

BBC: Tell Truth on Gaza!

First impressions matter. The BBC began its coverage of Gaza on Wednesday relying on two enormous whoppers:

☛ *Israel was responding to Palestinian rocket fire*

☛ *Nothing much had happened before that*

These lies gave people the wrong picture and misled them.

Kids killed playing football

On **Thurs 8 Nov**, Israel had shot a 13 year old boy playing football in front of his house near Khan Yunis. He died 15 mins after reaching hospital.

On **Sat 10 Nov**, Israeli military vehicles at the border between Gaza and Israel fired an artillery shell at Palestinian children playing football at al-Mentar Hill near al-Shoja'iya neighborhood, east of Gaza City and nearly 1,500 meters from the border. Two children (aged 16 and 17) were killed instantly. Two more young civilians were killed by Israeli shells after rushing to the scene. 38 civilians including 8 children were injured.

Resistance

Earlier on **Saturday**, resistance fighters attacked an Israeli army jeep near the boundary with Gaza, injuring 4 soldiers. Israel then shot and killed two members of the Palestinian resistance.

There were a slew of Israeli attacks on Palestinian property and factories.

Published in Gaza

On **Sunday 11 Nov** the authoritative Palestinian Center for Human Rights (Gaza) published details online of these Israeli attacks which had killed 7 Palestinians including 3 children.

Did the BBC mention any of this on Wednesday? Not a word.



House in Rafah flattened by Israeli attack on Sun 11 Nov.

Truce

There had been rocket fire from Gaza in response to these murderous attacks. But by Sunday, it had stopped and by Monday Hamas had agreed a truce. Reuters reported on Tuesday

"After five days of mounting violence, Israel and the Palestinians stepped back from the brink of a new war in the Gaza Strip on Tuesday, sending signals to each other via Egypt that they would hold their fire unless attacked."

Shattered on Wednesday

Israel unilaterally destroyed this truce by assassinating Hamas military chief Ahmad al-Jabari. Even before the

assassination, Prof Noam Chomsky and 8 international solidarity activists had warned on Wednesday that the international media including the BBC were ignoring the context:

"News items overwhelmingly focus on the rockets that have been fired from Gaza, none of which have caused human casualties. What is not in focus are the shellings and bombardments on Gaza, which have resulted in numerous severe and fatal casualties. What we are facing is at best shoddy and skewed reporting, and at worst willfully dishonest manipulation of the readership."

Platform for Israeli military

After the assassination which shattered the truce, the BBC asked an Israeli Defence Force spokeswoman about the timing of the attack. Was it to do with the impending elections in Israel? No, we were told, it was in response to unrelenting rocket fire.

This barefaced lie, contradicted by the Reuters report of Tues 13 November was left unchallenged.

Silence as BBC man's baby killed by Israeli attack

The BBC reports on Wednesday did not even mention that the 11 month old baby of their Gaza picture editor had been killed in the Israeli attacks that day – although the BBC's Jon Donnison was reporting from Gaza.

It was not until Thursday, the day of the funeral, that Radio 4 could mention Jihad Misharawi's child's death or reveal, through a translated interview with Hamas, that there had been a truce from Monday which had held until the assassination. **The truce was taboo until it was over.**



BBC picture editor Jihad Misharawi at his funeral of his baby son Thurs 15 Nov

We've been here before

Now that 15 Palestinians and 3 Israelis have been killed (as of Thurs) there is every danger of a re-run of the 2008-9 invasion which killed over 1400 Palestinians including 332 children.

Then, Israel ended a 6 month truce with a unilateral incursion killing Palestinian militants on 4 Nov 2008. This duly provoked rockets which were then offered as the reason why Israel had to flatten Gaza. Then too, the BBC fell in line.

What we want

BBC journalists: stand up for your integrity. Report truthfully, the facts and the context. Demand that your editors allow the Gaza story to run.

The public: when you see media bias, complain about it as individuals and through your organisations.

And then?

It will take a lot more to end Israel's murderous violence. Work with us in Liverpool Friends of Palestine to raise medical funds for Gaza, and help impose Boycott, Divestment and Sanctions on Israeli apartheid. Get in touch!

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