

Yet Again, the Media Blames Israel for a Conflict Hamas Started

by Phyllis Chesler



Islamist terrorist groups, Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad have [issuing warnings](#), and sharing their fears that a full-scale “war” is about to break out.

I only vaguely remember the United Nations weighing in worriedly all those years when rockets, incendiary kites, and burning tires exploded on southern Israel, causing panic and life-long trauma in both children and adults. Not war enough? Or earlier, when Israeli civilians were being blown up in buses, hotels, nightclubs, and in their homes—which is what led Israel to build its security fence, aka “the apartheid wall,” to keep the terrorists out. It worked.

When Israelis were being knifed in their beds, car-rammed in the streets, kidnapped by Hamas and held for ransom while being tortured, where was the International Criminal Court (ICC)? Now, the ICC is monitoring the situation for “[bombed!](#) Arab Palestinian citizens of Israel, in Lod, have [shut down](#). This may escalate into a full-fledged war.

A synagogue set on fire reminds every Jew of all the European and Arab synagogues set on fire during pogroms, during Christian and Muslim holy days—and for good measure, on Jewish holy days, too. We see “Kristallnacht” when our synagogues are torched and we know what comes next: Jews being burned, going up in unholy smoke. And, the entire matter is far more complex than most mainstream media coverage bother to convey.

Shoshana Bryen just [The New Yorker](#) or the [devastation](#) in Gaza first, they always appear first, and that of a burned out bus outside of Tel Aviv second. You would also read about innocent Palestinian civilians in Gaza who were killed, and who are mourning their dead, long before you’d [quote](#) a Bashir Al-Masri, who accuses Israel of “target[ing] buildings with children, they target ambulances, they target schools.”

This is [say](#) that using “the presence of a civilian or other protected person to render certain points, areas or military forces immune from military operations” constitutes a war crime in international armed conflicts.

Palestinian leaders also [on camera](#) and report false casualty numbers to foreign journalists all too willing to believe anything that puts Israel in a bad light.

In today’s *New York Times*’ piece by Kingsley and Kershner, there’s only one – that’s right only one – description of Israelis as “right wing.” They described Israelis this way [seven times](#) on May 11 – and they’re now down to one time only.

Might we consider this as progress of some kind?

We live in a global village, right? Copy-cat rioting travels like forest fires. Thus, pro-Palestine and pro-Israel advocates [appeared](#) in London's *The Daily Mail*.

I have long been on record calling for an anti-propaganda equivalent to Israel's Iron Dome to repel blood libels and anti-Jewish and anti-Israel disinformation. Israel is now not only at the mercy of riots and rocket fire. It is also surrounded by a highly propagandized world that views Israel in the worst possible light.

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