

Name _____

Class _____

Date _____

Sample Media Texts

Read the transcript provided for each media text below and choose from the SPJ Code of Ethics which principle(s) was either upheld or violated. Explain your choices.

Media Text 1

National Public Radio's January 20, 2011 "Morning Edition" presented a segment entitled "Israeli Settlements Divide Palestinian Village" by Lourdes Garcia-Navarro. This is a human interest story, not a breaking news report, in which the journalist interviews a Palestinian Arab. The man asserts that Israeli construction of settlements and the West Bank security barrier are disrupting life in his village—the town of Walaja near the Jewish neighborhood of Gilo in southern Jerusalem. Below is the transcript, which along with the audio is available at:

<http://www.npr.org/2011/01/20/133071551/Israeli-Settlement-Update>

RENEE MONTAGNE, host:

This is MORNING EDITION from NPR News. I'm Renee Montagne.

STEVE INSKEEP, host:

And I'm Steve Inskeep.

The construction of Jewish housing has increased sharply in East Jerusalem and the West Bank. Palestinians want both of those areas to be part of a future Palestinian state, and so the building has complicated stalled peace talks. The construction comes after a building moratorium in some areas expired last year, and it is affecting the lives of Palestinians.

NPR's Lourdes Garcia-Navarro visited a tiny village on the edge of Jerusalem.

LOURDES GARCIA-NAVARRO:

In Walaja's recent history, the village has been moved, its people scattered, its land eroded and now, they're facing isolation. Palestinians here say it's a microcosm of the conflict. And it shows no signs of abating.

Mr. AHMED DARASH(ph):

My name is Ahmed Darash. My village is al-Walaja.

GARCIA-NAVARRO:

We are sitting near the village spring on a blustery winter day with one of the village elders.

Mr. DARASH:

(Foreign language spoken)

GARCIA-NAVARRO:

Darash recounts how in 1948, when the state of Israel was created, the village was captured and many residents fled to other countries. Those who remained moved across the valley and into caves.

Slowly, they began to rebuild the village on land located in what was then territory controlled by Jordan. Then, after the 1967 war, Israel took over the area. Land was slowly expropriated, Darash says. Houses were demolished. And then the settlements started to rise.

Mr. DARASH:

(Foreign language spoken)

GARCIA-NAVARRO:

Now, Walaja falls half in and half out of the boundaries of Jerusalem, and it's almost completely surrounded by the settlements. On the crest of the hill behind it is the settlement of Har Gilo. On another flank is the huge, Gilo East Jerusalem settlement.

And then, recently, came the news that more land was going to be confiscated to finish building a wall that will completely fence the village in.

Mr. DARASH:

(Through translator) This wall will eat up more than 2,000 dunams of Walaja land.

GARCIA-NAVARRO:

Land that has two important landmarks that are essential to village life. We walk down into the farmlands that nestle in a steep valley. Nadia Awadallah lives in al-Walaja.

Ms. NADIA AWADALAH(ph):

(Through translator) All this area in front of you here is going to be confiscated by the Israelis. It includes graveyards - a graveyard here to your right and a graveyard here to your left. There's also a spring of water from which the whole village gets its water. They want to include it in the area which they want to confiscate.

GARCIA-NAVARRO:

Underneath a row of trees are several mounds built into the hillside. Among those buried here was a young man who was killed during the first Palestinian uprising in the late 1980s. His father just died this past month but, says Nadia, they buried him in another part of the village.

Ms. AWADALAH:

(Through translator) One reason why we did not bury his father here is because of the risk that we take in burying a new one here. Imagine burying him, and then the Israelis coming and opening the grave and desecrating his grave. So we did not take a chance.

GARCIA-NAVARRO:

The villagers have petitioned the court to stop construction of the wall near the graves and spring. And while the case is being reviewed, building in this area has halted. But nearby, work is continuing on a new access road for settlers. It, too, is on land that was once part of Walaja. And above them in Har Gilo, new homes are being built. Meanwhile, the villagers say any new home they try to build is under threat of demolition by Israel.

Mr. DARASH:
(Foreign language spoken)

GARCIA-NAVARRO:

Sitting in his plastic chair, elder Ahmed Darash tells a children's fable to describe what is happening to his village. A cat was asked to equally distribute two pieces of cheese to two mice, he says. Each time he'd weigh one of the morsels, he'd take a bite; eventually, there was nothing. And then, he says, the cat ate the mice as well. We are, he says, at Israel's mercy.

Lourdes Garcia-Navarro, NPR News.

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Principle(s) Upheld or Violated:

Media Text 2

On May 5, 2011, *The New York Times* published the following story:

“ [Hamas Leader Calls for Two-State Solution, but Refuses to Renounce Violence](#)” by Ethan Bronner (May 5, 2011)

CAIRO — One day after celebrating a [landmark reconciliation accord](#) for [Palestinian](#) unity, [Khaled Meshal](#), the [Hamas](#) leader, said on Thursday that he was fully committed to working for a two-state solution but declined to swear off violence or agree that a Palestinian state would produce an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

“The whole world knows what Hamas thinks and what our principles are,” Mr. Meshal said in an interview in his Cairo hotel suite. “But we are talking now about a common national agenda. The world should deal with what we are working toward now, the national political program.”

He defined that as “a Palestinian state in the 1967 lines with Jerusalem as its capital, without any settlements or settlers, not an inch of land swaps and respecting the right of return” of Palestinian refugees to Israel itself.

Asked if a deal honoring those principles would produce an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, Mr. Meshal said, “I don’t want to talk about that.”

He added: “When Israel made agreements with Egypt and Jordan, no one conditioned it on how Israel should think. The Arabs and the West didn’t ask Israel what it was thinking deep inside. All Palestinians know that 60 years ago they were living on historic Palestine from the river to the sea. It is no secret.”

<http://www.nytimes.com/2011/05/06/world/middleeast/06palestinians.html> shows the entire article.

Principle(s) Upheld or Violated:

Media Text 3

“Slaughter of the Fogels: After the West Bank Killings,” by Karl Vick (*Time Magazine*, March 13, 2011) describes the murder five members (three children and their parents) of the Fogel family in the community of Itamar in the northern West Bank (Samaria).

The murder by knife of three children, including an infant of 3 months, and both parents in a West Bank settlement late Friday night rocked Israel terribly. The news broke on Saturday

morning, and the shock was somehow both muted and amplified by the enforced public silence of the Jewish Sabbath. But Shabbat ended at sundown, and freed from the strictures of enforced rest, events lurched forward with something very like vengeance.

First came the condemnations. "This is a despicable murder of an entire innocent family, parents, children and an infant, while they were sleeping in their home on the Sabbath evening," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said in a statement. "We all know," Netanyahu added, "as those who want to strike at us will know, that the future of the settlements will not be decided by terror." ([See the West Bank's emerging middle class.](#))

A few hours later, however, the Prime Minister made certain that the attack would, in fact, have a direct impact on Israel's West Bank settlements. Before Sunday dawned, his government had approved construction of 500 new homes on Palestinian territory. The homes are to be built on settlement blocs close to the 1967 border, densely packed and often suburban, rather than in the remote hilltop settlements like Itamar, where the Fogel family lived and where friction with neighboring Palestinians is far more common. But it was the first new construction Netanyahu's government has approved, and the clearest effort to transmute the deaths of the Fogels into politics. It would not be the only one.

"This is unfortunately the first time since the formation of the second Netanyahu government that new housing has been approved," said Danny Dayan, who chairs the umbrella group for settlers. "And it's a pity that parents and their children needed to be murdered for it to do so." The group called for many more houses on the West Bank, which many Jews believe is theirs by a promise from God. In Sunday's Cabinet meeting, Interior Minister Eli Yishai suggested a formula: "At least a thousand homes for each person murdered," he said. ([See photos of young Palestinians.](#))

The more than 100 Israeli settlements on occupied Palestinian land are widely considered illegal under international law. Last month, a U.S. veto ended an attempt in the U.N. Security Council to condemn the policy.

The rest of the article is available online at:

<http://www.time.com/time/world/article/0,8599,2058660,00.html>

Principle(s) Upheld or Violated:

Media Text 4

The *New York Times* corrected an April 15, 2010 photo caption of a Reuters image showing Ramat Shlomo.

Error (photo caption, April 15, 2010):

Ultra-Orthodox Jews last month in Ramat Shlomo, a Jewish settlement in the West Bank. (Amir Cohen/Reuters)

Correction (April 16, 2010):

A picture caption on Thursday with the continuation of a news analysis article about a shift in the Obama administration's Middle East policy referred incorrectly to Ramat Shlomo, the name of a Jewish housing development that Israel says it is expanding despite objections by the United States and the Palestinian Authority. It is a neighborhood in East Jerusalem, not a settlement in the West Bank.

Principle(s) Upheld or Violated:
