

Rabbi Marvin Hier
Founder and Dean

July 24, 2023

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via [Email pakerger@pbs.org](mailto:pakerger@pbs.org)

Dear Ms. Kerger,

Thank you for your response to our initial letter on the recent counter-terrorism raid by Israel in Jenin.

After reviewing the second part of Special Correspondent Leila Molana-Allen's report, we believe that it fails to present PBS viewers with any substantial coverage about the suffering of and loss experienced by Israeli civilians targeted by Palestinian terrorists.

Based on your initial feedback you and News Hour producer Sara had shared, the SWC was led to believe that the second segment would present your viewers with a report that focused on the human impact suffered by Israelis from recent deadly Palestinian terrorist attacks. Instead, PBS viewers were shown a report that presented political protests against Prime Minister Netanyahu's government by Israeli citizens. The segment then focused on how the current Israeli government is tapping into populist sentiments.

Totally lacking in both segments was the dimensions of human suffering inflicted upon Israelis. While the first segment gave ample coverage of Palestinian civilians bemoaning the impact of the fierce fighting around them in Jenin. (Thankfully, no civilian Palestinians were killed during the Israeli operation.)

Ms. Kerger, the two-part PBS report failed to deliver what you told us it would—a balanced picture of a complex situation. The bottom line is that PBS viewers were presented only one side of an issue, leaving viewers with the images of suffering Palestinians but failing to show the tragic human dimensions of Israelis targeted by Palestinian terrorists.

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PBS and its News Hour owes their viewers fair and balanced reportage on the Israel/Palestinian conflict absent from PBS News Hours reporting.

We urge News Hour to produce a segment of equal length the first Jenin segment that will afford your viewers access and insight into the devastation wrought on innocent Israelis by Palestinian terrorists.

We stand ready to help your producers identify some of these victims and the toll it has taken on them and their loved ones.

We hope that PBS will move quickly to live up to your commitment.

Thank you,



Rabbi Abraham Cooper
Associate Dean
Director, Global Social Action
Simon Wiesenthal Center

CC: Sara Just, Senior Executive Producer – PBS NewsHour
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