

# One Year of Genocide: The Case for Journalistic Malpractice

October 2024



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London | Washington



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**For the past year, we have borne witness to hell on earth. Words cannot do justice to Zionism's inhumanity, psychopathy, and insanity, which reaches new depths with each day that passes.**

The martyrdom of more than 200,000 Palestinians in Gaza, 742 Palestinians in the occupied West Bank, and 2,000 people in Lebanon is a mark of shame on the rest of the world for our failure to prevent and end the ongoing Zionist genocide.

Every time Western media lied, consent was manufactured for the Israeli Occupation Forces to massacre another neighbourhood in Gaza; to commit mass murder across the occupied West Bank and Lebanon. Western media's repeated and consistent decision to manufacture consent for genocide and Zionist violence across the Middle East is a clear indication of the media's culpability in aiding and abetting genocide, for which we demand accountability and justice.

The only light amidst the darkness of this abyss has been the continued armed resistance to genocide in Palestine, Lebanon, Yemen, Iraq, Iran, and Syria. We owe everything to those who pay the price in blood for our liberation – those who know the true meaning of resistance. We unreservedly reaffirm our unwavering support for resistance by all means necessary until liberation.

We also pay tribute to all the ways that Palestinians have taught us life, love, hope, and steadfastness, for not just the past 365 days but the past 76+ years, amidst the most obscenely horrific, sickening, and dehumanising conditions imaginable.

**May our martyrs be granted the highest rank in Jannah.**

**May we soon witness the resistance's inevitable success in liberating Palestine, Lebanon, and the whole region from Zionism, colonialism, and white supremacy.**

**May there be an immediate end to the genocide.**

**“In the future, when we have a museum for this genocide, we will have a special place where we put the pictures of the journalists who allowed it to happen. There will be a wing for the CNN and the BBC and the [New York] Times journalists who were the enablers of the genocide. The Palestinian people will remember them.”**

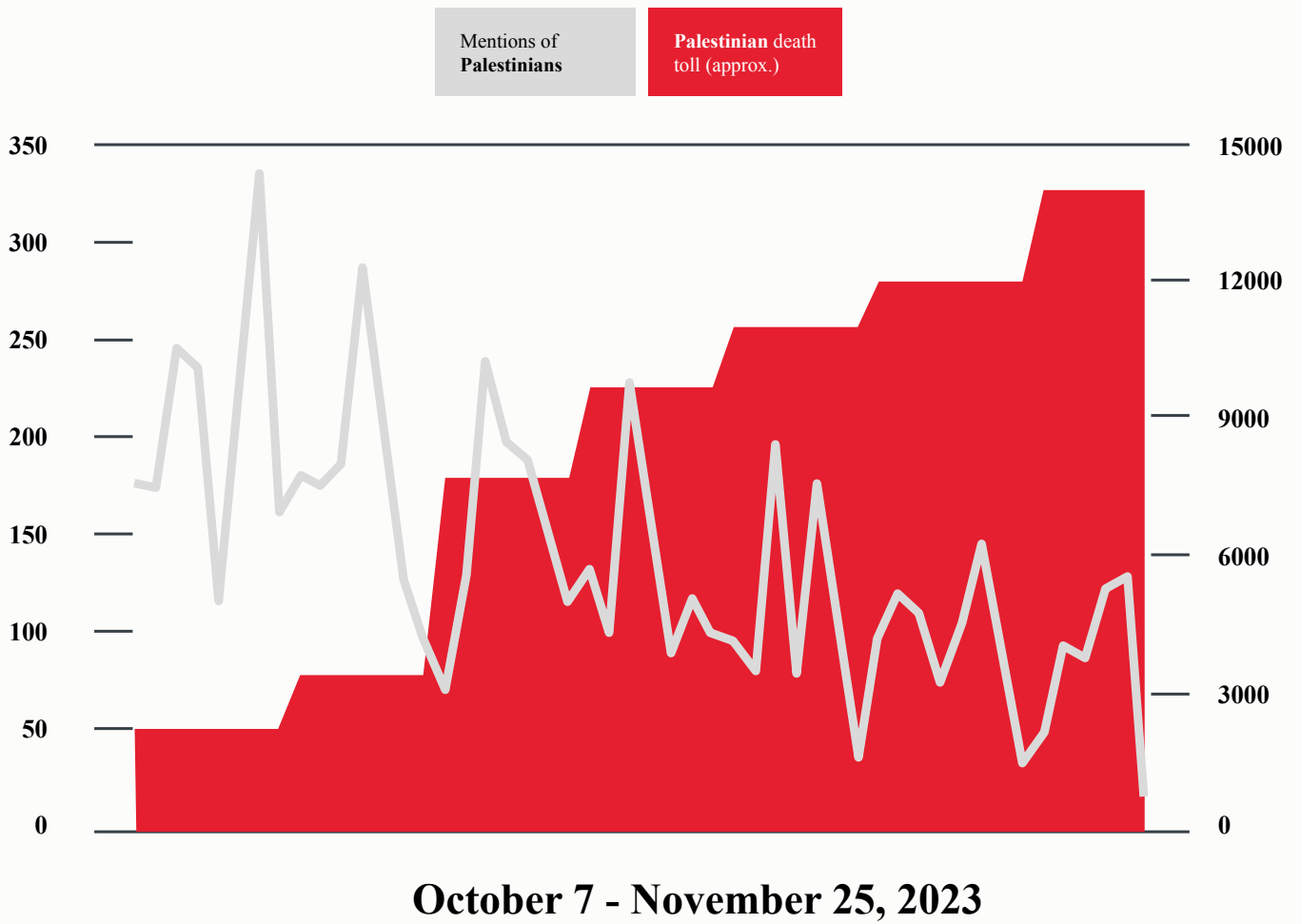
**Dr Ghassan Abu Sittah**

Palestinian-British doctor who served in Gaza during the genocide.<sup>1</sup>



## Disproportionate Coverage

Mentions of Palestinians declined as the death toll mounted.



Source: The Intercept

01

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# Overview of Journalistic Malpractice Since 7 October 2023



01

# Overview of Journalistic Malpractice Since 7 October 2023

Mainstream media outlets, in particular, the BBC, CNN, the *New York Times*, Fox News, and MSNBC have propagated Israeli lies and narratives about every aspect of Israel's ongoing genocide in Gaza, attacks on the occupied West Bank, and bombing of Lebanon, Syria, and elsewhere in the region.<sup>2</sup>

The reporting of Israeli narratives as fact, alongside a relentless dehumanisation of Palestinians in the media, an absence of Palestinian history, and the deliberate manipulation of linguistic choices to favour Israel, has aided and abetted Israel's genocide in Gaza.<sup>3</sup>

## Centrally, journalistic malpractice since 7 October 2023 has included:

- Framing the current war as an “Israel-Hamas war”, without mention of Gaza, Palestine, the Israeli occupation, or the genocide.<sup>4</sup>
- Promoting “Israel’s right” to defend itself over the rights of the Palestinians.<sup>5</sup>
- Using active, emotive language to describe Zionist settler deaths, in comparison to passive language used to describe Israel’s killing of Palestinians.<sup>6</sup>
- Spreading false Israeli stories, such as myths of beheaded babies, mass rape, and Hamas tunnels under Gaza’s hospitals.<sup>7</sup>
- Platforming Zionist perspectives more frequently than Palestinian voices and leaving these perspectives unchallenged during interviews.<sup>8</sup> Palestinian voices, by contrast, including allies speaking up against the Israeli atrocities, faced repeated interrogation and were treated with mistrust and bias.<sup>9</sup>

**“It is impossible to overstate the role that the incendiary media coverage played in the events that would unfold after Hamas and its allies broke down the fence that surrounds Gaza. Israel was able to perform, in front of the world, a masterclass in manipulation of the media. You had a narrative set that Netanyahu and Biden on their own would not have had the power to drill their narrative into the minds of the public but for the existence of major Western news organisations promoting it for free.”**

**Jeremy Scahill**  
Drop Site News<sup>10</sup>

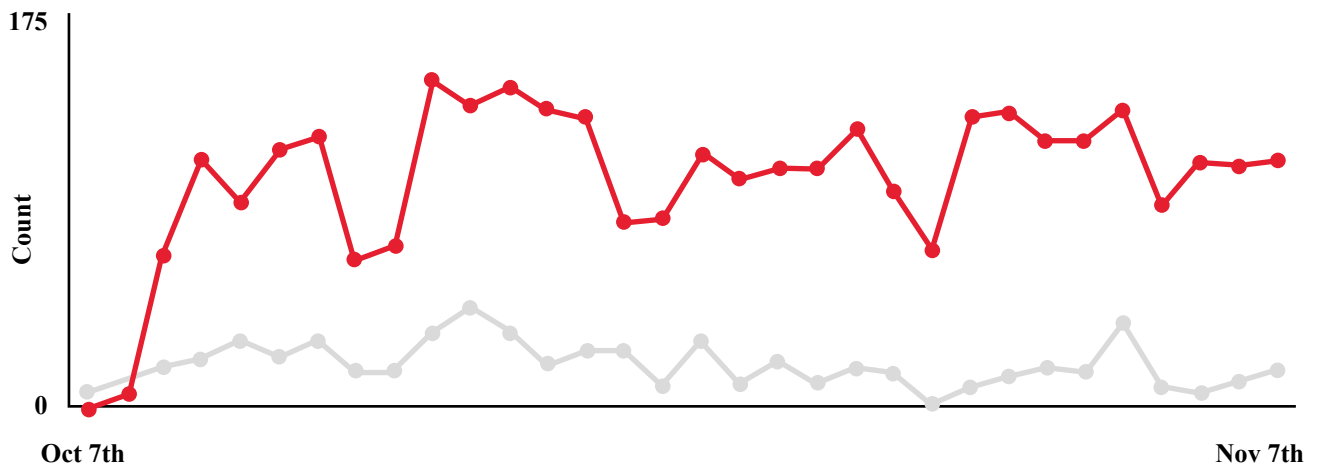




## Media Framing

The term “Israel-Hamas” war had a significantly higher presence in online media than “Israel-Gaza” war.

Media Exposure



<b>Israel &amp; Hamas</b> Oct 7th 2023 - Nov 7th 2023	<b>Israel &amp; Gaza</b> Oct 7th 2023 - Nov 7th 2023
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Source: Centre for Media Monitoring (CfMM)

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# What is Journalistic Malpractice?



The New York Times



Israel-Hamas War >

Updates

A Growing Rift in Israel

The Cost of Es

Israel bombs Palestinian Refugees in Gaza Again, Strike on Area Where Displaced Gazans Were Camped Kills Up to 25

## 02

# What is Journalistic Malpractice?

Journalistic malpractice encompasses the media's failure to:

**Report the truth, ensure transparency and serve the community.<sup>11</sup>**

**In particular, journalistic malpractice in the media's coverage of Gaza includes:**

- Failure to hold Israel accountable for its intentional and systematic violence in occupied Gaza, both during the genocide since 7 October 2023 and Israel's preceding decades-long siege.<sup>12</sup>
- Absence of context surrounding the over 100-year history of Zionist violence in occupied Palestine prior to 7 October 2023.<sup>13</sup>
- Failure to declare bias in narratives towards the Israeli perspective, and critically challenge Israeli spokespeople and guests' depiction of events.<sup>14</sup>
- Undermining Palestinian sources of information, such as the Gaza Health Ministry, even when these sources have been determined to be accurate and reliable by multiple international organisations.<sup>15</sup>

**This journalistic malpractice takes place through four main editorial decisions:**

1. **Language Utilisation:** Emotive language describes Israelis as victims of attacks on average 11 times more than Palestinians.<sup>16</sup>
2. **Framing of Events:** Most TV channels overwhelmingly promote "Israel's right" to defend itself, overshadowing Palestinian rights by a ratio of 5 to 1.<sup>17</sup> In broadcast TV, Israeli perspectives were referenced almost three times more than Palestinian ones. In online news it was almost twice as much.<sup>18</sup>
3. **Contextual Framing:** 76% of online articles framed the conflict as an "Israel-Hamas war," while only 24% mention "Palestine/Palestinian," indicating a lack of context.<sup>19</sup>
4. **Misrepresentation:** Palestinian voices and that of allies opposed to the occupation and genocide, face misrepresentation and vilification by media outlets, perpetuating harmful stereotypes.<sup>20</sup>

**“In a situation where Western governments like the US, the UK, and others are complicit, you’ve actually got Western media that has actually become a part of the mechanism of genocide. That’s what’s different, that’s what’s frightening.”**

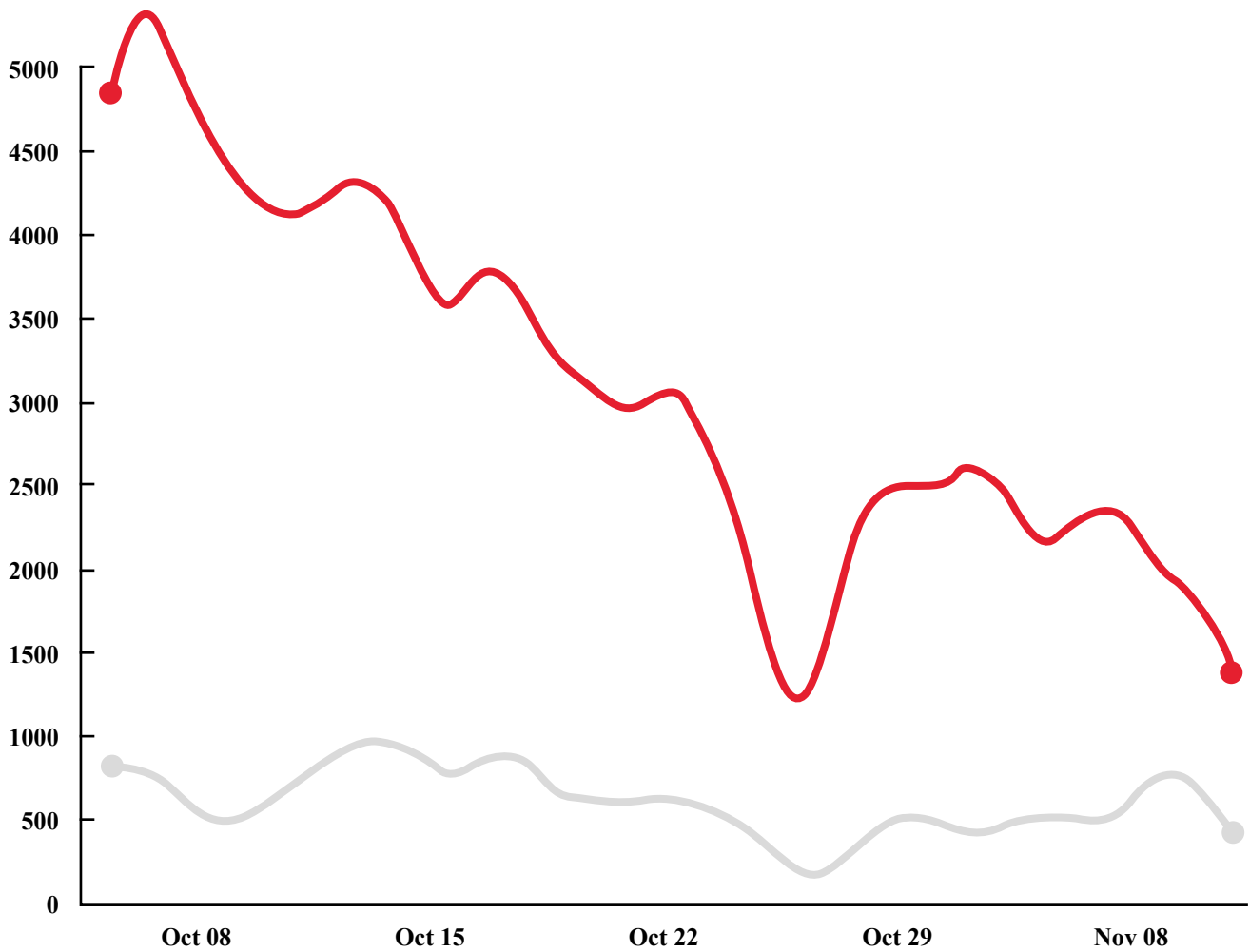
**Craig Mokhiber**

former Senior Human Rights  
Official at the United Nations.<sup>21</sup>



## Media Bias

**Israelis are mentioned more than Palestinians** every day on CNN, MSNBC, and FOX. This remained the case even as Palestinian deaths began to far outpace Israeli deaths.



Israelis (mentioned on CNN, MSNBC, FOX)

Palestinians (mentioned on CNN, MSNBC, FOX)

Source: The Column

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# Journalistic Malpractice on Palestine Before 7 October 2023

Tuesday, October 17, 2023  
Today's Paper

## The New York Times

S&P 500 -0.2% ↓

World U.S. Politics N.Y. Business Opinion Science Health Sports Arts Books Style Food Travel Magazine Real Estate Cooking The Athletic Wirecutter Games

LIVE House Speaker Election Just Now Israel-Hamas War 4m ago

### Israeli Strike Kills Hundreds in Hospital, Palestinians Say

LIVE 4m ago

At Least 500 Dead in Gaza Attack, as Biden Prepares to Visit Israel



### At Least 500 Dead in Strike on Gaza Hospital, Palestinians Say

LIVE 3m ago

Israelis Say Misfired Palestinian Rocket Was Cause of Explosion



© The Free Press

### At Least 500 Dead in Blast at Gaza Hospital, Palestinians Say

LIVE 4m ago

Israelis Say Misfired Palestinian Rocket Was Cause of Explosion



# Journalistic Malpractice on Palestine Before 7 October 2023

Journalistic malpractice surrounding the reporting of Zionist occupation and violence in occupied Palestine long predates 7 October 2023.<sup>22</sup> For decades, Palestinians have been the subject of biased reporting and dehumanisation by Western media outlets.<sup>23</sup>

## Israel's 2014 Attacks on Gaza

During Israel's 2014 attacks on Gaza – the most devastating Israeli attack on Gaza prior to 2023 – the New York Times attempted to depict parity between Israel's attacks on Gaza and the Palestinian resistance.<sup>24</sup>

Namely, the New York Times' coverage focused on the number of rockets fired, not the damage inflicted and number of casualties, therefore failing to highlight to the reader Israel's superior military technology and protection by the Iron dome.<sup>25</sup>

The New York Times also used passive language to describe Israel's attacks, versus active language when describing the Palestinian resistance's operations.<sup>26</sup>

## Israel's 2018 Attacks on Gaza's Great March of Return

BBC headlines deliberately misrepresented Israel's 2018 attacks on a peaceful protest by Palestinians in Gaza, known as the Great March of Return.<sup>27</sup>

One BBC video, entitled: *Gaza-Israel border protests turn deadly*, fails to indicate that unarmed Palestinians were the victims of intentional and targeted Israeli Occupation Forces (IOF) attacks.<sup>28</sup> The headline also depicts the apartheid wall between occupied Gaza and Israel as a 'border', rather than a military fence surrounding the world's largest concentration camp.<sup>29</sup>

Another BBC article, titled: *Deadly unrest on Gaza-Israel border as Palestinians resume protests*, again misrepresents how the IOF opened fire on unarmed Palestinians protesting their containment in the world's largest concentration camp.<sup>30</sup>

**“Israel has a right to defend itself. That was the editorial line that was drilled into us, into all of our coverage. It was really an integral part of the [BBC] editorial stance. To a guest talking about Israeli airstrikes killing Palestinians in Gaza, that would be the response from our presenters. People were terrified of using the word ‘genocide’ in coverage. They still are. You will very rarely see it in any BBC coverage, and if an interviewee says the word ‘genocide’ – the presenter will almost always panic.”**

**‘Sara’**

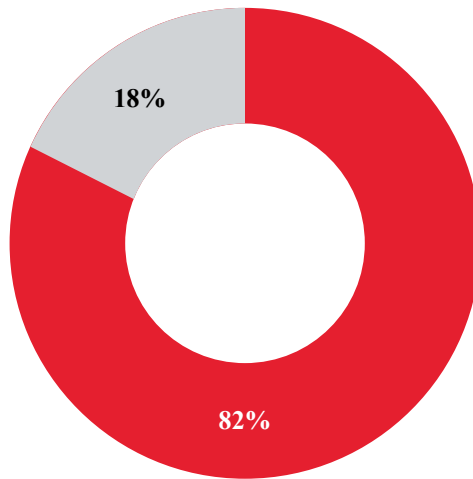
a BBC journalist speaking on the condition of anonymity.<sup>31</sup>



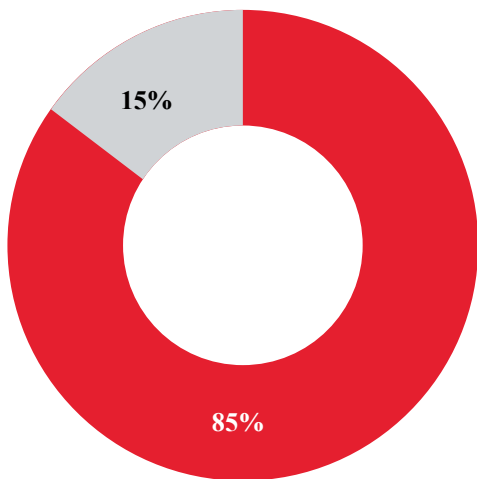


## Media Bias

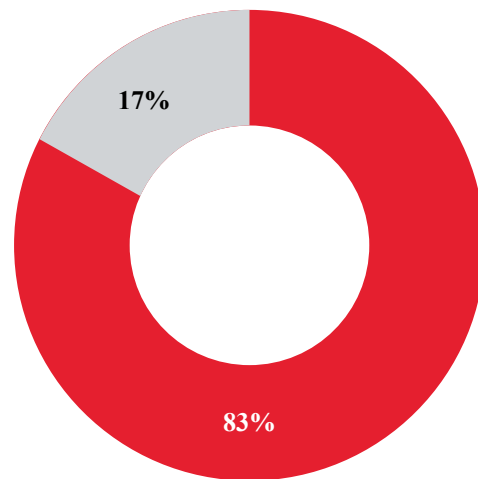
The three channels all maintained about the same ratio of Palestine:Israel coverage.



MSNBC



FOX



CNN



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# Zionist Lies Spread by the Media

## '40 BABIES MURDERED BY HAMAS'



Children beheaded as families slaughtered, says Israel  
'ISIS-level savagery' says US as Americans held hostage  
Hamas begins new blitz after two terror chiefs die in raid

**ISRAELI soldiers beheaded 40 babies in a massacre at a school during their surprise assault on Gaza. It is claimed 300 of the children were found beheaded by their cuts - and that 200 were found down in bed or buried alive in their homes at Khan Younis the border with Gaza, soldiers said.**  
The bodies were found by the Israeli Defense Force as several times have to have after slogging up the last gaza and, according to the report, were found after the huge dawn raid.  
Soldiers have said they discovered bodies of children's bodies made out of the 100 in the school's playground.  
"We saw one case of these children containing such victim," one soldier showed in a report. "I'd like to see what you saw!"  
That commander Maj Gen Dan Yona said. "You saw the bodies, the mothers, the babies, in their bedrooms. In their bedrooms and how the terrorist

**Evening Standard**  
LONDON THURSDAY 19 OCTOBER 2023

Two women among the thousands on yesterday's pro-Palestine march in London brazenly revel in the massacre of dozens of young Israelis by paragliding Hamas terrorists... so why didn't the police stop them?

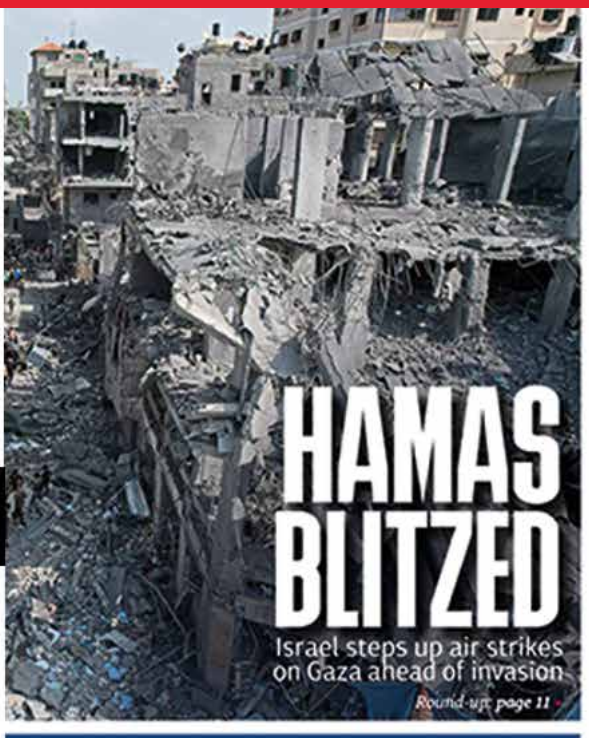
## YOU GHOULS



British hostages face a 'second Holocaust' say anguished families

As Charles AND William both condemn Hamas, our national broadcaster is still calling them 'militants'

## THE KING CALLS THEM TERRORISTS, WHY CAN'T THE BBC?



# HAMAS BLITZED

Israel steps up air strikes on Gaza ahead of invasion  
Round-up: page 11



## We stand with you

PM BACKS ISRAEL AS HE CONDEMNS 'HORRIFIC TERRORISM' OF HAMAS  
PAGES 4-6

## RISHI'S PLEDGE: 'TERRORISM WILL NOT PREVAIL'

© The Communist

# Zionist Lies Spread by the Media

Since 7 October 2023, Western media has readily and without reservation spread Zionist narratives, without regard for the accuracy of this information<sup>32</sup>, not responsibility as media entities communicating with the masses. In particular, the media has had a central role in spreading sensationalist, fictitious stories of beheaded babies, mass rape, and Hamas tunnels under hospitals.<sup>33</sup>

These sensationalist stories, often not retracted by media outlets despite their lack of evidence, laid the groundwork for the dehumanisation of Palestinians that allowed the IOF to continue their genocide of Palestinians.<sup>34</sup>

## “Beheaded Babies”

Mainstream media widely repeated the false narrative that dozens of babies were beheaded by Hamas on 7 October 2023, despite no evidence being produced by Israeli sources.<sup>35</sup>

Between 7 October 2023 and 7 November 2023, the “beheaded babies” story was mentioned more than 361 times across mainstream Western TV broadcasters.<sup>36</sup> On only 52 occasions was there any questioning of these unsubstantiated claims.<sup>37</sup>

On 11 October 2023, *BBC Newsnight* interviewed the Israeli Ambassador to the UK, Tzipi Hotovely, who repeated this fabrication, saying: “We have seen the bodies of those babies and children and actually this is evidence-based.”<sup>38</sup> Her claim was not challenged.<sup>39</sup>

This fabricated story was backed up by sensationalist statements such as the *Daily Mail* headline: ‘This was a Holocaust pure and simple’.<sup>40</sup>

Such was the nature of this sensationalist headline, that U.S President Biden gave a statement on 10 October 2023: “I never really thought that I would see, have confirmed, pictures of terrorists beheading children”<sup>158</sup>. A day later, a White House spokesperson

said the president’s comments were based on news reports and claims by the Israeli government and clarified “that US officials and the president have not seen pictures or confirmed such reports independently”<sup>159</sup>.

Indeed, months later, when 18-month-old Ahmed Al-Najjar was beheaded during the Rafah Tent Massacre<sup>160</sup>, not a single mainstream news outlet reintroduced the “beheaded babies” headline, despite graphic videos and images of his decapitated body recovered at the scene of the massacre. “Israel accuses us of cutting off people’s heads. But who cuts off heads? Israel beheaded my 18-month-old son,” said Ahmed’s father<sup>161</sup>.

This hyper-focus on the fabricated deaths of Israeli babies occurred alongside Western media’s silence on the killing of Palestinian children.<sup>41</sup> Between 7 October 2023 and 24 October 2023, Israeli children were mentioned 1,221 times across Fox News, MSNBC, and CNN, whereas Palestinian children were only mentioned 699 times.<sup>42</sup>

## “Mass Rape and Sexual Assault on 7 October”

Mainstream media repeatedly reported the fabricated narrative of systematic sexual assault and rape by Palestinian resistance fighters on 7 October 2024.<sup>43</sup>

Most infamously, this narrative spawned from the *New York Times* article: “‘Screams Without Words’: How Hamas Weaponized Sexual Violence on Oct. 7.”, by Nat Schwartz.<sup>44</sup> Schwartz, a former Israeli Air Force official, had no prior reporting experience, and liked tweets on X that incited genocide, including a tweet that read Israel needed to: “turn the [Gaza] strip into a slaughterhouse”.<sup>45</sup>

These reports demonstrated journalistic malpractice through lack of fact-checking and corroboration.

## Zionist Lies Spread by the Media continued...

These falsified claims were easily debunked by several news outlets, including: *October 7 Fact Check*, *Mondowiess*, *The Electronic Intifada*, and *The Grayzone* – all of which have far less resources than the *New York Times*.<sup>46</sup>

These lies were reproduced in another *New York Times* article by Sheryl Sandberg, titled: “What We Know About Sexual Violence During the Oct. 7 Attacks on Israel”, which was coordinated with Israel’s launch of a campaign surrounding false instances of mass rape on 7 October 2023 at the United Nations.<sup>47</sup>

Despite acknowledging there were no “autopsies or forensic evidence”, media outlets relied on statements by the Israeli police about the existence of witness testimonies as evidence, none of which ever materialised.<sup>48</sup> The Israeli police themselves applied pressure to Schwartz to publish the article.<sup>49</sup>

### “Misfired Hamas Rocket hit al-Ahli Hospital”

After Israeli spokespeople refused to claim the IOF attack on al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza, and suggested the destruction was instead caused by a Hamas rocket, Western media outlets were quick to publicise the Israeli narrative over the truth.<sup>50</sup>

Sky News broadcasted a recording released by the Israeli military claimed to be a discussion between Hamas operatives, saying that one of the rockets fired by Islamic Jihad had hit the Al Ahli Hospital in Gaza.<sup>51</sup> The origin and content of the recording was not challenged despite Israel’s numerous prior falsified stories.<sup>52</sup>

Similarly, the BBC concluded Israel’s recording was accurate based on statements by ‘security experts’ from Western think tanks with strong links to the military industrial complex, including one where a Mossad Chief holds a position on its board.<sup>53</sup>

### “Hamas roster in al-Rantisi Children’s Hospital”

CNN broadcast an interview by correspondent Nic Robertson with IOF spokesperson, Daniel Hagari, where he shows ‘proof’ that the hospital was being used by Hamas, pointing to a calendar – written in Arabic – on the wall, claiming it to be a ‘roster of Hamas terrorist keeping guard’.<sup>54</sup>

CNN broadcast this report despite this lie being debunked on social media the day before the broadcast, and despite a Palestinian producer sending an internal WhatsApp message to her colleagues – including Nic Robertson – informing them of this error, which was ignored.<sup>55</sup>

CNN still uploaded the report online after the televised report, despite another producer once again flagging these inaccuracies to Nic Robertson.<sup>56</sup> His response to these criticisms was: “are you meaning to say that Hagari is lying to us?” Ignoring his colleagues, the report was published despite its known inaccuracies.<sup>57</sup>

No proof of any Hamas presence in al-Rantisi Children’s Hospital ever emerged.<sup>58</sup>

### “Hamas Tunnels and Command Centre Under al-Shifa Hospital”

Claims were repeated with little to no pushback by Western media outlets.<sup>59</sup> Indeed, the *New York Times* began to create their own entirely fictitious renditions of what they imagined the underground tunnels to look like.<sup>60</sup>

Western media, again interviewing IOF’s Daniel Hagari, showed Western journalists some weapons from an unknown source, and tunnels built by the Israelis themselves in the 1980s – nothing that resembled Hamas tunnels or an underground command centre.<sup>61</sup>

## Zionist Lies Spread by the Media continued...

Despite the absence of evidence, Western media continued to uncritically reproduce Israeli spokesperson narratives about Hamas' use of weapons.<sup>62</sup>

In comparison, testimonies of medical staff being attacked and killed by Israeli forces, and mass graves being uncovered in the vicinity of attacked hospitals, have been barely covered in Western media.<sup>63</sup>

**Since Western media repeated Israeli lies about al-Rantisi and Shifa hospital being used by Hamas, all of Gaza's hospitals have been attacked, put out of service, or demolished by the Israeli military.<sup>64</sup>**

**Western media's rendering of Gaza's hospitals as legitimate targets for Israeli military attacks directly facilitated the genocide of Palestinians in Gaza, leaving them unable to access medical care, and dying of preventable and treatable injuries and illnesses.<sup>65</sup>**

### BBC Editorial Standards Committee's Links to Jewish Chronicle

The tolerance of fake news by the BBC's editorial standards committee can be explained by its personnel.<sup>162</sup> One of the governing board, Robbie Gibb, is a director of the Jewish Chronicle.<sup>163</sup>

The Jewish Chronicle published a number of fabricated articles by a freelance reporter, Elon Perry, including one containing a fake document "discovered" in Gaza, which detailed Hamas resistance leader Yahya Sinwar's plans to escape Gaza with Israeli hostages.<sup>164</sup>

The IOF stated that it had no knowledge this document existed, and as journalists began to question Perry's identity and professional background, a number of high-profile columnists announced that they would no longer write for the paper.<sup>165</sup>

The lack of moral integrity of the BBC's editorial standards committee explains why the BBC has continued to spread Zionist lies despite the lack of evidence.<sup>166</sup>

**“One of probably the most distressing aspects about that period when I was working at al-Shifa hospital, is that we were getting hundreds and hundreds of wounded, the bombing around Shifa was continuous.**

**And so, you’d get phone calls [from media outlets], and all the Western journalists wanted to ask about was: when you walk around do you see any tunnels? And if you say that you have never seen the tunnels you are dismissed immediately.”**

**Dr Ghassan Abu Sittah**

Palestinian-British doctor who served in Gaza during the genocide.<sup>66</sup>



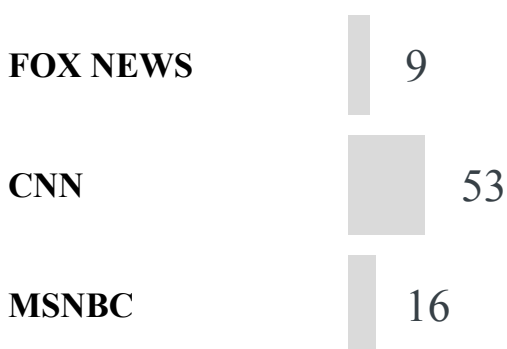
## Media Framing

Below are the number of 30-second segments from the three channels in which the term **massacre** is used in reference to Israelis versus Palestinians.

### Mention of “massacre” committed on Israelis



### Mention of “massacre” committed on Palestinians



Source: The Column

05

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# Incitement of Genocide

→ By who?

## Explosion Gazans Say Was Airstrike Leaves Many Casualties in Dense Neighborhood

Dozens were taken to nearby Al-Aqsa Martyrs Hospital, where a photographer for The New York Times saw the injured crowding the hallways and the lifeless being prepared for burial.



# Incitement of Genocide

## Airing Incitement of Genocide

IOF spokesman Peter Lerner was interviewed 44 times on CNN, MSNBC and Fox News in the span of 30 days and given free rein to mislead and distort the truth in a way that incited genocide, with little to no pushback from any of these media outlets.<sup>67</sup>

Throughout these interviews, Lerner frequently stated that all structures, be they schools, universities, places of worship, and civilian homes, are legitimate targets for attack.<sup>68</sup>

His incitement to genocide and attacks on civilian structures – which is illegal under international law – was met with almost no push back from his interviewers.<sup>69</sup>

## Aiding and Abetting Genocide

Journalists at the BBC and the *New York Times* have publicly resigned over their ‘professional conscience’ and concern for how the bias in the organisations’ coverage of Israel’s genocide in Gaza risks aiding and abetting genocide.<sup>70</sup>

## BBC Complicity in Aiding and Abetting Genocide

Following the International Court of Justice (ICJ)’s ruling on the plausibility of Israel’s genocide in Gaza, over 20 BBC journalists sent a joint letter to the BBC leadership warning the corporation’s coverage was a public disservice, and risked aiding and abetting genocide.<sup>71</sup>

The letter stated that “interviews should therefore include robust questioning on weapons transfers and diplomatic support for Israel, as well as any comments made by their governments that could potentially amount to aiding and abetting genocide”<sup>72</sup>

The letter also drew parallels between the BBC’s coverage of the Rohingya genocide in Myanmar, versus their coverage of the genocide in Gaza.<sup>73</sup> The letter emphasised how “the BBC is overwhelmingly only referring to the “conflict” or “war” in Gaza, with no reference to the ICJ ruling.<sup>74</sup> Comparably, coverage of Myanmar would regularly refer to “what the UN has described as a possible genocide”.<sup>75</sup>

The letter was ignored.<sup>76</sup>

## *New York Times* Complicity in Aiding and Abetting Genocide

70 journalism professors have demanded the *New York Times* investigate their baseless report on ‘mass sexual violence’ on 7 October 2023.<sup>77</sup>

The *New York Times* only conducted an investigation to find the source of the leak that the article was baseless.<sup>78</sup>

**“Gaza has massively exposed the hypocrisies at the heart of the BBC. The fact that it very much does respond to influence, it very much can be swayed, it does follow the government line broadly on certain stories.**

**The BBC is meant to be a public service, it’s meant to be for the people. But at the end of the day, its purse strings are held by the government, and that you can see in the coverage.”**

**‘Sara’**

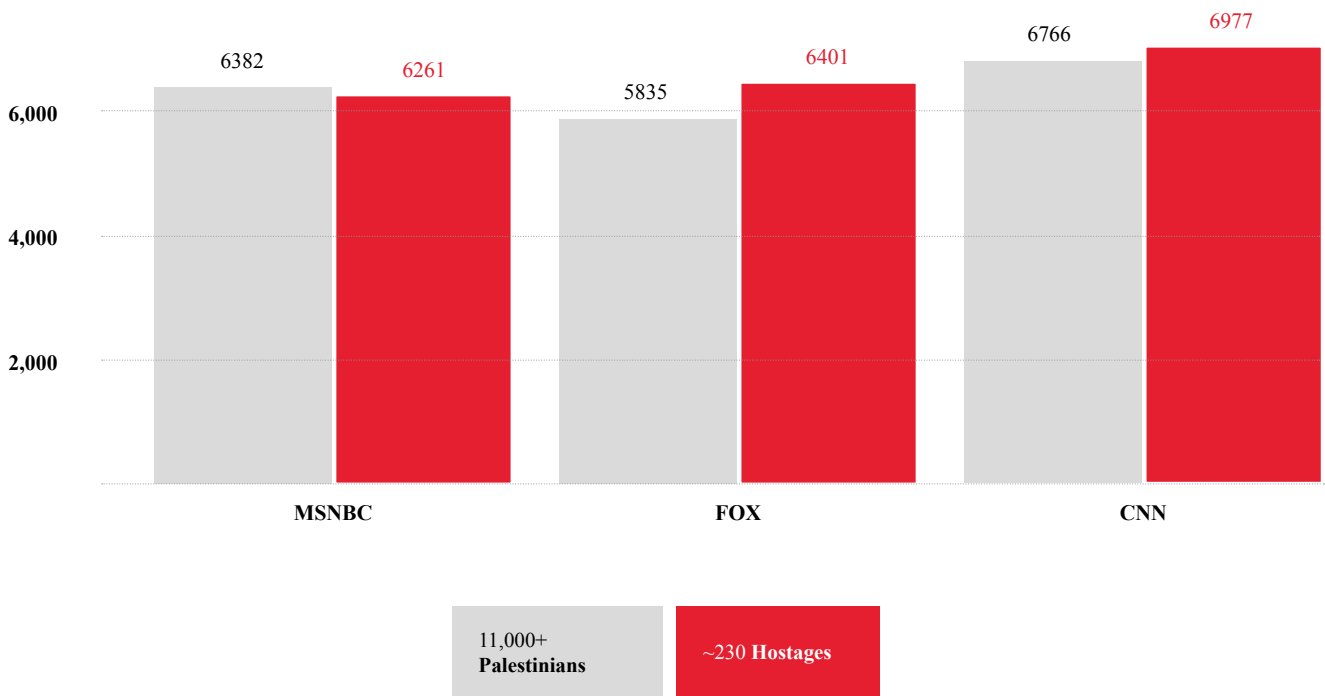
a BBC journalist speaking on the condition of anonymity.<sup>79</sup>



## Media Framing

The ~230 hostages got more coverage on CNN and Fox News than the 11,000+ Palestinians killed by Israel.

The graph below shows the number of 30-second segments in which the words “hostage” or “kidnap” and adjacent terms were mentioned compared to the number of times the term “Palestinian” and adjacent terms were used, between October 7 and November 7.



Source: The Column

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# Dehumanisation of Palestinians in the Media

## TROOPS LAUNCH GAZA WAR

- 150 HAMAS BASES HIT, 2 CHIEFS DEAD
- ISRAELI BOSS: IT'S EITHER US OR THEM

# THE EARTH SHOOK



Hell ... woman amid rubble



Massive blast ... smoke rises after air strike in Gaza



By **ROBIN PERRIE** and **THOMAS GODFREY**

ISRAEL hit Gaza with its biggest bombardment yet yesterday as troops launched a new phase of the war. Military bosses said "the earth shook in Gaza" after more than 150 Hamas bases were destroyed and two terror chiefs were eliminated. Hundreds of terror fighters, civilians and defence bosses were killed or injured. "This is a war against Hamas or them." Last night PM Benjamin Netanyahu, left, said

Continued on Page 5

© The Sun

# Dehumanisation of Palestinians in the Media

## Dehumanisation and Incitement of Genocide

Israeli spokespeople were reported across Western media as calling Palestinians “animals”, “human animals”, “inhuman animals”, and “barbaric animals”, as well as remarking that they “deserve to be bombed” without challenge or pushback by Western media outlets.<sup>80</sup>

### *BBC News*

BBC Newsnight interviewed Israeli politician Danny Danon, who responded to a question about whether he was concerned about the diminishing support for Israelis as more Palestinians were killed by including the term “barbaric animals”.<sup>81</sup> The presenter did not challenge Danon’s language.<sup>82</sup>

### *Sky News*

Sky News presenter Trevor Phillips referred to the last elections in Gaza saying: “Gaza elected Hamas. And I think it is hard for somebody who has not been there and looked people in the face to understand how it could be that there are 2.2 million people who everyone says the majority of whom are not aggressive and do not want to be a part of this, yet they elected what essentially is a terrorist death cult”.<sup>83</sup>

### *Channel 4*

Channel 4 interviewed Ezra Yachin, a former IOF soldier who was involved in the Deir Yassin massacre of Palestinians.<sup>84</sup> During the interview, Yachin stated: “We don’t want to kill every Palestinian. We want our enemy not to exist, not to be alive, because they don’t have the right to live. But if they take a shield, the women and children, we are not responsible for their life”. He concluded: “They terrorise for the hate of our people, not for the love of themselves. For the hate of our people”.<sup>85</sup>

Channel 4’s presenter, Matt Frei, did not challenge Yachin’s views nor state his involvement in the Deir Yassin massacre.<sup>86</sup>

### “ Hamas-run ” Health Ministry

Western media, such as Sky News, began referring to the Gaza Health Ministry, run by medical professionals in Gaza, as the ‘ Hamas-run ’ Health Ministry.<sup>87</sup> This editorial decision intended to shed doubt on the Palestinian death toll, and render those working in the Health Ministry as liable for targeted attack and killing by the IOF.<sup>88</sup>

### Delegitimising of Palestinian Voices

Palestinian voices attempting to give context to 7 October 2023 were either silenced or accused of supporting Hamas and the events of 7 October.<sup>89</sup> Palestinian voices and allies critical of the occupation and the genocide were repeatedly asked to condemn the 7 October attacks as a ticket to enter discussions.<sup>90</sup> Israeli voices were not asked to condemn Israel’s attacks on Gaza.<sup>91</sup>

**“If you want to create a context for dehumanisation and genocide, you need to go further. We saw false reports about beheaded babies, which never happened. About a systematic campaign of mass rape, which never happened. About babies being cut from the abdomen of their mothers, which never happened, and a whole series of other horrific atrocities.**

**These were deliberately concocted, official stories, that were being provided, in particular to a Western audience, in order to create an atmosphere in which the crimes that were to follow would go on unchecked.”**

**Craig Mokhiber**  
former Senior Human Rights  
Official at the United Nations.<sup>92</sup>



## Media Framing

Percentage of mentions of Israel’s right vs mentions of the right of the Palestinians by each channel.



Mentions of Israel’s right outweighs Palestinian’s rights in all TV channels.

Source: Centre for Media Monitoring (CfMM)

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# Disregard for International Law

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Israeli Airstrike on 'Safe Zone' Kills 90 Palestinians, Claiming ~~Questions Swirl After Deadly Strike Targeting Hamas~~ Commander **Was Target**

© Zeteo



# Disregard for International Law

## Falsely Claiming Israel’s ‘Right to Self-Defence’

Western media outlets repeatedly depicted Israel as having a right to defend itself in Gaza, despite the fact that under international law, Israel cannot claim a right of self-defence in Gaza, because Gaza is a territory which it occupies.<sup>93</sup>

Between 7 October 2023 and 7 November 2023, “Israel’s right” to self-defence was repeated 1,482 occasions across mainstream Western TV broadcast channels, compared to only 288 mentions of Palestinians’ right to resist.<sup>94</sup>

During the same period, Israel’s right to defend itself was mentioned 963 times in online media – six times more than the rights of Palestinian people at just 163 mentions.<sup>95</sup>

## Ignoring Palestinians’ Right to Resist

Western media outlets have ignored the fact that Palestinians have a right under international law to resist their occupation by Israel.<sup>96</sup>

In 1982, the UN General Assembly adopted a resolution (37/43), which recognised the rights of the Palestinian struggle for self-determination for being “under foreign and colonial domination” by Israel.<sup>97</sup> It asserted “the legitimacy of the struggle of peoples for independence, territorial integrity, national unity and liberation from colonial and foreign domination and foreign occupation by all available means, including armed struggle”.<sup>98</sup>

## Suggestions that the killing of Palestinian children is legal

### *The Atlantic*

In an article titled: *The UN’s Gaza Statistics make no sense*, Graeme Wood wrote, “It is possible to kill children legally, if for example one is being attacked by an enemy who hides behind them”.<sup>99</sup>

The claim of legal justification for mass killings of children as “collateral damage” in a war is unequivocally contradicted by clear texts in international law and fundamental humanitarian covenants.<sup>100</sup>

### **International law explicitly prohibits targeting civilians, especially children, in warfare:**

- The Convention on the Rights of the Child mandates that state parties take “all feasible measures to ensure the protection and care of children affected by armed conflict”.<sup>101</sup>
- The Fourth Geneva Convention requires adherence to arrangements ensuring the protection of civilians and children, including their evacuation from besieged areas and the provision of medical and relief services.<sup>102</sup>
- These requirements are also reinforced by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court.<sup>103</sup>

## Disregard for International Law continued...

### *The Washington Post*

On 7 November 2023, *The Washington Post* published a cartoon that depicted a Hamas leader connecting several children to his front and a Palestinian woman from behind, saying, “How dare Israel attack civilians?”<sup>104</sup> The cartoon reinforces the Israeli narrative that the high civilian casualty toll in Gaza is due to their use by resistance factions as human shields.<sup>105</sup>

The cartoon both justifies the high number of civilian casualties in Gaza and advocates for their killing, by suggesting that it is necessary for Israel to kill children and women to reach the bodies of resistance leaders and kill them.<sup>106</sup>

### Failure to recognise the illegality of Israel’s Occupation

On 9 October 2023, Channel 4 interviewed the Israeli Ambassador to the UK, who repeatedly stated that Gaza was not occupied by Israel.<sup>107</sup> Her statement went unchallenged despite numerous legal resolutions to the contrary.<sup>108</sup>

In the *New York Times*’ (*NYT*) coverage of the legal opinion issued by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the illegality of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories since 1967, the *NYT* published an article titled: *Israel’s occupation has been a subject of U.N. debate for decades*.<sup>109</sup> This headline is misleading and inaccurate.

International law has long deemed the activities of the occupation and Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) to be illegal, reflected by numerous resolutions in both the UN Security Council (UNSC) and General Assembly.<sup>110</sup>

#### In the UNSC:

- Resolution 446, adopted in 1979 addressed the status of settlements in Palestinian territories, including occupied East Jerusalem. This was followed by Resolution 452 later that year.<sup>111</sup>
- Resolution 465, adopted in 1980, called on Israel to dismantle existing settlements and halt settlement plans in the occupied territories and called upon the international community not to assist Israeli settlement efforts.<sup>112</sup>
- Resolution 2334, adopted in 2016, which “reaffirmed that the establishment by Israel of settlements in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, had no legal validity and constituted a flagrant violation under international law.”<sup>113</sup>

#### At the United Nations General Assembly:

- Resolution 2851 of 1971, along with Resolution 38/79, rejected Israel’s policies of occupation and called upon Israel to rescind all measures aimed at annexing any part of the occupied territories.
- Resolution 38/79 reaffirmed the fact that “occupation itself constitutes a grave violation of the human rights of the civilian population of the occupied Arab territories” and declared once more that “Israel’s grave breaches of that Convention [Geneva] are war crimes and an affront to humanity”.<sup>114</sup>
- Many subsequent resolutions have similarly condemned Israeli settlement policies in the occupied territories and reaffirmed their illegality.<sup>115</sup>

These UN resolutions, accessible to any journalist, confirm that the illegality of Israeli settlements is not a matter of debate, contrary to the *NYT* headline.<sup>116</sup>

This stance was ultimately affirmed by the ICJ, which clarified that the continued Israeli presence in the OPT is unlawful and should come to an end “as rapidly as possible”.<sup>117</sup>

**“The Western media was critical to the process of demonisation of the Palestinian health system. And what is shocking is that when the Israelis went into Shifa, and there was no real evidence of these bunkers, these media outlets did not recant their original stories.”**

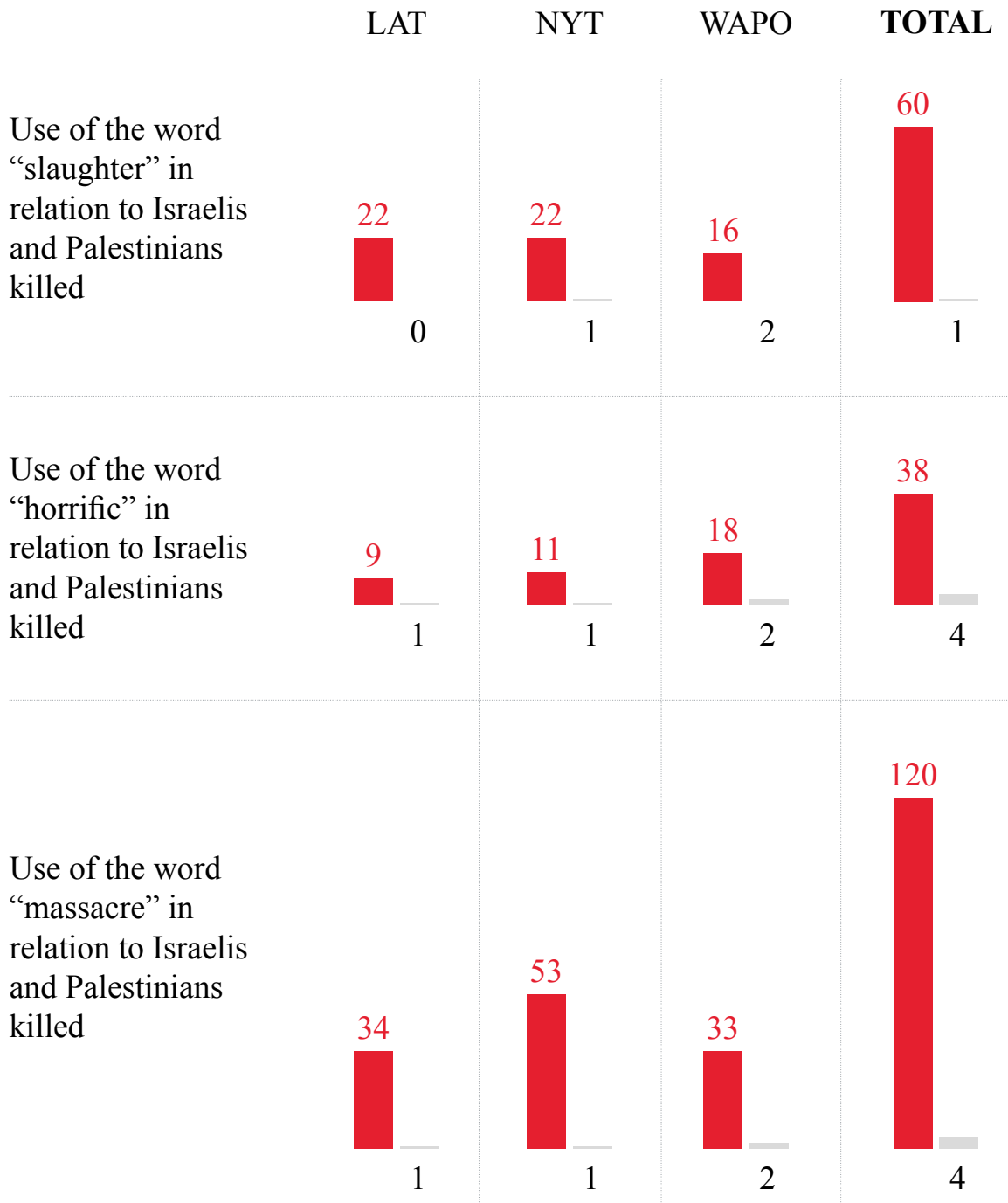
**Dr Ghassan Abu Sittah**

Palestinian-British doctor who served in Gaza during the genocide.<sup>118</sup>



## Media Framing

The terms “slaughter,” “massacre,” and “horrific” were disproportionately used to describe Israeli deaths in the LA Times (LAT), New York Times (NYT) and the Washington Post (WAPO).



Please note that for all terms, instances in which the term has been printed in quotes have been removed from these totals.

Data: Othman Ali  
Source: The Intercept



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# Linguistic Censorship and Misinformation

# THE TIMES

SCOTLAND

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## Israel shows mutilated babies

● Images alleged to be proof of atrocities ● Britain sends two Royal Navy ships ● Sunak hits out at protesters and BBC

Richard Spencer Tel Aviv  
Alistair Dawber Washington  
Adam Sage Paris

Israel published photographs last night that it said showed mutilated bodies including a baby allegedly murdered by Hamas, the Palestinian terrorist group responsible for a series of massacres last weekend.

The pictures were posted on Israeli government social media. "This is the most difficult image we have ever posted but we need each and every one of you to know. This happened," it said on Twitter/X.

It said the images, which The Times is choosing not to publish as they are too graphic, had been taken by the armed forces, who had found "mutilated bodies" in settlements attacked by Hamas on Saturday.

The decision followed a row over allegations by some Israeli soldiers, without evidence, that babies had been beheaded. The search and rescue team found "decapitated babies, women with hands cut off, burnt bodies," Daniel Hagari, a rear-admiral in the Israel Defence Forces (IDF) said, adding that there was video of the alleged atrocities. He did not say whether it would be re-



© BBC

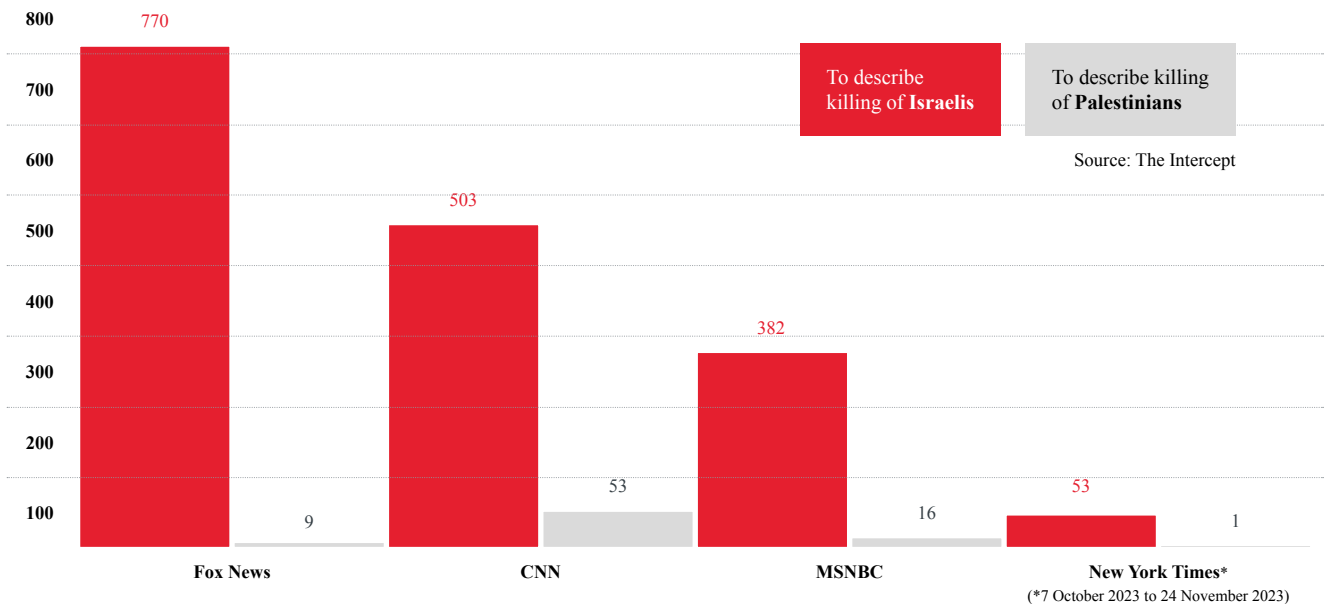
08

# Linguistic Censorship and Misinformation

## Use of ‘emotive’ terminology

Mainstream media reserved terms like “slaughter,” “massacre,” and “horrific” almost exclusively for Zionist settlers killed, rather than for Palestinians killed by Israeli attacks.<sup>119</sup>

Between 7 October 2023 and 7 November 2023, the term “massacre” was used:



In the cases where the word massacre did appear in relation to Palestinians, it was because:

1. A Palestinian who was directly affected was interviewed,
2. A Palestine advocate was interviewed
3. It was prefaced by the statement “...what is being called a massacre.”<sup>124</sup>  
<https://www.columnblog.com/p/massacred-vs-left-to-die-documenting>

The *New York Times* also used the term “slaughter” at a ratio of 22 (of Israelis) to 1 (of Palestinians), despite the Zionist entity killing more than 15,000 Palestinians at the time.<sup>125</sup>

This disparity between the emotive language used to describe Israeli death versus the passive language used for Israel’s killing of Palestinians was captured in this op-ed in *The Washington Post* on 12 November 2023:

**“This war has produced deeply horrifying images: Israeli children assaulted in barbaric ways by Hamas terrorists; Palestinian children left to die under Israeli bombardment.”**<sup>126</sup>

## *New York Times’ Editorial Directives*

In November 2023, *New York Times* editors Susan Wessling and Philip Pan sent a memo instructing journalists covering Israel’s war on the Gaza Strip to restrict the use of the terms “genocide” and “ethnic cleansing” and to “avoid” using the phrase “occupied territory”.<sup>127</sup>

## Linguistic Censorship and Misinformation continued...

The memo went on to state: “The nature of the conflict has led to inflammatory language and incendiary accusations on all sides. We should be very cautious about using such language, even in quotations. Our goal is to provide clear, accurate information, and heated language can often obscure rather than clarify the fact. Words like ‘slaughter,’ ‘massacre’ and ‘carnage’ often convey more emotion than information”.<sup>128</sup>

However, incendiary accusations were encouraged in relation to the events of 7 October 2023: “It is accurate to use ‘terrorism’ and ‘terrorist’ in describing the attacks of Oct. 7, which included the deliberate targeting of civilians in killings and kidnappings. We should not shy away from that description of the events or the attackers, particularly when we provide context and explanation”.<sup>129</sup>

### CNN’s Editorial Directives

In late October 2023, editor-in-chief Mark Thompson issued a set of editorial guidelines, requesting that journalists pay attention to a particular paragraph under “coverage guidance”.<sup>130</sup> The paragraph said that, CNN “must continue always to remind our audiences of the immediate cause of *this current conflict*, namely the Hamas attack and mass murder and kidnap of civilians” (Italics are present in the original).<sup>131</sup>

The same guidance mandated that any reference to casualty figures from the Gaza Health Ministry must state it is “ Hamas-controlled”.<sup>132</sup> This implies that the Palestinian death toll was unreliable, despite the detailed evidence produced by the Gaza Health Ministry, and confirmation from the World Health Organisation (WHO) and other international bodies that the figures are accurate, and likely an underreporting of the actual number of Palestinians killed.<sup>133</sup>

In early November, David Lindsay, CNN’s senior director of news standards and practices, issued a directive preventing the reporting of most Hamas statements, demonising them as “inflammatory rhetoric and propaganda”.<sup>134</sup>

An anonymous journalist at CNN also stated that there was a period of time when “we couldn’t call airstrikes in Gaza airstrikes unless we had confirmation from the Israelis”.<sup>135</sup>

The same journalist also revealed that on the day it was announced that 40,000 Palestinians had been killed since 7 October 2023, CNN’s morning editorial call directed that “we need to contextualise and hold Hamas accountable” for the number of Palestinians killed by Israel.<sup>136</sup> This editorial directive was reflected in reporters emphasising the events of 7 October 2023 whenever the Palestinian death toll was mentioned.<sup>137</sup>

**“There was no balance in what was going on. Israeli spokespeople who we did have on were given a lot of free rein to say whatever they wanted with very little pushback. Whereas any Palestinian guest was asked to condemn Hamas. Almost as though condemning Hamas was the sort of price to pay before they could be humanised in our coverage. Many of our own presenters, when faced with an interviewee who was Palestinian or who had lost family in Gaza – there was just such a lack of compassion. As a result, a number of producers were really reticent about putting a vulnerable Palestinian guest in front of a presenter.”**

**Sara**

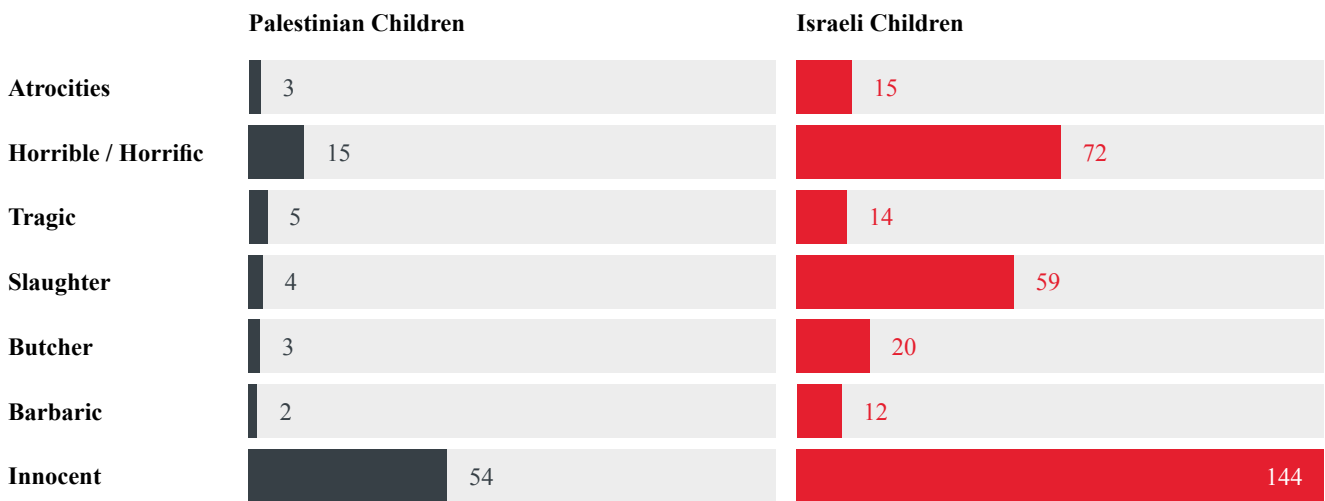
a BBC journalist speaking on the condition of anonymity.<sup>138</sup>





## Media Framing

Words used to describe attacks on children across Fox News, MSNBC, and CNN between 7 and 24 October 2023



Source: The Column

# Accountability and the Pursuit of Justice

30,000 Palestinians Killed

~~Lives Ended~~  
in Gaza

Israel has killed

~~Since the war started,~~ more than  
30,000 people ~~have been killed~~ during **its**  
~~Israel's~~ bombardment and invasion.

Here are some of their stories.

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# Accountability and the Pursuit of Justice

Since 7 October 2023, more than 12,000 complaints have been issued against Western media outlets for media bias and journalistic malpractice.<sup>139</sup>

## Journalistic Malpractice in the UK

UK broadcasters and publishers are obligated to meet certain standards in their coverage and reporting of news.<sup>140</sup> These standards are prescribed by two regulatory bodies, the Office of Communications (Ofcom) and the Independent Press Standards Organisation (IPSO).<sup>141</sup>

Failure to meet these standards may result in:

### 1. Formal correction<sup>142</sup>

In October 2023, Sky News reporter Kay Burley incorrectly referenced Palestinian Ambassador to the UK Husam Zomlot, stating he had suggested that Israel “had it coming”. Following numerous complaints Sky News issued a formal apology.<sup>143</sup>

### 2. Fines<sup>144</sup>

In July 2019, Ofcom fined the television channel RT (formerly Russia Today) £200,000 for serious breaches of the broadcasting rules. Ofcom found that RT failed to preserve due impartiality in seven news and current affairs programs between March and May 2018, which represented a serious failure of compliance with UK broadcasting rules.<sup>145</sup>

### 3. Suspension of license<sup>146</sup>

## UK Broadcasting Code

Two of the most commonly breached broadcasting codes under OFCOM standards include:

Clause 2: Duty to provide adequate protection for members of the public from harmful and/or offensive material.<sup>147</sup>

Clause 5: Duty to ensure that news, in whatever form, is reported with due accuracy and presented with due impartiality.<sup>148</sup>

## UK Editors’ Code of Practice

The most commonly breached clause of the editors’ code of practice is:

Clause 1: The Press must take care not to publish inaccurate, misleading or distorted information or images, including headlines not supported by the text.<sup>149</sup>

**Complaints against UK media corporations for specific articles can be made at:**

**<https://accountable-media.com/#complaint>**

## Accountability and the Pursuit of Justice continued...

### Media Liability for Aiding and Abetting Genocide under International Law

Media companies risk international criminal liability when they provide a platform for direct and public incitement to commit genocide.<sup>150</sup>

While corporations generally cannot be subjected to international criminal liability as distinct entities, individuals conducting business on behalf of a corporation are susceptible to liability.<sup>151</sup>

### Previous Cases of Media Incitement of Genocide

In the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda (ICTR), the trial chamber convicted three “masterminds behind a media campaign to desensitise the Hutu population and incite them to murder the Tutsi population in Rwanda in 1994”.<sup>152</sup>

Two individuals, Ferdinand Nahimana and Jean Bosco Barayagwiza, founded Radio Télévision Libre des Mille Collines (RTLM) and broadcast anti-Tutsi messages to nationwide audiences.<sup>153</sup>

The ICTR Trial Chamber convicted them both of direct and public incitement to commit genocide, noting that “RTLM broadcasts engaged in ethnic stereotyping in a manner that promoted contempt and hatred for the Tutsi population and called on listeners to seek out and take up arms against the enemy” and that “Nahimana and Barayagwiza were, respectively, ‘number one’ and ‘number two’ in the top management of the radio”.<sup>154</sup>

Another individual was also convicted by the Trial Chamber, Hassan Ngeze, who managed a newsletter called Kangura, which published articles that also conveyed “hate-filled messages” about the Tutsis.<sup>155</sup>

**These convictions set a legal precedent for the trial of leading media executives for their role in inciting, aiding, and abetting genocide due to the rhetoric broadcast by their outlets.<sup>156</sup>**

**“The New York Times headlines are filled with volume after volume of story where Palestinians appear to have been killed in a mysterious attack waged by no one. Palestinians are always referred to as dying in the passive tense. It is very clear that there is an agenda from the leadership of the New York Times, and that’s been attested to by whistleblowers in the newsroom, who said that it’s very clear that they are steering coverage in a particular direction, and that Palestinians are subjected to different set of standards than Israelis when talking about their deaths, their sufferings, or their perspectives.”**

**Jeremy Scahill**

Co-Founder of The Intercept.<sup>157</sup>



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