

MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

SEPTEMBER 1

News Article: Violence in Israel Continues, As Hamas Leader is Captured.

**By Ibrahim Hazboun
Associated Press**

CATEGORY

Other than the frequent use of the word “militant” in lieu of terrorist, the news article is neutral.

IMAGING

SEPTEMBER 2

News Article: Israelis Raise Questions About Army’s Tactic Combined Wire Services

This article is neutral. It deals with recent deaths of Palestinian civilians. Although the article quotes Palestinians who make damning charges against Israel, it also immediately follows these charges with an explanation offered by an Israeli spokesman. As such, the writers of this article have not shown an imbalance.

SEPTEMBER 3

News Article: Mideast Pact Crumbles, Peace Recedes Combined Wire Services

- *...recent Israeli attacks on unarmed Palestinian civilians...*

**NO REBUTTAL
OMISSION
DISTORTION**

There is no rebuttal to this provocative statement. The writer does not mention that Israel does not deliberately attack civilians, as Palestinian terrorists do. Without a rebuttal a reader can only assume that Israel attacks civilians indiscriminately, an egregious distortion.

SEPTEMBER 3 (continued)

CATEGORY

- *Human Rights Lawyers said expulsion violates International law.*

**OMISSION
UNSUBSTANTIATED**

Who are these “Human Rights Lawyers?” Many so-called “Human Rights” groups are Palestinian, and biased against Israel. The reference to the alleged violation of international law is not substantiated. In the past, many charges of supposed human rights violations have not been credible.

SEPTEMBER 5

**News Article: Bomber’s Relatives Banished
Combined Wire Services**

A more appropriate headline would have read “Homicide Bomber’s Relatives Banished.” This is explicit and informs the casual reader of the precise reason for the banishment.

**OMISSION
HEADLINE
DISTORTION**

The sub-headline, “For The First Time, Israel expels Siblings of An Alleged Suicide Attack Planner,” should have used the word “accused” instead of “alleged,” which implies an unwarranted degree of uncertainty. The word “alleged” is used frequently in the text.

- *In a ruling Tuesday, Israel’s Supreme Court sanctioned the practice of expelling relatives of attackers, but only if they pose a security threat to Israel.*

DISTORTION

This item should have been presented in the second paragraph, rather than the fifth, immediately followed by the items that do not appear until four paragraphs later, that Intizar Ajouri, the sister, had sewn the bomber’s explosive belt, and that

SEPTEMBER 5 (continued)

CATEGORY

Kifah, the brother, had helped the bomber hide and had served as a lookout. The casual reader who only scans the headline and the first few paragraphs of an article would easily be under the impression that the Israeli action was high-handed and arbitrary the way it is presented in the Courant article.

- *U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan said... "such transfers are strictly prohibited by international humanitarian law..."* **NO REBUTTAL
UNVERIFIED**
- *Amnesty International called the court's decision a "War Crime."*

The article presents no rebuttal to these inflammatory charges, nor are they substantiated by any legal evidence.

SEPTEMBER 7

**News Item: Kin Of Slain Israeli Athletes Agree To Compensation
Associated Press**

- *Thirty years after the massacre of 11 Israelis by Palestinian gunmen at the Olympic Games,...* **IMAGING**

This article deals with the events of the Munich Olympic Games in September 1972, when Palestinians massacred 11 Israeli athletes. The perpetrators are first identified as "gunmen," but then unequivocally called "terrorists" two times. One wonders upon reading this why the media today is so reluctant to use the word "terrorist" to describe the actions today of those Palestinians who commit similar

SEPTEMBER 7 (continued)

CATEGORY

horrific murders, but instead softens the impact by euphemisms, such as “militant,” “activist” or “gunmen”

SEPTEMBER 8

Commentary: A Sense Of Betrayal

By Lisa Chedekel

This is a six-page essay dealing with the deteriorating relationship between the United States and Saudi Arabia. Although there are anti-Semitic statements (“Jews are pigs and monkeys,” etc.) they are clearly presented by the Courant staff writer as being the opinion of Saudis, and as such actually reflect to the discredit of Saudi Arabia, and do not indicate bias upon the part of the Courant writer.

SEPTEMBER 8

NORTHEAST MAGAZINE

This is a series of essays showing views of America written by people around the world. There are three segments contributed by people from Israel and the Palestinians. One segment by a Palestinian and one by an apparent left-wing Israeli academic, are filled with anti-American and anti-Israeli sentiment. There is also one essay by a more mainstream Israeli. All essays are clearly presented as being the opinion of the writers, but not all are acceptable. Two of the three essays are unacceptably biased.

SEPTEMBER 8 (continued)

CATEGORY

ESSAY: Putting The Moment On Human Terms

By Omar Barghouti

West Bank, Israel

- *...a missile fired...by an Israeli Apache...manufactured and generously supplied by the U.S....*
- *...collective punishment, which is immoral and condemned by international law. Killing thousands of guiltless Afghans, or Palestinian civilians., or Iraqis...*

**OMISSION
INACCURATE
UNBALANCED
DISTORTION
IMAGING**

This article is critical of the United States for supplying arms to Israel that victimize Palestinian civilians (i.e. “shattered life of kids.” No balance for this indictment of Israel is presented. There is no mention of Palestinian terrorism.

Although civilians have died, there is no evidence of deliberate collective punishment by either the United States or Israel (such as was practiced by the Nazis who executed innocent civilians in revenge for partisan attacks against them, as at Lidice).

- *...heavily armed Israeli soldiers occupied our apartment building*
- *...a throng of nervous occupation soldiers...*

**IMAGING
DISTORTION
OMISSION**

SEPTEMBER 8 (continued)

CATEGORY

This is heavily loaded language designed to inflame the reader against Israeli militarism. No reason is given by the writer for the Israeli military presence. The writer ignores Palestinian terrorism which deliberately targets Israeli civilians. Israel does not deliberately target Palestinian civilians. The allegation that collective punishment (imaging words) is in violation of international law is false. The prime reason for the death of Palestinian civilians is the fact that terrorists operate out of civilian areas. The writer also ignores Arafat having rejected a Palestinian state offered to him at Camp David, that would have ended “occupation.” Instead, a violent Intifada of terrorism was unleashed.

ESSAY: Why Is The United States Scaring Me?

By Baruch Kimmerling

- *...President Bush granted Ariel Sharon the political and moral authorization to continue the re-occupation the West Bank and Gaza Strip (sic), to eliminate the Palestinian leadership, and to destroy the political identity of the Palestinian people.*

INACCURATE

This opinion is inaccurate. Sharon’s occupation of the West Bank and Gaza is intended to be temporary, to eliminate or reduce Palestinian terrorism, and to destroy the terrorists’ infrastructure. It is not intended to destroy the political identity of the Palestinian people.

SEPTEMBER 9

News Article: Arafat To Condemn Attacks

**Sub-headline: Palestinian Leader Will Ask Parliament To
Outlaw Suicide Bombing...**

By Steve Weizman

Associated Press

CATEGORY

- *“Suicide attacks against Israeli civilians...give the Israel government the ability to hide its crimes,”... (Arafat’s speech)*

**DISTORTION
NO REBUTTAL
INACCURATE**

Arafat’s provocative statement, which is not shown until the sixth paragraph, negates hopes that there is a genuine Palestinian desire to coexist peacefully with Israel. The casual reader would infer a peaceful change of attitude on the part of the Palestinians from scanning the headline and sub-headline. Arafat’s statement should have been prominently shown, as in a sub-headline, so as to balance the misleading effect of the headlines.

There was no Israeli rebuttal to “Give the Israel government the ability to hide its crimes” – an outrageous falsehood. Self defense is not a crime.

SEPTEMBER 10

News Article: Arafat Condemns Attacks

Washington Post

- *...a deadly 23-month uprising...against Israel’s occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.*

**OPINION
OMISSION
DISTORTION**

SEPTEMBER 10 (continued)

CATEGORY

The above statement represents the journalist's opinion.

There is no indication in the article that it was Arafat who had rejected the offer of a Palestinian state at Camp David, which would have eliminated the so-called "occupation." Nor was there mention that for many Palestinians, their concept of "occupation" includes Tel Aviv, Jaffa, etc, in other words - all of Israel.

SEPTEMBER 10

News Article: Israelis Set Standard

By Magnie

Hartford Courant

This article is neutral.

SEPTEMBER 11

News Article: Arafat's Fatah Backs Halt To Civilian Attacks

Washington Post

This headline is somewhat misleading, since it implies a movement towards peace, whereas the thrust of the story is that the "senior leaders" of Fatah are calling for a halt in civilian attacks because they have caused feelings of resentment among Palestinians.

HEADLINE

DISTORTION

- *...the Israeli occupation of West Bank cities and Israel's targeted attacks against militant leaders.*

OPINION

DISTORTION

This statement is not a Palestinian quote but is a reflection of the journalist's opinion. It should have been properly worded "Israel's temporary incursion into West Bank cities and targeted attacks against terrorist leaders."

SEPTEMBER 11 (continued)

CATEGORY

- *An agreement by Palestinian groups to halt attacks was derailed in July when the Israeli military bombed a neighborhood in Gaza City...* **INACCURATE
DISTORTION**

No such agreement was in effect at the time. There was talk being circulated about the possibility of such an agreement, but since the more radical terrorist groups have always rejected such agreements, and since the less radical groups have quickly violated their pledges, it is false to claim that the Israeli action was the cause of any breakdown. It was the excuse given, rather than the cause.

- *...killing a leader of the military wing of ... Hamas...* **IMAGING**

This is like saying “killing a leader of the military wing (a general) of the United States.” It should have been worded “killing a Hamas terrorist leader.”

- *...killing...others...many of them women and children* **IMAGING.
OMISSION**

The journalist should have written “...and many women and children who were unintentionally killed.”

- *“Maybe we will agree to this statement, but we have not signed it...” said...a Fatah member...attending the Council session.* **DISTORTION**

SEPTEMBER 11 (continued)

CATEGORY

The article should have pointed out more prominently that the Fatah plan to halt civilian attacks was not necessarily broad-based among Fatah leaders. These statements warranted a sub-headline.

SEPTEMBER 12

**News Article: In Arab World, Anger Evident
By Donna Bryson
Associated Press**

This article is neutral.

SEPTEMBER 12

**News Article: Arafat's Cabinet Forced Out
By Jamie Tavabay**

This article is neutral.

SEPTEMBER 13

**OP-ED: Arafat Becoming Irrelevant Even Among Palestinians.
By Robert Stewart**

This OP-ED is an acceptable opinion.

SEPTEMBER 13

**News Article: Shoe Bomb Suspect Says He Acted Alone
Associated Press**

This news article is neutral.

SEPTEMBER 13

**News Article: Israel Sends Tanks Back Into West Bank Town
By Mark Lavie
Associated Press**

CATEGORY

This news article is neutral.

SEPTEMBER 18

**News Article: Provisional State in Plans
By Barry Schweid – Associated Press**

This article is a description of a meeting at the UN conducted by the “Quartet” (US, EU, Russia, and the UN) attended by representatives of five Arab nations, Israel, and the Palestinian Authority. Three paragraphs are devoted to statements by two of the Arab representatives, but the Israeli position is not quoted.

**NO REBUTTAL
OMISSION**

SEPTEMBER 18

**News Article: From The Palestinian Viewpoint
Sudhin S. Thanawala
Courant Staff Writer**

This story is a report of a speech delivered at Southern Connecticut State University by Hanan Ashrawi. The report is filled with biased statements, but the writer presents these as being made by the speaker, and does not identify Dr. Ashrawi’s connection to the Palestinian cause, as a former spokeswoman for Yasser Arafat. One question remains: Were there no questions or comments from the audience challenging Ashrawi? If there were, they were omitted by the writer. If there was not a single voice in opposition, that certainly should have been reported. The only rebuttal reported was from a street demonstrator distributing fliers

**OMISSION
NO REBUTTAL**

calling Ashrawi “deceitful and a spin doctor.” This is not a substantive response to specific allegations made during Ashrawi’s lecture.

The writer states that “Ashrawi...has condemned suicide bombings...” This appears to cast Ashrawi in a humanitarian light; however, the fact is that her condemnation was only made recently, and was solely based on the premise that homicide bombings were drawing too much world-wide criticism, and thus were counterproductive to the Palestinian cause. At no time has Ashrawi condemned homicide bombing as immoral. This aspect was not mentioned by the writer.

No rebuttal to any charges made by Dr. Ashrawi were reported by the writer either in this or a follow-up article.

**News Article: Rush To War Mobilizes Religious Groups
By Frances Grandy Taylor
Courant Staff Writer**

The article concerns itself with religious groups opposed to American involvement in Iraq, but deviates to insert an unrelated involvement of a secular Jewish group in the Israel-Palestinian conflict.

- *A peace movement has also been emerging in response to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.*

**IMAGING
NO REBUTTAL**

Many of these so-called “peace movements” are strong supporters of the Palestinian cause. It is wishful thinking to describe them as supporting peace, regardless of statements made by them to that effect.

- *...we are opposed to the occupation of the West Bank...*

OMISSION

There is no mention of the generous offer made by Israel at Camp David, which would have satisfied the Palestinian requirements for an independent state, and which was rejected by Arafat. Nor was there mention that for many Palestinians all of Israel is “occupied” Palestinian land.

- *The group supports a ...settlement in which both sides recognize each other’s right to exist.*

OMISSION

DISTORTION

This is a distortion. There is no mention that Israel had already offered the Palestinians an independent state, which was rejected at Camp David in favor of the Intifada and terrorism. The burden of restoring tranquility and of obtaining a peaceful settlement depends solely on the cessation of terrorism and the suppression of violence by the Palestinians. Nor is there mention that the “phased plan” for Israel’s destruction has never been rescinded and that the Palestinian’s insertion that Israel’s “right to exist” excludes Israel’s right to exist as a Jewish state.

SEPTEMBER 19

**News Item: Suicide Bomber Shatters Calm In Israel
Knight Ridder Newspapers**

CATEGORY

- *The militant organization Islamic Jihad claimed responsibility for the bombing...*
- *Hawkish Israeli leaders complain that the risk of attacks has increased because the military has eased curfews and travel restrictions...*
- *But Palestinian...spokesman Samir Rantisi said that Sharon could have prevented ...(the) attack by resuming talks with Palestinian leaders.*

**IMAGING
NO REBUTTAL
OMISSION**

Bias in writing can be indicated by the selective use of adjectives. Islamic Jihad, which is on the US list of terrorist organizations, claims responsibility for a homicide bombing, and is mildly described as “militant.”

Israeli leaders, who are concerned that easing of restrictions permits easier access for homicide bombers, are described as “hawkish.” A Palestinian Authority spokesman blames the attack on Sharon for not resuming talks, but is not described as “hawkish” for making this remark. Apparently adjectives such as “hawkish,” “right wing,” and “hard-line” are reserved for Israelis. We have yet to see these terms applied to any Palestinian leader.

SEPTEMBER 19 (continued)

CATEGORY

There is no Israeli rebuttal to Samir Rantisi's statement.

Unmentioned is the fact that terrorism in Israel actually increased after the Oslo agreement in 1993, continued during the negotiations of "dovish" Prime Ministers Rabin and Peres, and often increased after concessions by Israel were made.

SEPTEMBER 20

**News Item: Israeli Troops Box In Arafat After Suicide Bombing
Combined wire services**

- *...the weariness of the Palestinian people under Israeli occupation...*

OPINION

OMISSION

DISTORTION

This distortion is caused by the journalist's implication that Israel is responsible for the "occupation." There is no mention of Israel's generous offer at Camp David, that the Intifada started by Arafat and the use of terrorism is directly responsible for the temporary re-occupation of the West Bank and Gaza, and that prior to 2000 the Palestinian Authority (not Israel) was in direct control of 95% of the Palestinian people.

- *... Force 17, Arafat's bodyguard force...has long been implicated in terrorism.*

Force 17 is here described as "terrorist." This is a rare but welcome deviation from the generally used euphemism "militant." One wonders if this was a deliberate action or was done accidentally by the writer, since in the next paragraph the sanitized term "militant" is used to describe the extremist organizations Islamic Jihad and Hamas.

SEPTEMBER 20 (continued)

CATEGORY

Headline of continuation of story on page A2: “Attack Kills Five Israelis.”

This headline should have read: “Terror Attack Kills Five Israelis”

There is an aversion by journalists and headline writers to use the word “terror.” Terrorists are routinely sanitized by the use of gentle substitutions, such as “militants,” “gunmen,” “activists,” etc.

**HEADLINE
IMAGING**

SEPTEMBER 20

**News Article: Bomber Struck At Crossroads Of Israel
Associated Press**

The article itself is neutral, however the headline should have “Homicide Bomber Struck at Crossroads of Israel.” Not describing this as a homicide bombing somehow lessens the horror of the event.

**HEADLINE
IMAGING**

SEPTEMBER 20

**Column: Peace Worker Goes Where Bombs Fall
Amy Pagnozzi**

Amy Pagnozzi puts her usual spin in her column. People aiding the Palestinian terrorists who took sanctuary in the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem become “a human rights group.” Would the same “human rights group” try to persuade terrorists from murdering innocent Israelis?

**IMAGING
DISTORTION**

The column mainly deals with activists who went to Iraq supposedly to act as human shields if the United States attacks Iraq. The identical question can be asked: would these same people act as human shields if anyone were shooting at Americans?

SEPTEMBER 20 (continued)

CATEGORY

- *Then he enrolled at Birzeit University in Israel-Palestine...*

INACCURATE

This is inaccurate. There is no such place as Israel-Palestine. Birzeit is located in the West Bank, or at best, “in the disputed territories.”

- *Finding out about a human rights group that was supplying food and water to the Palestinians...*

DISTORTION

The “human rights group” is not identified. Most of these groups accuse Israel of alleged human rights violations, but are silent about the horrendous human rights violations by Palestinians, such as the murder of innocent Israeli civilians by terrorists.

SEPTEMBER 21

**News Article: Arafat Pinned Down
By Jamie Tarabay
Associated Press**

**NO REBUTTAL
DISTORTION**

- *...Israeli troops fired on stonethrowers, killing two Palestinians and wounding 25 others, hospital officials said.*

There is no Israeli rebuttal to the charge that the Palestinians were only throwing stones. It is not the Israeli policy to fire on stonethrowers, particularly in a situation where so many casualties could occur. It is more likely that the Palestinians were using lethal weapons (firearms or Molotov cocktails.)

SEPTEMBER 22

**News Article: Sharon, Arafat Locked In Grim Conflict
Combined Wire Services**

CATEGORY

- *...Arafat...was fighting for his life – political at the very least, if not physical.* **OPINION**

This is the opinion of the journalist. Sharon had promised Bush that Arafat would not be physically harmed, as is reported three paragraphs later.

- *...in protest. Four were killed by army fire.* **NO REBUTTAL
DISTORTION**

There is no Israeli rebuttal. Israel does not fire on benign peaceful protesters. Undoubtedly the Israelis were being fired upon.

- *For Arafat’s nemesis, Sharon, the destruction this weekend is part of a career-long mission to eliminate the Palestinian leader.* **INACCURATE
UNVERIFIED
OPINION**

This is an egregious example of an unverified statement of opinion. It is also inaccurate. Sharon has had numerous opportunities to “eliminate” Arafat over the past two years but has refrained from doing so, as he promised President Bush he would. Sharon’s “mission” is to end terrorism and bring peace to the area. He has consistently agreed to numerous peace offerings proposed by President Bush (the Mitchell plan, the Tenet plan, etc.) only to have his efforts negated by Palestinian violence.

SEPTEMBER 22 (continued)

CATEGORY

- *... Hamas, which Arafat does not control. Palestinians have long contended that Arafat has lost control of most of the militias attacking Israelis.* **OPINION**
OMISSION
IMAGING

This is the journalist's opinion. There is no mention that Arafat has heaped praise on the terrorists (here referred to as "militias") attacking Israelis, calling them "martyrs." There is also no mention that recently found documents show that Arafat has been financially supporting terrorist groups.

This entire article is an opinion piece being presented as a news story. It should have been presented as an analysis, or on the Op-Ed page.

SEPTEMBER 23

News Article: Israel Holds Back on Arafat

By Jamie Tarabay

Associated Press

- *...and demand the surrender of the people inside.* **OMISSION**
IMAGING

There is no mention that the 'people inside' being sought by Israel are terrorists.

- *...the persistent reports that its actual goal was to compel Arafat to leave.* **UNVERIFIED**

There is no mention as to where or from whom these "persistent reports" come from.

SEPTEMBER 24

**News Article: Israeli Tanks, Helicopters Storm Gaza City
By Ibrahim Barzak
Associated Press**

CATEGORY

- *...Storm Gaza City*

HEADLINE

IMAGING

In the second paragraph the Israeli incursion is identified as a “raid.” This word should have appeared in the headline rather than “storm” which is an imaging word implying a severe aggressive move.

- *Sub-headline: 9 Palestinians Killed Battling Soldiers*

HEADLINE

OMISSION

The sub-headline should explain the reason for the raid. It could have read: “9 Palestinians Killed. Israel Seeking Terrorists And Weapons Factory.”

- *An Israeli official said that Israel was considering expelling Hamas leaders Sheik Ahmed Yassin and Abdel Aziz Rantisi...*

IMAGING

The two men should have been identified as terrorist leaders rather than as they are presented here. In two other places in the text the sanitized word “militant” is used instead of “terrorist.”

SEPTEMBER 25

Editorial: Siege Will Not End Violence

This Courant editorial is critical of Israel for conducting the siege at Arafat’s headquarters in Ramallah.

- *Israel will not stop Palestinian suicide bombings by laying siege to...Arafat’s headquarters.*

OMISSION

SEPTEMBER 25 (continued)

CATEGORY

The Courant could have mentioned that Israel's siege would end if the terrorists being sheltered inside were turned over to Israel. This would certainly go a long way in ending homicide bombings. Arafat's sheltering terrorists is in direct violation of the Oslo agreement, a fact ignored by the editorial.

- *...the (end of decades of violence) will come when the Israelis and Palestinians each have a state.* OMISSION

It is naïve to think that the violence will stop when the Palestinians have their own state, and Israel ends the occupation. The situation is the reverse; the state can come into being only after violence has stopped. The Courant also ignores the magnanimous offer made at Camp David, which would have ended the alleged "occupation" and satisfied virtually all the Palestinians demands. An editorial about ending the violence should recognize that the root cause of the problem is the Palestinian desire to eliminate the state of Israel.

SEPTEMBER 25

**OP-ED: What Palestinian Children Are Learning
Patrick Connors**

This article purports to show that Palestinian children are traumatized by the current violence, and will be more prone to commit violence themselves as adults. The bias in this article is the implication throughout that the fault is all Israel's. Nowhere is there condemnation of the Palestinians for instigating the violence, which has led to this problem with the children. Also, with a title of "What Palestinian

SEPTEMBER 25 (continued)

CATEGORY

Children Are Learning,” one might expect to see remarks about the constant hatred of Jews and Israel and glorification of homicide bombers that is constantly taught in Palestinian schools.

- *An entire generation of Palestinian children is being traumatized by Israeli military occupation...*

**OMISSION
INACCURATE
DISTORTION**

There is no mention that the Palestinian educational system and television and other media are filled with lies and inaccuracies and hatred of Israel. Maps of the Middle East exclude Israel. Jews (not only Israelis) are constantly demonized. The truth about Arafat rejecting a Palestinian state at Camp David is not conveyed to the children. It is no wonder they are demonized.

- *In the Gaza Strip towns...97% of children surveyed witnessed shootings, 23% saw family members injured or killed...*

**OMISSION
DISTORTION**

There is no mention that the shootings are the result of Israeli attempts to root out terrorists who live and operate in residential areas. Nor is there a mention that many Palestinian homicide bombers who murder innocent Israelis are members of Hamas, a terrorist group, which is primarily based in Gaza.

- *The Israeli military and 6900 Israeli settlers occupy 40% of the tiny Gaza Strip...*

**UNVERIFIED
DISTORTION**

SEPTEMBER 25 (continued)

CATEGORY

These figures (based on a BBC report) are unverified, and the numbers appear highly inflated. There is no mention of the million plus Palestinians that live in Gaza.

- *In Khan Yunis...100 Palestinian homes bordering large Israeli Settlements have been flattened...*

**OMISSION
UNVERIFIED**

There is no mention as to why they have been “flattened.” Israel demolishes homes when Palestinian terrorists use them as cover to fire at Israelis, when they are used to hide tunnels used to smuggle ammunition, and homes belonging to terrorists who murder innocent Israelis.

There is no verification of 100 homes demolished, the number being suspect, as the source, the Palestinian Center For Human Rights in Gaza, is not credible.

- *Israel isn’t able to understand that its violence will give birth to more violence.*

**INACCURATE
DISTORTION
IMAGING**

This statement is a total reversal. It should have read “Palestinians aren’t able to understand that their terrorism will give birth to more violence.” Israeli actions are in self-defense and are in response to Palestinian attacks of terrorism.

- *Many...Palestinians are living under curfew...and risk being shot... if they leave their homes.*

**OMISSION
HALF-TRUTH**

SEPTEMBER 25 (continued)

CATEGORY

There is not a word as to the reason for the curfew – the need to protect Israeli civilians from terrorist attacks.

- *...40 children...played games...A tank rumbled by and the smiles disappeared from children’s faces.*

OMISSION
IMAGING

Again there is no mention as to why the tank “rumbled by.” The tank was there because terrorists operate out of areas frequented by children. It is Palestinian terrorism which is the cause of children’s smiles disappearing.

Opinion, or a leaning towards one side in a conflict, is acceptable if it fair and truthful. This OPINION article is inaccurate, distorted, filled with half-truths, and omissions. It is not acceptable opinion; it is subtle, hateful, biased propaganda.

SEPTEMBER 25

**News Article: Israeli Response to U.N.: Bulldozers Are Back
By Christine Spolar
Special To The Courant**

- *The Arab world and some European countries have countered that Bush...has been blind to Israeli snubs of U.N. resolutions.*

NO REBUTTAL
OMISSION

There is no rebuttal to this statement, nor is there any mention that U.N. resolutions over the years have been overwhelmingly critical of Israel and virtually void of criticism of Palestinian terrorism against Jews and Israelis.

SEPTEMBER 26

News Article: Mideast Tensions Cloud War On Iraq

By Mark Matthews

Special To The Courant (Baltimore Sun)

CATEGORY

- *...American supplied weapons have been used by Israel to suppress Palestinian attacks...*

**OMISSION
DISTORTION
OPINION**

This is the journalist's distorted opinion. The sentence should have read "American supplied weapons are used by Israel to suppress Palestinian terror attacks and to defend itself against terrorism and possible attacks from a hostile Arab world."

- *Palestinians and Jordanians...fear the Israeli government...will launch...a large-scale transfer of Palestinians... into Jordan...*

**OPINION
UNVERIFIED**

This is a serious generic allegation by the journalist without any verification. It's an opinion and not objective news reporting.

- *...it would be disastrous to begin a war and not pursue the Israeli-Arab peace process...*

**NO REBUTTAL
UNVERIFIED**

This statement by the Jordanian Foreign Minister is presented with no rebuttal from any Israeli source. The condition that an attack on Iraq must be linked to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is not credible and without substantiation.

SEPTEMBER 26

**News Article: Israeli Siege Stalls Talks On Reform,
Arafat Aide Says**

Sub-headline: Palestinians Call Off Planned Meeting

By Mark Lavie

Associated Press

CATEGORY

The sub-headline should reflect an opposing response to the headline, not a detail of the headline view. The opposing response to the headline is buried in the last column of the article, where Israeli Defense Minister Ben-Eliezer sets a condition for ending the siege, the surrender of 19 terror suspects in Arafat's office.

HEADLINE

OMISSION

- *...Israeli forces blew up three houses of Palestinian terror suspects...*

IMAGING

This is a rare, but welcome, accurate description of murderers who deliberately kill innocent civilians. In the very next sentence, however, the journalist reverts back to the false and sanitized use of the word "militants."

SEPTEMBER 27

News Article: Israeli Missile Attack Targets Hamas Leader

By Mitchell Landsberg

Special To The Courant

The headline distorts the truth. The so-called Hamas leader is "Israel's most wanted terrorist" (See the first paragraph in the text.) The headline should have read "Missile Attack Targets Israel's Most Wanted Terrorist." The headline calls him a "leader" and the sub-headline portrays him as a "commander." This presents a rather heroic image of a man who in reality has murdered innocent civilians.

HEADLINE

IMAGING

SEPTEMBER 27 (continued)

CATEGORY

- *...controversy...over the use of overwhelming military force in a largely civilian area.*

IMAGING
OMISSION

This criticism of Israel's "overwhelming military force" implies Israel has been the perpetrator of a wrong-doing. It would have been appropriate to instead include criticism of terrorists who live and operate in civilian areas.

SEPTEMBER 28

Briefs: Bush Asks Sharon to End Siege of Arafat's Building.

This article is neutral.

SEPTEMBER 29

**News Article: Palestinians Bitter Over Failing Intifada
By Soraya Sarhaddi Nelson
Knight Ridder Newspapers**

This biased news article belongs on the Opinion page.

- *...at Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, where it (the Intifada) began, two years ago...*

INACCURATE

Although Palestinians have claimed that Ariel Sharon's visit to the mosque provoked the violence, (which actually began the day following the visit), evidence has been offered (including statements by Palestinian officials) that the Intifada was planned months in advance.

- *...a Palestinian government...that says it will continue to resist until Israel withdraws from Palestinian territories...*

OPINION
REBUTTAL
INACCURATE

SEPTEMBER 29 (continued)

CATEGORY

There is no Israeli response offered to the effect that the terrorists are under Palestinian control, as per the Oslo agreement. In addition, it is not their “government” until a final agreement between both parties to that effect is negotiated.

- *The talks...fell apart largely over irreconcilable claims to Jerusalem and the right of return to Israel for Palestinian refugees.*

**INACCURATE
OMISSION
OPINION**

Arafat offered no counter-proposal to Barak’s offer to share Jerusalem. The “right of return” was not an original item on the peace agenda, but was added by Arafat after he embarked on the campaign of terror, and would be the forerunner of the end of the Jewish state of Israel.

- *...the Israeli response effectively blocked the goal of political independence.*

**INACCURATE
OPINION**

This is totally inaccurate. Arafat blocked the goal of political independence when he walked away from Camp David.

- *... Hamas and Islamic Jihad, for whom the intifada became a means to annihilate Israel.*

INACCURATE

These terrorist groups were formed many years prior to the intifada, and have long practiced terrorism against innocent Israelis. Their goal has always been to annihilate Israel.

SEPTEMBER 29 (continued)

CATEGORY

- *Arafat has called for an end to attacks on Israeli civilians...*

**NO REBUTTAL
DISTORTION
OMISSION**

This makes it seem that Arafat desires to end terrorist attacks. It ignores the fact that Arafat has taken no action to curtail terrorism even when his security forces have the ability to do so. It also ignores much evidence that Arafat is personally involved in terror himself, and has not called for an end to attacks against soldiers or against those civilians residing in settlements. Arafat’s call to end violence is intended for western audiences, not the Palestinian people. His own Fatah movement engages in terrorism.

- *Israel is just seeking security for building more and more settlements...*

**NO REBUTTAL
INACCURATE
DISTORTION**

There is no Israeli response to this egregious false statement.

SEPTEMBER 29

Briefs: Palestinian Militants Trained In Iraq.

Other than the use of “militant” rather than terrorist, the article is neutral.

SEPTEMBER 30

**News Article: Israel Ends 10-Day Siege
Combined new services**

This news article is neutral.