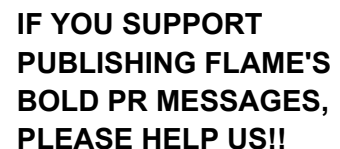


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**THIS MONTH'S AD  
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[illegible]

compiled 27 articles on the “moral failings of Israeli society” between Nov. 8 and Dec. 16, 2011, and noted that this seven-week tally of articles was higher than all stories significantly critical of Palestinian government and society published by his bureau in the preceding three years.

During the fighting in Gaza in 2008 and 2009, Friedman was forced to erase a significant detail from AP’s coverage—the fact Hamas fighters dressed as civilians were counted as part of the civilian death toll. He did this because of a threat to AP’s reporter in Gaza. He also noted that it was AP’s policy “not to inform readers that the story is censored unless the censorship is Israeli.”

**Indeed, the media frequently omit crucial information in stories about Israel.** For instance, last month, AP published an article under the headline, “A Palestinian dies a month after being shot during an Israeli raid in the West Bank.” The article did not identify this Palestinian as a fighter for the Al-Aqsa Martyrs’ Brigade until the third paragraph. This can easily make readers assume he was a civilian, especially if they only read the headline. The end result is that Israel looks like the “bad guy” for killing innocent Palestinians.

**Sometimes, the media simply get their facts wrong, distorting the truth and negatively affecting Israel’s image.** For example, CNN’s Christiane Amanpour said that members of an Israeli family were killed in a “shootout.” But in fact, the three members of the Dee family, a mother and her two daughters, were murdered by Palestinian terrorists who opened fire on their car, then executed them at point-blank range.

**The media also wrongfully assume there is a moral equivalence between Israel and Palestinian terrorists.** NPR implied exactly this in an article following an attack last January at a Jerusalem synagogue in which seven Israelis were murdered by a Palestinian terrorist—the deadliest terrorist attack on Israelis since 2011.

The day after the attack, NPR released an article with the headline, “Here’s what is driving the latest spiral of Israeli-Palestinian violence.” The article begins by referring to the “cycle of violence,” then mentions an Israeli counterterrorism operation in which nine Palestinian terrorists were killed, followed by the terrorist attack at the Jerusalem synagogue. Implying that a counterterrorism operation and a terrorist attack in which Israeli civilians are senselessly murdered are simply part of a “cycle of violence” suggests a moral equivalence between the two—a notion that is both absurd and perverse. There is no moral equivalence between killing terrorists and killing civilians.

**In addition, media often assume that information they get from Israel’s enemies is correct, without researching further to verify accuracy.** For instance, an article published in the *Economist* this past August told the story of a Palestinian winemaker, who claimed it was “virtually impossible” to get a permit from Israel to expand his business.

But this article left out one very crucial detail. The winery in question is located in Area A of Judea and Samaria—under full Palestinian control. Therefore, permits from Israel are not required. The *Economist* either failed to cross-check

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the claims of the Palestinian winemaker, or simply hid the truth about his winery's location so it could sell the lie that Israel is responsible for Palestinians' hardship.

**Fortunately, there is a way of combatting the lies and misinformation that abound in the media's coverage of Israel—speaking out.** After Gilad Erdan, Israel's ambassador to the United Nations, condemned the *Times*' anti-Israel bias and met with its senior editorial staff, the paper's coverage of the Jewish state actually improved—slightly. Lilac Sigan found, for example, that whereas Palestinian terrorist organizations were disregarded by the *Times* in 2022, they were mentioned more often in 2023. Hamas was mentioned in the first half of 2023 twice as much as in the first half of 2022, and Islamic Jihad was mentioned three times as much.

CNN's Amanpour issued an apology for her infamous “shootout” gaffe following protestations by the Dee family and pro-Israel advocates.

Please make the point when speaking with family, friends, colleagues—or in letters to the editor—that those who care about Israel must speak out. We must of course oppose blatant bias on the major issues, such as apartheid, genocide, and murder of Palestinian children. But supporters of Israel also need to hammer the media for its steady stream of “small” lies and half-truths about the Jewish state. Remember: The war of words against Israel goes on every day. Our silence is complicity. We only win when we persist.

Best regards,  
Jason Shvili, Contributing Editor  
Facts and Logic About the Middle East (FLAME))

P.S. You've surely seen headlines describing skyrocketing attacks on Jews in recent years and months—and you probably heard about the President's new National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism. But all evidence indicates that the Administration is *not* committed to fighting antisemites among its own voters and party officials. I hope you'll agree that we opponents of antisemitism across all sectors of American society need to speak out. FLAME's new *hasbarah*—explanatory message—“Can Biden's Plan Beat Antisemitism?”—enumerates some of the antisemitic offenders most damaging to American Jews . . . and most likely to be *ignored* by the Administration. I hope you'll review this convincing, fact-based editorial, which FLAME intends to publish in the *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, *New York Post*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Houston Chronicle*, *Star Tribune* and *Los Angeles Times*. 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 with a donation.

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