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**To The United Nations Independent Commission of Inquiry on the 2014  
Gaza Conflict**

By email to email to: [coigaza@ohchr.org](mailto:coigaza@ohchr.org)

**Report by the Physicians for Human Rights claiming that Gazans had no  
place to hide during IDF bombings**

I refer to the above report which I assume has been read by your commission and it is with respect that I ask you to please take into account the following

1. **Preventing the use of tunnels as shelters.** The claim that Gazans had no place to hide is patently false. It is well known that there was an extensive system of sophisticated underground tunnels in Gaza equipped with electricity and in some cases with air conditioning which could have given "air raid" shelter protection to the residents. The major war crime was Hamas preventing citizens from using this available effective protection. Some authoritative commentators have suggested that Hamas deliberately created as many casualties as possible to create sympathy.

This deliberate endangering of civilians is a major war crime which demands the serious attention of your commission.

One recalls the use of the underground Tube network in London where thousands of citizens got protection from the massive bombings of the Nazi Luftwaffe in WW2.

2. **Human Shields:** Men Women and children were used as human shields A very serious war crime.
3. **Combatants clothed as civilians killed in the fighting:** Combatants killed in the war were re-clothed in civilian clothes in the hospital to inflate the alleged number of civilians killed. Another war crime.
4. **Executions of Fatah supporters:** Numbers of Fatah supporters were executed without trial (as confirmed by President Abbas) and their numbers were added to the civilian casualties. Another war crime.
5. **Denial of human rights.** Citizens of Gaza extensively lack human rights, especially women and the LGBT community. No citizen can criticize the policies of the Hamas Government. Another war crime.

6. **Rebuilding of Housing.** Donor Funds are being diverted to building tunnels and some products are resold on the black market. Another war crime.
7. **Refusing medical services in Israel to non Hamas citizens.** Those who are Fatah or who Hamas suspect or wish arbitrarily to persecute or punish are denied permission to obtain medical treatment in Israel. Another war crime.
8. **Israel is investigating all alleged "war crimes".** No one is investigation Hamas war crimes including years of firing rockets on to civilian targets in Israel. No one is investigating the rebuilding of tunnels presently in full swing

*David Goshen*