

In News and Film, the Anti-Israel Bias Pervades

by Phyllis Chesler



The world media has launched so many anti-Israel propaganda “rockets” that it feels like they far outnumber the real ones that Hamas has launched against civilian Israel.

From May 10-19, the *New York Times* alone printed enough words (76,586) about Hamas’s attack on Israel to constitute a novel. Even when it reports a true fact, which it does, its impact is dulled or even lost by the overriding narrative context in which Israel is at fault and Hamas is either innocent or heroically resisting “settler” oppression and Nazi-like persecution.

This word count does not include the many photographs of weeping Palestinian mothers, wounded and bloody Palestinian fathers, bombed Gazan buildings, allegedly dead Palestinian children, etc. Each print edition has at least six to eight such photographs. Perhaps there’s one small photo in each issue which shows us minor damage to an Israeli house and an unclear example of Israelis in a stairwell – but the Israeli

photos always appear second or last and are always smaller.

From a psychological point of view, first impressions and size are what count.

The headlines in the print editions are also misleading. Take Sunday's headline: "[burned](#) a synagogue down to the ground in Lod, and [MidEast Violence Rages on as Biden Backs a Cease-Fire. He Avoids Placing Blame—Israel Vows to Keep Hitting Hamas Targets.](#)" As usual, the paper of record trumpets "the deaths of dozens of Palestinian children" in its opening paragraph without always noting how many of those children were probably murdered by Hamas's own rockets which fell short – or because Hamas placed their weapons and military intelligence headquarters in schools, hospitals, and mosques – creating human shields for propaganda purposes. This should be routinely noted in daily coverage.

You have to get to the end of the sixth paragraph before you read that Hamas "has killed nine civilians in Israel, including two children, and at least one soldier." Oddly, they rarely report the number of Israeli wounded and traumatized by constant rocket fire.

As usual, there are multiple pieces on this one subject in this same issue.

Instead of describing and naming the treacherous insurrection launched by some Arab citizens, the *Times* [murder](#)" of Muhammad Al-Dura at the Netzavim junction, the fake Israeli [defensive](#) action against the armed Turkish flotilla, the Mavi Marmara, etc.

The most recent example of such propaganda porn is Farah Nabulsi's short film, "[raved critics](#), as well as by [Paradise Now](#) won many awards and sold to 45 countries. Backed by Dutch, French, and German investors, the film "humanized" Palestinian suicide killers. Again, the hero is a very handsome and soulful man, an Arab Marcello Mastroianni, played by Kaif

Nashef. We are rooting for him, Said, and his comrade, Khaled, and not for the doomed Israelis. To bring this about, the film lies about everything. Well, it's fiction, and isn't fiction entitled to all the lies it can tell? Here's what I [Syrianafilms](#), but especially, view *War Crimes in Gaza*.

First published in