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**THIS MONTH'S AD  
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Despite the Palestinian Authority (PA) refusal to turn over the bullet that killed Abu-Akleh and rejecting Israel's request for PA cooperation in an investigation, the American legislators cast doubt only on Israel's role in the journalist's death.

[illegible]

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Abu-Akleh, a veteran reporter, was there to cover the confrontations between Israel and the Palestinian terror-cells.

Palestinian reports of her shooting-death immediately claimed that she was “murdered” by an Israeli sniper.

“The only source of fire in that place came from the occupation forces with the intention to kill,” Palestinian Attorney-General Akram Al-Khatib said, referring to the Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

Initially, the Palestinian Authority claimed—and al Jazeera and other news outlets dutifully reported—that no Palestinian guns were fired anywhere near where she fell.

Then videos emerged showing a fierce firefight between the IDF and the PIJ terrorists. In fact, one of the videos recorded a PIJ gunman announcing that they had “gotten” an Israeli: In fact, no Israelis were shot that day, and the corpse on the ground was probably that of Abu-Akleh.

Those early stories were scrubbed off the al Jazeera website. But the counterfactual allegations and narrative of a tranquil Jenin invaded by IDF assassins seeking a journalistic victim had taken root.

Videos exposing the dishonesty of the Palestinian propaganda had been published several days *before* the congressional letter was issued. Nonetheless, the congressional signatories propagated the lies in their letter, which states: “Palestinian journalists . . . say they did not see militants in the area.” The letter also cites Shaza Hanaysheh, a Palestinian journalist, alleging “there were no clashes or shootings in the immediate area.”

Of course, Palestinian journalists are notoriously unreliable witnesses. Veteran Middle-East observers know that these reporters are threatened and strictly controlled by the Palestinian Authority (PA). They have a reputation for reporting on incidents that are somehow always Israel’s fault.

Indeed, in Freedom House’s Press Freedom Index, the West Bank press receives a 25: Not Free. (Israel’s press scores 78: *Free*.)

In 2002, Jenin was also a hot-spot for the Palestinian press, who supported claims the IDF massacred hundreds of Arab civilians. But when the facts were revealed, there were fewer than 50 Arab deaths—and most of *those* were armed terrorist fighters killed in battle. (23 Israeli soldiers were also killed.)

Now again, in 2022, hard evidence—this time, in the form of real-time videos—has exposed Palestinian lies.

While the congressional request for answers pointedly implies Israel is hiding something, it neglects to mention that the linchpin of any investigation—the lethal bullet—is held by the uncooperative Palestinians.

In fact, terrorists quickly collected Abu-Akleh’s lifeless body, and Israel immediately offered to investigate with the PA, accompanied by American

FLAME is the only organization that defends Israel with paid editorial hasbarah messages placed in media nationwide every month: The dire threats from Iran, Hamas and Hizbollah, the injustice of BDS, Palestinian anti-Semitism and more. If you support a bold voice that tells the truth about Israel in American media, please donate now.

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observers. The congressional letter conveniently omits the fact that the PA categorically refused. What the Representatives want is precisely what the PA is blocking: A balanced and thorough determination of the circumstances of Abu-Akleh's death.

The PA's own medical examiner who inspected the fatal bullet said he couldn't determine if it was from an IDF or a PIJ rifle. It is certain that Israel and the U.S. have superior ballistics labs—if the truth is really sought.

If any party should be suspect in Abu-Akleh's death, it is surely those obstructing justice.

In short, the intent of these congressional Democrats was clearly a hatchet job on Israel ahead of any evidence. They *ignore* Israel's readiness and attempts to investigate the tragedy. They *choose to disregard* the PA's withholding of evidence, plus the known duplicity of the PA and its Palestinian "witnesses." They *say nothing* of the terror wave threatening Israeli citizens.

Zooming out to the bigger picture, supporters of Israel must reach a troubling conclusion: The Congresspeople who signed the letter are serving notice on Israel that bipartisan support for Israel on Capitol Hill is deteriorating. This sizable fraction of the Democratic caucus no doubt presages future moves to undercut the US-Israel bond.

Please express to your friends, family, colleagues, and elected representatives that congressional Democrats in their Abu-Akleh letter betray—with zero evidence—trust in one of our strongest allies. The killing—like the death of any war-zone journalist—is tragic, but nothing thus far indicates any responsibility on Israel's part . . . much less that she was targeted. The very notion is slanderous.

Emphasize, too, that the Palestinian Authority's withholding evidence and rejection of Israeli cooperation in an investigation obstructs the search for truth—and justice for Abu-Akleh.

I hope you'll also take a minute, while you have this material front and center, to forward this message to friends, visit FLAME's lively [Facebook page](#) and review the P.S. immediately below. It describes FLAME's new *hasbarah* campaign—which further exposes “[The Israel Genocide Slander](#)” and the antisemites who make this false accusation.

Best regards,

Ken Cohen, Editor  
Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME)

P.S. Whoopi Goldberg's comments recently about the Holocaust underscored perhaps the greatest "public relations" problem Israel faces: Lies, slander and misinformation. One of the greatest of these falsehoods is the accusation of genocide against the Jewish state. Last May, actor Mark Ruffalo tweeted that Israel commits genocide. A

college student in a public forum told Vice President Harris that Israel commits "ethnic genocide." I think you'll agree that the only antidote to these lies is the truth. To clarify the outrageous accusation of genocide by Israel, FLAME has created a new *hasbarah* message called "[The Israel Genocide Slander](#)." I hope you'll review this convincing, fact-based paid editorial, which ran in the *Washington Post*, *New York Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Orlando Sentinel* and other media nationwide. It spells out why the State of Israel does not and has never committed genocide—and why accusers should be branded antisemites. This piece will also be sent to all members of Congress, Vice President Harris and President Biden. If you agree that this kind of public relations effort on Israel's behalf is critical, I urge you to support us. Remember: FLAME's powerful ability to influence public opinion—and U.S. support of Israel—comes from individuals like you, one by one. I hope you'll consider [giving a donation now](#), as you're able—with \$500, \$250, \$100, or even \$18. (Remember, your donation to FLAME is tax deductible.) To donate online, just go to [donate](#) now. Now, more than ever, we need your support to ensure that the American people, the U.S. Congress and President Biden stay committed to fighting antisemitic actions by individuals, politicians and commercial companies.

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