

# MEDIA REVIEW

"A Critical review and analysis of print and other media reports."

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## DELEGITIMIZING ISRAEL VIA JERUSALEM

by Sidney Laibson

"Jerusalem - One City, Three Faiths" was published in 1996. The author, Karen Armstrong, is a commentator on religious affairs and author of several books on religion. What initially appears to be an objective analysis of the history of Jerusalem's three faiths soon fades. Ms. Armstrong attempts to delegitimize the Jewish claim to Jerusalem while promoting the Palestinian Arab claim to the land. The text is filled with inaccuracies, egregious distortions, and revision of history.

In the closing chapters, all pretext to objectivity evaporates with a scathing attack on Zionism and the State of

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"A huge lie repeated often enough is accepted as truth."

> — Joseph Goebbels Nazi Propaganda Minister

# 'IN THEIR OWN WORDS' ISRAEL SEEN THROUGH THE LENS

## ISRAEL SEEN THROUGH THE LENS OF ITS ENEMIES

hose familiar with earlier editions of **MEDIA REVIEW** will recognize in this column, "**In Their Own Words**," what has come to be a staple report in these issues. The intent of such reports has been the revelation of the true mind of Israel's Arab enemies that underlie their often smooth statements reported in the print and broadcase media. How better to present this thinking than in a compilation of their actual words as they candidly speak to their own people?

Thus the actual words of Israel's enemies are more telling than a thousand lengthy treatises of analyses and interpretations. Such words spoken, coupled with reports of the enemy's actual deeds give them away. These give the lie to assumptions about the "immanent possibilities for Arab-Jewish coexistence" and they counsel Israel's utmost caution in dealing with such enemies.

What is of special interest in this update of "In Their Own Words," is that, for the first time, it will also feature words of another class of anti-Israel enemy, a class made up of Israeli Arabs, Jewish Israelis, and, although not reported, would include diaspora Jews who have taken the side of the Arab enemy. What is surprising is that the words from this source share no less in the distortions of fact and venomous hatred of Israel that is to be found in the words of Arab enemies. This form of Jewish self-hate is particularly pernicious in that it has had a poisonous and corrosive influence on attempts to defend Israel in the arena of public opinion. Hence, in responding to media bias, it is essential that we become aware of this kind of bias since Israel's enemies regularly seek to use it to affirm their propaganda. What the self haters of Israel have been saying "in their own words" is therefore worth noting if we are to be well armed in responding to today's variety of media bias.

One, either the U.S. or Israel."

## • June 2001

Arafat stated on June 28, "I am not looking for Hamas or for Islamic Jihad or any other parties because we respect all these parties and there is a union between us all."

## • June 2001

PA [Palestinian Authority] cabinet minister Nabil Sha'ath said: "The arrest of Palestinian activists is unequivocally unacceptable. We don't take orders from any-

## • June 2001

Arafat calls suicide bomber "a wonderful hero" — Arafat praised the suicide bomber who massacred 21 Israeli youths in Tel Aviv on June 1,2001, calling the killer "a wonderful example of a hero, a noble soul, a heroic martyr."

## • August 2001

Barak said, "Arafat does not recognize (Continued on Page 2, Col 1)

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## IN THEIR OWN WORDS

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tional peace deal followed by the Jewish state's takeover by its Arab minority.''

### • October 2001

A senior official of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP), Ali Jaradat, was detained on October 17, 2001, following the PFLP's assassination of Israel's Minister of Tourism. *Jaradat was released the same day*. [reported in Ha'aretz]

### • December 2001

President George Bush said on December 5, 2001, that Arafat's jails have "bars in the front and revolving doors in the back."

## • December 2001

In an interview with the Kuwaiti Daily Al-Roion, December 12, 2001, Arafat said: "Do you know what a mother of a martyr does when she is informed of the martyrdom of her son? She goes out to the street with cheers of joy saying 'Alah be praised, my son that you married Palestine rather than your cousin.' This is the Palestinian people."

• Description of cartoons in the official newspaper of Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority, Al-Hayat Al-Jadidah that read like the anti-Jewish caricatures that appeared 65 years ago in Nazi newspapers:

"Jews with bloody fang's large noses, and long beards mutilating Arab bodies.... Jews crucifying Arabs ... Jewish conspirators controlling governments and manipulating elections .... Stars of David in the shape of daggers plunged into the back of America's president."

## • February 2002

"Jews are Jews," shouts one of Arafat's clerics.... "They are all liars. They must be massacared. They must be killed...."

## • February 2002

A clear example of Arafat's double talk is the contrast between Feb. 3 New York Times op-ed "condemn[ing]

"Jews are Jews.
They are all liars.
They must be
massacared. They
must be killed...."

— One of Arafat's Clerics

the attacks carried out by terrorist groups against Israeli civilians," and pledging "to put an end to their activities," and his Feb. 4 speech in Arabic in Ramallah, where he praised the virtues of martyrdom and "Palestinian jihad" and vowed that the Palestinians would "score the final victory" over Israel.

## • April 2002

Arafat's foreign minister, Farouk Kaddoumi, recently said, "The right of return of the refugees to Haifa and Jaffa is more important than statehood." Arafat could have had statehood on the West Bank and Gaza, but the only state it wants is the State of Israel. Hence the importance of the "right of return" of millions of so-called refugees.

## • April 2002

In a letter found in Arafat's office, he incited Israeli Arabs to join the fight against Israel in order to establish "one homeland," meaning a Palestinian state replacing Israel.

## • April 2002

These are the words of the president of Egypt to Arafat:

"There's no choice but to wage war against Israel," said Mubarak.... I want you to understand ... inevitable."

## May 2002

Tayseer Nasallah a Palestinian National Council member said: "We are for reform that pushes the Palestinian resistance forward, not returns it back."

## • June 2002

Yasser Arafat's pledges of reforms and elections to the Palestinian Legislative Council, held out the possibility of establishing peace with Israel.

The "peace" Arafat discussed with his people, he has cited often as a model for "peace," as he now repeated to his

group: "Let us remember the Hudaybiah Conciliation Accord out of our concern for the national ... solidarity with your people and cause."

**COMMENT:** Muhammad signed a peace treaty with the Quaraesh tribe in Mecca in the seventh century at Hudaybiyah, when he saw he was losing the battle. Two years later when stronger Muhammad marched into the city and captured it.

## Israel's Academic Extremists

One day, when historians scratch their heads and wonder just how Israel could have adopted the policies it did in the Oslo era of the 1990s, they will devote considerable attention to the role of **the country's academics**.... how a number of radicals actively legitimized the agenda of the country's enemies, thereby doing much to demoralize fellow nationals.

As usual, when criticizing academics one has first to cover several ritual bases. First, we are not advocating censorship of political opinion on Israeli campuses (or any place else); we do not believe in restrictions on freedom of expression ...but we believe that you ought to be exposed to them *in their own words:* 

Dan Bar-On, a member of the department of human behavior (psychology) at Ben Gurion University, in an op-ed, ... advocated that international tribunals be established to conduct war crimes trials of Israeli military personnel.

Haim Gordon, a faculty member at Ben-Gurion University school of Education,... had given a television interview in which he said he would go out and celebrate if Ariel Sharon had a heart attack and that he considered Benjamin Netanyahu scum. He refers to settlers as children of whores.

Neve Gordon, in political science and government at Ben-Gurion University.... He has written a long piece singing the praises of Norman Finkelstein, the world's leading Jewish Holocaust denier.

Baruch Kimmerling is an anti-Zionist professor of sociology at the Hebrew University active in the Hadash party. Writing in Ha'aretz, he called on the Palestinians to use more violence in gaining concessions from Israel; within hours after the publication, a bomb went off next to a Jerusalem bus.

Benny Morris of Ben-Gurion University in Beer Sheba,...insiste[d] that in Israel's 1948-49 War of Independence, it was the strong, over-armed Goliath fighting against the desparate and weak Arab David.... In Morris's view, the Arabs are always peace-seeking and moderate whereas the Jews are cruel, aggressive colonialists, doing everything to prevent peaceful relations from developing with the Arabs.

In his many writings, Israel's history is a nonstop tale of unprovoked aggression.

Illan Pappe of the University of Haifa ... call[ed] on Hadash [the Israeli Communist Party] to abandon its position of "two states for two peoples" and instead strive for the annihilation of Israel altogether and the replacement by a unitary Palestinian state.

Yoav Peled of the political science department at Tel Aviv University made news in 1997after his niece was murdered in a suicide bombing by Palistinians; he flamboyantly invited a PLO spokesperson to the girl's funeral and at the funeral he explained how her death was all the fault of then-prime minister Binyamin Netanyahu.

Peled pronounced this view to the world in an op-ed piece in the Los Angeles Times. He argued that Netanyahu was the cause of Palestinian terrorism.

Uri Ram a New Historian in the sociology department at Ben Gurion University is perhaps best known for his assertion that Jews have no more right to live in Palestine than do the British in India.

*Israel Shahak*, recently deceased, was professor emeritus of chemistry at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and was probably the most openly anti-Jewish of all Israel's academic extremists. He spent most of his career promoting naked antisemitism....

He openly hated Judaism and Jews. His writings center around the theme that Judaism is the fountain of all evil and that most of the worlds problems can ultimately be traced back to Judaism....

Shahak's [book] JEWISH HISTORY, JEWISH RELIGION carries a foreword by Gore Vidal, who takes the opportunity there to bash American Jews for "hijacking" the American economy to serve Israel and to denounce "totalitarian Judaism." Shahak considered Israel a terrorist state.

Oren Yiftachel, a geographer at Ben Gurion University coauthered ... an oped piece in Ha'aretz proposing that Jews join Palestinians in celebrating "Land Day," a day at the end of March when Israeli Arabs march against Israel and denounce Zionism....

He thinks Israel should he viewed as a dictatorship as long as Palestinians outside Israel's borders are prevented from voting in Israeli elections.

Moshe Zimmerman a professor of German history at the Hebrew University, has become famous in Israel for his comments about Jews living beyond Israel's Green Line, whom he calls Nazis.

## Israeli-Arab Knesset members

Here are just a few of their recent activities pledging moral support for the intafada in Ramallah; call-

ing on the Arab world to unite against Israel during visits to Syria; siding with Israel's enemies in the United Nations (UN) Conference against Racism in Durban, South Africa; and organizing an international antiapartheid campaign against Israel together with Palestinian and European nongovernmental organizations.

## • MK Ahmad Tibi

Arab Movement for Renewal leader, MK Ahmad Tibi, termed chief of General Staff Lt.Gen. Shaul Mofaz a "fascist" who is "responsible for murder," and called Israel's Prime minister "a blood-sucking dictator."

## • MK Abd al-Malik Dahamsha

United Arab List leader MK Abd al-Malik Dahamsha not only compared Sharon to Slobodan Milosevic but called for Sharon to stand trial for war crimes. He even sent a letter to the Nobel Peace Prize Committee asking it to strip FM Shimon Peres of his Nobel award after Peres joined Sharon in a national unity government.

Expressions of support for Syria having become the stock-in-trade of Arab MKs, *Dahamsha* sent a letter of condolence to the Syrian president over the deaths of three Syrian soldiers after an Israeli retaliatory attack on a radar position in south Lebanon. (The Israeli move followed a Hizbulluh attack across the U.N.-recognized line between Israel and Lebanon.)

Strive for the annihilation of Israel altogether and its replacement by a unitary Palestinian state.

> Recommendation by a Jewish Israeli academic

Dahamsha labeled the Israeli government "fascist." Dahamsha has never offered condolences to Israel for the loss of its soldiers.

Against land expropriations, *Dahamsha* told the inhabitants of Nazareth and vicinity that the time has come to struggle with all our strength and if it comes at the price of bloodshed, then we are prepared to spill blood ... The people of Ayn Milil must be ready to provide martyrs and there must be martyrs for Nazereth, Reina, and Kufr Kanna.

Months later, an Islamist suicide bomber -- an Arab citizen of Israel -- killed three people in Nahariya. Just three days later, *Dahamsha* said he himself was willing to be a holy martyr,...

### • MK Hashim Mahamid

United Arab List MK Hashim Mahamid said:

"There will not be security in Tel Aviv without security for the residents of Jenin, Nablus, Qualqilya," intoned Mahamid at a rally, sounding more like PA preventative security chief Muhammad Dahlan than a member of the Israeli legislature. He also claimed that "throwing rocks or blocking roads" was a valid form of protest when an "existential" issue is involved.

## • MK Talib as-Sani

Arab Democratic Party MK Talib as-Sani has called on Druze and Bedouin soldiers in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) to stop serving in what he termed

## "I am an Arab and a Palestinian. Israel's victory is my tragedy."

— Arab MK Asmi Bishara

the "army of occupation and Israel's machine of oppression" and compared the Israeli security services to the Nazi police.

As-Sani invited parliamentary reporters into his Knesset office to witness him observe a minute of silence on May 15, 2001, Israel's Independence Day [but to the Arabs known as "Nabka" (catastrophe) Day and is marked with black flags....

## • MK Azmi Bishara

At [an] Hizbollah victory rally, which took place at the Arab populated city of Uhm al-Fahm, Azmi Bishara said, "Hizbullah has won, and for the first time since 1967 we have tasted the sweet taste of victory."

Bishara, upon his return to Israel and amid calls by Israeli politicians that he be questioned by the police, defiantly declared, "I do not take back anything I said. I am not an Israeli patriot; I am a Palestinian patriot. Israel must understand that I cannot call Syria an enemy country, even if they crucify me!"

Kowtowing to Syria's new president Bashahar al-Assad -- a man who, only a few weeks earlier, had accused the Jews of killing Jesus, in the presence of John Paul II,... A month later, *Bishara* confided to an Israeli how much he respects the young Assad:

"Bashshar [Assad] is one of the most talented people in the Arab world today, in terms of both intellect and lucidity of thought ... he learned all his father's wisdom."

## • MK Muhammad Baraka

Muhammad Baraka called Israel's anti-terror unit an "execution squad." Baraka, too, came out vocally in favor of the Palestinians' intafada. As early as November 2000, he encouraged Arab participation in the violence:

"Israeli Arabs bless the intifda and must take part in it."

NOTE: With only a few exceptions, these MKs are never repudiated by their constituents. As elected leaders of the Arab community, they hear Bishara stating, "I am an Arab and a Palestinian. Israel's victory is my tragedy." They hear as-Sani saying that "just as the Turks and British were here and are gone, the Zionists will pass."

And they hear Dahamsha tell them, almost by way of assurance, that only "20-25 percent of Israeli Arabs want to destroy Israel and kill Jews."

Israel's Arab members of parliament, as well as their voters, have yet to recognize that minority rights are premised on loyalty to the state.

- 1. News reporting, not objective, laced with opinion or commentary, but not labeled as "news analysis."
- 2. Source of News:
  - Primarily from one source and not verified.
  - Absence of an opposing balanced response.
  - Source of response predominantly from the extreme political left or right.
- 3. Selection of wire service stories, photos, or op-eds that reflect the personal views of the editor.
- 4. Placement and size of story:
  - Place it on the front page if it is negative on Israel.

- Bury it on the back page if favorable.
- 5. Frequency of story theme:
  - Repeat frequently if it is unfavorable to Israel.
  - Do not repeat if favorable.
- 6. Headlines and photos that do not reflect the major content of the story.
- 7. Distortions.
- 8. *Omissions and half truths.*
- 9. Inaccuracies.
- Opinion/Commentary that is not balanced or factual.

## PRIMER'S TEN POINTS OF MEDIA BIAS

Continued from page 1-

## Delegitimizing Israel

ing attack on Zionism and the State of Israel. Ms. Armstrong's historical development of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam is laced with a deep rooted bias that undermines the underpinnings of Judaism.

### **JUDAISM**

- *The Exodus* is repeatedly referred to as a "myth", without comment or explanation. It is presented as fact an irrefutable axiom.
- *God of the ancient Jews* is spelled with a small "g".
- The Jews of ancient Jerusalem are characterized as a Jerusalem "cult" or "Zion cult". The Menorah is a "cultic" instrument.
- The construction of the Temple by the House of David was an "act of conquest".
- Over the centuries (Jews) had "muddied" their faith with physical emblems such as "Torah and Temple".

Comment: If Exodus is a "myth," god written with a small "g", and the Torah an "emblem," then the ancient Jewish claim to Israel is, in effect, invalidated. Characterizing Jews of Jerusalem as a "cult" and the Menorah as a "cultic instrument" creates a lens through which the reader sees a strange, mystical cultic people occupying Jerusalem. Defining the sacred Holy Temple in Jerusalem as an "act of conquest" is mystifying, and describing the "Torah and Temple" as "muddied" and merely "physical emblems," is an insult to the Jewish faith and reminiscent of Farakan's classic remark, that "Judaism is a gutter religion."

## **CHRISTIANITY**

- "There were rumors that Jesus had risen -- that his disciples had visions of Jesus walking and talking as though he were alive."
- "members of the Jesus sect performed miracles of healing."

• "God (Jesus) revealed himself to his people."

Comment: Although there were "rumors" that Jesus had "risen" and that after resurrection there were "visions" that he "walked and talked" and "revealed" himself to his people, Ms. Armstrong does not characterize these events as "myths."

### **ISLAM**

- "Mohamed received revelations from Allah."
- "God (capital "G") spoke to the Arabs in their own language."
- "Islam is the religion of peace and unity."
- "Muhammed was praying (in Mecca) and was then carried to Jerusalem on Mohammad's heavenly steed."

Comment: There are no "mythical" characterization in the segment on Islam. Muhammed received "revelations" from God (capital "G") and was carried to Jerusalem on his heavenly steed. Islam is described as a religion of "peace and unity" and not "muddied" with mere "emblems" as the "Torah."

## Chapter on "JIHAD"

The definition of **JIHAD** is "Holy War." Ms. Armstrong, however, adopts a rarely used definition — "struggle" — and devotes an entire chapter to **JIHAD** —the "struggle." There is...

- ... "JIHAD for Jerusalem" "a struggle for social justice".
- ... "The building **JIHAD**" "a struggle to build in Jerusalem".
- ... The urgency in studying Muslim tradition "a **JIHAD**."

## Chapter on "REVIVAL"

• "In the 1820's the Arabs threw out all non-Arabs from Jerusalem — an expression of Arab solidarity."

**Comment:** "Ethnic cleansing" is here characterized as "Arab solidarity" —

an egregious distortion.

• "Bronze age artifacts were found in Jerusalem — pre-dating King David — therefore, it's not possible for Jews to claim the city because they were there first."

Comment: The Jewish claim to Jerusalem does not contradict or deny the existence of the "Bronze Age." Ms. Armstrong attempts to delegitimize the Jewish claim to Jerusalem with irrelevant archeological discoveries. She ignores the Jewish Kingdoms and almost a millennium of Jewish sovereign control.

• "old biblical mythology"

**Comment:** So here we go again — *its* "*mythology*."

## Chapter on ''ISRAEL''

This chapter peels away the transparent veneer of objectivity and impartiality. It reveals a raw anti-Israel bias.

• "Under the British and French Mandate, Jordan, Iraq, Lebanon, Syria....appeared. Other things being equal, Palestine would probably have been an independent state and Jerusalem as its capital... Zionists created a Jewish state."

**Comment:** No mention is made that the League of Nations, adopting the Balfour Declaration, mandated all of Palestine (including the area East of the Jordan River) as a "Jewish Homeland." Nor is there mention that, in 1922, 75% of the mandated "Jewish Homeland" was removed to create a new state-Transjordan (Jordan). Since the majority of the population within this new entity were Palestinian Arabs, in essence, a Palestinian state was created. Nor was there any mention that the 1947 U.N. Partition Plan took the remaining 25% of the original land mandated as a "Jewish Homeland," and further partitioned it, creating a small, vulnerable, truncated Jewish state (accepted reluctantly by the

Jews) and a Palestinian state (rejected by the Arabs). In 1948, as a follow-up to the 1947 U.N. Partition Plan, Israel declared its independence.

The distorted half-truth, that Zionists created a Jewish state, ignores the above narrative, and the prior history of Jewish involvement in the land.

• "Ownership of Jerusalem was contested by Jews, Arabs, and the international community."

Comment: This distorted half-truth is misleading. Western Jerusalem is uncontested by all Jews and the international community. East Jerusalem is claimed by the Palestinian Arabs, and supported by the Arab world and segments of the international community. Most Jews, however, are in agreement that a unified Jerusalem should remain under Israeli control.

• "In 1967, Jewish military diplomatic maneuvers would carry the day."

Comment: What Jewish maneuvers carried what day? There is no mention that Arab maneuvers of expelling U.N. peace-keepers and amassing their troops on the borders in preparation for an attack against Israel precipitated the 1967 six day war.

• "Zionist leaders influenced British and American governments with a canny understanding of the diplomatic process — In the end they got everything."

Comment: Reminiscent of old anti-Semitic canards...Jews have power... Jews control the world.... Jews are "canny." Jews got "everything"? In fact, 75% of the land set aside by the League of Nations as a "Jewish Homeland" was carved out and turned over to Transjordan (Jordan) in 1922. The second partition plan of 1947 (U.N.) was rejected by the Arab world - and then followed by three Arab wars and unrelenting terrorism. There is no mention, that during the 19 years of Jordanian control of the West Bank (1948 to 1967), the Palestinian Arabs did not

ask for an independent state. Not until the creation of the PLO in 1964 was an Independent Palestinian state demanded, encompassing all of Israel. This was to be accomplished by JIHAD. However, recognizing that driving Israel into the sea cannot be attained militarily, the "Phased Plan" amendment to the Covenant was established in 1974, calling for interim acceptance of any portion of the West Bank and Gaza. The final goal, the ultimate destruction of Israel remains unchanged.

• "In 1948 - the depossessed, uprooted, and wandering Jews were replaced by homeless, uprooted Palestinians."

Comment: Again, no mention is made that the invading Arab armies of 1948 precipitated the plight of the "homeless, uprooted Palestinians." Nor is there any mention, that the Arabs that remained in Israel have homes and full Israeli citizenship. Those who fled to the West Bank and Gaza were placed in refugee camps. The Arab world steadfastly refused to absorb them into their communities. Aid offered by Israel to help move the Arab refugees from the camps to homes, was refused. In stark contrast, Israel welcomed and absorbed Jews that fled or were driven from the surrounding Arab nations following the

• "Britain had long entertained the fantasy of returning Jews to Palestine."

**Comment:** Fantasy? The Kingdom of Israel was the last sovereign state in Israel. Jews have maintained a presence in the land ever since. Israel and Jerusalem have been at the very core of Jewish yearning and prayers for 2000 years.

• "Mufti's supporters invaded the Jewish oratory at the wall (Western)."

**Comment:** Prayer is "oratory"? A degrading expression.

• "Why should they (Arabs) suffer loss of their country because of anti-Semitic crimes of Europe... an entirely valid and unanswerable question."

Comment: Palestine was never a sovereign Arab country. Since the destruction of the Temple over 2000 years ago, the land was occupied by many nations until the re-birth of the state of Israel in 1948.

• "Palestinians lost their homeland — been wiped off the maps — suffered a form of annihilation-their catastrophe."

**Comment:** Language of incitement that is often used by the PLO. How could a nation that never existed be "wiped off the map"?

• "On 13 May 1967, the Soviets informed Syria that Israel is about to invade its territories - probably misinformed. Egypt responded by a supposed threat to an ally by moving 100,000 troops to Sinai and closing the Gulf of Agaba."

**Comment:** A shameless attempt to revise history, ignore Egypt's expulsion of U.N. observers, the blockage of the Gulf of Aqaba, and the continued threat to destroy Israel.

• "Three weeks before the start of the six-day war - a Rabbi Zvi Kook, sobbed- "It was a sin to leave these holy sites (Jerusalem, Hebron, Jericho) in the hands of the "goyem".

**Comment:** The Rabbi emotionally and inappropriately responded to years of Jewish banishment from these cities.

### Chapter on "ZION?"

• "They (Jordan) did their best ... 200 (Jordanians) died in the defense of the Holy City (Jerusalem)."

In this chapter titled, "ZION?," the question mark places a cloud over Zion's legitimacy.

Comment: Again, the distorted lens of a history revisionist. Viewing Jordan as a defender of the Holy City against the Israeli invaders is a reversal of fact. Jordan attacked Israel and seized East Jerusalem in 1948. It was also Jordan who ignored the pleadings of Israel not to enter the war with Egypt and Syria. Had Jordan heeded Israel's pleadings, the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, would have remained under Jordanian control.

No mention is made that during Jordan's 19 years of illegal annexation of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, the Arabs destroyed and desecrated the Holy City's synagogues and toppled gravestones in Mt. Olive Cemetery. Many of the gravestones were used for roads, military barracks, and latrines. Indeed - "in defense of the Holy City"?! Nor is there mention, that during Jordan's 19 year control of the Holy City, Jews were not permitted to enter East Jerusalem, or pray at its holiest site, the Western Wall. Today, under Israeli control, people of all faiths are entitled to live and

to pray in Jerusalem.

• "The conquest of the City (East Jerusalem) was a startling evocation of myths and legends that had nurtured Jews for centuries"

Comment: The distorted lens of a history revisionist. "Conquest" implies an offensive war for the sole purpose of conquering land. Israel "captured" not "conquered" East Jerusalem in a defensive war. By characterizing the holy city as "myths and legends" for Jews, the author attempts to delegitimize the Jewish claim to Jerusalem

• "Israel the conqueror (six-day war) — Arabs, beginning to be eliminated from Jerusalem."

**Comment:** Again, Israel the "conqueror" - the aggressor, eliminating Arabs from Jerusalem. This egregiously false "ethnic cleansing" label ignores the fact that there are more Arabs in Jerusalem today then in 1967.

• "Since the destruction of the temple, Jews relinquished notion of physically occupying Jerusalem-"

**Comment:** Absolutely false. "Next year in Jerusalem" has been in the thoughts and prayers of Jews from time immemorial.

• "There's a new Jewish passion for the holiness of Jerusalem - because it was a "myth".

**Comment:** How can an old passion be "new"? Again, the author's "myth" lens.

• " During the first 10 years after annexation the Israeli government seized 37,000 acres from Arabs...an art of conquest and destruction."

Comment: Again, the author's biased lens of word images - "seized - acts of conquest-destruction." Israel did not "seize" Arab land. After the 1967 War, Israel inherited large tracts of state land that had been under British control during the British Mandate. The sale of privately owned Arab land is negotiated and purchased as any other private land would be. In fact, Arafat and the Palestinian Authority recently declared that any Palestinian who sells land to a Jew would be executed.

• "Hopes of the right soared when the new government (LiKud) called for massive settlement of the West Bank - but to their horror, Begin began to make peace with the Arab world."

Comment: Disingenuous - inaccuratedistorted. When Begin made peace with Sadat, the new LiKud government overwhelmingly supported Begin, and not in "horror". They yearned for peace - as all Israelis do, and they trusted Sadat.

• "Religious spirit emerged in Israel ... fostered not compassion but murderous hatred."

Comment: The author uses an isolated incident by an extremist in a 1980 plot to avenge the murder of six Yeshiva students, to make a false and sweeping charge of a religious spirit of murderous hatred emerging in Israel, but ignores the fact that these extremists are condemned by most Israelis. In contrast, the "murderous hatred" directed against Israeli civilians are proudly claimed by Islamic religious organizations and hailed as martyrs by Yasser Arafat.

• "The might of the Israeli army could not be used indefinitely to batter into submission the mothers and children who took part in the intifada"

**Comment:** An outrageous distortion conveying brutal behavior against innocent "mothers and children". There is no mention that the "demonstrators," primarily young men, often used Molotov cocktails and other lethal weapons. Nor is there any mention that the PLO often placed children on the front line as an effective propaganda weapon.

• "For the ultra orthodox and far right groups, a divided Jerusalem is a dead Jerusalem."

**Comment:** This misleading half-truth omits the fact that a united Jerusalem is overwhelmingly shared by all segments of Israeli society.

• "Since the 1967 conquest, there has been continued appropriation of Arab Land."

**Comment:** A classic tactic of a propagandist: "If you repeat a lie frequently enough it will be accepted as truth."

• "Today's Jerusalem is marked by huge new settlements which crouch around the city...Palestinians are not made welcome in Zion today."

Comment: The author's familiar demonizing "Lens" - Israel, the predator, "crouches" for his victim, the Palestinians. There is no mention that Jews were not only not welcomed in East Jerusalem for 19 years (1948-1967), it was also "Judenrein."

• "Like the Israelis today, the Crusaders had founded a Kingdom that was a foreign enclave. The Crusaders shared Israel's passion for security."

Comment: An immoral equivalence. Unprovoked and with religious zeal, the Crusaders attacked and conquered the Holy Land. Israel, however, was established as a sovereign state following the U.N. partition plan of 1947. Ms.

Armstrong concludes by shamelessly comparing Israel's deep concern for "security" and 50 years of terrorism with the Crusaders' brutal aggression.

• "The State of Israel, founded after the catastrophe of the Holocaust, had not always implemented policies of sweetness and lights."

Comment: The author's hateful sarcasm "sweetness and lights," ignores Israel's continued struggle with terrorism and war with a hostile Arab world, that clearly does not welcome Jews with "sweetness and lights."

• "Zionist's had come to Palestine to establish a Homeland. . .where Jews would be safe from murderous 'goyim.' Now Jews will kill one another for the sake of that land."

Comment: The slur, "Goyim," was used in anguish by Rabbi Kook in an overview of the tragic history of the Jewish people dwelling among the nations but is then sarcastically adopted by Ms. Armstrong in her new context.

Ms. Armstrong uses the sweeping outrageous generalization, that "Jews will kill one another for the sake of that land," in reference to the tragedy of the assassination of Prime-Minister Yitzhak Rabin by a loner. However, that uncharacteristic and singular act was condemned by Jews around the world.

• "Jews experienced exile . . . this burden of suffering has now been passed by the State of Israel to the Palestinians.... it's not surprising that Palestinians have not always behaved in an exemplary manner . . . in the course of their own struggle for survival."

Comment: Claiming that Jewish suffering and persecution in exile has now been passed to the Palestinians is an egregious falsehood in its mischaracterization of historical events. The author then proceeds to justify Arab terrorism with insensitive sarcasm — "Palestinians have not always behaved in an exemplary fashion." She ignores the many attempts made by Israel to compromise with the Palestinian Arabs and ignores the latter's unrelenting campaign of terrorism and their open declarations of their intentions to destroy Israel. Ms. Armstrong's distortions leads her to reverse history. It was the Jews, not the Palestinian Arabs, who "struggled for survival."

## Afterword:

Jerusalem was never the declared capitol of a sovereign Muslim state. It was, however, the declared capitol of a sovereign Jewish state that was conquered by the Babylonians in the Sixth Century B.C.E. and then by the Romans in 70 CE. Finally, after 2000 years of longing and waiting, a Jewish state was

re-born in 1948, with Jerusalem once again its declared capitol, though the eastern part of the city then remained in Arab hands. As late as 1964, the Palestinian National Covenant presented in that year does not mention Jerusalem. It was not until 1968 shortly after the 1967 six-day war which resulted in the reuniting of Jerusalem under Israeli control — that Jerusalem was politically identified in the PLO's constitution as the seat of the Palestine Liberation Organization. Jerusalem is not mentioned in The Koran nor recited in Muslim prayers. Conversely, the Holy City is mentioned hundreds of times in the Hebrew Bible and frequently cited in Jewish prayers.

"JERUSALEM - ONE CITY THREE FAITHS" masquerades as an objective study of the historical, religious, and cultural roots of the three great religions. Distortions, untruths, half-truths, omissions, history revisionism - all classic tools of a propagandist are shamelessly utilized by the author in an insidious attempt to delegitimize the Jewish claim to Jerusalem and erode the very foundation of its claim to the land of Israel.

It is a well known fact that if a lie is repeated frequently it will be accepted as truth. It will mold public opinion that steers public policy. Unchallenged, it can adversely effect Israel's future and survival.

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# Society of Professional Journalists CODE OF ETHICS

- ... the duty of journalists is to serve the truth....
- ....There is no excuse for inaccuracies or lack of thoroughness.
- .... Newspaper headlines should be fully warranted by the contents of the articles they accompany. Photographs and telecasts should give an accurate picture of an event and not highlight an incident out of context.
- .... News reports should be free of opinion or bias and represent all sides of an issue.
- .... Special articles or presentations devoted to advocacy or the writer's own conclusions and interpretations should be labeled as such.

# The following are exerpts of PRIMER member letters, many of which have been published, thereby reaching hundreds of thousands of readers with their message.

## • To: The Hartford Courant July 29, 2001

Colin McEnroe's 5-page defense and/or justification of Courant columnist Amy Pagnozzi and its editor for having such a Jew hater on the staff ("Amy and the Jews," July 15) shows that the paper is worried that they may have gone too far in pushing the First Amendment envelope. The Constitution gives them that right but Courant readers also have the right to express their disgust.

Writing is an art form. Just as a boxer's fists are lethal weapons, newspaper columnists have the ability to promote turmoil. Yet, when called to task, they hide behind the facade of a professional mutual admiration society and the Constitution.

This is not a game. Journalists can do wrong.

Because of inflamatory writings by columnists, innocent lives are at stake in the Middle East.

The Journalists' words become the terrorists bullets. Just because The Courant publishes side-by-side pros and cons doesn't justify their printing garbage in the first place.

It is ironic that Amy Pagnozzi is living proof of the assertion that some of the most virulent anti-Semites are Jews.

## • To: The Hartford Courant September 8, 2001

Although a tragedy for both people, the Israeli-Palestinian struggle is not the center stage act. With the terror involvement of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah emerges the true center stage act of radical fundamentalism versus American interests in that region and the world.

Across the globe we see persecution of Copt Christians in Egypt and Bahais in Iran, massacre of Dinkas in Sudan, terrorizing Christians in Lebanon and East Timor, butchering Biafran Ibos in Nigeria, persecution of Hindus in Afganistan and the Philippines, formenting of wars in Algeria, former U.S.S.R., Balkins, Afganistan, and the Asian sub-continent.

These flindalmentalist groups along with the rogue states of Syria, Libya, Iran and Iraq have as their final goal, Israel or no Israel, the destruction of American influence in the world so they are free to control large land masses, millions of people and oil through terror and racist ideology.

The bombing of the World Trade Center, the G.I. barracks in Saudi Arabia, the U.S. Embassies in Africa, and the USS Cole is only the beginning of terror against the U.S.

Once these groups obtain weapons of mass destruction along with intercontinental missiles, the potential of a world disaster becomes a real possibility.

# • To: *The Hartford Courant*RE: Englehart Cartoon *October 25*, 2001

Let me see if I understand Englehart's cartoon correctly. When the United States is dealt a terrible blow by terrorists and begins bombing the bejeebers out of the bad guys and sending in Special Forces, this Is "Justice".

When Israel is dealt a terrible blow by terrorists and resorts to similar military action to search out and eliminate the perpetrators of this terror, this is "Insanity."

Somehow I just don't get it. Both the United States and Israel have the obligation to protect and defend its citizens. In both cases the host people, (the Taliban and the Palestinian Authority) have protected and encouraged the terrorists. In both cases diplomacy failed and the use of military force turned out to be the only available option.

I'm sorry Mr. Englehart, your reasoning is specious. Terrorism must be eliminated wherever it is found, and if military action is the only way, then so be it, regardless of whether it is us or Israel who are the targets. □

## • To: *The Hartford Courant*November 27, 2001

The Courant reports that Secretary of State Powell is urging Israel to use restraint in response to the latest terrorist activities. What's happened? Chairman Arafat is not able to control Hezbollah/Jihad/Hamas/Fatah. The terrorism continues. He can not/will not control his people. Should he be replaced as a viable leader with the Palestinian Authority? If Israel can not deal effectively with the PA, and Israel is on the receiving end of terrorism from the PA, WHY should they show restraint?

## • To: The Hartford Courant September 15, 2001

This concerns your editorial comments that 'Israel's government is not persuasive in arguing that it is acting in self-defense when it kills Palestinian leaders it describes as terrorists." The headline was "Assassination Isn't Self Defense," and your conclusion was that "it is time to get back to the peace table," and that "The Palestinian Authority must crack down hard on radicals who plot attacks on Israeli civilians..."

The media reports and analyzes news, but also by the choice of words, images and placement, shapes our interpretation of events which are far beyond our direct knowledge. Thus, when we read about or see a terrorist attack on America, we get a vivid impression about what terrorism is, and what a terrorist attack on American citizens in their own country looks like.

Concerning choice of words, I hope our government is persuasive to you in arguing their case that it is acting in self-defense if we kill someone else's leaders we describe as terrorists. I hope you will write that it's time to go the peace table but that the attackersand governnments

that support them must crack down on their radicals who plot attacks on American civilians (particularlary in land that is not disputed).

If our president and his advisors eschew going to the peace table to negotiate with these leaders about what they want in exchange for leaving our civilians alone -- at least on his country's third attempt at the peace table -- I hope you will not describe our leaders and his party as "hawkish" rather than "conservarive."

I hope the Courant and the rest of the media, when using the tremendous power they have over words and images to shape opinion, will pay more attention to the meaning and impact of words.

"Terrorist" means something different than "militant" or "radical" when describing who perpretated the incident and why it occured. "Citizen" means something different than "civilian" in describing who it was aimed at, where it occured, or why it occured. "Government" means something different than "leader" when describing who's in charge of what.

Please do your part in helping us not to extinguish innocent life in the name of claims to land, religion, political beliefs, or ancient grievances by the words you choose and the pictures you use. If you do that, educated citizens in a free society can figure out the rest, will disagree, but will not kill those who disagree.

## • To: *The Boston Globe* September 21, 2001

By his vitriolic, anti-Israel rhetoric, Derrick Jackson showed himself in his column today ("a call for US to be fair to Palestinians," 9/21/01) to be allied with half the program of the terrorist savages that butchered Americans in New York.

Unlike President Bush, who declared last night that the US will not allow the terrorists to achieve their objective of removing a rightful Israel from the Middle East, Jackson actively works with the Arab terrorists in Israel in advocating just that heinous objective.

Jackson is utterly biased and refuses to see that the side of the terrorists he is supporting in the Arab Israeli war is partnered with Saddam Hussein of Iraq, Syria, Iran, and Libya. Not only did the Palestinian Arabs support Saddam Hussein in the Gulf War, but these same Arabs today are perpetrators and exponents of terrorism against Israel and the world, jumping for joy when Americans are murdered. While Jackson calls for "fairness," he is devoid of that virtue in his view of Israel. When President Bush completes his task of ridding the world of the terrorists, I have no doubt that it will include Arafat and his forces -- Jackson's friends.

For Jackson's information and for the information of Globe editors, Israel occupies no other nation's lands. Israel today has the only legitimate sovereign claim to "the unallotted lands of the Mandate of Palestine," a mandate which was established for the purpose of a creating a Jewish homeland. Moreover, that mandate allowed to the Jewish people "unlimited, close settlement" on all lands of the Mandate. Israel was in the act of negotiating the sharing of this land patrimony for peace with the Arabs when the Arafat responded with violence and terrorism, disappointed that he would not be able to destroy Israel. Without an agreement acceptable to Israel, the Arabs have no legitimate claim to Israeli

A second point is that the vast majority of the Arabs killed by Israel was in defense. These Arabs had been engaged in deadly violence -- acts that the Arab side had pledged to renounce when they entered peace talks with Israel. Jackson completely ignores this criminal, murderous Arab violence and terrorism in his article and Israel's need to defend itself from this horror. Jackson's blindness to facts tells clearly that he is not an objective observer, if not an actual part of the Arab terrorist network of useful idiots working feverishly and mindlessly in their support.

## • To: The Hartford Courant May 14, 2002

Amy Pagnozzi's 5-14-02 column "An Unexpected Trip To An "Un-Holy" Land" reports on a story that was given to her by a man who visited Jenin following the battle there between the Israeli and Palestinian combatants. In her story it is reported, among other things, that Jenin could be compared with "Hiroshima after the bomb was dropped, Turkey after the earthquake" and "Jenin was leveled -- pulverized."

These are incredible exaggerations, more like lies.

The Jenin pictures I saw on TV and in newspapers showed that an area about the size of one or two football fields was demolished and the vast majority of the town was not impacted. This area is where Israel fought to stop the homicide bombers and their facilities in response to their murderous attacks on innocent Israeli civilians.

There are two problems here. One is the terrible exaggeration of what happened in Jenin that gives the wrong idea about how Israel responded to repeated terrorist attacks. The other problem is that while Amy likes to give readers the impression she is against violence, I have no recollection of any of her articles describing the atrocities committed by Palestinian terrorists. When is Amy going to report on the horrors of the flesh, limbs, torsos, blood and guts of Israeli women and children that are strewn about following a Palestinian terrorist bombing?

To: *The Hartford Courant OP-ED by Alan Stein April 21*, 2002

It's hard to believe that the editorial "Bloodletting Continues" printed in the April 21, 2002 issue of the Courant was written by persons with any knowledge of what has happened in the Middle East in the last year, decade, or half century.

The editorial writers appeared surprised that "Mr. Bush admonished them

[Arab governments) to show more interest in peace and denounce Palestinian suicide bombers," apparently since "they have in fact denounced the bombers as well as Israel's military invasion."

Perhaps the writers are unaware that those governments coupled that tepid denunciation of those terrorists with continued financial support, including bonuses to the families of terrorist bombers. So-called "moderate" Saudi Arabia even held a telethon to raise funds for terrorists and their families.

The editorial noted that "only a month ago, the administration had praised Arab governments after they unanimously agreed at their Beirut summit on a peace plan that would normalize relations with Israel and create a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza."

Strangely, the editorial ignores the fact that the Saudis continue to refuse to even present their one-sided "plan" to the nation most intimately involved, Israel, and that many of the same despotic regimes praised for agreeing to the plan made it clear they didn't really mean it.

The writers are also disappointed with President Bush for "treating the prime minister [of Israel] with kid gloves."

Perhaps he is. However, Israel's prime minister has responded, putting the citizens of his nation in danger by prematurely pulling troops out of terrorist dens. Undoubtedly, innocent Israeli civilians will pay for that accommodation with their lives, as terrorists who would otherwise have been apprehended, using explosives that would otherwise have been found and confiscated, blow themselves up in pizzerias or discotheques in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and other cities.

Meanwhile, both our president and the Courant editorial treat the world's senior terrorist with kid gloves. Yasser Arafat may have renounced terrorism dozens of times since 1993, but that has never stopped him from practicing it and he now refuses to give even an insincere commitment to stop.

"Give the Palestinians hope of withdrawal of foreign troops from their homeland, and they will respond."

Those "foreign troops" were out of their lives a year and a half ago; the response of the Palestinian Arabs at that time was to launch their terrorist assault that continues to this day.

The government of Israel offered to leave virtually all of Judea, Samaria, and Gaza a year and a half ago, despite the fact that Israel has more legal, moral and historical right to that territory than any other nation or entity; the response of the Palestinian Arabs at that time was to launch their terrorist assault that continues to this day,

Perhaps the editorial is correct, but the evidence so far is that their favorite response is terrorism.

"Give the Israelis hope that the suicide bombings will end, and they will demand that their leader show restraint."

Their leaders have shown restraint for a year and a half and continue to show restraint. We in America had a single day of terrorist attacks. It changed our lives forever and we have been fighting and bombing those who planned them for seven months with no end in sight.

Israel has had a year and a half of constant terrorist attacks, following a half century of merely frequent terrorist attacks, but ispulling its forces back after less than a month.

The editorial is inadvertently correct about one thing: the statement that "long-lasting security for Israel will come only after there is also security for Palestinians." Unfortunately, its implied reasoning is wrong.

Security for the Palestinians will indeed come when they stopmassacring innocent Israelis -- and they know it. All Israeli militaryactions have come in response to Arab attacks or threats of attack.

When the Palestinian Arabs are not attacking Israelis, they have nothing to fear from Israel. Thus, security for the Palestinian Arabsis ultimately under their own control and when they, by their actions, enable their own security, they will be simultaneously bringing about Israel's security.

Finally, the editorial naively avers "it's time to approve a fourth U.N.

resolution now under consideration. This one would quickly assemble and deploy a multinational force to monitor the withdrawal of Israeli troops, separate both sides, and stop suicide bombings."

The United Nations has proven itself incapable of doing anything to prevent Arab terrorism; indeed, its presence has generally been counterproductive.

In coordination with the United Nations, Israel withdrew completely from Lebanese territory about two years ago. The United Nations pledged to keep the border safe. Shortly thereafter, Hizbollah terrorists crossed the border and, while being videotaped by United Nations "peace-keeping" forces, kidnapped three Israelis, whom they later murdered. Not only did the United Nations not do anything to interfere with the terrorists, it for months denied it had a videotape of the crime and, after being caught in that lie, refused to give the videotape to Israel!

Periodically since, under the watchful eye of the United Nations peacekeepers, Hizbollah launches Katyusha missiles across the border at Israeli towns and villages and the United Nations does nothing.

Perhaps the greatest uninvestigated scandal since World War II is the way the so-called refugee camps run by the United Nations have been turned into terrorist bases.

In schools under the auspices of the United Nations, children are taught about the glory of martyrdom.

When Israeli soldiers went into those refugee camps, whose very existence is a scandal that should bring shame upon that once great hope to mankind, it found hundreds of bomb factories and tons of weapons and munitions. In the camp in Jenin, dozens if not hundreds of homes had been booby-trapped. None of this could have been done without the knowledge of United Nations personnel, since the camps themselves encompass very small areas. Yet the United Nations did nothing, effectively turning itself into, at best, a tool of the terrorists.

Thus, to look to the United Nations

as a vehicle to stop terrorist attacks is, at best, naive. Indeed, the very mention of involving the United Nations, given its record, most likely offers encouragement to terrorists around the world.

Peace will come to the portion of the Middle East where Israel lives when the Palestinian Arabs, their allies and their apologists are finally convinced that terrorism will no longer be rewarded and their violence will not enable them to dictate a solution on their terms.

Although clearly unrecognized by the editorial writers of the Hartford Courant, Israel has demonstrated time and time again that it is eager for peace and willing to make far reaching and painful compromises in order to achieve it.

Unfortunately, while peace is the primary goal for Israel and the only real internal disputes are over over how high a price its citizens are willing to pay and whether a given price will actually bring peace, the Arab world is still debating over whether it will even pretend to be interested in peace, regardless of the bribe being offered for it.

Until that changes, peace is the impossible dream; if and when that changes, it will be easy to reach a compromise and peace can come quickly.

**NOTE:** The following correspondence by a **PRIMER** member with principal staff members of the media illustrates other effective methods of getting our message directly to the media source.

## To: Brad Davis WDRC Radio Talk Program May 10, 2002

Dear Brad:

Thank you, Brad. Thank you very much for your strong statements in support of Israel and against anti-Semitism which you made on your May 10 radio program. I was moved by your words. In these times when much of the world is against Israel, and the United States is the only country aiding Israel in its struggle to survive, your public support is greatly appreciated. Further-

more, your voice against the growing expressions of hatred toward Jews is so important to a people who have been resisting their eradication for centuries

I would appreciate it very rnuch if you would e-mail your May 10 radio statement to me so that I could share it with others who missed your program. It is important to those of us who are supporting Israel and fighting anti-Semitism that there are people like you who are speaking out on our behalf.

Allan B. Pilver

• To: The Hartford Courant
ATT: Karen Hunter
Reader Representative
May 21, 2002

It is irresponsible that the Courant not only continues to publish Amy Pagnozzi's column, but that they don't even allow rebuttal to her outrageous and purposeful misrepresentations in her periodic attacks against Israel. She is an individual who appears to be consumed by her hatred of Israel. I have sent letters to the editor many times to rebut Pagnozzi, and I feel I can confidently assume that others have too, yet the Courant chooses to let stand Pagnozzi's distortions. Her recent column that compared Jenin to "Hiroshima after the bomb was dropped" and "Turkey after the earthquake," even after Palestinian claims of a massacre were exposed as a lie, is the latest example.

It has been said that propaganda can be just as efective for what is not said as what is said. Pagnozzi, with the Courant acting as her facilitator, is able to accomplish her propaganda campaign both ways.

It is one thing to publish differing opinions, but publishing Pagnozzi's columns, especially when rebuttals are kept from the public, makes one wonder about the Courant's motives. The Courant is not helping its credibility as a fair and truthftul newspaper amongst its readership.

Allan B. Pilver

cc: John Zakarian

## FROM: The Hartford Courant

(John Zakarian, Vice President and Editorial page Editor, responding to Allan Pilver's letters.)

Dear Mr. Pilver:

We have run letters taking issue with Amy Pagnozzi's columns. We will continue running such letters, if they come. But we do not run every letter we receive primarily because of space constraints. We publish a representative sample of the responses.

Please understand that The Courant welcomes rebuttals. We do not protect Ms. Pagnozzi or any other Courant writer from letters-to-the-editor criticism, any more than we protect George Will and Charies Krauthammer from their attacks against Palestinians."

[John Zakerian]

# Contributors & References

• Media references used in this issue include the following:

Boston Globe Hartford Courant Jerusalem Post Middle East Quarterly Near East Report

## • Special thanks to:

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## Contributing to the 2003 issue of **Media Review:**

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## **MEDIA REVIEW**

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