FRAMING THE PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI CONFLICT IN ARABIC-LANGUAGE NEWS WEBSITES AFTER OCTOBER 7TH, 2023 EVENTS: A FRAME ANALYSIS STUDY

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ABSTRACT

The present study aims to investigate the framing of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in Arabic- Language online news media following the significant escalation on October 7th, 2023, with a particular focus on BBC Arabic and RT Arabic News websites, comparing use of language in British and Russian media. The research examines how ideology influences media framing. The study employed qualitative frame analysis to explore how these news media outlets present and interpret the events, influencing public perception and discourse. The research identifies that BBC Arabic predominantly frames the conflict through humanitarian lenses, focusing on the plight of civilians, calls for ceasefires, and the involvement of international organizations. This humanitarian frame aims to foster empathy and support for diplomatic interventions. Conversely, RT Arabic frames the conflict in terms of geopolitical dynamics, emphasizing state actions, military strategies, and critiques of Western policies, thus encouraging audiences to view the conflict through the lens of international power struggles and regional politics. The study underscores the powerful role of media framing in shaping public understanding and highlights the stark differences in narratives presented by news media outlets from different geopolitical backgrounds. The results shows that BBC Arabic website demonstrated its professionalism and dedication to attaining balance by presenting news that favored both the Israeli and Palestinian sides from a humanitarian perspective. RT Arabic's news coverage was typified by a defensive framework that supported the Palestinian side while predominating favoring the Israeli side. The study employed also Hallin's Sphere Theory, the results shows that BBC Arabic website's coverage was dominated by the consensus sphere, which appeared on news that demonstrated Israel's right to self-defense, while the legitimate controversy sphere featured on news that touched on the human side of Palestinians in Gaza. In RT Arabic website's coverage of Israel's strikes on Gaza, delegitimizing vocabulary arose in the news, representing the deviant sphere.

1. INTRODUCTION

The conflict between Israel and Palestine has a long history and is a complicated, continuous crisis. It has a complicated history as a Middle Eastern country known for its geopolitical tensions for decades (Wambrauw et al., 2024). The Balfour Declaration of 1917, which backed the creation of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine, marked the beginning of the struggle in the early 20th century (Yamaç & Cartmıll, 2018). In 1947, the United Nations put up a plan for partitioning Palestine into Jewish and Arab nations, with Jerusalem falling under international supervision (Bartal, 2018). This led to the first Israel-Palestine conflict, which dates back to 1948 when the UN accepted Israel as an independent state (Alashqar, 2024). This conflict resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians—a calamity known in Arabic as the "Nakba"—and the war (Qabaha & Hamamra, 2021). This event laid the roots of Arab-Israeli conflict (Makdisi, 2018). An important turning point in the conflict occurred during the 1967 Six-Day War, when Israel captured East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip (Goldstein, 2018). Conflicts and tensions persisted as a result, culminating in the First Intifada in 1987 and the Second Intifada in 2000 (Miaari & Calì, 2020). The 1993 and 1995 Oslo Accords sought to provide a foundation for peace talks, but they ultimately fell short in addressing important concerns (Soleimani, 2020).

The present study aims to analyze the events of 7th October 2023 that led to the mass destruction and an ongoing war. Through a thorough analysis of the news publisher, the study aims to provide a framework of how the media portrays the events of 7th October and afterwards. The study uncovers the perspectives that media organizations take on crises, political disputes, and other problems that influence media trends and policy, it might not be in line with the media's core values and ethical standards, but the essential role that the media must play.

Based on the diversity of media directions and policies of news websites, the problem of the research is to determine how foreign Arabic-speaking news websites (RT Arabic and BBC Arabic) are covering the events of October 7, 2023, in Israel and the consequences that follow the events. The research aims to identify news websites' ways to cover issues and clarify the ethics of media work in the coverage techniques. The research also aims to demonstrate the methods of coverage of media organizations to clarify the balance presented in their coverage of events, as well as to clarify the ethics of media work so that followers can understand what is going on around them.

Therefore, the object of the study is to investigate how RT Arabic and BBC Arabic's news websites portray the events of the 7th of October through a frame analysis study.

2. LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1. *Previous Studies on Palestinian-Israeli Conflict*

Recent studies on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict include a variety of scholarly works that offer valuable insights into this complex issue. Alashqar (2024) conducted a study on the media portrayal of May 2021 events predominantly focusing on the two news channels namely, American Fox News and CNN. The study aimed to reveal how ideologies can shape Twitter narratives regarding this conflict. They used CDA to analyse the power dynamics and the ideologies shaped by the news outlets in framing the ideologies on Twitter. The research highlighted the narratives of media as forming groups disregarding the conflict that had occurred. The results showed that the American and British media coverage differed significantly (Alashqar, 2024).

Yuan Ping& Kefei Wang employed a multi-semiotic approach to analyze various Para textual framing devices in online news texts, including news headlines, photographs and captions, as well as section names. Translated news articles about the 2014 Hong Kong protests were collected from the Chinese-language website of The New York Times (NYT) published between 28 September and 16 December 2014 and their original versions from its English website. The study found that the Chinese edition mainly frames the events covered in the articles through Para textual rather than textual elements and, through those Para textual elements, a slightly different social reality to their English version for the events was (re)framed. This study underscored the influential role of Para textual devices in news translation, demonstrating how they can subtly shift the framing of events and potentially influence public perception (Yuan Ping& Kefei Wang, 2024).

Khan conducted a study on the Israeli-Palestine conflict and the role of international organizations in this conflict. The study aimed at analyzing the role of organizations such as OIC and UN in resolving the conflict between Israel and Palestine. The research explored that the neutral stance of international organizations on the conflict and the acceptance of Israel as a UN member has led to the conflict and an ongoing war between Palestine and Israel (Khan, 2022).

Suwarsono (2022) also analysed the events of May 2021 that led to the mass destruction of lives in the Israel and Palestine conflict. The study analysed the two prominent English news channels, Gulf News from UAE and The Jakarta Post from Indonesia. Through a framing lens, the study highlighted that the portrayal of May 2021 events was different in both news channels. It was also due to the political relations of the countries that affected the portrayal of media (Suwarsono, 2022).

The relationship between blame agency, a newspaper's national identity, and its type is examined in a study using the unsuccessful 2014 Israeli-Palestinian peace negotiations. In order to achieve this, one week prior to the formal collapse of the negotiations and three weeks afterward, the study gathered all news and commentary articles from six newspapers and tabloid newspapers that represent Israel, Palestine, and the United States. According to the study, broadsheets assign more equal blame than tabloids, which place more emphasis on the enemy (Friedman, Elie& Herfroy-Mischler, Alexandra, 2020).

Compared to other international crises, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict appears to be the most divisive and mediatized in online mainstream and alternative media. There isn't any a global crisis that produces as much content or webpages as this one (Lowey, Amani, 2017).

2.2. Previous Studies On Framing News in Media Outlets

Based on Hallin's Spheres theory, Ayala Panievsky concludes by discussing the possible consequences of strategic bias on journalism and democracy. It makes the assertion that the strategic bias may promote Right-wing populism in the present while simultaneously reducing the scope of acceptable dispute and so limiting journalistic freedom in the future (Ayala Panievsky, 2022).

Panayotova & Rizova (2021) critically analyze how international online news media portrayed the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in May 2021 through language and images. By examining 270 online news headlines and lead images from Al Jazeera, BBC, and CNN, their study aimed to identify framing strategies and coverage scope. Drawing on agenda-setting, framing, and media representation theories, the research combines textual framing analysis and visual semiotics methods. The research's results showed varied representations across the media outlets, with a predominant 'war' frame in the coverage. These differences reflect the distinct practices and approaches of journalists in each media

outlet (Panayotova & Rizova, 2021).

Most accounts of bias in media allege that journalists have been failing to meet their professional obligation of being fair, of not following an agenda of their own or being subjective, and of operating in an intrinsic impartial zone of values (Panievsky, 2021). **However, Mindich (1998) defined objectivity as having five parts** factivity, detachment, balance, use of inverted pyramid and nonpartisanship. Nord (2001) adopted objectivity as normative goal. He described it as a belief system based on the premise that pure, unbiased facts allow for inductive reasoning (Nord, 2001). When journalists moved into the role of investigative reporters relying on facts and sources to expose corruption and fraud, newspapers became an important part of reforms (O'Hare, 2021).

U Arbieuan and others investigated the role of media in covering large carnivores and their impacts on human livelihood. Press agencies had a considerable impact on the selection and diffusion of wolf news. The results emphasized also that conservation biologists, journalists, and policymakers collaborate to ensure that the media accurately portrays human-carnivore coexistence and its issues (U Arbieuan et al, 2021).

For investigating Strategies for Hotspot Management in Media Framing in the Covid-19 era, R Kumalawati et al used text analysis method. The study found that media plays a crucial influence in molding information about hotspot management techniques and outreach efforts. Also, the study's findings revealed the media's influence in framing news about hotspot handling tactics during the Covid-19 catastrophe. The media was extremely useful in optimizing information in catastrophe mitigation (R Kumalawati et al, 2021)

Chika Ebere Odoemelam& Nik Norma Nik Hasan used content analysis to examine how the print media has covered the rising levels of oil pollution. The findings also show that, of the three newspapers chosen in the study, the morality frame was employed the least since it is difficult for journalists to convey moral messages while still remaining impartial (Chika Ebere Odoemelam& Nik Norma Nik Hasan, 2021).

2.3. Research Problem

Based on the diversity of media directions and policies of news websites, the problem of the research is to determine how foreign Arabic-speaking news websites (RT Arabic and BBC Arabic) are covering the events of October 7, 2023, in Israel and the consequences that follow the events. The author has

chosen RT Arabic and BBC News Arabic. Both news websites belong to different owners, different orientations, and different editorial policies. The research will examine whether these differences have affected the nature of coverage related to the event or not. The researcher determined the period from 7th October 2023 to 7th January 2024.

The research aims to identify news website's ways to cover issues and clarify the ethics of media work in the coverage techniques. The research also aimed to demonstrate the methods of coverage of media organizations to clarify the balance presented in their coverage of events, as well as to clarify the ethics of media work so that followers can understand what is going on around them.

3. THEORETCIAL FRAMEWORK

3.1. Media Framing Analysis Theory

Media Framing Theory is an important perspective in the field of media studies. It identifies the various 'frames of understanding' that the news media use to present information to the audience - from the choice of language or the placement of a story in the news bulletin to the selection of what to write about in the first place. In a basic sense, Framing Theory helps us to understand the complex ways in which media content can fundamentally shape our understanding of national and global events and issues. It moves our attention away from questions about the truthfulness or falsity of media content to focus instead on how the reality being represented is 'constructed' for us in the first place (Mutua & Oloo, 2020).

This theoretical approach divides between 'what we see' and 'what is there'. It is often referred to as 'idealism' and 'realism' in media theory, where 'idealism' refers to the idea that what we see in media is far removed from actual reality (Milioni & Vatikiotis, 2020).

Framing occurs when communicators, journalists, and policymakers select some aspects of a perceived reality and make them more salient in a communicating text, in such a way as to promote a particular problem definition, causal interpretation, moral evaluation, and/or treatment recommendation for the item described. This definition means that the same problem can be defined and the same solution can be recommended in very different ways, depending on how the issue is framed (Mutua & Oloo, 2020).

The present study utilizes Media Framing Theory to uncover the portrayal of the events of 7th October, 2023 in Israel and its Consequences. Framing Theory is an approach that gives the audience a way of making sense of the ongoing crisis in the world (Goffman, 1974). According to the Framing theory, media portrays issues as either good or bad, which then persuades the public to adopt similar viewpoints (Clark & Nyaupane, 2020).

3.2. Hallin's Spheres Theory

Daniel C. Hallin's theory of spheres is a complex theoretical framework for studying media and political systems. Hallin (1986) developed Sphere Theory to explain journalistic approaches to coverage of Vietnam War, which evolved over time in terms of both practice and tone. **The theory outlines three "spheres" of journalistic practice** consensus, legitimate controversy and deviance. According to sphere theory, a journalists use various normative practices based on the public perception of the news events they are covering and their own understanding of the relevant topics (O'Hare, 2021).

Objectivity is very important concept when understanding of Sphere Theory. When journalists are using non-partisan tone, seeking out multiple perspectives on a topic, ranking facts without bias, following the facts using source-based reporting and present these facts in a balanced manner, those journalists are operating within the sphere of legitimate controversy (Schudson, 2002).

On the other hand the Sphere of consensus is considered the area of shared beliefs. The role of journalists in the sphere of consensus is to emphasize and reinforce shared values; they are community builders (Robinson, 2014).

On the other side of Hallin's model is deviance. Deviance sphere is representing the world of these political actors and viewpoints that journalists and the political majority of society dismiss as unworthy of hearing. Hallin observed that withholding coverage was one way to label anything as deviant (O'Hare, 2021).

Luther & Miller noted that deviance sphere application could appear in using delegitimizing cue words in coverage events that fall into sphere of deviance (Luther, C. & M. Miller, 2005). Journalists used delicate language choices to communicate shifts in legitimacy Carlson, M., 2017). Carlson examined how political issues change over time and noted instances in which sources or themes shifted from being legitimate to being delegitimizing or the other way around.

It's noted that coverage of the events of October 7, 2023 has focused on consensus sphere and legitimate controversy sphere, as well as deviance sphere.

The coverage of BBC Arabic website was dominated by the consensus sphere and that

appeared on news that showed Israel's right to defend itself, as the legitimate controversy sphere appeared in the news that touched on the human side of the Palestinians in Gaza.

In the coverage of RT Arabic website, vocabularies of delegitimizing that appeared in the news that reported Israel's strikes on Gaza represented deviance sphere.

4. METHODOLOGY

The present study is qualitative in nature. Qualitative research allows for the interpretation of the data and how people make sense of the information present around them (Mohajan, 2018). This research applies a descriptive-analytical approach which aims to examine current facts concerning a phenomenon or an event to gain information about it through the content analysis method (Roy et al., 2022).

4.1. Data Collection

The researcher collected samples since 7th October 2023 which represents the beginning of the events. The sample consists of 40 news reports (20 news stories were published on the BBC Arabic news website and 20 news reports were published on the RT Arabic news website). The researcher has chosen the purposive sample from the two websites depending on the most important events that have happened since the beginning of the crisis on 7th October 2023 till 7th November 2024.

4.2. Sample

The study utilizes Non- Probability Sampling method. The use of non-probability sampling techniques is common in exploratory and qualitative research. The purpose of this method is to gain a basic understanding of the specific phenomenon and utilize the researcher's preference regarding the chosen data (Obilor, 2023). The study has employed a Purposive sample. In purposive sampling, the researcher uses his expertise to select the most useful sample for the article's purpose (Obilor, 2023). Qualitative research often uses a Purposive sample to gain detailed knowledge about a specific phenomenon instead of making statistical inferences (Obilor, 2023). The dataset comprised 40 news reports, split between BBC Arabic news website and RT Arabic news website.

4.3. Data Analysis and Results

The textual analysis considers texts as significant cultural artifacts that offer valuable documentary evidence for comprehending our lives and offer linguistic characteristics of the text (Sari & Pranoto, 2021). Texts are considered to reflect a socially constructed reality, which can be better understood by examining the words, concepts, ideas, themes, and issues presented within a particular cultural context (Gaeini et al., 2019). Kracauer argued that the objective of textual analysis (which he originally defined as qualitative content analysis) was to uncover all the potential meanings in texts and to draw valid inferences about them (Devi Prasad, 2019). **Through the use of textual analysis, the study uncovers the use of the following frames in different news reports** Sympathy Frame, Humanitarian Frame, Incitement, Defensive Frame, Support Frame, and Hatred Frame.

In an ongoing conflict, BBC Arabic news website published a news report following the events of October 7, 2023, providing statements about the Israeli army along with visual footage showing the extent of material losses caused by Hamas on the Israeli side (BBC, 2023w).

On the same day, the website published a video entitled "Gaza War: What is Happening Between Israel and Palestinian Factions?" In it, the announcement was made by the Al-Qassam Brigades declaring the launch of a military operation named "Al-Aqsa flood" against Israel. It confirmed that Al-Qassam Brigades forces infiltrated Israeli towns to carry out a first-of-its-kind operation involving tank explosions, the capture of military vehicles, as well as killing and capturing dozens of Israelis. The statement mentioned that the group had launched thousands of rockets at Israel since early Saturday morning, causing unprecedented damage and injuries in central and southern Israel. The report also added that Israeli airstrikes were carried out on Gaza in response to the attack, resulting in the deaths and injuries of dozens of Palestinians (BBC, 2023f).

On October 8, 2023, BBC Arabic published a news report titled 'What is Happening in Israel After a Day of Hamas Attack on Israel", in which they described the events as bloody. They referred to Palestinians as militants while Israelis were called security forces" (BBC, 2023ag).

On ths same day, under the title "How Social Media Users Reacted to the Al-Aqsa Flood Operation", BBC Arabic published a news report presenting the reactions of social media users to the events of October 7. Despite some Arab social media users' sympathy towards the Palestinian resistance, the report highlighted some angry reactions to Hamas's attack on the Israeli side. The report presented nine opposing views to what Hamas committed on October 7, compared to three

supporting views of the same events (BBC, 2023ac).

On October 9, 2023, BBC Arabic news website published a news report highlighting the situation of Israelis fleeing from Hamas attacks while celebrating the "Super Nova" festival. The report presented a humanizing perspective that evoked empathy towards the Israeli side, especially when mentioning that all of those who died were young people and that anyone fleeing was shot. The commentary on the video emphasized that 260 deceased individuals were recovered from the incident website (BBC, 2023u).

Also, On October 9, 2023, BBC Arabic released a video report depicting the plight of Israeli prisoners' families who are unaware of the whereabouts and conditions of their loved ones. The report engendered sympathy for the families of the prisoners. It underscored the discovery of 250 bodies at the incident website in Israel, while Israelis searched for their loved ones among the bodies without success. The report also stated that the number of Israeli casualties had risen to 800 dead and 200 injured, with many individuals believed to be missing or captured (BBC, 2023o).

On October 11, 2023, Israel relayed a news report showing the repercussions of the attack launched by Hamas against Israel. The report began with the phrase, "This Article Contains Details That Some May Find Disturbing." It cited an Israeli soldier stating that they were gathering the bodies of Israelis killed by Hamas when they breached the border fence into Gaza. The report mentioned that some Israelis were killed by Molotov cocktails and others had their heads severed (BBC, 2023n).

On October 13, 2023, BBC Arabic published a report that included a video by a BBC correspondent visiting the website of an Israeli music festival. The correspondent confirmed finding 260 bodies at the celebration website and reported hearing gunfire during their visit. The correspondent also described the panic experienced by Israelis at the event and mentioned the arrest of a person carrying a knife near the festival website (BBC, 2023i).

On October 19, 2023, BBC Arabic published a report accompanied by a video in which the mother of an Israeli captive spoke about wanting to retrieve her daughter. She mentioned seeing her daughter on television looking fearful and uncomfortable. She was appealing to the world to return her daughter with tones of compassion and sorrow. The report included a poignant image of the Israeli hostage (BBC, 2023r). The previous nine reports presented a Frame of Sympathy with the Israeli side as a result of the armed attack claimed by Hamas (Al-Aqsa Flood),

which led to the deaths of many Israelis, including those killed, wounded, and captured.

On October 9, 2023, BBC Arabic published a report describing the dire humanitarian situation faced by the residents of Gaza, particularly after Israel imposed a complete blockade on the enclave by closing crossings and cutting off supplies of electricity, water, food, and energy. The report highlighted the fall of hundreds of casualties and thousands of injuries among Palestinians, as well as the levelling of large buildings amidst scenes of extensive destruction. The reports framed these events within a humanitarian context, drawing attention to the human impact of the conflict on both Israeli and Palestinian populations (BBC, 2023x).

On October 12, 2023, BBC also reported on statements from the International Committee of the Red Cross warning that hospitals in Gaza might turn into morgues due to Israel cutting off electricity to deplete fuel supplies. This situation endangered the lives of patients. The report cited the director of the International Committee of the Red Cross, who stated that Israel's decision not to restore electricity and to block essential resources and humanitarian aid to Gaza endangered newborns in incubators, elderly patients dependent on oxygen, and disrupted kidney dialysis. X-rays could not be performed, and the main hospital in Gaza was overwhelmed with wounded patients from Israeli bombardments. Medical supplies were running out, and the report highlighted an overwhelming number of casualties, with ongoing violence day and night (BBC, 2023ab).

On the same day October 12, 2023, the BBC presented a report accompanied by a video showing images of children and elderly people critically injured in Al-Shifa hospital. The report mentioned that the hospital's refrigerators were filled with corpses, leaving no space for more, resulting in the hospital corridors being filled with bodies. It was a highly impactful and humane video that reflects the balanced approach taken by the BBC Arabic platform (BBC, 2023t).

On October 27, 2023, Arabic BBC aired a report about a Palestinian woman in her ninth month of pregnancy who was unsure where to go for delivery due to hospitals being overwhelmed with casualties from bombings. The report, citing the United Nations Population Fund, highlighted the presence of 50,000 pregnant women in Gaza (BBC, 2023b).

On October 30, 2023, BBC Arabic aired a video showing the massive destruction caused by the Israeli invasion of Gaza, depicting destroyed homes, and displaced individuals, and portraying a very grim scene. The streets were shown covered with

rubble and collapsed buildings, including the remains of the Bilal ibn Rabah Mosque after it was destroyed by an Israeli airstrike (BBC, 2023j).

On October 31, 2024, BBC Arabic reported that Palestinian doctors were performing surgical operations in the corridors of the Indonesian Hospital in northern Gaza, as surgical rooms had become overcrowded. The report highlighted doctors' statements that they resorted to using hospital corridors in an attempt to save the lives of the injured (BBC, 2023q).

On November 7, 2023, BBC Arabic documented the devastating effects of the war on children in Gaza. The report provided a count of the number of children killed since the beginning of the war, exceeding four thousand as of the report's publication. It highlighted that the surviving children were in extremely poor physical and psychological conditions due to the war's aftermath. The report also featured a video showing highly emotional scenes of children seeing their deceased and devastated relatives. It mentioned the tragic death of the only daughter of Palestinian parents and showed heart-wrenching footage of the parents coping with the loss of their children (BBC, 2023s). The previous seven reports presented a Humanitarian Frame in revealing the extent of the destruction caused by the Israeli attacks, and also showed sympathy for the people of Gaza as a result of the bloody events they are experiencing.

On October 10, 2023, BBC Arabic published a report identifying Hamas as an armed Palestinian movement committed to the destruction of Israel and the establishment of an Islamic state (BBC, 2023ah).

On November 5, 2023, BBC Arabic reported on the Israeli government's statement regarding the number of Israeli hostages held by Hamas, indicating 242 hostages were held, with over half of them holding foreign nationalities, including at least 33 children. The Israeli government also mentioned that among the 1,400 individuals who died as a result of Hamas' aggression against Israel on October 7, there were 138 hostages holding foreign passports, including 15 Argentinians, 12 Germans, 12 Americans, six French, and six Russians (BBC, 2023aj). The previous two reports presented an Incitement Frame against the Palestinian side, as it stated that Hamas is an armed group whose goal is to destroy Israel. The other also referred to the number of foreign hostages held by Hamas of multiple nationalities, noting that some of them are children.

Also On October 9, 2023, BBC Arabic published a report detailing the destruction of a mosque in its entirety in the city of Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip. The website commented in the report that Israel's actions in Gaza are retaliatory strikes in response to Hamas's attacks on Israeli cities, describing Hamas as an armed group (BBC, 2023p). This report presented a Defensive Frame to justify Israel's actions against the people of Gaza, considering that they came in response to the Hamas attack.

On October 24, 2023, BBC Arabic conducted an interview with one of the hostages released by Hamas, an elderly lady aged 85 years old. The lady explained that she received good treatment during her captivity, including medical care and receiving the necessary medication. She mentioned that she was provided with the same food as the guards, and there were regular visits from a doctor to check her health and that of those with her. She also noted that the place where she was held was clean, and had sleeping mats, and expressed gratitude to an armed Hamas member for treating her well (BBC, 2023z). This news report showed objectivity in BBC Arabic news website coverage as it unveiled the extent of humanity and sophistication in Hamas's dealings with Israeli hostages.

RT Arabic news website provided news coverage of 7th of October, 2023, events in Israel under "Arab World News" section. The news website published a report on the Al-Aqsa Flood events, describing the casualties who fell in Hamas attacks as "martyrs" who were "elevated" rather than killed. The news report used the word "elevated" and started with the word "celebration," indicating Hamas' satisfaction with the events. Also the report referred to Hamas as "national resistance" and described the territories invaded by Hamas as "Palestinian domestic lands." It also conveyed the demands of the overall leader of Hamas for Palestinians in the West Bank to "cleanse the Israeli occupation in support of Gaza". The report's title used the same vocabulary of "elevated" (RT, 2023u).

Another news report was published on October 7, 2023, by RT Arabic news website featured statements from the Al-Qassam Brigades, the military wing of Hamas. The report highlighted and fully quoted the statements. Moreover, it used "Martyr Aziz al-Qassam Brigades" instead of "Al-Qassam Brigades" the commonly mentioned in most news articles (RT, 2023f).

In another news report was published also on October 7, 2023, RT Arabic news website referred to Hamas fighters as "Palestinian resistance"(RT, 2023s).

On October 13, 2023, RT Arabic once again used the term "Martyrdom" to describe the killing of a Palestinian artist, and the report also used the word

"resistance"; giving him the title of "artist of resistance"(RT, 2023p).

On November 7, 2023, RT Arabic published a report that conveyed the denial by the Indonesian volunteer team responsible for the Indonesian hospital in Gaza of the Israeli army's accusation that Hamas was using the hospital to launch attacks. The official in charge of the volunteer group that built the hospital stated, "Israel's accusation is a pretext to be able to attack the Indonesian hospital in Gaza". This statement refuted the allegations by Israel, as conveyed by Russia Today, that Hamas is using Gaza hospitals as cover for its underground operations (RT, 2023i). The Previous five news provided a Support Frame for the Palestinian side, describing the actions carried out by Hamas as resistance, and describing those killed by Hamas as martyrs.

On October 9, 2023, RT Arabic news website conveyed statements from Human Rights Watch regarding Gaza, likening Gaza to an "open-air prison." The report also highlighted the dire situation of Gaza's people, pointing out the ongoing air, land, and sea blockade since 2007, leading to Gaza's economy on the brink of collapse. Furthermore, the report discussed Israeli practices against Palestinians in the West Bank and Al-Aqsa Mosque, which provoked Hamas' armed attack on Israel. It mentioned an escalation in violence between Israeli soldiers, settlers, and Palestinians in the West Bank, with settlers attacking Palestinian villages, and IDF conducting repeated raids on Palestinian towns (RT, 2023e).

On October 10, 2023, RT Arabic news website reported statements from the President of the Arab Lawyers Association in the UK, Sabah Al-Mukhtar, in which he described Israel's attacks on civilian websites in Gaza as actions that violate international law. The report highlighted that Israel engages in collective punishment against the population of Gaza by targeting civilians and children, as well as ambulances and hospitals. The report added that Israel's acts of mass killing could lead to genocide and stated that the United States and the West selectively apply international law (RT, 2023j).

On October 11, 2023, RT Arabic news website quoted the Turki President who described Israel's actions in Gaza as a massacre. Furthermore, the report reiterated Israel's use of white phosphoru s bombs which is considered condemned internationally (RT, 2023q).

Also, on the same day, On October 11, 2023 RT Arabic published a report stating that Israeli forces directly targeted three paramedics. The headline implied that the Israeli shelling directly targeted

exempted Palestinians. The report confirmed that the statement came from the Palestinian Red Crescent stating that the Israeli forces directly targeted the ambulance, leading to the killing of three paramedics (RT, 2023o).

On October 9, 2023, RT Arabic published a report titled "Israeli Forces Bomb Mosque in Gaza". Although the content of the news indicated the presence of a Hamas operations website inside the mosque, the report ignored this information in the headline, making it provocative to garner sympathy for the Palestinian side against Israel. The report also mentioned that Israel had destroyed four mosques in the first three days of the war and included a video showing Israeli airstrikes on the mosque (RT, 2023b).

On November 6, 2023, RT Arabic reported that Israeli aircraft had bombed the only psychiatric hospital in Gaza, as well as the Nassr Children's Hospital and al-Rantisi Hospital (RT, 2023m). The Previous six news reports provided a Sympathy Frame with the Palestinian side, as it highlighted the acts of violence and destruction carried out by the Israeli army. It also highlighted the destruction of hospitals, the killing of medical staff, the bombing of mosques, and the use of internationally criminalized phosphorus bombs. Russia today also referred to Israel's siege of Gaza, which extended for a long time.

In a news report published on October 9, 2023, RT Arabic pointed out that the leader of the Israeli party "Our Home Israel" called for the destruction of Al-Shifa Hospital. (RT, 2023c).

Also, On October 9, 2023, RT Arabic reported statements from Human Rights Watch, which described the statements of the Israeli Defense Minister as abhorrent and an announcement of a war crime committed by the Israeli army in Gaza, after the Israeli Defense Minister announced the necessity of cutting off water and electricity supplies to the residents of Gaza. The report also conveyed the organization's description of Israel's actions as an unlawful siege and presented statements from a Hamas spokesperson that described the Israeli Defense Minister's statements as audacious, racist, and indicative of gang warfare logic (RT, 2023g).

On October 9, 2023, RT Arabic published a report in which they used the term 'claimed' in describing the statements of the Israeli army spokesman, who said that the Israeli army only targets areas in Gaza that harbour terrorists. The news report also pointed out the harshness of the Israeli Defense Minister's statement in which he stated that Israel is fighting human animals, not real people. (RT, 2023r).

On October 11, 2023, RT Arabic news website affirmed the presence of a state of revenge prevailing

among the Israelis, emphasizing that the unleashing of the instinct for revenge is prominent and pervasive within Israel. The report conveyed statements from an Israeli academic specialized in international law who stated that Israel fights Nazis, not just terrorists and that it is impossible not to defeat the Nazis because their existence poses a danger to the world. The academic affirmed that targeting a live military target is permissible, even if civilians are harmed and exposed to danger during the attack. The report indicated that Israeli legal experts attempted to justify the Israeli army's actions in Gaza (RT, 2023l).

On October 12, 2023, RT Arabicnews website published a report indicating a former Israeli Prime Minister's call to cut ohumanff electricity to childcare facilities in Gaza. The report referenced Naphtali Bennett's statement to Sky News, defending the electricity cutoff to Gaza, disregarding the fate of children in childcare facilities if their life support devices were to stop (RT, 2023n).

On October 13, 2023, RT Arabic reported the Israeli forces throwing Palestinian convoys of displaced people from the north to the south, labelling it as a new massacre committed by the occupation (RT, 2023d).

On October 28, 2023, RT Arabic reported that the Israeli Minister of Communications decided to sever all communications with the Space X Company owned by businessman Elon Musk after Musk announced the use of Star Link systems in Gaza. The report highlighted that the interruption of communication and internet services in Gaza led to difficulties in providing necessary services to the residents of the area. Russia Today quoted Elon Musk stating that Starlink would restore communication to recognized organizations providing assistance within Gaza (RT, 2023k). The previous seven news reports presented a Hatred Frame against the Israeli side, as they highlighted the Israeli side's desire to take revenge on the Palestinians and use the most horrific actions in order to achieve this, including cutting off supplies to hospitals inside Gaza, which may cause the death of patients, in addition to cutting off communications from the Gaza Strip. And attacking convoys of displaced Palestinians.

In another news report published by RT Arabic on October 9, 2023, the Israeli army responded to Hamas' claim of killing the Gaza Brigade commander, Colonel Avi Rosenfeld. RT Arabic also published a picture of the officer leading his armored vehicle, after Hamas had claimed his abduction and killing (RT, 2023h). It is noted that the russian news website published Israel's response to "Hamas's

claim of killing the Gaza Brigade commander". Also it published the photo that emphasized Israeli narrative.

Also on October 13, 2023, RT Arabic published a report indicating the announcement of the United States cooperating with the United Nations to establish safe zones for civilians in Gaza, quoting a senior official at the US State Department through Bloomberg Agency (RT, 2023a). This two previous news reports demonstrated RT Arabic's determination to achieve the required professionalism and balance in its coverage of events.

5. DISCUSSION

The coverage of both BBC Arabic and RT Arabic Portals varied in their coverage of the 7th October 2023 events. Political relations of the countries affected the portrayal of media (Suwarsono, 2022). This was reflected in the first report submitted by BBC Arabic as soon as the events broke out. Under the headline "Gaza War: What Happens between Israel and Palestinian Factions, October 7, 2023 ", it reported the magnitude of the material losses caused by Hamas on the Israeli side, the news report also described the events as bloody. It described the Palestinians as armed groups while describing the Israelis as the security forces. However BBC Arabic news website were very keen to achieve balance in its coverage to this event and their consequences. Al Nahed (2018) reported that BBC Arabic as a relatively balanced media outlet (Al Nahed, 2018).

Despite that, some descriptions of media bias say that journalists have failed to achieve their professional requirement of being fair, not following their own agenda or being subjective, and operating in an intrinsic neutral zone of values ((Panievsky, 2021).

BBC Arabic website presented humanitarian reports that elicited readers' sympathy with the Israeli side, as reflected in the report entitled "The Gaza War: What Happened at the Nova Festival after Operation Al-Aqsa Flood." Another report, entitled "The Gaza War: Israelis Searching for Relatives Missing after disappearance during Operation Al-Aqsa Flood". Also, "The Gaza War: Israeli Soldiers' accounts of What Happened in the Gaza envelope, 11th October, 2023". **BBC Arabic news websites also submitted reports with justifications for Israel's actions in a News report entitled** "Israel must bring down Hamas - Israeli newspapers, October 12, 2023". It also submitted opinions of Internet users rejecting Hamas' actions: "This is how social media pioneers interacted with Operation Maximum Deluge." The report showed a majority of users rejecting Hamas's

actions. BBC also referred to the horror of what happened in Israel as a result of the Hamas attack, **according to a report** "The Gaza War: BBC at the website of the Israeli Music Festival, October 13, 2023". In another report, BBC quoted a survivor of the Hamas armed attack as saying that Israel should erase **Hamas from existence in the report entitled** "Gaza War: How a Survivor Describes Hamas Attack on Gaza envelope Area, 15 October 2023". **Also in** "The Gaza War: The mother of an Israeli hostage at Hamas demands the return of her daughter, October 19, 2023", as well as: "Who are the forgotten Israeli hostages in the Gaza Strip, 22 October 223", and: "What do we know about prisoners and hostages in Gaza, 24 October 2023", **and the report** "Who are the non-Israeli hostages of Hamas and Jihad, 5 November 2023". BBC Arabic while reporting the conflicts between israel and Palestine.

However, BBC Arabic news coverage presented Palestine's point of view to achieve balance. **According to the following reports** "The Gaza War: The Israeli army bombards more than 500 targets of the Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements in Gaza. 9 October 2023." Some reports showed the magnitude of the mass destruction caused by the Israeli bombing which was mentioned in: "Israeli's decision to cut off supplies from the Gaza Strip heralds an aggravation of the humanitarian situation, 9 October 2023". BBC also presented humanitarian reports that elicited readers' sympathy with the Palestinian side, **as stated in reports titled** "Did my child wage war on you, Israel?, 11th October 2023". **Also in** " Gaza War: How a Palestinian Young Woman Documents Their Daily Lives Under Israeli Raids, 11 October 2023". Reports also Showed the Catastrophic Situation of Hospitals in Gaza, Especially after power outages which mentioned in the following reports: "The Red Cross Warns Against Gaza Hospitals Becoming Morgues, 12 October 2023", "The Gaza War: What Does Shifa Hospital Look Like in the Gaza Strip, October 12, 2023", "The Gaza War: Is There a Place of Security for Civilians to Resort to During Bombings? 14 October 2023, "The Gaza War: What the perimeter of the National Baptist Hospital looked like this morning, 18th October2023", as well as the report entitled: "The European Union Foreign Policy Coordinator, Preventing Access to Water for the Population of Gaza is an International Crime. 21 October 2023 ". **Another reports entitled** "The Diary of a Pregnant Woman in Gaza: Crying My Baby Means We're Still Alive", 27 October 2023", "Trauma of Gaza Medics/One of Them Received his Wife's Body and Last that of his son, October 27, 2023", "The Gaza War: A BBC correspondent describes the situation

after Israel's deadliest night of bombing on Gaza, October 28, 2023", "The people of Gaza are Drinking Sea Water..What is the solution as the war continues, November 6, 2023", "The Gaza War: Footage from a drone of the scale of destruction in the Gaza Strip, 30 October 2023", "The Gaza War: Surgical Operations in the Corridors of the Indonesian Hospital in the Northern Gaza Strip, 31 October 2023", " I know my mother by her hair, 4 November 2023" and "The Gaza War: What are the devastating effects of the war on Gaza's children, 7 November 2023".

Humanitarian news coverage of the Palestinian side indicated to BBC Arabic News website's attempts of being professional. BBC portal has showed balance in its coverage during the escalation of violence in Gaza from 10-26 May 2021 compared with American media outlet Fox News and CNN which were bias towards Israeli narrative (Alashqar, 2024).

On the other side, the first news report published by RT Arabic website on the events titled: "The forces of Martyr Omar Qassam announce the upgrading of three of their fighters in Operation Al-Aqsa Flood, October 7, 2023". It showed Russia Today's alignment with the Palestinian side. It chose vocabulary such as "upgrading" rather than "killing", "national resistance" rather than "Hamas", "Palestinian interior territory" rather than "Israeli territory ", "occupied territory in 1948" rather than " Israel". In addition to the use of the word "martyr". Which emphasized thet linguistic choices play role in framing ideology inside media(Alashqar. 2024).

RT Arabic has also been seen as adopting a Middle Eastern approach and showcased Israel as the troublemaker in the past conflict (Shahzad et al., 2023). The Russian news website presented hateful headlines against the Israeli side, as reported in the news that Israeli forces had destroyed a mosque in Gaza, ignoring information about the presence of the Hamas operations centre inside the mosque. "Channel 12: Israeli forces bombard mosque in Gaza Video, 9 October 2023". Also, RT Arabic portal used some vocabulary that expresses its trends in supposedly neutral reports such as "claimed", which it used to describe statements by an Israeli army spokesman, mentioned in a report titled: "The Israeli Minister of Defense: We Fight Against Human Animals. No Electricity, No Food to the Gaza Strip (Video), 9 October 2023." Along with that RT Arabic used words such as "Israeli aggression", "United States and west supported Israeli aggression against Gaza", and "the United States and the West apply the law selectively", reflecting the hostile frame against Israeli side as stated in: "Expert in International Law:

Western support for Israeli strikes on Gaza Violates International law, 20 October 2023". On the same side, It was noted that RT Arabic news website commented on the news as in the phrase "This legal specialist tries to give an advisory opinion giving full freedom to the Israeli army to do whatever it wants in Gaza", **highlighting the point of view of the news website that came in news report entitled** "Israel. Fatwa retaliates without borders and dim voice exhibitions, 11 October 2023".

RT Arabic portal submitted a news report entitled "The Palestinian Red Crescent: 3 paramedics killed by direct Israeli targeting, 11 October 2023" The title gave a suggestion contrary to what is contained in the body of the report. The title implied that Israeli forces directly targeted paramedics, while the text stated that the troops targeted the ambulance, which resulted in the killing of paramedics, as stated by the Palestinian Red Crescent.

Also, RT Arabic highlighted Israeli statements hostile to the Palestinian side as follows: "Naftali Bennett supports the cutting of electricity fed to incubators in Gaza hospitals. (Video), 12 October 2023 ". These results have emphasized that worldwide frame-building and public engagements played a significant impact in media coverage ((Al-Hasni, 2022)

On the other hand some reports showed RT

Arabic attempts to achieve the required professionalism and balance in its coverage of events, which appeared in few news report for exaple the one entitled: "Bloomberg: The United States is working with the United Nations to establish safe zones in the Gaza Strip, 13 October 2023".

6. CONCLUSION

This research has highlighted how the media intentionally framed events and social actors. The Russian media outlet RT Arabic new website manifested discernible divergence in its negative portrayal of the Israeli side, when juxtaposed against British media outlet BBC Arabic News website, highlighting the inclination of British media to mention Israeli right to defend on herself. In the same time, BBC Arabic portrayed the harsh humanitarian case of resident of Gaza as a result of Israeli bombing. The results shows also that BBC Arabic website presented a humanitarian frame in reporting news that was favorable to both the Israeli and Palestinian sides, reflecting the professionalism of the website and its commitment to achieving balance. However, the news coverage of RT Arabic news website was characterized by a prevailing bias against the Israeli side, with a defensive framework in support of the Palestinian side.

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