

RTE complicit in endorsing subtle 'Gaza Action Ireland' demonisation campaign

by Robert Harris

Ireland's public service broadcaster, RTE, featured reports of the visit to Ireland of young soccer players from Gaza, organised by trenchant anti-Israel group 'Gaza Action Ireland', [upheld a complaint](#) against Near FM in 2013, after the radio station featured an uncritical report of an event held by 'Gaza Action Ireland'. The slot was unsuccessfully defended by Near FM as simply restating the views of the group. Coleman (and RTE editors) produced a similarly one-sided presentation.

The RTE report featured the risible propaganda. The PA representative claimed that Gaza is 'a big prison'. The news presenters in both programmes claimed in the introduction that Gaza is occupied: 'The children who live under occupation...', even though it is firmly understood that the IDF withdrew in 2005, and Israel in no way [uniform age group](#), as one might normally expect. The fourteen players are aged between nine and fourteen years. Israel facilitates the mass transit of food supplies in into Gaza on a near-24/7 basis, in rather considerable contrast to Assad's conduct next door in Syria, toward his own people living in the rebel-held territories, and does not proscribe foodstuffs.

Carole Coleman added that the Gazan footballers 'came through multiple Israeli checkpoints, into Jordan, to come here'. Coleman appears to have a real issue with Israeli checkpoints, designed prevent violence and terrorism, since she even described [presented security measures](#) at the Temple Mount as part of a chain of 'reprisals'.

Whilst RTE coverage described the event as part of a ten-day 'cultural' exchange, the event was run by 'Gaza Action Ireland', which leads to the inevitable conclusion that the visit is in fact an action with a substantively politicised intent. The tone of Gaza Action Ireland's own features on the tournament [embargo so imposed on Gaza](#) to limit Hamas, an EU-designated terrorist group, from re-arming more effectively, after assaulting the Jewish State's civilian populace. The group run [Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions](#)), and continue to seek the [ambassador\(s\)](#). The group has been [describing the extent](#) to which women and religious minorities are persecuted in the Islamic Middle East, Zoe Lawlor responded by claiming she [violence visited on Jewish civilians](#) and security personnel, late last year. Academic Dr. Kevin McCarthy