

Media and Exposing Zionist Violations

An analytical study in light of the Palestinian reality

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Abstract:

This study seeks to analyse the role of the media in exposing Zionist violations against the Palestinian people, through an approach that combines communication and legal dimensions. It starts from the Palestinian reality characterised by war, siege and targeting of journalists and media institutions, to raise a fundamental question about the ability of local, Arab and international media to expose the practices of the occupation and shape global collective awareness of the Palestinian cause. The study relies on an analysis of media discourse and invokes international humanitarian law as a frame of reference for protection. It concludes that the Palestinian media represents a soft and effective tool of resistance in documenting crimes and violations, but that it still needs greater support and networking with human rights institutions to ensure that media efforts are transformed into an influential international pressure force.

Keywords: Palestinian media, international humanitarian law, war journalism, Palestinian cause, Zionist violations

Introduction:

In times of armed conflict, the media is a pivotal tool not only in conveying news, but also in shaping collective awareness and building political and humanitarian positions at the local and international levels. In the Palestinian context, the media plays a prominent role as a witness and documenter of Zionist violations targeting people, land and resources, in addition to directly targeting journalists and media institutions in an attempt to obscure the truth and conceal the crimes committed.

The tremendous technological development that the world has witnessed today has brought about an information revolution that has affected all aspects of life in various fields. Communication and media have become an absolute necessity for humans, permeating all economic, political, social, and even cultural and religious fields. They now play an active role in many areas and are often referred to as the fourth estate due to their status and effective role in people's lives.

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The role of the media became clear after the adoption of the principles of good governance, as the media became a strategic actor within states. Among its most important roles in this field is the role of the media in sustainable development and revealing the facts to the public, which is a goal it seeks to achieve and maintain through its role in establishing the principles of good governance (transparency, participation, effectiveness, rule of law, responsiveness, consensus orientation, accountability, decentralisation, justice and equality, freedom of expression), which are considered mechanisms for achieving development.

The media is also a key link in shaping and raising awareness of social issues and problems through all types of mass media, with a view to achieving rationality and awareness. The primary and ultimate goal of the media is to educate the public, as civil society and the media work to achieve a common goal of genuine public participation in public affairs. The relationship between civil society and the media is dialectical, as civil society is influenced by and influences the media, while the media is influenced by and influences civil society.

The most dangerous conditions for journalists are during wartime, when they work amid a hail of bullets, bombs, mines, rockets and even artillery. However, hostile conditions exist beyond the battlefield. The physical risks to journalists increase when they cover riots and civil unrest, which are more than just conventional warfare between regular armies. A journalist working far from his base without the expected support may expose himself to numerous dangers.

The war in Iraq, for example, is one of the most dangerous conflicts for journalists in modern history. Since March 2003, more than 37 journalists have been killed while doing their job in Iraq, in addition to 19 support staff. Incidents caused by insurgent activity were responsible for most of the deaths of media workers, accounting for 60 per cent of journalists killed up to early 2005. Iraqi insurgents also kidnapped more than 20 journalists.

Recent deaths among journalists in Iraq and occupied Palestine illustrate the dangers faced by reporters in war zones. However, the risks of war reporting are not limited to covering combat or other forms of violence. Many journalists have been killed by health conditions in the field that proved fatal or by traffic accidents.

For every journalist killed in combat, three journalists are killed intentionally. Research by the Committee to Protect Journalists indicates that 337 journalists were killed while performing their work between 1995

and 2004. Of this total, 67 journalists, or 20 per cent, were killed during armed conflicts, while 244 journalists, or 72 per cent The rest of the journalists were killed while performing their work for other reasons, such as violent street demonstrations. Some work for local media outlets and others for the international press, but they have suffered the same hardships in performing their work since the beginning of the war between Israel and Hamas.

Media workers are increasingly at risk of injury, death, detention or abduction when reporting on armed conflicts. When bullets start flying, there is no guarantee of safety, and journalists may become targets, either accidentally or deliberately. Many media personnel have been killed or wounded by bullets, artillery or mortar fire from a distance. Stray bullets or shrapnel have caused many deaths. Journalists have been killed in ambushes by snipers. In situations where there are multiple parties and forces involved in a conflict and where the line of fire is constantly shifting, it can be difficult to predict where the conflict will begin or end. However, journalists who keep their distance and maintain a clear perspective have a better chance of surviving and avoiding injury.

Awareness is a journalist's greatest defence. Trying to understand the mentality of combatants in a war zone and the nature of the weapons used reduces the chance of injury or harm. Journalists must assess the level of danger, including actions that put them at risk and the quickest way to survive. They must also keep in mind a map of the area and its military situation. Like others in combat zones, journalists need to expect the worst because there are no completely safe options. Wars and violence rarely answer any questions, but when they occur, journalists and media workers have an important role to play in piercing the fog of deception, lies and manipulation of information that inevitably follows. Their task is to explain its impact on The lives of ordinary people. By taking on this role, journalists and others put their lives and safety at risk.

International humanitarian law, particularly the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, recognises the protection of journalists and media organisations as civilians who must not be targeted. However, the reality in Palestine reflects the gap between legal texts and the actual practices of the occupation. International human rights reports confirm the escalation of violations against media professionals, raising fundamental questions about the role of the media in exposing these practices and its

ability to break the occupation's narrative and reintroduce the Palestinian cause to the world as a cause of liberation and human rights.

From this perspective, this study seeks to provide an analytical approach to the role of the media in exposing Zionist violations, by highlighting the communicative, legal and human rights dimensions, identifying the challenges facing the Palestinian and Arab media, and highlighting its role as a tool of soft resistance capable of influencing global public opinion and fuelling international pressure.

In this context, this intervention sought to raise the following questions: What is the nature of the Zionist violations to which the Palestinian people and journalists are subjected? To what extent is the international media committed to balanced and objective coverage of violations in Palestine?

Sub-questions of the study:

1. What are the most prominent forms of Zionist violations suffered by the Palestinian people and field journalists?
2. How does the Palestinian and Arab media use its discourse and communication tools to expose these violations?
3. What is the position of international humanitarian law in the media's coverage of the issue of protecting Palestinian journalists and media institutions?
4. How does the international media's response to Zionist violations compare to Palestinian and Arab coverage?
5. What professional and security challenges do Palestinian journalists face in reporting the truth?
6. How does the media contribute to shaping collective awareness and directing global public opinion towards the Palestinian cause?

Research objectives:

This research aims to analyse the role of the Palestinian and Arab media in exposing and documenting Zionist violations, highlighting the challenges faced by journalists and media institutions in the Palestinian reality. It also seeks to demonstrate the impact of the media in shaping collective awareness and promoting the Palestinian narrative in the international arena, and to propose practical mechanisms to support its effectiveness as a tool of resistance and advocacy.

Research significance:

The significance of this research lies in highlighting the pivotal role of the media in exposing Zionist violations and shaping Palestinian, Arab and international collective awareness. It also contributes to enhancing academic

and professional understanding of the nature of resistance media as a tool for defending rights and freedoms. In addition, the research provides outputs that can support decision-makers and media institutions in developing more effective strategies to advocate for the Palestinian cause.

1.Methodological framework of the study:

1.1.Type of study:

This is a descriptive analytical study based on an analysis of media discourse related to exposing Zionist violations, in order to understand how the media addresses the Palestinian issue and highlights its liberating dimensions.

1.2.Methodology:

The methodology used in this study is analytical-documentary, based on collecting books, reports and studies related to the media and Zionist violations, then analysing and critically comparing them, with the aim of drawing conclusions and highlighting how the media deals with the Palestinian reality.

1.3.Spatial scope:

The spatial scope of the study is the occupied Palestinian territories, as they are the main arena witnessing Zionist violations and form the focus of media coverage and analysis in this study.

1.4.Temporal scope:

The period from 2021 to 2024, given its intense field events, escalation of Zionist violations, and accompanying widespread media momentum.

Analysis tools: In this study, these can be defined as follows:

Documentary review: Based on books, studies, and human rights and media reports.

Critical approach: To read media discourse in light of the principles of international humanitarian law.

2. Conceptual introduction to the study:

2.1.Media:

-Language: From the verb 'to inform' and 'to know something,' meaning to be aware of it. It is said, 'I inquired about so-and-so's news,' 'inform me,' 'learn about it,' meaning to master it, and 'I learned about it,' meaning I knew and experienced it. (Manzur, 2005, p. 245)

-Terminology: Media is defined terminologically as the dissemination of facts, news, ideas and opinions among the masses through various media, such as the press, radio, cinema, lectures, seminars, conferences, exhibitions

and others, with the aim of raising awareness, persuading and gaining support. (ZAKI, 1994, p. 82)

In general, a number of questions can be raised, some of which must be answered, foremost among which are: Who is a media professional? Who is a journalist? What is the difference between them? Where do journalists and media professionals meet? Where do they diverge? The simple answer to these questions is:

A media professional is "anyone who can observe, analyse and interpret media phenomena, draw conclusions that serve the media process and its development, and create opportunities to address the communication issues raised by the media phenomenon in question. This definition requires that the media professional have scientific and academic competence in addition to their media specialisation, be familiar with scientific theses on mass communication, and be able to understand its foundations and rules as well as the methodology according to which it operates. More precisely, the media professional has the ability to recognise the historical development of the media and its processes, as well as its techniques and field of knowledge. At that point, the person in question can be treated as a media professional with the professional competence to practise media research, analysis and application. In addition, they possess the qualifications that enable them to participate in or manage any media or journalistic process.

For this reason, the media professional is no longer just a journalist, a reporter who monitors events and facts, an editor who rewrites journalistic material, or a presenter of programmes and interviews. Rather, the media professional is all of these, plus the ability to monitor communication issues, especially those related to the theoretical structure of mass communication science.

So who is a journalist?

The description of journalistic professions is derived from the jobs performed by journalists. For this reason, media and press institutions are keen to include the conditions of the profession in terms of content and practice in their job advertisements. In other words, all journalistic professions can be described by means of job advertisements.

‘A journalist is anyone who works in journalism, contributes to the media process, and possesses the qualities required by their professional journalistic role, foremost among which are ability, competence, and experience.’

Ability:

This refers to the ability to anticipate facts and events before they occur, by following the sequence of events chronologically and geographically. It also refers to the ability to sense these facts and events and to prepare appropriate journalistic material to express them, whether in words, sound or images.

Competence:

This refers to technical and professional journalistic competence. It also refers to the competence to analyse and draw conclusions, as well as to interact with the facts of events and respond to professional ethical and objective requirements.

Experience:

This refers to the experience that professionals have in preparing journalistic material and writing for the press: language, style and expression. In addition to experience in using the appropriate journalistic style to present the event or incident in terms of timing, vocabulary and content. More precisely, it refers to the experience that qualifies the journalist to observe the ethical requirements of the profession in selecting topics and formulating them within the framework of journalistic genres, such as news, reports or opinions presented to readers. (Mohsen, 2009, p. 31)

2.2. War correspondent:

A representative sent to the battlefield on a special mission during wartime. This position only exists in times of war. (Al-Jumhuri, 1956, p. 82)

3. The role of the Palestinian media in covering Zionist violations.

The Palestinian media is one of the most prominent actors in the battle for awareness and national steadfastness, playing a central role in exposing the ongoing Zionist violations against the Palestinian people. While the occupation relies on both military and media power to impose its narrative on international public opinion, the Palestinian media counters this by adhering to its mission of documenting and exposing the truth and shaping local and international collective awareness of Palestinian liberation issues. This role can be approached through several interrelated dimensions:

3.1. The documentary dimension:

The Palestinian media plays a fundamental role in documenting Israeli crimes and violations through audio and video, whether via television channels, local news agencies, or even digital platforms. This documentation is a reliable source for researchers, human rights organisations, and international courts, as it provides compelling evidence of the direct targeting of civilians, journalists, and facilities. For example,

images taken during the bombing of Gaza or raids in the West Bank have been turned into human rights documents used in reports issued by international organisations such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International.

3.2.Confronting the Zionist narrative:

The Israeli occupation seeks to impose its narrative on the international community by portraying its crimes as 'self-defence' or 'fighting terrorism'. This is where the Palestinian media steps in to present a counter-narrative based on facts on the ground and concrete evidence. Palestinian media coverage does not merely report the news, but works to dismantle the occupation's discourse and expose its contradictions, giving the Palestinian cause greater weight in the battle of narratives and legitimacy. In this context, Palestinian channels (such as Al-Aqsa, Palestine Today, and Watan) and independent correspondents stand out as a counterforce to the Israeli disinformation machine.

3.3.The human dimension:

One of the most prominent characteristics of the Palestinian media is that it prioritises highlighting the human suffering of Palestinians, placing victims at the centre of the media scene and transforming individual stories into general humanitarian issues. Stories of children under the rubble, women who have lost their families, or journalists who have been targeted while doing their job are powerful material that reshapes Arab and international collective consciousness. In this way, the Palestinian media contributes to embodying suffering and transforming it into moral and humanitarian pressure on the occupation.

3.4.Mobilising and national role:

In addition to its documentary and news functions, the Palestinian media plays a mobilising role, contributing to strengthening the spirit of steadfastness and resistance among the Palestinian people by highlighting images of sacrifice and perseverance and shining a light on heroic examples of resistance to the occupation. Reporters who have been killed in the line of duty have become national symbols that inspire new generations to uphold the cause.

3.5.Digital media as an alternative space

With increasing restrictions on traditional media, digital media and social media platforms have emerged as key tools for conveying the Palestinian narrative to the world. Short videos, live streaming on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram, and field reports on TikTok and YouTube have become

alternative channels that have broken the traditional media blockade and made the Palestinian narrative instantly accessible to millions of followers around the world.

3.6.Challenges and obstacles

Despite this vital role, the Palestinian media faces enormous challenges, most notably direct targeting by the occupation (killings, arrests, bombing of media institutions), as well as weak financial and technical capabilities compared to the Israeli media, which is supported by powerful institutions. Nevertheless, the Palestinian media remains present in the field, reflecting a will to resist through media alongside political and military resistance.

The Palestinian media is not merely a conveyor of news, but a key player in the struggle for national liberation, working to expose the facts, refute Israeli narratives, and raise local and global awareness of the Palestinian cause. Despite enormous sacrifices, it continues to fulfil its mission to bear witness to crimes and serve as a living memory that preserves the rights of the Palestinian people and supports their legitimate struggle.

Table 1. illustrating tools and methods for documenting Zionist violations in the media:

Tool / Medium	Description	Examples of Use	Advantages	Challenges
Photography	Capturing direct images of violations against civilians or infrastructure .	Photos of destroyed hospitals and schools.	The persuasive and emotional power of visual imagery.	Risk of targeting the photographer or confiscation of equipment.
Videography	Recording live scenes of violations.	Live broadcasts via satellite channels or digital platforms.	High credibility and difficulty of denial.	Possibility of distortion or censorship.
Official Documents and Human Rights	Based on data from local or international	Reports by the United Nations	Strong legal evidentiary value.	Time gap between violation and documentation

Reports	human rights organizations .	or Human Rights Watch.		.
Maps and Illustrative Graphics	Documenting targeted locations and occupation movements.	Maps showing airstrikes on Gaza.	Simplified and visually clear representation .	Requires advanced technology and high accuracy.
Articles and Journalistic Reports	Documenting events in written form supported by testimonies.	Daily field and press reports.	Provide analytical details and legal context.	May face censorship or content removal.
Humanitarian Testimonies	Collecting statements from victims or eyewitnesses .	Interviews with families of martyrs and the wounded.	Use of the human dimension to enhance empathy.	Difficulty accessing witnesses and risk of intimidation.
Digital Media (Social Media Platforms)	Real-time dissemination and circulation of content.	Twitter, Facebook , Instagram , TikTok.	Rapid spread and direct global interaction.	Risks of misinformation or media manipulation.

Source: Researcher's own preparation

The above table shows that the Palestinian media is subject to exceptional circumstances imposed by the nature of the conflict with the occupation. Palestinian journalists are not merely reporters of events; they are often both witnesses and victims, subjected to persecution, arrest and direct targeting in a clear attempt to silence the Palestinian narrative and muzzle its voice. Nevertheless, the media has been able to employ a variety of tools, combining visual, written, digital and legal dimensions, to form a barrier against the occupation's attempts to obscure the truth.

Visual tools (photographs and videos) have proven to be highly effective in the Palestinian context, helping to convey scenes of bombing, destruction and targeting to the world moment by moment, via screens and smartphones, with images becoming more eloquent than political discourse

and more powerful than official statements. Although the occupation is aware of the power of this tool and works to target photojournalists and confiscate their equipment, photos and videos often leak into the digital space and become compelling evidence for global public opinion.

Written tools, such as investigative reports and news articles, provide analysis and documentation of events. In the Palestinian context, news articles are no longer mere descriptions of events, but have become historical and legal documents that can be relied upon in international forums, providing a comprehensive narrative linking violations to the principles of international humanitarian law. Alongside these texts are human testimonies, which represent an indispensable dimension of Palestinian media discourse, conveying the voices of victims, the wounded, and the families of martyrs, thereby lending the Palestinian narrative emotional and moral legitimacy in the eyes of the world.

In the digital media space, social media platforms have emerged as a central tool for addressing global audiences beyond the boundaries of traditional control. Tweets, short videos, and hashtag campaigns have become an open media arena, where millions of users rally around the Palestinian cause and reproduce a discourse of resistance that exposes the practices of the occupation. This mechanism has reinforced the participatory nature of Palestinian media, but it faces growing challenges related to the policies of blocking and digital censorship practised by some global platforms under pressure from the Zionist lobby.

The vital role of legal and human rights tools cannot be overlooked, as international reports and official documents serve as a powerful reference for confirming the systematic nature of Zionist violations. In the Palestinian case, these documents play a dual role: on the one hand, they lend international legitimacy to the Palestinian narrative, and on the other, they provide a legal basis on which to build arguments before international courts. However, the slow release of these reports often limits their immediate impact compared to the rapid digital media.

Overall, this reading reveals that the Palestinian media has been able to transform its tools into an integrated media resistance system, which does not merely monitor events but seeks to dismantle the Zionist narrative and replace it with a counter-narrative that is more rooted in facts and visual and legal evidence. This multi-tool approach has enabled the Palestinian cause to remain present in Arab and international consciousness, despite the occupation's attempts to impose a blackout and silence the voice of truth.

4. International law as a shield for journalists: the dialectic of protection and violation in the Palestinian case

The rules of international humanitarian law applicable to wars and armed conflicts contain only two references to those working in the field of journalism and media, namely Article 13: Persons accompanying the army without actually being part of it, such as journalists and suppliers, who fall into the hands of the enemy and are declared prisoners of war, shall be treated as prisoners of war, provided they have a permit from the military authority of the army they are accompanying (Convention Respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land (Convention Respecting the Laws and Customs of War on Land (Hague Convention IV), 1907, p. 2277). Article 4 of the Third Geneva Convention covers persons who accompany the armed forces without actually being part of them, such as civilians on board military aircraft, war correspondents and other persons.

The text of the article reads as follows:

A. Prisoners of war within the meaning of this Convention are persons belonging to one of the following categories who are in the hands of the enemy:

1. Members of the armed forces of one of the parties to the conflict, and militias or volunteer corps forming part of such armed forces.
2. Members of other militias and other volunteer corps, including members of organised resistance movements, who belong to one of the parties to the conflict and operate within or outside their territory, even if that territory is occupied, provided that the following conditions are met in these militias or volunteer corps, including the organised resistance movements mentioned:
 - (a) They are commanded by a person responsible for his subordinates;
 - (b) They have a specific distinctive emblem recognisable at a distance;
 - (c) They carry arms openly;
 - (d) Comply with the laws and customs of war in their operations.
3. Members of the regular armed forces who declare their allegiance to a government or authority not recognised by the detaining State.
4. Persons accompanying the armed forces without actually being part of them, such as civilians on board military aircraft, war correspondents, supply contractors, and members of labour or entertainment units, provided they have permission from the armed forces they are accompanying.
5. Members of navigational crews, including captains, navigators and their assistants on commercial ships and civilian aircraft belonging to parties to

the conflict, who do not benefit from better treatment under any other provisions of international law.

6. Residents of unoccupied territories who take up arms on their own initiative when the enemy approaches in order to resist the invading forces, without having had time to form regular armed units, provided that they carry their arms openly and observe the laws and customs of war.

(b) The following persons shall be treated as prisoners of war under this Convention:

1. Persons who belong or belonged to the armed forces of the occupied country, if the occupying power considers it necessary to arrest them on account of this affiliation, even if they were initially left free during the course of military operations outside the occupied territory, in particular if these persons have made an unsuccessful attempt to join the armed forces to which they belong and which are engaged in hostilities, or if they have failed to comply with a warning given to them with a view to their arrest.

2. Persons belonging to one of the categories set forth in this Article who are received by a neutral or non-belligerent State in its territory and who are subject to arrest in accordance with international law, subject to any more favourable treatment that such States may deem appropriate to grant them, and with the exception of the provisions of Articles 8, 1 and 15, paragraph 5 of Article 30, Articles 58-67, 92 and 126, and the provisions relating to the Protecting Power when there are political relations between the parties to the conflict and the neutral or non-belligerent State concerned. Where such political relations exist, the parties to the conflict to which these persons belong shall be permitted to exercise the functions which the Protecting Power performs in respect of them under this Convention, without prejudice to the duties arising from political and consular conventions and treaties.

(c) This Article shall in no way affect the status of members of the medical and religious services as defined (Geneva Convention Relative to the Treatment of Prisoners of War, 1949, p. 135)

The Geneva Conventions define and recognise the killing or mistreatment of journalists in times of war or civil unrest as war crimes. The Geneva Conventions give journalists the same rights as civilians in armed conflict, whether between states or in the case of large-scale civil conflict. A document or mere piece of paper cannot stop an armed person determined to kill or harm you.

There is also Article 79 of Additional Protocol I, which refers to measures to protect and authorise the issuance of an identity card by the

government of the state of which the journalist is a national, or in which he or she resides, or in which the news agency he or she works for is located, certifying his or her status as a journalist. The explicit text reads as follows:

1. Journalists who carry out dangerous professional assignments in areas of armed conflict are civilians within the meaning of the first paragraph of Article 50.

2 - They shall be protected as such under the provisions of the Conventions and this Protocol, provided that they do not engage in any action adversely affecting their status as civilians, without prejudice to the right of war correspondents accredited to the armed forces to benefit from the status provided for in Article 4 (a-4) of the Third Convention.

3- They may obtain an identity card in accordance with the model attached to Appendix No. (2) to this Protocol.

This card shall be issued by the government of the State of which the journalist is a national, or in which he resides, or in which the news agency he works for is located, and shall certify his status as a journalist.

International humanitarian law distinguishes between two types of journalists working in areas of armed conflict, protecting journalists as civilians without providing a precise definition: military correspondents assigned to work with an armed force and 'independent' journalists. According to the Dictionary of Public International Law, the first type applies to any "specialised journalist present in the theatre of operations, with the authorisation and protection of the armed forces of one of the warring parties.

This definition applies specifically to the task of reporting on relevant events during hostilities, a practice that existed during World War II and the Korean War. At that time, war correspondents wore military uniforms, were assigned to an officer, and were subject to the authority of the commander of the armed forces with whom they worked.

As for the term 'Journalist' means, according to the draft 1975 United Nations Convention: "Every correspondent, reporter, photographer, television cameraman, and their technical assistants in film and radio. and television personnel who habitually engage in such activities as their main occupation.) (Balge, 2022, p. 56)

5. Media professionals as defenders of the truth: protecting journalists and reporters covering the Palestinian cause

Over the years, repeated Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip have affected many journalists, as it has become clear that the occupying forces are

targeting press crews and deliberately destroying media buildings, their staff and infrastructure in an attempt to prevent the publication of their violations against the Palestinian people.

This series of practices culminated in the killing of 20 journalists and the injury of dozens more, in addition to the complete or partial destruction of 50 media institutions during the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip on 7 October. According to figures from the Palestinian Journalists' Syndicate, this raises serious questions about the position of international humanitarian law on Israel's violations (Al-Sawan, 2023, p. 70)

Since the beginning of the Israeli aggression on Gaza, we have witnessed unprecedented Western bias in favour of the Israeli narrative, which journalists and reporters inside the Gaza Strip have fought against since the beginning of the conflict with their continuous attempts to expose the crimes of ethnic cleansing committed by the occupying forces. The latter have faced an unprecedented level of deliberate attempts to kill and intimidate journalists in an effort to obscure the reality of what is happening on the ground and prevent the media from publishing the truth.

Israeli attacks are not limited to journalists in the field, but extend to bombing their family members in their homes, as expressed by our colleague Wael Al-Dahdouh, director of Al Jazeera's Gaza office, in his statement: 'They are taking revenge on us through our children.' Al-Dahdouh received the news live on air while covering the ongoing bombing of the Gaza Strip on 25 October, that his wife, children and a number of family members had been killed in an Israeli air strike after the occupation forces bombed their home in the Nuseirat camp in central Gaza, where they had taken refuge after their neighbourhood was bombed and the Israeli occupation forces called on civilians to move towards the south of the Gaza Strip. (Committee to Protect Journalists The recent escalation between Israel and Hamas is the deadliest period for journalists, (2023)

The above facts are confirmed by the Committee to Protect Journalists, which announced that the war between Israel and Hamas has become the bloodiest period for journalists covering conflicts in hot spots. The organisation noted that as of 2 November, at least 36 journalists and media workers had been killed since the escalation of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict began.

The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, stated that more than 46 journalists were killed in 2023 around the world. The war entered its 28th day since the start of Operation 'Maximum Flood,' with the

Israeli army continuing to bomb the Gaza Strip amid international fears of a wider conflict in the Middle East. (Agency, 2024)

5.1. Israeli violations against Palestinian journalists: an extensive review of the events of January 2024

January 2024 represents a tragic milestone in the record of systematic Israeli violations against Palestinian journalists, revealing a clear picture of a deliberate policy aimed at silencing free speech and preventing the truth from being conveyed to the world. The violations were not limited to isolated acts, but took the form of an integrated strategy targeting both Palestinian journalists and their media institutions, reflecting the political and security dimension that the occupation imposes on journalism in Palestine.

Following the sequence of events, it is clear that the violations began early on 3 January 2024, when journalist Hafez Abu Sabra was injured while attempting to cover a military raid in Tulkarm. This incident reflects a recurring pattern, whereby the occupation uses live fire as a means of deterring journalists, turning field coverage into an existential risk.

The following day, 4 January, saw another example of the multiple forms of repression: the occupation did not content itself with targeting reporters in the field, but resorted to the arbitrary arrest of Wafa Agency photographer Wafa Awad, confiscating his equipment. On the same day, journalist Akram al-Shafei (Safa Agency) was martyred by occupation forces in Gaza. This coincidence between the arrest and the killing reveals a dual violation that combines field terrorism and physical liquidation.

On 5 January, the targeting shifted to media institutions, with the raid on journalist Ghassan Karaja's printing press and the confiscation of its equipment, indicating that the occupation is not only fighting individuals but also seeking to dry up the Palestinian media infrastructure.

The 7th of January marked a turning point, with three journalists killed in a single day (Mustafa Saeed Thuraya, Hamza al-Dahdouh, and Ali Abu Ajwa) after their vehicles and reporting locations were directly targeted. These incidents can only be classified as deliberate assassinations, as the shelling was precise and targeted the journalists' vehicles, taking the event beyond the scope of 'collateral damage' to a systematic policy of eliminating media personnel.

The scene was repeated on 8 and 9 January with new casualties such as Muhammad Abu Dayr, Abdullah Baris, and broadcaster Hiba Al-Abadlah, expanding the circle of targeting to all forms of media work: reporters,

photographers, and even female media professionals. This expansion exposes the Israeli mentality, which views anyone who supports the Palestinian narrative as a strategic threat that must be eliminated.

The escalation peaked on 10 January, when five journalists (Ahmed Bader, Sharif Akasha, Fouad Abu Khamash, and others) were killed in a single day in simultaneous bombings of multiple areas in the Gaza Strip. This accumulation of journalists killed in a single day, both in terms of numbers and types, indicates a concentrated campaign of media extermination.

The violations were not limited to direct killings; they ranged from injuries (as in the case of photographer Mashhour Al-Wahwah on 15 January) to arrests (such as the arrest of Yazan Abu Salah on 26 January) and prevention of coverage (as in the case of the detention of the Palestine TV crew on 22 January). These acts complement each other, forming a picture of comprehensive repression that restricts Palestinian journalists in every area of their work.

It is noteworthy that the targeting even included media leaders, as in the assassination of Wael Abu Fununa (general manager of Al-Quds Al-Yawm TV) on 18 January, revealing the occupation's intention to paralyse institutional media work from the bottom up.

By the end of the month, the toll of violations included dozens of deaths, including field journalists, editors, broadcasters, and directors of institutions, in addition to cases of arrest, detention, and work bans. This makes it clear that the occupation treats the Palestinian press as a strategic enemy no less dangerous than the military field.

5.2. Analytical implications:

- Systematic targeting: The figures and sequence of events prove that what happened was not a coincidence, but a clear policy aimed at silencing the Palestinian voice.
- Diversity of means of repression: From direct aerial bombardment to field arrests, to bans and confiscations, revealing the comprehensiveness of the tools used.
- Expansion of the scope of victims: Targeting various categories of media workers (reporters, photographers, broadcasters, directors) in an attempt to strip the Palestinian media scene of its cadres.
- Symbolic dimension: The assassination of prominent media figures (such as Abu Fununa or Al-Thalathini) carries a message of deterrence to other journalists: 'You are legitimate targets.'

- Repercussions on the media scene: These violations threaten the continuity of the Palestinian press as an institution and impose a state of self-censorship and fear, but at the same time reveal the strength of the Palestinian media's will to continue working despite the risks.

Journalists and reporters active in the Palestinian territories emphasise that the most important demand of journalists in these difficult times is the implementation of international conventions and agreements that guarantee their protection and safety, which could help empower them.

From fulfilling their primary role in conveying facts and events to the world. It is noted that the most important international charters and treaties aimed at protecting journalists' rights and ensuring their safety during conflicts and wars are:

1. The Fourth Geneva Convention (1949): contains provisions related to the protection of civilians, including journalists, during armed conflicts. The Fourth Geneva Convention (1949): Contains provisions related to the protection of civilians, including journalists, during armed conflicts. International humanitarian laws applicable in this convention prohibit direct attacks on civilians and prevent the arbitrary use of force against them.
2. The First Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions (1977): Complements the Geneva Conventions and enhances the protection of civilians and journalists during armed conflicts. The First Protocol, an annex to the Geneva Conventions (1977): Complements the Geneva Conventions and enhances the protection of civilians and journalists during armed conflicts. Attacks on media and journalists carrying out journalistic duties are prohibited.
3. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: It protects journalists' rights regarding freedom of expression, information, and peaceful assembly, and calls for their protection from assault and arbitrary detention. The International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: It protects journalists' rights regarding freedom of expression, information, and peaceful assembly, and demands their protection from assault and arbitrary detention.
4. United Nations Security Council Resolution 1738 (2006): Condemns any attack on journalists during armed conflicts and emphasises the necessity of protecting them. UN Security Council Resolution 1738 (2006): condemns any attack on journalists during armed conflicts and emphasises the necessity of protecting them.

5. UN General Assembly Resolution 68/163 (2013): Condemns acts of violence against journalists during armed conflicts and urges ensuring their safety. United Nations General Assembly Resolution 68/163 (2013): Condemns acts of violence against journalists during armed conflicts and urges the guarantee of their safety.

6. Results of the Analytical Study:

Based on the theoretical framework and the methodological approach that relied on document analysis and review, this study aimed to trace how Palestinian, Arab, and international media addressed the issue of Zionist violations in the occupied territories. It focused on monitoring the humanitarian and legal dimensions of these violations, and on highlighting the role of journalists and correspondents in documenting the facts and conveying them to the local and global public opinion. Through in-depth analysis, a set of results was reached that clearly demonstrate the nature of the role played by the media in exposing crimes and forming a counter-narrative to the Zionist narrative.

- ↳ The role of the media in exposing violations: The study showed that Palestinian and Arab media played a pivotal role in documenting and exposing Zionist crimes and violations against civilians in the occupied territories, contributing to the dissemination of the truth and breaking attempts at media blackout.
- ↳ The humanitarian and legal dimension: Media coverage focused on highlighting the humanitarian aspects of the occupation's violations, such as targeting civilians, hospitals, and schools, and linking them to the principles of international humanitarian law, which reinforces the liberation discourse based on legal legitimacy.
- ↳ The disparity in power between media outlets: The results showed a noticeable disparity between traditional media (TV channels and newspapers) and digital media (news websites and social media platforms), where digital media proved to be more effective in terms of rapid dissemination and influence on global public opinion.
- ↳ Targeting journalists and correspondents: The study revealed that Palestinian journalists are subjected to systematic violations such as arrest, direct targeting with bullets, and the destruction of their media offices, in an attempt to silence voices and prevent the transmission of facts to the international community.
- ↳ Media as a Weapon of Resistance: The results showed that Palestinian media has no longer been just a tool for conveying

events, but has transformed into a weapon of resistance in itself, contributing to the formulation of a counter-narrative to the Zionist narrative and supporting the resilience of Palestinians on both local and international levels.

- ↳ *The effectiveness of visual and digital documentation*: The study proved that images, videos, and live broadcasts contributed to enhancing the credibility of the Palestinian media discourse, as they are difficult to deny or falsify, making them an important pressure tool on human rights institutions and global public opinion.
- ↳ *The impact of media on international public opinion*: The results confirmed that media coverage helped mobilise popular solidarity with the Palestinian cause, especially in Europe and Latin America, and contributed to strengthening the Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) movement as a civil pressure tool against the occupation.
- ↳ *Shortcomings of some international media outlets*: The study noted a clear bias in some major Western media outlets, which focus on the narrative of "equality between the victim and the oppressor" and adopt the propaganda terminology of the occupation, thereby diminishing the neutrality of the coverage.

7. Recommendations and Proposed mechanisms to enhance the protection of journalists and the effectiveness of Palestinian media

7.1. Study Recommendations:

- The targeting of Palestinian journalists by the occupation forces is not incidental or individual events, but rather represents a systematic policy aimed at silencing the Palestinian narrative and weakening its ability to influence.
- Despite the sacrifices, Palestinian media has proven to be the first line of defence in exposing Zionist violations, through documentation in sound and image and providing an alternative narrative to the Israeli narrative.
- The violations varied between direct killings, arrests, prevention of coverage, confiscation of equipment, and bombing of media institutions, indicating a comprehensive targeting of individuals and media infrastructure.
- The Palestinian media has demonstrated the ability to convey human suffering and internationalise the Palestinian cause through digital media platforms that have broken the traditional media blockade.

- The study revealed gaps in the international protection system for journalists, as legal texts do not find their way to implementation in the face of Israeli practices, placing journalists in a state of constant vulnerability.

7.2. Proposed mechanisms to enhance the protection of journalists and the effectiveness of Palestinian media.

- Enhancing professional and security training for journalists to work in conflict environments, including first aid, risk management, and the use of personal protective equipment.
- Launching joint digital documentation platforms between Palestinian media institutions and human rights organisations to collect and securely and reliably preserve evidence for use in international courts.
- Activating international pressure through journalists' unions and the International Federation of Journalists to compel Israel to respect its obligations under international humanitarian law.
- Supporting the Palestinian media infrastructure by providing funding and modern technologies that ensure continuity of work despite targeting (such as alternative newsrooms, cloud archiving for filmed materials).
- Expanding global media alliances to involve journalists and international institutions in conveying the Palestinian narrative, reducing the chances of obfuscation and misinformation.
- Enacting Palestinian national legislation specifically for the protection of journalists and providing legal support to the families of martyr journalists and the wounded, thereby establishing a culture of recognising their national role.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, this study highlights the pivotal role of the media in exposing Zionist violations against the Palestinian people, as it has become an essential tool for documenting crimes and conveying the truth to the global public opinion. The results also confirmed that protecting journalists and enhancing their professional and digital capabilities is an urgent necessity in light of the dangers they face. Thus, Palestinian and Arab media remain the first line of defence against the occupation machine and an effective means of solidifying the Palestinian liberation narrative.

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