

Who can we believe?

“You will become a partner in the ongoing effort to shape Israel”.

*Publisher of Haaretz newspaper, urging readers to subscribe to its website
(www.haaretz.com/news/1.590044 (12/5/2014))*

“A campaign of intimidation, harassment, pressure, threats and boycotts has made it impossible for an Arab journalist to work in the Palestinian Authority-controlled territories... Intimidation and threats are the only way that Western journalists are allowed to present biased reports from Ramallah and Gaza”.

*Khaled Abu Toameh's Facebook
page, 7/6/2012*

“Even the Jews at Haaretz behave themselves and for that they are rewarded with interviews of PA President Mahmoud Abbas.”

Senior PA official to Khaled Abu Toameh, The Algemeiner e-paper 7/6/2012

“The Guardian has always sensed liberal, middle class ill-ease in going after stories about immigration, legal or otherwise, about welfare fraud or the less attractive tribal habits of the working class, which is more easily ignored altogether. Toffs, including royal ones, Christians, especially popes, **governments of Israel, and US Republicans** are more straightforward targets. So while we hacks do not fear the knock at the door in a Turkish dawn, we should not feel too pleased with ourselves. And remember, dear reader, that we are also striving much of the time to tell you what you'd rather know rather than challenge your prejudices and make you cross”.

Michael White, Guardian Political Editor, blog 10/3/2011

“...some Arab journalists, who fail to distinguish between their leanings and their job. Thus, instead of providing information and reporting facts, they become tools for controlling and overseeing others. They believe that professionalism in journalism means being a fighter and a slogan-chanter’.

Al Hayat, Arab newspaper, (London), 11/8/2008

“Everyone in the news business gets taken for a ride sooner or later. It's an occupational hazard. What is surprising is the scale of it in Lebanon. And what is so tragic about this is editors everywhere can no longer trust the pictures from Lebanon. The public cannot know what is staged and what is real”.

Jules Crittenden, City Editor, Boston Herald, 9/8/2006

“Look, we're serious, we will kill you if you film these outgoing rockets”.

Hizbollah handler to Richard Engel, NBC, 8/8/2006

“Hizbollah is also determined that outsiders will only see what it wants them to see”.

Nic Robertson, CNN, Reliable Sources, 6/8/2006

“Newspaper and magazine readers and TV news audiences worldwide were unaware of how the foreign press was sucking up to Yassir Arafat. By providing only favourable coverage of the Palestinian suffering and under-reporting the massacres, rapes, ravaging, and destruction the PLO inflicted on Lebanon, news people gained access, received press credentials, **and were able to stay alive**”.

Brigitte Gabriel, A Lebanese Christian, in “Because they Hate”, St Martin’s Press, 2006, [covering the PLO’s invasion of Lebanon in the 1980s].

“I picked up the phone and called Murdock, and told him there are not Muslim riots, these are riots of poverty. Within 30 minutes the title was changed from “Muslim riots” to “Civil riots”.

Saudi Prince Al-Waleed bin Talal, owner of shares in Sky, 12/5/2005

“We have one vocabulary in private, and we have another vocabulary for the public domain, and that’s why you don’t hear it because you’re the public domain”

Dr. Taj Harget, Chairman, Muslim Education Centre, Oxford, on BBC 1’s Panorama, 21/8/2005

“The Palestinian journalists union declared...that news photographers are forbidden from taking pictures of Palestinian children carry weapons or taking part in activities by ‘militant groups’, saying that the pictures harm the Palestinian cause”.

22/9/2002 (www.dailynews.yahoo.com 27/8/2003)

“Reporting honestly about Saddam’s atrocious murderous rule...would have jeopardized the lives of Iraqis, particularly those on our Baghdad staff”.

Jordan Eason, CNN News Executive in “The news we keep to ourselves”, NY Times, 11/6/2003

“Being balanced can be frustrating, so present your stories on a human level. **Do not rely on the facts**”.

Instructions from Organisation of Palestinian Journalists (PASSIA) to Palestinian journalists, 2/2//2002

“Facts don’t matter, only emotion matters. Write your own history”.

Edward Said, 1993

Taqiyya

“Islam allows you to lie in three cases: In order to reconcile two people....If your wife is ugly, you are allowed to tell her she is the most beautiful woman alive. The third case is politics. You are allowed to lie in politics....[Arafat] would condemn the bombing [of Israelis] in his own special way, saying: ‘I am against the killing of civilians.’ But that wasn’t true....This would happen due to pressure, especially by President Hosni Mubarak (then Egyptian president). Mubarak would call Arafat and say to him: ‘Denounce it, or they will screw you’.”

Muhammad Al-Daya, Arafat’s ex-bodyguard, interview with BBC Arabic, April 2014, (faithfreedom.org 10/4/2014)

“Muslims have every right to deceive their adversaries, and a promise made to non- Muslims can be broken whenever necessary”.

Amir Taheri, “Holy Terror”, Sphere Books, 1987

“Speaking is a means to achieve objectives...It is permissible to lie if attaining the goal is permissible”.

Abu Hamid al-Ghazali, (1058-1111)

“A lie is not wrong in itself...If the lie is the only way of obtaining a good result, it is permissible...We must lie when truth leads to unpleasant results”.

*Al-Ghazzali, 11th century Muslim theologian
 (“Whose Jerusalem”, Eliahu Tal, International Forum for a United Jerusalem,
 1994)*