

We should hang our heads in shame

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The New York Times [has reported in a newsletter](#) this morning that:

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's security cabinet today approved his proposal for [a gradual military takeover of Gaza](#), his office said. The plan goes against the advice of Israel's military and promises to take the two-year conflict into unknown territory.

Under the proposal, the military would conquer the core of Gaza City and, at a later stage, push into central areas of the enclave where Hamas is believed to be holding Israeli hostages, and where the military has largely refrained from operating before.

My heart bleeds for the people of Gaza.

But let's be clear, it also bleeds for the people of Israel as well.

And it bleeds for all those, whoever they might be, who inevitably will lose their lives as a result of this.

The Israeli military and security forces warned against this action. They know they cannot beat Hamas. I suspect they are astute enough to understand the Palestinian cause is an idea that they cannot extinguish, whatever Netanyahu says about Hamas.

More than that, they know that an oppressed and desperate people will fight because there is nothing else left for them to do, and the cost to Israel will be very high.

In that case, the only explanation for what is happening is that Netanyahu wants this invasion (it is not a war) to continue because he knows that is the only way he can avoid going to prison for his past crimes, the certain knowledge of which incarceration appears to motivate all his actions, and drives him to ignore all advice and any concern for the wellbeing of others.

Rarely have so many died to preserve the desire of one man to escape justice, but that is what is happening in Israel now.

We should weep for a country brought so low, and for all its victims.

More than that, though, we should stand up to his utterly unacceptable regime.

We should stop arming Israel.

We should impose sanctions.

We should deliver aid by sea and defy his troops.

We should recognise Palestine, unconditionally, and demand that its people be set free, including from constraint by us.

We should demand that Netanyahu stand trial for war crimes.

And we should weep for the fact that our country is doing none of those things. It has abandoned all of Netanyahu's victims, wherever and whoever they are. And we should collectively hang our heads in shame and blame those who have let that happen here, when we could have taken a stand. We all know who they are.

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