

## On the Bias in Analyses of the Middle East Conflict

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Since the beginning of the Gaza war, triggered on October 7, 2023, by the massacre of 1,200 innocent Israelis in a single day, renowned media outlets and international institutions have often echoed, without critical perspective, the statements of the so-called "Ministry of Health of Hamas." This organization regularly accuses the IDF of deliberately targeting hospitals in the Palestinian enclave controlled by the Islamist movement.

However, given that Hamas promotes youth indoctrination through the glorification of martyrdom and exploits civilian suffering to fuel its media warfare, it is imperative to approach such claims with extreme caution. By deliberately placing rockets aimed at Israel in UNRWA schools, hospitals, and buildings, Hamas maximizes civilian casualties to elicit international sympathy, showing no regard for the well-being of Gaza's residents.

The war of fortified tunnels and the neutralization of civilian facilities repurposed for military use further complicate efforts to minimize collateral damage. This partly explains the protracted nature of the conflict. Despite this, international organizations seem to scrutinize Israel's actions under an unforgiving lens, ignoring the fact that all wars, regrettably, come with collateral damage.

The impartiality of certain international forums is also questionable. The UN, dominated by a majority of non-democratic countries, frequently passes resolutions condemning Israel exclusively, while ignoring numerous other conflicts worldwide. Meanwhile, since World War II, tens of millions of refugees have been integrated and lost their refugee status, yet Palestinian refugees continue to be classified as such perpetually, generation after generation. A UN agency dedicated solely to Palestinian refugees (UNRWA), excluding Jewish refugees, perpetuates this exception, and it has

been demonstrated on multiple occasions that its allocated funds also support the teaching of hatred and terrorist infrastructure.

This bias peaks when the International Court of Justice demands "preventive" measures against genocide from Israel, while remaining silent on massive massacres in countries such as Syria, Darfur, Chechnya, Cambodia, Bangladesh, Iraq, Rwanda, Tibet, as well as those committed during civil wars in Algeria, Sudan, and Yemen, focusing exclusively on Israel.

This evokes an allegory: **searching for a lost key not where it fell but where the light shines.**

History offers a striking parallel. In 1475, in Trent, the mysterious disappearance of a child named Simon led to accusations of ritual murder against the local Jewish community. The leaders were tortured, and sixteen of them were executed. A papal emissary denounced this injustice but was attacked by a hostile mob. Simon was later proclaimed a martyr before his status was revoked in 1965. Yet in 2020, an antisemitic painting by Giovanni Gasparro revived this slander, revealing how prejudices endure.

Similarly, on October 17, 2023, The New York Times attributed responsibility for a bombing at a Gaza hospital to Israel. The global press rushed to relay this version. However, six days later, the newspaper acknowledged that the explosion had been caused by a misfired rocket from Islamic Jihad. The correction, however, went largely unnoticed, leaving a lasting impression on public opinion. While the impartiality and complexity of modern war coverage are undoubtedly challenging, Israel's accusers, who overlook the misdeeds of terrorists and those who shield them, only perpetuate suffering and misunderstanding.

Israel has seriously prepared to dismantle Hezbollah's 150,000 missiles in Lebanon. However, it seems that the threat from Gaza was underestimated, especially since 18,000 Gazans were working daily in Israel, with plans to employ 50,000 more. The wake-up call was brutal. The indoctrination of hatred in Gaza was not just an abstract refrain; it far outweighed prioritizing

the improvement of Gaza's residents' welfare. This is the harsh reality that cannot be ignored.

Only by applying fair judgment criteria to all parties involved can media institutions and the UN regain their credibility. In the meantime, Israel, faced with immense challenges and limited options, has no choice but to act according to its own conscience.