



1 February 2002

To: 60 Minutes  
Attn: Steve Croft  
Story: *Official: Hamas Building Missiles*

Dear Steve,

I was very impressed that you were able to get such a good interview with this senior Hamas official. We need more reporters willing to go to far-away places to speak to the people involved and let them tell their stories.

However, I was upset that the title given to the story implies the Palestinians are about to start launching unprovoked attacks on Israeli cities.

I think more is needed to give a balanced picture. I believe *60 Minutes* can do great good presenting some facts on:

- Just who is the *occupier* when we refer to the “*occupied territories*”. Israel’s occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip is no more legal than was Iraq’s occupation of Kuwait or Nazi Germany’s occupation of France. I think few Americans understand the dispossession of the Palestinians and how that inevitably leads a few to extreme violence.
- Israel’s use of “collective punishment”. It is unthinkable that US military forces would have used attack helicopters and F-16 fighters against (for instance) the residents of Kingman, AZ where Tim McVeigh once lived. Or that the US Army have sent tanks in to destroy police facilities around Logan airport where some of the September 11 suicide pilots came from. It appears to be standard procedure in Israel though.
- That our tax dollars paying for military hardware used against civilian populations. I was pleased you mentioned that Israel “routinely” fires into Palestinian areas. As I understand it, the US gives \$2.4 billion of military aid to Israel.
- To what extent do political donations by pro-Israeli groups influence American policy toward the Israelis and Palestinians.