

Dissecting Misinformation Spread by the Israeli State Since 7 October

February 2024



London | Washington



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01

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Overview of Misinformation Spread by the Israeli State

'40 BABIES MURDERED BY HAMAS'

Children beheaded as families slaughtered, says Israel
 'Isis-level savagery' says US as Americans held hostage
 Hamas begins new blitz after two terror chiefs die in raid

HAMAS militants beheaded 40 babies in a massacre at a school during their savage assault on Israel, it is claimed.
 Some of the children were found beheaded by their cuts - and there are four gunshot wounds to leg of a boy aged nine in their homes at Elter Aza near the border with Gaza, officials said.
 'The babies were found by the Israeli Defense Forces as they went from house to house after capturing up the last gunmen and shooting today from three days after the huge down raid.
 'Babies have what they're shown walking through these communities in bodies children who have been cut off the TV station reported.
 'We are sure some of these babies containing much water. One soldier showed to reporters. 'Oh the world...
 'Their commander Maj Gen Dan Ussor said 'The use of the babies, the children, the babies, in their bodies, in their protection and how the terrorist...'
 continued on page 4

HATRED ON BRITAIN'S STREETS

Two women among the thousands on yesterday's pro-Palestine march in London brazenly revel in the massacre of dozens of young Israelis by paragliding Hamas terrorists... so why didn't the police stop them?

YOU GHOULS

FOLLOWING a week of ultra-hatred, there could hardly be a more brazen display of anti-Semitism in the streets of London. The thousands of protesters who gathered on the back of their party, all the more so as they were...
 BY IAN GALLAGHER
 ...of the world...
 ...of the world...

HAMAS BLITZED

Israel steps up air strikes on Gaza ahead of invasion

Round-up page 11

Evening Standard

As Charles AND William both condemn Hamas, our national broadcaster is still calling them 'militants'

We stand with you

PM BACKS ISRAEL AS HE CONDEMN'S 'HORRIFIC TERRORISM' OF HAMAS

British hostages face a 'second Holocaust' say anguished families

THE KING CALLS THEM TERRORISTS, WHY CAN'T THE BBC?

RISHI'S PLEDGE: 'TERRORISM WILL NOT PREVAIL'

01

Overview of Misinformation Spread by the Israeli State

Since 7 October, Israeli officials and state-affiliated media have reported as fact multiple pieces of misinformation that have since been proven to either be entirely false or have no credible evidence to support their claims.¹

The first pieces of disinformation to be circulated surrounded claims of the actions of Hamas, including disturbing false claims of the ‘decapitating of 40 Israeli babies’, committing ‘mass-rape’, ‘parading dead women’s bodies’, and even including claims of these groups attacking concert attendees.²

There have also been countless instances of Israeli misinformation whereby real photos and videos, which are either archived material, from another context, or mis-captioned, are claimed to have taken place since 7 October.³ For example, Israeli media used photos of dead Palestinian children, and deceptively claimed them to be Israeli.⁴

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 Israeli journalists, government officials, and concerned citizens alike.⁵ This includes footage from previous conflicts, incorrect geolocation, and false context.⁶

It is not only recently that Israel has been found to have spread misinformation.⁷ For example, in 2022, Israeli officials said that journalist Shireen Abu Akleh was killed by Palestinian crossfire, despite Shireen being shot by an Israeli soldier.⁸ In Israel’s May 2021 attack on Gaza, Israel also spread misinformation by claiming that a high-rise tower block that they bombed contained “military assets belonging to the intelligence offices” of Hamas.⁹ The tower block was actually an office space for media outlets such as *Al Jazeera* and *The Associated Press* in Gaza.¹⁰

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Beheaded Babies



ISRAELI ARMY ADMITS NO EVIDENCE OF HAMAS BEHEADING BABIES

02

Beheaded Babies

Following 7 October, Israeli soldier ‘witnesses’ from the Israeli Defense Forces, and the first responder Israeli organisation ZAKA, said on French Israeli TV channel i24news that they had seen the bodies of beheaded infants.¹¹

Israel’s false claims about beheaded babies were endorsed and supported by world leaders including U.S. President Joe Biden.¹² Biden immediately endorsed these false claims verbally stating he had seen Palestinian political groups perpetrating this false claim at a press conference, and that he had seen pictures. Later, the White House released a public statement saying these claims were unverified, and that the President had not, in fact, seen any such images.¹³

Some photos depicting Israeli babies allegedly killed by Palestinian political groups that were shared by influencers online were also fact-checked and proven to be false, and using Artificial Intelligence (AI).¹⁴

The false claims of Palestinian political groups ‘decapitating babies’ were concluded to be entirely false.¹⁵

- On 4 December, Haaretz reported that “unverified stories [had been] disseminated by Israeli search and rescue groups, army officers and even Sara Netanyahu”.¹⁶
- Haaretz journalists Nir Hasson and Liza Rozovsky related the chronology of the news items about “beheaded babies” and “hung babies” and concluded, “this story is false”.¹⁷
- A journalist for the ultra-Orthodox website Kikar Hashabbat, Ishay Coen, had been quoted, who later admitted he made a mistake by unquestioningly accepting the IDF’s claims.¹⁸

According to Bituah Leumi, Israel’s national social security agency, of the 46 civilians that were killed in Kfar Aza, the youngest was 14 years old, meaning that no babies were killed.¹⁹

Another story claimed that an Israeli baby was found burned in an oven, which originated from Eli Beer, the president of United Hatzalah of Israel, a volunteer emergency medical services organisation.²⁰ Haaretz also found this story to be false.²¹

03

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1,400 Deaths on 7 October

The logo for 'The National' news outlet, featuring a stylized 'N' in a square followed by the text 'The National'.A photograph showing a rocket being launched from a launch pad. The rocket is angled upwards, and a massive, billowing plume of white smoke and fire surrounds the base of the launch. The background is a hazy, overcast sky.

Israel revises down Hamas attack
death toll from 1,400 to 1,200

03

1,400 Deaths on 7 October

Israeli officials initially claimed that 1,400 Israelis had been killed on 7 October.²² However, this figure was quietly revised to ‘around 1,200’ a month later, due to some of the deceased being identified as Hamas fighters, rather than Israelis.²³

In December, the figure of Israelis killed on 7 October was again – quietly – lowered further to a total of 1,139 deaths, of which 373 were Israeli security forces.²⁴ This further reduction has not received widespread coverage in Western media.²⁵

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Sexual Assault



GELINE BARDET, Founder of the NGO "Not a weapon of war" - Paris

HAMAS ATTACKS
ISRAELI POLICE INVESTIGATING CASES OF ALLEGED ASSAULT

04

Sexual Assault

Israeli officials circulated claims that Hamas fighters raped women during their attack on 7 October, which were widely repeated in the U.S. media and by U.S. politicians, including U.S. President Biden during an address on national television.²⁶

The claims of ‘mass-rape’ have also proven to be entirely false and claims which are deeply rooted in anti-Arab racism and Islamophobia. There is no evidence of specific cases of rape by Palestinian political groups on 7 October.²⁷

The Los Angeles Times, for example, removed a reference to rape from a 9 October opinion piece because the reports hadn’t been substantiated.²⁸ This did not, however, impede The New York Times from publishing a lengthy piece on ‘How Hamas Weaponised Sexual Violence on Oct 7’.⁸² The piece quickly came under scrutiny for its coverage of unverified rape allegations, which were refuted by the family of the woman interviewed, and for its reliance on testimonies received exclusively from an organisation funded by the Israeli government.⁸³

05

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Hamas' Presence in Hospitals

PARIS

FRANCE
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Israel Defense Forces
@IDF

OPERATIONAL UPDATE: IDF and ISA forces revealed a significant 55-meter-long terrorist tunnel, 10 meters underneath the Shifa Hospital complex during an intelligence-based operation.

The tunnel entrance contains various defense mechanisms, such as a blast-proof door and a firing hole, in an attempt by Hamas to block Israeli forces from entering.

For weeks we've been telling the world about Hamas' cynical use of the residents of the Gaza and patients of Shifa Hospital as human shields. Here is more proof.



Al-Shifa Hospital

Did the IDF find a Hamas tunnel?



05

Hamas’ Presence in Hospitals

The Israeli army raided al-Shifa hospital, alleging a Hamas command centre was located in tunnels below the hospital.²⁹ The military could not provide any evidence of a Hamas command centre, and the rooms connected to the tunnel network discovered by Israeli Defence Force (IDF) troops showed no immediate evidence of military use by Hamas.⁶⁹

None of the five hospital buildings identified by IDF spokesman Daniel Hagari appeared to be connected to the tunnel network. There is no evidence that the tunnels could be accessed from inside hospital wards.⁷⁰

Video footage shows IDF spokesman Hagari pointing to a calendar written in Arabic – with days of the week, which he claims is a rota for Hamas fighters – a claim which was swiftly disproved by Arabic-speaking observers.³⁰

An Israeli actress also created a viral video, pretending to be a Palestinian nurse from al-Shifa hospital, and claiming Hamas was taking over the hospital.³¹ This was also swiftly debunked online.³²

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Bombing of Al-Ahli Hospital was a Misfired Hamas Rocket



FACEOFF OVER GAZA HOSPITAL STRIKE: UK PM BACKS ISRAEL



Bombing of Al-Ahli Hospital was a Misfired Hamas Rocket

On 17 October, Israel targeted Gaza's Al-Ahli hospital, killing over 471 civilians, doctors, paramedics, and patients, in blatant violation of international law.³³ Immediately after bombing the hospital, Israeli military officials claimed accountability for the attacks on X, then deleted their tweets.³⁴

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'.³⁵

However, Al Jazeera's Sanad Agency has investigated the Israeli claim that the bombing of Gaza's Al-Ahli 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 7 October.³⁶ 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 mid-air,³⁷ thus proving the claim to be false, and confirming it was in fact an Israeli airstrike that destroyed Al-Ahli hospital, massacring almost 500 Palestinians.³⁸

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 found evidence that refutes Israel's denial,³⁹ including the angle, direction, and ferocity of which the airstrikes landed.⁴⁰

The New York Times have also released findings that directly contradict Israeli denial of involvement in the Al-Ahli hospital bombing.⁴¹ Their analysts concluded that the projectile seen in the video being used as 'evidence' by Israeli forces,⁴² was actually detonated about two miles away from the hospital, portraying an unrelated incident across the Gaza border fence that night.⁴³ Additionally, the evidence suggests Israeli bombardment was ongoing, and two explosions near the hospital were recorded within two minutes of the hospital being struck.⁴⁴

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Claiming Photos of Israeli Crimes were Committed by Hamas

The Cradle



Israel admits it killed its own at Nova music festival

Source: *Haaretz*

Claiming Photos of Israeli Crimes were Committed by Hamas

Critics now speculate that some of the Israeli government's most horrific photos of charred corpses and "bodies burned beyond recognition" on 7 October may actually depict Israeli-inflicted casualties.⁴⁵ The Israeli news outlet, Yedioth Aharanoth, is reported saying that "the pilots realised that there was tremendous difficulty in distinguishing within the occupied outposts and settlements who was a terrorist and who was a soldier or civilian... The rate of fire against the thousands of terrorists was tremendous at first and, only at a certain point, did the pilots begin to slow down the attacks and carefully select the targets."⁴⁶

Apache helicopter pilots have admitted to firing continuously without intelligence on targets, while tank crews were ordered to shell homes, regardless of Israeli hostages potentially inside.⁴⁷

One image from 7 October showed a dumpster full of burned bodies, which some suggest may have been dead Hamas fighters disposed of in this manner.⁴⁸ Israeli officials have been using the images of charred bodies to garner international sympathy but, as the report indicates, it is more likely that the horrific images are of Hamas fighters.⁴⁹

A Zaka volunteer on 7 October also claimed to have seen the body of a shot pregnant woman in Be'eri with her stomach ripped open and the foetus attached to her stabbed.⁸⁴ This actually occurred in the Israeli and Phalangist massacre in Sabra and Shatila Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon.⁵¹

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Claiming Gazans Could Follow ‘Safe Routes’ from Northern Gaza to a ‘Safe Zone’ in the South

AJ



Israel told 1.1 million Palestinians to leave their homes.

08

Claiming Gazans Could Follow ‘Safe Routes’ from Northern Gaza to a ‘Safe Zone’ in the South

On 13 October, 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.⁵² Israel claimed to give this order on the premise that it would protect Palestinian civilians from its pre-meditated airstrikes.⁵³

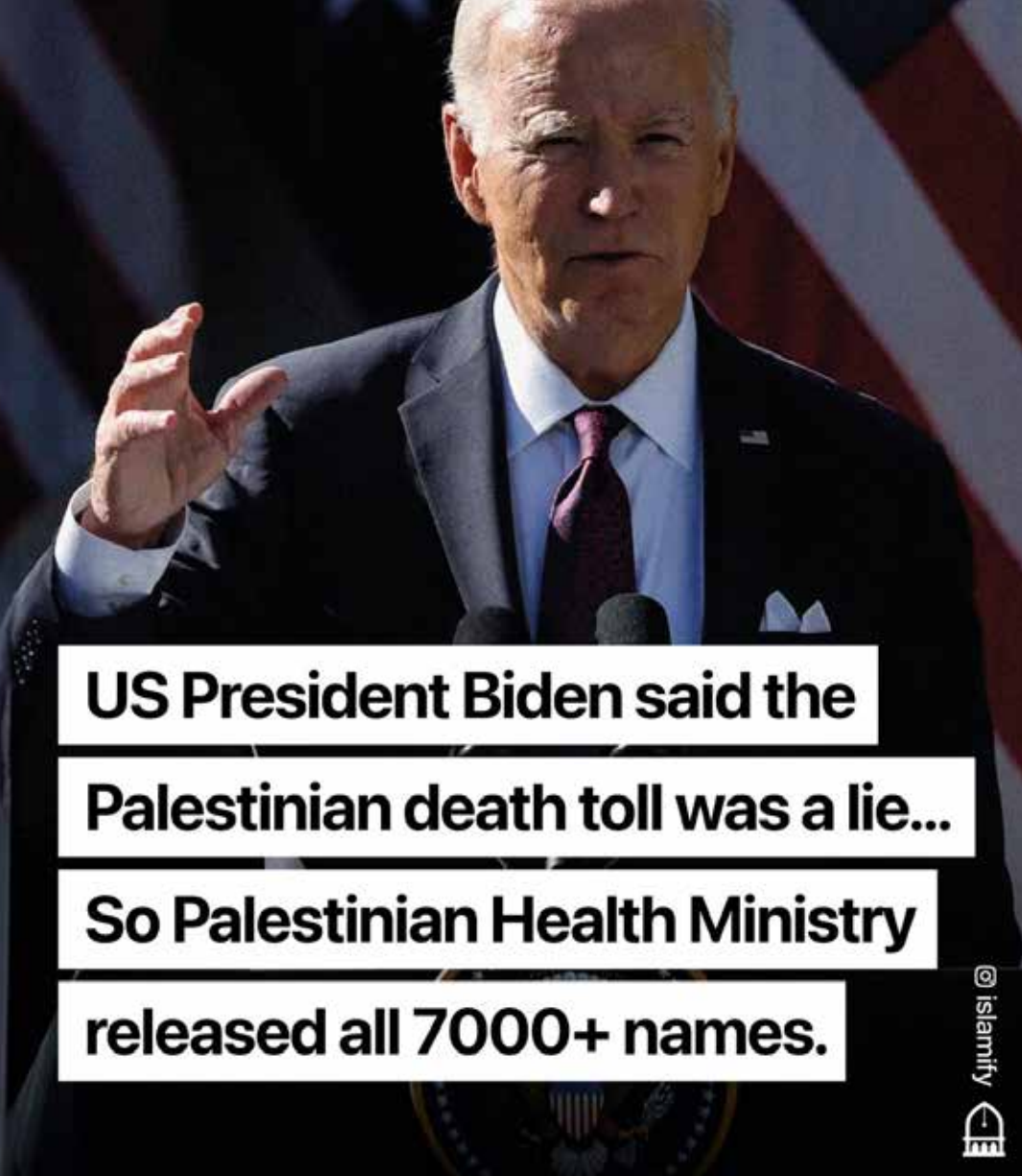
However, during the 24-hour time frame of these evacuation orders, the Israeli military targeted civilians traveling on safe routes from the north to the south of Gaza.⁵⁴ Aerial footage shows a truck carrying over 70 civilians, mostly women and children, traveling to the south of Gaza as ordered, being struck by an Israeli airstrike, killing 70 Palestinian civilians and wounding at least 200.⁵⁵

The Israeli military denied attacking the convoy.⁵⁶ However, Amnesty International verified videos of the attack and concluded it was the result of an airstrike.⁵⁷

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Casting Doubt on the Palestinian Death Toll

A photograph of Joe Biden, the 46th President of the United States, speaking at a podium. He is wearing a dark suit, a light blue shirt, and a dark tie. He is gesturing with his right hand. The background is slightly blurred, showing what appears to be an American flag.

**US President Biden said the
Palestinian death toll was a lie...
So Palestinian Health Ministry
released all 7000+ names.**

Casting Doubt on the Palestinian Death Toll

Israeli officials have repeatedly tried to contradict the Palestinian Health Ministry in Gaza's death toll.⁵⁸ For example, Israeli government adviser Mark Regev said: "We know they're lying about the numbers".⁵⁹ Israeli officials and media have also repeatedly referred to the Health Ministry as ' Hamas-run ' in order to discredit their figures, despite Human Rights Watch saying that the death toll is accurate.⁶⁰

U.S. President Joe Biden then repeated this lie in a press conference, saying: "I'm sure innocents have been killed, and it's a price of waging a war, but I have no confidence in the number that the Palestinians are using".⁷⁸ This was repeated by U.S. National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby, who reiterated the President's assertion that the death toll cannot be taken "at face value" because the "Gaza Ministry of Health is just a front" for Hamas.⁷⁹

At the time, Gaza's health ministry responded with a 212-page list of the dead, which then numbered 6,747 people.⁸⁰ The list provided the name, age, sex, and official identification number of everyone that has been killed in Gaza since Israel began its airstrikes there on Oct. 7.⁸¹

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Israel's Use of White Phosphorus



It can burn the human flesh down to the bone. It can also enter the bloodstream and cause organ failure. That's why even minor burns with white phosphorus can be fatal to humans.

Ahmed Benchemsi
Human Rights Watch



ALJAZEERA

10

Israel's Use of White Phosphorus

On 10 October in Lebanon and 11 October in Gaza, the Israeli military used white phosphorus shells in violation of international law.⁶¹ Israel denied the claim, stating it was “unequivocally false”.⁶²

However, Human Rights Watch verified videos of “multiple airbursts of artillery-fired white phosphorus” launched by the Israeli military over the Gaza City port and along the Israel-Lebanon border, labelling it a violation of international humanitarian law.⁶³

Amnesty International also documented the presence of white phosphorus shells in Gaza and south Lebanon.⁶⁴

Doctors in Gaza, such as Ghassan Abu Sitta, have also said that the injuries they have seen are consistent with those caused by white phosphorus.⁶⁵

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Footage of Palestinian Deaths and Injuries are 'Pallywood'

PARIS

FRANCE 24

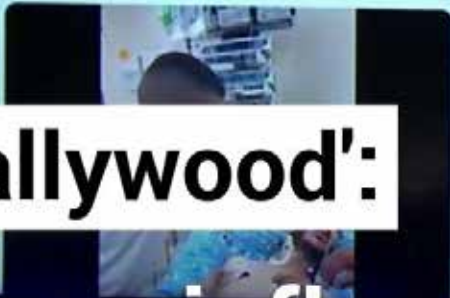
pretends to be a victim of an Israeli air strike -
and while pretending to be in a critical condition
actors hold his hand.

a Hamas musician and actor who has been
videos for the terror group.

is celebrating in the streets as Hamas fire rockets.

can be seen 'crying' after claiming his apartment was

And in another video he is seen singing while brandishing a gun while
praising Hamas.



'Pallywood':

Gazan influencer wrongly accused of 'staging' Palestinian suffering

11

Footage of Palestinian Deaths and Injuries are ‘Pallywood’

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s spokesperson for Arab media, Ofir Gendelman, posted a video to X that he claimed showed Gazans faking their injuries with makeup, despite countless people correcting him that the footage was in fact from a Lebanese film.⁶⁸

Since then, pro-Israeli accounts online have been deploying the word “Pallywood” as a means to undermine the plight of Gazans.⁷³ A blend of the words “Palestine” and “Hollywood”, the term insinuates that stories of suffering coming from Gaza are contrived or embellished for propaganda purposes.⁷⁴ The accusations range from hiring crisis actors, to doctoring footage and editing it in a dishonest way that misrepresents reality.⁷⁵

Israel’s official X account and Hananya Naftali, who worked as part of Netanyahu’s digital communications team, have retweeted these ‘Pallywood’ claims online, despite them being debunked by multiple news outlets.⁷⁶

Footnotes

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