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## **BREAKING: NBC, CBS, ABC Reject Ad Criticizing Their News Coverage**

Apparently you can't even pay TV networks to cover genocide.

American Progress created a television advertisement for [BeAWitness.org](#), our netroots campaign that calls out the television news media for their deplorable coverage of the genocide in Darfur. **Over the last few days, three Washington DC television affiliates, NBC-4, CBS-9, and ABC-7, informed us that they refuse to air the ad.**



Since the major networks seem to have their hands full covering stories like Natalee Holloway and the Runaway Bride, [the ad](#) does what the media won't — puts the spotlight on Darfur, and suggests that genocide warrants increased coverage.

ABC News broadcast just 18 minutes of Darfur coverage in its nightly newscasts *in all of 2004* — “and that turns out to be a credit to Peter Jennings,” as Nicholas Kristof [pointed out](#). NBC News featured 5 minutes, and CBS only had three, “about a minute of coverage for every 100,000 deaths.” Now they won't allow us to pay for 30 seconds to urge better coverage of the genocide.

[Send a message](#) to NBC, CBS and ABC demanding that the stations air the ad.

Here are the official responses from the networks:

**NBC:** WRC-TV has chosen not to accept the submitted commercial advertisement, “Genocide is News,” sponsored by BeAWitness.org.

**CBS:** Management did not approve the airing of the “Beawitness.org” spot.

**ABC:** I just got word that WJLA-TV will not be able to accept the creative for Be a Witness.org. Please let me know if there may be any alternative creative that we may run.

Filed under: [Media](#)

Posted by [Nico](#) at 12:55 pm

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## 63 Comments »

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1. BushCo owns and runs the airwaves of America. The EVIL EMPIRE dictates what it wants its proles to see and hear.

*Comment by Mack MacKenzie — August 23, 2005 @ [12:58 pm](#)*

2. I fully agree with this one. The MSM is a disgrace in this sense. I'll send an email. I am also sick of hearing about this CT gambling drunk on his honeymoon. I feel bad for him, but come on. The media shouldn't be so narrowly focused on human tragedy. Darfur is a much better story to follow.

#1 - get a grip for god's sake!!! It's not always Bush. God, you people are unglued!

*Comment by The Northeast Dilemma — August 23, 2005 @ [1:11 pm](#)*

3. The group producing this ad are affiliated with Center for American Progress, which I have a problem with. I don't have a problem with the ad itself and the horror of the Darfur genocide. I have a problem with the Center for American Progress. This is a quote from their website, which does not mention Iraq on main page. I had to do a site search on the word Iraq to find this quote.

“Today we face a crisis with grave implications for our national security and the future of the Iraqi people. The Bush administration's mismanagement of post-war Iraq has left the United States unprepared for the instability that continues to grow. We can still succeed in Iraq and fulfill our commitments to the Iraqi people, but it will require shifts in policy to better manage the political, security, and economic aspects of Iraq's transition to sovereignty.”

This is what I can't support. The idea that the Iraq war is a problem because we just need to do more fighting there. The neo-colonial view that we can “..better manage the policial, security, and economic aspects...”

is mispeak for we should own the world, we deserve to own the world, and Bush just hasn't done the job right.

This makes me hurl almost more than the Bushies.

*Comment by cmw — August 23, 2005 @ [1:16 pm](#)*

4. My suggestion would be either to contact John Conyers or Cindy Sheehan about this...see if either of them will at least make a statement about it.

The media has learned that to ignore either of them...usually means that they'll regret it later.

Just a suggestion.

*Comment by Dave — August 23, 2005 @ [1:16 pm](#)*

5. Wow, I'm agreeing with Ned too, both points. I'm looking out my window for the airborne farm creatures. I prefer SCLM instead of MSM, but there you go...

Last week, I understand Bob Costas refused to do a Larry King fill-in because it was on "missing white girl" last week. Bob, I hear Peter Jennings's slot is open...

*Comment by Terrytheturtle — August 23, 2005 @ [1:18 pm](#)*

6. Anybody catch the latest missing white girl story? Here's the twist, it is a guy. So, now we have a "missing white boy" case.

When will this shit stop?

*Comment by SpudgeBoy — August 23, 2005 @ [1:18 pm](#)*

7. There's a missing white boy from Crawford Texas. He's up in them thar hills of Ideho

*Comment by cmw — August 23, 2005 @ [1:20 pm](#)*

8. Dave - lol!!! Yeah, John Conyers - known partisan liar and race-baiter and Cindy "anti-Israel" should be followed with a microphone wherever they go. Conservatives can only hope so.

*Comment by The Northeast Dilemma — August 23, 2005 @ [1:21 pm](#)*

9. CMW - I clearly see your point, but I can disagree with them on that and still work with them on the other. The Holloway story is out of control. I couldn't even watch Hannity for weeks because of it. It's plain nonsense if you ask me.

*Comment by The Northeast Dilemma — August 23, 2005 @ [1:23 pm](#)*

10. OK, now Ned's gone off the rails. Normal service is resumed. How did a charge of anti-semitism get into a discussion of the news media? Let the record show

Ned started the ad-hominem insults first.

*Comment by Terrytheturtle — August 23, 2005 @ [1:24 pm](#)*

11. I would agree with the above statement. The MSM has become obsessed with the Holloway, Honeymoon Murder, Runaway etc. Those really aren't news stories after awhile. I think we need to rethink some of the standards of what news really is. I think that genocide, where ever it is taking place, deserves to get out.

*Comment by Red — August 23, 2005 @ [1:24 pm](#)*

12. You couldn't watch Hannity? Gee i'm so... sorry?... for you.

*Comment by Andrew — August 23, 2005 @ [1:25 pm](#)*

13. "and Cindy "anti-Israel""

This is a bold face lie that the right wingers continue to promote. NED, everytime you post that, you look a little more stupid. But, we all know that the right wingers love those NAZIs. "If you tell a lie enough times people will start to believe it." That is exactly what NED is trying to do. Good little NAZI. I find it interesting that you put anti-israel in quotes, implying that you don't believe it. Was that a Freudian slip?

*Comment by SpudgeBoy — August 23, 2005 @ [1:29 pm](#)*

14. Sue the bastards.

*Comment by Helena Montana — August 23, 2005 @ [1:30 pm](#)*

15. I'm sorry - did she not say Israel leaving Palestine would stop terror?

I was responding to Dave's crazy comment that the more you hear from Cindy and Conyers, the better it is. Sure .... for conservatives!!! lol!!

*Comment by The Northeast Dilemma — August 23, 2005 @ [1:31 pm](#)*

16. Yeah Ned, those poll numbers have been shooting sky-high for bush and his policies since Cindy started her vigil.

And why is suggesting that Israel leave Palestine anti-Semitic?

*Comment by [Mooser](#) — August 23, 2005 @ [1:38 pm](#)*

17. #15 sez

"I'm sorry -"

I agree with him completely. He is indeed sorry.

*Comment by mr. smith — August 23, 2005 @ [1:40 pm](#)*

18. Ned... BushCo does own and run the airwaves!

*Comment by Mack MacKenzie — August 23, 2005 @ [1:41 pm](#)*

19. Ned's gone off to Israel, I'm not going there in this thread. I somewhat agree that Dave's comment doesn't help much: why should Conyers and Sheehan have anything to do with the media's idiocy? Write to them yourself and tell them to cut the crap or you'll stop buying loans from Ditech, or whoever else is advertising on their site. Ned's probably right that "missing white girl" is doing Hannity no good: Hannity, Blow Reilly and all of those clowns are seeing their ratings drop like a brick in middle Amurka

<http://startribune.com/stories/462/5569938.html>

*Comment by Terrytheturtle — August 23, 2005 @ [1:41 pm](#)*

20. NED go over to some asswipe blog like powerline..you aren't welcome here scumbag....

*Comment by headxray — August 23, 2005 @ [1:46 pm](#)*

21. Ah come on headxray, was that necessary? At least he is here reading it and debating it, rather than glued to fox. The more he reads, the more he'll learn.

"All we need to do, is make sure, we keep talking."

*Comment by Elvis — August 23, 2005 @ [1:51 pm](#)*

22. NED:

A: that e-mail "from Cindy" is an unverifiable third or fourth party copy, so it very well could be (and most likely is) a forgery. She claims not to have written it and the person who brought it to the public arena, amazingly, can't find the original. What a coincidence!

B: Saying that Israel should give Palestinians their land back is not anti-Semitic. I happen to agree and my name is Rostenstein. Does that make me an anti-semite? Get your head out of your ass!

C: John Conyers is not a race baiter any more than Cindy Sheehan is an anti-semite!. Again, your head is in a very dark place and appears to be there by your own free will and design.

*Comment by FastMovingCloud — August 23, 2005 @ [1:52 pm](#)*

23. Mack, you need to back that up with some facts or you are just another Ned and I know you don't want to be like him/her. Why is Darfur not on the waves and Greta Van Susteren in Aruba all summer?

*Comment by Terrytheturtle — August 23, 2005 @ [1:53 pm](#)*

24. NED should stick around; every midway needs a clown to amuse the informed, and to be exhibited as a mirror for the rubes.

*Comment by management — August 23, 2005 @ [1:53 pm](#)*

25. Ned agreed with me, and that's scary. Hopefully he misunderstood my point.

*Comment by cmw — August 23, 2005 @ [1:57 pm](#)*

26. Oh, yea, the original post was about Darfur and the lack of coverage. That right-wing trick of diversion nearly worked again. We really do need to target the networks and, more specifically, their sponsors to demand that they cover the atrocities. Enough with the phoney human interest stories already. If we are truly interested in humanity, this has to be addressed immediately.

*Comment by FastMovingCloud — August 23, 2005 @ [2:00 pm](#)*

27. Demand that they cover Iraq. Darfur is genocide, but so is Iraq. We get nothing about what's going on in IRAq from mainstream. And the group behind the ad is all for more troops in Iraq. So be careful. All is not what it seems.

*Comment by cmw — August 23, 2005 @ [2:02 pm](#)*

28. Falluja was genocide. Where is the Center for American Progress regarding Falluja. Nowhere. Silent. They want more of that. More troops so we can establish security in IRAq. Spare me. I don't trust this group and their concerns with Darfur. There's something darker behind it. No pun intended.

*Comment by cmw — August 23, 2005 @ [2:04 pm](#)*

29. Turtle,  
BushCo is in power because of the corporations that helped put them there... it's not like they won even one election, more like gerrymandered two of them. They are all feeding from the same trough.

*Comment by Mack MacKenzie — August 23, 2005 @ [2:05 pm](#)*

30. If anyone else out there has "On Demand" there is a great documentary in the Discovery Channel link called "Promises 1" and "2" about kids in Israel/Palestine. It was fascinating to watch and very informative about the issues.

Just thought I'd pass it on.

*Comment by Elvis — August 23, 2005 @ [2:07 pm](#)*

31. “did she not say Israel leaving Palestine would stop terror”

That doesn't make her anti-isreal you stupid fuck.

“Ah come on headxray, was that necessary? At least he is here reading it and debating it, rather than glued to fox. The more he reads, the more he'll learn.”

Actually no Elvis. NED never has learned a damn thing. His head is so far up the NeoCon ass that he doesn't comprehend reality. He is a worthless piece of shit. He should be put out of his misery.

*Comment by SpudgeBoy — August 23, 2005 @ [2:08 pm](#)*

32. #18

Ned... BushCo does own and run the airwaves!

What? So that is why the MSM is so nice to him all the time? Who are you kidding and what koolaid are you drinking?

*Comment by Red — August 23, 2005 @ [2:11 pm](#)*

33. We shouldn't be surprised that the MSM can't take the heat. They prefer to run the sensational, the sympathetic, and the stupid stories of the day rather than something important.

The networks will have to hear from the public (i.e. hit them where it hurts) before they will change their mode of operation.

*Comment by [Bobby](#) — August 23, 2005 @ [2:14 pm](#)*

34. I agree with CMW. Not that the Iraq thing means CfAP should be discounted completely, but it is something they need to account for, and be held accountable for.

As for Neddy once again going off the deep end, I think he was making “an expression, not a point of fact.” Which was his own euphemism for his being full of you-know-what.

*Comment by [Gary Kleppe](#) — August 23, 2005 @ [2:17 pm](#)*

35. The major broadcast networks are in business primarily to make money. They do that by selling time to advertisers, the rates based on viewership.

Negative news may put some people in a funk, a negative mood. When they are in such a mood they are less inclined to buy the advertisers' wares, and there's a good chance they will change channels because they want to be entertained, not saddened.

Therefore it is in the advertisers' financial interest to discourage networks from carrying negative news, and they rule.

The result is that we don't see people bleeding and dying in Iraq, and we don't see the genocide in Darfur.

It would be shocking if we did see it because it is not in the networks best interest to aggravate their advertisers by doing so.

Complaining will get us nowhere. We're up against a financial reality. The only rational course of action is to throw out you teevee. The only real news is on the internet.

*Comment by [Don](#) — August 23, 2005 @ [2:20 pm](#)*

36. [...] critical of news coverage. There's nothing to criticize the networks about, people! We've got Missing! White! Wimmin! and Shark! Attacks! to cover! And our own culpability in the Iraq fiasco to ignore. Continuing genocide in Darfur is totally unnewsworthy and we are above reproach. ABC News broadcast just 18 minutes of Darfur coverage in its nightly newscasts in all of 2004 ? ?and that turns out to be a credit to Peter Jennings,? as Nicholas Kristof pointed out. NBC News featured 5 minutes, and CBS only had three, ?about a minute of coverage for every 100,000 deaths.? Now they won?t allow us to pay for 30 seconds to urge better coverage of the genocide. [...]

*Pingback by [CMoore.com](#) » [ABC, NBC, CBS refuse to air ad](#) — August 23, 2005 @ [2:23 pm](#)*

37. That's MSM for you. Is ThinkProgress surprised?

*Comment by [Dartanyon](#) — August 23, 2005 @ [2:26 pm](#)*

38. #29, OK Mack, but I still don't see the linkage between the SCLM and Bush and why this is relevant to Darfur? What does Bush benefit from the SCLM keeping Darfur off the waves? Your statement implies that Bushco (define please) is telling the SCLM exactly what to put on day in and day out. Now I grant you Fox is a Murdoch comnay and Murdoch does pick a side and run with them every day.

Red you can see has bought the SCLM stuff. Red doesn't agree that starting with disgustingly shoddy coverage of Election 2000, the SCLM has handed Bush a near free ride thanks to 9-11 for nearly five years now. Red does not wonder why instead of asking the tough questions prior to the Iraq war, they let distortions, lies, shoddy intelligence and deceit have a free pass in the cause of 'patriotism'. Judy Miller and her awful WMD reporting - New York Times unapologetic. Wall Street Journal op-eds vitriolic about anything remotely anti-Bush. Dan Rather - nailed to a cross for crap reporting, but the story itself never investigated. Swift Boat distortions. It could go on, but I suggest you read some Alterman who is

much smarter than I. <http://www.whatliberalmedia.com/>

*Comment by Terrytheturtle — August 23, 2005 @ 2:28 pm*

39. This focus on Darfur is another distraction away from Iraq. Not to deny Darfur. But it's being used by Center for American Progress to draw attention away from Iraq debacle.

*Comment by cmw — August 23, 2005 @ 2:52 pm*

40. That's how Bush benefits. Criticism of msm over Darfur distracts from msm and Iraq debacle.

*Comment by cmw — August 23, 2005 @ 2:54 pm*

41. While most of the blame goes to the networks rejecting the spot, I wish they had used "fake" newscasts rather than actual footage of Brian Williams, etc. — maybe it wouldn't have made the difference, but I wouldn't have expected the networks to run ads directly criticizing their own.

crnw — explain to me again why I'm supposed to be more concerned about Iraq than Darfur? Because the civilians in the latter are not fully human (seeing how more of them are dying? Because the blood of Americans and Iraqis is more valuable? I think that quip you made about skin color might be more telling than you care to admit.

*Comment by Jake Hewitt — August 23, 2005 @ 3:12 pm*

42. Jake, I feel that Americans, whatever color, are more important than anybody from another country. Then after Americans it is anybody else who is in need, such as Darfur.

But, we are at war in a couple of countries right now, so I am more concerned with these places more.

*Comment by SpudgeBoy — August 23, 2005 @ 3:23 pm*

43. Jake  
I didn't say be more concerned.

But I will explain it to you in two words - my son. I'll add two more words Casey Sheehan, and another name Sherwood. There are 1800 names for you to care about. Don't preach your love of humanity to me. I don't believe it.

Nough said

*Comment by cmw — August 23, 2005 @ 3:46 pm*

44. and jake

I mean what i say. When i said no pun intended i meant it. Read what you like into it if it serves your purposes. You want to make a point. Make it. Do you think Darfur is more important than Iraq?

*Comment by cmw — August 23, 2005 @ [3:49 pm](#)*

45. Why not re-edit the spot MINUS the sarcasm about MSM, despite the fact that we know they are braindead? Our goal is to raise awareness about Darfur isn't it? I would ask CAP to be noble, re-edit the spot and resubmit.

*Comment by Ohioan — August 23, 2005 @ [3:50 pm](#)*

46. Be noble? Have you gone to the CAP website. There is no mention of Iraq unless you search for it. They are for more troops, to bring democracy, security, economic stability yada yada yada

*Comment by cmw — August 23, 2005 @ [3:53 pm](#)*

47. Why are we surprised that these stations would not air such a truthful commercial? It is bad marketing on their part and because the news is business to them, running this commercial would be bad for business. Why would they want to educate people on real news when they can educate us about how they haven't found Natalee Holloway and how the Runaway Bride is mowing lawns for her community service. These are the news stories that sell! That we can all talk about around the water cooler with no real controversy. Isn't that what news is all about? \*Smile!\*

News is a business and as long as it makes money they are only going to have tabloid type stories dominating the airwaves. Darfur is not sexy enough to be on the "news", now Michael Jackson. . .that's sexy.

*Comment by [Stephanie](#) — August 23, 2005 @ [4:10 pm](#)*

48. [...] There was a time when liberals (like those that grew up and now run the MSM) were the ones that highlighted humanitarian crisis'. Those days are no more. The MSM is interested only in stories that tell the story it wants you to know. Read this report to find out what ABC, CBS and NBC think about Muslims slaughtering Muslims in Africa. [...]

*Pingback by [SoCalPundit » NBC, CBS, ABC Reject Ad Criticizing Their News Coverage](#) — August 23, 2005 @ [4:17 pm](#)*

49. SpudgeBoy,

No kidding. And Olivia Newton-John's boyfriend is now missing.

Oh wait...he's been missing for almost TWO MONTHS! Now it's headlines?

ooof

*Comment by [Conjur](#) — August 23, 2005 @ [4:19 pm](#)*

50. *now Michael Jackson. . .that's sexy.*

Urp. Lunch... coming... up....

*Comment by [Gary Kleppe](#) — August 23, 2005 @ [4:23 pm](#)*

51. I can understand the “mainstream” media not airing anything negative on BushCo. They are competing with Faux News, you know, on ass kissing. The stations in Salt Lake City yesterday refused to air an ad by Cindy Sheehan.

But, hey! They got plenty of room for his vacation pics and speeches up here at Tamarack Lodge, Donnelly, in good ol' rightwing Idaho. They even noted that his bike was carried up here on Air Force One to Boise from SLC. He was here in the capital only 5 minutes, though, just long enough to get into his helicopter with Gov. Kempthorne.

The news media notes that his bike was not on the helicopter, but was being transported up north in a black SUV.

I guess there just wasn't enough room for coverage of Dufar, genocide, and the dead or dying soldiers in Iraq.

Pass the taters.

a helicopter

*Comment by [Hank](#) — August 23, 2005 @ [4:24 pm](#)*

52. Just watch Hotel Rwanda to get an idea of why the US isn't interested. “You're not even a \*explicative\*, you're an African.” The First world leaders couldn't care less what happens over in African nations with no oil. Sad but true. Can we pressure them to tell us important world events? We can't even get them to tell us about important events right here in America. The only solution is to call up your cable company kill the connection and let them know why.

*Comment by [Jeff](#) — August 23, 2005 @ [4:26 pm](#)*

53. crnw, yes, CAP is a \*liberal\* think tank. It sounds like you'd be happier with the moral 'purity' (and utter irrelevance) of a group like International ANSWER. But trashing CAP for not being sufficiently radical is as pointless as trashing the Democrats for not being truly “left.” CAP is the Democratic Party, and neither

have any possible reason to want to “distract” people from Iraq.

If us progressives keep agonizing and in-fighting over differences, instead of focusing on our commonalities, we’ll keep losing.

*Comment by Ding Dong — August 23, 2005 @ [5:34 pm](#)*

54. [...] Network affiliates refuse to run ads critical of their coverage of the crisis in Darfur. [...]

*Pingback by [Oliver Willis » Adventures In The Liberal Media](#) — August 23, 2005 @ [5:43 pm](#)*

55. I gave up on broadcast news a long time ago. They don’t care all that much if we don’t watch their packs of lies.

*Comment by Michael Alexander — August 23, 2005 @ [5:58 pm](#)*

56. Why is everybody so upset about the Bush twins not enlisting? They can’t - they’re felons.

*Comment by WaltTheMan — August 23, 2005 @ [7:01 pm](#)*

57. NED thinks he is a great wit—LOL, lol,lol, after every other lame, predictable outburst. If this is the humor of the right wing, I’ll gladly stick with Maron and Franken, etc.

Also, please acknowledge how this weasel managed to divert discussion away from Darfur and onto the well-worn subject of the media’s complete triviality and irresponsibility. Oh, and John Conyers is a ‘liar’??? Compared to Limbaugh, Bush, Perle, Cheney? NED relies on party line regurgitations and sophistry. He has nothing else to offer.

*Comment by jb — August 23, 2005 @ [9:02 pm](#)*

58. “If us progressives keep agonizing and in-fighting over differences, instead of focusing on our commonalities, we’ll keep losing.”

Ding Dong

Couldn’t have said it better.

*Comment by SpudgeBoy — August 23, 2005 @ [9:20 pm](#)*

59. some jackass said:I couldn’t even watch Hannity for weeks because of it. wow, because of just the Holloway case? not because of the sheep like qualitys of the hosts?

*Comment by C — August 23, 2005 @ [9:40 pm](#)*

60. Why are you doing the Evangelicals dirty work for them?

In point of fact, the situation in the DR Congo (Congo-Kinshasa) is worse than in Sudan.

Now, be terribly, terribly real with yourselves.

Why do you think Sudan is more important than Congo-Kinshasa?

==

Answer? The Evangelicals and oil-men and the anti-Arabists and the remember-UBL-was-in-Sudan folks are in agreement that Sudan is bad, and they have convinced you, even though DRC is worse.

Don't be a stooge for the man.

*Comment by [JS Narins](#) — August 23, 2005 @ [9:48 pm](#)*

61. Why the media is spoiled?

1) all major newsmedia—controlled by zionist Jews-owners and most reporters

Cure—TAKE AND THIN IT OUT

2) 2 parties-fund the media ,with election \$

Cure—only 3rd parties can advertise

3) Major network—owned by Military supplier

Cure—roast the ceo and hand it over Cindy Sheehan

No more kidding folks—AmeriKaKa will not change—state of Israel.Those Stars of David on our faded, tittered flag-sure needs replacing—how about wih yellow bannanas!

*Comment by [archers-IsraeOil](#) — August 23, 2005 @ [10:50 pm](#)*

62. We cannot allow this to continue.

Major changes to TV are coming soon so we must act fast to adopt a concrete plan if we want to control some of the spectrum. Anything less than getting a Fair Media Act passed will be a failure to gain equal footing in the public forum of mass media for the average American. see: <http://www.fairmedia.org/>

We cannot allow this to continue.

We are going to miss an opportunity to actually change the situation if we don't move fast.

The airwaves are going to be digitized, we could establish a few new TV channels that are totally controlled by the general public if we act fast but we must act.

<http://www.fairmedia.org/> please contact me if you want to make this happen.

Comment by [Tom Murphy](#) — August 23, 2005 @ [11:11 pm](#)

63. Bread & circuses for the pleb!!!  
After all the sheeps don't need to know reality!

Comment by Boris — August 23, 2005 @ [11:19 pm](#)

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Name (required)

E-mail (required, will not be published)

URI

Your Comment

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