

# The San Diego Union-Tribune

Monday, December 17, 2001 Page B7

## Palestinians Should Adopt Peaceful, Civil Disobedience

By George Mullen

Whether the recent Mideast violence was baited by Ariel Sharon and the Israelis or inspired by the Palestinians is not important. What is important is the fact that after all these years the Palestinians still haven't figured it out. Strapping TNT to teen-age suicide bombers in order to kill Israeli women and children on buses only serves to harm the Palestinian cause, not help it.

The Palestinians desperately need U.S. and world support in order to accomplish their goals, and the indiscriminate terrorism they are practicing against Israeli civilians does not "sell" Americans on their cause, especially after Sept. 11.

What does "sell" in America is the path of non-violent, civil disobedient protest taken by Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King Jr. and Nelson Mandela. Only with this approach can the Palestinians claim the high moral ground and "sell" Americans on the rightness of their cause.

The Palestinians have never embraced the non-violent approach, but if they did they would be in a unique position to cripple the Israeli economy, gain favorable worldwide media attention to their plight, be viewed as the righteous underdog that Americans typically love, and in a round-about way allay Israeli security concerns by proving they are capable of embracing non-violence.

The Israeli Defense Force is equipped to hit hard and fast against lethal adversaries, it is not equipped to deal with thousands of peacefully striking Palestinian civilians lying in front of Israeli tanks and business commuters.

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