

The Blood Libel Returns: Denying Hamas' Sexual Crimes

The Lie:

- “There is not a single shred of evidence of even one rape on October 7.” — **Norman Finkelstein**, on *The Candace Owens Show*, November 1, 2025

The Truth:

- Every credible investigation — including the United Nations, New York Times, NBC News, Israel's Ministry of Health, and UN Watch — confirms that Hamas and Islamic Jihad used rape, sexual torture, and sexual humiliation as weapons of war.
- First-person testimonies, security footage, and GoPro videos recorded by Hamas terrorists further prove these crimes occurred both on October 7 and during the two years of captivity in Gaza.

Background:

- In November 2025, **Norman Finkelstein** appeared on *The Candace Owens Show*. Finkelstein, an American academic known for his severe anti-Israel and antisemitic rhetoric, told Owens there was “no medical, forensic, or photographic evidence” of rape on October 7.
- **Candace Owens**, a well-known political influencer notorious for antisemitic and anti-Israel commentary, agreed and called Israeli reports “propaganda.” Their viral exchange denied well-documented atrocities.

Truth Explained:

- **Rom Braslavski's testimony** shatters the deniers' claims. The 25-year-old was kidnapped from the **Nova music festival on October 7** and held for **738 days** by **Palestinian Islamic Jihad** in Gaza. In his first interview since his release, he revealed that his captors **stripped him naked, tied him up, and sexually humiliated him**. His account confirms that sexual torture was used deliberately to degrade and dehumanize Israeli hostages. ([Ynet, Nov 5 2025](#))
- **Amit Soussana**, an Israeli lawyer kidnapped on October 7, was freed after 55 days in Gaza. She told *The New York Times* she was **beaten, sexually assaulted, and forced at gunpoint to commit sexual acts on her captor**. She returned to Israel with **fractures in her eye socket, cheek, knee, and nose**. Her testimony is one of several verified by investigators and trauma specialists documenting **systematic sexual violence in captivity**. ([NYT, Mar 26 2024](#))
- The **UN Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Pramila Patten**, found “*clear and convincing information*” that **hostages were raped and sexually abused**, and “*reasonable grounds to believe*” that **multiple rapes and gang rapes** occurred on October 7. Her team reviewed **5,000 photos, 50 hours of video**, and conducted **34 confidential interviews**. ([NBC News, Mar 5 2024](#))
- The **Israeli Ministry of Health** documented **rape, sexualized torture, starvation, and abuse** of men, women, and children held in Gaza. ([Israel MOH, Dec 23 2024](#))
- **UN Watch's** report to the **UN Human Rights Council** recorded Hamas's use of **rape, genital mutilation, and sexualized torture**, based on survivor and eyewitness testimony — including **male survivors** raped by Hamas terrorists. ([UN Doc A/HRC/58/NGO/223](#))
- The legal report “*Screams Before Silence*” found that Hamas's sexual violence met the legal definition of **crimes against humanity**. ([FES Israel, Nov 2024](#))
- The **Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD)** documented hostages who were **beaten, branded, and sexually assaulted**, including teenagers forced to perform sexual acts on each other. ([FDD, Dec 30 2024](#))
- The **Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs** confirmed Hamas has been placed on the **UN “blacklist” for sexual crimes in conflict**, with **sexual abuse of hostages ongoing**. ([MFA, Aug 14 2024](#))
- **Deputy Head of Mission Rotem Segev** condemned the constant denial of these crimes, writing that ignoring these crimes “murders the women a second time.” ([MFA, June 21 2024](#))

Quotes:

- “It was the most horrific thing. It's something even the Nazis didn't do.” — **Rom Braslavski**, former hostage ([Ynet, Nov 5 2025](#))
- “There are reasonable grounds to believe that conflict-related sexual violence occurred at several locations.” — **Pramila Patten**, UN Special Representative ([NBC News, Mar 5 2024](#))
- “Until there is universal condemnation of the sexual violence directed at Israeli women, no woman is safe.” — **Rotem Segev**, Israeli diplomat ([MFA, June 21 2024](#))

Takeaway:

Norman Finkelstein and Candace Owens twisted the documented rape and torture of Israeli men and women into a cynical conspiracy. Their denial of Hamas's sexual crimes is not “analysis” — it's a blood libel reborn for the digital age. Denial is complicity in the horrors of October 7th.

Sources:

[AEI, Mar 15 2024](#) • [Ynet, Nov 5 2025](#) • [New York Times, Mar 26 2024](#) • [NBC News, Mar 5 2024](#) • [UN Doc A/HRC/58/NGO/223](#) • [Israel MOH, Dec 23 2024](#) • [FES Israel, Nov 2024](#) • [FDD, Dec 30 2024](#) • [MFA, Aug 14 2024](#) • [MFA, June 21 2024](#)