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The Jewish Chronicle  
25 Furnival Street  
London EC4A 1JT.

29 September 2009

Dear Sir,

It is with some interest that we noted the news item in last week's JC on the Board of Deputies' joint submission to the Communities and Local Government inquiry into Prevent in which it calls for '*Any future engagement with umbrella groups such as the Muslim Council of Britain must be contingent on them ...firmly rejecting violence in all circumstances, including in overseas conflicts*', ('Board: Muslim Council of Britain must be boycotted until reform', Jewish Chronicle, 24 September 2009).

The demand for engagement to be made contingent on '*rejecting violence in all circumstances, including in overseas conflicts*' is a surprising one given the Board's own vocal support for Israel as demonstrated by the rally it supported in Trafalgar Square during Israel's criminal bombardment of the Gaza Strip in Dec 2008 – Jan 2009. You will no doubt be aware that there are very credible reports from the UN, the Israeli campaign group Breaking the Silence and Amnesty International that Israel committed war crimes in Gaza during that time.

Should the government be asked to boycott the Board of Deputies we wonder?

It would seem, from the Board's own actions, that '*rejecting violence in all circumstances*' is not a position adopted by any but the most committed of pacifists.

Yours sincerely,

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