

Scholasticide

Written in response to the bombardment of Gaza

New words
To describe
The unthinkable

In the last 12 days
247 children
Have been blown apart
From their parents

Many of their parents
Teachers
Police officers
Bus drivers
Cooks
Builders
Carers
Shop workers
Blown apart too

Far too many
Were in the right place
At the wrong time

And the perpetrators
Plead self defence

Our history demands they say
That we take our own survival seriously

And the apologists
Clucking like hens
Call for an end to the violence
On both sides
As they despatch
Another shipment of arms

Meanwhile the glossy mediators
Bare their perfect teeth
For another photo opportunity
Brokering an agreement
That will be broken
With the swoop of an F16

I am praying
For a shrill silence
To descend upon all those
Who believe themselves chosen

Chosen above others
To have new words formed
In their ghastly honour
To describe the way
That children
Are unashamedly murdered
In the name of peace
And security

Steve Faulkner