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January 19, 2009

Mr. Vince Carlin, Ombudsman
CBC
P.O. Box 500, Station A
Toronto, Ontario
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Dear Mr. Carlin:


Regarding the January 19th, 2009 edition of The Current hosted by Anna Maria Tremonti at approximately 8:50 am on the question of Israel's suggested use of phosphorous:

Please be advised that your programme was considered extremely biased against the State of Israel. It was especially shocking when one of your speakers commented that Israel regularly targets civilians. Anna Maria Tremonti failed to provide a counter position or to question this disturbing assertion.

On the question of the usage of phosphorous, Anna Maria Tremonti failed to advise listeners that the Red Cross issued a statement: "using phosphorus to illuminate a target or create smoke is legitimate under international law", adding that there was no evidence that Israel was "using phosphorus in a questionable way, such as burning down building or consciously putting civilians at risk".

I request an on-air apology to this effect. In addition, I request The Current revisit this discussion by including a more balanced panel of speakers.

I look forward to your response.


Avi Benlolo
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