

## Why Does He Stay in Gaza?

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In a compelling, but distorted piece of propaganda, the columnist writes not about why he stays in Gaza, he also recites well-worn, unsupportable gripes against Israel. Indeed, life in Gaza is “hard.” However, Mr. Saif stays in Gaza because he is willing to ignore the despotic religiously distorted dictators who rule his country. Gaza, of course, was given the same opportunity as Israel to make the desert bloom. Instead, Gaza has bloomed with rockets and missiles, sequestered in homes and schools, hospitals and mosques. Oddly, Mr. Saif does not write about corrupt leadership in Gaza.

Mr. Saif’s grandfather left Jaffa, not because he had to but rather because he chose to deny the legitimacy of Israel rather than stay and make his home in Jaffa as did many other Arabs. Those Arabs who stayed in Jaffa lead quality lives and enjoy the same or greater benefits as other Israelis. Meanwhile, the Arab world has created a permanent society of refugees, growing in numbers, to use as pawns in the eternal war against the presence of the Jewish people in Israel.

My advice to Mr. Saif would be to organize his fellow political scientists so as to run a society that is just, democratic and useful to the people. No doubt Mr. Saif does not have the option of running for office and disagreeing with the current regime, or he would have no choice but to leave Gaza in a box.

It behooves *The New York Times* to print op-eds that are predicated on reality, rather than to promote an utterly dishonest narrative.

*Clifford A. Rieders, Esquire  
Rieders, Travis, Humphrey,  
Waters & Dohrmann  
161 West Third Street  
Williamsport, PA 17701  
(570) 323-8711 (telephone)  
(570) 323-4192 (facsimile)*

*Cliff Rieders is a Board Certified Trial Advocate in Williamsport, is Past President of the Pennsylvania Trial Lawyers Association and a past member of the Pennsylvania Patient Safety Authority. None of the opinions expressed necessarily represent the views of these organizations.*