

# **Accuracy in Israel/Palestine Reporting**

## ***The Oregonian***

**A News Coverage Report May-October 2004**

**Released March 2005**

by



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**Portland, Oregon**

In conjunction with:

**Palestine Media Watch**

and

**If Americans Knew**

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# Accuracy in Israel/Palestine Reporting

## *The Oregonian*

May – October 2004

### Executive Summary

This six-month study consists of a statistical examination of *The Oregonian's* news coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict from May 2004 through October 2004. The categories examined were coverage of deaths in general, particularly children's deaths. We chose criteria for measuring accuracy that would be universally acknowledged as significant, could not be construed as subjective, and could be independently verified. For our control numbers we used The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories (B'Tselem). B'Tselem monitors human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories of the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip ([www.btselem.org](http://www.btselem.org)).

Our findings indicate *The Oregonian* could improve the accuracy of their news reporting. We found a disparity in the likelihood of a death receiving **headline** coverage based on the nationality of the person killed. This discrepancy was even more pronounced in *The Oregonian's* coverage of the killing of children. The same pattern was seen in the **body** of the articles.

During the study period of May 2004 through October 2004, B'Tselem found a total of 54 Israelis were killed in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territories. Of these, 57 % were soldiers, 29% were adult civilians and 14% were children. In the same period, a total of 502 Palestinians were killed in the occupied Palestinian territories. Of these, 43% were combatants, 34% were adult civilians, and 23% were children (B'Tselem). Overall, during the period over 10 times more Palestinians were killed than Israelis. Palestinian children were killed at a rate 15 times that of Israeli children.

Analysis of *The Oregonian* news articles indicate that 100% of all Israelis deaths were reported and 120% were highlighted in news headlines. (Results over 100% indicate that individual deaths were reported multiple times.) By contrast, 61% of all Palestinian deaths were reported in news articles and 66% in news headlines.

When looking at the coverage of children's deaths, *The Oregonian* reported 100% of Israeli children's deaths in news articles and 100% in news headlines, while 28% of Palestinian children's deaths received coverage in news articles and 2% received headlines.

In *The Oregonian's* cumulative totals of those killed from May 2004 through October 2004, only 4 of 130 news stories contained cumulative totals of deaths on both sides somewhere in the article.

We are providing this report to *The Oregonian* to raise editor awareness of inaccuracies in coverage of the news. We are also providing this study to the public to help them evaluate *The Oregonian* as a source for understanding the Israel/Palestine conflict.

## Introduction

During 2004, Americans United for Palestinian Human Rights – AUPHR ([www.auphr.org](http://www.auphr.org)) began compiling data on *The Oregonian's* coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, using a format similar to that used by If Americans Knew ([www.ifamericansknew.org](http://www.ifamericansknew.org)).

Since the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is at the center of one of the most strategically important regions of the world, and because American funding and policies are central factors in this issue, AUPHR believes that it is essential that Americans be accurately informed on this issue. As part of this effort, we have examined *The Oregonian's* news coverage for accuracy.

In this report we have analyzed how deaths on both sides of the conflict were covered in *The Oregonian* over the six month period from May 2004 through October 2004, for which we could get verifiable control figures from B'Tselem. The goals of this report are to:

- Establish objective standards for assessing accuracy in reporting
- Provide an assessment of *The Oregonian's* accuracy in reporting on the Israel/Palestine conflict.

This report is meant to assist *The Oregonian* to accurately report the news and to help readers evaluate the reliability of the information provided by *The Oregonian* sources.

## Methodology

We recognize that reporting on Israel/Palestine is an exceptionally controversial topic. The media have been criticized by partisans on both sides of the issue making it difficult for the largely non-aligned public to evaluate the quality of reporting. For this reason, we chose criteria for measuring accuracy that would be universally acknowledged as significant, could not be construed as subjective, and could be independently verified.

### Step 1. Coverage of Casualties in The Oregonian

We counted the number of Israeli and Palestinian deaths *The Oregonian* reported:

A. In absolute numbers, and

B. As a percentage of total deaths for Israelis and Palestinians respectively. We broke these numbers down into four specific categories:

1. All deaths in articles
2. All deaths in headlines
3. Children's deaths reported in articles
4. Children's deaths reported in headlines

C. The number of times that cumulative totals of deaths were reported

We chose these metrics because they are simple, quantitative and relatively immune to subjective interpretation. Most people believe respect for human life should be evenhanded – the first article of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights states “All human beings are born equal in dignity and rights”.

Because headlines - particularly on the front page - are often the most prominent aspect of coverage that readers absorb, and can play a disproportionate role in generating an overall impression about the conflict, we analyzed headline coverage of deaths.

In addition, we counted the number of times *The Oregonian* provided readers with the total number of Israelis and Palestinians killed because an understanding of the overall context may be lost without such cumulative totals being periodically reported as accurately as possible.

Tables of the raw monthly data can be found in Appendix A.

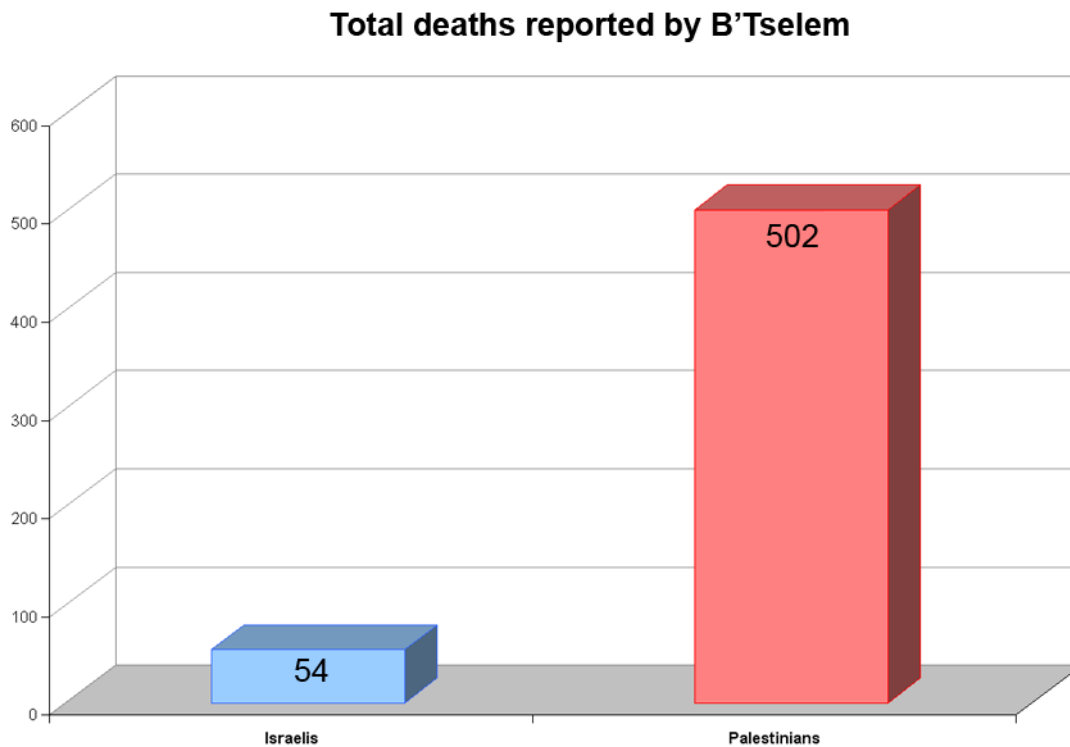
## **Step 2. Comparison to actual numbers of casualties reported by B’Tselem**

The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories - B'Tselem – is an award winning organization that was established in 1989 by a group of prominent academics, attorneys, journalists, and Knesset members. Its reports have a reputation for accuracy and are referenced by the International community, Israeli authorities, and Palestinian authorities. B'Tselem ensures the reliability of information it publishes by conducting its own fieldwork and research, and thoroughly cross-checking with relevant documents, official government sources, and information from other sources, among them Israeli, Palestinian, and other human rights organizations.

The confirmed casualties list for the study period was obtained from B’Tselem and compared with deaths reported in *The Oregonian*. Charts were created comparing actual and reported deaths. Discrepancies between B’Tselem and *The Oregonian* were indicated in the charts by using wire frame bars to show under-reporting of deaths, and faded solid bars to indicate over-reporting of deaths.

## Results: Coverage of Casualties

### Total numbers of Israelis and Palestinians killed

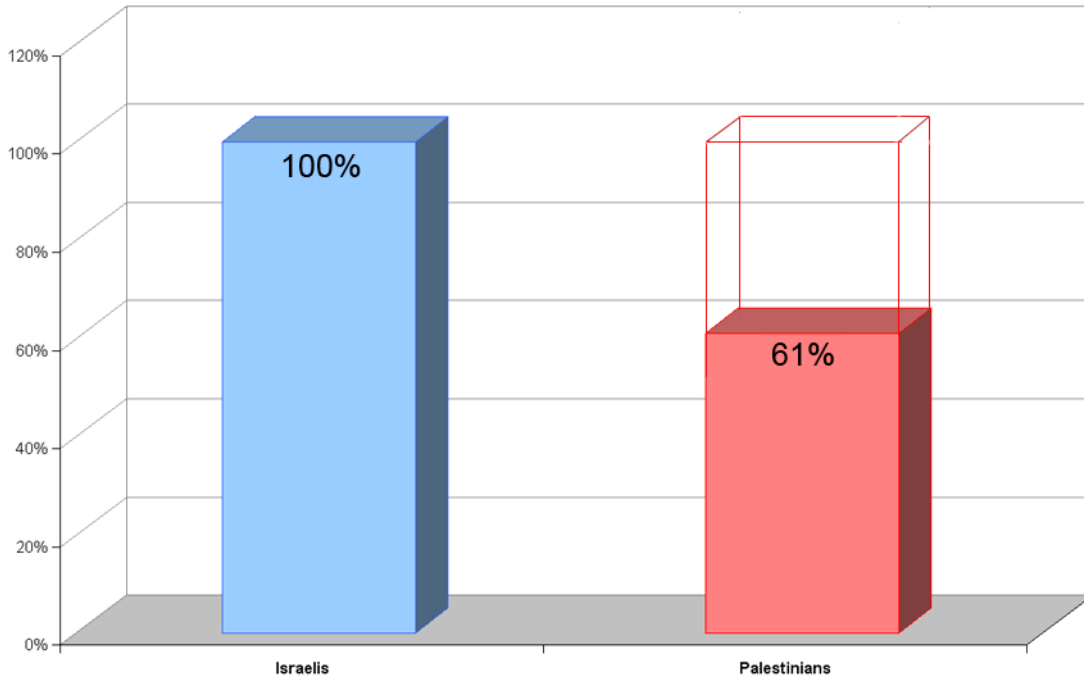


This graph shows that during the study period 54 Israelis and 502 Palestinians were killed. The total numbers of Israeli and Palestinian deaths were obtained from The Israeli Information Center for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories – B'Tselem for the May-October 2004 study period. These numbers do not include other Palestinian civilians, including children, who died as a result of inability to reach medical care due to Israeli road closures, curfews, etc.

**Discussion point:** The figure for Palestinian deaths is extremely conservative due to B'Tselem's standards and the challenges to information gathering in the Palestinian territories during hostilities. Palestinian medical organizations report a higher number. For example, the Palestine Red Crescent Society, an affiliate of the International Red Cross, reports that 541 Palestinians were killed during the same period.

## Percentage of deaths reported in articles

Percentage of deaths reported in Oregonian articles



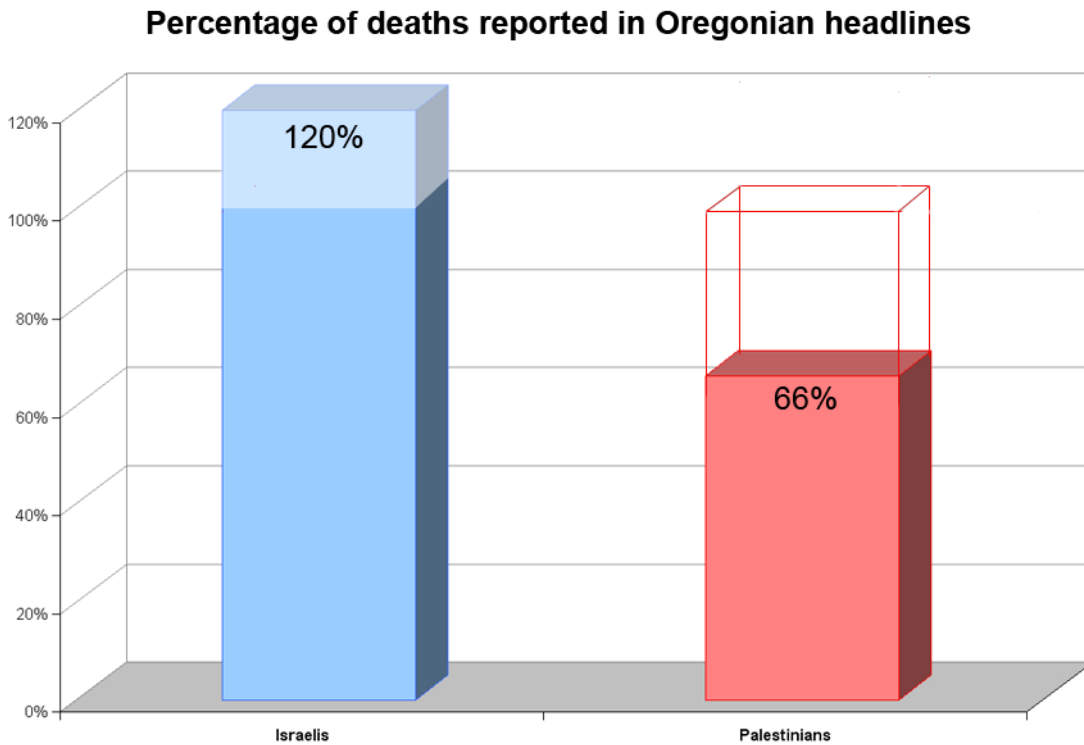
This graph shows that 100% of Israeli deaths and 61% of Palestinian deaths were reported in *The Oregonian*.

**Discussion point:** In the body of *The Oregonian* articles, the disparity between reporting of Israeli and Palestinian deaths was significant. Israeli deaths were reported at 100% – all 54 deaths were reported. Of the 502 Palestinian deaths, 61% were reported. Another 197 Palestinian deaths were never reported. The under-reporting of Palestinian deaths, combined with the lack of headline coverage, resulted in sharp contrasts between those killed and those headlined by *The Oregonian*:

Date	Oregonian Headline	B'Tselem Fact
May 13, 2004	“Five Israeli soldiers killed in blast”	15 Palestinians killed
July 2, 2004	“US scolds Israel on West Bank outposts	6 Palestinians killed
July 9, 2004	“Sharon, Peres will discuss coalition”	8 Palestinians killed
July 26, 2004	“Thousands of Israelis form 55 mile protest line”	6 Palestinians killed
Sept. 16, 2004	“Sharon’s plan appears to abandon roadmap”	10 Palestinians killed, 1 child
Sept. 30, 2004	“Palestinian rocket kills two preschoolers”	11 Palestinians killed, 1 child
Oct. 2, 2004	“Israelis mass at Gaza for occupation”	8 Palestinians killed
Oct. 5, 2004	“Palestinian chides world ‘indifference’ ”	10 Palestinians killed
Oct. 10, 2004	“Israelis kill militant blamed for fatal rocket strikes”	5 Palestinians killed
Oct. 26, 2004	“Sharon states case for Gaza pullout”	15 Palestinians killed



## Percentage of Deaths reported in headlines

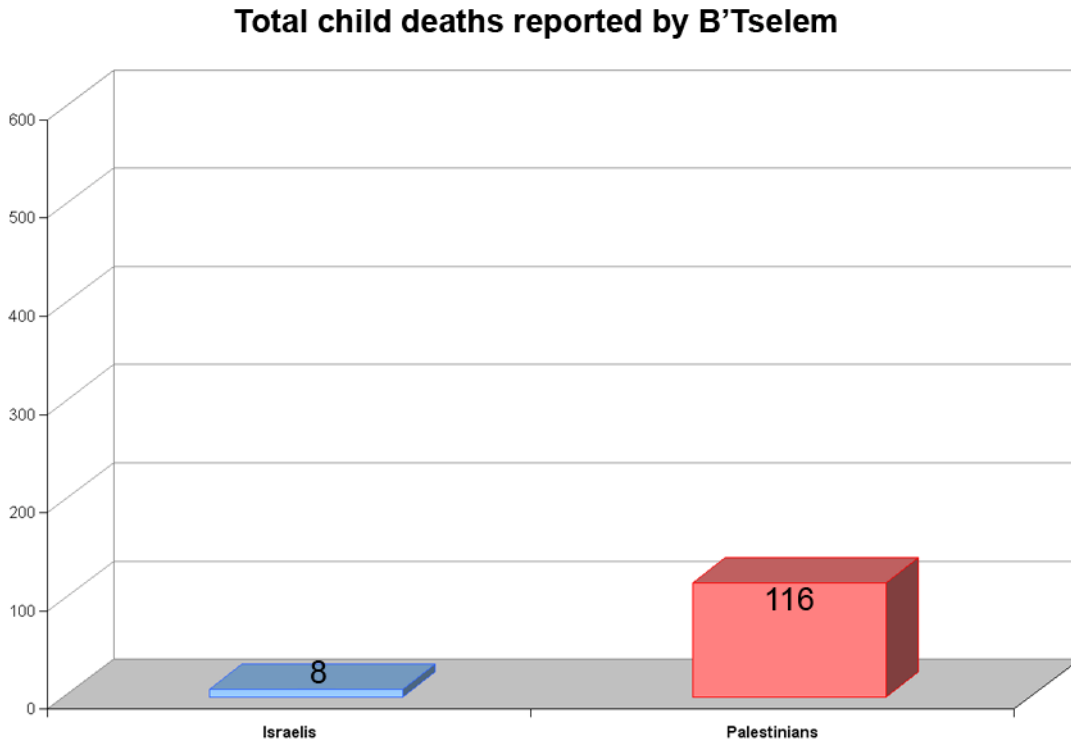


This graph shows that 120% of all Israeli deaths and 66% of all Palestinian deaths were headlined. The study found a disparity in the likelihood of a death receiving headline coverage based on the nationality of the person killed. Israeli deaths were two times more likely to receive headline coverage than Palestinian deaths. *The Oregonian* reported on 120% of actual Israeli deaths and 66% of actual Palestinian deaths in the headlines of the 130 articles during the six month study period.

**Discussion point:** Our findings indicate significantly different headline coverage by *The Oregonian* based on nationality. During the six months of the study, 65 Israeli deaths were reported in *The Oregonian* headlines, while B'Tselem documented that 54 Israelis were killed. This discrepancy is due to the fact that some Israeli deaths were featured in *The Oregonian* headlines multiple times.

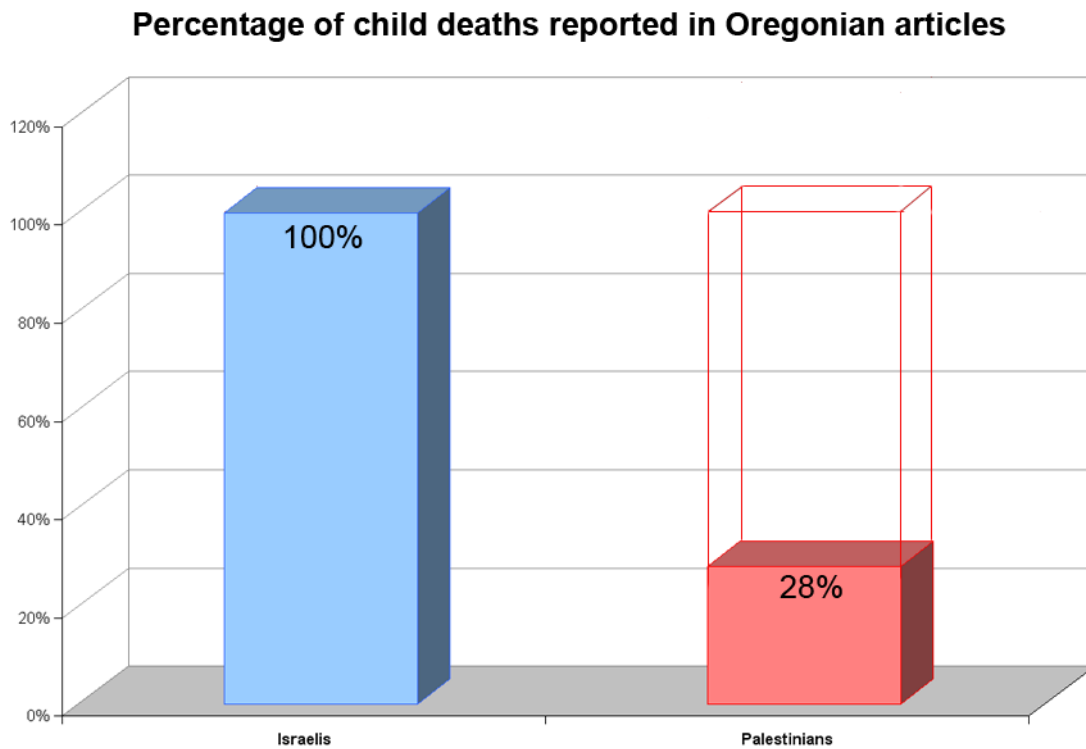
**Discussion point:** During the same six-month period, 331 Palestinian deaths were reported in headlines, however, 502 Palestinians had actually been killed. In other words, over 10 times more Palestinians were killed than Israelis, but *The Oregonian* headlines reported only five times as many. By under-reporting the Palestinian deaths in this way *The Oregonian* creates the false impression of a more balanced conflict, which does not reflect the reality on the ground.

## Total numbers of Israeli and Palestinian children killed



This graph shows that during the study period 8 Israeli children and 116 Palestinian children were killed. The total numbers of Israeli and Palestinian child deaths were obtained from the Israeli human rights organization B'Tselem, which specifically tracks the deaths of Israelis and Palestinian minors under age 18. These numbers do not include other Palestinian children who died as a result of inability to reach medical care due to Israeli road closures, curfews, etc.

## Percentage of Children's Deaths Reported in Articles

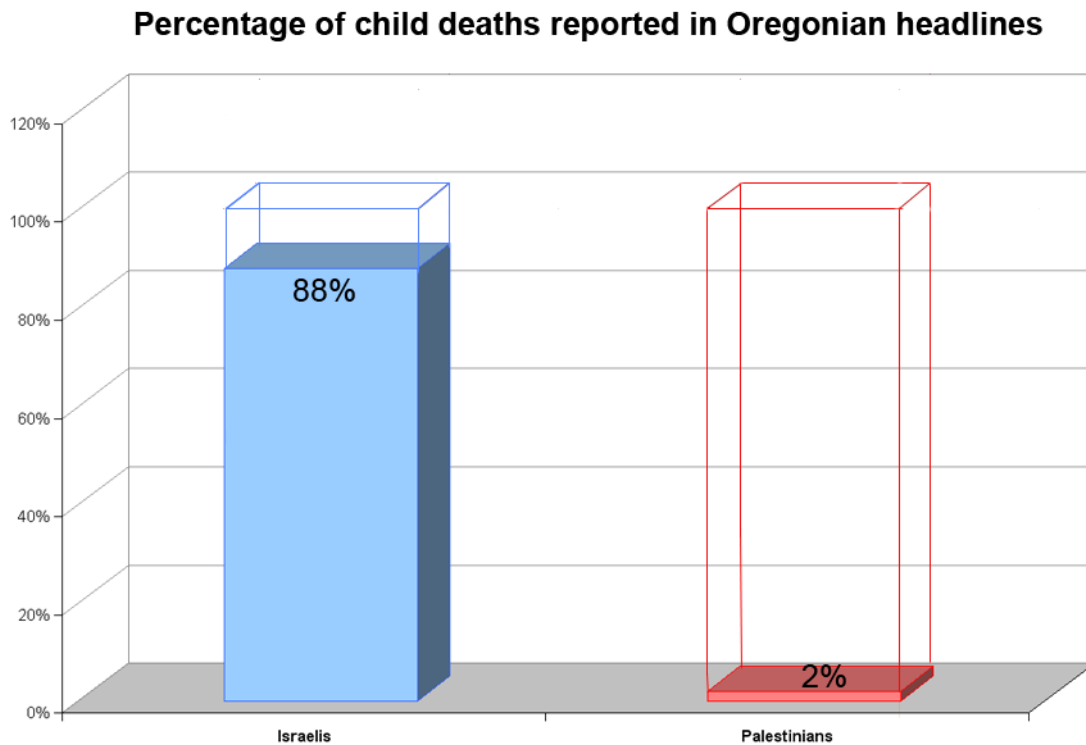


This graph shows that in the articles during the study period, *The Oregonian* covered 100% of Israeli children's deaths and 28% of Palestinian children's deaths.

**Discussion point:** *The Oregonian* covered 100% of Israeli children's deaths (8 children), and 28 % of Palestinian children's deaths (33 children). Of the 116 actual Palestinian children's deaths, 83 were never reported.

**Discussion point:** The killing of a Palestinian child was de-prioritized, despite the fact that 23% of the total Palestinians killed were children. One would expect the fact that Palestinian children constituted almost one quarter of the deaths would be newsworthy in itself.

## Percentage of Children's Deaths Reported in Headlines

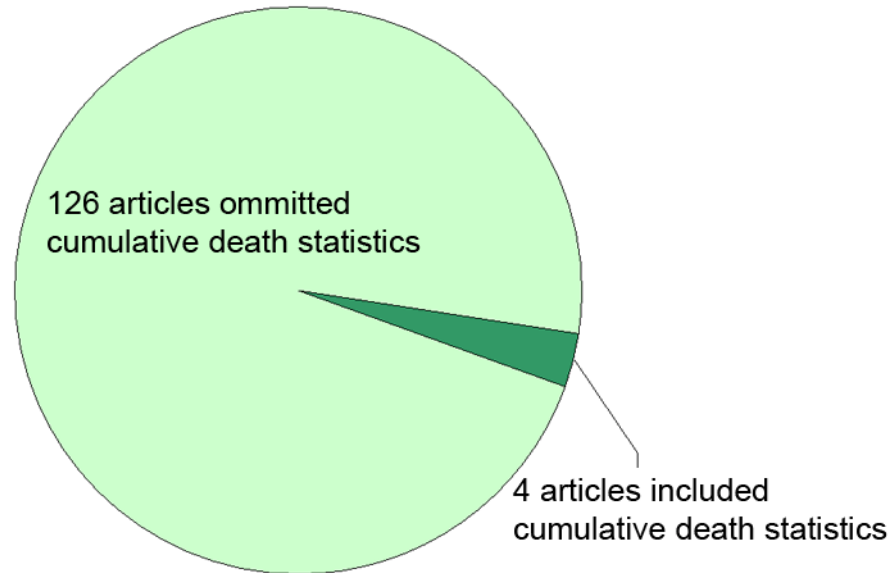


This graph shows that in the headlines *The Oregonian* called attention to 88% of Israeli children's deaths and 2% of Palestinian children's deaths.

**Discussion point:** The discrepancy in the reporting of deaths was most pronounced in *The Oregonian's* coverage of the killing of children. During the six-month study period, Palestinian children were being killed at a far higher rate than Israeli children — 23% of Palestinians killed were under 18 (116 children), while 13% of Israelis killed were minors (8 children). Yet *The Oregonian* headlines reported 2% of the killings of Palestinian children (2 children) and 100% of Israeli children killed (8 children), giving readers the impression that more Israeli youths had been killed than Palestinian. In reality, Palestinian children were being killed at a rate 15 times that of Israeli children.

## Times total deaths were reported vs. times they were omitted

### Cumulative Intifada deaths reported in Oregonian articles



This graph shows that of the 130 news stories on the Israel/Palestine conflict in *The Oregonian* during the study period, 97% omitted cumulative death statistics. We found only 4 stories (or 3 %) of the 130 news stories on this topic contained cumulative totals of deaths on both sides somewhere in the article. An additional 4 articles mentioned “100’s” of Israeli deaths and did not mention any Palestinian deaths.

**Discussion point:** The results show that *The Oregonian* has tended to ignore the standard practice amongst major media outlets of frequently putting the events of the day in perspective by including the cumulative totals of those killed during the current Palestinian intifada. For example, the London Times (1/26/05, Abbas-Sharon summit on cards after contacts resume), "It would be the first Israeli-Palestinian summit since the start of the second Palestinian intifada in September 2000, since when almost 5,000 people have been killed in violence, including almost 4,000 Palestinians." or the New York Times (1/15/05 - Abbas sworn in as Palestinian leader) "(daily violence) ... that has claimed more than 3,000 Palestinian lives and about 1,000 Israeli lives since September 2000."

## Conclusion

Having completed this study of six months of *The Oregonian's* coverage of Israel/Palestine, we are concerned about our findings. We believe readers are entitled to accurate reporting on all issues, including this conflict, and we have found areas which fall short, and in effect, misrepresent the facts.

In the 130 articles on this issue during our study period, it is troubling that critical information for readers was minimally reported. Our findings suggest a pattern in *The Oregonian's* coverage of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict inconsistent with normal journalistic standards.

Overall, our analysis of *The Oregonian* headlines demonstrates a significant inaccuracy in the reporting of Palestinian versus Israeli deaths. While Palestinians in the last four years have consistently been killed at a rate three times greater than Israelis - and 10 times greater during the study period - *The Oregonian* headlines have portrayed the conflict in a way that minimizes the difference. Readers were given the impression that the Israeli death toll was greater than it was and the Palestinian death toll was considerably smaller than its reality.

Only careful reading of the articles in *The Oregonian* would enable the reader to learn of over half of the actual Palestinian deaths. However, all Israeli deaths were prominently covered. There is a clear disparity in a death receiving coverage based on the person's nationality: the killing of an Israeli was almost twice as likely to receive coverage in *The Oregonian* as the killing of a Palestinian.

This disparity was even more pronounced in the coverage of children's deaths. By covering almost four times as many Israeli than Palestinian children's deaths in headlines and subsequently reporting only a quarter of the Palestinian children's deaths in the articles, *The Oregonian* failed to report the impact of the conflict on Palestinian children. In actuality, over fifteen times more Palestinian children than Israeli children were killed during this period.

## Follow-up

We believe *The Oregonian* can improve the accuracy of its news coverage of the Israel/Palestine conflict. For *The Oregonian* to claim accuracy in its daily reporting, editors must address the issues brought up in this study. As a follow-up to the presentation of this report, we will continue to analyze *The Oregonian's* coverage of this and other issues pertaining to violations of human rights and international law in the Israel/Palestine conflict.

## Endnotes

1. Americans United for Palestinian Human Rights (AUPHR) is an all volunteer, association of American taxpayers united by a mutual concern for human rights in general and Palestinian human rights in particular. Members are of all religions, races, national origins and political persuasions. AUPHR's aim is to eliminate the substantial U.S. funding and discriminatory US policies that directly or indirectly support the oppression and violation of human rights of Palestinian people in Israel and the Israeli-occupied territories. AUPHR tools are public education and political and legal action.  
([www.auphr.org](http://www.auphr.org))
2. Palestine Media Watch (PMWATCH) was established in October of 2000 to promote fair and accurate coverage of the Israeli occupation of Palestine in the US mainstream media. Their mission is to: (1) identify, report on, and protest clear journalistic failures by the US media in covering the conflict, and (2) help media outlets with access to pro-Palestinian points of view and voices for interviews, op-eds, or background discussions, whether here in the United States, in Israel, or in the Occupied Territories.  
([www.pmwatch.org](http://www.pmwatch.org))
3. If Americans Knew is dedicated to providing full and accurate information to the American public on topics of importance that are underreported or misrepresented in the American media. Their primary area of focus at this time is Israel/Palestine.  
([www.ifamericansknew.org](http://www.ifamericansknew.org))
4. The Palestine Red Crescent Society (PRCS) is a national humanitarian society that provides a wide range of health, social and other humanitarian services for the Palestinian people throughout the Middle East and is affiliated with the International Red Cross.  
([www.palestinercs.org](http://www.palestinercs.org))

**Appendix A.**

***The Oregonian* News Coverage Raw Tally sheets from May to October 2004**



Date	Page	Wire Service		Israeli Deaths Reported	Of those, Israeli Children's Deaths Reported	Israeli Deaths Repeated	Palestinian Deaths Reported	Of those, Palestinian Children's Death Reported	Palestinian Deaths Repeated	Israeli deaths headlined	Israeli children's deaths headlined	Palestinian deaths headlined	Palestinian children's deaths headlined	Big Picture - Total Israeli deaths	Big Picture - Total Palestinian deaths
5/2/2004	A12	LAWP	Sharon plan faces opposition from traditional supporters	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5/3/2004	A1,6	AP	Sharon's party rejects Gaza withdrawal plan; <i>Palestinians kill pregnant mom, 4 girls in Gaza</i>	5	4	0	4	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0
5/4/2004	A4	AP	Sharon will submit new version of failed withdrawal plan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5/5/2004		LAWP	US, others urge joint Middle East talks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5/6/2004	A14	AP	\$6.5 million goes to West Bank in error, Israel audit finds	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5/7/2004	A18	LAWP	Bush reaffirms commitment to traditional Mideast plan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5/10/2004	A6		Briefly: Sharon cancels US trip to rework Gaza Strip plan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5/11/2004	A6	AP	Palestinians will conduct West Bank, Gaza elections	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5/12/2004	A13	LAWP	At least 14 killed in Gaza fighting; Conflict <i>claims 8 Palestinians and 6 Israeli soldiers</i>	6	0	0	8	0	0	6	0	8	0	0	0
5/13/2004		LAWP	Five Israeli soldiers killed in blast	5	0	6	15	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0
5/14/2004	A16	NYT	Toll grows with attack in Gaza Strip; <i>Israelis kill 12 Palestinians</i>	0	0	11	12	0	25	0	0	12	0	0	0
5/15/2004	A8	AP	Three killed in fighting at refugee camp in Gaza Strip; <i>2 Israeli soldiers and a Palestinian die</i>	2	0	18	4	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	0
5/16/2004	A13		Tens of thousands Israelis rally in support of leaving Gaza	0	0	13	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5/17/2004	A9	LAWP	Israelis threaten more home razing	0	0	20	0	0	30	0	0	0	0	0	0
5/18/2004	A14	LAWP	Israelis seal off city and camp in Gaza; <i>at least 3 Palestinians are killed</i>	0	0	7	3	0	19	0	0	3	0	0	0
5/19/2004	A11	AP	Israeli search for militants leaves 20 Palestinians dead; <i>9 civilians including 2 teens are among those killed</i>	0	0	0	20	2	55	0	0	18	2	0	0
5/20/2004	A19	AP	Israelis fire into crowd, killing at least 10, including youths	0	0	13	13	5	37	0	0	10	youths	0	0
5/21/2004	A8		News Focus Page												
		AP	Gaza Life Under Fire	0	0	13	0	0	39	0	0	0	0	0	0
		AP	Background check	0	0	13	11	1	39	0	0	0	0	0	0
		NYT	In the courts: Judges convict defiant Arafat aide of murder in attacks on Israelis	0	0	26	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5/22/2004	A10	KR	Israeli forces pull back in refuge camp	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5/23/2004	A10		Palestinian child dies as UN official chides Israel on Gaza tactics	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	0
5/24/2004			Briefly: Israeli official's remarks about Gaza stir outrage	0	0	0	0	0	41	0	0	0	0	0	0
5/26/2004	A14	AP	World criticism accumulates on Israel's Rafah offensive	0	0	13	0	0	45	0	0	0	0	0	0
5/27/2004	A18		Briefly: Israel police arrest British journalist (Vanunu)	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5/28/2004	A21	KR	Sharon's political standing might be put to test Sunday	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5/29/2004	A13	KR	Sharon's government faces collapse over Gaza proposal	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
5/30/2004	A11	AP	Israeli attack kills Hamas commander; <i>airstrike kills 2 others</i>	1	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	3	0	0	0
5/31/2004	A12		Sharon's Gaza pullout plan sharply divides his cabinet	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			<b>Oregonian Totals</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>153</b>	<b>99</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>330</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
			<b>Actual Totals May 2004 (B'Tselem)</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>112</b>	<b>35</b>							
			<b>Breakdown:</b>												
			<b>In Occupied Territories IDF or killed by IDF</b>	<b>14</b>			<b>112</b>	<b>35</b>							
			<b>Civilians or killed by settlers</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>							
			<b>Within Green Line IDF</b>	<b>0</b>											
			<b>Civilians</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>							

Date	Page	Wire Service		Israeli Deaths Reported	Of those, Israeli Children's Deaths Reported	Israeli Deaths Repeated	Palestinian Deaths Reported	Of those, Palestinian Children's Death Reported	Palestinian Deaths Repeated	Israeli deaths headlined	Israeli children's deaths headlined	Palestinian deaths headlined	Palestinian children's deaths headlined	Big Picture - Total Israeli deaths	Big Picture - Total Palestinian deaths
6/4/2004	A15	AP	Sharon pledges Cabinet vote on Gaza withdrawal plan	0	0	0	0	0	40	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/5/2004	A-5	AP	Sharon fires plan foes, but one minister eludes notice	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/6/2004	A9	AP	Sharon denies hard-liners have weakened Gaza plan	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/7/2004	A7	AP	Diluted Israel withdrawal plan OK'd	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/7/2004	A7	AP	Israel jails Fatah leader for life in fatal attacks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100's	0
6/8/2004	A15	AP	Sharon's political woes persist despite votes of confidence	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/10/2004		AP	Court decides against charging Israeli leader's son with contempt	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/11/2004	A8	AP	Israel will pay settlers who leave Gaza voluntarily	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/13/2004	A8	NYT	Teens recruit teen bombers, Israel says	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/14/2004			Briefly: Israel's attorney general declines to indict Sharon	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/16/2004	A8	LAT	Israel drops Sharon corruption case	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/18/2004	A18		Briefly: Israel proposes 2 1/2 mile Gaza trench	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/21/2004	A10		Peres presses Sharon on withdrawal from Gaza	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/23/2004	A10	NYT	US presses Israel on West Bank Settlements	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
6/27/2004	A8	AP	Israelis kill 7 fugitives in West Bank ambush	0	0	25	8	0	0	0	0	7	0	0	0
6/28/2004	A6	LAWP	Palestinians turn tunnel into bomb; 1 dead	1	0	11	2	0	"dozens"	1	0	0	0	0	0
6/29/2004		AP	Israel drives into Gaza to prevent attacks; <i>Follows killing of an Israeli toddler and man</i>	2	1	1	4	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
6/30/2004	A18	AP	More Palestinian rockets hit Israeli town as Sharon visits; <i>Where 2 died this week</i>	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	0
			<b>Totals</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>1- 100's</b>	<b>0</b>
			<b>Actual Totals June 2004 (B'Tselem)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>39</b>	<b>6</b>							
			<b>Breakdown:</b>												
			<b>In Occupied Territories IDF or killed by IDF</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>39</b>	<b>6</b>							
			<b>Civilians or killed by settlers</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>							
			<b>Within Green Line IDF</b>	<b>0</b>											
			<b>Civilians</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>							

Date	Page	Wire Service		Israeli Deaths Reported	Of those, Israeli Children's Deaths Reported	Israeli Deaths Repeated	Palestinian Deaths Reported	Of those, Palestinian Children's Death Reported	Palestinian Deaths Repeated	Israeli deaths headlined	Israeli children's deaths headlined	Palestinian deaths headlined	Palestinian children's deaths headlined	Big Picture - Total Israeli deaths	Big Picture - Total Palestinian deaths
7/1/2004	A8	NYT	Israeli Court tells army to reroute part of wall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7/2/2004	A6	AP	US scolds Israel on West Bank outposts	0	0	0	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7/3/2004	A4	NYT	Palestinians kill suspected informant	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7/7/2004	A5		Israeli court ruling shortens Sharon's term	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7/8/2004	A6	LAWP	Fatah cites corruption, calls for Arafat to share power	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7/9/2004	A4	AP	Sharon, Peres will discuss coalition	0	0	0	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7/10/2004	A1,9	LAWP	Court rules Israel should destroy wall	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7/11/2004	A5		Israel bus stop bombing kills one, wounds 21	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
7/13/2004	A8	AP	Sharon invites Labor into his shaky coalition	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7/15/2004	A12	AP	Israel prepares for Arafat death, puts Jerusalem burial off limits	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7/16/2004	A23	AP	Sharon asks ultra-orthodox party to join ruling coalition	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7/17/2004	A10	AP	Palestinian security official resigns	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7/18/2004	A10	KR	As tension builds, Arafat agrees to security overhaul	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7/19/2004	A1,7	CSM	Arafat, swept up in near anarchy, struggles for footing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7/20/2004	A3	NYT	Arafat struggles with political crisis	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7/21/2004	A-12	AP	2 Israeli soldiers, 1 guerrilla killed in fighting along Lebanon border	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7/21/2004		NYT	Palestinian prime minister stays on job despite his resignation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7/23/2004	A12	LAWP	Report says Israel ignoring pledge, permitting growth of settlements	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7/25/2004	A6	NYT	Palestinian militants' attacks challenge Arafat's control	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7/26/2004	A6		Briefly: Thousands of Israelis form 55 mile protest line	0	0	0	6	0	7	0	0	0	0	0	0
7/27/2004			Briefly: New West Bank barrier route selected	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7/28/2004	A3	AP	Palestinian Prime Minister withdraws his resignation	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
7/30/2004	A6	AP	Israel changes route of West Bank barrier	0	0	3	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			<b>Oregonian Totals</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>
			<b>Actual Totals July 2004 (B'Tselem)</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>58</b>	<b>17</b>							
			<b>Breakdown:</b>												
			<b>In Occupied Territories IDF or killed by IDF</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>57</b>	<b>17</b>							
			<b>Civilians or killed by settlers</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>							
			<b>Within Green Line IDF</b>	<b>1</b>			<b>1</b>								
			<b>Civilians</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>							

Date	Page	Wire Service		Israeli Deaths Reported	Of those, Israeli Children's Deaths Reported	Israeli Deaths Repeated	Palestinian Deaths Reported	Of those, Palestinian Children's Death Reported	Palestinian Deaths Repeated	Israeli deaths headlined	Israeli children's deaths headlined	Palestinian deaths headlined	Palestinian children's deaths headlined	Big Picture - Total Israeli deaths	Big Picture - Total Palestinian deaths
8/1/2004	A5		Briefly: Militants burn Palestinian offices, cite aid to Israel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8/2/2004			Arafat loyalists disrupt, shoot up Fatah meeting	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8/3/2004	A8		Two Informers for Israel killed in Gaza hospital	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8/4/2004	A14		Sharon's withdrawal plan picks up needed support	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8/6/2004	A14		Israel begins building a road to expand West Bank settlement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8/7/2004			Israel reopens Gaza border crossing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8/8/2004			Palestinian quits in protests over authority	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8/12/2004	A14	AP	Two Palestinians die in blast at Israeli military checkpoint	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	970	3049
8/14/2004	A12	AP	Israeli army chief says nation could give up Golan Heights	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8/16/2004	A7	AP	Palestinian prisoners strike for more rights	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1000	0
8/18/2004	A7	AP	Israeli attack kills five near militants home	0	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	5	0	0	0
8/18/2004	A7		Sharon backs 1000 more homes in West Bank	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8/19/2004	A8	NYT	Arafat, Sharon face opponents at home	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8/20/2004	A7	AP	Sharon, Arafat stick to positions despite backers' concerns	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8/21/2004	A8	AP	Pressured, Israel seeks to explain barrier	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8/22/2004	A22	NYT	TV Singer gives Palestinians a new voice to rally around	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8/23/2004	A7		Briefly: Palestinian leaders angry at US settlement stance	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8/24/2004		NYT	Israel will add to settlement housing	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8/28/2004	A12	NYT	Pentagon official accused of passing secrets to Israel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8/29/2004	A1, 10	LAWP	FBI investigates Pentagon analyst who served in Israel	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
8/29/2004	A13	AP	Israel debates place of military reserve in changing society	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	970	3061
8/31/2004	A7	AP	Sharon: All 21 Gaza settlements will be dismantled at the same time	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
			<b>Oregonian Totals</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>2</b>
			<b>Actual Totals August 2004 (B'Tselem)</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>39</b>	<b>9</b>							
			<b>Breakdown:</b>												
			<b>In Occupied Territories IDF or killed by IDF</b>	<b>0</b>			<b>39</b>	<b>9</b>							
			<b>Civilians or killed by settlers</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>0</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>							
			<b>Within Green Line IDF</b>	<b>0</b>											
			<b>Civilians</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>1</b>		<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>							





**Month by Month Summary Statistics Table**

Month	Israeli Deaths Reported	Actual (B'Tselem)	Of those, Israeli Children's Deaths Reported	Actual (B'Tselem)	Palestinian Deaths Reported	Actual (B'Tselem)	Of those, Palestinian Children's Death Reported	Actual (B'Tselem)	Israeli Deaths Headlined	Israeli children's deaths headlined	Palestinian deaths headlined	Palestinian children's deaths headlined	Big picture - total Israeli deaths	Big picture - total Palestinian deaths
May-04	19	19	4	4	99	112	9	35	14	4	55	3	0	0
June-04	3	4	1	1	19	39	0	6	4	1	7	0	1-100's	0
July-04	2	3	0	0	25	58	1	17	1	0	0	0	0	0
August-04	1	17	0	1	12	39	1	9	0	0	7	0	3	2
September-04	22	11	3	2	58	113	2	26	41	2	39	0	2-100's	1
October-04	3	3	0	0	103	144	8	24	3	0	223	0	1,1-100's	1
6 month totals	50	57	8	8	316	505	21	117	63	7	331	3	4 times, 4-100's	4 times
Percent Oregonian reported versus actual (B'Tselem)	88%		100%		63%		18%		111%	88%	66%	3%		

**Note to Readers:** For the purpose of this study, the 19-33 deaths reported in headlines in October 2004 from a bomb blast in an Egyptian hotel were not included. Although readers might consider these deaths part of the conflict, they did not occur in Occupied Palestine or Israel, and were not included in the B'Tselem control numbers.

## **Appendix B.**

### **Resources for Israel/Palestine news**



## Resources for Israel/Palestine news

**Palestine Media Center** (PMC) is an independent official institution providing a reliable and professional media source for accurate, timely news.

[www.palestine-pmc.com](http://www.palestine-pmc.com)

**Mideast News: World Press Roundup** – American Task Force on Palestine – aims to educate the American people about the national security interests of the US in establishing a Palestinian state.

[www.americantaskforce.org](http://www.americantaskforce.org)

**Haaretz** – Israeli newspaper, English edition.

[www.haaretzdaily.com](http://www.haaretzdaily.com)

**Daily Star** – Lebanese newspaper, English edition

[www.dailystar.com.lb](http://www.dailystar.com.lb)

**The Guardian** – British newspaper

[www.guardian.co.uk](http://www.guardian.co.uk)

**The Independent** – British newspaper

[www.independent.co.uk](http://www.independent.co.uk)

**BBC : World Service**

[www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice](http://www.bbc.co.uk/worldservice)

**BBC Middle East -**

[http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle\\_east/default.stm](http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/default.stm)

**Christian Science Monitor**

[www.csmonitor.com](http://www.csmonitor.com)

## Addendum

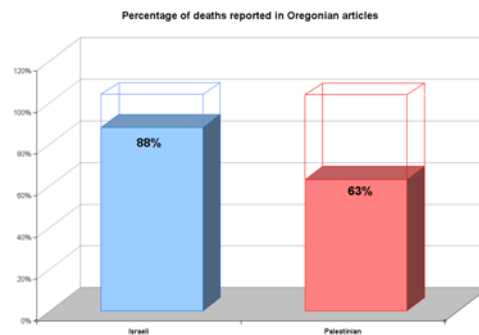
On March 17, 2005, members of the AUPHR Media Committee and community leaders met with *The Oregonian* staff to present and discuss this report. They did not dispute our findings, but brought to our attention additional news stories that were not included in this report. In addition B'Tselem released revisions to some of the control data. In the interest of accuracy, based on the additional records provided, the statistics included in this report have changed as outlined below.

*None of the conclusions presented in this report are affected by this new information.*

Page 2. A total of 57 Israelis were killed. A total of 505 Palestinians were killed. In *The Oregonian*, 88% of all Israeli deaths were reported, and 111% of them were highlighted in news headlines. 63% of all Palestinian deaths were reported, and 66% were headlined. Only 18% of Palestinian children's deaths were reported, and 3% headlined. There were 140 news stories on the subject during the study period.

Page 5. Total Israeli deaths were 57 and total Palestinian deaths were 505.

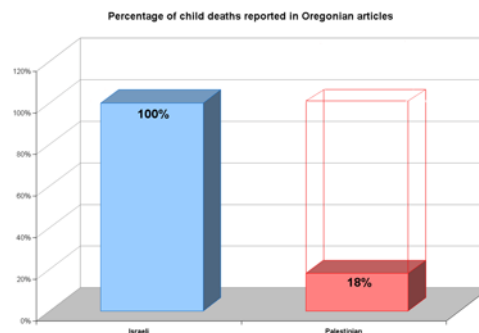
Page 6. 88% of Israeli deaths and 63% of Palestinian deaths were reported in *The Oregonian*.



Page 7. 111% of Israeli deaths and 66% of Palestinian deaths were headlined in *The Oregonian*. Israeli deaths were almost two times as likely to receive headline coverage. 63 Israeli deaths were headlined, while 57 Israelis were killed. 331 Palestinian deaths were headlined of the 505 actually killed.

Page 8. There were 8 Israeli children and 117 Palestinian children killed during the study period.

Page 9. 100% of Israeli children's deaths and 18% of Palestinian children's deaths were reported. 21 Palestinian children's deaths out of 117 were reported, 96 were never reported.



Page 10. 88% of Israeli children's deaths and 3% of Palestinian children's deaths were headlined. *The Oregonian* headlined 7 of the 8 Israeli children's deaths, and 3 of the 117 Palestinian children's deaths.

Page 11. There were 140 news stories. 136 of them omitted cumulative death statistics.