

REF: NGO MONITOR REPORT ON TROCAIRE'S ONE-SIDED APPROACH- SEPTEMBER 2010

15 September 2010

Dear Mr Balanson,

We have received the copy of your recent report on Trócaire. Once again we have to reject the contents of the report, which is selective in its references to our work and misrepresents the position of our organisation on many issues. We draw your attention to the reference to the article by Justin Kilcullen in the Irish Times in relation to Gaza. In the interests of balance we must ask you to include the following link to that article so that your readers may make their own judgement on its merits.

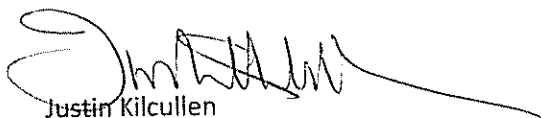
<http://www.irishtimes.com/newspaper/opinion/2010/0621/1224272949751.html?via=rel>

Furthermore we would like to clarify your statement that Trócaire's positions are contrary to that of the Irish government. Trócaire's status as a nongovernmental organisation, operating independently of the Irish government, is not only recognised by the government, but encouraged and valued. In Ireland, as in most democracies, development agencies are not prescribed the rules for engaging in development or human rights activities, but rather have well-established relationships with government based on mutual respect, transparency and accountability.

Finally we take this opportunity to once again spell out Trócaire's vision; we envisage a just and peaceful world where people's dignity is ensured and rights are respected; where basic needs are met and resources are shared equitably; where people have control over their own lives and those in power act for the common good. Trócaire's support is offered regardless of race, gender, religion or politics and in a spirit of solidarity.

As for the situation in Israel and the Palestine, we believe that a just and lasting peace can only be achieved through respect for international law and human rights. This is the best and only way to provide for Israel's long term security.

Yours sincerely,


Justin Kilcullen