Statement from Sydney Morning Herald editor Bevan Shields and National editor David King:

The *Sydney Morning Herald*'s coverage has been thorough, fair and balanced. We have documented the ongoing tragedy and destruction experienced by innocent civilians on both sides of the war.

Counting stories published in print only is a simplistic and flawed approach that doesn't reflect the full extent of the *Herald's* in-depth coverage

It fails to take into account the many other stories published on digital platforms which is where the majority of the *Herald's* readers are.

Foreign journalists are restricted from entering Gaza. This makes it challenging to discover and report on the personal stories of people on the ground in a deadly war zone.

In October, the SMH sent a reporter and a photographer to the conflict zone. They filed reports from the West Bank, including from the <u>funeral of 15-year-old Sohaib Al-Sous</u>, who was shot dead during Israeli military raids in his hometown. The article included photographs of Sohaib, images from the funeral and interviews with his family and a friend who was also shot. They also reported from a recreational centre in Ramallah that was <u>housing displaced Palestinians</u>.