

Stop Media Bias Against Israel

You can help us set the record straight

You can make a difference! By writing letters-to-editor or posting/commenting online or directly contacting journalists or calling T.V. and radio stations in response to coverage of Israel, you convey that the public is alert to skewed, inaccurate or incomplete reports.

Public participation in promoting balanced, accurate coverage is essential and urgent. We encourage you to respond regularly to unfair media portrayals of Israel and inaccurate and distorted articles about her adversaries. It is also important to communicate appreciation to journalists whose reports are objective and factual.

Keep this directory handy and use it often!

Tips and Strategies

Respond while the issue is still fresh in the minds of journalists, commentators and their audience. State the point of your letter or phone call within the first two sentences.

Be specific about why the article or broadcast was unfair.

Be concise. Most publications will not print more than 200 words for a letter to the editor. Limit your topic. While an article or broadcast may contain numerous instances of bias, focus on just one or two. It's better to fully explain one point than to inadequately cover five. Stick to the facts. Hostile or overly emotional language is counterproductive. Be cordial and polite in your tone.

Be pro-active. Don't wait for a crisis to be an advocate for Israel. Send in letters or make calls about Israel's prolific contributions to medicine, science and technology, or expose what Israel's enemies are doing and saying.

COMMON MYTHS SPREAD BY THE MEDIA

1. MYTH: "The Arabs will make peace in exchange for territory."

FACT: When Palestinian Authority spokesmen address Arab audiences, they state openly that their goal is the destruction of all Israel, not just the conquest of the pre-1967 territories, and that they adhere to the "Strategy of Phases" – first gain some of the territories, and then use them as a springboard to invade and destroy the rest of Israel. P.A. maps define all of Israel as "Occupied Palestine." The songs taught to children in the P.A. schools and summer camps speak of "returning" to cities including Haifa and Tiberias, within pre-1967 Israel.

2. MYTH: "Jewish 'settlements' are the obstacles to peace."

FACT: Before 1967, there was constant Arab terrorism and three Arab wars against Israel – before a single "settlement" existed. The real issue was never "settlements;" the issue has always been the existence of the Jewish state of Israel.

3. MYTH: "The Israeli forces expelled the Arabs from Palestine in 1948."

FACT: The overwhelming majority of the Arabs who left Palestine in 1948 did so voluntarily, to get out of the way of the war. If six Arab armies had not invaded the newborn Israel in an effort to annihilate it, there would not be a single Arab refugee. Only a small minority of Arab-Palestinians were required to

leave their villages in a few cases where the Arab forces were using the residents as a shield to attack Israeli forces – and even then, the Arabs relocated to areas just a few miles away.

4. **MYTH:** “Jerusalem is holy to all three major religions.”

FACT: The city of Jerusalem as a whole is not sacred to Christianity or Islam; there are individual religious sites within the city that those religions consider holy. Jerusalem is not even mentioned in the Koran (though it is mentioned more than 600 times in the Hebrew Bible). During the centuries of Muslim rule, Jerusalem was never made a regional capital, and when Jordan controlled eastern Jerusalem from 1948 to 1967, no Arab leader except King Hussein ever visited it.

For up-to-date, accurate Middle East News, go to Arutz Sheva (Israel National News) at www.israelnationalnews.com

Publications which are usually fair to Israel include: *The Wall Street Journal's* editorial page, *New York Post*, *Washington Times*, *the Weekly Standard*, *Washington Free Beacon*, *Breitbart*, *National Review* and *Commentary*.

Vital, reliable sources on the internet include:

Palestinian Media Watch: www.pmw.org.il
Middle East Media and Research Institute: www.memri.org
Jihad Watch: <http://www.jihadwatch.org/>
CAMERA: <http://www.camera.org>
Front Page magazine: <http://frontpagemagazine.com/>
IsraPundit: <http://www.israpundit.com/2008/>
Eye on the U.N.: <http://www.eyeontheun.org/>
Washington Free Beacon: <http://freebeacon.com/>
israelnationalnews.com
jpost.com
israelhayom.com
Rubin Reports: <http://rubinreports.blogspot.com/>

Historic Documents and Facts:

http://www.palestinefacts.org/pf_1991to_now_plo_fatah.php

http://www.palestinefacts.org/pf_1991to_now_pa_origin.php

http://www.palestinefacts.org/pf_1991to_now_plo_charter_revise.php

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/hamas.asp

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/balfour.asp

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/palmanda.asp

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/plocov.asp

http://avalon.law.yale.edu/21st_century/roadmap.asp

For more tips on responding to media bias, contact the Greater Philadelphia District of the Zionist Organization of America at 610-660-9466 or office@zoaphilly.org. See us on the Web at www.philly.zoa.org