

How ABC reporter Sophie McNeill betrayed the people of Palestine and Syria

By Hands Off Syria, 2022

Notwithstanding the fact that many extreme zionists were upset by ABC reporter Sophie McNeill's 'acceptable' liberal criticism of Israeli crimes, she betrayed the people of Palestine and Syria by constantly repeating Washington's talking points on its dirty war on Syria and on the Palestinian resistance. Some examples from Twitter illustrate this.

Sophie's new position at Human Rights Watch is telling. Although HRW and Amnesty have recently added to the many reports which accuse Israel of the crime of apartheid, the Washington based group has always been attached to the liberal side of US foreign policy, justifying or spinning each new war.

The role of HRW (funded by Soros and U.S. foundations) in 'human rights imperialism' should be critically studied. Here are a few relevant reports:

<https://www.counterpunch.org/2013/03/14/the-bias-of-human-rights-watch/>

<https://nacla.org/news/2014/2/4/hypocrisy-human-rights-watch>

<https://www.jacobinmag.com/2014/06/human-rights-watches-revolving-door/>

<https://criticallegalthinking.com/2013/03/21/the-bias-of-human-rights-watch/>

<https://www.thenation.com/article/archive/is-human-rights-watch-too-closely-aligned-with-us-foreign-policy/>

https://www.ngo-monitor.org/ngos/human_rights_watch_hr_w/

Even Ali Abunimah (Director of Electronic Intifadah.Net), who remained silent on Syria in the first few years of that war, was shocked by Sophie McNeill's attacks on Syria. Referring to the title of her book 'We Can't Say We Didn't Know', Ali Abunimah asked: "What are you saying we don't know? What exactly are you proposing? An Australian invasion of Syria?"



In that tweet, Sophie was helping promote the ‘Omran’ hoax, where an injured little boy in Aleppo (Omran Daqneesh) was said to have been a victim of the Syrian Army.

In fact that photo - made iconic by the western corporate media - was taken by Mahmoud Rslan, a member of the al Zinki ‘jihadists’. As Omran’s family later disclosed, the photo was a stunt by these anti-Syrian Islamists.

Worse, Al Zinki had just filmed and proudly published their beheading of the little Palestinian boy Abdallah Issa. The US backed gang thought that little Abdallah was helping Syrian aligned Palestinian forces, in Aleppo.

Abdallah on the left, Omran on the right. Full story here:

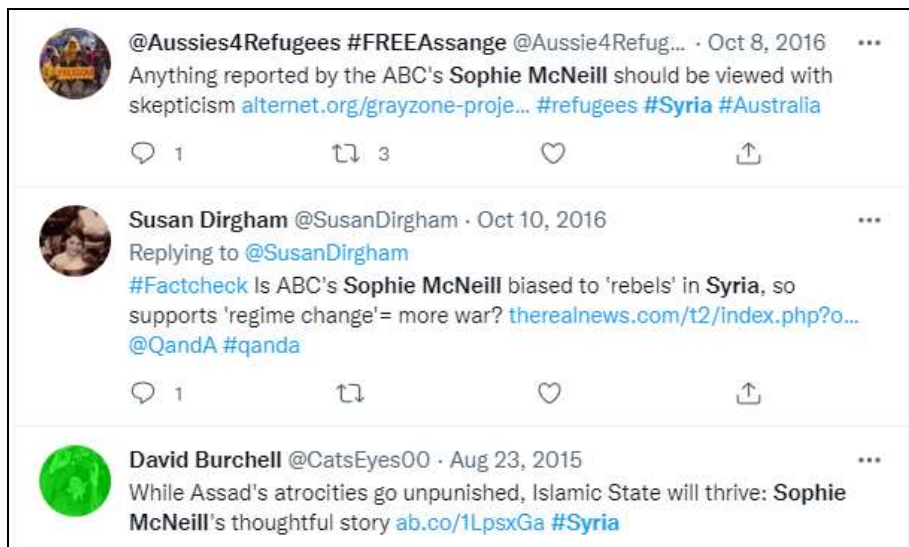
<https://english.khamenei.ir/news/4118/Beheaders-of-Palestinian-boy-shed-tears-for-injured-Syrian-child>



From at least 2015 onwards, Sophie McNeill repeated all the WMD ‘chemical weapons’ false flags from Syria, set up by NATO and its ‘jihadist’ alQaeda gangs. With shocking bad judgement or simple cynicism, she repeated Washington’s calls to ‘Save Aleppo’ and ‘Save Ghouta’ – in attempts to prevent the al Qaeda held parts of Syria being liberated by the Syrian Army.



Sophie's deep anti-Syrian bias was evident early on.



The screenshot shows three tweets:

- @Aussies4Refugees #FREEAssange @Aussie4Refug...** - Oct 8, 2016. Text: "Anything reported by the ABC's **Sophie McNeill** should be viewed with skepticism alternet.org/grayzone-proje... #refugees #Syria #Australia".
- Susan Dirgham @SusanDirgham** - Oct 10, 2016. Replying to @SusanDirgham. Text: "#Factcheck Is ABC's **Sophie McNeill** biased to 'rebels' in Syria, so supports 'regime change' = more war? therealnews.com/t2/index.php?o... @QandA #qanda".
- David Burchell @CatsEyes00** - Aug 23, 2015. Text: "While Assad's atrocities go unpunished, Islamic State will thrive: **Sophie McNeill's** thoughtful story ab.co/1LpsxGa #Syria".

She re-broadcast every lurid bit of U.S. propaganda against Syria.



The screenshot shows a tweet from **Scotty-More-Bucks @buk10m** dated Apr 8, 2018. It retweets **Sophie McNeill (@Sophiemcneill)**. The text reads: "GRAPHIC Men, women, little children, babies. Dead with foam coming out of their mouths... once more #Syria has shown us the worst of humanity #wecantsaywedidntknow #Douma". Below the text is a video thumbnail showing a chaotic scene with the word "دوما" (Duma) in red Arabic script in the top left corner.



The screenshot shows a tweet from **r.buchli @rubu481** dated Feb 24, 2018. The text reads: ".@PatinkinMandy East #Ghouta in #Syria 'is the worst place in the World to be a parent...powerless to protect your kid' via **Sophie McNeill** JOIN OUR CALL to #SaveGhouta". Below the text is a photo of a man with a beard and a child with a bandaged head.

This led to a storm of criticism from Syrians and Australians who opposed the Obama regime's dirty war on Syria. Yet Sophie ("committed to the jihadist cause") was protected by the ABC and by the fact that she was making 'acceptable' liberal criticisms of the extreme crimes of Apartheid Israel. She was compared to U.S. paid propagandists.





Sophie's anti-Syrian propaganda for the ABC was compared to that of CNN, reporting the false flag chemical attack at Khan Shaykhoun, which residents later said had been carried out by the Al Qaeda groups themselves.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uz7aHXyoqaE>



Independent journalist Vanessa Beeley deplored and dissected Sophie McNeill's war propaganda, from inside Syria.



Perhaps trying to balance her ABC role, and allegations she was too soft on Palestinians, Sophie also attacked the Palestinian resistance in Gaza, without giving their side.



Australian Syria watcher Susan Dirgham made repeated criticisms of Sophie's shallow (but Washington friendly) distortions over Syria.



In 2019 Sophie McNeil again attracted critical attention for buying into the Hong Kong 'colour revolution', aimed at demonising China. She made a gratuitous attack on Hedley Thomas, one of the few critical journalists on events in Hong Kong. Julien Benda suggests that may have clinched her new position at HRW.



Pixie Palestine and Gail Malone agreed that Sophie's anti-Syrian and anti-China credentials must have helped her get the Human Rights Watch position. For many years Washington aligned HRW boss Ken Roth posted fake news on Syria. Examples here: <https://counter-hegemonic-studies.site/humanitarian-war-rp-1-18/>



It would be an insult and an affront to the Syrian and Palestinian resistance – struggling together for decades against zionist and imperialist aggression - to give **Sophie McNeil** or the Washington liberal elite group **Human Rights Watch** a platform at any forum defending Palestinian rights.

What is so wrong with inviting a Palestinian or Syrian resistance person?