

No, Hamas Did Not Behead 40 Babies at an Israeli Kibbutz. Mike Whitney

By [Mike Whitney](#)

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There is still no proof that Hamas militants beheaded 40 babies at an Israeli kibbutz last Saturday. There is no physical evidence, no forensic evidence, and no photographic evidence. Zilch. The entire story is based on the unverified claims of an "Israeli settler leader who incited riots to 'wipe out' Palestinian village." (Max Blumenthal)

Naturally, one would expect that a professional journalist would question the credibility of a witness whose bias was so transparently obvious. But that is not the case with i24NEWS reporter **Nicole Zedek** who regurgitated what she had been told as if it were the Gospel Truth. In fact, Zedek still sticks by her story today despite the glaring lack of evidence and the testimony of a person who has a clear motive for distorting the truth. Here's part of Zedek's report from the kibbutz where the incidence is alleged to have taken place:

"David, it's hard to even explain the mass casualties that happened right here, in fact, the Israeli military says they still don't have a clear number. But **I'm talking to some of the soldiers and they say that what they've witnessed as they've been walking through these different houses and communities; babies, their heads cut off. That's what they said.**

"Families completely gunned down in their beds. You can see many of these soldiers right now, comforting each other... Many of them are reservists who jumped into action, leaving their own families behind as well, not knowing the sheer horror they were about to come to....They say they've never experienced anything like this. This is nothing anyone could have imagined...." [@vtchakarova](#)

It's worth noting, that **Zedek never saw any of the beheaded babies nor did she make any effort to see them.** Nor did she record the testimony of any of the other

soldiers or villagers who could have confirmed or denied that the beheading actually took place. Instead, we are expected to believe the dubious account of an Israeli extremist whose credibility is greatly in doubt.

But, the credibility of Zedek's coverage is only half of the story. The other half involves the role of the mainstream media that eagerly picked up the story and republished it without making any effort to verify the allegations. As of Wednesday afternoon, there were more than twenty articles at Google News reiterating the gruesome details of the barbarous murder-spree that, in all likelihood, never happened. Here's a sample of the headlines that appeared in Wednesday's newsfeed:

- [At least 40 babies, some beheaded, found by Israel soldiers in Hamas-attacked village](#), *Fox*
- [Hamas kills 40 babies and children — beheading some of them — at Israeli kibbutz: report](#) *New York Post*
- [At Least 40 Babies Killed In Israel-Hamas War: Repor](#), *NDTV*
- [Hamas terrorists 'beheaded babies during kibbutz slaughter where 40 young children were killed'](#), *Daily Mail*
- [Hamas Slaughters 40 Babies](#), *National Review*

As we have seen countless times before, facts don't matter (to the media). What matters is whether a particular narrative advances the political agenda of elites.



The death toll at Kfar Aza kibbutz was rising, entire families having been shot as they slept. One military officer said: "We are afraid we'll find hundreds of bodies"

Hamas 'cut the throats of babies' in massacre

Anshel Pfeffer
Kfar Aza, Israel



All day, military chaplains and search teams tenderly wrapped tiny bodies, carrying them to waiting stretchers that bore them away from the nightmare of Kfar Aza. The horrors that Israelis endured at the hands of Hamas in this kibbutz, a mile from the suburbs of Gaza City, defy belief. As they surged through Israeli defences, the Palestinian militants attacked Kfar Aza from four directions, starting with the "youngsters' quarter" on the western side, closest to Gaza. Little remained yesterday of the homes in the kibbutz: only shards of coffee cups and blackened bed-frames. And bodies. Every few minutes soldiers broke the

silence to announce that more dead people had been discovered. Some said that up to 40 babies' corpses had been found among entire families who were shot dead as they slept. The children in particular appeared to have suffered gruesome deaths: there were claims that some had had their throats cut. "I've served as a combat soldier and officer for 39 years," Major General Itai Verus said as he stood with red-rimmed eyes at the kibbutz entrance. "I've never seen anything that comes close to this. It's not even something our parents knew. This is something out of the world of our grandfathers in Europe, from the pogroms and the Holocaust." As more bodies emerged, it seemed likely that Kfar Aza would turn out to be the scene of the biggest massacre of this war, the greatest loss of civilian life in a terrorist attack in Israeli history. It was part of Hamas's assault on more

than 15 communities, kibbutzim and towns on Saturday morning. An estimated 1,000 Israelis were killed and scores more, including women, elderly people and children, were kidnapped. There are growing signs, however, that a ground invasion is looming, even as Hamas launched a barrage of more than a dozen rockets last night at the Israeli port town of Ashkelon. Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli prime minister, has warned that the retaliation, in which targets were destroyed across Gaza for a third day, has "only just begun". He promised that Hamas would "endure terrible things". In a telephone call with President Biden he said the attacks were "savagery never seen since the Holocaust". He added: "We have hundreds massacred, families wiped out in their... homes, women raped and murdered. They took dozens of children, bound

them up, burnt them and executed them. They beheaded soldiers." In Kfar Aza officers were cautious not to give numbers of the dead but privately they fear the worst. Yesterday more than 100 bodies were found in Kibbutz Be'er, to the south. "This one is probably worse," one officer said. "We are afraid we'll find hundreds of bodies." Yoav Gallant, the Israeli defence minister, said: "Anyone who came to decapitate, to murder women and Holocaust survivors will be annihilated at the height of our strength and without compromise. What we witnessed in the towns was a massacre." Verus said: "You see the babies, the mothers, the fathers in their bedrooms, in their protection rooms, and how the terrorist kills them. It's not a war, it's not a battlefield. It's a massacre." He had arrived at Kfar Aza on *Continued on page 4*

Starmer promises a decade of renewal

Steven Swinford Political Editor
Chris Smyth Westminster Editor

Sir Keir Starmer has issued a direct appeal to moderate Conservative voters to back him as he pledged to "break the stranglehold of Tory decline". The Labour leader used his conference speech yesterday to promise a "decade of national renewal" that would enable Britain to "face down the age of insecurity". He issued a personal appeal to Tory voters who "look in horror" at the descent of the Conservative Party into "the murky waters of populism and conspiracy". He sought to portray Labour as the party of centrist Tory values. His speech was initially disrupted after a protester ran on to the stage and tipped glitter on his head. Labour is carrying out a review of security. In a speech that attempted to set out clear dividing lines with the Tories, Starmer pledged to build 1.5 million homes, equivalent to five Milton Keynes-sized towns, over the next parliament, including a generation of new towns, by "bulldozing" through planning laws. He said that Labour would also build homes on low-quality parts of the green belt, branding them the "grey belt" and a "dreary wasteland". The Labour leader also defended his plans to borrow to invest, promising that the party would "steer the ship on industrial policy" as he argued that the state must "kick-start growth". In a direct appeal to moderate Tories, he said: "If you are a Conservative voter who despairs of this, if you look in horror at the descent of your party into the murky waters of populism and conspiracy, with no argument for economic change; if you feel our children need a party that conserves, that fights for our union, our environment, the rule of law, family life, the careful bond between this generation and the next — then let me tell you, Britain already has one. And you can join it — it's this Labour Party." He promised "a reforming state, not a cheque-book state" as he sought to argue that public services could be improved without spending significantly more. He said that Labour would inherit "broken" public services and "wrecked" public finances as he warned activists that there was no "easy answer" to the challenges facing Britain. He claimed that his party's inheritance would be worse than any other Labour government in history if it won *Continued on page 2*

IN THE NEWS

Prison short of staff

A lack of staff at Wandsworth prison, from where Daniel Khalife was accused of escaping last month, has curbed its ability to function, a watchdog has said. *Page 2*

Willoughby quits

Holly Willoughby has stepped down from ITV's *This Morning* after 14 years presenting the show, following an alleged plot to kidnap her, over which a man has been charged. *Page 15*

Ukraine graves dug

Graves have been dug in the village of Hroza in the Kharkiv region of Ukraine for more than 50 residents killed by a Russian missile strike on a wake for a dead soldier. *Page 30*

IMF gloom for Britain

The International Monetary Fund cut Britain's growth outlook from 1 per cent next year to 0.6 per cent, making it the most sluggish of the big developed nations. *Page 33*

Kane looks to 2028

The England striker Harry Kane wants to play at Euro 2028, when he will be 34, and says he is specially motivated by the fact the final will be held at Wembley. *Page 62*



Case in point: Check out this brief excerpt from a piece by the *Daily Mail* that gives a breathless account of an event that never took place:

Hamas terrorists massacred at least 40 babies and young children before beheading some of them and gunning down their families in a small kibbutz in Israel, horrified Israeli soldiers have claimed....

The bullet-riddled bodies of Israeli residents now lay in the grounds of the kibbutz among burned out houses, strewn furniture and torched cars. Solemn Israeli soldiers today went from house to house to take away the scores of people massacred there....

Outside the destroyed homes, **the soldiers told i24News correspondent Nicole Zedek how they saw the bodies of babies next to their cots, their heads chopped off, in a sign of the depraved acts committed by the terrorists since they attacked Israel on Saturday.....**

'You see the babies, the mothers, the fathers, in their bedrooms, in their protection rooms and how the terrorist kills them. It's not a war, it's not a battlefield. It's a massacre, it's a terror activity,' said Israeli Major General Itai Veruv from the horrific scene. ([Hamas terrorists 'beheaded babies during kibbutz slaughter where 40 young children were killed'](#), *Daily Mail*)

Once again, there is not a shred of evidence that the *Daily Mail's* account is in-any way accurate. There are no decapitated babies, which means that the emotional cornerstone upon which this version of events rests, is pure rubbish. And that suggests that there is an alternate motive for promoting the story. In other words, the author is compromising her credibility in order to dehumanize a group the Israeli government has marked for annihilation. Here's more from an article at *The Grayzone*:

***The Grayzone* has now identified a key source of the claim that Palestinian militants beheaded Israeli babies. He is David Ben Zion, a Deputy Commander of Unit 71 of the Israeli army who also happens to be an extremist settler leader who incited violent riots against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank earlier this year.**

In an October 10 interview with reporter Nicole Zedek of the Israeli state-sponsored i24 network, Ben Zion stated, "We walked door to door, we killed a lot of terrorists. They are very bad. **They cut heads of children, they cut heads of women.** But we are stronger than them."

He added, "**We know that they are animals,**" referring to Palestinians, "but we found that they don't have any heart." [The Grayzone](#)

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'40 BABIES MURDERED BY 'HAMAS'



Children beheaded as families slaughtered, says Israel
'Isis-level savagery' says US as Americans held hostage
 Hamas begins new blitz after two terror chiefs die in raid

by BENASHTON
HAMAS militants butchered 40 babies in a massacre at a kibbutz during their savage assault on Israel, it is claimed. Some of the children were found beheaded by their cuts - and their families gassed down in bed or burned alive in their homes at Eilat Aza near the border with Gaza, soldiers said. The bodies were found by the Israeli Defence Force as it went from home to home after mopping up the last gunmen and clearing loopy traps three days after the huge dawn raid. Soldiers here say what they witnessed walking through these communities is bodies of babies with their heads cut off: the TV station reported. "We can see some of these soldiers comforting each other" One soldier shouted to reporters: "Tell the world what you saw here!" Their commander Maj Gen Irit Viner said: "You see the babies, the mothers, the fathers, in their bedrooms, in their protection rooms and how the terrorist kills them. It's not a war, it's not a battlefield. It's a massacre. It's something we used to imagine from our grandfathers, grandmothers in the pogroms in Europe and other places. It's not something that happens in new history!" A day earlier 100 bodies were found at another kibbutz close by in Be'eri. And 264 people were massacred at a music festival near the border. US president Joe Biden yesterday confirmed 11 Americans died in the attack and others were among 150 dragged back to Gaza on hostages. He said the US was sending experts to help Israel locate them. A senior US defense official added: "I want to differentiate this from other times we have seen conflicts between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. This is low-level savagery we have seen committed"



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Blumenthal confirms that the overall credibility of the story should have been in doubt from the very beginning (if Zedek did her homework like she should have.) Here's a 15 second clip of Mr. Zion who is the source of the decapitation fiction:

"They chopped heads of children and women," says David Ben Zion, Deputy Commandee of Unit 71 to our [@Nicole_Zedek](https://twitter.com/Nicole_Zedek), while reporting from the massacre in Kfar Aza in southern Israel pic.twitter.com/IHSB0ywMbf

— i24NEWS English (@i24NEWS_EN) [October 10, 2023](https://twitter.com/i24NEWS_EN/status/1714123456789)

According to the *Grayzone*:

Zedek's report has been viewed tens of millions of times on Twitter and promoted by Israel's Foreign Ministry - which underwrites her network.

... the unverified tale quickly made its way to the highest levels of leadership, as if by

design. **Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu’s spokesman stated unequivocally that babies and toddlers were found with their “heads decapitated,” while President Joe Biden himself vaguely gestured towards “stomach-churning reports of babies being killed.”** [The Grayzone](#)

To their credit, the Israeli military refused to confirm the story which suggests that they didn’t want the reputational damage of affixing their name to fake news. But if the IDF knew it was baloney, then Zedek must have known as well, which means she must have had an ulterior motive for her actions. But what would that be?



The logical conclusion is that Zedek was deliberately spreading lies in order to fuel the hatred that is clearing the way to a massive ethnic cleansing operation that could be just days away. Take a look at this excerpt from an article at Middle East News:

Israeli newspaper *Haaretz* previously reported that Prime Minister **Benjamin Netanyahu**, who was indicted on several corruption charges, **has leveraged the issuance of a broadcasting license to i24 in exchange for favorable coverage.**

The channel — which broadcasts in English, Spanish, French, and Arabic — is known for making unfounded claims on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

British-Iraqi activist Kareem Dennis of MintPress News, an independent US-based watchdog journalism organization, claimed that **i24 “has employed at least 35 veterans of the Israeli occupation forces as staff.”**

He then went on to list various names and their ties to the Israeli military.

“Channa Rifkin is an i24News correspondent who transitioned from the channel’s Social Media editor to the Israeli military, then returned to work for i24News.”

“David Matlin, the host of a daily flagship show on i24News, is a former Israeli military sergeant and the regional director for Israel lobby group AIPAC (American Israel Public Affairs Committee).” Matlin is also a founding member of the channel.

“Eyal Pinko, who was the head of intelligence in the Israeli Navy before becoming the head of division in the Israeli prime minister’s office, is another correspondent for the channel,” Dennis said in the X thread.

He also mentioned Daniel Tsemach, a former i24 journalist who joined the channel after serving as a social media manager for the Israeli military. Tsemach recently left his position at i24 to join Israel’s state-owned defense company, Rafael.” [Middle East News](#)

Got that? So, the news organization that produced the “beheaded babies” story is comprised of ex-military, ex-Intelligence, ex-social media proles and the regional director for Israel lobby group AIPAC; all of them assisting in the task of obliterating Gaza and pushing 2 million Palestinians into Egypt. Is that the Endgame?

It is. And in order to execute such a savage attack, the Palestinians must be viciously demonized and dehumanized so the perpetrators can feel morally justified in flattening their cities and killing their children. Regrettably, Zedek’s report helps to achieve that ghastly objective.



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