

FSWC FINDS QUESTIONABLE BIAS IN SURVEY OF TORONTO STAR

Toronto – June 18-2010 – Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center found questionable and exceptional bias against Israel in articles and opinion pieces found published from May 31 – June 17, 2010 in the Toronto Star about the “Flotilla” incident.

The survey concluded that 74% of the articles and opinion pieces blamed Israel for the incident while 23% were moderate in tone. Only one pro-Israel letter was found to have been published. The questionable pieces used incendiary language like, “Israel’s deadly act”; “Killings”; “Israel’s deadly raid, deadly attacks”; “Israel’s war in Gaza” and “Israel’s war against Hamas”.

Another observation of the study is the harsh tone of articles against Israel at the beginning of the incident followed by a gradual moderation (with one exception) as more information seemed to become available.

The survey found that rarely do the Star articles explain that Hamas is officially at war with the State of Israel; that Hamas’ targeted aim is Israel’s destruction; and that Hamas is a designated “terrorist organization” by most western nations, including Canada. Articles identified in this survey largely by-pass concern for Israel’s security including, Hamas rocket attacks and suicide bombing.

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