



MEDIA REVIEW

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

'IN THEIR OWN WORDS' MUSLIMS AND ARABS COMMUNICATING TO THEIR OWN PEOPLE

With the availability of an independent, non profit organization such as **MEMRI** (*Middle East Media Research Institute*), that translates and analyzes the statements in the Arab-Muslim press and other respected media sources, a window is open to the Muslim world through which may be glimpsed the minds of its leaders and officials. As has been a staple of earlier editions of **MEDIA REVIEW**, a survey of a sampling of this literature over the past year is included here. Once again, their own words indicate that the Muslim world is not ready to make peace with and accept the existence of the State of Israel. The virulent hatred and slander of Israel and at times of America is evident in such statements. This negativity continues to give the lie to assumptions about the "immanent possibilities for Arab-Jewish coexistence" and this counsels utmost caution by Israel in dealing with such enemies.

- **Spring 2004**

With over 150 chapters existing on American college campuses, the Muslim Student Association (MSA) is a major movement of students. At a meeting in Queensboro Community College in New York (March 2003), a guest speaker named Faheed declared, "The

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

— *Joseph Goebbels*
Nazi Propaganda Minister

only relationship you should have with America is to topple it. Eventually there will be a Muslim in the White House dictating the the laws of Shariah."

During an October 2000 anti-Israel protest a former MSA president at the University of California, Los Angeles, stood before the Israeli consulate in Los Angeles, shouting, "Victory to Islam! Death to the Jews."

- **May 4, 2004**

Joseph A. Massad, an assistant professor of modern Arab politics at Columbia University, lecturing at Oxford University said: "The Jews are not a nation ... the Jewish state is a racist state that does not have the right to exist."

- **May 6, 2004**

Saudi Arabia's tourist commission in its first attempt to attract tourists to the country, Saudi Arabia's tourist commission, under the control of Prince Sultan bin Abd Al-Aziz,

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PRIMER-CCSU COMMUNICATIONS FEATURED IN DANIEL PIPES' WEB SITE

In an exchange of letters on Middle East issues, **PRIMER** protested unbalanced, biased, anti-Israel panel discussions at Central Connecticut State University. This correspondence with officials of CCSU, the Board of Trustees, and the Chairman of the Board of Connecticut Higher Education was selected by Daniel Pipes for his "Campus Watch" web site to illustrate the problem of anti-Israel bias at U.S. universities and can be read at that web site at:

www.campus-watch.org

A selection of this correspondence appears in this issue of **Media Review**, beginning on page 4 and concludes on page 11. □

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IN THEIR OWN WORDS

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launched its website in March 2004, which listed those not allowed into the kingdom: *"Israeli passport holders ... those who do not abide by the Saudi traditions concerning appearance and behavior; those under the influence [of alcohol]; and Jewish people."*

Saudi Princess Fahda explained that her father King Saud made the right diagnosis: *"The Zionist threat is like cancer — that the Jewish State is a deadly disease which would never be accepted by Arabs."*

- **June 3, 2004**

Crown Prince Abdallah of Saudi Arabia in a reaction to a terrorist attack in Yunbu, Saudi Arabia, on May 1, in which seven Arabs were killed, stated: *"This is seduction [a trick]. You all know who is behind it all. Zionism is behind it."*

- **June 24, 2004**

From Saudi controlled television channels, on May 20... Shiek Abdullah Al-Muslih of the Muslim World League said, *"Regarding a person who blows himself up... there is nothing wrong (with martyrdom) if they cause great damage to the enemy. But,... in Muslim countries, such as Saudi Arabia, ... this is forbidden,..."*

Note: The Saudi Royal Family can end Jihad TV programming at any time.

- **June 25, 2004**

Michel Rocard, a former French Prime Minister and a leading member of the European Parliament, has called Great Britain's Balfour Declaration *"a historic mistake."* He further stated that Israel is *"a unique and abnormal condition,... creating an entity that continues to pose a threat to its neighbors until today."*

- **June 29, 2004**

From the official news agency of the Iranian government, the Iranian Republic News Agency (IRNA) comes the following lie:

"Nicholas Berg was Slaughtered at Abu Ghureib Prison by the Americans"

The Kayhan newspaper on May 23, 2004, reported that *"those [Americans] who killed him constructed the arena for the incident*

"The Zionist threat is like cancer — that the Jewish State is a deadly disease which would never be accepted by Arabs."

— Saudi Princess Fahda
quoting her father,
King Saud

so we would think that terrorists slaughtered Nicholas Berg. With these terrible crimes of slaughtering hostages and attributing it to Muslims, America sows the seed of hatred and loathing of Muslims ... and distracting public opinion from America's ... barbaric crimes against the Abu Ghureib detainees."

On June 1, 2004, the official Iranian TV channel broadcast a series about the September 11 terror attacks, claiming, *"Ever since the establishment of the Zionist regime, the American strategy has been under the Zionist lobby's influence. Zionism, as expressed in the Jewish Protocols, nurtures in its mind the dream of taking over the world. With Bush's rise to power, it controls the White House with greater force."*

- **July 8, 2004**

Sheikh Yousef Al-Qaradhawi, in London in July 2003 to establish "The International Council of Clerics," stated, *"The martyrdom operations carried out by the Palestinian factions to resist the Zionist occupation are not in any way included in the framework of prohibited terrorism, even if the victims include some civilians."*

"Zionism, as expressed in the Jewish Protocols, nurtures in its mind the dream of taking over the world...."

— Official speaking on
Iranian Television

In a sermon on March 7, 2003, he stated from the Umar Bin-al-Khattab mosque in Doha, *"O God; destroy the Zionist, American, and British aggressors ..."*

- **July 8, 2004**

Hamas Spokesman, Faraj Shalhoub, on UAETV Program said: *"I want to talk about recruiting, before I talk about the selection. The level of faith among a wide sector of the young believers instills in them the concept of Jihad, true Jihad in defense of the message, the homeland; the people, and the nation. They are committed even before they reach the fighting stage. They are committed to their cause and draw their belief in it from the mosque."*

- **July 30, 2004**

Egypt's Ruling Party Newspaper, in a two-part article, *"The Lie About the Burning of the Jews,"* stated: *"The Zionist enterprise on the land of Palestine succeeded by means of lies and myths, from the myth of the 'Chosen People' and the 'Promised Land' to the lie about the burning of the Jews in the Nazi gas chambers during World War II. When these means were scientifically examined, it was proven that they were untrue, that their reasoning was weak, and that they cannot withstand the test of solid fact."*

Note: This from "moderate" Egypt with whom Israel has a "peace" treaty.

- **July 9, 2004**

Anne Bayefsky, a relentless campaigner against Jew-hatred, addressed the U.N.'s first conference on *"Confronting anti-Semitism: Education for Tolerance and Understanding."* The following are excerpts from her address:

"The UN has become the leading global purveyor of anti-Semitism, intolerance, and inequality against the Jewish people and its state."

"There has never been a UN resolution specifically on anti-Semitism or a single report to a U.N. body dedicated to discrimination against Jews,... Instead there was Durban - the 2001 UN World Conference "Against Racism," which was a breeding ground and global soapbox for anti-Semites ..."

"No emergency session was ever held on the Rwandan genocide, estimated to have killed a million people,..."

"In November 2003, Secretary-General Kofi Annan issued a report on Israel's security fence, detailing the purported harm to Palestinians without describing one terrorist act against Israelis which preceded the fence's construction."

"Every year the UN marks November 29 as the International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People - the day the UN partitioned the British Palestine Mandate and which Arabs often style as the onset of al nakba, or the "catastrophe," of the creation of the State of Israel."

"UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi called the great poison of the Middle East the existence and resilience of the Jewish state."

"The big lie that fuels anti-Semitism today is the UN promoted claim that the root cause of the Arab Israeli conflict is the occupation of Palestinian land: According to UN revisionism, the occupation materialized in a vacuum. In reality, Israel occupies land taken in a war which was forced upon it by neighbors who sought to destroy it."

• July 26, 2004

Mr. Arafat said in an interview, *"They [Israel] have caused cancer that is like Hiroshima and Nagasaki. America could not find uranium in Iraq, but we have found it here in Palestine - and the Israelis are using it to kill our people."* □

"The Jews are not a nation ... the Jewish state is a racist state that does not have the right to exist."

— Muslim Political scientist speaking at Oxford

PRIMER ACTIVITIES NEWS

Varied Operations Serve a Wide Public

PRIMER RUNS MEDIA WORKSHOP IN EASTERN CONNECTICUT

PRIMER developed and conducted a media bias workshop on behalf of the Jewish Federation of Eastern Connecticut. The educational workshop provided written resource documents and conducted classroom sessions detailing the signs and indications to be aware of in recognizing the various forms of anti-Israel bias to be found in the media today.

A precondition for confronting and effectively answering such bias is an understanding of the ethical responsibilities of the media and where this has been violated. An important means of gaining this understanding was through review and analysis of the actual codes and standards of the professional organizations of the media and merely calling on editors and journalists to observe the standards they themselves have set for their own personnel. □

PRIMER WEB-SITE UP AND RUNNING

Thanks to the creative talents, editorial abilities, and technical resources brought to our activities by Alan Stein of Waterbury, **PRIMER** has been able to set up an extensive internet web site. The site has been in operation since the beginning of 2004 and it can be accessed through its unique web-site address, www.primerct.org.

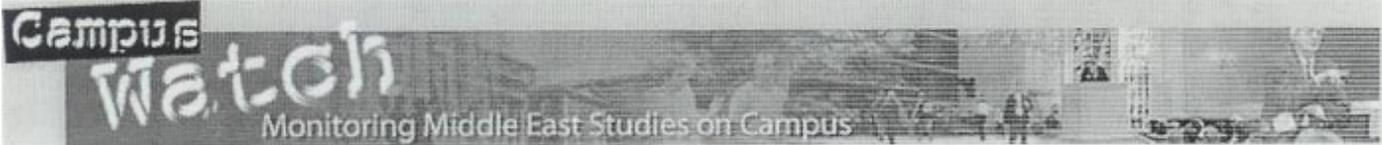
Comment from many of those that have since sampled our web site have confirmed that it is indeed outstanding in every way. It enables **PRIMER** associates, friends of our organization, and an interested public to have direct access to past **PRIMER** reports, work articles, and information on anti-Israel bias developed over our many years of existence. □

PRIMER AS REGIONAL ANTI-ISRAEL BIAS EDUCATION RESOURCE

PRIMER activities have attracted attention as far north in New England as Rutland, Vermont. **PRIMER** associates were contacted by members of that community to learn from our organization's experience and technical expertise in confronting anti-Israel media bias.

This contact from outside Connecticut makes evident that our local encounters in the state with media bias is not at all unique and that there is a need for a wider sharing of the kind of techniques for effective response that **PRIMER** has developed over our ten years of activity.

It is also evident that a valuable tool in meeting such requests within a wider region is **PRIMER's** web site. Through a combination of direct contacts and the data contained on the web site, information is more easily and more rapidly disseminated. □



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Campus Watch Research

- ***From survey: Central Connecticut State University***

PRIMER Documents on Central Connecticut State University

Promoting Responsibility in Middle East Reporting (PRIMER)

March 8, 2004

April 26, 2001

Mr. Richard Judd, President
Central Connecticut State University
1615 Stanley Street
New Britain, CT 06050

Dear Mr. Judd:

On March 29, 2001, Mr. Barry Gordon and I met with Ms. Bartelt to discuss the issues and concerns raised in Mr. Gordon's letter of January 19, 2001. Enclosed for your information is a copy of a letter dated January 22, 2001 outlining our grievances and Ms. Bartelt's response of March 5, 2001.

During our discussion, Ms. Bartelt advised that CCSU "never requires that all presentations be balanced." She further stated that she does not have the authority to require balanced presentations, nor if she did, would she require panel discussions be arranged with speakers presenting opposing views. I responded that a balanced presentation of differing views would contribute to public enlightenment, and that an enlightened public is the forerunner of justice. A one-sided debate void of opposing views that challenges lies and distortions is an effective propaganda tool, and forums at universities that are not "balanced" are a springboard for advocating the biased position of a propagandist. Academic freedom must be free of any other interest other than the public's right to know the truth. Truth should be the ultimate goal.

PRIMER is dedicated to "Promoting Responsibility in Middle East Reporting." The unbalanced format of the teach-in event held at CCSU on November 8, 2000 was irresponsible. Ms. Bartelt's response to these concerns was disheartening. As President of a fine public university, we appeal to your sense of fairness to correct an injustice that permits individuals and groups to use the facilities of CCSU to promote their biased positions. We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

Sidney Laibson, President
President

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May 21, 2001

Mr. Richard Judd, President
Central Connecticut State University

Dear Mr. Judd:

... I share your thoughts on truth and academic freedom so well expressed in your recent paper. I also agree with you, that requiring students and faculty to temper their freedom of expression would be chilling. But, would it not be equally chilling to arrange forums and teach-ins at public universities that exclude presenters with differing views? Would this not inhibit the propagation of intellectual truth and corrupt thought and reason?

I appealed to you in my letter of April 26, 2001, to correct an injustice. I did not offer any suggestion as to how this can be achieved, nor did I demand that CCSU teach-ins be balanced. But, if I now may suggest, could not balance be achieved through the development of guidelines? Guidelines for the purpose of encouraging diversity would not infringe upon academic freedom. It would contribute to public enlightenment and the attainment of truth. Although most academics share our view of truth and justice, there are some who do not. They can, through the current unbridled selection process, deny the fundamentals of freedom by excluding those with differing views.

Sincerely,
Sidney Laibson, President
PRIMER

May 14, 2003

Mr. Lawrence D. McHugh, Chairman
Board of Trustees, Connecticut State Universities

Dear Mr. McHugh:

Last summer CCSU sponsored a Middle Eastern Institute for Teachers. Some attendees of this Institute reported 1 a total imbalance in the presentation along with an infusion of distortions, inaccuracies, omissions, and unsubstantiated allegations.... To cite but a few examples of the faculty presentation:

· *The ancient Hebrews were a "cross section of outlaws. . .of inferior social Status"*

There was no factual substantiation to this degradation.

· *Many Hasidim are anti-Zionists because one, the Messiah has not come, and two, they see the oppression of the Palestinians by Israel as "sinful", and that Israel is a "Nazi State."*

... Nor were there opposing presenters to challenge the incomprehensible and unsubstantiated allegation that "many" Hasidim call Israel a "Nazi State."

· *There is a misconception that the UN created the State of Israel. It was Harry Truman who was responsible. He was urged to support Israel if he wanted the Jewish vote.*

There were no opposing balanced presenters to challenge this falsehood that impugns the honesty and integrity of former President Truman.

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· *Israel has never been threatened except in 1973.*

There were no opposing presenters to challenge this insidious inaccuracy that ignored the 1948 and 1967 wars.

[Notes:] ... a teach-in was organized on The Hypocrisy of Shimon Peres: Peace Maker or Peace Hypocrite? ... The teach-in was a one sided presentation conducted by CCSU Professors ... Presenters with opposing views were not represented in the all day teach-in.

... On November 8, 2000, a similar unbalanced A teach-in took place at CCSU, sponsored by the Middle East Studies group, Coalition for Social Justice, the Center for International Education at CCSU, and supported by the Palestinian Right of Return Coalition. Mr. Barry Gordon, a Director of PRIMER (Promoting Responsibility in Middle East Reporting) who attended the A teach-in, noted that the panel was composed of six or seven presenters that included one pro-Israel presenter invited to attend as an afterthought. The pro-Palestinian presenters embraced a frequently repeated common theme equating Israel with Nazism and apartheid, and that Jews have no connection to the land.... In our discussions with Ms. Bartelt, [Vice President CCSU] we were advised that she does not have the authority to require balanced presentations, nor if she did, would she require panel discussions be arranged with speakers presenting opposing views. We responded that balanced presentations of differing views would contribute to public enlightenment and that an enlightened public is the forerunner of justice and truth.

... During the summer many questions were raised by the community and CCSU as to the meaning of academic freedom and whether or not faculty members have an unfettered right, in accordance with the principles of Academic Freedom, to determine who the presenters will be in study institutes, teach-ins, or "debates," and ignore the presentation of opposing views.

In reviewing the 1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure; the 1940 Interpretations; and the 1970 Interpretive Comments of the American Association of University Professors (AAUP), we find no reference to infringement of academic freedom in the development of "guidelines" for members of the faculty who arrange for multi-presenters on controversial issues. Excerpts from the 1940 Statement of Principles of Academic Freedom and Tenure and the 1970 Interpretive Comments of the AAUP that relate to our concerns:

· ***"Institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good and not to further the interest of the individual teacher. . .the common good depends upon the free speech for truth and its free exposition."***

Arranging programs with multi-lecturers without diversity of opposing views could further the "interest of the individual teachers."

· ***"The intent of this statement is not to discourage what is 'controversial.' Controversy is at the heart of the free academic inquiry which the entire statement is designed to foster."***

This goes to the very heart of our concerns - that denial of opposing views discourages controversy.

· ***"There special position in the community imposes special obligations. . .they should at all times be accurate. . .show respect for the opinion of others. . ."***

Conducting programs without balance of opposing views denies "respect (for) opinion of others." Also, as previously noted, inaccuracies were posited as fact.

Conclusion*Campus Watch - 4*

Our grievance, that is shared by the community, is not the faculty's selection of subject matter or presenters of their choice but rather the absence of appropriate competent opposing views, and the unchallenged statements of fact used to support either an argument or position are simply not true. Although most academics share our view, some do not. They were among the multiple presenters selected for "teach-ins" and The Middle Eastern Institute for Teachers - all sharing a similar biased view. They can, through the current unbridled selection process, exclude those with differing views. The only opportunity for opposing views to be heard would be a brief question or comment from the audience. The presenter, however, has the opportunity of delivering a lengthy presentation and will have the last word advantage when responding to questions/comments - a striking imbalance.

In a multi-panel presentation, effective challenge can only be realized in an atmosphere of a balance. In an environment of balance, presenters with opposing biased views will be selected - and that's acceptable. Unacceptable bias containing inaccuracies, unsubstantiated false allegations, distortions, half-truths, and omissions can be appropriately challenged when there is an equal representation of opposing views. This balanced process is the foundation of truth and truth is our ultimate goal. Denying opposing views nurtures untruths and if lies are repeated frequently they will be accepted as truth - the ultimate goal of a propagandist.

We urge the Board of Trustees to formulate clear and concise "guidelines" for faculty members of all state universities sponsoring teach-ins, study institutes, and other programs that are politically controversial to include well informed and competent presenters representing diversity and an equal balance of opposing views. Guidelines would only apply to programs where multiple presenters are selected.

Sincerely,
Sidney Laibson, President
PRIMER

September 3, 2003

William J. Cibes, Jr., Chancellor
CCSU System Office

Dear Chancellor Cibes:

Thank you for your letter of July 1, 2003.

... Having served as an arbitrator for the American Arbitration Association for thirty-five years, I have analyzed tens of thousands of documents.

After carefully reviewing the "1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure with 1970 Interpretive Comments", I have concluded that suggested "guidelines", not demands, as outlined in our letters of May 14, 2003, and June 25, 2003, does *not* violate the Statement of Principles. However, provisions of the document outline unacceptable conduct of faculty members, such as:

- *"Institutions of higher education are conducted for the common good and not to further the interest of the individual teacher..."*
- *"...they (faculty) should at all times be accurate - show respect for the opinion of others. . ."*

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· *‘The intent of this statement is not to discourage what is ‘controversial.’ Controversy is at the heart of the free academic inquiry. . . .’*

· *“Both associations. . . affirmed these responsibilities, in major policy statements **providing guidance to professors** (emphasis added). . . .”*

A copy of the “1940 Statement of Principles on Academic Freedom and Tenure” is enclosed and appropriately highlighted for your convenience.

The teach-ins and Middle East Studies Institutes that were knowingly organized with multiple presenters *without* opposing and balanced views, propagate the “*interests of the individual teacher*” and “*discourages what is controversial.*” They deny challenge and truth - the very foundation of our democratic system. Suggested “guidelines”, not demands, on controversial political issues for faculty members organizing multi-presenter teach-ins, etc. will assure intellectual diversity and *not* infringe on their academic freedom. However, it would significantly reduce faculty violations of the document.

Sincerely,
Sidney Laibson, President
PRIMER

May 14, 2003

Mr. Sidney Laibson, President
PRIMER

Dear Mr. Laibson:

As an attendee of “A Teacher’s Institute on Middle Eastern Studies” offered at Central Connecticut State University from July 29, 2002 - August 2, 2002, I was deeply troubled by the lack of balance in presentation, misinformation, inaccuracies, omissions, and distortions.

A sampling of the highly biased statements delivered by professors teaching this course:

Statements and omissions made by Professor Norton Mezvinsky [in italics] ...

· *Baghdad is the intellectual seat of Jewish learning; Jews have more of a claim to Baghdad than to Jerusalem; Jews have always had to be convinced of anti-Semitism to validate the existence of Israel; The formation of Judaism occurred during Babylonian captivity.*

Professor Mezvinsky neglected to mention ... Since King David established the city as the capital of the Jewish state around 1000 BCE, it has been the symbol and most profound expression of the Jewish people’s identity as a nation. Jews have maintained an endless presence in Jerusalem, except for when they were forcibly banned from living in the city by foreign rulers such as the Romans in 70 AD, and by King Nebuchadnezzar from Babylonia who destroyed the Great Temple in Jerusalem in 586 BC and brought a majority of Jerusalem’s Jews to his own homeland in captivity....

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... the Torah mentions Jerusalem 767 times and the Jewish prayer book mentions Jerusalem over 600 times. No other people in history have had such a connection to Jerusalem and the rest of Israel as the Jewish people. With the brief exception of the Crusader period, no other people or state has made Jerusalem its capital, and Jews have lived continuously in Israel despite the Roman and Babylonian expulsions....

· Israel grants rights to Jews not non-Jews; and is a democracy to Jews only; Israel has oppressed Palestinians since its birth.

This is simply not true. Democracy is at the heart of the state of Israel, and is the only one in the Middle East. In addition to Israel having a free press, Israel gives all its citizens regardless of religion, ethnicity, or color full civil and political rights ... Arabs are free to practice their religion without discrimination.... There are a number of Israeli Arab parties represented in the Israeli Knesset (parliament), many of whom are openly against state of Israel. In fact, recently the Israel courts instituted a policy of affirmative action for Arabs in the higher echelons of the government to increase the number of Arab ministers in such positions of importance.

· Israel has refused to allow the "right of return" to the Palestinians.

There was no mention that the Palestinian refugee problem was caused by Arab nations when they attacked the newly established State of Israel in 1948 to "drive it into the sea." Nor was there mention that the Arabs rejected the 1947 UN partition plan that Israel accepted. The Palestinian Arabs that decided to remain in Israel were given full citizenship. Professor Mezvinsky failed to mention that Israel welcomed 600,000 Jewish refugees that fled or were driven from Arab lands in 1948. However, the Arab states steadfastly refuses to accept the Palestinian Arab refugees. Instead, they insidiously use the "refugee problem" as a propaganda tool to justify violence and terrorism against Israel's "occupation" and the unbearable condition of the refugee camps. Professor Mezvinsky also failed to mention that Arab demand for the "Palestinian right of return" includes the second and third generations. That would mean millions of Palestinian Arabs returning to Israel. This would create a Palestinian majority in democratic Israel - a suicidal end to the Jewish state.

· Palestinians were pushed out of their homes due to the "Absent-Present Laws" that stated that if people who owned the land weren't on it at a given time, the land was turned over to the JNF (Jewish National Fund); and Israel has created refugees, and has intensified oppression.

In the 1967 defensive war Israel captured the West Bank from Jordan, who had illegally seized and then annexed the territory after the 1948 war. Since 1967 Israel has administered the territories. Following the path established under the British mandate, it retained land that had been under British control as state land. Land privately owned by Arabs remained in their possession. Privately owned Arab land was occasionally purchased by Israel if needed for developing roads, etc. In fact, Arafat recently declared that any Arab selling land he owns in the West Bank or Gaza to Israel would be executed.

· Palestinians were never offered statehood, just autonomous rule.

This is a blatant inaccuracy. Former Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak offered Palestinians statehood at Camp David on virtually all of the West Bank and Gaza and large portions of East Jerusalem as its capital. The offer was rejected by Arafat, who then unleashed violence and terrorism that has been raging for almost three years....

Other omissions committed by Norton Mezvinsky:

· Arab refugees were intentionally not absorbed or integrated into Arab lands to which they fled, despite the vast Arab territory. Out of the 100,000,000 refugees world wide since WWII, theirs

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is the only refugee group in the world that has never been absorbed or integrated into their own peoples' lands.

- Israel is the size of the state of New Jersey.
- The Arab nations initiated all five wars. Israel successfully defended itself each time.
- The PLO's charter still calls for the destruction of the State of Israel.
- When Jerusalem was under Jordanian rule (before 1967), Jewish holy sites were desecrated and the Jews were denied access to places of worship.
- Under Israeli rule, all Muslim and Christian sites in and around Jerusalem (and all of Israel) have been preserved and made accessible to people of all faiths.
- The sources and organizations, including Jewish or Israeli sources he quoted from have been anti-Israel or critical of Israel.
- The PLO was born in 1964, 3 years before Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza. For many Palestinian Arabs, "occupied" land includes all of Israel.

Sincerely,
Lorie Zackin

May 23, 2003

Mr. Sidney Laibson, President
PRIMER

Dear Mr. Laibson:

As an attendee at the CCSU Middle Eastern Institute for Teachers in July 2002, it was my observation, that clearly the Institute lacked balance. The following is a sampling of statements made by Professor Norton Mezvinsky [shown in italics]:

- *Israel is a terrorist state.*

There is no substantiation to this aberration. The Palestinians (who are Arabs living in the West Bank and Gaza strip of Israel) have inculcated hate in their people through their school system, media, mosques, and in other aspects of their society; and it is hate that has produced Arab terrorists (not militants). These terrorists deliberately murder innocent Israelis (babies, children, mothers, and other innocent men and women). It is Israel, who defends its people by rooting out terrorists. And it is Israel's leader, Ariel Sharon, who defends its people by destroying the Palestinian Arabs' infrastructure that produces the weapons and closes off sections of the West Bank and Gaza to prevent the infiltration of Arab terrorists. It is the Palestinian Arabs who control a terrorist regime through hate. **Hate is a Palestinian Arab problem.**

- *Army officers and soldiers have refused to serve, because of the policies and treatment of Palestinians.*

A very small minority (a few hundred from the total army reserve of about 300,000) have threatened not to serve. The overwhelming majority are committed to defend their people and

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country against murderous terrorism. (This only proves that Israel is a true democratic society.) On the Palestinian side, taking action against terrorism is virtually non-existent.

• It is a misconception that the U.N. created the State of Israel. The U.N. recommended the creation of Israel.

There was no mention that the U.N. partition was **accepted** by Israel and was **rejected** by the Arab world. Israel then declared the State of Israel. This was the portion of land that was **established** by the **U.N. Partition Plan**....

• Israel has never been threatened except in 1973.

• Why was there no mention of the 1948 and 1967 wars? Why only the 1973 war? Is it because all the wars were justifiable since Israel was attacked and had no choice but to defend herself? Israel is again being attacked, this time by suicide terrorist bombers, and is again at war defending herself. It is widely known and substantiated on Arab television that Arafat has frequently made reference to the "phased plan" of the Palestine National Covenant that calls for the ultimate destruction of the State of Israel.

• Israel has confiscated lands owned by Palestinians.

This statement is totally unsubstantiated and not true. There was no mention that land legally owned by the Palestinians in the disputed territories and had occasionally been purchased by Israel. Nor was there any mention that Arafat and the Palestinian Authority prohibits land owned by Palestinians to be sold to Israel. It is considered capital punishment. Arab sellers are promptly executed.

• In March and April of this year, Israel destroyed the ability of the Palestinians to run their own affairs.

It was never mentioned that when Arafat rejected a Palestinian State on virtually ALL of the West Bank, he unleashed violence and terror called "The Intifada." This intifada has been going on for nearly three years with Palestinians detonating bombs on themselves in Israel and killing and maiming scores of innocent people. Therefore, Israel has no other choice but to defend itself with military incursions into these Palestinian controlled areas. By going into these residential areas, the Israelis destroy the infrastructure of terrorists who live and operate there. Homes, hospitals, schools, and other sites harbor terrorists and weapons. So clearly, Arafat and the Palestinian Authority disrupt running their own affairs and true peace doesn't have a chance to take hold. The Palestinians say they want to run their own affairs, but they continue a war of terrorism against Israel. This is called, "saying one thing and doing another"

• Israel made every effort to cause Palestinians to lose power: schools destroyed, courtrooms smashed, etc.

This is unsubstantiated information. It is completely distorted. It is a blatant lie. There is no mention that terrorists live and operate in residential areas, using their own people as shields. Although Israel carefully targets known terrorists and his "home", that is often a mini bomb factory, unintentional collateral damage may occur. Clearly the Palestinians are to be blamed for unfortunate loss of life, power, etc.

Sincerely,
Joan Kadish

MEMBER LETTERS TO EDITOR

The following is a sampling of PRIMER members' letters to editor, many of which have been published, thereby reaching hundreds of thousands of readers with their view.

- To: *New Haven Register*
October 4, 2003

Mazin Qumsiyeh's Op-Ed of 9/29 reveals a total sense of denial. Basically his whole thrust is to demonize Israel, America's only friend in the Middle East.

Not once does he suggest reconciliation, recognition, or negotiation. Not once does he address the issue of a treacherous, corrupt Palestinian Authority. Not once does he address the injustice to the Palestinian people by Arab governments who brutalize them.

It doesn't cross his mind that it is the Arab world that practices Apartheid by exiling Jews and stealing their property in every Arab country. It is the Palestinian Authority who murders without rule of law any Arab selling property to a Jew. Jews drifting into Palestinian Villages are murdered. It is the Palestinians who practice Apartheid.

As for human rights, there are absolutely none in the Arab world, they don't exist in any way, shape, or manner. Israel, although not a perfect or complete democracy, is a bright beacon of light in that part of the world.

Qumsiyeh doesn't even consider Palestinian skyjacking of airlines, killing of Ambassadors and Olympic athletes as breaking International Law. To him only Israel breaks International Law.

Unfortunately, this academic is in total denial, incapable of balance, reconciliation, recognition, and settlement. □

- To: *Waterbury Republican-American*
November 18, 2003

Language and its use are crucial when presenting one's side of a very complex event. Having said this, I read with interest Justine McCabe's interpretation of events in the West Bank (Nov 13 letter, "Israel's wall perpetuates ghettoization"). I lived in Israel, have spent time in the West Bank, have visited with Palestinians and have seen the security fence.

Yes, it is a fence. To characterize it otherwise is a technique used by those who want to mislead and misrepresent this fence as something it is not. Curiously, I noticed not one word explaining why Israel believes it necessary for the security fence to be built.

Might the reason be that homicide bombers use "the land that they have farmed for centuries" as the pathway to murdering innocent civilians who by right should be able to travel safely by a public bus to school or their work place? Might it be because 5,984 casualties have occurred since September 2000 by homicide bombings, shooting and other bomb attacks?

Has Ms. McCabe been to a hospital after such an attack and witnessed the terrible results? Has she visited survivors? Does she believe Israel perhaps has a right, no, a mandate, to protect its citizens from this behavior?

I wonder whether Ms. McCabe knows:

* As of July 31, 140 kilometers of the fence has been completed.

* Only 8 kilometers consists of concrete sections, needed to prevent terrorists from shooting down onto a highway.

* Forty-one agricultural gates along the route enable the Palestinian farmers access to their lands.

* Nine crossing points for pedestrians and vehicles will replace existing check points.

* Only 1 percent of the land in Judea and Samaria is being used in the first two stages of the project.

* No houses have been destroyed.

* Owners of land being used are being offered compensation for that land and their crops for the next five years.

* Crime, including robbery and theft, along the route has decreased by 30 percent.

Admittedly, the necessary security measures cause some inconvenience to a few Palestinian Arabs, especially farmers. However, Palestinians have legal recourse regarding the impact the fence is having upon their property through the Israeli courts. As of Friday, homicide attempts in one of the locales along the fence have declined by a factor of 20. This means tranquility on both sides vs. death and destruction.

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.

One needs to be very cautious when using loaded language that promotes knee jerk emotional responses. It is disingenuous as well as demonstrative of one's ignorance to characterize the security fence with inhumane actions that occurred in another part of the world years ago. Further, to summon up analogies with a true fence that by design kept people suppressed is an example of intentional misrepresentation or a total lack of insight.

Revisionist history repeated enough often leads to people believing it. Perhaps truly understanding what has happened historically and reporting it truthfully even if it doesn't support one's agenda would go a longer way to seeing peace finally exist in my part of the world. To inflame and intentionally misrepresent only worsens the situation. Might it be time for sane people to get together and learn what really is the precursor to today's events? □

- To: *The Hartford Courant*
December 25, 2003

In the words of your own Hartford Courant editorial (12/24/03), "It takes two parties to make peace, not one." Apparently, the editorial has failed to note the most obvious feature about the Arab-Israeli conflict, namely, that there is no peace partner among the Arabs.

Israel has long tried the path of conciliation, agreeing to recognize an Arab people in the Mandate of Palestine that never existed as a people in history and to accept the false claims of this "non people" if they would be willing to compromise on a peace that en-

"Unanswered media bias & misinformation repeated often enough is accepted as truth."

— PRIMER

abled a viable Israel to exist alongside an Arab state.

In fact, there is no such thing as "Arab lands" in what remains to be allotted of the lands of the Mandate of Palestine. There are only Jewish lands that have been offered as a compromise gesture by a peace loving Israel.

Clearly, Israeli overtures and concessions for peace have been answered by the Arab side with war and savage terror - bloody acts which the Arab side openly revels in, reflecting its barbarous character.

Israel, having been rebuffed for more than 50 years, has apparently decided that the next step is for Israel to unilaterally begin to create the conditions for its peace, with the separation wall forming, perhaps, a first step. The only thing that can interrupt this process, forced upon Israel, is for a true change in the Arab heart, demonstrated by the Arab renunciation of violence and the permanent dismantling of the terror organizations that abound and which are given protection in Arab controlled areas.

Meanwhile, it is long passed time for the Courant to acknowledge the true face of the Arab billigerents and to cease support for their unacceptable violence and aims for Israel's destruction. □

- To: *The Hartford Courant*
February 12, 2004

One expects to read some strange opinions in newspaper commentaries. It is one of the strengths of our democratic nation that even opinions as outrageous as those expressed by Mazin Qumsiyeh in his February 2 Op-Ed, "News media ignore Israeli terrorism," may be found in mainstream newspapers.

Even within such commentaries, readers have the right to expect any facts presented to be true. In this respect, Mr. Qumsiyeh goes beyond the acceptable. Not only did his commentary contain distortions and half truths, but it was all based on a lie.

Some actions are indisputably terrorism, such as when a Palestinian Arab explodes himself among a group of teenagers waiting outside a discotheque or murders entire families celebrating a Passover seder.

There exist some gray areas, brutal acts which some may consider terrorism and others may legitimately consider something else. For example, a truck bomb is set off adjacent to an American marine barracks in Lebanon, murdering 241 American marines. Some consider it terrorism but others do not, because the victims were technically military personnel. Similarly, a female Palestinian Arab suicide bomber blows herself up at the entrance to an industrial area, killing three Israeli sol-

PRIMER'S TEN POINTS OF MEDIA BIAS

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.*
10. *Opinion/Commentary that is not balanced or factual.*

diers and a private guard and wounding a number of civilians. Some say that the main victims targeted were soldiers and the attack should not be considered terrorism; others note that the soldiers' job was to help Palestinian Arabs get to their jobs, the bombing was part of a terrorist campaign and conclude the attack an act of terrorism.

When it comes to the legitimate, defensive measures Israel has taken to protect its citizens from being murdered in the terrorist war launched by the Palestinian Arabs when they rejected peace and a Palestinian state three and a half years ago, there is no gray; no reasonable person can consider these defensive measures terrorism. Yet Mr. Qumsiyeh's underlying theme, going far beyond reason and falsely related as fact, is that virtually everything Israel does is terrorism.

Mr. Qumsiyeh is described as national treasurer of the so-called Palestinian Right to Return Coalition. It is pertinent that this group, of which Qumsiyeh is a founder and one of the driving forces, effectively rejects any compromise to the Arab-Israeli dispute short of the total elimination of Israel. It rejects any compromise to the absurd demand that Israel allow unlimited immigration of Palestinian Arabs. It insists Israel agree to absorb millions of hostile foreigners who glorify the terrorist murderers of Israeli children in pizza parlors, discotheques and playgrounds.

One could go through Qumsiyeh's Op-Ed and find inaccuracies or distortions in virtually every sentence. One in particular stands out.

Qumsiyeh alleges four times as many Palestinian Arab civilians have been killed by Israeli forces as Israeli civilians murdered by Arab terrorists. He neglects to mention the absurd criteria used in making that determination. Among the Palestinian Arab "civilians" in that count, as detailed by B'Tselem, one of the organizations Qumsiyeh uses as a source, are Omar Mahmoud Abu Rub and Yusef Muhammad Abu Rub. These two "civilians" infiltrated Beit She'an on November 28, 2002, and murdered six civilians. Another "civilian" in Qumsiyeh's count is Abd a-Salam Sadeq Hasouna. Admittedly, this "civilian" was killed by Israeli forces on Janu-

ary 17, 2002, but not before this "civilian" murdered six guests at a bat mitzvah.

In contrast to Qumsiyeh's phony statistics, the International Policy Institute for Counter-Terrorism determined that more than 3/4 of Israelis killed since Yasser Arafat let loose with his terrorist offensive in 2000 have been civilians, compared with little more than a third of Palestinian Arab fatalities being civilians. Given the fact that the Palestinian Arabs deliberately target Israeli civilians while Israel tries to avoid harming civilians, this true disparity is not surprising and is in sharp contrast to Qumsiyeh's distorted statistics. There would be even fewer civilian casualties among Palestinian Arabs if the terrorists did not operate out of civilian areas, making it impossible for Israel to totally avoid civilian casualties.

Perhaps the gravest distortion by Mr. Qumsiyeh is a sin of omission, one of which the media is unfortunately also generally guilty. He omits any mention of one fundamental aspect of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

For the Arabs, the conflict is one of choice. They have consciously chosen conflict and terrorism rather than peace and prosperity.

In contrast, Israel, while reaching out its hand in peace, has no choice but to defend its people as long as its citizens remain targeted by Palestinian Arab terrorists. □

- To: *The New Britain Herald*
February 16, 2004

This past week's debate at CCSU between Rabbi Fuchs and Professor. Mezvinsky did indeed clarify some fundamental truths. As Rabbi Fuchs noted, the U.N. originally created two states, and it was only because the 22 Arab States immediately attacked Israel, seeking to destroy it, that the Palestinian refugee problem was created. While Israel has opened its doors to Russian, Ethiopian and other refugees, the Arabs have intentionally and callously kept the Palestinians in refugee camps for the sole purpose of using their misery as a tool to generate public sympathy.

Admittedly, Israel is imperfect. But it is the

only Democracy in the region, and is the only place in the region where there is lively debate of these issues. There is a fundamental unfairness about the double standard being applied. I have been to Israel, and have seen Jews, Christians, Muslims, and others praying at their religious sites without any impediment. On the other hand, I as a Jew am forbidden from even setting foot in some Arab countries! And if I go to the Temple Mount area of Jerusalem, under Islamic control, and am seen moving my lips in silent prayer, they will immediately expel me. That is the official Muslim policy. Israel is the only place in the Middle East with full freedom of religion for all religions.

Israel desperately wants peace. But peace will come only when terror against innocent civilians stops. Why does Palestinian official policy still call for the total destruction of Israel? This is in the Palestinian Covenant (their constitution), and while they stated in 1993 that this would be modified, it remains in the Covenant and continues to be what guides Palestinian and Arab actions towards Israel; and it continues to be what Muslim clerics preach on an ongoing basis. Most of the negatives (curfews, roadblocks, etc.) are a simple reaction to terrorism and attempts to stop it. We take steps here in the U.S. to deal with terrorist threats, and it is unfair to expect Israel not to take the steps it deems necessary and appropriate to protect its people. □

- To: *New London Day*
March 30, 2004

There was a very truthful statement in Imran Ahmed's letter (March 29, Hamas Leader's Killing Makes Him A Martyr). Mr. Ahmed wrote that Sheik Yassin was not a militant. This is quite accurate, inasmuch as Yassin is a terrorist of the worst kind, and not merely a "militant."

Yassin, despite his wheelchair, was the founder and guiding spirit of Hamas, an organization that has murdered almost 400 innocent people, mostly Israeli civilians but also some Americans and Europeans. He opposed the Oslo peace process, rejected any peace with Israel and called for its total annihilation and destruction. Just two months ago he

(Continued on page 16, col. 1)

Object Lesson In Letter Writing Persistence

SUMMARY OF PRIMER BOARD MEMBER DAN SCHAEFER'S EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WITH THE HARTFORD COURANT

This past year, *PRIMER* Board Member, Dan Schaefer, engaged in an extensive dialogue with editors of *The Hartford Courant* through an exchange of letters and telephone conversations. The dialogue began with his letter of December 31, in which Dan brought up two examples of anti-Israel bias in the *Courant* and called on the newspaper to meet its obligation to fairness and journalism's own standards of ethics.

The first example concerned an Israeli military action at Israel's Egyptian border near the Rafah refugee camp. The *Courant* account, headlined, "*Palestinians in Refugee Camp Killed by Israeli Gunfire*," presented a large photo showing a close-up of an anguished Arab crowd carrying away one of its dead. The photo caption, the story's only text, gave alleged numbers of "militant" and civilian Arab dead and wounded, with civilian numbers, emphasizing children, predominating. No outside confirmation of the details of the casualties was given, nor was there comment from the Israeli side.

Dan's letter called into question this blatantly one-sided treatment and presented facts from the more complete account of the same incident reported in *The New York Times*. The *Times* had noted that the Israeli target had been the elimination of smuggling tunnels coming from Egypt, through which illegal weaponry was being supplied to Gaza terrorists and wanted terrorists found paths for escape. Gunfire had ensued when Arab gunmen opened fire on the Israeli military force. The balanced information dispelled the impression given in the *Cou-*

rant of a willful attack by Israel's forces on the local Arab population.

Dan's second example concerned the omission of one of the regular columns of Charles Krauthammer — a feature frequently carried by the *Courant*. The omitted article, titled, "*Geneva Sellout*," had called into serious question the validity of the newly proposed "Geneva Accord," a biased, far-reaching plan for allegedly settling the dispute between Israel and the Palestinian Arabs that had received no authorization from the Israeli government.

Dan pointed out that the omitted article, which had appeared in *The Washington Post*, would have been a particularly valuable addition to public discussion since its facts had not been reported in the *Courant*. Krauthammer had indicated how unrealistic the unauthorized new plan was and how "*undermining [it was] to Israel's legitimate interests*," failing to offer Israel serious security safeguards.

Dan concluded his letter by calling on the *Courant* to provide a balanced, factual account of the issues discussed and

"Omission of material facts and analyses is one of the classic signs of propaganda. It is a form of censorship."

to meet its ethical obligation as a newspaper. Dan wrote:

"Omission of material facts and analyses is one of the classic signs of propaganda. It is a form of censorship."

"One expects this in a totalitarian state whose governmental policy is poisoned by bias. One does not expect this in a respected newspaper such as the Courant, which is supposed to represent a free press in a free country."

Despite Dan's courteous and reasoned letter, he received no response. This led him to write three follow-up letters in which he further elaborated on the unfairness of the *Courant's* reporting on the Rafah incident that remained to be addressed and urged that the Krauthammer article be printed.

During this interchange, Dan called the *Courant's* Reader Representative, Karen Hunter, and, later, Opinion Page Editor Carol Lumsden. It had taken four months until Dan received a written response from the *Courant*, a lengthy letter of apology from Karen Hunter, dated May 10. Point by point, she fully acknowledged the accuracy of Dan's criticism and indicated that she had brought the issue up to Letters Editor Lewis Bresee and had been left with impression that Dan's letter would be run, though, as she later learned, it was not.

Conclusion

Dan Schaefer's exchange with the *Courant* that included a number of follow-up certified letters was carried out over a period of about seven months. Though this dialogue did not achieve the redress that Dan had called for, it was nevertheless useful and valuable. It could not help but sensitize the *Courant's* news and editorial staff to their failures to provide balanced coverage of Israel and their ethical responsibility to do so. The incident illustrates how follow-up communication with editors can help to deepen their understanding of the issues involved. □

issued a fatwa (religious decree) allowing women to be suicide-bombers, an act that was immediately followed by one blowing herself up at a checkpoint, killing four Israelis. He was not a "spiritual leader" in the sense that an American bishop is a spiritual leader.

Just as there is no compromising with Osama bin Laden, it was impossible to compromise with Sheik Yassin. His death means that there is one less terrorist leader in the world.

Mr. Ahmed defended Hamas's use of terror as the only weapon available to it. He totally overlooked the alternative, the preferred weapon for Hamas and the Palestinians to use to achieve their objective of a Palestinian state. That "weapon" is peace, a method that has been so far rejected. Peace and statehood, however, can not be obtained without the elimination of terror and the groups that sponsor it, a lesson that Mr. Ahmed and Hamas seem not to comprehend. □

- To: *New Haven Register*
April 27, 2004

"Somewhere along the line," the gentleman who wrote in re "the poor Palestinians" and the Wall, and killings, has somehow missed the point.

Our U. S. National Security Advisor put it ably: "They have declared war on us and we have not been at war." That says it all. We should expect continued attacks on the U.S., without regard to any perceived agitation in the Middle East. The Israeli Wall has no effect on U.S. safety and security.

As for the Israelis, their war was declared on them on the day that they became a Nation, and they have never had peace. Attacked by the armies of five nations, they have survived. To now try for peace is commendable, but is not the percentage play. Aggressive all out effort is their path of most hope. Power and toughness are the coin of the realm in the Middle East.

Let us not be duped otherwise. We are all dealing with Radical Islamists. □

- To: *The Hartford Courant*
May 19, 2004

Recent news reports state that the United Nations and European Union are critical of Israel for its military activities in Gaza that are

aimed at eliminating the arms smuggling tunnels from Egypt. The Palestinians use the tunnels to bring in weapons to murder, maim, and terrorize Israeli civilians.

The EU and UN have similarly criticized Israel for building a security barrier that is meant to keep Palestinian suicide bombers from entering Israel. The Israelis understand these measures must be taken if they are to prevent the Palestinian terrorists from their stated objective: the destruction of Israel.

Why haven't the UN and EU been outspoken about the horrific deeds of the Palestinian suicide bombers? Why wasn't there an EU and UN condemnation, for example, of the recent Palestinian attack that murdered a pregnant Israeli mother and her four daughters? Why haven't the UN and EU taken measures to help eliminate the support systems that the terrorists rely on?

The UN and EU positions only contribute to the environment that keeps a peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict out of reach. □

- To: *The Hartford Courant*
July 20, 2004

What was the editorial staff of the first section thinking when they embedded a picture of a slain Palestinian militant in a story that talked only about the current squabble within the senior leadership of the Palestinian Authority. There is not a single line in this four-column story ("ARAFAT RELENTS AMID PRESSURE") in Tuesday's paper that mentions an Israeli raid on the village in Saida that killed this "militant of the Al-Aqsa Martyr's Brigade".

As a matter of fact, other news organizations reporting the martyr's death said that Israel had no information on the event and it may well have been the explosion of a bomb being built since it was in a "safe house" for Palestinian militants.

Whichever version of the death is correct, Courant readers have a right to expect that the story will explain the picture in more depth — particularly when the picture is somewhat inflammatory, and the event it describes in the caption is problematic: "...was killed in an Israeli raid on the village."... □

Contributors & References

- *Media references used in this issue include the following:*

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Research Institute
Near East Report
Washington Times

- *Special thanks to:*
David Basch — for valuable assistance in preparing this publication.

- *Contributors to the 2004 issue of **Media Review**:*

David Basch
Barry Gordon
Joan Kadish
Don Morris
Marvin Peyser
Al Pilver
Dan Schafer
Alan Stein
Jim Tierney
Mark Trencher
Lorie Zackin

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Sidney Laibson - *President*