

**Daisy Veerasingham, Associated Press,
Alessandra Galloni, Reuters,
Sir Mark Thompson, CNN
Meredith Kopit Levien, New York Times**

I am writing to demand immediate and unequivocal action against the reprehensible conduct of photojournalists Hassan Esiaiah, Yousef Masoud of the New York Times, Ali Mahmud and Hatem Ali of the Associated Press, as well as Mohammed Fayq Abu Mostafa and Yasser Qudih of Reuters. The report by HonestReporting on the events of October 7, 2023, implicates these individuals in what can only be described as a gross violation of journalistic ethics and a de facto collusion with Hamas terrorist activities, which is forbidden under sanctions from the USA, EU, Canada, Japan, and others.

The fact that these individuals were present to capture such atrocities with uncanny readiness not only casts a shadow over their motives but also implicates your agencies in the most serious breach of trust with the principles of journalism. By having paid the aforementioned photographers which are affiliated with Hamas, you are in breach of international law, and are complicit with performing severe war crimes. Depiction of violence, including the heinous lynching and the abduction of innocent individuals, should never be fodder for sensationalism, nor even worse should it ever be cheaply capitalized on as 'Images of the Day', had it were cheap pornography. By passively profiting from their actions, you are benefitting from the butchering of innocent people.

It is utterly unconscionable that your photographers would be embedded within such scenes without the discernible intent of wearing press gear or taking protective measures unless they were acting with foreknowledge of the attacks, as can be seen on the investigation from HonestReporting.

Your lack of immediate and transparent condemnation of these photographers speaks volumes to your complicity or, at the very least, your complacency in the face of these ethical transgressions. It is not enough to silently withdraw their names from your databases. We demand their immediate dismissal and a public condemnation from your platforms to ensure there is no ambiguity about where you stand on the issue of terrorism and journalistic integrity.

Failure to act swiftly and decisively will be perceived as an endorsement of their conduct and will irrevocably damage the fabric of trust between your news outlets and the discerning public. We expect you to rise to the occasion and act in defense of ethical journalism by cleansing your organizations of elements that threaten its very foundation.

We await your immediate response, which will be telling of your commitment to the ethical standards we, the public, expect from our news media.



Eliav Batito
Head of Civil Israeli Advocacy Center