



ECAJ Criticises Media Selectivity

14th December 2006

During the recent Lebanon War and its aftermath, the local and international media were quick to report alleged human rights violations by Israel, particularly arguing that Israel fired into populated areas.

A few days ago the Intelligence and Terrorism Information Center at the Center for Special Studies, a private Israeli research group, released a report conclusively demonstrating Hezbollah's illegal and cynical exploitation of Lebanese civilians (see <http://www.ajcongress.org/site/DocServer/part1.pdf?docID=701>).

The report is meticulously documented, using declassified photographs, video images and interrogations of Hezbollah prisoners. Amongst other things, it states that Hezbollah battled Israelis from inside schools and private residences, flew white flags while transporting missiles, stored weapons in mosques, and launched rockets near United Nations monitoring posts.

The report explains the dilemma facing the Israeli military as it fought an enemy intentionally operating from civilian areas (similar to Palestinian terror groups). "The construction of a broad military infrastructure, positioned and hidden in populated areas, was intended to minimize Hezbollah's vulnerability. Hezbollah would also gain a propaganda advantage if it could represent Israel as attacking innocent civilians."

In contrast to the earlier outcry about Israel's supposed 'war crimes', the media have been conspicuously silent in response to this report. Surely the public should be informed, especially given Hezbollah's current attempts to wrest control of Lebanon.

*Geoffrey Zygier
Executive Director
Executive Council of Australian Jewry
Caulfield South Victoria AUSTRALIA 3162*