

6/13/88

Dear Erwin Knoll,

"Homes and places of worship" are far from all the places tear gas has been used for at least 50 years. Union halls, places of work and business, infirmaries, you name it.

I am the one who gave the official designation of "massacre" to what Little Steel did Memorial Day 1937 in Chicago, to a large degree with tear gas, ^{There and elsewhere} And we published a considerable number of pictures of this.

So, given the fact that the use and casualties from the use were abundantly reported, what, rationally, was there to "investigate?"

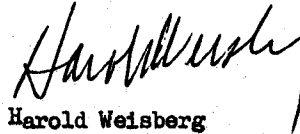
Realistically, what are the alternatives?

On any level.

Aside from the use of more ^deadly means in an effort to restore order.

Have you or any of your writers on this subject thought through what would most likely happen if Israel were to just pull out of the Gaza Strip?

Sincerely,



Harold Weisberg

Also in today's mail is the publication of the Wiesenthal Foundation. On the chance you have not recently seen a map of the original Palestine mandate and of the "secure borders" actuality, I enclose that page and what their people reported after a trip in which they interviewed a number of Arabs.

Letters to the Editor, the Progressive

6/13/88

Kathleen Hart's response to Hyman Richman's complaint about her lack of objectivity in her "Israel's Tear-Gas Offensive" article establishes the prejudice with which she begins. If there is any one thing that is true of the "mainstream U.S. news media" it is that reporting from the holy land for the past six months has been greatly out of proportion, has lacked balance and perspective and has been angled to favor Arab ^{not the} interests.

Terrible as those tragedies are, they are nothing at all compared to the relentless slaughter of Muslims by Muslims. During one six-day period coinciding with the appearance of her article, more Arabs were killed by Arabs in one small part of Lebanon than were killed in ^{in months in} the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and for a slightly longer period of time ^{Muslim} such slaughters ^{of Muslims} were well into six figures, with an incalculably large number of ^{non-fatal} other casualties. Without any attention by the Progressive, the Nation and other smaller publications.

What was there, in Hart's words, for the major media "to investigate" about the use "of tear gas in homes and places of worship"? It was reported but there was nothing new to investigate. I was part of a Senate investigation of such misuses here in the United States 50 years ago. ^{Israeli} They use itself was reported superabundantly by all the major media, especially TV. That, ^{we} however, fails to satisfy ^{by} those who begin with biases.

Whatever one may think of the continuing state of war against Israel by virtually the entire Muslim world, after 40 years, Israel does have the obligation to try to maintain order and tranquility in ^{the Strip} Gaza and the West Bank, and horrible as the consequences of tear gas can be, all alternatives are much worse, much more deadly. Those Arabs not rioting against Israel are entitled to whatever protection ^{try to} Israel can provide, ~~or try to.~~

Hart's lack of balance and perspective typifies the editorial policies of progressive publications on this complicated and deeply disturbing tragedy, on what led to and perpetuates it and on how, if at all, it can be settled peacefully.

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