

NEWS SUMMARY

A summary of the review of the Hartford Courant news articles is provided in *Table 1*, on page 23.

NEWS ARTICLES -TEXT

"Pro" classifications were simply evaluated as to whether the article text was generally favorable toward Israel or the Palestinians. A brief explanation for the classification was often given in the "*Comments*" column of APPENDIX A. It also revealed a major component of bias - omission. However, this report is not a comprehensive evaluation as to whether or not "Pro" classification of each news article contained inaccuracies, distortions or other bias components. Nevertheless, a number of articles briefly analyzed in the "*Comments*" column contained Pro-Palestinian components of bias, primarily omission.

A total of forty-seven (47) Pro-Palestinian; thirty-four (34) Pro-Israel; and seventy-five (75) Neutral news articles appeared in the Courant, resulting in an approximate 58% to 42% ratio of non-neutral articles with a bias favorable toward Palestinians.

NEWS HEADLINES

- **Headline Bias**

There were sixty (60) Pro-Palestinian; eighteen (18) Pro-Israel; and seventy-eight (78) Neutral headlines. The ratio on non-neutral articles favoring Palestinians over Israel is approximately 77% to 23%.

- **Headlines Treat Palestinians and Israelis Differently**

A Hartford Courant news article headline characteristic that occurred many times is that when Israel was engaged in an aggressive action, Israel was identified in the headline. However, when the Palestinians took the action, they were not identified as such, with few exceptions. The following table presents examples of headlines in which Palestinians are not identified as the perpetrators or Israelis as victims.

Headline	Date	Comments
"Gunmen Storm Israeli Settlement"	4/28/02	Why not "Palestinian Terrorists Kill Israeli Civilians in Settlement" That is what happened.
"Deadly Suicide Blast Rips Israeli Club"	5/08/02	Why not "Palestinian Bomber Murders Civilians, Including Children, In Pool Hall?"
"A Mother Goes Out, Pays With Her Life"	5/09/02	Why not "An Israeli Mother Goes Out, Murdered By Palestinian Bomber?"
"NO RESPITE FROM VIOLENCE"	5/20/02	Why not "Palestinian Homicide Bomber Blows Up Israeli Civilians At Netanya Market?"
"Two Israelis Killed In Suicide Bombing"	5/23/02	Why not " Palestinian Homicide Bomber Kills Two Israelis At Public Garden?"
"Bomb Explodes At Israel's Largest Fuel Depot"	5/24/02	Why not "Palestinian Bomb Explodes At Israel's Largest Fuel Depot"
"4 Israelis Killed In West Bank"	5/29/02	Why not "Palestinian Terrorists Kill 4 Israeli Civilians?" Is killing Israeli civilians justified when it occurs in the West Bank?
"Militant Group Finding Teenagers Eager To Join"	5/30/02	Why not "Palestinian Terrorist Group Finding Teenagers Eager To Join?"
"Woman Stole Israeli Identity"	6/02/02	Why not "Palestinian Woman Stole Israeli Identity?"
"Gunmen Attack Settlement; 2 Israelis Killed"	6/08/02	Why not "Palestinian Terrorists Attack Settlement And Murder 2 Israelis?"
"More Die In Mideast Violence"	6/09/02	Why not " 4 Palestinian Terrorist Attacks; Young, Pregnant Israeli Woman And Husband Murdered In One Attack?"
"Bomber Strikes At	6/12/02	Why not "Palestinian Bomber Strikes Israeli

Headline	Date	Comments
Restaurant"		Restaurant?"
"Bomber's Words: 'How Beautiful It Is To Kill And Be Killed' "	6/19/02	Why not "Palestinian Bomber's Words: 'How Beautiful It Is To Kill And Be Killed' ?"
"Attacks Put Bush Plan On Hold"	6/20/02	Why not " Palestinian Terrorist Attacks Put Bush Plan On Hold?"
"Attacks Spurred Service"	7/10/02	Why not "Palestinian Terrorist Attacks Spurred Service?"
"Israeli Bus Attacked, Killing 7"	7/17/02	Why not "Palestinian Terrorists Attack Israeli Bus And Kill 7?"
"Bombs Shatter Relative Calm"	7/18/02	Why not "Palestinian Tandem Bombers Attack Civilians In Tel Aviv?"

There was one newspaper report that was published on June 21, 2002 that did include "Palestinians" in its headline. The headline read "Palestinians Attack Settlement." The article told of a terrorist attack that murdered 4 members of the same Israeli family. Thus even though "Palestinians" was in the headline, the headline was soft relative to the atrocity committed by the Palestinian terrorists. It should have read: "Palestinian Terrorists Murdered 4 Members Of Israeli Family."

On the other hand there were eighteen headlines starting with the word "Israel" or "Israeli." These included "Israeli Forces Blow Up Palestinian Quarters" on 6/29/02, and "Israeli Strike Kills 11 In Gaza" on 7/23/02.

The significance of this approach to headline writing is that the reader may have construed Israel as the aggressor or perpetrator of an event, but no such opportunity occurred when "Palestinians" were excluded from headlines. An example is reference to a "Bomber," but not a "Palestinian Suicide Bomber." This sort of news reporting contributes to distorted image making.

- **Misleading or Disconnected Headlines**

There were headlines that delivered a misleading message. One such headline stated "Palestinian Sentiment Builds Against Bombers." The implication was that the Palestinian population was having a change of heart; they were coming to the understanding that suicide bombing was bad. That could be construed as Palestinians taking a step toward achieving peace, putting them in a favorable light. However, the article text actually reported that some Palestinians disliked the idea of youths trying to carry out suicide bombings because they were apt to fail as a result of their inexperience or immaturity. Thus the outcome was Palestinian youths whose lives were wasted when they were killed by Israeli Defense Forces (IDF) but without killing Israelis. The article stated that Palestinians said only those twenty-one years or older should be suicide bombers. Why is there a reluctance to use the word "suicide" (or "homicide")? In the Headline table, only one out of five headlines used the word "suicide" preceding the word bomber or bombing.

Another article headline read "Teen Bomber Needed Driving Lessons." Although the article was neutral, the headline was a diversion from the atrocity of the bus homicide bombing that killed seventeen Israelis and caused terrible grief suffered by many others. A small photo of the teen bomber, depicting him as a nice young boy accompanied the report. This distorted image considerably lessened the impact of his terrible deed.

A third example is a headline that read "U.S. Debates Mideast Strategy." The article contained a report about a Palestinian suicide bomber's attack at a shopping mall. The attacker killed at least two Israelis and injured twenty others. The article does not include any photos of the carnage or suffering caused by the bomber, nor is the terrorist attack reflected in a headline.

NEWS ARTICLE LOCATION

Nearly twenty-five (25) percent of the Mideast news reports appeared on the front page during this period. A clear-cut bias in article placement was not evident. (Nevertheless, there were a few instances of bias placement and they are discussed in the CONCLUSIONS section.) The largest number of front-page articles was neutral. The sixty-one (61) neutral articles on inside pages were far more than those with a bias. The articles that appeared on inside pages that were not neutral favored the Palestinians over Israel by *thirty-seven (37) to twenty-one (21)*.

Overall, considering front page plus inside page articles, almost half were judged neutral. Of the remainder nearly *60% were Pro-Palestinian versus 40% Pro-Israel*.

NEWS ARTICLE SIZE

Almost half of the Mideast articles published during this period were large articles. Excluding the forty-five (45) percent of the large articles that were balanced or neutral, the rest of the large articles were decidedly *Pro-Palestinian (27) over Pro-Israel (15)*. Approximately one-half of the medium plus small size articles were neutral. The remaining medium plus small size articles were nearly evenly split between being Pro-Israel and Pro-Palestinian.

NEWS PHOTOS

The news photos published in the Courant during this period were overwhelmingly Pro-Palestinian. *Fifty-six (56) percent were Pro-Palestinian; twenty-one (21) percent Pro-Israel and twenty-three (23) percent neutral*.

LOCATION OF PHOTOS

The ratio of Pro-Palestinian photos on the front page to Pro-Israel photos was significant – *eight to five*. And there were more than three (3) times as many Pro-Palestinian photos on inside pages versus Pro-Israel photos -- *twenty-seven to eight*.

SIZE OF PHOTOS

Three times as many large Pro-Palestinian photos appeared versus large Pro-Israel photos, i.e., *eighteen to six*. There were substantially more medium plus small size Pro-Palestinian photos (17) than Pro-Israel medium plus small size photos (7).

THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY CRISIS

The tense confrontation between the IDF and Palestinians at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem was ongoing during the review time period. There was a widely held concern that a battle between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian terrorists could erupt and result in significant damage to this important Christian holy place.

The photos taken outside and inside the Church and published in the Courant consistently depicted the IDF as a powerful aggressor or bully and the Palestinians, many of whom were terrorists, as victims. Little or no mention was made about who these Palestinians were and that it was their decision to cause a crisis at the Church. The photos and stories carried by the media appeared to be setting up pre-determined judgement of Israeli guilt should the Church be damaged. A particular example are the photos by L.A. Times photographer Carolyn Cole, who ran into the Church with an alleged activist "peace" group during the standoff. Photos were taken creating misplaced sympathy for the Palestinian terrorists who were using the Church and its occupants as a protective shield.

Date	Description of Photo
4/24/02	The photo showed apprehensive Catholic nuns and an Israeli soldier nearby on patrol.
4/26/02	The photo showed Palestinians, accompanied by monks, carrying a corpse from the Church of the Nativity.
5/03/02	Two photos were published. One showed Israeli soldiers struggling with so-called peace activists seeking to bring food and medicine to Palestinians inside the Church. The second photo showed an Israeli soldier with an automatic weapon near Manger Square in front of the Church, and near an overturned vehicle and an Israeli tank.
5/05/02	The photo showed Israeli soldiers rushing by a burning building in Bethlehem.
5/11/02	The newspaper contained two photos on this date. A large photo showed a Christian resting under a crescent of religious paintings in the Church. The other photo showed a Palestinian fighter looking back through windows in the Church.
5/12/02	The photo showed photographer Carolyn Cole being escorted out of the Church surrounded by 7 Israeli soldiers. It looked like a powerful army around a defenseless woman.
6/30/02	Although the crisis at the Church ended over a month earlier, the Courant published 4 Carolyn Coles photos that she took while in the Church. The Palestinians in the photos are portrayed as seeking safety from the IDF. The text accompanying the photos reports on casualties and danger experienced by the Palestinians, but no mention that some are terrorists.

JENIN

The IDF entered Jenin in response to Palestinian terrorist attacks and battles ensued. The Palestinians told the world the Israelis were slaughtering them, there was massive destruction and Israelis disposed of bodies in mass burials. People, human rights groups, and nations from around the globe were outraged and the charges against Israel persisted. Israel called the accusations untrue. The UN and Israel could not come to an agreement on the terms for a UN inspection of Jenin, Israel being concerned that the UN would not be fair.

This story received major coverage in the Courant, including front page locations, photos, large articles, etc. Yet when the evidence revealed that the Palestinians lied and worldwide condemnation of Israel was unfounded, on May 3, 2002, the Courant reported on the outcome of the Jenin investigations. It was buried way back on page A15.

Hartford Courant reporter Amy Pagnozzi's column on May 14, 2002, "An Unexpected Trip To An Un-Holy Land," shared quotes she said came from Brian Kavanaugh who apparently had visited Jenin after the IDF pulled out. Ms. Pagnozzi said Kavanaugh described Jenin as like "Hiroshima after the bomb was dropped, Turkey after the earthquake. Jenin was leveled – pulverized." It is noteworthy that this column was published not only well after T. Miller's above cited article appeared in the Courant, but after other media reports, including video of Jenin, confirmed a small area of destruction, grossly exaggerated claims about loss of Palestinian lives, and no mass burial.

It is troubling that much less media attention was given to Israel's innocence than to Palestinian accusations about Jenin.