



A record of Israel's dishonesty and disinformation

Report of
Refutation of Israeli Claims

since October 7th 2023

Since October 7th there has been a constant onslaught of disinformation intentionally published by the state of Israel and repeated by mainstream media with no efforts to verify, confirm or authenticate such disinformation. This state-manufactured disinformation has been used as a smoke screen to distract the general public from Israel's actions, now including war crimes and crimes against humanity, and to absolve themselves from any accountability for those actions.

This disinformation has specifically acted to heighten tensions, which has had real-world consequences on the over 2.4 million Palestinians living in Israel-besieged Gaza.

The first pieces of disinformation to be circulated surrounded claims of the actions of Palestinian political groups in Gaza, including disturbing false claims of them 'decapitating 40 Israeli babies', committing 'mass-rape', 'parading dead women's bodies', and even including claims of these groups attacking concert attendees.

The false claims of Palestinian political groups 'decapitating babies', was not verified by any human rights group or impartial legal observer, even the Israeli military themselves could not verify these claims, and were concluded to be entirely false.⁽¹⁾

(1) Anadolu News: Israeli army says it does not have 'confirmation' about allegations that ' Hamas beheaded babies'. Aa.com.tr. Available at: <https://www.aa.com.tr/en/middle-east/israeli-army-says-it-does-not-have-confirmation-about-allegations-that-hamas-beheaded-babies-/3014787>

Such false claims were endorsed and supported by world leaders including U.S. President Joe Biden. Who immediately endorsed these false claims verbally stating he had seen Palestinian political groups perpetrating this false claim at a press conference, then later released a public statement saying they were unverified, and he had in fact not seen Palestinian political groups doing this.⁽²⁾ Some photos depicting Israeli babies allegedly killed by Palestinian political groups, shared by influencers online, were also fact-checked and proven to be false, and using Artificial Intelligence (AI).⁽³⁾

The claims of ‘mass-rape’ have also proven to be entirely false and claims of which are deeply rooted in anti-Arab racism and Islamophobia. There is no evidence of specific cases of rape by Palestinian political groups on October 7th. The Los Angeles Times, for example, removed a reference to rape from an Oct. 9 opinion piece because the reports hadn’t been substantiated.

The false claim of ‘parading a dead woman’s body’, that of which was believed to be an Israeli-German dual national called ‘Shani Louk’, has also proven to be untrue. Media incorrectly speculated such claims with no evidence, and it is now known she is not dead, she is being treated for wounds in a Gaza hospital.⁽⁴⁾

(2) Al Jazeera: White House walks back Biden’s claim he saw children beheaded by Hamas. Aljazeera.com. Available at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/12/white-house-walks-back-bidens-claim-he-saw-children-beheaded-by-hamas>

(3) The New Arab: Ben Shapiro faces backlash after posting ‘AI image of burnt Israeli baby’. Newarab.com. Available at: <https://www.newarab.com/news/ben-shapiro-slammed-sharing-ai-image-israeli-baby>

(3) The Independent: Mother of tattoo artist missing after Hamas attacks says daughter is alive in Gaza hospital. Independent.co.uk. Available at: <https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/middle-east/shani-louk-mother-hamas-israel-gaza-hospital-b2427642.html>

There have also been countless instances of misinformation in regards to the usage of photos/videos & mis-captioning pictures, for example using photos of dead Palestinian children, and deceptively claiming them to be Israeli. Other misinformation reported by Human Rights Watch includes doctored footage, manipulated video, false translations, realistic footage from video games and more. Much of which has been shared intentionally by journalists, officials and concerned citizens alike. This includes footage from previous conflicts, incorrect geolocation, and false context. ⁽⁵⁾

On Friday 13th October 2023, the Israeli army ordered all Palestinian civilians living in the north of the densely populated Gaza strip, to evacuate to the south in 24 hours. This evacuation order came on the seventh day of Israel's all out military offensive on Gaza, including Israel intensifying its blockade by blocking all aid, electricity, water, food, fuel and gas from entering Gaza. ⁽⁶⁾ Israel claimed to give this order on the premise that it would protect Palestinian civilians from its pre-meditated airstrikes.



(5) Human Rights Watch: Real or Fake? Verifying Video Evidence in Israel and Palestine. Hrw.org. Available at: <https://www.hrw.org/news/2023/10/11/real-or-fake-verifying-video-evidence-israel-and-palestine>

(6) Al Jazeera: Israel orders 1.1 million people in Gaza to move south: What to know. Aljazeera.org. Available at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/13/israel-orders-1-1-million-people-in-gaza-to-move-south-what-to-know>

(7) The Guardian: Gaza civilians afraid to leave home after bombing of 'safe routes'. Theguardian.com. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/oct/14/gaza-civilians-afraid-to-leave-home-after-bombing-of-safe-routes>

During the 24 hour time frame of these evacuation orders, the Israeli military targeted civilians traveling on safe routes from the north to the south of Gaza. Aerial footage shows a truck carrying over 70 civilians, mostly women and children, traveling to the south of Gaza as ordered, being struck by an Israeli airstrike, killing 70 Palestinian civilians.⁽⁷⁾ Israel intentionally lied about the true intent of these evacuation orders to the United Nations.

On Wednesday 17th October, Israel targeted Gaza's Anglican Al-Ahli hospital, killing over 471 civilians, doctors, paramedics and patients, in blatant violation of international law. Immediately after bombing the hospital, Israeli military officials claimed accountability for the attacks on X, then deleted their X/tweets. As the world amplified calls of condemnation of the Israeli government targeting a hospital, Israel denied bombing it and claimed it to be 'Palestinian political groups misfiring a rocket'.



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(8) FOX News: IDF contradicts 'Squad' tweets accusing Israeli military of bombing hospital. Foxnews.com. Available at: <https://www.foxnews.com/politics/idf-contradicts-tlaibs-tweet-accusing-israeli-military-bombing-hospital>



However Al Jazeera's Sanad Agency has investigated the Israeli claim that the bombing of Gaza's al-Ahli Arab Hospital was the result of a rocket misfire from Palestinian political groups and not a result of Israel's relentless bombing of the Gaza Strip since October 7.

Sanad's investigation analysed time-coded footage from several sources, including a live broadcast by an Al Jazeera journalist at the time. The investigation reveals that Israeli statements seem to have misinterpreted the evidence to build a story that one of the flashes recorded by several sources was a rocket misfire.

Based on a detailed review of all videos, Sanad's analysts conclude that the flash Israel attributed to a misfire was in fact consistent with Israel's Iron Dome missile defence system intercepting a missile fired from the Gaza Strip and destroying it in mid-air. Proving the claim to be false, and it was in fact an Israeli airstrike that destroyed Al Ahli Hospital, massacring over 800+ Palestinians. ⁽⁹⁾

(9) Al Jazeera: Video investigation: What hit al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza?. Aljazeera.com. Available at: <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/19/what-hit-ahli-hospital-in-gaza>

Channel 4 has also led an investigation into the Al Ahli hospital bombing, concluding that voice recordings provided by Israeli forces to deny their own responsibility in the bombing, are not credible sources of evidence, and also found evidence that refutes Israel's denial. Including the angle, direction, and ferocity of which the airstrikes landed. ⁽¹⁰⁾

The New York Times have also recently released findings that directly contradict Israeli claims refuting their own involvement in the Al-Ahli hospital bombing. NYT's analysis concluded that the projectile seen in the video, the video being used as 'evidence' by Israeli forces, whereby Israeli forces claim it was another militant group's airstrike and not Israel's. In fact detonated in the sky about two miles away from the hospital, portraying an unrelated episode of the ongoing skirmish across the Israeli-Gaza border that night. Additionally, the evidence suggests Israeli bombardment was ongoing, and two explosions near the hospital were recorded within two minutes of the hospital being struck. ⁽¹¹⁾

As of October 26th 2023, Israeli forces have murdered over 6,500+ Palestinian civilians in Gaza, including over 2,500+ children. ⁽¹²⁾

(10) Channel 4: Al Ahli hospital investigation. Twitter.com. Available at:
<https://twitter.com/channel4news/status/1715437877604049094?s=46&t=SqJFis1IMSC1PN-WCew1cA>

(11) Hindustan Times: New York Times dissects widely circulated Gaza hospital attack evidence video, 'casts doubt on Israel's claims'. Hindustantimes.com. Available at:
<https://www.hindustantimes.com/world-news/new-york-times-dissects-widely-circulated-gaza-hospital-attack-evidence-video-101698208110781.html>

(12) Al Jazeera: Israel-Hamas live updates: 6,500 Palestinians killed by Israel in Gaza. Aljazeera.com. Available at:
<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2023/10/24/israel-hamas-war-live-fuel-shortfall-could-force-un-to-halt-work-in-gaza-2#:~:text=The%20ministry%20has%20reported%20that,numbers%20of%20the%20Health%20Ministry.>



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