

Israel drops bogus r*pe report to distract from NY Times report

The Grayzone's Max Blumenthal and Aaron Mate take apart the new and credibility-free Israeli "Civil Commission" report alleging mass sexual assault on October 7, demonstrating how it recycled numerous claims that were debunked over two years ago. They point out that the report was rushed to publication following the devastating report by the NY Times' Nicholas Kristof featuring testimonies of Palestinians who were sexually abused in Israeli prisons after being kidnapped from Gaza. ||| The Grayzone ||| Find more reporting at <https://thegrayzone.com> Support our original journalism at Patreon: <https://patreon.com/grayzone> Facebook: <https://facebook.com/thegrayzone> Twitter: <https://twitter.com/thegrayzonenews> Instagram: <https://instagram.com/thegrayzonenews> Minds: <https://minds.com/thegrayzone> Mastodon: <https://mastodon.social/@thegrayzone> #TheGrayzone

#Max

They rolled out this quote-unquote Civil Commission report, which is a very long report that looked like it was rushed to print as Israeli intelligence got wind of the coming Nick Kristof article. And they pushed it out the same day or the following day through their assets at the Daily Mail website, which is like a favorite publication for every Israeli hoax or Israeli accusation, along with the New York Post run by Rupert Murdoch. And the Civil Commission report was basically an instrument for deflecting from this by compiling and recycling all of the discredited second- and third-hand eyewitness accounts and allegations of bonkers Hamas sex crimes on October 7th.

They put everything in there, and many or most of these allegations had already been solidly discredited and debunked by us, including the most discredited allegations from the New York Times "Screams Without Words" article—things that other Israeli groups that were determined to turn October 7th into a propaganda bonanza on the basis of mass sexual assault would not even touch. Like the DINA Project, which is a more academic and seemingly credible organization than the Civil Commission, wouldn't touch a lot of these allegations. And yet they did it anyway. And every mainstream media organization took the Civil Commission report seriously. And you remember who is responsible for this.

This is the head of the Civil Commission, which wasn't even a commission. It was basically a fundraising mechanism for herself, was Kohav Elkayam Levy. And she was actually exposed in Israeli media for being a fraud and a grifter, and was exposed in Yediot Aharonot, Ynet, the largest Israeli newspaper, for spreading fake Hamas atrocity tales, failing to deliver the Civil Commission report for

years. And according to one Israeli government official, people have disassociated themselves from her because her research is inaccurate. After all, the whole story is that they want to accuse us of spreading fake news, and her methodology was neither good nor accurate.

And they were especially upset that she spread the lie by Zaka, this fake rescue organization, which is a collection of grifters itself, that Hamas had cut a fetus out of a pregnant woman, which was just completely made up, discredited, debunked. And the new report contains all those lies. Here's the rollout of the report from the Daily Mail article, which then spread to the New York Times, Washington Post, Associated Press: "Full depravity of Hamas during October 7th revealed for the first time. New report details how terrorists performed almost unimaginable horrors upon Israeli families."

This was authored by Natalie Lisbona, who is one of the main Israeli assets in British media. Whenever they want any story out, they'll go to her. And I pointed out that here she is with her de facto boss, Benjamin Netanyahu, I think at his birthday party at his home on June 8th, 2022. Yeah, 2022. So, you know, you look at anyone talking about these horrors, they got the memo. It started with the Daily Mail and it was disseminated through Israeli embassies, the Israeli foreign ministry, to all of the MAGA influencers that Israel pays. And none of them cared that Kohav Elkayam Levy was a fraud, and none of them bothered to check any of the facts in the report.

Here's one person who promoted the report out of so many politicians who are on the AIPAC payroll. And it's a Democrat, the main Democrat, Josh Gottheimer, who, by the way, was the sponsor of a war powers resolution that was designed to fail. And after the Democratic leadership failed to count the votes properly, they had to send in a co-sponsor of the war powers resolution to declare Trump had no power to go back to war with Iran. They had to bring out a co-sponsor, Jared Golden, another Democrat, to vote against the resolution that he co-sponsored, exposing the whole scam.

Anyway, Josh Gottheimer, biggest Israel tool in the Democratic Party in Congress. The new report detailing Hamas atrocities on October 7th is horrifying beyond words. Families were targeted in their homes, women raped, people decapitated, children terrorized and burned alive, an entire community shattered. This was the language that surrounded this report about decapitations and Ed Gein-style mutilations, Leatherface, all the stuff we debunked two years ago. And so I said, decapitation, what was that? That was from the Screams Without Words article. You remember that? You remember Sapir?

#Aaron Mate

Yeah, Gettleman's article, "Screams Without Words" in The New York Times, claimed that this key witness, identified as Sapir, said she saw the severed heads of three women — that three women were beheaded.

#Max

Yeah.

#Aaron Mate

And I think she said that one of the Hamas militants was carrying these severed heads. And, of course, which raises the obvious question: where are the heads? Like, what's the evidence for this? And there was none. And the Israeli media admitted this. They were not able to corroborate this. So then what Gettleman did — and we made fun of this at the time because it was so outrageous — in his follow-up article that Gettleman did in response to our criticisms, the ones that we made and also that Electronic Intifada made and Mondoweiss and The Intercept, Gettleman was forced to write this follow-up article going back and interviewing some of the same people and sort of trying to cover up for all of his fabrications without acknowledging us, of course. He made a very vague reference at times in his article to critics. Critics have said this.

Anyway, in that follow-up article, he claimed, and Israeli officials have claimed, that they discovered three severed heads. Right, right, right. But that's it. He didn't say anything more, provide any evidence, photographs. That's it. All of a sudden, the Israeli police, according to Gettleman in The New York Times, had magically discovered three severed heads, even though there's no record anywhere of them saying this except for in the Times. And Israeli media never, ever reported this. This was basically an exclusive for Jeffrey Gettleman. After he printed the initial false claim about three severed heads, he got some Israelis, I guess, to tell him, yeah, don't worry, we found the heads. Yes. Like, you're good, you're good. Complete, absolute fraud. And, of course, there was no follow-up and no need to bother to substantiate because he was engaged in propaganda. But, yeah, that claim appeared in the original "Screams Without Words."

#Max

So, yeah, that Gettleman sold himself out or harmed himself by claiming they found the heads, because it's been two years. Don't you think they would have identified the heads and told us who they belonged to, to implicate Hamas and justify their genocide? There would be a section of the public that would say, well, I would have supported nuking Gaza if they had done that to us, but they never produced the heads. You know what else they haven't done? You know that 47-minute video that Israel showed to every suggestible, low-IQ, semi-comatose influencer they could find to propagate their message of Hamas atrocities online?

And they would only show it to them in secret at military bases or during private screenings. I think Dr. Phil saw it. Chris Cuomo. All these guys are like, you know, they're just complete puppets of the Hasbara machine. They've never made it public and they never will. And I, you know, working with the Israeli researchers, have managed to kind of piece it together. And I can see why they would never release that to the public, because it's easy to explain that this is not what they say it is.

Another source that's cited in this civil commission report is the key source for Sheryl Sandberg's completely discredited documentary trying to hype up the idea of mass rape on October 7th. What was it called? Screams Before Silence?

#Aaron Mate

That's exactly right. They love that Screams theme — Screams Without Words and Screams Before Silence. And as you pointed out, it just should have been called Screams Without Evidence.

#Max

Screams Without Evidence. Sheryl Sandberg, being the billionaire "Lean In" feminist ultra-Zionist who also endorsed the Civil Commission report. I mean, these are footnotes from the report. Well, actually, you know, here's the New York Post rendering of that report, and they show a Hamas militant taking hostage Naama Levy, who is an Israeli soldier. And they always use this photo because you can see there's blood on the back of her sweatpants to suggest that she had just been raped. She actually has come out and publicly said that that was because she was tussling with her captors and that she fell on the ground and wiped her hands.

But there was no sexual assault there. So she herself debunked that. There are no images of sexual violence in any of those photos. But anyway, these are like one, two, three, four, five long passages, all citing Rami Davidian. Who is Rami Davidian? He is the biggest fraud of October 7th, who was the key witness for Sheryl Sandberg. Let me see if I can bring up—he took Sheryl Sandberg in the movie to a field with trees and claimed that there were women tied to the trees who had been raped and killed by Hamas militants. Here's our takedown of Rami Davidian. Here he is: "I saw girls tied up with their hands behind them to every tree here."

And he claimed that he carried out all these rescue missions to save people. Then he was going on lecture tours, mostly in Hebrew, being paid lots of money—lots of money. He may have earned millions of shekels telling his stories. And he was exposed by Raviv Drucker, who is one of the most prominent investigative journalists in Israeli media, as being a complete and total fraud. This is Raviv Drucker's post exposing him as a fraud. Oh, wait, here's his testimony. Hold on. This is from the Sheryl Sandberg film, and, you know, it really has to be seen to know what a fraud this is.

#Speaker 1

You know, there she is, crying.

#Max

You know, there she is, crying.

#Max

Someone tied them on these trees, their legs were spread, and there were ropes put on the trees for some reason. Okay, everything he said there was completely, entirely made up.

#Aaron Mate

By the way, the whole movie is simply just Sheryl Sandberg crying in front of the camera as a series of fraudsters tell her fake things. That's just the whole movie. It's one after the other, just like... people lying through their teeth and her crying at it. And with, you know, emotive music over top. That's essentially the whole film. And it was screened—Kamala Harris, I think, screened this at the White House. This was taken so seriously, even though, again, as we're speaking about now with this one guy, it's just a collection of fraudsters. Guys from ZAKA are in that film too.

#Max

Yeah, here's what Raviv Drucker said about Rami Davidian, the guy you just saw who is the key figure in that film. These are not slight exaggerations, slight inflations of the number of those rescued. These are stories made up from beginning to end by Davidian—hair-raising stories that never really happened. Some of the stories have been quoted in a reputable film and newspapers around the world, and in an important book. In the year and a half since the October 7th attacks, Davidian has turned his stories into an industry—countless paid lectures in Israel and abroad, fundraising campaigns that were supposedly done for him, but he disavows them.

A presentation, dozens or perhaps hundreds of interviews with the media in which he repeats over and over again stories that simply never happened. Davidian admitted to being a complete fraud. Raviv Drucker was going to go to air with this devastating report for Channel 13, which was like Israel's version of ABC. And then the owner of the network stopped it due to public outcry and said, you can't show the public this. The entire report was canceled and censored. And now it appears at the heart of this phony civil commission report.

And then the next footnote after Rami Davidian is one citing a photographer named Eden Wesley, who claims that she filmed this girl in a black dress who was found beside her car, whose legs were spread after October 7th, that became exhibit A for the New York Times' discredited "Screams Without Words" story. Her name was Gal Abdush. And this is amazing too. We exposed this, but it wasn't even—we could tell she was suffering from symptoms of rigor mortis. Her car was blown up. She was probably a victim of the Hannibal Directive. Israeli Apache helicopters were targeting every car going away from the site of the Nova Electronic Music Festival towards Gaza, killing probably hundreds of Israelis as well as Palestinians. She was probably one of them.

But then her family comes out, her own sister, and says the New York Times lied to us and misled us. We didn't even know this was going to be a story about sexual abuse, and that she wasn't—the

timeline doesn't match up. She was not raped. That's not what happened. So her own family calls out the New York Times. And then this civil commission report takes that and fills their report with that phony story, citing Jeffrey Gettleman from the New York Times but not naming Gal Abdush, hoping that, you know, critics like us wouldn't pick up on it. Well, I picked up on it. They took one of the most discredited stories, where the family of the victim themselves actually said it was a fraud.

And, I mean, that just shows you the low quality of this report, which Ali Abunimah has done a seminal takedown of. I think, you know, if you want something to share, to illustrate or to refer to, to illustrate what a scam this report—which was taken seriously by every single legacy media outlet in the U.S.—is, Ali has done it. “Israel’s Seventh October Rape Hoax Gets a 300-Page Reboot.” And one of the things Ali points out is, you know, the civil commission relies heavily on ZAKA, which is the scam rescue organization that raised tons of money off fake stories like the “40 beheaded babies” story or fetuses cut from pregnant women.

Um, yeah. And I mean, wait till you find out who founded ZAKA. It was Yehuda Meshi-Zahav, who was going to get the Israel Prize, Israel's most prestigious prize. And then Israeli media exposed him as the, quote-unquote, Haredi Jeffrey Epstein — in other words, the ultra-Orthodox Jeffrey Epstein — and published countless testimonies, dozens and dozens of testimonies, of ultra-Orthodox Jews who, as children, had been raped by the founder of ZAKA. And then he committed suicide and spent the rest of his life in a coma.

#Aaron Mate

Those are the sources that the Civil Commission is relying on. And if you remember, just to take a trip down memory lane, remember when I found out who was on the board of ZAKA? None other than halal cart harasser Stuart Seldowitz, the guy who was on video harassing a halal cart vendor in New York City because he was Arab. He was on the advisory board of ZAKA. So this is the kind of people that ZAKA is. Experts. Phony tracks, yeah, yeah, yeah. Planetarians. This report from the commission, whatever it's called, gets taken seriously. The lead author, who you just talked about, Kochav Alkayam-Levy, was given like a 10-minute interview on CNN yesterday. No critical questions, taken very, very seriously. So you still have an establishment media. Yes, now the Times, the New York Times, willing to document seriously the crimes against Palestinians, but still across the board, no skepticism of the debunked Israeli propaganda about Hamas mass rape and sexual violence on October 7th.