

# Israel's neighbours must learn to live in peace with it

FROM TAN KIA LEE

Most reasonable people want peace in the Middle East. We want the Israelis and Palestinians to live in peace and prosperity, rather than fear and misery. ("Israel must learn to live with its neighbours"; Jan 9)

Israel's neighbours, though, have waged war against it, with many terrorist attacks on its territory since modern Israel came into being in 1948. It is a recognised state under international law and has serious security concerns.

Any peace settlement must thus recognise three fundamentals, which many of Israel's neighbours have not.

First, the security of Israel's borders should be enforced, via the cessation of all acts of terror and violence against Israeli civilians and the demilitarisation of Gaza.

The latter includes the dismantling of its weapons infrastructure, the disbanding of its terrorist militias and the freeing of Palestinian society from the cynical, oppressive culture of hate and incitement fuelled by Hamas.

Second, Israel's neighbours must recognise its right to live in peace and security and its right to exist as a nation.

Third, language in the Arab Charter suggesting the intention to wipe Israel off the map should be amended.

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Establishing a Palestinian state would not lead automatically to peace in the Middle East.

Mr Khaled Abu Toameh, an Israeli citizen and Arab, warned in his article, *Why A Palestinian State Will Become A Source Of Instability*, that the Arabs are unlikely to change their attitudes towards the Palestinians once their state is established.

And so the future Palestinian state would have to continue relying on external aid to survive.

He explained that this may, in turn, open the door to terrorist groups such as the Muslim Brotherhood and the so-called Islamic State.

As with any other state, Israel has the right to live free from threats or acts of force.

Israel is the first line of defence against terror. In the long term, its neighbours must learn to live in peace with it.

## Quickly automate all public car parks

FROM RICHARD YAP GEOK ENG

I applaud our authorities for automating more car parks and urge for rapid automation at all public car parks. ("300 more HDB car parks to be automated by mid-2015"; Dec 19)

I see at least three important advantages. First, parking coupons are not only cumbersome, but also are not environmentally friendly, as littering occurs and trees are cut to produce

the coupons.

Second, some drivers take advantage of the coupon system by not paying for parking, which also deprives others of a parking lot.

Finally, rather than taking photographs and printing fines, existing parking wardens can be fielded in more crucial areas within our land transport system. More presence is required on our roads for smoother and safer traffic flow for all road users.

### Corrections

● In "Low-income families can benefit from access to credit cards" (Jan 8), the commentary writer stated that, according to the Department of Statistics, nearly 60 per cent of individuals here have an average annual income below S\$30,000 (or S\$2,500 a month). The Department of Statistics has clarified that, based on the Report on Labour Force in Singapore 2013 published by the Manpower Ministry, about 41 per cent of working residents have a gross monthly income below S\$2,500. The figure the writer cited was derived from the Department of Statistics' data on average monthly household income per member, which is household income divided by the total number of members in the household.

● In "Justice Tan Siong Thye appointed S'pore's first Deputy Attorney-General" (Jan 13), we wrongly reported that Justice Tan had heard the Committee of Inquiry (COI) into the Little India riot. He heard the COI into the two major SMRT disruptions in 2011. Also, we wrongly referred to the Commercial Affairs Department as part of the Attorney-General's Chambers.

We apologise for the errors.

## YOU HAVE TO THINK LIKE A HACKER TO OUTSMART A HACKER

I didn't learn it in school. I learnt it at MDIS.

Shawn Yeo  
MDIS Student (2015)

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6247 9111/6372 1000

etc@mdis.edu.sg

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