

To: Brith Sholom Media Watch Subscribers
From: Jerry Verlin, Editor (jverlin1234@comcast.net)
Subj: Brith Sholom Media Watch Alert #378, 3/30/08

Editorial: Why Now's The Time For Us To Stand Up

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It's done, that "thick tome" of years of mainstream media and homemade quotes from Inq news articles telling Inq readers over and over about seemingly exclusively "Palestinian" refugees – for years "millions" of them apart from descendants – from "Israel's creation," or "the war that followed Israel's creation," without the invading Arab states whose invasion started that war so much as named.

Interspersed with those quotes are excerpts of my exchanges with Inq editors, including from a letter to me from one Inq Editor that I'd made "a legitimate point" in protesting insistent Inq attribution of Arab refugees to "Israel's creation," that it would be "much more accurate" to reference the Arab invasion, and from an Inq Foreign Editor attaching an internal Inq research memo that "Mr. Verlin is right in saying there are not millions of refugees from the 1948 war," shortly preceding a "Clearing the Record" that Foreign Editor issued. For mainstream Western media history buffs, there's a footnote aside on how the Inq's Jerusalem Bureau Chief came by the nom-de-guerre Mickey Militant.

Centered upon the Inq's insistent claim of "Israel's founding in 1948," the "thick tome" is a sixty-page Word doc called "InqFound.Doc," a Word doc attachment of which is yours for the asking. Just send me an email you want one. If you go ahead and wade through this seven-year sea of media misportrayals of the Arab-Israeli conflict's core history, I'd value your thoughts on how else we might counter it.

The "thick tome's" first purpose, of course, is to accompany the hundred or so 1-page letters you've signed to the Inq's bigs, calling on their paper to stop calling partition "Israel's creation," the Arab invasion "the war that followed Israel's creation," the Arab invasion's Arab refugees "Palestinian refugees from the war that followed Israel's creation," etc., etc. With Israel's milestone 60th anniversary of its independence now rapidly approaching, and with the media season on that milestone's core history now very much open (see last week's BSMW #377), if you haven't signed on yet, now's the LAST CHANCE before we bundle the letters and tome of citations, and send them on.

DO THE FOLLOWING (and ask some friends to do too):

[1] Read the letter to the Inq's bigs appended below and ask yourself whether the protests it makes merit your joinder.

[2a] If so, click "reply," drop down to the last line of the letter and beneath "Very truly yours," type your name and optionally any other Inq-message – your address, email,

phone, subscriber account number, general well wishes – you wish. Click send, with my thanks.

[2b] If not, Have A Nice Day. But in the course of it, ask yourself this. Is not Now, with Israel's 60th independence anniversary approaching, and heavy Inq et ilk media coverage recapping its core history looming, the time for us to stop silently acquiescing in media mis-characterization of Palestine's UN Partition as "Israel's founding," the Arab invasion as "the war that followed Israel's creation," and that invasion's Arab refugees as seemingly exclusively "Palestinian refugees who fled or were forced from their homes in the war that followed Israel's creation," etc., and if Now's not the time, When?

Regards,
Jerry

Mr. Bruce Toll, Chairman
Mr. Brian P. Tierney, Chief Executive Officer
The Philadelphia Inquirer
Box 41705
Philadelphia PA 19101

Dear Mr. Toll and Mr. Tierney:

May 15th, in Western calendar reckoning, will mark the State of Israel's 60th anniversary of its independence, a milestone that the Western media, including the Philadelphia Inquirer, will prominently cover.

I'm gravely concerned, based upon years of quotations from your paper enclosed with this letter, that the Inquirer will portray this milestone occurrence in a manner grossly unfair to Israel and the millions of Jews and Christians who recognize Israel not as a state artificially "created" or "founded in 1948," but as the Jewish people's continuous historical homeland since ancient times.

Specifically:

I object to the Inquirer's insistent substitution of expressions like "Israel's 1948 creation," "establishment," "founding," - i.e., anything abrupt, unilateral and artificial - for what actually historically happened, the UN's Partition of the remaining League of Nations Palestine Mandate between its Arab and Jewish populations, c. a million and six hundred thousand people, respectively.

I object to the Inquirer's religious rechristening of the multi-nation Arab invasion rejecting UN Partition as "the war that followed Israel's creation" without those invading Arab states so much as named.

I object to the Inquirer's adamant attribution of seemingly exclusively Arab refugees to that "war that followed Israel's creation" and not to the multi-nation Arab invasion.

I object to the Inquirer's persistent portrayal of these Arabs as "having fled or been forced from their homes," when many left with the encouragement of the Arab invaders.

I object to the Inquirer's incessant references to these Arab refugees from tiny Israel with virtually no reference whatever to that same era's greater number of indigenously Middle Eastern Jewish refugees from vast Muslim lands, the bulk of whom Israel absorbed.

For years, with as recent an instance as 2007, the Inquirer repeatedly preposterously exaggerated the c. half-million Arabs who left tiny Israel as "millions of Palestinian refugees and their descendants," sometimes as "nearly four million Palestinian refugees and their descendants," poisoning Western public perceptions of partitioned Palestine's actual 1947 population, which was less than two million, a good third of it Jews. That the Inquirer has apparently stopped repeating this preposterous exaggeration has not undone the persistent poisoning of public perception it wreaked. Real, if but partial, rectification can come only from the Inquirer ceasing to purvey the remainder of its persistent mis-portrayal of seemingly exclusively Arab (retrospectively called "Palestinian") refugees from a sudden "1948 creation" or "founding of Israel," a mis-portrayal of which these preposterously exaggerated "millions of Palestinian refugees and their descendants," still deeply ingrained in public perception, were a key formative part.

Very truly yours,