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# New York Times covers up brutal settler attack on Palestinian



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PMWATCH - July 2, 2005 -- On Wednesday June 29, Israeli settlers attacked a Palestinian youth from Muwassi with stones as he lay unconscious on the ground, apparently attempting to kill him. The Palestinian youth was eventually saved from the assault by Palestinians, Israeli journalists, and Israeli soldiers. The attack was filmed by TV cameramen and photographers and the video and photos from the attack were shown widely on Israeli and international television.

Virtually all major US newspapers and media outlets reported in detail on this brutal Israeli attack.

All expect the newspaper of record, The New York Times.

The Washington Post news article noted, "Israeli newspapers across the political spectrum used the word 'lynching' Thursday to describe the attack." [1]

The Los Angeles Times [2] and the Chicago [3] Tribune devoted five and four paragraphs respectively to the story.

The Associated Press' four paragraphs on the event included a quote from Israeli politician Yossi Sarid saying: "What a pathetic country that the prime minister has to give an order to apprehend those who carried out a lynch... Is there any one in the army or in the police ... who can explain why they were not arrested at the scene?"

The story was also covered by the Boston Globe [4].

The New York Times, however, printed not a single reference to this attempt by Israeli settlers to lynch a Palestinian.

A brief, cautiously worded, three-sentence reference to the incident that appeared on the online version of the story on June 30 was excised within hours. [5] And in all subsequent stories, The New York Times has omitted all reference to Israeli settlers' attempted "lynching" of the Palestinian.

The Times' failure to report this major news story continues a disturbing pattern by the Times of selective reporting, by ignoring or minimizing Israeli violence and human rights violations while emphasizing Palestinian violence.

Examples:

\* The New York Times' over-reporting of the deaths of Israeli children and under-reporting of the deaths of Palestinian children, as documented in a study by If Americans Knew: <http://www.ifamericansknew.org/media/nyt-report.html>

\* The shortening by Times editors of a 522 word on-line stand-alone, June 27, 2005 Greg Myre article on the manslaughter conviction of an Israeli soldier for shooting British human rights volunteer Tom Hurdall down to a 181 word "World Briefing" in the print edition which omitted important quotes, statistics and details.

\* The New York Times repeated failure to tell readers that the West Bank, which includes East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, have been held under illegal Israeli military occupation since 1967. [6]

\* The Times consistent failure until very recently to describe Israeli settlements as a violation of international law (The Times has recently begun to say, "many countries regard the settlements as illegal", an understatement which is better than complete omission). [7]

\* The Times general failure to note that Israel's West Bank Wall is a violation of international law. [8]

\* The Times extensive coverage of Israeli settler protests, in contrast to an almost complete news blackout on the three year, Palestinian non-violent protest campaign against Israel's Wall.

#### SUGGESTED ACTION

A) Write to Times news staff:

\* NYT ombudsman Byron Calame -- [public@nytimes.com](mailto:public@nytimes.com)  
\* NYT letters editor -- [letters@nytimes.com](mailto:letters@nytimes.com)  
\* NYT Foreign Desk Editors -- [bronnere@nytimes.com](mailto:bronnere@nytimes.com), [chira@nytimes.com](mailto:chira@nytimes.com)  
\* NYT Reporter Steven Erlanger -- [erlanger@nytimes.com](mailto:erlanger@nytimes.com)  
& NYT Reporter Greg Myre-- [gregmyre@nytimes.com](mailto:gregmyre@nytimes.com)

B) Tell them that:

1) You are disappointed in the New York Times' failure to adequately cover the brutal settler attack on a Palestinian youth, an attack that received worldwide coverage.

2) You expect the New York Times to report on Israeli violence, human rights violations and Israeli violations of international law, and not just on Palestinian violence.

For recommendations on language to use when speaking or writing on Israel/Palestine, please go to: <http://www.pmwatch.org/pmw/language/>

Please do feel free to share with us your letters or a summary of your conversation with The New York Times at [info@pmwatch.org](mailto:info@pmwatch.org).

You can also call us at: (866) DIAL-PMW

Palestine Media Watch  
(866) DIAL-PMW  
<http://www.pmwatch.org/>

#### REFERENCES

[1] <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2005/06/30/AR2005063000756.htm>  
[2] <http://www.latimes.com/news/nationworld/world/la-fg-gaza1jul01,1,4809756.story?coll=la-headlines-world&ctrack=1&cset=true>

[3] <http://www.chicagotribune.com/news/nationworld/chi-0506300264jun30,1,7819436.story?coll=chi-newsnationworld-hed>

[4] [http://www.boston.com/news/world/middleeast/articles/2005/07/01/israel\\_is\\_raid\\_gaza\\_hotel\\_remove\\_settlers/](http://www.boston.com/news/world/middleeast/articles/2005/07/01/israel_is_raid_gaza_hotel_remove_settlers/)

[5] <http://www.nytimes.com/2005/06/30/international/middleeast/30cnd-mideast.html>

[6] <http://www.pmwatch.org/pmw/mediocrity/displayCall.asp?essayID=281>

[7] <http://www.pmwatch.org/pmw/mediocrity/displayCall.asp?essayID=286>

[8] <http://www.pmwatch.org/pmw/mediocrity/displayCall.asp?essayID=287>

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