

## SOME GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

Although Canada did not support the United States' invasion of Iraq, during the period of this review there was a perception in many articles that Canada endorses United States' policies on "The War Against Terrorism." Almost all sources were very sensitive to news about Canadian terrorist suspects. Even in a same bilingual or trilingual source, criticism of Canadian policies was more pronounced in the Arabic editorials than those in English. All countries covered Canadian sporting news such as soccer, auto racing, and athletic events, though none mentioned Canadian hockey or football.

One common trend found in sources located in Southeast Asia ( Indonesia, Malaysia, The Philippines, Singapore and Brunei) was a criticism of Canada's role within international organizations, such as the WTO and, to a lesser extent, the Commonwealth. It is interesting to note that the majority of references to Canada in Southeast Asian news were "embedded" comments related to Canada's foreign policy, SARS, mad cow disease, ASEAN, sports, international crime, Muslims in North America, terrorism, and security.

Canadian news coverage followed this similar pattern in Indian and Pakistani sources. However, the Pakistani papers devoted more coverage to Canadian news related to terrorist suspects in North America. India focussed more on Canadian news related to the Indian community in Canada, joint ventures involving Canadian business in India, and Canada's bilateral relationship with Pakistan.

The major Muslim web-sites and Arabic news outlets covered Canada through general articles on the relationship between the West and the Islamic World and on human rights issues. There were reports of Canada's applying a double standard in foreign and domestic policies affecting Arab and Muslim communities in Canada.

Some country-specific trends were identified. For instance, Bruneian papers, like their Singaporean counterparts, focussed a lot of attention on Canadian sporting news such as the performance of the Canadian Women's Soccer Team and the Canadian Grand Prix. Philippine papers covered a broad range of topics such as immigration to Canada, Canadian foreign policy and international trade, terrorism and security, and Canadian joint ventures in the Philippines. Indonesian papers covered mainly Canadian news related to international trade and the global economy, terrorism and security, and the relationship between the West and Muslim communities around the world. As for the Malaysian sources, they provided Canadian news related to SARS, Canada's foreign policy, sports and entertainment.

Indian sources covering Canadian news focussed on terrorism and security, business ventures and bilateral relations with Canada. Meanwhile, Pakistani sources were the only news outlets in the region to report on the Canadian Forces in Afghanistan. Even extra curricular activities of Canadian forces in Afghanistan were favourably reported in Pakistani newspapers.