

CBS's 60 Minutes Slandered Israel And Refuses to Set the Record Straight

On April 22, 2012, Bob Simon and 60 Minutes presented a false account of life for Christians in the Holy Land, blaming Israel for their difficulties, while ignoring region-wide Muslim persecution and intimidation of Christians.

Simon accused Israel of oppressing Christians in Bethlehem, of forcing them to live in “an open air prison” – completely surrounded by a “wall.” This is false. Bethlehem is open entirely along its southern side and sections of the north, allowing residents free movement. **CBS refuses to correct.**

The program falsely reported Christians in Jerusalem's Old City in 1964 numbered 30,000, then declined under Israeli control to 11,000 today. In 1964, there were only 11,000 – not 30,000 – Christians. And this was during a period of population decline under Jordanian occupation of eastern Jerusalem. **CBS refuses to correct.**

Simon deceptively concealed the reality that in Israel the Christian population has quadrupled since 1949, from 34,000 to 122,000 in 2009. **CBS refuses to correct.**

Simon falsely depicted the anti-Jewish Kairos Palestine Document as benevolent and signed by “the leaders of 13 Christian denominations,” but the document is a screed that demonizes Israel and whitewashes terrorism. It was signed not by “leaders” but anti-Israel agitators, low level officials and laymen. **CBS refuses to correct.**

CBS grossly distorted the truth about Christians in the Holy Land. Instead of reporting that Christians in Israel are prosperous and growing in number, while those under Muslim rule often face intimidation, discrimination and deadly violence, Bob Simon inverted reality.



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Contact Jeffrey Fager, CBS News Chairman and 60 Minutes Executive Producer, at the CBS corporate switchboard **212-975-4321**

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