob. It shot tear gas, and only as a last resort used live ammunition. You've not said a word, for example, about Egyptian forces repeatedly killing unarmed civilians trying to cross the border from Egypt to Israel. Why are you silent in this matter yet castigate Israel? Why treat Israel any differently? Israel's conduct was no breach of the rules of war but legitimate action in full accordance with those rules.

The intended invasion of Israel was indeed an act of war. The kindly civilians who you so earnestly defend spoke openly to the press of their desire to see the destruction of Israel. They described their efforts to breach our borders as an initial step to that end. They were, therefore, not innocent, "unarmed civilians" but sworn enemies engaged in a sophisticated attack on Israel, geared to the gullible West, so void of principle. What country would allow the uncontrolled breach of its borders, let alone their breach by avowed enemies?

Naively, you state that you "can't believe that even one of the protesters thought that they would get into Israel never mind continue to stay there!" The fact of the matter is that more than one made his way into Israel during the protest two days earlier, and one made it all the way to Tel-Aviv. What if he were armed or carrying a bomb?

Contrary to your claim, Israel's response is not a case of Israeli "hatred of Arabs". Arab nations, Arab press, Arab schoolbooks, Arab political and religious leaders describe us Jews as monkeys, dog and pigs, doomed for destruction. I invite you to find even the slightest hint of such language anywhere in Israel that does not meet the determined rejection of the majority of the populace. Arabs live among us, trade with us, tour with us, vote for the Knesset and serve as fully equal members of the Knesset.

We have a right and a duty to defend ourselves and, so long as strength in us lies, we will exercise that right and fulfill that duty! What would you have us do – be crucified so that purported Palestinians can enjoy the kind of *Judenraussen* peace they seek?

I suggest that your talk of Christian values has ignored the biblical fact that comforting, restoring love is reserved for those who repent. Hell is for those who do not.

God is not a cuddly Santa Claus. He is a holy, righteousness God who hates evil with all the glory of his holy, beautiful, perfect being. That is precisely why he did not and cannot merely sweep our sins under the carpet, but sent his Son to bear the awful punishment of our sin – and turned his back on Him when he bore our sins in his own body on the tree.

A justice that derives from nothing more than agape is mere drivel. God's justice derives from his absolutely moral character. It is his grace that derives from his love, and the two kiss each other in the cross of Christ, where justice is served and satisfied while love's demands are met for those who turn from sin to God in Christ.

There, you see, is the teaching of Christ in my article. Where is it in your response? To say that "there is nothing of a Christian perspective" in what I wrote is to ignore both these essential truths of the Gospel and the facts on the ground. Israel does not seek revenge. Israel has treated both Israeli and Palestinian Arabs with more generosity than the Arab nations have treated their own. It does insist, however, on its right to exist. There is nothing sub-Christian

about that. If anything, I believe your response to my article is less Christian than you sincerely intend it to be.