

Summary of Israel Channel 10 TV Documentary on “Breaking the Silence”

July 2016



- On July 12, 2016, *HaMakor* (“the Source”, Israel Channel 10 TV) aired an investigative report on Breaking the Silence (BtS).
- The crew spent 6 months filming BtS, with their agreement, and documented the group’s unverifiable testimonies, political campaigns, and the foreign government funding that enables this small group to promote their agenda worldwide.
- Many of the points highlighted in the program were based on or reflected NGO Monitor research.



Checking Accuracy of BTS “Testimonies”

בדיקה מדגמית של 10 עדויות

2 עדויות
תיאור מוגזם

2 עדויות
אומתו

2 עדויות
לא נכונות

4 עדויות
לא ניתן לאמת
או להפריך

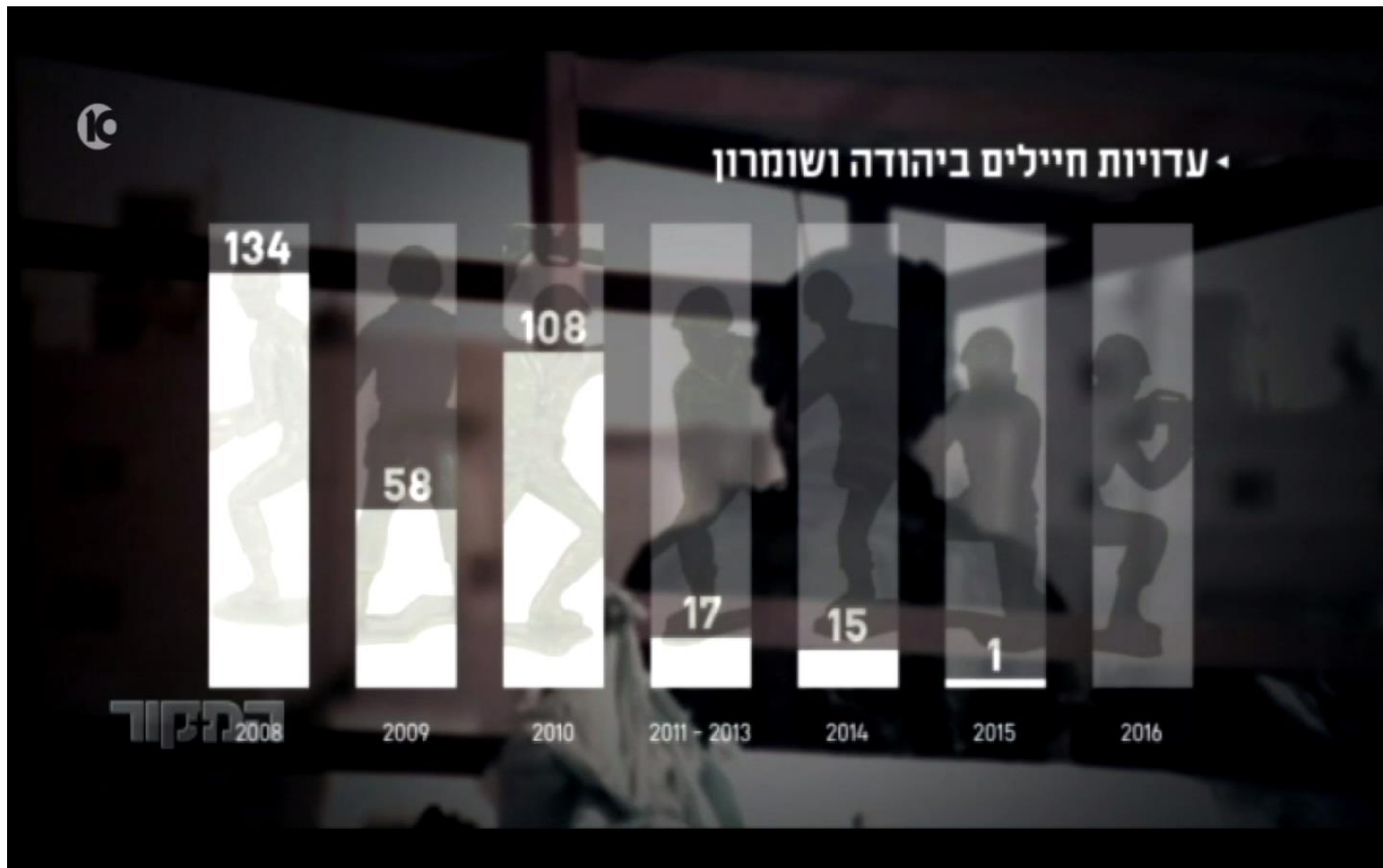
המקור

01:00:30/01:10:15

Checking Accuracy of BTS “Testimonies”

- A noted by [CAMERA](#) and [My Truth](#), HaMakor randomly selected ten BtS testimonies. Two were completely false, two were partially true, missing substantive details or had exaggerated or misleading titles, and four could not be verified. Only two were found to be accurate.
- The reporters also found that, contrary to BtS claims that they “verify each testimony with two sources,” several testimonies lack any evidence of independent verification.

BTS “Testimonies” Decline to Zero



BTS “Testimonies” Decline to Zero

- HaMakor reveals that BtS has collected almost no new testimonies in the West Bank since 2011.
- “Breaking the Silence testimonies are old and somewhat anachronistic. Contrary to what they say, they don’t have many testimonies from recent years, especially from the territories [the West Bank/Judea and Samaria].”

International Campaigns



40% =



~~10%~~
פעילות בחו"ל
המקור

על פי נתוני שוברי שתיקה 2013-2015

International Campaigns

- Breaking the Silence claims that 90% of its activities are directed at Israeli audiences. HaMakor estimates that 40% of the NGO's activity is targeted at foreign audiences; NGO Monitor's estimate is higher.
- NGO Monitor has documented more than 80 international lectures, exhibitions, and events held by BtS in 2012-2015.

On foreign funding (13:25)



זיו מעברי

חראשוני הפעילים ב"שוברים שתיקה"

כשאתה מדבר בחו"ל, מגיע עם זה כסף. לא היה לנו כסף לאוטובוס לתל אביב... הייתה תלות בין היציאה לחו"ל לבין התקציב של ה... אני מניח שמה שעמד לפניהם זה שגם עם יותר כסף יהיה אפשר לעשות יותר השפעה. שם אני כבר הרגשתי שזה פחות רלוונטי עבורי. כל זה בפני עצמו היה "דיל ברייקר" מבחינתי.

הפנייה לחו"ל
מונעת מאידיאולוגיה,

המקור

On foreign funding (13:25)

- BtS founder Ziv Maavari: “When you speak abroad, the money comes with it... There was a dependency between going abroad and the budget ... I guess what stood before their eyes was that with more money they could create a larger effect... That was a deal breaker for me.”

On foreign funding 2004-2015



On foreign funding (14:05)

- According to Channel 10, in 2010, after the BtS campaign on “Operation Cast Lead” in Gaza (December 2008-January 2009), they gained significant publicity. Donations (mainly from European governments) that year reached NIS 3 million. In 2015 (following another war in Gaza), contributions reached nearly NIS 5 million.

Influencing Foreign Officials and Public Opinion Elites (10:45)



Influencing Foreign Officials and Public Opinion Elites (10:45)

- HaMakor filmed an EU Parliament delegation touring the south Hebron hills with BtS, including Irish MEP Martina Anderson from the radical GEU/ NGL group.
- Anderson, a supporter of the BDS campaign, said in May 2016 that “Israelis are like a rash.”
- In May 2015, a BtS activist spoke at a GEU/NGL event in the EU Parliament, demonstrating close cooperation.

BtS: 10 to 15 activists -- total

- As shown by Channel 10, BtS consists of 10 to 15 activists at most. The organization has failed to expand or develop significant influence in Israeli society.



Aggressive PR Focus (14:05)



Aggressive PR Focus (14:05)

- The Channel 10 video and interviews show the major emphasis that BtS places on public relations and marketing, in order to raise additional funds and to promote its political agenda.

At the end of the documentary and in comments that followed, journalists Baruch Kra and Raviv Drucker stated:

- **“Although I think that this NGO is justified...they act like a sensational newspaper, don’t investigate until the end, the title is too extreme... and I was disappointed to see that they don’t have standards to check the testimonies..”**
- **“In the beginning I really identified with what I heard from the organization...but at some point they lost their way, they just became a regular leftist NGO...”**

For additional analysis, see:

Matan Katzman, “Breaking the Silence’s Myths Busted”,

<http://blogs.timesofisrael.com/breaking-the-silences-myths-busted/>

Gidon Shaviv, “Breaking the Silence Gets Failing Grade in Channel 10's F

http://www.camera.org/index.asp?x_context=3&x_outlet=300&x_article=



NGO MONITOR

Making NGOs Accountable