

Boom Time For Arms Manufacturers.

Aaron Bushnell's profoundly disturbing act of self-immolation outside Israel's US embassy in Washington DC on 26feb2024 has made worldwide headlines:

Foreground

https://youtu.be/nSPiEQ9_zzc

Background

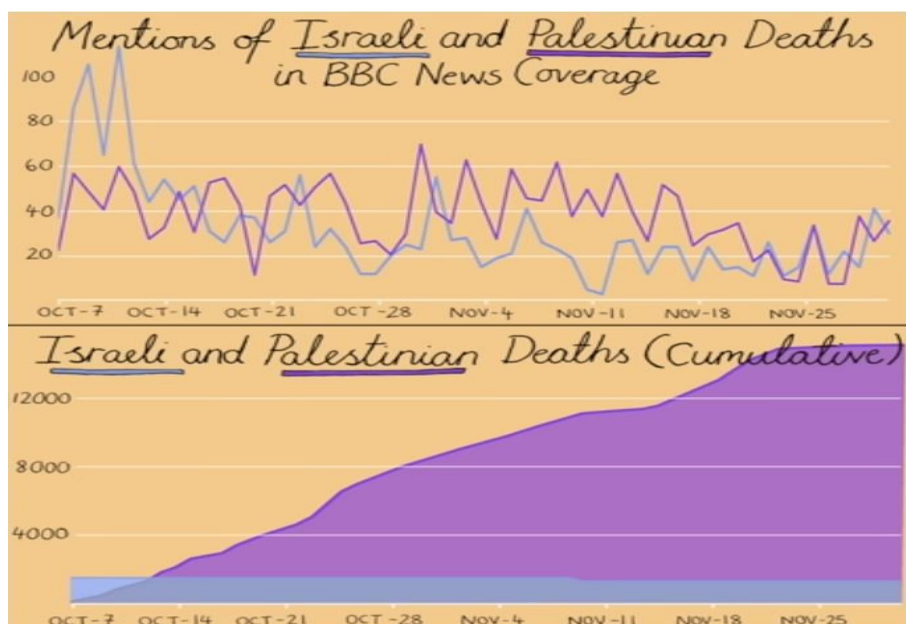
<https://youtu.be/6f8MYAF1L9M>

<https://youtu.be/m4v2khCDLPE>

<https://www.aljazeera.com/program/newsfeed/2024/2/28/who-was-aaron-bushnell-the-us-airman-who-died-protesting-over-gaza>

[Even the Times of Israel reported the news](#). But here in Australia, the ABC has chosen to ignore this extremely significant act of extreme protest, thereby bringing into sharp focus the blatant bias which has become increasingly obvious since 7th October last year. [Huge peaceful protests](#) have been held every week in [London](#), New York, Washington, Sydney and Melbourne among [many other cities worldwide](#) for months, [none of which](#) have been covered by the ABC. There have been no reports of Israel's illegal use of [starvation](#) and [thirst](#) as [weapons of war](#), of [IDF snipers shooting children](#), of their [deliberate planned demolitions](#) of Gaza's [five universities](#), and of their [deliberate targeting](#) of Gaza's [hospitals](#), [schools](#), [libraries](#) and other [civic buildings](#). Nor any reports of [the truly appalling spectacle of IDF personnel posting footage on social media gloating over their war crimes in the background while they celebrate and dance in the foreground](#). [The world needs no war crime investigators](#) to uncover Israel's war crimes: the perpetrators have proudly [provided all the necessary evidence](#) on TikTok themselves, in [the most repulsive manner possible](#).

As is often the case, the ABC have slavishly followed the BBC's example, whose bias is indicated by this graph:



Such [mainstream media bias](#) is [very widespread](#) right [throughout](#) the [western world](#). And only to be

expected in [the Murdoch press](#), who employ IDF and Mossad operatives in positions of executive power. But the ABC prides itself on a higher standard of objectivity, and yet participate fully in the typical double standards, which are quite simply rank hypocrisy: Hamas has a few dozen Israeli “hostages” but Israel has several thousand Palestinian “prisoners,” (and Israel’s [well-documented use of torture on Palestinian prisoners](#) -- [including children](#) -- is of course [never mentioned](#)); Hamas are “terrorists” but the IDF are “soldiers”; Oct 7th is an “inhuman outrage” whose denunciation must be repeated like a mantra whenever the war in Gaza is mentioned, but [Israeli massacres \(including the murders of activists like Rachael Corrie\)](#) carried out with a truly appalling regularity [throughout the entire duration of the twentieth century](#) are hidden behind a veil of silence. It would be almost impossible to calculate exactly how many Palestinians have been murdered by Israelis in the hundred years from 1917 to 2017; thousands upon thousands, with millions displaced from their homes, all of which have been either appropriated by Israelis or [destroyed with bulldozers and bombs](#). None of this is ever mentioned by those all-too-quick to express moral outrage at the 7th oct 2023 attack, and [pretend that the conflict began with Hamas’s Operation Al Aqsa Flood](#) as if the century of [struggle leading up to it](#) hadn’t happened.

If even a small fraction of Israel’s crimes against humanity had been perpetrated by a nation which the west considered one of its enemies, there can be no doubt that a military intervention would have been mounted by the US and its allies long ago to prevent these flagrant breaches of international law. Saddam Hussain’s Iraq had not perpetrated anything like the war crimes of Israel, and we here in the west mounted not one but two massive invasions ostensibly to stop him and to find his cache of weapons of mass destruction, but actually to protect the profits of oil interests, bolster the profits of arms manufacturers, and [serve the interests of Israel in the region](#). The [American soldiers used like pawns](#) in these indefensible invasions [have had their lives ruined](#) by their experiences no less than the civilians they invaded, and were simply mercilessly used as means to dubious ends, just [as the US itself was used by Israel as a means to its own dubious ends](#).

Instead of intervening when Israel commits flagrant war crimes (and finding the weapons of mass destruction they actually do have), the west [collaborates with Israel](#) and directly profits from these outrages, making all of us collaborators in these crimes and accessories before, during and after the fact. We hypocritically defend offensive actions under the pretext of Israel’s “right to defend itself” attempting to defend the indefensible and aiding and abetting the most horrendous of crimes, and emboldening the Zionists to heap outrage upon outrage with impunity. Put simply, [Israel is rapidly becoming](#) the world’s foremost [rogue state](#) and the US its foremost enabler, with its allies the UK and its former colonies providing a façade of legitimacy to hide the horrible reality.

As an ardent and committed pacifist (following in this one regard the example of Bertrand Russell), I do indeed denounce Hamas’s Operation Al Aqsa Flood, which murdered over a thousand Israeli soldiers and armed settlers, and precipitated the deaths of [over two hundred more](#) Israelis in [incidents](#) of [friendly fire](#) from IDF [helicopter gunships](#). But in the very same breath I hasten also to denounce the sixteen-year-long siege of Gaza effectively imprisoning its entire population, the construction of illegal settlements in the West Bank, and the ongoing acts of violence by armed Zionists in both Gaza and the West Bank, bulldozing Palestinian homes and farms, destroying Palestinian lives and murdering the defenceless and impoverished Palestinian inhabitants. The innumerable outrageous acts of extreme disrespect to Palestinians which have recurred with depressing regularity since 1949, renewed again, since 1958, since 1967, and again in 2005, and now again today with zealous gusto demonstrate with crystal clarity that Zionist Israelis consider themselves above international law, not bound by the resolutions of the United Nations. It would be foolishly disingenuous to pretend that after this horrific history, some act of resistance such as Operation Al Aqsa Flood was not inevitable sooner or later. Even the timing could have been foreseen by those with only a cursory knowledge of the relevant history, [October 6th](#) being a date that stands out like sore thumb.

In conforming to the standard condemnation of Operation Al Aqsa Flood which killed over a thousand Israelis, consistency would demand that we also condemn Israel's Operation Swords of Iron thirty times more, for the IDF have now killed thirty times that many Palestinians. But as all modern people understand, two wrongs never make a right, but rather revenge for a wrong only ever compounds that wrong, inflating it to ever greater proportions, and proliferating contradictions in its wake. As a moral or legal principle, revenge died along with the Roman Empire. In the modern conception of justice, revenge plays no legitimate role, but is always only the path to escalation.

As for the issue of the death of innocent civilians, Israel's claims are equally problematic. For in a country such as Israel in which all citizens of all genders must perform mandatory military service upon becoming adults or go to jail for the crime of pacifism, the line between military and civilian is hopelessly blurred. Those citizens not currently serving in the military are a permanent standing reserve rather than "innocent civilians," given that the state provides weapons to settlers which are kept in every settlement. No such scheme of conscription has ever existed in Gaza, nor are Gazan civilians provided with weapons by the state, and yet the Israelis and their sympathizers throughout the western media loudly proclaim that Al Aqsa Flood killed "innocent civilians" (without ever mentioning that [those civilians were heavily armed](#), with the exception of the hapless revellers at the music festival which Hamas did not know would be taking place that day), and then turn around and deny that there *are* any innocent civilians in Gaza, asserting that no Palestinian is innocent, that all Gazans are legitimate targets, that carpet-bombing is in fact necessary, and that all steps are being taken to minimize civilian casualties, a set of contradictory assertions conjoining several obvious and blatant lies attempting to mask the equally obvious fact that the assault on Gaza is a massive exercise in revenge, with no discrimination between civilians and militants.

Equally problematic is the very description of Israel's assault on Gaza simply as a "war," for one of the first assertions made by Israel is that Hamas is not a legitimate army, but merely a terrorist organization. A war is combat conducted between two military forces of comparable strength, the outcome of which is not obvious in advance. But as the extreme imbalance of personnel numbers (170,000 permanent IDF soldiers and 465,000 in the IDF army reserve, all of whom are currently called up; versus perhaps 20,000 Hamas fighters) and their weaponry demonstrates, this is far from such a situation. Israel approaches the conflict with its 581 fighter jets carrying 2,000 pound bombs, and the best tanks and high-tech weaponry that money can buy (not to mention its nuclear arsenal). Palestinians are no longer simply throwing stones: Hamas now has rifles and hand-held grenade launchers. But still, the imbalance could not be starker. As I said, one of the world's richest countries waging "war" on one of the world's poorest. It would be pathetic and laughable if it were not so horrifyingly tragic.

The uselessness of the over-kill of weaponry at Israel's disposal to achieve its avowed aim of "destroying Hamas" is symbolic of the whole situation. Like someone trying to get rid of flies in their house with a machine gun, Israel is in a tragic situation of contradiction: what it understands to be a fight for its survival is in actuality Israel destroying the only real hope of achieving that end, i.e. the political hope. All hope of a peaceful reconciliation with Palestinians is now effectively destroyed. Their quixotic attempt to stamp out extremism has paradoxically ensured that whatever young Gazans survive this carnage are now assured to grow up into the next generation of even more extreme extremists. And at the same time, any hope of Israel simply dusting itself off after it decides this conflict is over, and taking up a respected place in the international community of peaceful modern nations is likewise destroyed. As Nelson Mandela was fond of pointing out, it is not only the victims who are damaged by criminal injustice: the perpetrators also suffer a parallel tragic fate. When Israel calls Palestinians [sub-human animals](#), the mud which they sling recoils all over themselves. A nation must agree that all humans are equal and equally deserving of the basic

respect of human rights, or else thereby forfeit their place among respected nations in the modern world. If Israel was concerned about global antisemitism before this conflict, they have now ensured that those too ignorant to understand the difference between Zionism and Judaism (and they are legion) are now more entrenched than ever in their racist attitudes. Truly a lose-lose situation for Israel.

It is thus not difficult to understand Israel's [increasing exasperation](#) with the unattainable target it has set for itself. Its massive arsenal of traditional weaponry cannot help it to win a guerrilla war against Hamas in the rubble of Gaza. And so it turns to the horrendous option of [starving the Gazans to death](#), and doubles down on its [international propaganda campaign](#), arrogant enough to think that it [can revise reality](#) according to its own will to power. I recently re-read all of Aeschylus's plays trying to find the reputed source of the ludicrous platitude that "truth is the first casualty of war." In vain, because of course the profound Aeschylus never wrote such a nonsense. Truth cannot be killed, wounded or harmed in any way whatsoever. It can only be suppressed by duplicitous humans, but it is no more harmed than a diamond is by being buried or thrown into a fire. It awaits rediscovery with an infinite patience which dwarfs our pathetic attempts to change it.

This is why the ABC's uncritical platforming of IDF press releases on television, radio and print media in Australia is such an egregious abuse of the ABCs power. And no less egregious is the Australian Labour Party's willingness to suspend its contribution to UNWRA. Withdrawing aid to UNWRA as Australia has done because of [unverified Israeli claims](#) that twelve of its 30,000 employees were involved in Oct 7th (despite UNWRA immediately firing those dozen workers) is utterly unjustified, and a clear attempt by Israel to extend aggression by other means, with which Australia has fully colluded. [Does Australia censure Israel in any similar way for their war crimes?](#) On the contrary, they reward the Zionists with [a \\$US600 million deal with Elba Systems](#), the Israeli arms company at the centre of [Israel's war machine](#), further implicating [Australia](#) in the murderous Zionist mentality. Along with [Germany, the UK, the US and the Netherlands](#), [Australia](#) has profited substantially [from Israeli aggression](#) through [the arms trade](#), and is in clear [violation](#) of the Geneva Convention by [aiding and abetting](#) a country perpetrating [massacres](#) which the ICJ has judged to be potentially genocidal in intent. You might say, it is [boom time for arms manufacturers](#).

At the same time, the ABC has failed adequately to report [on Israel's trial at the ICJ](#), pandering instead to Israel's aim of simply ignoring this judgement, shrugging its shoulders, and carrying on annihilating Palestinians with glee, [earning countless millions for the armament industries](#) of their [allies](#). Rather than deepening diplomatic efforts with China and embracing Australia's uniquely positioned role to mediate in the growing rift between China and the US as we should, the war mongering militarists want us instead to follow Israel's bad example in order to see an escalation of tensions in our region, largely [in order to ensure an escalation of the profits for the armaments industry](#)

The ABC's silence in the face of such overwhelming evidence of Israel's war crimes is nothing short of collusion. With their middle east correspondent safely ensconced in Jerusalem (obviously assuming the viewers either don't know or don't care how far that is from the events in Gaza being reported upon) and filing [television reports like this one](#) (an age-restricted video on YouTube despite no need for it to be, in a transparent ploy to minimize views, with comments turned off as with all ABC videos, discouraging debate and discussion and asserting their attitude of dictation of the 'correct' perspective), our government-funded news service carefully phrase their reports in the middle voice (eg "100 Palestinians died," instead of "[the IDF killed 100 Palestinians](#)") and simply broadcast repackaged IDF-provided propaganda, co-operating even more fully with the Zionist agenda than do The Times of Israel, The New York Times, and the BBC, which is really saying something. If it were not for Al Jazeera and various YouTube channels such as [Democracy Now](#), [Double Down News](#), [Owen Jones](#) and [Electronic Intifada](#), it would be virtually impossible to know

what was actually going on in Gaza. I say virtually, because ABC radio's excellent Phillip Adams is a shining exception to this rule. If not for Phillip Adams, I in my ignorance would not even know who [Marwan Barghouti](#) is. Thanks to him (and Brian Eno), [I now do](#).

Before I am falsely accused of antisemitism, I hasten to add that at this point the only ray of hope I can perceive in this morass of darkness comes from the wonderful peace-loving Jewish voices raised worldwide against the Zionist mania. From Albert Einstein onwards (read Fred Jerome's book *Einstein on Israel and Zionism*), the chorus of Jews denouncing the Zionist's war crimes today provide a critical perspective uniquely situated to speak to western leaders with moral authority, denouncing Netanyahu's ongoing crimes against humanity:

<http://www.ijan.org>

<https://youtu.be/NzZQkqgLqAY>

https://youtu.be/sydemS34_QA

https://youtu.be/clhBU-Dm2_8

<https://youtu.be/w9YhaiYxQOc>

<https://youtu.be/GuBnzzGmH7c>

<https://youtu.be/IRAUQn904ic>

And more specifically, to name only a few:

[Morgan Bassichis](#) [Judith Butler](#) [Tony Lerman](#) [Amanda Gelender](#) [Zach Foster](#) [Katie Bogen](#)
[Dana Mills](#) [Atalya Ben-Abba](#) [Tomar Dotan-Dreyfus](#) [Tal Mitnick](#), [Ariel Davidov](#) and [Ella](#)
[Keider](#) [Rabbi Elhanan Beck](#) [Rabbi Yisroel Dovid Weiss](#) [Rabbi Dovid Feldman](#) [Rabbi Yaakov](#)
[Shapiro](#) [Daniel Maté](#) [Haim Bresheeth](#) [Liam O'Mara](#) [Norman Finkelstein](#) [Gideon Levy](#)

as well as these voices too:

<https://youtu.be/FKplabTRuak> https://youtu.be/MwaP_YVJtjc <https://youtu.be/me4FqdrmVBs>

<https://youtu.be/Y0njOPNr8K0>

In Australia the important anti-Zionist Jewish voice is represented by the [Loud Jew Collective](#), whose actions have denounced [the use of Australian-made munitions upon the civilians of Gaza](#).

<https://www.facebook.com/loudjewcollective>

https://twitter.com/jordana_s/status/1722849684107186450

<https://www.instagram.com/loudjewcollective/?hl=en>

Returning now to the ABC, whose salaries we Australians pay with our taxes, and whose charter (which can be found in [section 6 of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation Act 1983](#)) is to represent Australians in an unbiased manner, and to inform, educate and entertain Australians "taking account of the multicultural character of the Australian community." I can only imagine how alienating it is for Moslem Australians in general and Palestinian Australians in particular to read or watch the ABC's news. Australia's 2021 census counted just under 100,000 Jews (0.4% of the population) and over 800,000 Moslems (3.2% of population). In other words, there are about 8 times as many Moslems in Australia as there are Jews. And yet it cannot be denied that the ABC amplifies the voice of Israel and pays no heed to the voice of Islam, thereby violating the terms of their charter and failing to represent these voices in proportion to their presence in the Australian cultural landscape. The part of Australia where I grew up and still live (the suburb of Coburg in the city of Melbourne) has always been strongly multicultural. In my primary school, students born in Australia were in the minority: children came from all around southern Europe (Italy, Greece, Yugoslavia, Macedonia, Turkey) and throughout the middle east (Lebanon, Iraq, Palestine, Iran, Syria, Jordan, Egypt). On the streets, shops, schools and restaurants, Moslems are always present in a large minority, and even at times a majority.



Since the dozen or so Jewish convicts among the prisoners of the first fleet in 1788, Jews have always constituted an important and valuable strain of multicultural Australia (see Levi & Bergman *Australian Genesis: Jewish Convicts and Settlers 1788-1850* for details of the early years). And ever since [Zimran Wriam](#) arrived on the third fleet in 1791, Moslems have likewise been an equally valuable part of our multicultural tapestry. Despite the insidious attempt to “[racially cleanse](#)” Australia with the “White Australia Policy” in place from 1901 [until 1966](#) (see Myra Willard’s *History of the White Australia Policy* for background), Australia has always been a multicultural country, and perhaps might even be called the most successful multicultural experiment on the planet.

There is a tension built into the ABC’s charter, which in this case has escalated into full-blown contradiction: to inform, educate and entertain. In order to comprehend the information coming from Gaza, we need to be educated about the situation. But this information is far from entertaining. In fact, it is deeply disturbing, and profoundly challenging to our complacent assumptions concerning ourselves as the good guys of history.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-01-23/abc-board-vote-of-confidence-david-anderson/103381302>

"The ABC regularly receives, and responds to, complaints from individuals or organisations and the assumption that either the managing director as editor-in-chief or I would be influenced by any sort of lobbying pressure is quite simply wrong." (Ita Buttrose). This is very interesting. Pace conspiracy theorists (like, say, Martin Heidegger) who believe there is a world-wide Zionist conspiracy with privileged access to the Western world's mainstream media and politicians, Ita Buttrose is in fact declaring that the ABC's bias is not due to external influences, but has occurred without any pressure from the outside, but arises wholly from the inside. In other words, Israel did not need to pressure the ABC to achieve its desired bias: the ABC already had a pro-Zionist bias of its own accord before October 7th. There can be no clearer symbol of this cultural bias reflected by the ABC than the lighting up of the Sydney Opera House in Israeli colours on the evening of October

7th. Had the Opera House ever been lit up in Palestinian colours after the Israelis committed a massacre of Palestinians?

Here we locate a central problem with the concept of political correctness. For people who do not want to think, having a list of correct opinions to memorize is essential; a list of “thou shalt”s which enable decision procedures in any situation. This is the difference between political correctness and political thoughtfulness. Thoughtfulness is hard work: to know the relevant histories, to be sensitive to dynamic contexts and shifting situations, to see cultural relativities and multiple perspectives: political thoughtfulness takes all this and more. Of course, the upshot needs to be correct. But the correctness is the *result* of the thinking process, not the beginning, a feature of conclusions, not premisses.

A central tenet of post-war western political correctness is to be pro-Jewish out of recognition of the horror of the holocaust. And rightly so. But two generations on from 1945, and that unspeakable evil now falls into perspective among the countless other unspeakable evils which run through recent history: the million dead Iraqi citizens; the killing fields of Pol Pot’s Cambodia; the senseless slaughter by the US in Vietnam; the horrendous treatment of the Chinese by the Japanese beginning in 1930s Manchuria; the massacres in the Balkan States; the Armenian genocide; the genocidal massacres in Rwanda, in Darfur, in Zanzibar, in Algeria, in Nigeria, in Angola and in Lybia; and this is only the 20th Century. If we go back to the 19th, there are massacres and genocides everywhere the British extended their Empire, and in the 18th Century, everywhere the Spanish and Portuguese extended theirs. The Napoleonic French in the Caribbean Haiti (where rebellious slaves were gassed in converted ships, which gave the Nazis the idea for their gas chambers, Napoleon being a great hero of Hitler’s), the Belgians in the Congo, the Dutch in South Africa and Indonesia, the horrors of the slave trade, all echoes of the Ottoman and the Roman Empires, and beyond that, Empire preceding Empire, all drenched in blood, disappearing into the horizons of history like the landscape through a telescope backwards. The more one studies history, the more one discovers of man’s horrendous inhumanity to man, running through history like tumours through a body riddled with cancer.

So much for the relevant histories, too numerous to count. As for the dynamic contexts and shifting circumstances, the creation of Israel in Palestine from the end of WWI, to 1948 to 1967, to 2003 to today has been one of the most turbulent streams of 20th and 21st century history in the world. The [duplicity of the British](#) with contradictory promises to Hussein bin Ali, Sharif of Mecca, of a single independent and unified state for the Arabs in Palestine in return for help in fighting the Ottoman Empire, to the French with the Sykes-Picot agreement, and to the British Zionist Federation in Balfour’s declaration, which included the clause “it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine”: three contradictory promises which together set the scene for a hotbed of tensions, into which the traumatized survivors of the Nazi holocaust were then injected. How could such a situation not lurch from catastrophe to catastrophe with competing perspectives so utterly at odds with one another?

Israel as whole now seems like a neurotic individual afflicted with a complex-post-traumatic-stress-disorder (CPTSD) of historic proportions, suffering from a massive trans-generational repetition compulsion, re-enacting the abuse they have suffered at the hands of the Nazis upon Gaza in a doomed attempt to suppress their “childhood” memory of the greatest abuse ever perpetrated in history. An anxious Germany watches on, urging exaggerated unconditional support in a futile attempt to assuage the unassuageable guilt which still percolates through their own generations, pouring hundreds of millions of Euros worth of weaponry into the hands of an eager Israel, which is moreover the tail that wags the dog of the US war machine. So powerful is the pro-Israel lobby in the congress no less than in the Pentagon no less than the media that President Biden himself has

declared himself a Zionist in a futile attempt to prevent the even more pro-Israel Trump from ousting him. The symptoms of this disorder found on a personal level are amplified into collective cultural constructs until the entire nation of Israel seems dangerously unstable:

https://youtu.be/iC_x2pbdPjg

Under such circumstances, the old-fashioned *correctness* of the post-war baby boomers of “being pro-Israel because we’re anti-Nazi” is hopelessly outdated (like Biden himself, still fighting the second world war like some elderly Japanese soldier lost and isolated on a south pacific island). In contrast, a politically *thoughtful* attitude today must see the difference between Zionism and Jewishness (often co-incident, often not); take into account the long-term perspective of Palestinians who have grown up in a country under siege, born into the largest prison in the world; understand the predicament of two peoples doomed to eternal conflict by British duplicity now a century old; see the contradictions inherent in watching one of the richest countries in the world waging war on one of the poorest; and share the agonies of history’s victims transformed into a nation of hardened murderers taking glee in inflicting misery and torture upon those they call “terrorists” in the greatest transference complex the world has ever witnessed.

If only the ABC had journalists (other than Philip Adams) able even remotely to approach such an ideal. Instead, the predictable propagation of repackaged Israeli propaganda is presented according to agenda of unthinking correctness to the unwitting Australian public as if they were all the facts they needed to worry about, surrounded with an overwhelming preponderance of reporting on Taylor Swift and/or Kylie Minogue (because they never speak up on important issues, while say [Charlotte Church is ignored](#)), the petty wranglings and public disgraces of drunken politicians, reports of sports games, lifestyle fashions and more reports of more sports games. If all this was happening as well as real news, it would be tolerable. But it is happening instead of real news. If all of this was happening in the Murdoch media, it would be no surprise. But it is happening on the national broadcaster at our expense.

And expensive it is: David Anderson, Ita Buttrose and their ilk pay themselves at least a million dollars a year each. And they can afford to retain the corporate high-flying lawyers when needed.

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-01-30/abc-hires-seyfarth-shaw-in-lattouf-unlawful-dismissal-case/103394616>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-01-31/abc-managing-director-says-lattouf-sacking-has-not-hurt-trust/103407544>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-01-18/antoinette-lattouf-fair-work-case-against-abc/103363256>

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/2024/jan/18/antoinette-lattouf-abc-firing-unlawful-termination-case-fair-work-commission>

Antoinette Lattouf dared to challenge the Zionist narrative predominant at the ABC, and although a mere casual employee, was promptly terminated by one individual on a thousand times her salary. In a brave move, she has accused the ABC of unlawfully terminating her broadcasts due to her political opinions and her “national extraction or social origin” as a Lebanese-Australian. In fact, all she did was to share a story on social media publicising the use of starvation by Israel as a weapon of war against Palestinians in Gaza, hardly a contentious claim if you [watch a video like this one](#), or [this one](#), or [this one](#), or [this one](#), or [this one](#), or [this one](#), or [this one](#), or [this one](#) or [this one](#). The evidence is, frankly, [overwhelming](#). In truly medieval style, Israel is using [starvation](#) by siege as a weapon of war. And like all serial killers, once they’re hooked, they just can’t stop murdering.

Latouff was dismissed by the “Chief Content Officer” [Chris-Oliver Taylor](#). Yes, that’s right, the ABC has a “Chief Content Officer”, i.e. one single man (no doubt also paid a million dollars of taxpayers money a year) who decides what it is you and I and all Australians should know about.

Chris Oliver-Taylor is also a migrant to Australia, from the UK, who had worked for the BBC before coming to Australia. No surprises there. He is one of the 10-person corporate leadership team, who between them are paid an undisclosed amount, but certainly well over ten million dollars a year, to dictate what it is we find out about in Australia. And what they most certainly don't want us to know about is Antoinette Lattouf, Ruwa Qdeih, and Israel's untold war crimes in Gaza.

I can't really get my head around the magnitude of 30,000 lives violently ended in a furious episode of revenge. What resonates for me is just one story. It is the story of a 14-year-old girl, [Ruwa Qdeih](#) who was [shot in cold blood by an Israeli sniper in front of Nassar Hospital](#) while trying to get water, because she was dying of thirst. This is not even breaking news any more, it being reported back on the 8th of February (by the real journalists at Al Jazeera, but not by the ABC of course). Her death is dwarfed by the stories of Israeli tanks firing upon queues of starving civilians lining up to get food, of entire extended families obliterated in one single bomb blast, a bomb whose explosion made two hundred thousand dollars profit for a faceless nameless arms manufacturer. Despite all these thousands upon thousands of outrages, it is the death of this one child that strikes me right in the heart, and I still cannot think of her without starting to cry.

Was Ruwa supposed to be a Hamas militant? Was she supposed to be a terrorist? The real terrorist was the coward hiding in the shadows with their rifle, picking off children like they are nothing but targets in a video game. I don't doubt that they bragged and laughed with their fellow soldiers that night as they compared numbers of kills they had bagged that day. In her murder, all the hatred of all the Israelis are focussed down into one searing point of absolute clarity for me, like the sun through a magnifying glass focussed into one burning point. What it brings into focus is Israel's obvious three-fold aim, which no amount of propaganda can cover up. Number one, Israel wants revenge, more and more revenge; number two it wants the Palestinians either dead or gone, and [number three, above all, it wants their land](#) (as well as [the gas](#) under [the sea off the Gazan coast](#)). While the bombing and killing and bulldozing of homes is confined to Gaza and the West Bank, a crucial aspect of the war between Israel and Palestine is also being fought all around the press rooms of Western World's media: it is a propaganda war to attempt to sway the opinions of westerners in favour of Israel, because ultimately it can only be the power of public opinion which pressures the western leaders into stopping Israel's bloody rampage. It is obvious whose side the ABC is on, or more to the point, who it is afraid of, despite its disingenuous pretence of neutrality.

Postscript 5march2024: As if to underscore everything I have said in this post, the breaking news today of the hundred plus Palestinians massacred by Israel as they desperately sought food for their starving families is being whitewashed by the IDF as a "stampede" caused by the starving Gazans themselves, and is uncritically being reported unquestioned by the ABC, while even the BBC are at least making a pretence of questioning the Israeli narrative:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-03-03/israeli-military-review-of-gaza-aid-convoy-deaths/103539252>

<https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-68445973>

<https://youtu.be/1WY8vzVGpaw>

<https://youtu.be/kEh65r56SgA>

<https://youtu.be/5I3xeFNdpLs>

<https://youtu.be/HDgWdFvKIyg>

https://youtu.be/dpFUc_d8VDU