

Alex Safian

From: Alex Safian
Sent: Tuesday, April 27, 2021 4:52 PM
To: Kenneth Roth
Subject: Serious error in HRW's report on Israel

Dear Mr. Roth:

I am Associate Director and Research Director of CAMERA, and wanted to alert you to a very serious error in your organization's report "A Threshold Crossed – Israeli Authorities and the Crimes of Apartheid and Persecution."

HRW claims in the section on water that:

While the Oslo Accords of 1995 included provisions that promised to increase Palestinian access to water, Palestinian extraction levels have largely remained at pre-Oslo levels while the population has increased. (p95-96)

This claim is incorrect and extremely misleading. The total Palestinian domestic water consumption for [1995 in the West Bank was about 40 MCM](#). In 1999, according to Table 2.22 in the [Statistical Abstract of Palestine](#), the total was around 42 MCM.

But according to the [Palestinian Authority Central Bureau of Statistics](#) the amount of water pumped from wells in the West Bank increased from 71.6 MCM in 2010 to 96.6 MCM in 2018, an increase of 35%. And according to the same table the quantity of water for the domestic sector in the West Bank increased even more in that period, to 118.9 MCM from 85 MCM, an increase of 40%.

Did HRW simply rely on reports from Al Haq and the World Bank as the basis for this erroneous claim in your report, or did HRW independently check the figures?

In any event, what will HRW do to correct the record? In particular, will HRW inform all recipients of the embargoed copy of the report of the erroneous claim and its correction?

We will be in touch soon to detail many other of the report's assertions that are erroneous or extremely misleading, and that also require correction.

Looking forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Alex Safian, PhD
Associate Director
CAMERA