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DISHONEST REPORTING – MEDIA BIAS AGAINST ISRAEL

An address by

I.H. Asper, O.C., O.M., Q.C.

To the

**Israel Bonds Gala Dinner
Montreal, Canada
October 30, 2002**

WE ARE ALL HERE TONIGHT TO EXPRESS OUR RESPECT AND ADMIRATION FOR DAVID AZRIELI. I CONSIDER IT A PRIVILEGE TO WHOLEHEARTEDLY JOIN IN THAT. WE ARE ALSO HERE TO EXPRESS OUR SUPPORT FOR AND SOLIDARITY WITH THE STATE OF ISRAEL. THAT SUPPORT HAS NEVER IN THE SHORT LIFETIME OF THE STATE BEEN MORE NEEDED.

I AM ALSO HERE FOR A THIRD REASON. THROUGHOUT MY LIFETIME I HAVE HAD AN UNSHAKEABLE COMMITMENT TO THREE CORNERSTONES OF MY PERSONAL VALUE SYSTEM: MY FIRST COMMITMENT IS TO THIS GREAT NATION, CANADA. MY SECOND IS TO ISRAEL AS A SYMBOL AND TEACHER OF EXCELLENCE FOR ALL OF HUMANKIND, AND THE THIRD IS TO THE MEDIA AS THE MOST HONOURABLE AND STEADFAST ADVOCATE, DEFENDER AND DISTRIBUTOR OF TRUTH, HONESTY, FAIRNESS, FREEDOM, DEMOCRACY AND HUMAN RIGHTS.

TONIGHT, WITH A COMBINATION OF SADNESS, FEAR AND ANGER, I MUST TELL YOU THAT BOTH ISRAEL AND THE HONOUR OF THE NEWS MEDIA ARE UNDER GRIEVOUS ASSAULT. AND, EVEN MORE PAINFUL FOR ME, EVEN THOUGH AT FIRST GLANCE THOSE TWO PILLARS SHOULD BE SEPARATE, I REGRET TO SAY, THEY ARE BOTH THREATENED BY THE SAME CANCER AND HAVE THUS BECOME INEXTRICABLY LINKED.

THIS IS BECAUSE DISHONEST REPORTING IS DESTROYING THE TRUST IN AND CREDIBILITY OF THE MEDIA AND THE JOURNALISTS, AND THE SAME DISHONEST REPORTING IS BIASED AGAINST ISRAEL, THUS DESTROYING THE WORLD'S FAVOURABLE DISPOSITION TOWARD IT.



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MAKE NO MISTAKE. I DENOUNCE DISHONEST REPORTING WHEREVER AND WHENEVER IT ARISES, WHETHER ON POLITICAL AFFAIRS, COURTROOM TRIALS OR ANY OTHER MATTER WHERE BIAS MAY ARISE. TONIGHT, I ONLY USE ISRAEL AS THE EXAMPLE BECAUSE OF ITS RELEVANCE TO YOU.

I WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT I AM NOT HERE SPEAKING FOR OUR OWN MEDIA COMPANY, CANWEST GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS, BUT ONLY AS A CONCERNED CANADIAN AND A LONG TIME JOURNALIST MYSELF. AS WELL BECAUSE MY COMPANY COMPETES WITH MOST CANADIAN MEDIA, I WILL NOT MAKE SPECIFIC REFERENCE TO OUR COMPETITORS' RECORD TONIGHT, WITH ONE EXCEPTION. THAT EXCEPTION IS THE CBC – BECAUSE ALL CANADIANS OWN IT AND THE GOVERNMENTS WE ELECT ARE RESPONSIBLE TO US AND IT FOR ITS QUALITY, AND INTEGRITY. IT IS OUR PROPERTY, NOT THE PROPERTY OF TRENDY BUREAUCRATS.

BUT BECAUSE OF WHAT YOU READ, WATCH OR LISTEN TO, YOU KNOW WHO ARE THE CANADIAN MEDIA OFFENDERS, AS WILL THEY. AND IF ANY CANWEST MEDIA OUTLETS HAPPEN TO FALL WITHIN THIS INDICTMENT, THEN THEY, TOO, SHOULD TAKE NOTICE THAT I WILL ALWAYS DO ALL IN MY POWER TO STAMP OUT DISHONEST REPORTING, AND BIASED REPORTING ON ANY SUBJECT. THIS STIPULATION APPLIES NOT ONLY ON ISRAEL, BUT WHEREVER AND WHENEVER IT COMES TO MY ATTENTION.

SO TONIGHT, I MAKE THE CHARGE THAT MUCH OF THE WORLD MEDIA, WHO ARE COVERING THE ARAB-ISRAELI CONFLICT, HAVE ABANDONED THE FUNDAMENTAL PRECEPTS OF HONEST REPORTING. THEY HAVE BEEN TAKEN CAPTIVE BY THEIR OWN BIASES, OR VICTIMIZED BY THEIR OWN IGNORANCE. THEY HAVE ADOPTED PALESTINIAN PROPAGANDA, AS THE CONTEXT FOR THEIR STORIES. THEY HAVE BECOME PARTISANS IN AND NOT PROVIDERS OF KNOWLEDGE ABOUT THIS WAR AGAINST ISRAEL. THUS DISHONEST REPORTING HAS MADE TRUTH A CASUALTY OF THE WAR, CAUSING GRIEVOUS DAMAGE TO BOTH ISRAEL AND THE INTEGRITY OF THE JOURNALISTIC PROFESSION, INJURING ALL OF US WHO PRACTICE IT.

LET ME FIRST DEFINE HONEST REPORTING.

THE PRESENTATION OF NEWS INVOLVES A NUMBER OF PEOPLE: FIRST THE ASSIGNMENT EDITOR WHO DECIDES THE STORY SHOULD BE COVERED. THEN THE REPORTER WHO ACTUALLY WRITES THE STORY, THEN, THE EDITOR WHO CHECKS THE STORY, THEN THE HEADLINE WRITER WHO PICKS THE SHORTHAND TITLE FOR THE STORY, THEN THE LAYOUT EDITOR, WHO MAY SELECT PICTURES TO GIVE MORE VITALITY TO THE STORY, AND THEN THE MANAGING EDITOR, WHO WILL DECIDE THE POSITION OF THE STORY IN THE NEWSPAPER, OR, ON THE BROADCAST. EACH HAS THE OPPORTUNITY TO CONTRIBUTE TO THE INTEGRITY OF THE STORY, OR DESTROY IT.

THERE ARE ACCEPTED RULES REGARDING THE HONOUR AND OBLIGATION OF MEDIA IN A DEMOCRATIC SOCIETY. THE MOST ELEMENTARY OF THESE ARE: THE RESPONSIBILITY TO REPORT EVERYTHING THAT THE PUBLIC NEEDS TO KNOW ABOUT A GIVEN

MATTER AND NOT JUST SELECTIVELY, SO THAT THE PUBLIC MAY BE FULLY INFORMED; TO REPORT EVERYTHING HONESTLY AND NOT SLANT THE NEWS, BIASED TOWARD THEIR OWN POINT OF VIEW. THAT IS, NEWS IS NEWS, AND SHOULD APPEAR AS SUCH, AND OPINION IS OPINION, AND MUST BE CLEARLY DESIGNATED AS SUCH.

ANYTHING SHORT OF THAT MAY BE DISHONEST REPORTING AND REFLECTS UNWORTHY CONDUCT ON THE PART OF THE MEDIA INVOLVED.

WE HAVE ALL SEEN, WATCHED OR HEARD IT, AND MOST OF US RECOGNIZE IT IMMEDIATELY. BUT THE VAST MAJORITY OF READERS AND VIEWERS ARE NOT STEEPED IN THE FACTS, AND ACCEPT MEDIA REPORTS AS FACTS.

DISHONEST REPORTING OCCURS IN SEVERAL FORMS. ONE IS THROUGH THE SELECTION OF TERMINOLOGY, SUCH AS WORDS OR PHRASES WHICH PROMOTE A PRESUMED SET OF FACTS. THE TERM "TERROR" HAS BEEN WELL DEFINED BY MAJOR RECOGNIZED LAWS. BUT MANY BIASED MEDIA DESCRIBE THE PALESTINIAN PERPETRATORS OF CLEAR ACTS OF TERROR AGAINST ISRAEL, MERELY AS "MILITANTS", "RESISTANCE FIGHTERS", "GUNMEN", "EXTREMISTS". THE WORST OF THE DISHONEST REPORTERS IN U.S. RADIO TODAY, THE TAXPAYER SUPPORTER OF NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO, HAS EVEN DESCRIBED A GROUP OF ARAB MURDERERS WHO CREPT INTO AN ISRAELI HOME, AT NIGHT, AND MURDERED A MOTHER AND HER CHILDREN, AS "COMMANDOS"!

THE TERMS "CYCLE OF VIOLENCE", "MODERATE ARAB STATES", "PEACE PROCESS", "OCCUPIED TERRITORIES", AND "ILLEGAL SETTLEMENTS" HAVE ALSO BECOME TOOLS AND WEAPONS USED BY THE JOURNALISTIC PROPAGANDISTS IN THEIR DESIRE TO CREATE UNDESERVED SYMPATHY FOR THE PALESTINIANS AND OPPROBRIUM FOR ISRAEL.

THE WAR ITSELF PROVES THERE IS NO PEACE PROCESS, THERE ARE NO MODERATE ARAB STATES, THE TERM "CYCLE OF VIOLENCE" IS AN INSULT TO THE TRUTH, AND UNDER THE OSLO AGREEMENTS THERE IS NO PROHIBITION AGAINST ISRAEL ESTABLISHING NEW SETTLEMENTS IN THE TERRITORY IT CAPTURED FROM JORDAN, NOT THE PALESTINIANS.

DISHONEST REPORTING ARISES NOT ONLY BY WHAT IS SAID, BUT ALSO BY WHAT IS NOT SAID, BUT WHICH IS NECESSARY FOR THE READER OR LISTENER OR VIEWER TO KNOW IN ORDER TO HAVE A FULL UNDERSTANDING OF THE SITUATION, IN THE CONTEXT OF HISTORICAL FACT. SOME EXAMPLES OF PROFOUND MEDIA BIAS AGAINST ISRAEL, ARE FOUND IN THE WORLD'S LEADING MEDIA, INCLUDING SOME OF OUR OWN IN CANADA. SOME OF THE WORST OFFENDERS IN BRITAIN ARE THE LONDON INDEPENDENT, THE GUARDIAN, BBC, SKY NEWS, REUTERS, EVENING STANDARD, BRITAIN'S TELEVISION NETWORK ITV AND THE DAILY MIRROR.

IN THE U.S., THE WORST OFFENDERS ARE CNN, ABC, CBS AND NBC, THE WASHINGTON POST, THE NEW YORK TIMES, THE LA

TIMES, AND ASSOCIATED PRESS.

IN CANADA, ALTHOUGH NOT ALONE, THE CBC, PROVIDES THE MOST SLANTED AND BIASED INFORMATION, AND ROUTINELY PRACTICES DISHONEST REPORTING.

BEFORE TURNING TO SPECIFIC EXAMPLES AND ANALYZING THE CAUSES OF THIS OUTRAGE, WE SHOULD TOUCH ON SOME FUNDAMENTAL LIES ON WHICH MANY REPORTERS AND ANALYSTS BASE THEIR VIEW OF THE WAR.

THE FIRST AND WORST LIE IS WHAT THIS WAR IS ALL ABOUT. DISHONEST REPORTING TELLS YOU THAT IT'S ABOUT TERRITORY, AND JERUSALEM, AND PALESTINIAN STATEHOOD, AND ALLEGED REFUGEES. HONEST REPORTING WOULD TELL YOU THAT IT IS A WAR TO DESTROY ISRAEL AND KILL OR EXPEL OR SUBJUGATE ALL THE JEWS. THAT IS PROVED BY THE WORDS AND DEEDS OF ALL THE KEY ARAB PALESTINIAN LEADERS. BUT THE MEDIA HAS BOUGHT AND REPORTED DISHONESTLY AND RELENTLESSLY THE BIG LIE. THAT BIG LIE IS THAT THIS WAR COULD BE ENDED BY ISRAELI LAND CONCESSIONS.

THE SECOND FUNDAMENTAL BIG LIE DISSEMINATED BY WORLD MEDIA, INCLUDING THOSE IN CANADA, IS WHAT GAVE RISE TO THE CURRENT VERSION OF THE ARAB WAR OF EXTERMINATION OF ISRAEL AND THE JEWISH PEOPLE – THE SO-CALLED AL AQSA UPRISING OR INTIFADA.

THE TRUTH IS THAT WHEN PALESTINIAN LEADER YASSER ARAFAT, ONE OF THE WORLD'S MOST CRUEL AND VICIOUS TERRORISTS FOR THE PAST 30 YEARS, THAT CORRUPT DICTATOR AND THIEF OF BILLIONS OF DOLLARS OF WORLD-INTENDED AID FOR HIS PEOPLE, COULD NOT GET THE EXTRAVAGANT CONCESSIONS HE DEMANDED FROM THE CLINTON CAMP DAVID MEETINGS, HE PLANNED THE UPRISING OF TERRORISM AS A MEANS OF INTIMIDATING THE U.S. AND ISRAEL INTO GIVING INTO HIS MANIACAL DEMANDS.

BUT HE NEEDED AN EXCUSE, AN APPEALING ARGUMENT IN WHICH TO CLOTHE HIS NEW LATEST WAR.

AND SO, IN EARLY SEPTEMBER 2000, WHEN PARLIAMENTARY OPPOSITION LEADER ARIEL SHARON (HE WASN'T EVEN PRIME MINISTER) TOLD BOTH ISRAELIS AND PALESTINIAN OFFICIALS HE INTENDED TO VISIT THE TEMPLE MOUNT IN JERUSALEM, LEGALLY PART OF ISRAEL WHICH IS CO-SITED WITH THE MUSLIM AL AQSA MOSQUE, THEY AGREED AND BOTH PALESTINIAN AND ISRAELI SECURITY DETACHMENTS ACCOMPANIED HIM ON HIS BRIEF TOUR.

THIS WAS THE OPPORTUNITY ARAFAT SOUGHT. HE IMMEDIATELY UNLEASHED THE RIOTING, STONE-THROWING AND ARMED ATTACKS ALLEGEDLY AS A "SPONTANEOUS" UPRISING AGAINST ISRAEL ALLEGEDLY IN RESPONSE TO SHARON'S PROVOCATION!

THEN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, IT WAS THEN THAT MOST OF THE WORLD MEDIA BOUGHT THE PROPAGANDA THAT LAUNCHED

THE SECOND BIG LIE OF THE CURRENT WARFARE: "SHARON'S VISIT PROVOKES PALESTINIAN REBELLION." THEY DIDN'T EVEN ASK THE FUNDAMENTAL QUESTION: IS THIS TRUE?

THEN, AFTER MONTHS OF ISRAELI PRESENTED EVIDENCE TO THE CONTRARY WAS IGNORED, THE LIE WAS EXPOSED AND EXPLODED, BY NONE OTHER THAN ONE OF THE CHIEF OPERATORS OF THE ALLEGEDLY SPONTANEOUS UPRISING. PALESTINIAN COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER IMAD FALOUJI ADMITTED ON MARCH 2, 2001 IN STATEMENTS MADE AT A PLO RALLY IN LEBANON, THAT THE UPRISING WAS IN THE PLANNING STAGE FROM JULY 2000 WHEN THE CAMP DAVID PEACE TALKS FAILED. HIS WORDS? "IT HAD BEEN PLANNED SINCE CHAIRMAN ARAFAT'S RETURN FROM CAMP DAVID."

THE THIRD BIG LIE IS THAT THE CURRENT CONFLICT ARISES FROM PALESTINIAN FRUSTRATION OVER THE SLOWNESS OF THE SO-CALLED "PEACE PROCESS."

THE CENTRAL, AND CONVENIENTLY IGNORED, FACT IS THAT THE CURRENT WARFARE IS MERELY THE LATEST CHAPTER IN A WAR AGAINST THE JEWISH PEOPLE. THAT WAR BEGAN IN EARNEST 85 YEARS AGO, WHEN IN 1917, BRITAIN AND THE LEAGUE OF NATIONS DECLARED, WITH WORLD APPROVAL, THAT A JEWISH STATE WOULD BE ESTABLISHED IN PALESTINE.

THE REGION'S ARABS HAVE ENGAGED IN TERRORIST SLAUGHTER, RIOTS AND MULTI MUSLIM STATES MILITARY INVASION AGAINST THE JEWISH NATION EVER SINCE. THE ONLY PERIODIC LULLS IN THIS SAVAGE AND OFTEN BARBARIC ASSAULT, SPECIALIZING IN SEEKING WOMEN, CHILDREN AND ELDERLY VICTIMS, HAS OCCURRED WHEN THE ARABS HAVE BEEN RESOUNDINGLY DEFEATED.

THEN, THEY SUE FOR PEACE, ISSUE POOR -ME HAND -WRINGING PLEAS FOR INTERNATIONAL HELP, AND USE THE LULL IN THE BATTLE TO REGROUP, RE-ARM AND PLOT THEIR NEXT ASSAULT AND IT IS ROUTINELY LAUNCHED.

ANY REPORTAGE OR COMMENTARY THAT IS NOT CLOTHED IN THIS CONTEXT IS, AT BEST, MISLEADING, OR IGNORANT AND PLAIN DISHONEST AT WORST.

I OFFER A HANDFUL OF EXAMPLES EXTRACTED FROM THE HUNDREDS AVAILABLE:

RECENTLY A NATIONALLY SYNDICATED AMERICAN COLUMNIST, GEORGIE ANN GEYER, WROTE A COLUMN LACED WITH PURE FABRICATIONS, SUCH AS "PRIME MINISTER SHARON TOLD HIS CABINET RECENTLY "DON'T WORRY ABOUT AMERICAN OBJECTIONS TO OUR ACTIONS, I CONTROL AMERICA". WHEN CHALLENGED, SHE ADMITTED THAT THE STATEMENT ORIGINATED FROM AN OCTOBER 3, 2001 PRESS RELEASE FROM THE PRO-HAMAS AMERICAN GROUP, ISLAMIC ASSOCIATION FOR PALESTINE. THEY IN TURN CLAIMED THAT IT HAD ORIGINATED WITH AN OFFICIAL ISRAELI GOVERNMENT RADIO BROADCAST. ON CHECKING, IT TURNED OUT THAT NO SUCH BROADCAST HAD

EVER OCCURRED.

WHEN CONFRONTED WITH THIS INFORMATION, GEYER CHANGED ONCE AGAIN HER STORY. SHE FINALLY COWERED IGNOBLY BEHIND THE STANDARD LIAR'S SHIELD: HER SOURCES, SHE WHINED, "WERE TWO ANONYMOUS ISRAELI INDIVIDUALS". NATURALLY, SHE REFUSED TO IDENTIFY THEM.

IN AN EDITORIAL OF JULY 10, 2001, THE BOSTON GLOBE REPORTED THAT ISRAELI MINES ARE PLANTED IN AREAS WHERE PALESTINIAN CIVILIANS ARE TRYING TO LIVE THEIR LIVES. AFTER REBUTTAL PROOF WAS PUT BEFORE THEM, IT TOOK MORE THAN A MONTH TO FORCE THE GLOBE TO MAKE A MODEST RETRACTION, AND, THEN, THEY ONLY BEGRUDGINGLY STATED THAT "THE CLAIM IS NOT "SUBSTANTIATED", IMPLYING THAT IT MAY STILL BE TRUE.

SALIM MUWAKKIL STILL OPINED IN THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE ON DECEMBER 10, 2001 THAT "SHARON TRIGGERED THE EL AQSA INTIFADA WITH HIS 1999 VISIT TO HARAM AL-SHARIF OR TEMPLE MOUNT" NOTWITHSTANDING THE EARLIER CONFESSION BY THE PALESTINIAN COMMUNICATIONS MINISTER TO THE CONTRARY!

LAST MARCH, ABC'S PETER JENNINGS REPORTING A TERRORIST ATTACK ON A BUS TRAVELLING FROM TEL AVIV TO NAZARETH, STATED THAT "7 PEOPLE DIED, MOST OF THEM ISRAELI ARABS."

THE TRUTH IS THAT ALL OF THE DECEASED WERE JEWS, NONE WERE ARABS. DESPITE THAT FACT ABC REFUSED TO ADMIT ITS MISTAKE AND BROADCAST A CORRECTION. AFTER TWO MONTHS OF WAFFLING, ABC FINALLY CONCEDED TO COMPLAINANTS HOW THE ERROR HAD OCCURRED, BUT IT NEVER DID ISSUE AN ON AIR RETRACTION OR CORRECTION.

AS WE ALL KNOW, PICTURES CAN TELL A STORY MUCH BETTER THAN WORDS. SO WHEN 100,000 SUPPORTERS OF ISRAEL MARCHED DOWN MANHATTAN'S 5TH AVENUE, WITH HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS MORE CHEERING ON THE SIDEWALKS TO CELEBRATE ISRAEL'S 54TH BIRTHDAY THIS MAY, THE NEW YORK TIMES PHOTOGRAPH WAS OF A PLACARD "END ISRAELI OCCUPATION". EVEN THE NEW YORK TIMES ADMITTED IT WAS CARRIED BY ONLY A FEW HUNDRED ANTI-ISRAEL PROTESTORS. THAT'S THE STORY? THAT'S HONEST REPORTING?

THE SAME BIAS WAS REPEATED IN THE COVERAGE OF THE HUGE TORONTO RALLY IN SUPPORT OF ISRAEL WHERE THOUSANDS OF PRO-ISRAEL SUPPORTERS MARCHED. A FEW HUNDRED ANTI-ISRAEL PROTESTORS DOGGED THE PARADE. BUT THEY GOT MORE MEDIA ATTENTION, BECAUSE SOMETHING LIKE 4 OR 5 OF THEM WERE ANTI-ISRAELI JEWS FROM OUTSIDE OF CANADA, WHO HAD BEEN BROUGHT IN ESPECIALLY TO ATTRACT MEDIA ATTENTION.

THE SEPARATE FACT WAS THAT AN INNOCENT BYSTANDER, A TORONTO JEWISH DOCTOR, WAS STANDING ON THE STREET WATCHING THE PARADE AND CALLED OUT HIS SUPPORT FOR

ISRAEL, PALESTINIAN SUPPORTER THUGS BEAT HIM, AND BROKE HIS SHOULDER. THIS WAS NOT REPORTED, AND NO MEDIA HOWL FOLLOWED. IMAGINE THE OUTCRY IF THE VICTIM HAD BEEN ROUGHED UP BY THE PRO ISRAELIS!

A GREAT DEAL OF THE DISHONESTY ARISES FROM THE FAILURE TO REPORT AND THE FAILURE TO OPINE ON MANY FACTORS WHICH MUST BE CONSIDERED IN JUDGING THE MIDDLE EAST WAR. SUCH AS:

- ✍ THE WASHINGTON POST WAS ONE OF THE WORST OFFENDERS, ALONG WITH THE BBC AND THE ABC, WHEN ISRAEL MADE A PINPOINT STRIKE AGAINST THE TOP HAMAS TERRORIST, NASSER JARRAR. JARRAR HAD LOST BOTH LEGS AND AN ARM LAST YEAR, WHEN A BOMB HE WAS MAKING EXPLODED. STILL, HE CONTINUED TO ORGANIZE AND DIRECT TERROR ACTIVITIES, RECRUITING SUICIDE BOMBERS AND PLANNING A MAJOR ATTACK TO DESTROY A MULTI-STOREY CIVILIAN BUILDING IN ISRAEL.

INSTEAD OF RECOGNIZING THE LEGITIMACY OF ISRAEL TAKING HIM OUT, OR MENTIONING THE METHOD BY WHICH HE HAD LOST HIS LIMBS, THE WASHINGTON POST PUBLISHED THE FOLLOWING HEADLINE: "DISABLED MILITANT'S DEFIANT LAST BATTLE: LEGLESS, ONE-ARMED PALESTINIAN DIES SHOOTING."

- ✍ FAILURE TO REPORT ON PALESTINIAN CHILDREN'S TERRORIST TRAINING IN SUMMER CAMPS OR THE DIVERTING OF THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT GRANTS TO THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY FOR EDUCATION TO FUND THIS KIND OF FUTURE TERRORIST ACTIVITY.
- ✍ FAILURE TO REPORT ON THE DEPTHS OF ARAFAT'S CORRUPTION, EVEN THOUGH HE HAS STOLEN BILLIONS FROM HIS OWN PEOPLE. THIS THEFT HAS BEEN ACKNOWLEDGED EVEN BY CREDIBLE ARAB SPOKESPERSONS.
- ✍ FAILURE TO REPORT HONESTLY AN INCIDENT ON FEBRUARY, 2002. CNN REPORTED "ISRAELI POLICE SHOT AND KILLED A PALESTINIAN IN A GUN BATTLE SUNDAY NEAR AN ARMY BASE IN NORTHERN ISRAEL AND ANOTHER PALESTINIAN DIED NEARBY WHEN A CAR EXPLODED".

CNN FAILED TO REPORT THAT THE TWO PALESTINIANS WERE IN THE PROCESS OF ATTEMPTED DOUBLE SUICIDE BOMBINGS. THEY WERE STRAPPED WITH EXPLOSIVE BELTS.

- ✍ FAILURE TO REPORT THE TRUTH OF AN INCIDENT IN MARCH 2001 WHEN A PALESTINIAN SNIPER LOOKED THROUGH THE CROSSHAIRS OF HIS SCOPE AND MURDERED SHALHEVET PASS, A 10 MONTH OLD JEWISH BABY IN HEBRON. ASSOCIATED PRESS' HEADLINE WRITERS DECLARED: "JEWISH TODDLER DIES IN WEST BANK". AP MADE NO MENTION OF WHO PERPETRATED THE MURDER, AND GAVE NO INDICATION OF THE GHASTLY

NATURE OF THE CRIME. ACCORDING TO ASSOCIATED PRESS, THE BABY JUST PASSIVELY "DIED" AS IF FROM NATURAL CAUSES OR AN ACCIDENT.

- ✂ FAILURE TO REPORT FULLY THE ROUTINE PALESTINIAN TELEVISION BROADCASTS CALLING FOR SUICIDE BOMBINGS, CALLING FOR BLESSINGS TO BE BESTOWED ON WHOEVER SAVES A BULLET TO STICK INTO A JEW'S HEAD, CALLING FOR PALESTINIANS TO RISE TO MARTYRDOM, AS ROUTINE TELEVISION AND MOSQUE OFFERINGS.
- ✂ FAILURE TO REPORT ON THE ARAFAT PAPERS WHICH HAVE BEEN CAPTURED, AND WHICH PROVE THAT THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY IS FUNDING TERRORIST VIOLENCE.
- ✂ FAILURE TO REPORT THAT MONEY GRANTED TO THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY BY CANADA HAS GONE TO PRODUCE ANTI-ISRAEL PROPAGANDA DISTRIBUTED TO PALESTINIAN CHILDREN.
- ✂ FAILURE TO REPORT ON THE HATE CONTENT IN MANY OF THE ISLAMIC MEDIA IN CANADA AND THE UNITED STATES, AND PREACHINGS IN THE MOSQUES, WHERE, IN SOME CASES, IT IS STILL BEING TAUGHT THAT BIN LADEN DID NOT PERPETRATE THE 9/11 ATTACK. THE LIE CONTINUES TO BE SPREAD THAT THIS BARBARIC OUTRAGE WAS CARRIED OUT BY THE MOSSAD TO DISCREDIT THE MUSLIM WORLD. IT IS ANOTHER BIG LIE THAT IS STILL REPEATED AROUND THE WORLD TODAY AND BEING BELIEVED BECAUSE OF MEDIA REPETITION OF THE ALLEGATION.
- ✂ FAILURE TO FULLY EXPLORE THE UNITED NATIONS DUPLICITY AND COMPLICITY IN INJURING ISRAEL.
- ✂ FAILURE TO REPORT HOW THE SAUDI, SYRIAN AND EGYPTIAN MEDIA CONTINUE TO WRITE AND PROPAGATE THE MYTH THAT JEWS USE HUMAN BLOOD FOR THEIR HOLIDAY CELEBRATIONS.

IF THE OMISSIONS DON'T ADEQUATELY MAKE THE CASE OF PLANNED AND ENGINEERED MEDIA BIAS, THEN THE COMMISSIONS OF MISLEADING REPORTING CERTAINLY CEMENT A BULLET PROOF CASE AGAINST THE MEDIA.

AND NOW LET ME TURN TO BY FAR THE WORST OFFENDER IN CANADA.

- ✂ THE CBC, ALONG WITH THE NEW YORK TIMES AND OTHER LEFT WING MEDIA, WILL STILL NOT LABEL THE PALESTINIAN MURDERERS AS TERRORISTS. BY ANY WORLD RECOGNIZED DEFINITION OF TERRORISM, THEY ARE TERRORISTS, BUT THE CBC, PARTICULARLY IN THE PERSON OF NEIL MCDONALD, SIMPLY REFERS TO THEM AS "MILITANTS."

- ⚡ THE MEDIA CONSTANTLY ASSAILS ISRAEL OVER ITS PROGRAM TO ISOLATE AND CAPTURE OR KILL KNOWN TERRORIST LEADERS, BUT THAT SAME MEDIA, WHILE PRAISING JORDAN AS A MODERATE IN THE CONFLICT, NEVER MENTION THAT WHEN THE PLO WENT TO JORDAN, KING HUSSEIN EXPELLED THEM, AND IN ONE MONTH, KILLED MORE PALESTINIANS THAN HAVE BEEN KILLED BY ISRAEL IN ALL ITS CONFLICTS IN 54 YEARS.
- ⚡ CNN HAS REPORTED THAT 30 PALESTINIAN WOMEN HAVE DIED IN LABOUR WHILE BEING HELD UP AT ISRAELI CHECKPOINTS. THE STORY IS A COMPLETE FABRICATION, GENERATED FROM PALESTINIAN SPOKESPERSON, NABIL SHA'ATT. TO THIS DAY, CNN HAS NEITHER PUBLISHED A CATEGORICAL WITHDRAWAL NOR THE MAIN PROVEN FACT, THAT NOT A SINGLE WOMAN HAD DIED.
- ⚡ DECEMBER 28, 2001 –BBC REPORTED ON THAT OCCASION THAT THE ISRAELI ARMY SHOT DEAD A PALESTINIAN, BY DESCRIBING HIM AS “A SUSPECTED SUICIDE BOMBER”. THE ON-THE-GROUND FACT IS THAT THE PALESTINIAN WAS FOUND IN POSSESSION OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION WITH EXPLOSIVES STRAPPED TO HIS BODY. SUSPECTED?
- ⚡ WHEN THE DOLPHINARIUM DISCO WAS BLOWN UP, KILLING 22 ISRAELI YOUNGSTERS AND WOUNDING SCORES MORE, ALL ASSOCIATED PRESS COULD MANAGE WAS A HEADLINE: “EXPLOSION KILLS BOMBER IN TEL AVIV!”
- ⚡ TO PROVE THAT MANY JOURNALISTS HAVE BEEN ENLISTED IN THE PROPAGANDA ARMY OF THE PALESTINIANS, IN MAY LAST YEAR, FAYAD ABU SHAMALA, THE BBC CORRESPONDENT IN GAZA FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS, SPOKE AT A HAMAS RALLY AND DECLARED: “JOURNALIST AND MEDIA ORGANIZATIONS ARE WAGING THE CAMPAIGN SOLDIER-TO-SOLDIER TOGETHER WITH THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE”.

BBC COUNTERED OUTRAGED COMPLAINTS AGAINST HIS JOURNALIST ETHICS, BY SAYING THAT HIS REMARKS WERE MADE IN A “PRIVATE CAPACITY.”

- ⚡ IN STARK RELIEF, TWO INCIDENTS FROM LAST MARCH STAND OUT. TWO SEPARATE ACTS OF TERRORISM OCCURRED ON THE SAME DAY – AN IRA CAR BOMBING IN LONDON, AND THE PALESTINIAN SUICIDE BOMBING IN NETANYA. ON THE BBC, THE WORD “TERROR” WAS USED TO DESCRIBE THE IRA BOMBER, BUT THEY DESCRIBED THE PALESTINIANS SUICIDE BY THE FAR Milder TERM “MILITANT”. BBC HAS ADMITTED THAT IT PRACTICES A DOUBLE STANDARD.

I WANT TO ASSURE YOU THAT THESE FEW EXAMPLES ARE NOT EVEN A SIZEABLE FRACTION OF THE TOTAL SICKENINGLY UGLY PICTURE.

AS I SAID, MOST COVERAGE ON THE CBC IS, IN GENERAL, BIASED

AGAINST ISRAEL. THE MOST IRRESPONSIBLE IS ITS MIDDLE EAST CORRESPONDENT, THE AFORESAID NEIL MCDONALD, WHO REFERS TO ISRAELI TROOPS AS "ASSASSINS" WHEN THEY PURSUE PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS WHO HAVE KILLED INNOCENT ISRAELI CIVILIANS IN ISRAEL. PALESTINIAN SUICIDE BOMBERS ARE REFERRED TO AS EXTREMISTS OR MILITANTS, NEVER TERRORISTS OR ASSASINS.

BUT IF NOTHING ELSE IN THIS ENTIRE SAD AND SORDID STORY IRREFUTABLY DEMONSTRATES THE DISHONEST REPORTING AND INHERENT MEDIA BIAS AGAINST ISRAEL, IT IS THE JENIN MASSACRE MYTH ON WHICH THE HERD OF RAVENOUS REPORTERS DESCENDED WITH VULTURE-LIKE HYSTERIA.

HYSTERICAL, HYPERBOLICAL PALESTINIAN PROPAGANDISTS SHRIEKED "MASSACRE – 5000 INNOCENTS SLAUGHTERED", AND THE UNITED NATIONS, THE THIRD WORLD PAWNS, DUTIFULLY CLOSED RANKS TO CONDEMN ISRAEL, AS IS ROUTINE FOR THAT CORRUPT ORGANIZATION. SOON THE PALESTINIANS REDUCED THEIR ALLEGED DEATH TOLL TO 3000. THEN THE NUMBER OF ALLEGED DEATHS CLAIMED MYSTERIOUSLY DROPPED TO A MERE 500, BUT THE MEDIA STILL SANG THE MASSACRE MELODY.

FINALLY, WHEN THE UN COMMISSION DECLARED THAT ONLY 54 PALESTINIANS HAD DIED, AND OVER HALF OF THEM WERE ARMED COMBATANTS, THE MYTH EXPLODED. HOWEVER, FEW MEDIA APOLOGIZED OR RETRACTED THE CHARGES OF "GENOCIDE", "WAR CRIMES" AND "HEINOUS ISRAELI ATROCITIES" THEY HAD FALSELY TRUMPETED TO THE WORLD.

FOR EXAMPLE: PHIL REEVES, LONDON INDEPENDENT, APRIL 16, 2002 – "MONSTROUS WAR CRIME", "ISRAEL COVER-UP", "THE GHASTLY REEK OF ROTTING HUMAN BODIES", "THE KILLING FIELDS OF POL POT."

THE BRITISH LEFT WING GUARDIAN WAS EVEN MORE SHRILL AS WAS THE U.S. TAXPAYER FUNDED NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO.

WHEN THE MYTH OF MASSACRE WAS EXPLODED, THERE WERE NO APOLOGIES, FEW RETRACTIONS AND NATURALLY SOME OF THE SLIME AND MUD THAT THESE DISHONEST REPORTERS FLUNG, STUCK TO THE SHIELD OF HONOUR OF ISRAEL.

CONTRAST THAT WITH A TRUE WAR CRIME THAT OCCURRED SHORTLY AFTER.

IT IS AN OFFENSE UNDER THE GENEVA WAR CONVENTIONS, FOR ARMED PERSONS TO OCCUPY ANY CHURCH. YET, THE WHOLE WORLD SAT SILENTLY AND DID NOT CONDEMN THE CRIME THAT OCCURRED WHEN PALESTINIAN TERRORISTS IN BETHLEHEM, BY A WELL-DESIGNED PLAN, OCCUPIED THE CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY, TOOK ITS OCCUPANTS HOSTAGE, AND REFUSED TO SURRENDER TO SURROUNDING ISRAELI SOLDIERS. NO ONE DEMANDED IT.

RATHER, THE SO-CALLED WORLD COMMUNITY, AIDED BY A SILENT MEDIA, BROUGHT HUGE INTERNATIONAL PRESSURE

AGAINST ISRAEL TO GIVE UP ITS BARRICADE AND LET THE ALLEGED TERRORISTS GO.

WHEN ISRAEL BOWED TO THE PRESSURE, THERE WAS NO UNITED NATIONS INTERVENTION, NO CHRISTIAN CHURCH INTERVENTION, AND NO CONDEMNATION OF THE WAR CRIMES COMMITTED BY THE TERRORISTS. RATHER, THE NEW YORK TIMES AND CNN PROVIDED SYMPATHY FOR THE 26 BOUND TERRORISTS. NEITHER MENTIONED THE HUNDREDS OF JEWISH FAMILIES WHICH HAD BEEN TORN APART BY THE EVIL WORK OF THESE TERRORISTS.

I'VE OFFERED YOU ONLY A HANDFUL OF EXAMPLES. I'VE MADE NO REFERENCE TO WORLD MEDIA HYPOCRISY IN CONDEMNING THE BALI NIGHTCLUB BOMBERS AS TERRORISTS, BUT NOT THE PALESTINIAN BOMBERS OF ISRAEL PASSOVER SERVICES.

I'VE MADE NO MENTION OF THE FAILURE OF OUR MEDIA TO REPORT ON AND EXPLODE THE DOZENS OF PALESTINIAN PROPAGANDA MYTHS, ALL OF WHICH HAVE BEEN SHATTERED BY THE FACTS:

IT IS TIMELY, THEN, THAT WE ASK WHY IS THIS HAPPENING?

THE ANSWER IS PLAIN TO SEE.

FIRSTLY, TOO MANY OF THE JOURNALISTS ARE LAZY, OR SLOPPY, OR STUPID. THEY ARE IGNORANT OF THE HISTORY OF THE SUBJECT ON WHICH THEY ARE WRITING.

OTHERS ARE, PLAIN AND SIMPLE, BIASED, OR ANTI-SEMITIC, OR ARE TAKEN CAPTIVE BY A SIMPLISTIC IDEOLOGY.

THE RESULT IS THAT THE BIGGEST CASUALTIES OF THE PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI WAR ARE TRUTH, AND THE INTEGRITY OF THE MEDIA.

EVERY ONE OF US MUST DO WHAT WE CAN TO CORRECT THIS TRAVESTY. IT IS TIME TO SAY "ENOUGH"!

THE SOLUTION STARTS ON THE CAMPUS, AND IN THE JOURNALIST SCHOOLS, THEN IT GOES TO THE BOARDROOMS OF THE MEDIA OWNERS, AND FINALLY, AND MOST IMPORTANTLY, WITH YOU THE PUBLIC.

WE MUST DEMAND THAT THE JOURNALISM SCHOOLS DO A BETTER JOB OF TEACHING INTEGRITY MORE FORCIBLY. THEN, WE MUST DEMAND THAT OUR MEDIA OWNERS INVEST MORE MONEY IN EDUCATING THEIR JOURNALISTS, AND MEDIA OPERATORS. ON THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUSES, WE MUST DEMAND THAT THE ADMINISTRATORS OF HIGHER EDUCATION RE-TAKE CONTROL OF THE TEACHING PROCESS, TO ENSURE THAT HATE IS NOT TAUGHT, PROPAGANDA IS NOT PREACHED AND THAT THE REVERED TERM "ACADEMIC FREEDOM" IS NEVER USED AS A LICENSE TO LIBEL, A PODIUM FOR PROPAGANDA, AND AN ADVOCACY OF HATE, AS OPPOSED TO A FORUM FOR BALANCED AND HONEST INTELLECTUAL DISCOURSE. AND WE

SHOULD WITHHOLD OUR FINANCIAL SUPPORT FROM THOSE INSTITUTIONS THAT FAIL THIS OBLIGATION OF EDUCATIONAL INTEGRITY.

AND YOU, THE PUBLIC, MUST TAKE ACTION AGAINST THE MEDIA WRONGDOERS.

THE ISSUE HERE IS NOT THE MEDIA BIAS AGAINST ISRAEL, THE ISSUE IS THE MEDIA BIAS, PERIOD. IF WE CANNOT TRUST THE MEDIA IN ITS REPORTING ON ISRAEL, HOW CAN WE TRUST IT ON ANYTHING ELSE? AND IF WE CANNOT TRUST OUR MEDIA, DEMOCRACY IS PROFOUNDLY THREATENED.

YOU, THE PUBLIC, MUST BE MORE VIGILANT AND AGGRESSIVE AGAINST MEDIA WRONG-DOERS, BY YOUR E-MAILS, YOUR LETTERS TO THE EDITOR, YOUR PHONE CALLS, YOUR CANCELLATION OF SUBSCRIPTIONS, YOUR REFUSAL TO PATRONIZE ADVERTISERS OF OFFENDING MEDIA, YOUR WITHHOLDING OF YOUR OWN ADVERTISING FROM MEDIA WHICH ARE GUILTY OF DISHONEST REPORTING. THE MORE ACTIVE OF YOU SHOULD JOIN THE BOARDS OF UNIVERSITIES.

MAY I STRONGLY SUGGEST THAT YOU SHOULD ESTABLISH, IN YOUR COMMUNITY, HONEST REPORTING RESPONSE GROUPS TO CALL TO ACCOUNT OFFENDING DISHONEST MEDIA.

AND YOU MUST BECOME POLITICALLY ACTIVE TO DEMAND GOVERNMENT POLICY CONSISTENT WITH FAIRNESS TO, AND SUPPORT OF THE ONLY BEACON OF DEMOCRACY IN A SWAMP OF HATE, VIOLENCE AND TERRORISM, THE STATE OF ISRAEL.

DON'T THINK THAT YOU ARE POWERLESS. ALWAYS REMEMBER, AS IT HAS BEEN TRULY SAID, THAT ALL IT TAKES FOR EVIL TO TRIUMPH IS FOR A FEW GOOD MEN – AND WOMEN - TO REMAIN SILENT.

AS YOU IN MONTREAL KNOW BETTER THAN MOST, ONE OF THE LETHAL BY-PRODUCTS OF THIS PROSTITUTION OF MEDIA INTEGRITY IS THAT IT HAS HELPED FAN THE FLAMES OF ANTI-SEMITISM THROUGHOUT THE WORLD.

TO PARAPHRASE JOHN DONNE, THE BELL TOLLS, AND IT TOLLS FOR US.

WE ARE WITNESSING THE MOST VIRULENT, VITRIOLIC AND VICIOUS EXPLOSION OF ANTI-SEMITISM, RIVALED ONLY BY THE RISE OF NAZISM AND ITS ANTI-SEMITISM IN EUROPE IN THE MIDDLE 1930'S. LEFT UNCHECKED, IT WILL CONSUME ALL FREEDOMS, BECAUSE EVERY ATTACK OF ANTI-SEMITISM IN THE HISTORY OF MANKIND, HAS ALWAYS BEEN A FORERUNNER TO THE DESTRUCTION OF LIBERTY IN ALL OTHER SECTORS OF HUMAN ENDEAVOUR, NOT JUST FOR JEWS, BUT FOR EVERYONE. THE PAINFUL LESSON OF THE LAST CENTURY IS THAT FREEDOM IS INDIVISIBLE.

THEREFORE, I APPEAL TO YOU, DO NOT REPEAT THE ERRORS OF YOUR PARENTS AND GRANDPARENTS WHO PASSIVELY AND

COMPLACENTLY WITNESSED CANADIAN GOVERNMENT
INDIFFERENCE TO THE RISE OF GENOCIDE IN EUROPE DURING
THE 1930'S. IT IS TIME TO VIGOROUSLY AND VIGILANTLY BECOME
ACTIVISTS.

AS FOR ME, I DO NOT INTEND TO BE SILENT. I HAVE CARRIED ON
A LOVE AFFAIR WITH MEDIA ALL MY ADULT LIFE, AND I HAVE
ALSO BEEN A STAUNCH SUPPORTER OF ISRAEL. AT THE SAME
TIME, I AM AN UNASHAMED AND UNRELENTING CANADIAN
PATRIOT. I AM NOT GOING TO STAND IDLY BACK TO WATCH ANY
OF THE DEMOCRATIC IDEALS THAT MADE CANADA THE ENVY OF
NATIONS BE INJURED, SULLIED OR DISGRACED.

AT THIS TIME, THE APPROPRIATE POSITION FOR ALL CANADIANS
SHOULD BE TO STAND TALL IN SUPPORT OF HONESTY IN
REPORTING, AS WELL AS FOR THE RIGHT OF ISRAEL TO EXIST
AND TO TAKE WHATEVER ACTIONS IT NEEDS TO BATTLE ITS
SAVAGE ATTACKERS, AND TO DEMAND THAT OUR MEDIA AND
OUR POLITICIANS ACT WITH HONOUR IN THIS QUEST.

I'VE TOLD YOU WHAT I'M DOING. BUT, THE QUESTION FOR YOU,
MY FRIENDS, IS, WHAT ARE YOU PERSONALLY GOING TO DO
ABOUT IT?

(Mr. Asper is President of the Asper Foundation and Executive Chairman
of CanWest Global Communications Corp.)

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