

PCC rejects cartoon complaint from Israeli Embassy and Ariel Sharon

Adjudicating on a complaint made by solicitors Mishcon de Reya on behalf of the Israeli Embassy and Ariel Sharon, the PCC has ruled that a cartoon in The Independent which depicted Mr Sharon eating a baby did not breach the Code's tough discrimination clause. The complainants had argued that the cartoon alluded to the blood libel - the ancient myth that held that Jewish people drank the blood of Christian children - and as such was anti-Semitic. But the Commission said that it accepted the newspaper's explanation for the cartoon, which was published days after an attack on Gaza City and just before the Israeli general election. The newspaper told the Commission that the cartoon was a satirical comment on what it saw as Mr Sharon's macabre electioneering and that it had drawn a parallel between this and the depiction of Saturn devouring one of his children in the well known Goya painting. The Commission also had regard to the fact that there was no reference at all to Mr Sharon's religion in the cartoon.

To read the adjudication in full, [click here](#).

ENDS

For more information contact Stephen Abell on 020 7353 1248 (o) or 07980 264359 (mob).

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