

Digital Media's treatment of the crisis in Algerian relations with the sahel countries.

An analytical study of Al. Jazeera Net site.

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Abstract:

The present study aims to explore how the media has addressed the crisis in Algerian relations with the Sahel countries and its political and security developments at the regional and international levels. This study was conducted through Arab digital media (Aljazeera.net). The objective of this study was to ascertain the extent of public interest in the downing of the military drone crisis, its repercussions, and international reactions to it. To address this topic, a descriptive and analytical survey approach was employed. A thorough analysis of the media coverage of the crisis reveals Aljazeera . net's propensity to provide thorough and comprehensive information, detailing the intricacies of the present situation. The study concluded that the site employed various media formats, including news and reports, to enrich the topic of the crisis and follow its developments step by step. The study further concluded that the site relied on various political, military, and academic figures to address its details.

Keywords: Media coverage, Digital Media, Crisis, Relations, Sahel countries, Al Jazeera Website.

I. INTRODUCTION

Contemporary technologies in the domain of media and communication have precipitated profound transformations in the exchange of information and news within the digital sphere. It is indisputable that the rapid advancements in communication technologies have engendered revolutionary changes in society, exerting a profound influence on all facets of life, ranging from personal relationships to the functioning of institutions and the dissemination of knowledge. This transformation has been characterized by an increase in the speed and ease of access to information, with the disappearance of geographical boundaries in the field of communications."[1],The advent of modern technologies, particularly new media, has profoundly accelerated the dissemination of information and news via the Internet. This digital revolution, propelled by advancements in communications and internet technologies, has accelerated the speed and breadth of information dissemination, resulting in a substantial surge in information and data, often characterized as an "explosion." Concurrent with these developments have been substantial shifts in the methods by which information is created, accessed, and disseminated, resulting in the instantaneous global dissemination of news. [2] With regard to the significance of news and information in the context of societal well-being, Lippmann's assertion is noteworthy: "The vitality of a society is contingent upon the caliber of the information it acquires." He further elaborates that the provision of news is not confined to mere information dissemination; rather, it contributes to the enhancement of humanity. The fundamental purpose of news, as he asserts, is to empower humanity to thrive in the future. [3] Therefore, the role of the media as an effective tool for mobilizing public opinion and shaping discourse is of significant importance. This influence of the media may contribute to the escalation of conflict or, conversely, to the promotion of understanding and reconciliation. As a consequence of these characteristics, the digital space has undergone a transformation from a medium for the exchange of information to a medium for the shaping and direction of public opinion. This phenomenon has engendered substantial challenges for the media sector, imperiling prevailing business models and compelling rapid adaptation. [5]. A considerable number of nations have demonstrated a keen interest in leveraging the digital realm to promote their national agendas, including political, economic, social, cultural, security, and military interests. From this standpoint, a multitude of regional and international issues have been raised in this space, and a plethora of analyses, discussions, and dialogues have been published about them. "In the face of crises, accurate and comprehensive news coverage is of paramount importance to inform the public and enable informed decision-making. Consequently, it is imperative to examine how the media portrays crises, as this can substantially influence the public's perception and responses [6]. In the contemporary digital landscape, characterized by rapid transformation, numerous crises have emerged, occupying a substantial presence within the digital domain, particularly within electronic media. This electronic media has garnered significant credibility among digital users and the general public. In the context of the African continent, the digital realm has emerged as a significant platform for the presentation, discussion, and management of various crises that are taking place therein. Nevertheless, foreign news outlets have been accused of an excessive focus on negative African news narratives, including conflicts, poverty, and diseases, while neglecting to report on positive developments and diverse viewpoints. This distorted portrayal, which has been termed the "bad news syndrome" or "crisis-driven narrative," has the potential to reinforce stereotypes and impede understanding. [7], The crisis in Algerian relations with some Sahel countries (Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso) has become a rich topic with diverse viewpoints across news websites, including Al Jazeera Net, known for its interest in African issues. The website has meticulously documented the developments of this

crisis, particularly following the downing of the drone that violated Algerian airspace. The objective of this study is to address the following central question:

How did Al Jazeera Net address the crisis in Algerian relations with the Sahel countries?

II. PREVIOUS STUDIES:

1/A study by Madi Nabil , Khadidja Hadeff ,(2024): sought to monitor and analyse how digital media deals with current issues and crises across the world. The researchers focused on the frameworks of media treatment of the conflict in the African Sahel region, especially with regard to the coup in Niger, relying on the descriptive and analytical survey method of a sample of various media materials related to the removal of President Mohamed Bazoum. The study's findings indicated that the Al Jazeera website exhibited a neutral stance in its coverage of the crisis.

2/A Study by Madi Nabil, , (2023): The objective of the study was to monitor and analyse how digital media dealt with current issues. The focus of the study was the media coverage of the Russian-Ukrainian war, specifically the Wagner crisis, via Al Jazeera.net. The media survey method was utilised, incorporating both descriptive and analytical aspects. The results of the study concluded that the direction of coverage was neutral to the topic of the crisis.

3/ A study by Manel Redaoui (2024), the researcher sought to monitor and analyse the manner in which the media addressed contemporary issues. The focal point of the study pertained to the media's coverage of the repercussions of the Al-Aqsa Flood events, as observed on the Al Jazeera News Channel, specifically within a selection of episodes from the Gaza What Next program.

4/A Study of (Rabah chibani & Nabil Madi, 2025): This study aimed to reveal how the Al Jazeera website covered the fall of the Bashar al-Assad regime in Syria. It also aimed to determine the direction of the website's coverage of the event in light of increasing global tensions, especially in the Middle East.

III. RESEARCH QUESTIONS:

- ❖ which Al Jazeera.net is interested in the issue of the crisis in Algerian relations with the African Sahel countries, in the context of the current global political and military tensions?
- ❖ what are the most significant sources that Al Jazeera.net relied on to gather information and news related to the crisis in Algerian relations with the African Sahel countries?
- ❖ what are the most significant journalistic formats employed by Al Jazeera.net in order to address the crisis in Algerian relations with the African Sahel countries?
- ❖ What was Al Jazeera. net's position and approach on the crisis in Algerian relations with the African Sahel countries, and its regional and international repercussions?
- ❖ The following essay will explore the reasons that led to the crisis in the region, as outlined by Al Jazeera.net.

IV. METHODOLOGY:

****This study is considered to be a descriptive analytical study, which, in its general context, relies on the uncovering of the truth and the arriving at of logical conclusions (Marwan, 2000, p. 40). The most appropriate method for such studies is the descriptive survey method, which is compatible with their nature and objectives (Saber, Khafaja, 2002, p. 89).**

****The present study will analyse the information and articles available on Al Jazeera's website, which address the deteriorating Algerian relations with the Sahel countries of Africa (Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso) and the repercussions of these relations on the future**

of the region, given the entry of international parties with political, military, and economic ambitions. The most appropriate tool for this purpose is content analysis of electronic content, using both quantitative and qualitative methods. Content analysis is defined as "a direct technique applied to written, audio, audiovisual, or digital material issued by individuals or groups, or covering various topics..." (Smith, 2019). (Maurice Angers, 2006, p. 218). The researcher selected 94 articles related to the crisis over the course of a full month, from 31 March 2025 to 30 April 2025.

V. RESULTS:

Following a comprehensive analysis of the crisis in Algerian relations with the Sahel countries on Al Jazeera's website over a period of one month, from 31 March 2025 to 30 April 2025, and based on the problem defined in the study and the research questions included, the following results were obtained:

- ❖ It is evident that the subjects of the media material that Al Jazeera's website addressed in the crisis of Algerian relations with the Sahel countries during the initial week, from the end of March to the beginning of April, accounted for 47.87% of the content. This is attributable to the website's heightened engagement with the crisis, particularly with regard to the incident in which an Algerian military drone was downed by the Algerian army.
- ❖ In relation to the classification of journalistic genres, the following observations can be made: Given the daily publication of news and events on the Al Jazeera website, the press report was ranked first with 46.80%, followed by the news with 32.97%. This enables the editor to cover all aspects of the topic in a broad way, highlighting its personality in detailing the content. The Al Jazeera website primarily utilised its own internal resources in order to provide information.
- ❖ The majority of the news and reports received were signed by Al Jazeera journalists operating in conflict zones worldwide, ranging from correspondents to envoys. The first-place ranking was achieved by correspondents, accounting for 28.72% of the content.
- ❖ The findings of the study indicated that the majority of the reports and news items were neutral, constituting 75.53% of the study's subjects.
- ❖ At the subject category level, the category of parties to the conflict was the most prevalent, accounting for 27.65% of the total.
- ❖ In order to comprehend the underlying causes of the crisis in Algerian relations with the Sahel countries (Mali, Niger, and Burkina Faso), it is essential to examine Al Jazeera's online news website, which specialises in the aggregation of news and information concerning the current situation in the region. The website also disseminates statements issued by the Algerian authorities and the aforementioned trio, reflecting the escalating tensions surrounding the downing of a military drone in Algerian airspace.
- ❖ The Al Jazeera news website concentrated on the parties to the crisis, presenting all the details surrounding it, with an emphasis on all parties involved in the conflict, particularly with regard to military and political statements.

VI. DISCUSSION:**Table (01): Shows the location of the media material on the crisis topic.**

Rank	Week	Date	Repts	Per (%)
1	First week	From 31 st March to 06 th April 2025	45	47.87%
2	Second week	From 7 th to 13 th March 2025	23	24.46%
3	Third week	From 14 th to 21 th March 2025	14	14.89%
4	Fourth week	From 22 th to 30 th March 2025	12	12.76%
Total	4	From 31st March to 30th April 2025	94	100 %

Source: Prepared by the researcher

As illustrated in Table (01), which provides a comprehensive overview of the media's coverage of the crisis of Algerian relations with the African Sahel countries and its subsequent developments in the region and abroad, it is evident that the majority of crisis-related topics emerged during the initial week, accounting for approximately 47.87% of the total. Subsequent to this, the second week emerged as the second most prominent period, with a percentage of 24.46%, followed by the third week with 14.89% and the fourth week with 12.76%. The location of media material is of great importance to the media in general, as it reflects the attention paid to it. Al Jazeera's website provided comprehensive coverage of the crisis, offering significant insights into the deterioration of Algerian relations with the African Sahel countries during the initial week. A notable aspect of this coverage was the downing of a military drone by the Algerian army in collaboration with Mali, Niger and Burkina Faso, as reported based on available information. The website also included statements accusing the three countries of violating the law of neighborliness. This was in response to Algeria's decision to close its civil and military airspace to aircraft from Mali, Burkina Faso and Niger. This closure followed an exchange of accusations between the parties to the conflict. Furthermore, the international community expressed its concerns regarding the crisis and the circumstances in which it emerged. The website's initial coverage of the crisis led to significant developments and reactions on the global political stage.

The researcher posits that the distribution of materials pertaining to the crisis of the deterioration of Algerian relations with the Sahel countries on the front page of Al Jazeera's news website constitutes sufficient evidence to judge the great interest that the website has given to the subject. This is due to the fact that it relied on most of the important media sites. In addressing and dealing with the subject, the most significant elements must be reflected upon, in consideration of the sensitivity and specificity of the subject for Al Jazeera's website. This is due to the political, economic and military nature and dimensions of the subject, and even from the perspective of international security and peace in the region.

Table (02): Shows the journalistic formats used to address the crisis issue.

Journalistic Formats	Repts	Per (%)
News	31	32.97%
Report	44	46.80%
Analytical article	10	10.63%
Press Interview	09	09.57%
Total	94	100%

Source: prepared by researcher

As demonstrated in Table (02), Al Jazeera's news website employed a variety of journalistic formats in its coverage of the crisis in Algerian relations with the African Sahel countries. The website utilised four distinct journalistic types, each with a diverse range of topics, levels of importance and intricacy. The report emerged as the most prominent source, garnering 46.80% of the total, while the news category ranked second with 33%. The journalistic interview ranked third with 10.63%, followed by the analytical article in fourth place with 9.57%. This article is regarded as the most direct form of expression of the media's policy, as it delves into the intricacies of the subject matter. It can be concluded that the news website did not limit its coverage to the news and report categories, but rather expanded its presentation of the crisis to encompass more sophisticated forms of journalism such as the article. The quantitative results presented in Table (02) are attributed, according to the researcher's conceptual framework, to the fact that the Al Jazeera website presented the issue of the crisis in Algerian relations with the Sahel countries through a variety of journalistic news types. These news types include those that convey news neutrally and objectively, as well as those that aim to analyse and present different points of view regarding important topics. Additionally, the expressive types, which are concerned with addressing the viewer and follower with the aim of persuasion, are also included. The website demonstrated a high reliance on the report, which asserts that the Al Jazeera news website approached the issue from multiple perspectives, presenting a clear and comprehensive representation of the topic's significance. In the second position, the news media have demonstrated their ability to provide exhaustive explanations and analyses on the subjects related to the crisis in Algerian relations with the Sahel countries and its repercussions. This includes the incident of the "shooting down of the military drone", the underlying reasons for this event, and the subsequent reactions to it. The newspaper article is the third most significant source of information, and it is this that has supported the diversity of the journalistic formats adopted by the Al Jazeera website. The newspaper interview is considered to be a very acceptable rate, and it is through this medium that the website monitored the opinions of military experts and specialists. Furthermore, the results of the study were consistent with those of the research conducted by Nabil Madi & Khadija Hadeef (2024) on politicians and media professionals on the subject of the crisis.

The researcher hypothesizes that the Al Jazeera news website's utilisation of four distinct journalistic formats was not a fortuitous occurrence, but rather a deliberate strategy aimed at enhancing the comprehensive nature of the coverage and ensuring the real-time monitoring of events so that viewers and followers can comprehend the intricacies of the subject matter in its entirety.

Table (03): Represents the subject categories included in the treatment of the crisis topic.

Category of Topic	Repts	Per (%)
Conflict parties	26	27.65%
Official statements	19	20.21%
International reactions	14	14.89%
Reaction of international organizations	11	11.70%
Military and security statements	17	18.08%
Diplomatic efforts	7	07.44%
Total	94	100%

Source: Prepared by researcher

As demonstrated in Table (03), the data and information indicate that the issue of the parties to the conflict accounted for the largest proportion, estimated at 27.65%. This is attributable to the escalating trend of the crisis in the region and its repercussions on the future of relations between Algeria and the Sahel countries. The issue of the official statements category was the second most prevalent, with a percentage of 20.21%. This was attributed to the downing of the drone belonging to the Malian and Burkinabe forces by the Algerian army, which was identified as a direct cause of the escalation of the situation and the intensification of concerns regarding the broader crisis. The issue of military and security statements was the third most prevalent, with a percentage of 18.08%. The website addressed various statements related to the parties to the crisis, particularly those issued by the Malian army (Goita) and Captain "Traore", the interim president of Burkina Faso. These statements were disseminated through media reports by the AES Sahel States Union, as well as statements by the Algerian army leaders and the Algerian authorities' adoption of measures to close the airspace and land borders with the Sahel countries, parties to the crisis. This was accompanied by the mutual withdrawal of ambassadors. The issue of international reactions was considered to be of relatively minor importance, with a percentage of 14.89%. Approximately of respondents expressed this view. The viewpoints of the disputants were considered, and the necessity of giving priority to common interests and the policy of good neighborliness was emphasised by most of the leaders of the major countries and the heads of neighboring countries (ECOWAS). The necessity of resolving the crisis by peaceful means within the framework of international law was also stressed. It is imperative that restraint is exercised during this challenging period for the region, given the prevailing tension and the exchange of accusations between the army leaders in Mali and Burkina Faso, and to a lesser extent Niger, and the military authorities in Algeria. The response of international bodies was received in fifth place, with 11.70% of the responses. The website comprehensively addressed the responses of the African Union, the United Nations, the European Union, and various governmental and non-governmental organisations regarding the crisis, emphasising the necessity to identify swift solutions to uphold regional equilibrium and attain collective interests grounded in historical, economic, political, and military considerations to ensure international peace and security. Finally, the issue of diplomatic efforts was addressed, accounting for 7.60% of the discourse. The majority of heads of neighboring countries emphasised a return to international legitimacy and prioritised the supreme interests of the peoples of

the region. This was emphasised by the head of the Tijaniyya order during his visits to the parties to the crisis.

The researcher attributes the results to the significant interest demonstrated by the Al Jazeera news website in the crisis in Algerian relations with the African Sahel countries. This interest was driven by the website's commitment to monitoring opinions and ideas related to the event, as well as its repercussions on the politics and economy of the countries involved in the crisis in the region. In order to inform international public opinion, it is vital to consider the organisation's future outlook, particularly given the political and military dimensions of the issue, which have contributed significantly to the deterioration of the situation. This is particularly pertinent in light of the ongoing tensions in the region that have persisted for nearly three years, as extensively reported by major international media channels and websites. The present study found concordance with the study conducted by Nabil Madi (2023); however, certain outcomes of the present study were incongruent with those of the study conducted by Manel Radaoui (2024).

Table (04): Shows the sources that Al Jazeera.net relied on regarding the crisis.

Sources	Repts	Per (%)
Al Jazeera reporters	24	25.53%
Special envoy	11	11.70%
Correspondents	27	28.72%
Personalities	09	9.57%
Military experts and officials	11	11.70%
Other media	12	12.76%
Total	94	100%

Source: prepared by researcher

An examination of the data in Table (04) reveals that the Al Jazeera website utilised correspondents from the news channel to a significant extent, accounting for over 29% of its coverage of the crisis in Algerian relations with the Sahel countries. This observation lends considerable credibility to the website, underscoring the efficacy of its information access mechanisms and reinforcing its status as a media outlet of notable value. The website also relied on the channel's journalists to a lesser extent, at 25.53%, to cover the event and present the reactions that accompanied the crisis from various countries of the world, in light of the new tensions in the Sahel region that accompanied the downing of the military convoy of the Malian and Burkinabe forces by the Algerian army. Meanwhile, the category of local and international media came in third place with a percentage of 13%. The study revealed that the Al Jazeera website relied on a variety of sources for its coverage of the crisis. The categories of experts, military officials and special envoys accounted for 11.70% of the information, while the remaining sources (personalities) contributed a smaller percentage of 9%. This finding aligns with the study conducted by chibani & Madi (2025), which also identified these sources as the primary sources for the Al Jazeera website's treatment of the crisis.

The researcher hypothesises that Al Jazeera's reliance on in-house sources for its coverage of the crisis is attributable to the journalistic resources of the Al Jazeera News Channel, which are based in offices across many countries, particularly in areas of tension. This has facilitated the rapid acquisition of information, enabling journalists to produce instant, immediate, and exclusive news reports on the crisis. Moreover, the channel demonstrated considerable strength and competence in its handling of the crisis. This was achieved through meticulous analysis and diversification in the examination of the situation. The channel relied on the expertise of political analysts, security experts,

military specialists, and media professionals from various prominent media outlets, including CNN, BBC World, the official Russian channels RT, Reuters, and several channels and local newspapers in Niger, Mali, Burkina Faso, Algeria, and other regions. These outlets provided comprehensive coverage of the crisis. This approach lends considerable credibility to the handling of the crisis, as well as to the disclosure of its underlying factors and circumstances.

Table (05): Shows the category of Al Jazeera. net trend on the topic of the crisis.

direction	Repts	Per (%)
Supporter	08	08.51%
Opponent	15	15.95%
Neutral	71	75.53%
Total	94	100%

Source: Prepared by researcher

As demonstrated in Table (05), the subjects demonstrating a neutral trend in the analysis material were assigned the highest ranking, with a percentage of 75.53%. The subjects displaying an opposing trend received the second-highest ranking, with a percentage of 16%. The subjects demonstrating a pro-trend received the third-highest ranking, with a percentage of 8.51%.

The findings of the study, as reported by the researcher, indicated that the Al Jazeera website exhibited a neutral orientation, a finding that aligns with the conclusions of the aforementioned study (Nabil Madi, 2024). The emergence of the neutral orientation through the Al Jazeera website can be attributed to the multifaceted nature of the crisis topic. The ongoing crisis has been characterized by the persistent adherence of the involved parties to their respective positions, with the escalation of hostilities persisting, particularly from the Malian and Burkinabe sides. This has led to direct accusations being made against Algeria. Military actions have also been observed, including the closure of Algerian airspace to civilian and military aircraft from the three countries involved in the crisis. The crisis created significant tension in the region, necessitating extensive mediation efforts to reach a resolution. Notably, the ECOWAS organization played a pivotal role in mediating the situation, while the Algerian authorities implemented border closures with Mali and Niger, leading to a substantial decrease in funding for fuel and basic food supplies. This was exacerbated by the ongoing active trade exchanges between Algeria and neighboring countries. This prompted the Al Jazeera News website to adopt a more realistic approach in its explanations and analyses of the crisis, with the objective of enlightening global public opinion and delivering information in a timely manner with complete honesty and credibility. This approach also incorporates the neutrality that has characterized the news website's treatment of the crisis. The opposing trend manifested itself through a selection of opinions and ideas employed by Al Jazeera in order to analyse the crisis in the Sahel, in general, with a particular focus on those held by political officials on a global scale, as well as certain security and military experts specializing in African affairs.

VII. CONCLUSION:

This study sets out to ascertain the extent and manner in which the Al Jazeera news website has covered the Algerian-Sahel crisis in relations with the countries of the African Sahel (Mali, Niger, Burkina Faso). The analysis focuses particularly on the incident of the Algerian army shooting down the Turkish-made military drone belonging to the joint Malian and Burkinabe military forces. This incident raised major questions about the fate and future of the region, in light of the increasing tensions and mutual political and military conflicts between the parties to the crisis. The Al Jazeera

news website has demonstrated a commitment to providing comprehensive coverage of various developments, including the ongoing crisis. The website has striven to offer a range of solutions and facilitate the convergence of viewpoints, through the subjects it addresses periodically. This coverage has been characterized by a commitment to objectivity and neutrality in its treatment of the crisis and its developments from the outset. It is important to note that the crisis is still ongoing, and further developments are expected in the coming days. The capacity of neighboring countries to establish a peaceful resolution in the region, absent the involvement of external actors with military and economic interests in the region, is a salient question.

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