

21 February 2024

Media Watch host Paul Barry's letter to editor at The Australian:

Subject: Re: ABC's Media Watch host Paul Barry slammed by Jewish leaders over war coverage 'analysis'

To the Editor,

I'm used to reading poor journalism in The Australian, but James Madden's story on our coverage of the Israel Gaza War was a standout.

Not only did it fail to accurately represent the findings of our program viz a viz The Australian and other print media, but it claimed, wrongly, that these were based on a study by Dr Susan Carland.

As I made clear to James Madden in an email, Carland's research looked only at Instagram posts for a month from October 7th. Our research covered 4 months since October 7th and analysed stories in printed newspapers. We said:

'Looking back at The **Australian's** coverage of the conflict since the Hamas terror attacks of 7 October killed nearly 1,200 people, there are numerous heart-wrenching stories of the victims, showing their photos, giving us their names and ages, telling us who they were and how they were killed or captured, and allowing us to feel the horror and dreadful pain of the families left behind. But guess what? Almost all these victims are Israeli, almost none are Palestinian.'

Our count made it 42 Israeli to 3 Palestinian.

One tragic story The Australian failed to cover in the paper was the death of 6-year-old Palestinian girl Rajab Hind, who was shot dead this month by the IDF, along with 6 other members of her family and 2 Red Crescent paramedics sent to rescue her. This case is now the subject of a war crime complaint to the ICC.

We asked The Australian to comment on our findings before Media Watch went to air. No one even bothered to reply.

Yours

Paul Barry, ABC Media Watch