

BBC-zarro World

The Facts: Israeli Navy commandos have seized a boat on its way from Hezbollah in Lebanon to Palestinian terrorists in the Gaza Strip. The cargo consisted of rocket fuses, electronic bomb-making components and CDs containing instructions for assembling explosives belts for suicide bombers. All on board, including a Hezbollah terrorist, were captured.

The Spin from BBC-zarro World:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/middle_east/3050769.stm

Israel 'seizes Hezbollah boat'

The purpose of the sneer quotes is as follows: The Israelis, being Jews, are the Fathers of Lies and cannot be trusted. Therefore (1) they may not have seized the boat; it may have sailed voluntarily into Haifa harbour after a sincere change of heart by the crew. (2) It may not have been from Hezbollah; it could be the Salvation Army who are now sending rocket- and bomb-making equipment from Lebanon to the PLO. (3) It may not have been a boat at all, but a large rubber duckie.

Israel said the ship was heading to Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip

No, BBC-zarro folk, the Israelis did not say that. *You* said that. The Israelis said that it was heading for Palestinian *terrorists* didn't they? And then *you* deliberately misrepresented what they said, didn't you? And don't say you don't know what "said that" means, or what the difference between a terrorist and a militant is, because if you didn't, you wouldn't keep lying spinning like this.

The Israelis say they have seized a ship carrying weapons for Lebanese militant group Hezbollah.

Oh the rich ambiguity of language! How long would it have taken someone without a Ph.D. in Bizarro-English to find a way of putting that which fudged the issue of where the weapons were headed and who sent them? Any less gifted person might simply have said that the weapons came *from* Hezbollah, and were going *to* the Gaza Strip.

Also, somewhere in any decent reporter's report there would have

been a mention that their sole use, on arrival, was going to be the murder of Jews. But the BBC-zarro reporter mentioned neither murder, nor Jews.

[...]

Israeli Foreign Minister Silvan Shalom said the arms were being transported from Lebanon to Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip.

There are those pesky militants committing mass murder again! Pretty soon their reputation is going to be quite tarnished, you know.

He added that the incident showed that Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat was behind terror operations.

Really? The fact is, the incident does not show anything about whether Arafat was involved. It may be that the Israelis have other evidence pointing in that direction. (In fact, **they do**.) But a reader of the BBC report has to wonder whether this is a case of Mr Shalom mis-speaking, or some other mistake, or just the BBC ~~lying through their teeth~~ spinning their report again. An experienced reader will know which is most likely.

[...]

Last year, Israel intercepted a 50-tonne shipment of Iranian weapons, which was destined for Palestinian militants, in the Red Sea.

Israeli sources say the current cache is much smaller than that.

Yeah, right. Much smaller. Couldn't have been used to murder more than – what? – a few dozen Jews? Couple of hundred tops. So let's all forget about such trivialities and get on with that nice Peace Process, shall we? Stage one: Israel stops intercepting boats.

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Are you sure about this?

Do you know for a fact that the Israelis said "terrorists" not "militants", or is that an assumption? I've seen both terms used. Do you have any evidence that the Israelis are being misquoted in this way? Have you asked them if they use the term "militants" or "terrorists" or both? Have they issued a statement to this effect? If you have or could get such a statement, I think we should mount a major campaign to get the BBC to stop. What do you think?

by a reader on Fri, 05/23/2003 - 11:54 | [reply](#)

We do not know for sure

No, we do not know, and that is a measure of the size of the lie that

it is the policy of the BBC (and many other news organisations, but the BBC is one of the worst) to tell. Although they claim to be telling us what the Israeli side of the story is, they systematically change what the Israelis say, so that we don't know whether:

- The Israeli government has taken to saying "militant" as part of confidence-building measures; or
- This particular spokesman has; or
- This case specifically involved militants who were not terrorists and the spokesman was being careful with language; or
- He said "terrorist" and the BBC claimed he said "militant".

As for mounting a campaign, there already is such a campaign under way here: <http://www.terrorpetition.com/>, But why should the BBC pay any attention? Their revenue is secure, and in any case, their reaction is likely to be "well, if the militant Zionists and militant Palestinians all think we're biased, that just shows that we are fulfilling our mandate of strict impartiality".

by **Editor** on Fri, 05/23/2003 - 14:03 | [reply](#)
