

An Open Letter to the *New York Times* about its Failure to Cover the Palestinian Authority's Anti-Jewish Hate-mongering

*Sheik Ahmad Halabaya on
official Palestinian television*



January, 2001

Arthur Ochs Sulzberger, Jr.
Publisher, *New York Times*

Dear Mr. Sulzberger,

While Palestinian media, schools and officials continue to denigrate Jews and Judaism, the *New York Times* has continued to downplay or ignore entirely this dangerous reality.

Just one example was a speech by Gazan Sheik Ahmad Halabaya broadcast on official Palestinian television on October 13th. He said:

“They are the terrorists. They are the ones who must be butchered and killed, as Allah the almighty said: ‘Fight them; Allah will torture them at your hands, and will humiliate them...’ Have no mercy on the Jews, no matter where they are, in any country. Fight them, wherever you are. Wherever you meet them, kill them. Wherever you are, kill those Jews and those Americans who are like them...”

Casting Israel's complaints about Palestinian incitement as dubious, excessive and unwarranted, the *New York Times* reported the Halabaya speech this way on October 24th:

"Israelis cite as one egregious example [of incitement] a televised sermon that defended the killing of the two soldiers [in Ramallah]. 'Whether Likud or Labor, Jews are Jews' proclaimed Sheik Ahmad Abu Halabaya in a live broadcast from a Gaza City mosque..."

Nothing about the virulent fomenting of hatred and the calls to kill Jews!

And Palestinian Authority hate-mongering against Jews and Israelis continues to be an untold story in the *New York Times*.

When challenged about the coverage of the Halabaya speech, *Times* News Editor Bill Borders wrote:

“...instances of hate speech in the region do not strike us as unusual or pivotal events.”

We disagree. Nothing is more pivotal to the prospects for genuine Arab-Israeli peace than exposing – and ending – the promotion of anti-Jewish hatred.

The *Times* cover-up is a dereliction of journalistic responsibility. We urge you, Mr. Sulzberger, to stop excluding news that is not only "fit," but vital, to print.



CAMERA, Committee for Accuracy in Middle East Reporting in America
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