

August 25, 2004

**Global Television
Network**
A CanWest Company

81 Barber Greene Road
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Dear Mr. Kawas,

Global TV News has received a forwarded copy of your e-correspondence concerning "Jenin: Massacring the Truth". (CBSC File Number CO3/04--2059)

As you may be aware, Canada's *Broadcasting Act* directs that all broadcasters, including Global Television, provide a broad spectrum of information and entertainment programming for "men, women and children of all ages, interests and tastes". Our programming is intended to be diverse and to appeal to a wide variety of audiences. What one viewer may consider to be a satisfactory reflection of an event or sequence of events, might be considered by another viewer be biased.



With respect to your specific complaint, we regret that you found this program to be "one-sided, unbalanced, and unfactual". Global TV News disagrees with your contention that the program "...is total Israeli propaganda".

This "point-of-view" documentary, in fact, clearly attempts to correct and clarify history's record of the events of April 2002 in the West Bank community of Jenin. The primary goal of the piece is to promote accurate, truthful journalistic reportage and, to correct what has become in some quarters, a modern myth.

While we would certainly agree that the death of any individual or group of individuals is horrible and repugnant, Martin Himel's project was focused on the wide-spread mis-reporting of events in Jenin in that month and the mis-characterization of those events - by a number of "quality" news organizations - as a "massacre".

Mr. Himel, his interview subjects - including the Toronto Star's Olivia Ward - found that the loss of life, while regrettable, did not come close to the contemporary definition of massacre as measured in places such as Rwanda or Chechnya.

Similarly, Mr. Himel's graphic illustration of the precise limits of destruction were not intended to minimize the physical damage to the community of Jenin, but to restore a sense of proportion that was lost in the mis-reporting of the original massacre and "total destruction" of the community. As Mr. Himel's narration emphasized, "when the U.N. uncovered the truth, it was clear that, out of 45 thousand residents in Jenin, 26 had been killed".

And, from the mouth of the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade commander, viewers heard that the Palestinian fighters deliberately tried to lure the Israeli soldiers into the community to fight them and to kill them. The Palestinian commander very clearly considered the firefight and subsequent deaths to be a battlefield reality. And, he agreed that no massacre had occurred.

With regard to your suggestion that a more accurate portrayal of events in Jenin might be found in Mohammed El-Bakri's docu-drama, "Jenin, Jenin", the allegations of genocide made in that program remain not only unproven but also repudiated by independent international observers.

Global TV News regularly reports on the difficult lives and tragic deaths of civilians caught between Palestinian and Israeli fighters. And, once again, in Mr. Himel's documentary, there is recognition of those tragic losses on both sides of the conflict.

Sincerely,

Peter Kent
Deputy Editor
Global TV News