[ON-SCREEN HEADLINE: Corporate Media Falls for Hamas Propaganda]

BEN FERGUSON: You mentioned propaganda and I want to show part of this propaganda. NewsBusters found that ABC, CBS, and NBC elevated a Gaza video from a known propagandist influencer. This guy — we’re going to show you all the different jobs that he has. But we first want you to see some of this propaganda that was put out, and then we’re going to show you who this individual is, take a look first at this video.

SALEH ALJAFARAWI: [SCREAMING IN ARABIC]

FERGUSON: Remember, this guy’s face

ALJAFARAWI: [SCREAMING IN ARABIC]

FERGUSON: Now you have this little girl screaming.

[PEOPLE SCREAMING]

FERGUSON: And then another woman that starts screaming who wasn’t screaming a moment ago.

SENATOR TED CRUZ (R-TX): All right, what I want to do, and I want to do this for our audience that is just listening. I want to play it back again but I want to narrate it as it’s going forward. I want to comment on what you’re seeing. So, let’s just play that video back again. This — this was put out by this individual on his social media. So that’s where we got this. So, start again. All right, now, what you’re seeing at the beginning, is you’re seeing an image of what appears to be a Palestinian man. And he has what appears to be blood on his hand. And he’s showing it to you. Now, one of the things that striking, he’s screaming, and he’s yelling at the camera. But one of the things that’s striking — if you look at his hand, there are no wounds, there’s no cut. It simply has some red liquid, maybe it’s blood, maybe it’s red paint, some red liquid is on his hand, but they’re no wounds whatsoever. You then move to a young girl who again, has red liquid. Stop — stop — stop there for just a second. Okay, so she’s got red liquid, that appears to be blood. I — it could be red paint or some red liquid. But the interesting thing is, this girl has no visible wounds either. There’s no cut, there’s no bruise, there’s nothing that is actually bleeding. It’s just liquid on someone that appears to be there are no visible injuries. Rewind just a little bit if you can, please.

FERGUSON: You and I, by the way, both noticed the same thing. There’s a woman who screams in a moment that was sitting in — looks like a wheelchair —
CRUZ: Rewind just a little bit more.

FERGUSON: — and she wasn’t screaming when the camera comes past her the first time. It’s like she’s waiting for a cue.

CRUZ: Okay, stop. So, just on pause, you can see this — this little girl is screaming and she’s screaming loudly. She has red liquid on her face. There’s a cameraman who is taking pictures, but what I want you to do as this plays forward is behind the cameraman, there’s several other men and I want you to look at their faces. So, play this slowly going forward.

FERGUSON: And by the way, for everybody listening to this audio only, you can watch us on YouTube. And you can go and see this. So, when you get home, look at it on YouTube, and you’re gonna see this video because it’s that important that you get to see.

CRUZ: And subscribe to YouTube at the same time. One out of three podcasts we do is on video. All of them are on audio. Okay, so you see her screaming and clapping. And then, we’re coming around, there’s the cameraman who’s filming it. And then, as the shot and there’s another — obviously the person filming here is some other cameraman. But now you’re gonna see a couple of men in orange vests. And I want you to look at the second man, the one on the left because he is cracking up laughing. He is smiling ear to ear, and he is laughing. He’s the one now in the middle next to the cameraman. And he’s laughing loudly. Now, if this were really a young woman who had had something horrible happen —

FERGUSON: And they’re in emergency vests, you would assume he’d be running over to give aid —

CRUZ: — yeah. Nobody would be laughing. If this, however, were a performance, you might not be able to resist laughing. And — and his expression — you want to talk — I mean, the laughter he’s showing throughout it all. And, by the way, you notice there’s red liquid on her toe, but again, no injury on her foot, just red liquid.

FERGUSON: Yeah. My whole thing is if you’re wearing the emergency vest, wouldn’t you be running over to help and give aid instead of just staying there watching?

CRUZ: The way they are interacting it is — they are interacting as if they are watching a performance. But let’s roll forward to the — the next woman. We have this little girl.

FERGUSON: There’s her performance. She’s slapping her hands.

CRUZ: Okay, now this woman is very calm. Let’s have audio for her. Let’s go to the beginning of the older woman. Watch and listen because the audio here will play it at normal speed with audio because she’s calm. And then she begins screaming like crazy, almost as if someone says action. And then she’s calm again.

[VIDEO PLAYS]
CRUZ: Okay, so that was put out on social media. You look at it, you’re not sure what it is. There are things about it that seem kind of fake. Now, that’s you and me talking but, you know, we’re not professional journalists, we don’t say, have major TV networks behind us. Tell me what is a major TV network to do with this?

FERGUSON: If you want to run propaganda that makes you think that Israel’s the bad guys, you run with this.

CRUZ: Alright, well, let’s see what CBS did with that video.

DEBORA PATTA [on the CBS Evening News, 11/10/23]: A massive strike at the al-Shifa hospital grounds, Gaza’s largest medical facilities. Israel insists Hamas is using hospitals to coordinate attacks and hide its commanders. But sheltering at al-Shifa? Thousands of civilians. They’re one place of refuge now of blood-soaked battlegrounds. Reeling in stunned disbelief —

CRUZ: The guy with — with — with blood on his hands screaming —

PATTA [on the CBS Evening News, 11/10/23]: — this man shouts, “They bombed the hospitals.”

CRUZ: — he is there — now showing that image.

PATTA [on the CBS Evening News, 11/10/23]: Nearby —

CRUZ: Now showing the little girl screaming —

PATTA [on the CBS Evening News, 11/10/23]: — a young girl breaks down hysterically,

CRUZ: — although they quickly crop out the guy laughing.

PATTA [on the CBS Evening News, 11/10/23]: — “my mom, my father, my brother.”

CRUZ: They edit it, so you don’t get to see the guy laughing and then they show the woman screaming, but they end it before she stopped screaming. So, they took the most theatrical elements of that video. Notice how they cite it. They just cite it as social media.

FERGUSON: They don’t put the guy’s name.

CRUZ: They don’t put —

FERGUSON: They don’t say, “go look —“

CRUZ: — they don’t say —

FERGUSON: “— look at this account —“
CRUZ: — where this came from.

FERGUSON: “— if you want to see more —“

CRUZ: Yeah.

FERGUSON: “— of what’s happening in Gaza.”

CRUZ: No, no. It’s just social media. All right, so who is this guy? Ben, who is this guy?

FERGUSON: So, this guy is a guy that has been exposed by NewsBusters and I love this. He — he’s been dubbed Mr. FIFO and Mr. Pollywood —

CRUZ: That’s Palestinian and Hollywood combined —

FERGUSON: — this person’s posted propaganda videos to his Instagram account where he was where “[h]e’s pretended to be” — ready for this list — “a Hamas fighter in a music video, a radiology tech in a hospital, a foster father, a member of the press, and a rescue worker, among other roles.” So, let’s have a little fun with this.

CRUZ: Alright, well, hold up. Let’s put up the pictures,

FERGUSON: Okay. Let’s go to the pictures here cause this is —

CRUZ: So, remember the guy at the beginning was a guy with — with the blood on his hands. You can see the same guys — these are his posts, by the way. This is not hard to find.

FERGUSON: Yeah.

CRUZ: You simply search for it. So — so, let’s describe — we’ve got the one in the top left he looks like some sort of medical tech he’s feeding someone into a CAT scan machine —

FERGUSON: — or squeezing the breathing you know bubble basically to keep alive which I don’t think you’d put somebody in a CAT scan while you’re doing that that way, I’m guessing that may not happen. You — then see he’s a press guy, then he’s got oxygen. He’s a victim of something I don’t know what, then he’s dying in another video, then he’s a reporter, I think, maybe the next video, then he’s getting looks like a blood transfusion in another video then he’s a sitting up dead man in a body bag sitting up not laying down, but sitting up. That’s impressive.

CRUZ: He — he’s wrapped in a body bag and sitting up.

FERGUSON: And sitting up, literally. Then, he’s a Hamas fighter. That’s probably the most accurate one with it with a machine gun. And then he’s a member of the press. And that’s just the highlight reel from his social media.
CRUZ: So, let me ask, seriously, if you’re the head of CBS News, and you just aired this as news and you didn’t point out that the guy who filmed it is known to put out propaganda, is known to be a crisis actor, puts out pictures of himself, I mean, this is not — look, sometimes people say oh it’s a conspiracy theory to say someone’s a crisis actor, well —

FERGUSON: This man — I’m gonna read: this person “is a KNOWN Hamas-linked social media influencer and crisis actor,” yet, ABC World News Tonight, CBS Evening News, and NBC Nightly News all “treated his content as though it was a legitimate source of news from Gaza.”

CRUZ: — and Ben, there’s one of two scenarios. Either CBS, ABC, and NBC knew who he was, in which case they’re deliberately lying to the American people and saying, “let’s take a Hamas propagandist and put it on the global stage.” If they knew, the producer who put this segment together should be fired. Or the alternative is they didn’t know. If they didn’t know, it means they had a political narrative they wanted to tell. They had a political agenda, and it was too good to check. They got a video that fit their political agenda, “let’s put it on the news.” And, you know what, if they didn’t know it means they’re biased and incompetent. They ought to be fired anyway.

FERGUSON: Yeah.

CRUZ: This is when you simply repeat Hamas propaganda that is based on lies, that’s not journalism. And anyone involved with putting it out should have the consequences for being a part of lying on behalf of terrorists.

FERGUSON: A big shout out, by the way, to NewsBusters for doing this —

CRUZ: Yes!

FERGUSON: — dive, finding this intel, putting it out going, “hey, you want to see who this guy really is?”

CRUZ: And — and by the way, let’s have a real test. CBS, if there’s one principled journalist at all of CBS, do a story on who this guy is, and how CBS was complicit in spreading his lies. That won’t be easy, it will make — it will be very uncomfortable because it will make you look like crap, but if you’re actual journalists who care about the truth in any way, shape, or form, that’s what you do.

FERGUSON: Yeah.