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It is no surprise to find Israel flattening Lebanon nor Hezbollah rocketing northern Israeli towns, but it is staggering to witness the change in Britain's position. That Tony Blair cannot call for a ceasefire and an end to killings on all sides is tantamount to excusing Israel of war crimes.

The longer the violence continues, the more extremism will win.

History proves that brute military force on a civilian population does not work. Recruits will flock, not just to Hezbollah and Hamas, but potentially, as these organisations' capabilities are damaged, to al Qaeda groups, grateful for yet another battlefield alongside Iraq and Afghanistan from where they can ply their murderous trade.

Blair's immoral, incompetent and illegal inaction jeopardizes British interests, our security and possibly our lives. He has spurned his chance to cure his impotence on the world stage by failing to stand up for British values of democracy, fairness and the rule of law.

Chris Doyle, director, Council for Arab-British Understanding

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