



## The Betty Letters

My Dear Grandchild,

*It appears that the Muslim Filipinas and Filipinos of Manila are not happy with the way in which the Israeli Government is dealing with the belligerent activities of the militant wing of HAMAS, the elected Government of the Palestinian people, living in Gaza and The West Bank. HAMAS, the Palestinian insurrectionary movement, has long been seeking to create a single, Islamic State in Palestine (where-ever that is located). HAMAS means 'zeal' or 'fervour' in Arabic, and is an acronym for Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiyya, or Islamic Resistance Movement. The group was founded in 1988 as a militant wing of the Muslim Brotherhood, a regional organisation that advocates an increased role for Islam in government and society and rejects Western cultural and political influence. Because of its terrorist activities, HAMAS was banned by Israel in 1989 and it was placed on the US State Department's official list of terrorist groups in 2001. For some years, HAMAS has been firing rockets into Israel, terrorising the Jewish residents of that country and, occasionally, killing some of them. Now, Israel is hitting back with a ground, sea and aerial attacks on the doorstep of HAMAS. The Filipinas and Filipinos, it seems, object to the way in which Israel has determined to counter the unprovoked attacks by HAMAS on its land and peoples. Interesting, don't you think? So much for the intelligence of the Muslim 'brothers' and 'sisters' of The Philippines. Last Wednesday, also, I read that the Hongkong Legislative Council had been debating the situation in Gaza where nearly 600 people have been killed and about 3,000 people have been wounded as a direct result of the fighting. It appears that Hongkong Legislative Councillors want Beijing to intercede in this matter in order to stop the fighting. What has the situation in Gaza got to do with the Government of Hongkong? For what reason has not the Hongkong Legislative Council held a debate with regard to the election of the first black President of the United States? What about the way in which Somalia is being governed, or is not being governed? What about the tens of thousands of rapes and killings in Sudan? Is that not food for thought? And what about the situation in Iran where that fundamentalist Muslim Government is making plans to become a member of the international nuclear 'club'? How about the Syrian Government and its arming of the insurgents in Iraq? Should those situations not be debated in the Hongkong Legislative Council? Maybe Beijing could be persuaded to use some of its political 'muscle' in respect of those issues, too? And one should not rule out the Amazon Rain Forest and the way in which it is being disforested by benign consent of the Government of Brazil, which turns a blind eye on the way in which big business is 'raping' the country. Lastly, what about the kauri trees of New Zealand? Should they not be protected? Could Beijing save those trees? In short, My Dear Grandchild, the fact that the Hongkong Legislative Council ever wasted its time, thinking of debating the situation in Gaza, is indicative of the level of intelligence of the majority of the members of this (august?) Council.*

*In respect of the situation in Gaza, I, personally, really cannot really blame the Israeli Government for letting loose its dogs of war. What other action could it take? HAMAS attacked Israel and, today, the Israeli Defense Force, the army of Israel, is trying to neutralise the militant faction of HAMAS. If one's house is the object of a burglar, is it not within one's bailiwick to repel any attempted intrusion? My husband, Bo-Bo, on this subject, said: 'What! Who? What are you talking about? I don't know nothing about politics. Never did, you know.' So much for my au fait husband. The Jewish State of Israel, actually, is a modern-day miracle*

*because a mere handful of Jews turned a part of an empty desert into a garden. Where nothing grew in the past, today, fruit is being harvested, regularly, and there is a very vibrant and civilised social order in the country. Not everybody is in love with the Jews of Israel, of course, and Iran has stated, on a number of occasions, that it would like to see Israel obliterated from the map of the world. Iran is a fundamentalist Muslim country, its President, being Mahmud Ahmadi-Nejad. President Mahmud Ahmadi-Nejad, a self-confessed utterer of falsehoods, makes the claim that there are no homosexuals in Iran. He said this during a visit to Columbia University when a student asked him as to the actions of the Iran Government with regard to dealing with men or women who have a sexual preference of their own kind. It is interesting to learn that, at the time of Alexander the Great (356 B.C. to 323 B.C.), King of Macedon between 336 B.C. and 323 B.C., homosexuality was an accepted practice among consenting males and females. Alexander conquered Persia – the old name of Iran – and subjugated it to Macedonian rule. Obviously, if Persia did not know of the existence of homosexuality, prior to the invasion of Alexander, it learned of joys of having it off with one's kind as soon as it was imported into the country by the invading army of the Macedonia.*

*There are fundamentalists in Israel, too, you know. I have met some of them. Like all fundamentalists, they make little sense and I have little time for them. In a way, fundamentalist Muslims and fundamentalist Jews deserve each other: They both make little sense, you see. In a conversation with one fundamentalist Jew, on hearing of the rockets, still being fired into Israel, this fundamentalist Jew proclaimed: 'I guess we (meaning, I suppose, the Jews of Israel) shall have to kill all of the Arabs to be on the safe side.' This Jewish lawyer, then, argued that, like any good surgeon, it is best to make one incision rather than multiple ones. 'One cut to slice the flesh open and, then, excise the cancer,' was the way that he put it. Charming, don't you think? This same man told me that Jewish traders have been selling guns and other weaponry to various Arab groups through Turkish middlemen, based in Ankara. He explained: 'As long as the Arabs only use the guns on each other, it is a very acceptable practice to sell guns to these unter Menschen.' I suppose President Mahmud Ahmadi-Nejad of Iran would make similar attestations with regard to his people, selling guns and what-have-you to the Jews of Israel, just so long as the guns are turned on the Jews of Israel in a killing spree?*

*Yes, My Dear Grandchild, let us debate these matters in the Hongkong Legislative Council so that our gallant leaders and law makers can arrive, as Israel has, already, in a state of utter desperation and confusion.*

*Talk to you, next week.*

*Chief Lady*

***While TARGET makes every attempt to ensure accuracy of all data published,  
TARGET cannot be held responsible for any errors and/or omissions.***

*If readers feel that they would like to voice their opinions about that which  
they have read in **TARGET**, please feel free to e-mail your views to  
[editor@targetnewspapers.com](mailto:editor@targetnewspapers.com). **TARGET** does not guarantee to publish  
readers' views, but reserves the right so to do subject to the laws of libel.*