

NEW INSIGHTS INTO COMMUNICATIONS AND ARTS RESEARCH

Is this real – Was a call for peace in Gaza at recent Berlin movie festival a sign of anti-Semitism?

Corresponding Author: Ralf G Will = RGW24c

Abstract

my new article deals with the heavy-handed censorship issued and practiced by the political-cultural elite in Germany. This in the name of the near-fascist Netanyahu regime in Israel and the loser-Zelensky regime in Ukraine.

The ensuing evaluation along a) traditional media and communications theory and b) my new concept of creativity - ANTOA, is based on my German newsletter from February of 2024, entitled "Is this real? - Scharfe Kritik bei Berlinale für Israel Hass".

Besides exposing baseless insinuations by political elites regarding a made-up, exaggerated anti-Israel bias, the article furthermore refers to the equally over-the-top censorship by the EU Commission. So-called Very Large Online Platforms (VLOP) like content sharing and social networks are under the spotlight in shape of the recent Digital Services Act.

The evaluation of peace efforts in Gaza are compared to the equally thwarted dialogue between Russia and Ukraine, mainly sabotaged by same political elites who label freedom for Palestine as anti-Semitic.

In conclusion a link between media and Arts criticism and construction of social reality is established. The current threat by political elites to free speech and peace efforts is highlighted as well.

Can the analysis of social phenomena in terms of media and communications guidelines as much as based on the 5 premisses of ANTOA, of which a minimum of three points need to be applicable, lead to a free and fair social order?

Keywords: ANTOA, Art, censorship, culture, elite, EU, Israel, media, real, regime, Russia, Ukraine.

NEW INSIGHTS INTO INTO MEDIA AND CREATIVITY RESEARCH:

Are you a hater of Jews, an anti-Semite, once you call for a ceasefire in current Gaza war? New insights into media and communications as well as Arts and creativity research will debunk implications of this highly controversial query. Yet a valid and outrageous insinuation proposed by members of the political and cultural elite in Germany. Namely when dealing with the protest staged by a number of directors and actors who had participated in the grand Finale of the famous film festival, Berlinale, in February of this year. Said creators and participants in the movie industry had held up signs and placards, calling for an immediate ceasefire in the Gaza war between the near-fascist Netanjahu regime and Hamas.

Such elitist and misguided politicians were the national minister of Arts and Culture, C Roth, the local Berlin senator for Arts and Culture, J Chialo, and even the chancellor himself, O Scholz, according to a highly propagandistic news item published in the Landeszeitung from Lüneburg. All condemning the impromptu protest by creative activists as anti-semitic, hateful of Jews and utterly out of order, includes such high-profile media organs like Süddeutsche Zeitung/Southern German News, Heise online magazine Telepolis and even famous actress Iris Berben.

How can a call for peace be offensive to and ignorant of Jewish culture? Is this real, and can such outrageous and baseless statements from the political elite lead to stern measures of censorship in an allegedly free and democratic country like modern Germany?

Meanwhile 4 aspects of social and creative research come into play:

1) In terms of traditional media and communications theory, the newsworthiness of an event is decided on grounds of simplification, individual relevance or familiarity, and degree of sensationalism, highlighting conflict, war and unsurmountable social tensions.

And all 3 points valid in terms of the highly biased article that suggested the issue in Landeszeitung of Lüneburg, a regional hub south of Hamburg, the north German metropole on the river Elbe.

To call a valid social protest anti-semitic and hateful of Jewish culture is a simplification beyond reasonable comprehension.

The hatefulness of Jews has a sad, highly personalized and familiar history in Germany, dating back to World War II, started by the fascist and fully racist Nazi regime in the 1930ies and 40ies.

And sensationalism holds water because of war and conflict and seemingly irrevocable tensions ruling the current situation in Gaza and the Palestinian territories occupied by Israel.

This not due to the horrible massacre of Jewish settlers on October 7, 2023, by Hamas, with IDF members unwittingly involved in the killings as well, but as South Africa's case against Israel for Genocide has revealed before the ICJ, the highest UN court, in The Hague, Netherlands: The dehumanization and denigration of Palestinians already a given fact since Israel's 1967 6-day war!

The second aspect of social and creative research, having an impact on my assessment of the scandal, is derived from my new concept of artistic action; ANTOA. It shows that the protest by courageous film and movie activists at the recent closing ceremony of Berlinale is steeped in and can be called true Art.

If fulfills point 1 and 2 of ANTOA, namely personal commitment and social context, contained in the work of Art, here a political-social and highly charged protest. Furthermore point 5, value and symbol, is satisfied as well, due to fact that the message of the protests elevates creativity on a new height of symbolic expression and meaning. As a minimum of 3 points of the 5-pointer ANTOA concept need to be fulfilled to speak of true and relevant and sincere Art, the recent Berlinale protests, however controversial and invalidated by baseless statements from members of Germany's elites, fulfill conditions of sincere Arts activism.

Thirdly, a heavy element of censorship plays a role as well, and is underlined by the recent coming into effect of the Digital Services Act, an instrument of oppression issued by the EU Commission under leadership of highly controversial Ursula vd Leyen.

She is another member of above elitist circles who run free speech into the ground and support totalitarian regimes such as those in Israel and Ukraine.

This new law, in short DSA, forces so-called Very Large Online Platforms (VLOP) such as social or content sharing networks, to cut off free speech that aims at criticizing Covid-19 strategies or the war in Ukraine or even any EU country, let alone questioning climate change.

Now termed disinformation or hate speech, such posts and comments can easily be deleted, no matter if legal or illegal, constitutional or unconstitutional. The EU commission may even decide in advance who could voice such criticism, and then force the platform moderator to block their accounts. This highly unfair law came into effect last month and is already cutting a broad swathe of destruction through platforms, networks or online business models such as booking.com or amazon web services, not to mention facebook, twitter/x, pinterest, instagram etc, etc. This by threatening the VLOPs in eye of the storm with incisive monetary fines in terms of non-compliance.

And most of all, the law needs no national government department or civil society organisation or regulatory body to be set up. Instead, opinions and comments by self-worshipping EU commissioners are enough to start criminal proceedings.

Is this real, can it be possible that such infamous and unfounded and totalitarian censorship has become law in the economically powerful and rather influential, yet intellectually lacking Union of European States (EU)? Playing into the twisted hands of local elites who denigrate a valid and creative political protest into alleged acts of hatred of Jews and anti-Semitism.

While the fourth aspect of my research, as stated in above quoted newsletter in German, entitled „Is this real? – Scharfe Kritik bei Berlinale für Israel Hass“, delves into the Ukraine-Russia war.

Where, as much as at the recent culmination of the Berlin movie festival, those who call for peace are heavily censored, banned from online networks and labelled „evil friends of Russia“.

Is this real? Even the head of the catholic church, Pope Francis, was called a traitor and hater of Ukraine and EU policies when he called for peace in the contested Donetsk and Luhansk region in eastern Ukraine.

Again, a highly dramatic event of deep-seated conflict made media headlines by serving a negatively charged sensationalism that simplifies and ignores complex cultural origins.

And that for all the wrong reasons, blaming those who want peace instead of war as „Putin sympathisers“. Laming and deleting their social media posts in reach of the biased and war-mongering EU Commission.

Meanwhile most ammunitions delivered to the Zelensky regime in Kyiv are faulty, in poor conditions and badly maintained, while those coming from Germany are a direct left-over from the days of controversial Ursula vd Leyen at the helm of the German ministry of defence, and that for 7 years!

Meanwhile anyone criticizing these facts, listing the hopeless Zelensky regime in the category of losers, and therefore eagerly wishing to see an end to such defeatist action by engaging in dialogue with Russia, is seen as traitor, enemy, propagator of hate speech and „evil Putin sympathiser“. Is this real?

In conclusion it can be said:

We can best appreciate media and communications theories, however conservative and belonging to a bygone mechanical epoch of newspaper, tv and radio production, in a certain, yet often universal social context!

This also counts for its certified and valid role as builder and constructor of social action, underlined by our desire for peace, freedom and expressing uncensored, free and creative opinions.

So does valid, relevant and sincere creative activity. It is based on the premisses of free speech and daring symbolism, challenging the status quo or conflict-laden reality. By stating a definite social consciousness bias. And it should do so, among other ways and means, via political, social or environmental protest, and without fear of repression.

Even though Art reflects on social consciousness or the specific environment we find ourselves in, it is also a builder and guardian of society! It can do this through relevant political protest. Or in controversial shows or by stating new scientific reasoning. No free social order can survive without fair intellectual reflection, free speech and a vibrant Arts and Culture scene.

Yet today, in the light of above horrible attempts at censoring and deleting public opinion or creative protest, or calling efforts of establishing peace in times of barbaric war treason and anti-Semitism, our social and cultural survival is threatened! By the same elitist group that says it works in our interest, but twists the truth, deletes our online network accounts and denigrates our free and independent standing, our colourful inventions and sincere evaluation of retroactive, manipulated and retarded reality.

Interestingly enough, the link to elitist activity in so-called elite nations also solidifies the newsworthy aspect of an event, thereby underlining the status quo. And this in direct contrast to freedom or free speech, as can be seen in Germany, Israel or Ukraine now.

Do inspiring and helpful Arts and Culture concepts like ANTOA, together with communications and media science, indeed reveal and highlight a bright and hopeful future?

References:

- [1] . Assoc Prof Dr Stephan Sander-Fae, tkp Blog: "The ugly face of the EU – DSA is law from today", 25-8-23.
- [2] . Berliner Zeitung: "Berlinale Juror Thomas Heise zu Joe Chialos Aussagen..../Berlin movie festival judge, Thomas Heise, speaks out against Joe Chialo", 3-3-24.
- [3] . Berliner Zeitung: "Entwurf zu Friedensvertrag zwischen Russland und Ukraine durchgesickert/Proposed peace deal between Russia and Ukraine released", 6-3-24.
- [4] . Email conversations between myself and Christian Mann, Feb/March - 2024.
- [5] . Landeszeitung: "Scharfe Kritik für Israel Hass/Strong criticism of Israel hatred", 27-2-24.
- [6] . My Email Newsletter: "Is this real? - Scharfe Kritik bei Berlinale für Israel Hass/Strong criticism of Israel hatred at Berlin movie festival – Berlinale" 29-2-24.
- [7] . RG Will, Journal of Advance Research in Education and Literature: "A concise outline of ANTOA", May - 2023.
- [8] . Siegfried J Schmidt, Guido Zurstiege, rowohlt enzyklopädie: "The science of communications", 12-2007.
- [9] . Statement by Minister of Justice, R Lamola, at ICJ: "South Africa committed to rule of just law", 12-1-24.
www.vaticannews.va : "Pope asks for courage to negotiate for Ukraine", 9-3-24.