



United States & Israel Lies Exposed by Investigative Journalist Glenn Greenwald

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Glenn Greenwald (GG): Now, I don't want to let the October 7th anniversary come and go without quickly noting just how many incredibly consequential lies were told by the Israeli government and allied media in the wake of the October 7th attack to try and make it seem far more gruesome and inhuman than it actually was. There were some terrible things that Hamas did on October 7th, like targeting a music rave, but that wasn't enough to try and depict Hamas as this unprecedented evil, calling it worse than ISIS, which the Israelis needed to do because they needed to be able to justify everything they knew they were about to do to Gaza, basically flatten it and make it uninhabitable. And lie after lie after lie about what happened on October 7th emerged within the days and weeks. And of course, everybody was petrified to contest it for fear of seeming like you were minimising it or downplaying it or defending Hamas. And yet now we know that so much of what shaped the world's view of October 7th turned out to be deliberate falsehoods that emanated from Israel and its media. On October 10th, one of the worst ones was a report on i24News that claimed from a reporter that they had proof or evidence that 40 Israeli babies had been beheaded by Hamas. Listen to this video.

Reporter i24New: So really, all of these soldiers are doing their best to protect us, the journalists, who are also out here because they want us to see exactly what's happening and what they've been witnessing with their own eyes for these past three days. Many of them coming here Saturday night. And they knew that no other soldiers had been here yet. And so they kind of knew an idea of what was happening. But no one could expect that it would be like this. The horrors that I'm hearing from these soldiers that, as I mentioned earlier, about 40 babies, at least, were taken out on gurneys. Still, right now, they're going house to house, still evacuating dead bodies. Killed Israeli citizens.

i24News: I had to cut it here, it is such a shocking, jarring statement there. And just for our viewer – we're in a new hour here in the broadcast – who very likely were not with us last hour to understand that you've come in there to find this small community littered with the

dead and slaughtered bodies of Israeli civilians primarily. And you're saying 40 babies, dead babies?

Reporter i24News: That is what one of the commanders told me and you continue to see just...

GG: So that was just invented out of nowhere. But obviously, it's a very jarring claim because it does take a certain set of extreme savagery and monstrous inhumanity to behead 40 babies. And of course, played into the whole caricature of what Muslims and Islamic extremists do in terms of beheading. So saying they beheaded 40 babies was something that was incredibly consequential and powerful in shaping how the world understood October 7th, but also Hamas. And amazingly, the president of the United States, Joe Biden, not only repeated those false allegations, that complete fairy tale, but he claimed that he had seen photos proving it was true.

Joe Biden: Thank you for the intensity, your support. It matters. It matters that Americans see what's happening. I mean, I've been doing this a long time. I never really thought that I would see and have confirmed pictures of terrorists beheading children. I never thought I'd ever anyway...

GG: I mean, that is amazing. That was October 11th, 2023. He just lied and claimed that he saw photos showing 40 beheaded babies which came from Israel. And, of course, Joe Biden endorsed that lie, claimed to be even seen photographic proof of that. To this day, I guarantee you that there are a lot of people who still believe that and if you try and tell them that it was just punked and disproven, they won't believe it. One of the best accounts that shed light on what really happened on October 7th – you may remember there were all sorts of claims originally about how 1400 Israeli civilians were killed, that was then downgraded to 1200, now 1100, and it turns out that 300 or 400 of them, at least, were military soldiers and police officers targeted on those military and police bases. None of that was known. I just saw Abigail Shrier in the Free Press in a video saying 1400 civilians were killed on October 7th. Barack Obama in a tweet reported that same false number. Once these numbers and these lies get spread, there's never any correcting them. But one of the best comprehensive debunking of what was really true about October 7th and what was not came from the Israeli daily newspaper Haaretz in December of 2023. And basically what they found was, there was a total of one baby, one baby, killed on October 7th. Not 40, not 50. This baby was not beheaded. In fact, it was just caught in cost crossfire potentially between Hamas and the Israeli military. It wasn't even an intentional killing of the baby, let alone any of the other things that we've heard. That was how many babies total died on October 7th, one. It does not make October 7th a nice thing. It doesn't make it any less horrific, but it does show you how many lies, how many consequential lies were deliberately concocted and circulated, and how important it is to be very sceptical in all of these situations. Here's Haaretz, quote, *Hamas Committed Documented Atrocities. But a Few False Stories Deed the Deniers*. "The extensive evidence of crimes against humanity committed by Hamas terrorists on October 7th should not be contaminated by unverified stories disseminated by Israeli search and rescue groups, army officers and even the prime minister's wife, Sara Netanyahu", who did exactly

that. Quote, "According to a reporter for i24News, an army commander told her that at least 40 babies had been killed, some of them beheaded. The report above was later quoted on social media, often referenced, quote, 'dozens of beheaded babies', though sometimes it was, quote, 'burnt babies' or 'hanged babies'. For example, the Israeli Foreign Ministry published an account by Colonel Golan Vach from the Home Front Command who said that in one house he found the bodies of eight burned babies. The X account of the Prime Minister's office, Netanyahu's, also referred to the murder of infants and showed very graphic pictures. According to the tweet, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu showed the pictures to US Secretary of State Antony Blinken. Last week Ishay Coen, a journalist for the ultra-Orthodox website Kikar Hashabbat, interviewed Lieutenant Colonel Yaron Buskila of the Israeli Defence Forces Gaza Division. Buskila talked about babies who had been hung on clotheslines; his remarks were cited by a host of Twitter personalities around the world. Coen wrote that he was later informed that the story was inaccurate and deleted the post. Quote, 'Why would an Army officer invent such a horrifying story? I was wrong', he added". And that article goes on to document that, in fact, the total number of infants killed October 7th was one.

Here for Le Monde in April of this year. So it took six months for Le Monde to put this story together. The title was, quote, '*40 beheaded babies: Deconstructing the rumour at the heart of the information battle between Israel and Hamas*'. Quote, "On October 10th, official Israeli accounts relayed a sordid but unfounded allegation. Six months later, it continued to circulate, fuelling accusations of Israeli disinformation. But admits this flood of accounts of murder, looting and mutilation, one rumour took on extraordinary proportions. Quote: 40 dead decapitated babies were allegedly found in the Kfar Aza kibbutz, one of the communities most impacted by the attack. This story and its variants went viral like never before. Going as far as being mentioned by the White House." Not just mentioned by the White House, as we showed you, but confirmed by Joe Biden, who believes he saw pictures proving it. Le Monde says, quote, "However, in the horror of this massacre in which 38 minors, including two infants, were killed, there were never 40 decapitated babies".

GG: Hear from the Daily Mail, Golan Vach. This is where one of the baby killing events that was also fabricated came from October 14th, 2023. I think we have video of this. Listen to this video of this Israeli colonel claiming how one particular baby was murdered, not by being beheaded, but by a way that was designed to be at least as emotionally provocative.

Golan Vach (GV): [00:09:48] I found here two couples, two men and women. And inside we found eight babies buried in this corner, among other people burned in the house. A total of 19 people. We knew where it was. I pointed to the house.

Reporter: Did you see that baby?

GV: I evacuated the mother and the baby.

Reporter: So you saw...

GV: Yeah, I saw. I saw the baby.

Reporter: Beheaded?

GV: Beheaded.

Reporter: That must have been absolutely awful.

GV: Yes, it was.

GG: And accompanied by that were all sorts of claims spread by Israel's supporters all over the world, that Hamas took pregnant women and cut out their babies from their wombs. There was another report that Hamas had taken an Israeli infant and baked it in an oven, obviously designed to resonate with some of the worst stories of the Holocaust. Just an endless stream of deliberate lies and propaganda designed to prepare the world for everything that Israel was going to do. And it took months for media outlets to debunk it, as often happens. And of course, it was far too late. Hear from France 24 as well in December of 2023 about the total number of people who were actually killed on October 7th, not the 1400 claim by Obama or the 1400 civilians claimed by Abigail Shrier and so many other people, the reality is this: Quote, *Israel social security data reveals true picture of October 7th deaths*. "On October 14th, Israeli authorities announced a preliminary toll of more than 1,400 people killed by Hamas terrorists. On November 10th, the foreign ministry published a, quote, 'updated estimate', saying that the number murdered in cold blood was around 1200 people, without further detail. The final death toll from the attack is now thought to be 695 Israeli civilians" – so less than half of what we were originally told. Obviously, it's a terrible number of civilians to die, 695. It's half of the number of civilians who have died in Lebanon over the last two weeks. But it's a far cry from the 1400. "Including 36 children who died, as well as 773 security forces and 71 foreigners, giving a total of 1139. The data gives a clear picture of the scale of the atrocities at the Supernova Music Festival, where 364 people were killed. But it also invalidates some statements by Israeli authorities in the days following the attack. Testimony called into question was that on October 7th by Colonel Golan Vach, head of the army search and rescue unit, who told a group of journalists, including one from AFP, that he, quote, 'personally' transported 'a decapitated baby' found in the arms of his mother in the Beeri kibbutz. According to Bituah Leumi, only one baby was killed in Beerli: the 10-months-old, Mila Cohen, whose mother survived". And there's a Times of Israel article as well that very much suggests the same thing.

Now, again, the point here is not to say that the October 7th attack wasn't horrific, that it wasn't a deliberate targeting of civilians, it was. But it's also to say just how much propaganda and lies were put into having Americans and Westerners and the world conceive of what actually happened here. Let's go to this United Nations report because we know that a lot of countries, including South Africa and others, have brought war criminality charges to the International Criminal Court, alleging that Israel committed war crimes. The UN report in June of this year said very similar things. Quote, "The commission notes that Israeli authorities failed to protect civilians in southern Israel on almost every front. This included

failing to swiftly deploy sufficient security forces to protect civilians and evacuate them from civilian locations on October 7th. In several locations, ISAF applied the so-called, quote, 'Hannibal Directive' and killed at least 14 Israeli citizens. Israeli authorities also failed to ensure that forensic evidence was systematically collected by concerned authorities and first responders, particularly in relation to allegations of sexual violence undermining the possibility of future judicial proceedings, accountability and justice. The Commission documented one statement by ISF tank crew, confirming that the crew had indeed applied the Hannibal Directive" – which is, by the way, is an Israeli military concept that if Israelis are in danger of being kidnapped, they prefer to just shoot everybody, including their own citizens, rather than let them be kidnapped. And there's no question that the IDF killed a good number of the civilians who died on October 7th as a result. And they confirmed that the crew had applied the Hannibal Directive "by shooting a vehicle which they suspected was transporting abducted ISF soldiers. In another case, the Commission found that Israeli tank fire killed some or all of the 13 civilian hostages held in a house in Beerli".

Now, there was a lot of talk as part of this about the allegations of mass rape and the use of sexual violence on October 7th by Hamas. And there's been an endless dispute about this evidence. The New York Times has had embarrassing retractions. They had to fire a local freelancer who had all sorts of political ties. Their main attempt to document these rapes, and these use of sexual violence in Israel ended up being a controversy within The New York Times for so many different reasons. Some of the key pieces of evidence, even the families of those people came out and disputed, but I don't even want to dive into that dispute because it's not necessary to make the point, which is that let's assume that there were rapes of Israeli women by Hamas on October 7th. You can debate the number. As I said, there's a huge lack of clarity about what actually happened, in part because some of those UN critiques said there was no evidence preserved. But what we know for sure, I want you to think about how much attention has been paid to these mass rape claims that Hamas perpetrated against Israelis. Sheryl Sandberg, the longtime number two at Facebook and a multibillionaire, produced her own film purporting to document this. It was all over the media; why aren't Democrats and Israel opponents condemning sexual assault by Hamas? And, one of the things that is so notable about that is that even inside the United States, eventually there ended up being doubt about whether or not that happened. Here from CNN in August, just a couple of months ago, quote: *State Department calls for Israel to investigate allegations of, quote, 'horrific' sexual abuse of Palestinian detainees*. Meaning, there is definitely questions and debate about whether Hamas sexually assaulted Israeli women on October 7th. What there's no question about, none, because the evidence is so overwhelming by different bodies, is that Israel has basically created dungeons where they're free to pick up Palestinians both in the West Bank and Gaza and throw them into prison with no charges, no due process. It's called administrative detention. They keep them there for six months and then whenever they want, they just keep extending it. It's an ultimate Guantanamo or Kafkaesque black hole, except that we know for certain, that there have been many allegations and documented cases of torture, including sexual abuse and sexual rape of Palestinian detainees, by Israeli soldiers. Think about how much you've heard discussion of that or anger about that in comparison to the claims of what Hamas did in terms of their use of sexual violence on October 7th. Again,

it's all about whose lives matter and who doesn't. Quote, "The US State Department called allegations of sexual abuse of Palestinian detainees by Israeli soldiers, quote, 'horrific' and said Israel must investigate, quote, 'swiftly' and 'fully', according to a State Department spokesperson. 'There ought to be zero tolerance of any sexual abuse, rape, of any detainees, period', said State Department Spokesperson Matthew Miller at a press briefing. The statement comes after Israeli media obtained leaked surveillance video that allegedly showed Israeli soldiers sexually assaulting a Palestinian detainee in Israel's Negev Desert. PHRI said it had raised concerns about similar allegations at the base in the past, but that this incident came to light and prompted an investigation because the alleged victim was taken to a public hospital away from the detention centre." Because of the severity of their rectal injuries. Quote, "'When there are alleged violations, the government of Israel needs to take steps to investigate those who are alleged to have committed abuses and, if appropriate, hold them accountable', said Miller, who called the IDF announcement of arrest of those alleged to have been involved and an investigation, quote, 'appropriate'.".

Now, let me just say, we had on our show as well a representative of the longtime Israeli human rights group. And they had just issued a report documenting in great detail the extreme abuse and torture and even use of sexual violence by IDF and other Israeli guards on Palestinian detainees, many of whom were released, many of whom there before October 7th, who had no connection to Hamas or October 7th, which is why they were released. Just compare how much anger and outrage in the West, how much attention and focus on the West there was on the use of sexual violence by Hamas on Israelis in October 7th versus how much attention has been paid to the very much better documented cases of systemic torture and sexual abuse by Israeli prison guards of Palestinians, including most who have never been charged with a crime, let alone convicted of it. Again, our discourse constantly reflects whose lives matter and whose lives do not. The Turkish government today issued a highly produced, a two minute summary of how they and so much of the world see what has been happening. And I want to show you this in part because I just want you to see that if you are in the United States or Western Europe, you will think that the entire world sees this conflict one way. And yet the minute you step outside, and it's not just Turkey, it's all over Asia and South America, and other regions in the world who see what's been happening in Gaza over the last year, not as something that needs you to commemorate and talk about the Israeli's victims on October 7th, but talk about the horrific victims and the amount of war crimes and civilian destruction that has taken place since then. And here's the Turkish government's version of how they think this is all going to be remembered.

Recep Tayyip Erdogan: Good afternoon, Seattle. Welcome to your afternoon newscast. We're here to bring you stories that matter most. Today marks the 16th anniversary of the tragic genocide. Commemorations are being held all around the world.

Boy in Video: Why didn't you do anything?

Boy 2 in Video: What were you doing during this genocide, grandpa?

Girl in Video: But it was all happening right in front of you.

Boy 3 in Video: Did you just watch it?

Boy 4 in Video: Why, mom?

Girl 2 in Video: When kids like us were being slaughtered...

Girl 2 in Video: Why?

GG: There has been so much evidence, so many studies, so much documentation, that what the Israelis have done to this trapped population of 2.2 million people inside Gaza has been a level of destruction unseen in modern warfare, certainly in the 21st century. 65 to 70% of civilian buildings are destroyed or severely compromised. The Israeli bombing of Gaza continues, including in areas where they hadn't bombed all that much before. The entire civilian infrastructure has collapsed. There's no education system. There's no health care system. There's no food delivery system. They basically have flattened Gaza, flattened it. And a lot of people thought that was the Israeli goal all along, was to drive those people, Arabs, out of Gaza because they view that as part of Greater Israel. The level of murder and suffering and destruction that the Israelis have imposed on Gaza since October 7th, and they are now doing to Beirut is really incomprehensible and more incomprehensible still, unless you realise this question of whose lives matter and whose don't is how in the West there is 100 times more attention paid to the anxiety felt by some Israeli, for having to go into a bomb shelter for an hour or two, than there is to the unprecedented destruction of civilian life continuously being carried out with US bombs and US money all throughout Gaza. And I think it's reprehensible to spend today focusing on one event that happened in Israel, as terrible as it was, given the magnitude of the suffering and even evil that has been perpetrated in the name of that event over the last year.

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