

31-Dec-08

Email to the "Express", a free newspaper distributed at Washington DC area Metro stations:

I was incredulous at your choice of photos and captions to illustrate the article in today's Express about the fighting in Gaza.

On the front page you had a picture of "An Israeli family mourns a victim of a rocket blast" and on page 6 the large picture over the article "Israel Mulls Short Truce" was "Israelis mourn Irit Shitrit, 39, a mother of four, in Ashdod, Israel, on Tuesday. A Hamas-fired rocket killed Shitrit on Monday."

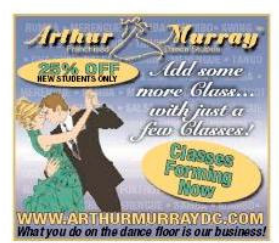
Once again the poor Israelis are victims of Palestinian violence. Or so it seems. While those pictures don't lie about the grief for those particular families they completely misrepresent who are the main victims.

It is only near the end of the article that we learn that while four Israelis have died, almost four HUNDRED Palestinians have been killed! Given that train commuters probably aren't reading every detail but are mainly looking at the pictures and captions (if they wanted real news, they'd be reading the Post), most will be left with the impression that the Palestinians are the perpetrators of unprovoked violence and that Israelis are innocent victims, as they have been so often throughout history.

There will be no end to the violence until the dispossession of the Palestinians displaced in 1948 and 1967 is addressed. That isn't likely to happen until the American government ends its totally one-sided support of Israel and that won't change until the American people understand the true nature of the conflict. Media coverage such as this only serves to further prolong the suffering on both sides.

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LIVING ON A JET PLANE: An airplane becomes a hostel in Sweden | **Inside**



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Holiday



An Israeli family mourns a victim of a rocket blast.



AN ACT OF DEFIANCE

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Columbia Deaths



Israelis mourn Irit Shitrit, 39, a mother of four, in Ashdod, Israel, on Tuesday. A Hamas-fired rocket killed Shitrit on Monday.

Israel Mulls Short Truce

Proposal for 48-hour cease-fire with Hamas comes as Gaza toll rises

GAZA CITY, GAZA STRIP | Israel, under international pressure, is considering a 48-hour halt to its punishing four-day air campaign on Hamas targets in Gaza to see whether Palestinian militants will stop their rocket attacks on southern Israel, Israeli officials said Tuesday.

Any offer would be coupled with a threat to send in ground troops if the rocket fire continues.

Prime Minister Ehud Olmert discussed the proposal — floated by France's foreign minister — and other possible next steps with his foreign and defense ministers, Israeli officials said, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not supposed to make the information public.

After the four-hour meeting, Olmert's office issued a statement early Wednesday saying no details of the discussion would be made public because of the sensitivity of the subject matter.

Even amid talk of a truce, Israeli

warplanes continued to bomb targets in Gaza. Powerful airstrikes caused Gaza City's high-rise apartment buildings to sway and showered streets with broken glass and pulverized concrete. Israel's ground forces on Gaza's border also used artillery for the first time. The campaign has killed 374 Palestinians.

Hamas also kept up its rocket barrages, which have killed four Israelis since the weekend, and sent many more running for bomb shelters — some of them in cities under threat for the first time, as the range of rockets grows. IBRAHIM BARZAK (AP)