

Dec. 13, 2009

The Editor,

The Chronicle Herald.

Dear Editor:

In your editorial :{ "Obama in Oslo: A prize and a fighter" Dec. 13}, you refer to the knock against the Nobel committee for being too early to elevate Barack Obama, and you go on to state: "If only imperfect timing were the main credibility problem associated with the prize. After all, fiends like Yasser Arafat have been co-recipients of the prize, although they were totally undeserving."

Your reference to Yasser Arafat is clearly biased and would have been more balanced if you had listed amongst the least deserving people like the well-recognised terrorist Menachem Begin, who was responsible for the bombing of King David Hotel in Jerusalem in 1946, killing 91 innocent people and the massacre of Deir Yassin in April 1948, amongst many other crimes. Furthermore, you make no mention of the equally undeserving Yitzhak Rabin, who ordered the breaking of the bones of Palestinian children for throwing stones at Israeli soldiers, and who ordered the total demolition, in June 1967, of the villages of Imwas [the biblical town of Emmaus], Yalu and Beit Nuba, my own hometown.

Is there no room for more balance and less bias in your editorials?

Yours sincerely,

Ismail Zayid, MD.