

## MONTH OF OCTOBER

### OCTOBER 2

### CATEGORY

**News Article: RUSSIA – Sharon Visit Focus on Palestinian Conflict Briefs**

**This article is neutral.**

### OCTOBER 3

**News Article: A New Stand For Pat  
By Tara Weiss  
Courant Staff**

**This article is neutral.**

### OCTOBER 5

**News Article: Photos Deemed Improper  
By Johnny Mason  
Courant Staff Writer**

**This article is about two photographs removed from an exhibit following objections from viewers. The story is presented in a balanced manner. The first photograph was of a poster equating Judaism with Nazism, and the second showed a poster with an American flag with its stars replaced by skulls and the red stripes resembling dripping blood. The story explains that the photos enraged employees at the exhibit and were subsequently removed.**

### OCTOBER 6

**News Article: Teenager Dies In Nablus Crash  
By Mohammed Daraghmeh  
Associated Press**

- *Eastern Jerusalem was captured by Israel from Jordanian rule in the 1967 Six Day War and annexed afterward.*

**OMISSION**

**OCTOBER 6 (continued)**

**CATEGORY**

This sentence casts Israel as an aggressor. There is no mention that Jordan had previously seized and annexed East Jerusalem (along with the entire West Bank) in an offensive war in 1948, whereas Israel expelled the Jordanians in a defensive struggle in 1967. There is also no mention that East Jerusalem is the site of the ancient Temple, the holiest site in Jerusalem.

- *Foreign governments and aid organizations have expressed concern about the deaths of children during the...Palestinian uprising...*

OMISSION  
DISTORTION

There is no mention that the violence was unleashed by the Palestinians who rejected the terms offered at Camp David, and that Israel is defending itself against terrorism, the deliberate murder of innocent civilians. The Palestinian children's deaths have been either due to their being caught in a cross fire, or to their being used as human shields by terrorists. The distorted implication due to this omission is that Israel is to be blamed for the killing of Palestinian children.

**OCTOBER 7**

**News Article: 10 Palestinians Reported Killed**

**By Ibrahim Barzak**

**Associated Press**

This news article is neutral.

**OCTOBER 8**

**News Article: Militants Kill Palestinian Police Official  
Los Angeles Times**

**CATEGORY**

- *The Israeli raid, in which the army fired machine guns on a hospital and used a combat helicopter to fire a missile into a Palestinian crowd...*

**UNVERIFIED  
NO REBUTTAL  
OMISSION**

No source for the charge that the Israeli army fired on a hospital and fired a missile into a crowd is given, but we assume that Palestinians made the charge. An Israeli rebuttal to the charge of firing on the crowd is reported by the writer, however no answer to the charge of firing “on a hospital” by an Israeli spokesman is offered. Nothing is written, either, about what the targets were when the hospital was supposedly fired on. If gunfire against the Israeli soldiers was originating in the hospital, this should have been reported.

**OCTOBER 11**

**News Article: Israeli Bus Driver Kept Bomber Pinned Down  
By Ramit Plushnick-Masti  
Associated Press**

- *During a raid in the Rafah refugee camp in Gaza, Israeli troops shot dead two Palestinians, one of them a 12-year old boy.*

**OMISSION  
IMAGING  
DISTORTION**

The shooting of the boy did not occur in a vacuum. Was the boy armed? Was the shooting accidental? These are questions that should be covered in the story, as a disinterested reader might conclude from the incomplete data presented that the killing was deliberate. Mentioning the age of the victim without an explanation creates the negative image of an indiscriminate child killer.

**OCTOBER 11 (continued)**

**CATEGORY**

There is no explanation from the journalist or from Israeli sources why the refugee camp was raided. The most likely purpose, to seek known terrorists or bomb-making facilities, should have been mentioned.

**OCTOBER 12**

**BRIEFS: ISRAEL**

**WOULD-BE BOMBER CAUGHT AT U.S. EMBASSY**

This two-paragraph “BRIEF” of a terrorist’s failed attempt to enter a cafe in Tel-Aviv should have been given more prominence. There is much criticism of Israel for “harshly” reacting to acts of terrorism, with claims that this Israeli reaction is not effectively working. Numerous attempted terrorist activity successfully thwarted by Israel is typically under-reported.

**IMAGING  
OMISSION**

**OCTOBER 14**

**News Item: In Nablus, Lockdown Strongest**

**Sub-Heading: Occupation Disrupts Palestinians’ Lives**

**Greg Myre – Associated Press**

This article describes the hardships in Nablus caused by the Israeli occupation in tones that are sympathetic to the Palestinians. At the same time, however, the article presents the Israeli justification for the occupation (the homicide bombings), and also states that the result of the occupation is a reduction in these terrorist acts. Headlines and sub-headlines should reflect the basic text of the article. The headline/sub-headline of this news item should reflect Israeli justification and Israeli lives that have been disrupted by terror bombings.

**HEADLINE  
OMISSION**

**OCTOBER 14 (continued)**

**CATEGORY**

- *Israeli soldiers began seizing West Bank cities June 20, after a pair of deadly suicide bombings...* IMAGING

“Seize” is an inappropriate word, implying an aggressive offensive action with the intent of assuming permanent control. (For example: Hitler seized the Sudetenland). The Israeli action was defensive and not intended to be permanent. A more appropriate phrasing would have been “Israeli soldiers temporarily took control of West Bank cities...after a pair of deadly homicide bombings.”

- *One clear result is a dramatic drop in suicide bombings. Another is the suffocation of normal life for Palestinians* DISTORTION  
IMAGING

These two sentences imply “equivalence.” A “drop in suicide bombings” results in “suffocation of normal life for Palestinians.” Disrupting normal life is not equivalent to the intentional murder of innocent men, women and children blown apart into unrecognizable body parts. “Suffocating” is an imaging creative adjective casting blame on Israel for defending its people against terrorism.

- *Since the (Israeli) military invaded West Bank cities nearly four months ago...* IMAGING

The appropriate word is “incursion,” implying a temporary action. An “invasion” implies an aggressive permanent action. The sentence could have read “Since the Israeli incursion into West Bank cities...”

**OCTOBER 14 (continued)**

**CATEGORY**

- *“...kids have been challenging the Israeli troops with stones, and four youths, aged 10 to 15, have been shot dead in the past two weeks.”* OMISSION  
DISTORTION

The distorted implication is that the Israeli troops deliberately kill children throwing stones. There is no mention that Israelis do not intentionally kill children. As has been demonstrated in the past, stone throwers often mingle Molotov cocktails with the stones, sometimes children are used as shields, and sometimes they are the victims of crossfire with armed Palestinians. The journalist offers no explanation.

- *“The occupation now feels semi-permanent...”* IMAGING  
OPINION

Rather than report news objectively, the journalist has now offered his opinion by using three different inappropriate words (seizing, invaded, occupation) to describe what is a temporary incursion.

**OCTOBER 15**

**News Article: Death Again Visits A Palestinian Clan**  
**Sub-headline: Israel blamed for the killing of a West Bank**  
**activist who is blown apart by a booby-trapped phone**  
**By Laura King (Los Angeles Times)**  
**Special to the Courant**

The sub-headline words “blown apart” are rarely used to describe innocent Israeli victims who have frequently been blown apart by Palestinian suicide bombers. The headline/sub-headline should reflect the context of the news article that explains that many of the Palestinian clan are active with the terrorist group Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade. IMAGING  
OMISSION

**OCTOBER 15 (continued)**

**CATEGORY**

- *“(He was) lying bloodied on the ground, his entrails spilling out, the hand...blown clearly off.”*

**IMAGING**

**This grizzly description is a common occurrence for hundreds of innocent Israeli victims in pizza parlors, buses, etc., but rarely described in this gruesome, yet truthful manner, when innocent Israelis are deliberately blown apart with “entrails spilling out” and limbs, heads, etc. “blown clearly off.”**

- *...Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade, a Palestinian militia whose attacks have killed scores of Israelis.*

**IMAGING**

**DISTORTION**

**The Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade is a terrorist wing of Arafat’s Fatah group. It is not a “militia.”**

**The entire article and headline, through the use of words such as “activists” and “militia,” and the grizzly graphic description of a dying Palestinian reflects the journalist’s biased opinion through “imaging.”**

**OCTOBER 16**

**DISTORTION**

**Death Notices**

**Shaden ABU HIJLEH**

**Using the Death Notices column as a propaganda tool is a despicable act that desecrates the memory of loved ones who lived or have lived in the regional area.**

**It should have been glaringly obvious to the Courant staff that the alleged “obituary” was politically motivated and should have been investigated. There was obviously no haste in publishing since time and place of funeral arrangements were not noted.**

**OCTOBER 17**

**CATEGORY**

**News Article: Bush Sending Envoy To Promote Middle East Peace**

**By Robin Wright  
Los Angeles Times**

**This article is neutral.**

**OCTOBER 18**

**News Article: U.S. To Hit Missiles Aimed At Israel If War Comes  
By Vernon Loeb & Thomas Ricks  
Washington Post**

**This article is neutral.**

**OCTOBER 19**

**BRIEFS: Troops Withdraw From Jenin**

**This article is neutral.**

**OCTOBER 21**

**News Article: Israeli Chiefs At Odds Over Settlement Clash  
Chicago Tribune**

**This article is neutral.**

**OCTOBER 22**

**News Article: Israel To Reinforce Closures  
Sub-headline: Bus Bombing Makes Military Retaliation Likely  
Against Palestinians  
By Jamie Tarabay – Associated Press**

**The basic news event is the murder of 14 innocent Israeli  
and the wounding of 45 others in two major terrorist attacks.**

**HEADLINE**

**OMISSION**

**The headline should reflect the horror of these events. Instead,  
the casual reader or headline scanner focuses on the Israeli intent  
to “reinforce closures” and use “military retaliation.”**

**DISTORTION**



**OCTOBER 22 (continued)**

**CATEGORY**

The headline (which is written by a Courant staff writer), should have read “Palestinian Terrorist Suicide Bombing Kills 14 Innocent Israelis.” And the sub-headline should have said “Body Parts Spewed For Hundreds of Feet.”

- *The militant Islamic Jihad movement claimed responsibility ...said the bombing was in “retaliation for the series of massacres committed by the criminal enemy against our people.”*
- NO REBUTTAL  
UNSUBSTANTIATED  
DISTORTION  
IMAGING  
OPINION

There is no Israeli response to, or substantiation of, the vicious distorted allegation of “massacres” and “criminal enemy.” In contrast, the perpetrators of this brutal murder by the Islamic Jihad terrorist are referred to as “The militant Islamic Jihad movement” – an egregious distortion of a terrorist organization. There is no mention by the writer that Israel’s defense against terrorism is to root out the terrorists and their bomb factories. Since terrorists operate in civilian areas, some Palestinian civilian casualties are inevitable. This could hardly be considered a “series of massacres.”

The author has difficulty properly identifying the murderous Islamic Jihad movement as “terrorist” preferring the innocuous terms “militant” and “movement.”

**OCTOBER 23**

**BRIEFS-ISRAEL: Work on U.S. Plan Continues Despite Attack**

This article is neutral.

**OCTOBER 23**

**News Item: Islamic Jihad Aims For Deadlier Toll  
By Greg Myre – Associated Press**

**CATEGORY**

- *In the evolving duel between Palestinian attackers and Israel’s security forces...*

**OMISSION**

**IMAGING**

**This article is an egregious example of efforts by the media to sanitize murder and terrorism. The article deals with the development of bigger bombs capable of brutally killing larger numbers of innocent Israeli civilians, but it is treated with a matter-of-fact attitude.**

**Not once in the fifteen paragraphs in this article is the term “terror” or “murder” used. The Islamic Jihad, Hamas and Al-Aqsa Martyr’s Brigade are described only as “attackers”, “bombers” and “suicide-bombers”, but not as terrorists. Nor does the article mention that these organizations are on the State Department’s list of terrorist organizations.**

- *The tactic is a response to the tough security measures Israel has taken against suicide bombers...*

**DISTORTION**

**OPINION**

**OMISSION**

**This is the journalist’s opinion, not objective reporting. Three paragraphs later, in fact, the writer states that Islamic Jihad, “which doesn’t recognize Israel’s right to exist, has carried out dozens of attacks in the past two years.” There is no mention that Islamic Jihad is dedicated to terrorism – the killing of innocent Israeli citizens and considers the killing of Jews moral and just. The implication that Islamic Jihad is conducting suicide bombing in response to Israel’s security measures to defend its people against murderous terrorism is an egregious distortion.**

**OCTOBER 23**

**CATEGORY**

**News Article: Tribute From A Distant Stranger**

**By Roselyn Tantraphol**

**Courant Staff Writer**

**This article deals with the paid obituary notice of a Palestinian woman, Shaden Abu Hijleh, placed by Gale Toensing, a known pro-Palestinian activist.**

**The purposes of an obituary notice are to pay honor to the memory of a deceased person, and secondarily to notify mourners of funeral arrangements. Since Mrs. Toensing is a known Palestinian activist, the Courant should not have accepted this obituary. Mrs. Toensing is not a relative of the deceased, and her motive in placing it was politically motivated, to bring discredit to Israel. The story, based on the accounts of family members, states that an Israeli soldier shot her for no apparent reason. There is no independent verification of this story of deliberate murder without provocation despite the claim of the Courant staff writer that it appeared in the New York Times. (The Times may have merely reprinted the same online dispatch that Mrs. Toensing read.)**

**DISTORTION**

- *Meanwhile... a 56-year old American citizen (Toensing) was so moved ...that she felt compelled to honor this woman.***
- DISTORTION**  
**UNVERIFIED**

**Later in the story it says:**

- *The reason I did it was so people know what's going on there, said Toensing.***
- DISTORTION**  
**UNVERIFIED**

**This sentence is in contradiction to the original assertion, that Toensing placed the obituary to honor the deceased woman.**

**OCTOBER 23 (continued)**

**CATEGORY**

By her own admission she acknowledges that she did so for propaganda purposes. In addition, the alleged intimate details of her death, how she was shot by a passing Israeli soldier (as claimed by family members) who stopped his jeep, went to the back to pick up his weapon, and then shot her in the heart and neck, is what we would expect from a news story, not an obituary notice. Placing this “obituary” which lacked proper verification, was done for propaganda purposes and the Courant should not have accepted it under these circumstances.

- *To some local Jewish residents, however, the submission raises concerns...*

HALF-TRUTH  
INACCURATE  
UNSUBSTANTIATED

This implies that only Jewish residents are concerned about this inappropriate obituary. Non-Jews were also offended.

**OCTOBER 24**

**News Article: A Hazardous Harvest For Palestinians**

**Sub-Headline: Jewish Settlers Wage An Economically Devastating War Against Olive Pickers**

**By John Ward Anderson – Washington Post**

The sub-headline is inaccurate and inappropriate. The sub-headline should have explained the reason for the settler’s actions, as noted in the picture caption and text. The sub-headline could have read “Settlers Concerned That Olive Groves Are Used To Shield Terrorists.”

HEADLINE  
INACCURATE

*...settlers...shot and killed a ...Palestinian man who was picking olives...according to Palestinian witnesses.*

NO REBUTTAL  
UNVERIFIED

**OCTOBER 24 (continued)**

**CATEGORY**

No response or rebuttal from Israeli sources are offered, nor is there verification as to who the witnesses were. There is no reason given for the alleged shooting. (Indiscriminate killing of Palestinian olive pickers is not Israeli practice.)

- *The report said that 7000 olive trees were uprooted by Israeli Soldiers in the past two years “as punishment for Palestinians throwing stones”...*

**NO REBUTTAL  
UNVERIFIED  
OPINION**

No rebuttal from an Israeli source is given to this unverified accusation, that 7000 trees were destroyed as “punishment” – an opinion by the report writer. Israel has acknowledged uprooting some trees that were being used as cover for attacking terrorists, but the number 7000 is suspect.

**OCTOBER 25**

**News Article: Israelis Enter West Bank Town  
By Mark Lavie  
Associated Press**

This article is neutral.

**OCTOBER 27**

**BRIEFS: MIDEAST – Troops Arrest Dozens; Boy Killed in Gaza**

This article is neutral.

**OCTOBER 28**

**News Item: Bomb Kills 3 Israeli Soldiers**  
**Sub-headline: Suicide Bomber's Explosives May Have Been  
Detonated By Bullets**

**By John Ward Anderson**  
**Washington Post**

**CATEGORY**

The headline should have read "Homicide Bomber Kills 3 Israeli Soldiers" and the sub-headline should have read "18 Civilians Injured By Explosives" Why not explain in the headline, rather than the sub-headline, that this was a homicide-bombing? The headline is also misleading in its implication that only soldiers were the targets.

**HEADLINE  
DISTORTION**

*... assaulted a group of Palestinian olive pickers and foreign peace activists...*

**DISTORTION  
IMAGING**

The foreigners who came to harvest the olive crop are commonly called "peace activists" by Courant writers as well as most of the media. In fact they do not come to Israel to promote peace, but rather to sympathize with and assist the Palestinians in whatever ways they can. If there were Israeli workers who needed assistance, these so-called "peace activists" would be conspicuously absent.

**OCTOBER 30**

**News Article: Vote Threatens Israel's Governing Coalition**  
**By Ramit Plushnick-Masti**

**Associated Press**

**This article is neutral.**

**OCTOBER 31**

**CATEGORY**

**News Article: Peace Efforts At Risk**

**Sub-headline: Israeli Coalition's Collapse Seen As Undermining  
U.S. Plan For Mideast Peace**

**Combined Wire Services**

**“Undermining” is the wrong word for the sub-headline.**

**HEADLINE**

**The proper word would have been “Delaying” as explained  
in the text of the story.**

**IMAGING**

- ***Shimon Peres...had helped craft the landmark Oslo accords;  
Sharon made it his mission to dismantle them.***

**OPINION**

**UNVERIFIED**

**OMISSION**

**Sharon's mission is to quell the violence initiated by the  
Palestinians and bring peace to the area. No mention is made  
by the writer that the Oslo accords, which were signed by Arafat,  
call for a total end to violence and the prohibition of all acts of  
terror. This has been violated by the Palestinians since its  
inception. The statement by the writer about “Sharon's mission”  
is unverified opinion, reflecting a conscious or unconscious bias  
by the writer. It has no place in a news story.**