
A glaring failure to report

Sean 

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To: Sheldon Morais <Sheldon.Morais@24.com>

Cc: Adriaan Basson <adriaan@24.com>, Qaanitah Hunter <Qaanitah.Hunter@24.com>, George Claassen <George.Claassen@media24.com>, Kate Henry <Kate.Henry@24.com>

Dear All,

Thanks to Sheldon for the reply in March. Unfortunately I was busy at the time and then lost track of this correspondence.

I appreciate the compiling of examples provided in that earlier email, but unfortunately they are entirely unconvincing. It is notable that only one of them is an actual news item (the piece from 27 January). The notion that the News24 news and editorial teams are so out of touch with international affairs to have missed the Amnesty International report is highly implausible.

Fortunately, we no longer need to speculate about whether News24's non-reporting is due to repeated oversight or deliberate censorship because a recent event has convincingly substantiated my original concerns. At an international forum Naledi Pandor, on behalf of the South African government, called for Israel to be declared an apartheid state. On 26 July 2022 News24 syndicated a news report from Al Jazeera on that (<https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2022/7/26/south-africa-calls-for-israels-proscription-as-apartheid-state>). But it then inexplicably deleted it some hours later:

<https://www.news24.com/news24/SouthAfrica/News/sa-calls-for-israel-to-be-declared-apartheid-state-20220726>

As far as I am aware, News24 then did not report on the South African government's statement at all.

I suggest that this provides incontrovertible evidence of bias, editorial interference and censorship truly worthy of the apartheid era. If I am mistaken, I look forward to receiving the details on who gave the instruction to delete that item, who took the decision that News24 should not report on the issue itself, and what the basis for those decisions was.

In the absence of any defensible explanation this constitutes further, more definitive, evidence of a clear effort to mislead your readers through censorship and omission. Once again I will repeat the simple point: one does not need to agree with something to report it. As soon as that is the criterion then what you are doing is producing propaganda, not publishing news.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Seán Muller

[Quoted text hidden]