

Letters

Beecroft, NSW

No justice

I READ with dismay about Mark Aarons' threat to publish the names of war criminals (*AJN* 12/7/91).

Mr Aarons believes that there is such a thing as justice. I don't.

Any rational person has only to look around to know that justice is an abstract idea and does not exist in practical terms.

Our actions should be guided by considering the practical consequences of such actions.

To my mind idealistic actions, even to the point of self-immolation or exposing oneself to torture can be reasonable under certain conditions, such as unbearable pressure or to avoid what one may consider an even worse fate. To my mind all ideologies, however well meant, are wrong.

I believe that a publication mentioning names of war criminals living in Australia would be harmful to the country, to the Jewish community and even, in some cases, to the criminals, who may possibly have regretted their dark deeds.

Indeed, the person named may be quite a different person to what he was 50 years ago.

The trial of Eichmann and others was useful in order to perpetuate knowledge of the evil

of the Holocaust. It had nothing to do with justice. What the Nazis have done cannot be equated with any notion of justice or punishment.

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