

MONTH OF AUGUST

AUGUST 1

**News Article: Israeli Campus Blast Kills 7
Combined Wire Services**

CATEGORY

- *The militant group Hamas claimed responsibility for the bombing...*

IMAGING

This is a factual account of the bombing of the Hebrew University cafeteria, killing seven students and administrators. It was a horrific incident and calling the perpetrators “militants” rather than the true designation “terrorists” is in itself a form of bias, and sanitizes the murder of innocent victims.

AUGUST 1

Editorial: More Deaths in Jerusalem

- *How many more lives have to be destroyed before the stewards of the Holy Land, both Israeli and Palestinian reconcile themselves to the idea that peace is unachievable without substantial compromises on both sides.*

DISTORTION

IMAGING

OMISSION

This statement implies equal responsibility for the hostilities. It totally ignores the fact that the Palestinians walked away from the Clinton-Barak proposal at Camp David and later at Taba, which would have given the Palestinians virtually everything that they asked for. It also ignores the fact that the history of the area has shown that if there were no Palestinian terrorist attacks there would be no Israeli reprisals.

AUGUST 1 (continued)

CATEGORY

Israel indeed has compromised. In the face of continued terrorism they continued, since Oslo, to cede tangible amounts of territory to the Palestinian Authority, in return for multiple promises from Yasser Arafat to arrest and convict terrorists. These arrests from the start became a “revolving door” farce. In fact, clear evidence has been presented that Arafat financially supported terrorists, the antithesis of searching for a peaceful solution.

This editorial refers to Hamas as a “militant movement”, rather than the true designation, “terrorist”.

- *Neither side is blameless in the seemingly endless cycle of violence.*

DISTORTION

OMISSION

This statement implies equal responsibility for the current fighting. See above paragraphs. During periods when there was no terrorism initiated by Palestinians, there were no reprisals by Israel.

AUGUST 2

**News Article: U.S. Students Accepted The Danger
Combined Wire Services**

This is a moving story about the American victims of the Hebrew University bomb blast. Since so many stories in the past have been sympathetic to the suicide bombers and their surviving family members, it is gratifying to finally see in print a story sympathetic to the victims of terror.

AUGUST 3

**News Article: Israelis Blitz Into Nablus, Searching for Militants
Washington Post – John Ward Anderson**

CATEGORY

The use of the term “blitz” has a pejorative ring to it. (The word “blitz” makes one think of the Nazis.) Since the story goes on to say that the Israelis still controlled Nablus prior to the move, but had stayed out of the center of the city, the “blitz” was simply a move by tanks from the outskirts to the center. “Blitz” was inappropriate in this headline.

HEADLINE

IMAGING

(Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade) has carried out a number of suicide bombings in the 22-month uprising against continued Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

OPINION

OMISSION

The newspaper has accepted the premise that the purpose of the uprising was to end the “occupation,” ignoring the fact that prior to the start of the Intifada, the Palestinian Authority was in control of 95% of the Palestinian population. In addition, there was no mention that Hamas and other terrorist groups have stated explicitly that the purpose of the uprising is to terminate the existence of the state of Israel.

- *Aghbur, who was interviewed at a Nablus hospital, said soldiers prevented his ambulance from reaching the hospital for two hours.* **NO REBUTTAL
DISTORTION**

This statement implies that delaying the ambulance was done deliberately. No rebuttal or explanation from Israel is offered.

- *...other Israeli military actions that killed three Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, including an 85-year-old-woman and a nine-year-old girl, according to Palestinian officials.* **UNVERIFIED
IMAGING
NO REBUTTAL**

AUGUST 3 (continued)

CATEGORY

No statement by Israeli or identification of Palestinian officials. In addition, the Israelis were searching for “terrorists,” not for “militants,” or “Palestinian fighters.” The use of such euphemisms is an insult to the memory of the innocent civilians murdered by these terrorists.

AUGUST 5

**News Article: Day Of Attacks Rocks Israel, West Bank
J. Michael Kennedy and Tracy Wilkinson
Special to the Courant**

The headline is ambiguous and misleading. The article itself states that four attacks by Palestinians against Israelis left 13 dead and scores injured. A cursory look at the headline could lead casual readers to believe that attacks could have been initiated by either side.

**HEADLINE
DISTORTION**

The same story was headlined by other newspapers differently. The New York Times said “Wave of Attacks by Palestinians causes 14 deaths.” The New York News headline was “4 separate attacks in Israel leave 13 dead, dozens hurt.” The New York Post said “9 Israelis dead in latest outrage.” All of these headlines leave no doubt that the violence was initiated by Palestinians.

- *The organization (Hamas) is pressing ahead with a campaign of revenge for Israel’s slaying last month of the head of the group’s military wing.*

**OMISSION
IMAGING
OPINION
UNBALANCED**

AUGUST 5 (continued)

CATEGORY

The writers apparently assume that Hamas' motivation for these attacks is all revenge. The fact is that most attacks require planning well in advance. There is no mention that Israel has been subjected to constant barrages of attacks before the killing of the Hamas leader, before there was any need for "revenge". The writers should have written words to the effect that Hamas was claiming that these attacks were in revenge. In addition, the article describes the Palestinians as "militants" and "gunmen," rather than as "terrorists."

AUGUST 6

**News Article: Israel Imposes Travel Ban
Combined wire services**

This article describes in considerable length (10 paragraphs) how Palestinian life has become difficult due to the Israeli clampdown on movement due to terrorist attacks. The article states in the second paragraph, however, and in two other paragraphs, that the reason for this is that Israel has endured five attacks in 24 hours.

UNBALANCED

- *Criticism of his (Sharon's) policies is mounting from...a frightened Israeli public.*

OPINION

INACCURATE

Criticism can be directed against the writer for his opinion describing the Israeli public as "frightened," inasmuch as many commentators these days have written how the prevailing mood in Israel today in the face of suicide bombings is one of determination.

AUGUST 6 (continued)

CATEGORY

- *The numerous military operations undertaken under Prime Minister Ariel Sharon have failed to stop violence...*

**HALF-TRUTH
IMAGING**

This is a half-truth. Although Sharon's tactics have failed to stop the violence, they have certainly reduced violence.

Additionally, describing attacks against Israel by the generic term "violence" sanitizes terrorism, the bulk of the attacks directed against innocent civilians.

AUGUST 7

News Story

Main headline: Goal Is To Deter Bombers

**Sub-headline: Israelis Demolishing Palestinian Homes
By Hadeel Wahdan - Associated Press**

The main headline is in large black print, and the sub-headline in smaller, lighter print, as shown above. This is very equitable on the part of the Courant. If the sole headline had been the demolishing of homes and the reason for it (detering bombers) had been placed in the story, then the casual reader who only saw the headline would have been left with an unwarranted negative impression of the Israeli action. The Courant is to be commended for this arrangement.

- *Palestinian Labor Minister Ghassan Khatib said the practice (demolition) violates international law*

**UNSUBSTANTIATED
NO REBUTTAL**

No opposing view by an Israeli challenging the alleged violation of international law is presented, nor is the charge substantiated.

AUGUST 8

**News Article: Withdrawal Plan Withers
Associated Press – Hadeel Wahdan**

CATEGORY

- *Israeli troops, meanwhile, launched several strikes against Palestinian terror suspects.*

It is noted with gratification that the term “terror” is used, rather than a euphemism such as “militant.”

- *Rumsfeld also referred to the West Bank as “so-called occupied territory,” signaling he does not share the Bush administration’s view of Israel’s presence on the land...*

**OPINION
DISTORTION**

This statement implies that the Bush administration does in fact believe that the West Bank is occupied territory, which is an unwarranted assumption expressing the opinion of the writer. President Bush has endorsed the idea of a Palestinian state, but makes no reference to the land as “occupied territory.”

- *...Arafat aide Nabil Abu Rdeneh said Israel had imposed new conditions on the Palestinians...that were “impossible to accept or even to implement.”*

NO REBUTTAL

No Israeli response or rebuttal to this statement is offered.

AUGUST 9

**News Article: U.S. Meets With Palestinian Officials
By Howard Witt
Special to the Courant**

- *At the same time, (Palestinian Minister) Yehiyeh said, he is meeting with militant groups such as Hamas to try to persuade them to stop dispatching suicide bombers against Israelis.*

IMAGING

AUGUST 9 (continued)

CATEGORY

Hamas is described as dispatching suicide bombers against Israelis. To refer to groups which perform such acts as “militant” sanitizes them and hides the fact that they are committing acts of terror.

AUGUST 11

**News Article: Clashes Resume As Israel Seeks Changes
Associated Press – By Ramit Plushnik-Mashti**

**Photo caption: *An Israeli soldier kicks a peace activist at an
Israeli checkpoint...***

**IMAGING
INACCURATE
DISTORTION**

This photo shows an Israeli soldier ostensibly kicking a cringing defenseless civilian protester. A closer look at the photo shows, however, that the protester is actually about five feet away from the soldier, too far to be kicked. If the soldier had already kicked the protester, then by the time the protester had moved five feet away, the soldier’s leg would have already dropped to the ground. It is not possible to ascertain from the photo that the soldier actually made contact with the protester, as the caption indicates. The likelihood is that the soldier was merely kicking in the direction of the protester so as to warn him to keep his distance.

Why was this photo included? The news article itself makes no reference to this incident, or to the presence of protesters anywhere. This photo appears to have been printed for the sole purpose of putting the IDF in a prejudicial light.

The use of the term “peace activists” is also prejudicial, as other news sources reported (not in the Courant) that the “foreign peace activists” were members of a group called American Muslims for

AUGUST 11 (continued)

CATEGORY

Jerusalem, a pro-Palestinian organization that has condoned terror bombing in Israel and has placed on its website an article called “How Jews Dominate the World.” They are certainly “activists,” but to describe them as “peace activists” is inaccurate.

- *Gunfire in a Jordan valley settlement left a Palestinian and an Israeli woman dead...*

**HALF-TRUTH
DISTORTION
OMISSION**

This is a misleading statement. Gunfire does not come from nowhere. Other news sources (again not in the Courant) reported that a Palestinian had infiltrated a Jewish settlement and murdered a woman and wounded her husband. The Palestinian was later shot by Israeli soldiers. The Courant story is much too mild and does not indicate that a deliberate murder of an innocent civilian had taken place. The Courant seemingly equates the deaths of the murder victim and her assassin as victims of “gunfire”

AUGUST 12

**News Article: Poll: Fewer Palestinians Support Democracy
Special to the Courant – By Tracy Wilkinson**

- *The Israeli army said it had killed a Palestinian gunman who was attacking a Jewish settlement in the Gaza Strip...*

**IMAGING
OMISSION**

In the sentence above it is clearly stated that the slain terrorist (here sanitized as “gunman”) was attacking a settlement. The Courant apparently assumes that the reader understands that his intent was to kill innocent civilian residents. This sentence (and the one in the comment below) appeared in the last paragraph of an eleven-paragraph story, almost as an afterthought.

AUGUST 12 (continued)

CATEGORY

Apparently the story about an armed “gunman” trying to infiltrate into a residential area for the purpose of murdering civilians is not considered very newsworthy.

- *In...Jenin, two Israeli soldiers were wounded in a gun battle with Palestinians, the army said.*

OMISSION

This sentence is vague. No explanation is offered as to how the “gun battle” started. Most gun battles are the result of Israel defending its people against terrorism.

AUGUST 12

**Op-Ed: Don’t Mistake Criticism of Israel For Anti-Semitism
By Liz Aaronsohn and Lucy Rosenblatt**

- *...compels us to speak out against those organizations that are attempting to monopolize the expression of Jewish thought.*

UNVERIFIED

The use of the term “monopolize” is unjustified. No evidence is offered to support this accusation. The organizations referred to by the writers do represent the large majority of Jewish thought, but they have not tried to silence opposing viewpoints.

- *It is important to us that all Americans recognize that there is more than one Jewish point of view on the Middle East crisis.*

DISTORTION

The writers are obviously Jewish; however, they neglect to state that their organization is a miniscule group, and whether they are presenting a “Jewish point of view” is questionable. Judaism is not monolithic and there is no official “Jewish point of view.”

AUGUST 12 (continued)

CATEGORY

Most pro-Israeli Op-Ed and letter writers to the Courant do so upon their own initiative and do not represent any Jewish organization. They are expressing their own point of view. In addition, there are large numbers of non-Jews who are vocal in their support of Israel. These non-Jews are expressing their own opinion, not a “Jewish point of view.”

- ***Professors, (at CCSU) experts on the region, offered a vast amount of information.***

OMISSION

The authors neglect to mention that some of the faculty had reputations of being strongly anti-Israel. Criticism of the CCSU course was based on the consideration that the anti-Israeli agenda of these professors would affect the neutrality of what they were supposed to be teaching. Courant writer Vera Schwarcz (A Disregard for Intellectual Honesty, Commentary, August 11,) reported that President Judd “was surprised when Professor Norton Mezvinsky abandoned the syllabus and hectored the audience about the terrorism perpetrated by Jews”. She also reported in the same column that director of the program Richard Benfield had stated that the history conveyed was “more inflammatory than informational.”

- ***In the weeks preceding the workshop, however, threatening e-mails and phone calls were sent to CCSU president Richard L. Judd.***

IMAGING

DISTORTION

UNSUBSTANTIATED

Use of the term “threatening” shows bias on the writer’s part. President Judd did state that he had received many protesting emails and calls. To malign the letter writers by the use of the general term “threatening” is uncalled for. No substantiating of such “threatening” is offered by the authors.

AUGUST 12 (continued)

CATEGORY

...President Judd did not bow to this intimidation.

IMAGING

The term “intimidation” is not supported by the facts. Requests were made to President Judd to balance the course with a pro-Israeli speaker. The word “intimidation” is uncalled for.

The actions by groups purporting to speak for all Jews...

**INACCURATE
DISTORTION**

At no time have the Anti Defamation League or other protesting groups claimed that they speak for all Jews. Their position was to seek balance of opposing views.

...a shocking attempt to violate academic freedom and intimidate the professors.

**DISTORTION
INACCURATE**

The attempt was to include a pro-Israeli speaker, not to intimidate the professors. There is nothing in this action warranting use of the word “shocking.” The terminology “violate academic freedom” is often used as a smokescreen for denying an opposing point of view

- *Its (ADL’s) recent actions have been to discredit, stifle and even threaten anyone who speaks out in any way critical of the Israeli government.*

**UNVERIFIED
DISTORTION
INACCURATE**

This is a very broad statement. There is no evidence to support this inaccurate allegation. The ADL’s request was to have a pro-Israeli speaker added to the faculty .

AUGUST 12 (continued)

CATEGORY

- *(The ADL) insists that we must support whatever the Israeli government does.*

**UNVERIFIED
INACCURATE**

An untrue and ridiculous statement. The ADL does not insist on blanket support for any Israeli policies.

- *We speak against the violence committed by both sides in the conflict.*

**OMISSION
DISTORTION**

The authors make no mention and apparently make no distinction between terrorist attacks by Palestinians with Israel's defensive measures. Would they deny Israel the right to self-defense? The surest way to stop Israeli defensive efforts is for the Palestinians to stop their terrorist attacks, a simple statement that apparently eludes the authors.

- *We want it known that to be critical of the Israeli government is not to be anti-Semitic.*

OMISSION

The writers should have added "in our case" to the end of the preceding sentence. Unfortunately much anti-Israeli sentiment worldwide is founded on anti-Semitism.

- *Much of the world is criticizing Israel, not because Israel's citizens are Jews, but because of what Israel is doing to the Palestinian people.*

**OPINION
UNSUBSTANTIATED
DISTORTION**

This is an over-simplified generalization. There is no mention that there was very little distinction between Jews and Israelis in the anti-Semitism prevalent at the UN Human Rights Conference

AUGUST 12 (continued)

CATEGORY

at Durban. A very significant part of criticism against Israel can be attributed to anti-Semitism.

The authors omits mentioning that Israel has the right to defend itself against the onslaught of terror attacks they have been facing and ignore the Palestinian turn-down of the generous Clinton-Barak offer at Camp David and Taba, that will have created an independent Palestinian state in virtually all of the West Bank and Gaza.

AUGUST 14

News Article: Palestinian Factions Hold Secret Talks

Subheading: Groups Seeking United Front

By John Ward Anderson – Washington Post

- *“The ...obstacle to a cease-fire is the ...threat of civil war” if Arafat buckles to Israeli and U.S. pressure and agrees to arrest Palestinian militants,...* **OMISSION
IMAGING**

Ignored by the writer is that Arafat did agree in September 1993 to renounce the use of terrorism and all acts of violence, as part of the Oslo agreement, and many times subsequently. It is also difficult to comprehend how a supposedly legitimate ruler (Arafat) could be described by the writer as “buckling” if he arrests terrorists (not militants) who perpetrate terror.

AUGUST 15

News Article: Mass Murder Trial Starts.

This news article is neutral.

AUGUST 16

**News Article: Teen Used As Shield Killed
By Laurie Copans – Associated Press**

CATEGORY

- *Israeli soldiers strapped a bulletproof vest on a Palestinian teenager and ordered him to approach a house where a Hamas militant was hiding, with instructions to bring out everyone inside.* **INACCURATE
DISTORTION**

The headline states that the teen was being used as a shield.

The news story however states that he was given a bulletproof vest and told to bring out the civilian occupants. Since a shield is defined as a protective plate or armor used to deflect weapons, it is obvious that the teen was not a shield. The headline should have described him as a messenger rather than a shield, the latter implying that Israeli soldiers were forcing him to stand in front of them to take fire aimed at them (the soldiers), which was not the case. Since the Israeli soldiers furnished a bulletproof vest, it should have been obvious to the writer that it was not the intent of the soldiers to harm him.

The use of the term “shield” is a blatant distortion, emphasized by the words in italics placed above the headline.

AUGUST 16 (continued)

CATEGORY

- *...killing the Hamas militant, who used a wheelchair.*

The Hamas leader, Nasser Jerar, had been planning a massive bombing at a high-rise building in Israel, according to the story. Bombing a high-rise, occupied by families, is the action of a terrorist, not a militant.

IMAGING

Stating that he was in a wheelchair at this location in the story is irrelevant, intended only to invoke sympathy. Later on, in the tenth paragraph, the article states that Jerar was in a wheelchair, having lost both legs and an arm when a bomb he was planting exploded prematurely. Mentioning the wheelchair was appropriate at this point, not in the third paragraph.

IMAGING

- *In Israel, opposition leader Yossi Sarid criticized the use of Palestinian civilians in army operations...*

DISTORTION

Yossi Sarid is known for his extreme left-wing stances. To describe him as an “opposition leader” gives him a dignity and stature that he does not possess.

AUGUST 16 (continued)

CATEGORY

- *“It is not the duty of the Palestinian population to protect army soldiers, but the army’s,” B’tselem said in a release. “Whatever the circumstances, army soldiers may not endanger the lives of civilians to protect their own.”* **INACCURATE**

The Israelis were not trying to protect their own lives. The sole intent of the army’s sending in the Palestinian was to safely bring out the innocent civilian occupants of the house, not to protect themselves. If their only intent was to save their own lives, without regard for innocent Palestinian life (as Palestinian terrorists have shown no regard for innocent Israeli civilian lives,) they could have easily demolished the house with the occupants inside.

AUGUST 19

News Article: Mideast Security Accord Reached

By Steve Weizman – Associated Press

- *...Israeli...forces arrested 16 suspected Palestinian militants suspected of terrorism.* **IMAGING**
- *Israel has imposed curfews...to stop militants from entering Israel and launching attacks, including suicide bombings.* **IMAGING**

People who commit suicide bombings are terrorists, not militants. Referring to them as “militants” softens the evil nature of the deed and of the perpetrators.

AUGUST 19 (continued)

CATEGORY

- *Palestinians trapped in their home for days at a time call it collective punishment.*

**NO REBUTTAL
DISTORTION
OMISSION**

No Israeli response to the accusation of collective punishment is given, only statistics as to the number of Palestinian prisoners. This incorrectly implies that Israel is responsible. There is no mention that curfews are needed to prevent/reduce infiltration of terrorists that murder innocent Israeli civilians. The Palestinian terrorists are clearly responsible for “collective punishment.”

- *The army took widespread criticism...after soldiers forced a Palestinian teenager to approach the house of a Palestinian militant to tell him to surrender.*

**INACCURATE
OMISSION**

News stories from August 16th state that the Palestinian teenager was asked to approach the home not to ask the terrorist inside to surrender, but rather to warn the innocent occupants of the house to leave. This casts the Israeli action in a more humane light than was reported by the author, as its intent was to spare the lives of innocent civilians. There is no mention by the author that there would be no need for this procedure if Palestinian terrorists did not use residential areas as their base of operations, and thus did not use the occupants as shields.

AUGUST 20

**News Article: Palestinian Militants Reject Pact
By John Ward Anderson and Molly Moore
Washington Post
(An Associated Press report is included)**

CATEGORY

Headline

The so-called “militants” in the headline are identified in the second paragraph as Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine. To refer to them as “militants” is like calling Osama Bin Laden and Al Quaida “militants.” These organizations are terrorists. Sanitizing murderers of innocent people as “militants” as has been done in the Courant headline, is an outrageous distortion.

**IMAGING
DISTORTION**

- *...three hard-line Palestinian groups threatened to torpedo the deal.*

DISTORTION

It is also outrageous to refer to terrorist organizations as merely “hard-line”. The media often uses this term in reference to Ariel Sharon and the Likud party. Using similar terminology for terrorist groups invites an odious comparison.

- *The three Palestinian groups...vowed to continue their attacks.*

OMISSION

The writer should have added ...attacks of terrorism directed at innocent civilians.

- *There has not been a major Palestinian attack against Israel or Jewish settlers in more than two weeks*

**INACCURATE
IMAGING.
UNBALANCED**

AUGUST 20 (continued)

CATEGORY

The writers should have inserted the word “successful” prior to the word “major”. The Jerusalem Post has reported many attempts thwarted by Israeli security, including attacks on settlements, during this period.

The writers should have written “...major Palestinian terrorist attacks against innocent Israeli civilians...”

By distinguishing between “Israel” and “Jewish settlers” the journalists have appeared to accept the distinction made by Palestinians, that Jewish civilian residents in these areas are legitimate targets for attacks.

Three Palestinian spokesmen are quoted in the story, but no statements from any Israeli source are included.

- *In the past, Israel and militant Palestinians have launched... attacks that the other side has reacted to with revenge killings and airstrikes.*

OMISSION
DISTORTION
IMAGING

The article does not state the announced Israeli position that attacks on Palestinian terrorists (not “militants”) are for the purpose of preventing future attacks. News stories quoting Palestinian terrorist organizations (Hamas, Islamic Jihad, etc.) frequently state that these organizations vow revenge on Israelis whenever they suffer casualties. Use of the term “airstrikes,” which can only apply to Israel, coupled in the same phrase with “revenge killings” seems to imply that Israel is responsible for both.

AUGUST 20

CATEGORY

- *“This is a litmus test for Israel.” Said... a member of the Palestinian...Council...*

**NO REBUTTAL
DISTORTION**

No rebuttal to this statement is offered by any Israeli official.

This obviously opinionated statement is also placed on the top of the page right above a large photo showing Israeli soldiers on duty in the West Bank. The combined effect of the quotation and the photo is a distortion, implying that the Israelis are primarily responsible for the violence.

AUGUST 22

**News Article: Israel Cracks Hamas Cell in Jerusalem
Combined Wire Services
Los Angeles Times, Washington Post and Associated
Press reports included**

**Headline: Israel: Hamas Terror Cell Uncovered In City
(This headline is on page A16, the story being continued from page A1)**

The second headline identifying Hamas with terror is featured prominently in large black type, as shown above. The Courant is to be commended for this headline, for accurately calling attention to the fact that Hamas does indeed practice terror, not “militancy.” Regretfully, this terminology is rarely used by the Courant and other media.

- *...the cell...was operated by the militant group Hamas, officials said.*

IMAGING

It is very doubtful that the Israeli official used the term “militant” to describe Hamas.

AUGUST 22 (continued)

CATEGORY

- *A spokesman for Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said “...the proper measures in order to curb” militant activity in ...Jerusalem.* **IMAGING
DISTORTION**

Why was the spokesman’s quotation terminated in the middle of his sentence, just before “militant activity”. It is likely that the Israeli spokesman would have used the words “terrorist activity.” It appears that the writer’s intent was to soften and sanitize terrorism – a troubling and egregious violation of journalistic ethics.

The headline writer for this news article correctly referred to Hamas as a terror organization, even though the story itself used the euphemism “militant.”

AUGUST 23

**News Article: Israelis Prepare For The Worst
Washington Post**

This is a neutral article.

AUGUST 26

Editorial: Think Before Speaking

This editorial rehashes the Courant’s previous criticism of the Israeli attack that killed Hamas leader Salah Shehada, along with many civilians, including children. The thrust of the editorial was to criticize President Bush for his use of the term “heavy-handed”, which the Courant considered relatively mild. The Courant makes no mention of the fact that Shehada was an arch-terrorist allegedly plotting to blow up a high-rise apartment in Tel Aviv, and that he was deliberately hiding among civilians. For this reason, some analysts have concluded that the President’s choice of the word was deliberate.

**OMISSION
DISTORTION
IMAGING**

AUGUST 26 (continued)

CATEGORY

The editorial does not differentiate between deliberate killing of civilians, as practiced by terrorist groups, and unintentional civilian deaths, where the civilians are not the prime target. The thrust of the editorial could easily have been that the responsibility for Palestinian civilian deaths rests with the Palestinian terrorists themselves, for operating out of civilian areas and secreting themselves among civilians.

AUGUST 26

No Courant news reporting.

Missing from the Courant was the news story that Palestinians affiliated with the Al-Aksa Martyr's Brigade had tortured a young man until he confessed that his mother had collaborated with Israel. The Palestinians then murdered the woman, a mother of seven, and left her body in the street. A spokesman explained that they justified the use of torture by stating that this was the only way they could get confessions.

This story was reported in the Jerusalem Post and was available to the American media. It was picked up and reprinted by World Net Daily. It obviously constitutes negative public relations for Palestinians and their supporters, and its omission from the Courant is disturbing.

AUGUST 27

CATEGORY

**News Article: Seven Israeli Arabs arrested as accomplices
(No author or source listed)**

This is a neutral article, but the small size of the article diminishes its importance, and therefore diminishes the reader's awareness of the growing alliance between Israeli Arabs and Palestinian terrorism.

AUGUST 29

**News Article:
Palestinians: 4 Die in Israeli Shelling
Associated Press**

The headline writer for this story correctly states that the claim for the shelling deaths is alleged by the Palestinians, rather than a blanket headline "4 Die in Israeli Shelling," that would have omitted "Palestinians," the source of violence.

- *The Israeli military had no immediate comment.*

NO REBUTTAL

In the absence of an immediate Israeli military comment, the entire episode is based on what "residents and doctors said." The news article should have been deferred until a proper Israeli response was made, particularly as there was no explanation as to why Israel shelled the encampment, although one might expect that the shelling was in response to the Israelis being fired on from the encampment.

- *Two Palestinians were killed in separate clashes.*

**OMISSION
UNVERIFIED**

No further information is provided as to how the clashes originated, who attacked whom, etc. Clashes do not arise spontaneously.

AUGUST 30

CATEGORY

**News Article: Bombings Prompt Israelis To Sue Palestinian Authority
By Mark Magnier
Special to the Courant (Los Angeles Times)**

This is a neutral article. Both an Israeli legal professor (Neta Ziv) and a Palestinian senior aide to Yasser Arafat (Nabil abu Rudaineh) are quoted.

AUGUST 30

**News Article: Palestinian Economy On The Rocks
By Mark Magnier and Tracy Wilkinson
Special to the Courant (Los Angeles Times)**

Nine paragraphs are devoted to describing the bleak economic picture facing the Palestinians (roadblocks, travel restrictions, high unemployment, lack of trade, lost income, etc,) with the obvious finger of guilt pointing at Israel, but no Israeli response is given until the final three small paragraphs where they can be easily overlooked by the casual reader.

**UNBALANCED
OMISSION**

The article fails to mention the reason for the bleak conditions. It ignores that Yasser Arafat walked away from the generous Israeli offer at Camp David, initiated the Intifada and unleashed a war of terrorism against Israel. Roadblocks, travel restrictions, incursions, destroyed buildings, curfew, etc, are all essential to prevent terrorism and the murder of innocent Israeli civilians.

AUGUST 31

News Article: Palestinian Official Seeks To Halt Bombings

By Steven Gutkin

Associated Press

This news article is neutral.