

-- despite this great Israeli intelligence. And they will say this now. They didn't understand the depth of hatred and bitterness that the Southern Shi'ites felt against them. They thought it was the extremists. On the ground, we were kept out. The Israelis would not let us into South Lebanon. Either from the north through Beirut or the south across their border. Somehow we got in through the help of one little UN guy, terrific guy. And there were no news agencies, but again we had to be a witness of what was happening.

And there would be shopkeepers, not masked people who didn't want to tell you their name, who would say, my name is so and so and I wish I had a daughter who would give her life as a suicide bomber to kill the Israelis. This was not some militant extremist, it sent chills down me. But I began to understand, by being a witness, some of the ferocity of opposition that Israel was experiencing.

Witness. What did we see with the Gulf coverage. Were reporters being reporters? Were they being witnesses in any sense. They couldn't be. They tried, and we saw what happened to Bob Simon when they tried. But what worries me is that core of reporting, reporters being witnesses, is getting lost. You have reporters, they look like they are reporters, they've got their microphone, the backdrop is there, the presence. And they are asked questions, what is happening, by the anchors. But they don't know, they have been in a hotel room, what do they know? They have been in a news conference, what do they know? They were embarrassed and I don't know about you as a viewer, I too was embarrassed. When the public starts seeing reporters with their microphones and says, "they aren't being witnesses," they're not telling me something that they have known and they saw and they touched. They are standing there and they are telling me that the hostages have been released, on that Saturday. And they don't know it.

What happens is an important link between truth, and what is happening, and the viewer, gets snipped. And I don't mean that that's all there is. In addition to that little reporter-witness aspect, you need to build with analysis, you need to build with amplification, you need experts, you need different opinions. But that core, that link with reality to me is absolutely sacrosanct in terms of the trust. And when I heard the question this morning asked: "do we really possibly need to send correspondents into the field?" What that was