www.dergipark.org.tr/tr/pub/kritik

Yeşil M. M. (2024). Netanyahu behind anger and vengeance: a character analysis,

Kritik İletişim Çalışmaları Dergisi, 6(1), 215-222.

NETANYAHU BEHIND ANGER AND VENGEANCE: A CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Öfke ve İntikamın Arkasında Netanyahu: Bir Karakter Analizi

M. Murat YEŞİL^a

Doi: 10.53281/kritik.1472180

^aProf, İstanbul Ticaret Üniversitesi, Medya ve İletişim, 0000-0002-4857-5992)

MAKALE BİLGİLERİ

Makale:

Gönderim Tarihi : 22.04.2024

Ön Değerlendirme : 23.04.2024

Kabul Tarihi : 23.05.2024

Anahtar Kelimeler:

Gazze, Filistinliler, Karakter Analizi, Netanyahu, Hamas

Key Words:

Gaza, Palestanians, Character Analysis, Netanyahu, Hamas

ABSTRACT

The continued bombing of Gaza by Israel has sparked outrage in the world community. The United Nations officials and medical groups have reiterated the harrowing conditions in the Gaza Strip due to Israel's war on Hamas. The Council on American-Islamic Relations, the most significant U.S. Muslim civil rights and advocacy group, demanded international action to prevent starvation, disease, and genocide. Netanyahu's character traits are analyzed through his statements and comments published in the international news media during the seven months from October 7, 2023, the first day of Israel's military operation in Gaza, to April 7, 2024. Netanyahu has blamed Hamas for civilian deaths and claimed that civilians have been warned to leave Gaza and move to the South, which is called a safe zone. However, the military escalation in the South defied the reassurance people had received about moving south to be safe. Hospitals, mosques, churches, bakeries, and over 60 UNRWA buildings and schools have been hit across Gaza. Netanyahu's statements aimed to conceal his true motives. The contradiction between words and deeds is apparent. He says that they will never agree to a ceasefire and will continue their offensive to achieve their goals with minimal civilian casualties. However, Israeli attacks broadcast live on television always target civilian settlements. Netanyahu's goal is to confine the Palestinian people to a narrow area in the south, leaving them with no place to go. The international community has criticized Netanyahu's actions, and demonstrations against Israel are taking place worldwide. The perceived recklessness has marred his career, and Netanyahu's political narrative is scrutinized to analyze his character traits. Diplomatic sources say that Netanyahu's statements are far from convincing. The international community demands a solution to the conflict, and Netanyahu's actions are not helping to achieve peace. The situation in Gaza remains dire, and the world community is watching closely, hoping for a peaceful resolution.

© 2021- e-ISSN 2667-6850

INTRODUCTION

Israel's continued bombing of Gaza for the past seven months has sparked growing outrage in the world community. So much so that even in countries that remained insensitive to these atrocities, people began to say that the Israeli army should be stopped: "World Must Act': Gaza Faces Starvation, Disease, and Genocide. As United Nations officials and medical groups on Friday reiterated the harrowing conditions in the Gaza Strip due to Israel's war on Hamas, a U.S. advocacy organization, the Council on American-Islamic Relations, the most significant U.S. Muslim civil rights and advocacy group, demanded international action to prevent starvation, disease, and genocide (Corbett, 2023, November 17)". "More than a dozen UN Special Rapporteurs said there was evidence of "increasing genocidal incitement" from Israeli officials regarding war plans for Gaza and an intent to "destroy the Palestinian people (Hall & Woodward, 2023, November 18)".

Demonstrations against Israel are taking place in a geography stretching from Europe to South America and Southeast Asia. Criticism emerged even in the United States, Israel's most important supporter.

The research aims to analyze Netanyahu's character traits through his statements and comments published in the international news media during the seven months from October 7, 2023, the first day of Israel's military operation in Gaza, to April 7, 2024. This article will dissect Netanyahu's political narrative, scrutinizing the perceived recklessness that has defined and marred his career.

The Spear No Longer Fits In The Sack

Thousands of Palestinians were killed and injured in the attacks launched by Israel on Gazza. When the international media began criticizing Netanyahu, they appeared on the CBS channel on November 16, 2023. The Israeli Prime Minister, who was a guest on a program on the CBS television channel that gave the impression that it was prepared to support him, held Hamas responsible for the civilian deaths.

Tossing aside the "black mourning shirt symbolizing anger and revenge" on his back, he appears on CBS television "in a white shirt that evokes peace and goodwill." Netanyahu said with a sad face, "Any civilian death is a tragedy. And we should not have any because we're doing everything we can to get the civilians out of harm's way, while Hamas is doing everything to keep them in harm's way (O'Donnell, 2023, November 16)". However, he blames Hamas for civilian deaths. He claims that civilians have been warned to leave Gaza and move to the South, which it calls a safe zone, but they have not been able to prevent these deaths because Hamas has prevented them from doing so. However, as Corbett put it, "Nowhere is safe in Gaza. The Israeli authorities asked people to move to the South. However, no part of the Gaza Strip has been spared from bombardment. Over the last few days, the military escalation in the South defied the reassurance people had received about moving south to be safe. Hospitals, mosques, churches, bakeries, and over 60 UNRWA buildings and schools have been hit across Gaza," she continued, noting that at least 103 members of her agency have been killed (Corbett, 2023, November 17)".

Commenting on Netanyahu's "sad expression" during an interview with CBS Television, Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said, "We fight human animals and act accordingly (Alter, 2023, October, 14)." Remember that the explanation will contribute to correctly analyzing the background of this "sad facial expression ."Netanyahu's statements on CBS television aimed at concealing his true motives. The main goal is not to ensure the safety of these people. The aim is for the Palestinians, whose homes have been reduced to rubble, to walk under their feet and not to be covered in the world's media. Diplomatic sources say Netanyahu's statements are far from convincing. As the old saying goes, "The spear doesn't fit in the sack anymore."

The Contradiction Between Words And Deeds

The Israeli army, which launched an intensive air and ground offensive on Gaza, seems to have foiled its "plan to uproot Hamas from the Gaza Strip in a short period of time." In a commentary published in The Week US magazine, "In the days and weeks that followed, the Israeli government has seemed more than willing to acquiesce — first with a brutal aerial bombardment of the densely packed strip, followed by a slow ground incursion that has killed more than 14,000 Palestinians, including thousands of children, creating a massive humanitarian crisis that's captured attention and inflamed passions across the globe (Schwartz, 2023, Nov. 17)".

Netanyahu says that they will never agree to a ceasefire and will continue their offensive to achieve their goals with minimal civilian casualties. However, despite Netanyahu's words, for some reason, "Even a single civilian loss is a tragedy," Israeli attacks broadcast live on television always target civilian settlements. This is the "contradiction between words and deeds." Netanyahu's goal is to confine the Palestinian people to a narrow area in the south, leaving more than 1.5 million civilians homeless, and then allocating the vacated area to new Jewish settlers.

The character of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister of Israel, is a subject of intense controversy and division in the world of international politics. He is known for his hardline approach towards the Palestinian territories and has been criticized for sparking anger and vengeance with Israeli attacks. In this context, a detailed character analysis of Netanyahu can help us understand the critical consequences of Israeli attacks, explore his key personality traits, and unravel the legal and ethical controversies surrounding his leadership in Gaza.

Personality Traits Of Netanyahu

Netanyahu's personality is complex, shaped by crucial traits that define his leadership style. He is known for his strong-willed nature and tends to take a hardline stance in conflicts. However, critics argue this assertiveness borders on arrogance at times, leading to strained relationships domestically and internationally. He has also been accused of being power-hungry, which has been discussed widely in political circles. Understanding Netanyahu's key personality traits provides insight into the motivations behind his actions as Israel's Prime Minister.

"1.Narcissism: Netanyahu's self-view as a pivotal figure in Israeli success often overshadows broader ideological concerns, leading to decisions that prioritize personal achievement over collective good. 2.Aggression and Evasion: His political career is characterized by preemptive strikes against opponents, a tendency to abandon allies, and the delegation of controversial tasks to subordinates, reflecting a transactional approach to human relationships. 3.Suspicion and Utilitarianism: A deepseated suspicion perceives others as potential adversaries, influencing his interactions and policy decisions. This trait aligns with his utilitarian work habits, including a preference for working in isolation and relying heavily on a close circle of compliant aides (Abd al-Hay, 2021, March 6)".

Legal And Ethical Controversies

Netanyahu's leadership has been marred by several legal and ethical controversies. His actions have been condemned globally, ranging from corruption charges to accusations of human rights violations. Israel's bombing campaigns in Gaza have been criticized by the United Nations, which has labeled them as potential war crimes. Critics argue that Netanyahu's aggressive tactics fuel tensions in the region instead of promoting peace.

As the world watches the conflict unfold between Israel and Palestine, it is crucial to analyze the key players involved. Understanding Netanyahu's character traits can provide valuable insights into his decision-making process and shed light on the motivations behind his actions. By delving into Netanyahu's personality, we can begin to unravel the complexities of this longstanding conflict and work towards a more peaceful resolution for all parties involved.

In a time where anger and vengeance seem to dominate the discourse surrounding Israeli attacks on Gaza, a deeper understanding of Netanyahu's character may help us navigate toward a path of empathy, dialogue, and, ultimately, reconciliation.

Research Method

In this study, the descriptive literature review method is used. During the research period, available related articles by scientists, commentaries, interviews, and news stories from the world media from October 7, 2023, the first day of Israel's military operation in Gaza, to November 24, 2023.

Findings: Critical Consequences of Israeli Attacks

The Israeli army's attacks, which Netanyahu calls the "war with Hamas", and the world community names it, "brutal operation against the civilian population of Gaza," reveal three important facts:

- The Israeli army's attacks on Gaza, which have been going on for seven months, have gone down in history as "a documentary of shame" that recorded the massacre of more than 34,000 defenseless civilians, mostly children and women, the homelessness of more than 1.5 million people, the destruction of a civilization by turning Gaza into ruins (Regencia, 2024, April 20).

- The Israeli army has been in Gaza to destroy Hamas for seven months. However, it has proved to be too weak to deal with the Hamas, which has limited weapons and personnel in the tiny Gaza territory.

- The Mossad, touted as the world's most powerful intelligence agency, has been unable to find the headquarters or affiliated centers of Hamas, which it has been monitoring for half a century. Thus, it showed that it was an inflated balloon that exploded in Gaza. The question of how Netanyahu will get out of the Gaza quagmire, which he has entered with boundless anger and a thirst for revenge, seems to occupy the world public opinion for an indefinite period.

CONCLUSION AND EVALUATION

As a result, Netanyahu's character analysis reveals a leader driven by anger and a sense of revenge. Despite growing global outrage and calls for a ceasefire, Netanyahu has sought to justify the Israeli army's attacks on Gaza and blame Hamas for civilian casualties. But the reality is that innocent civilians continue to suffer while hospitals, mosques, and schools are targeted.

The Israeli army's attacks failed to achieve the goal of eradicating Hamas, and it was unable to deal with an organization that was so small that it could not even be compared to its strength. This tarnished the image of the Israeli army and the Mossad.

Whether this series of failures will lead the Israeli prime minister to new madness, time will tell. However, the clues as to what Netanyahu may be willing to risk in order to maintain his long-shaky rule in the Gaza impasse can be read in Kimhi's analysis twenty-two years ago:

"Benjamin Netanyahu exhibits many models of egocentric behavior. His personal success is more important than ideology, and he pursues it relentlessly. He does not hesitate to exploit other people, including his colleagues, to achieve his goals. He easily cuts off his relationship with people who no longer serve his purpose. Netanyahu sees politics as a jungle where the strong survive and the weak perish, and he justifies any means to achieve his goals. Their behavior and descriptions reflect this approach. Testimonies from politicians, journalists, and leaders portray him as untrustworthy and show that he often made promises and reneged on them (Kimhi, 2001)".

Netanyahu has no intention of stopping until he achieves his planned goal in Gaza, which raises concerns about the ongoing humanitarian crisis. As the world watches the situation in Gaza, there is uncertainty about how Netanyahu will extricate himself from this quagmire of anger and revenge.

The international community must continue to condemn the actions of the Israeli military and push for a lasting ceasefire that prioritizes the safety and well-being of innocent civilians. The suffering of the Palestinian people cannot be ignored and it is essential to find a just and peaceful solution to the conflict.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Alter, C. (2023, October, 14). How the Activist Left turned on Israel. TIME. https://time.com/6323730/hamas-attack-left-response/

(2023, Nov. 4). İsrail halkı Netanyahu'nun arkasında mı? https://www.bbc.com/turkce/articles/cq5pj8gl2xwo

Corbett, J. (2023, Nov. 17). 'World Must Act': Gaza Faces Starvation, Disease, and Genocide. Common Dreams. https://www.commondreams.org/news/conditions-in-gaza

^{(2023,} October, 15). Which countries have criticised Israeli attacks on Gaza? Aljazeera and Agencies. https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/10/15/which-countries-havecriticised-israeli-attacks-on-gaza

Abd al-Hay, W. (2021, March 6). The psychological studies of the personality of Benjamin Netanyahu, https://eng.alzaytouna.net/2021/03/06/academic-paper-the-psychological-studies-of-thepersonality-of-benjamin-netanyahu/

- Hall, R. & Woodward, A. (2023, Nov 18). International community is 'failing to prevent genocide' in Gaza, UN experts warn. Independent. https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/gaza-genocide-israel-un-hamas-b2449313.html
- Kimhi, S. (2001). Benjamin Netanyahu: A psyhological profile using using behavior analysis. In Profiling Political Leaders: Cross-Cultural Studies of Personality and Behavior. Edited by Ofer Feldman and Linda O. Valenty Connecticut: Praeger, 2001, p. 149-164 Chapter 9
- Kottasová, I. & Koplewitz, A. (2023, Nov. 7). The world is turning against Israel's war in Gaza and many Israelis don't understand why. CNN. https://edition.cnn.com/2023/11/07/middleeast/israel-mood-gaza-war-intl-cmd/index.html
- O'Donnell, N. (2023, Nov 16). Netanyahu said effort to minimize civilian casualties failed, blamed Hamas. CBS Evening News with Norah O'Donnel
- Regencia, T. (2024, April 20). Israel's war on Gaza live: Israelis continue intense raid on N. Shams camp, https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2024/4/20/israels-war-on-gaza-live-israelis-continue-intense-raid-on-nur-shams-camp
- Schwartz, R. (2023, Nov. 17). Israel's Gaza offensive is at a crossroads. What comes next? https://theweek.com/politics/israel-gaza-offensive-next

EXTENDED ABSTRACT

The continued bombing of Gaza by Israel has sparked outrage in the world community. The United Nations officials and medical groups have reiterated the harrowing conditions in the Gaza Strip due to Israel's war on Hamas. The Council on American-Islamic Relations, the most significant U.S. Muslim civil rights and advocacy group, demanded international action to prevent starvation, disease, and genocide. Demonstrations against Israel are taking place worldwide, and criticism has emerged even in the United States, Israel's most important supporter. The situation in Gaza is dire, with thousands of Palestinians killed and injured in the attacks launched by Israel. Netanyahu's character traits are analyzed through his statements and comments published in the international news media during the seven months from October 7, 2023, the first day of Israel's military operation in Gaza, to April 7, 2024. The research aims to dissect Netanyahu's political narrative and scrutinize the perceived recklessness that has defined and marred his career. Netanyahu has blamed Hamas for civilian deaths and claimed that civilians have been warned to leave Gaza and move to the South, which is called a safe zone. However, the military escalation in the South has defied the reassurance people had received about moving south to be safe. Hospitals, mosques, churches, bakeries, and over 60 UNRWA buildings and schools have been hit across Gaza. Netanyahu's statements aimed to conceal his true motives. Diplomatic sources say that his statements are far from convincing. The international community demands a solution to the conflict, and Netanyahu's actions are not helping to achieve peace. The contradiction between words and deeds is apparent. Netanyahu says that they will never agree to a ceasefire and will continue their offensive to achieve their goals with minimal civilian casualties. However, Israeli attacks broadcast live on television always target civilian settlements. The Israeli army, which launched an intensive air and ground

offensive on Gaza, seems to have foiled its "plan to uproot Hamas from the Gaza Strip in a short period of time." In the days and weeks that followed, the Israeli government has seemed more than willing to acquiesce first with a brutal aerial bombardment of the densely packed strip, followed by a slow ground incursion that has killed more than 14,000 Palestinians, including thousands of children, creating a massive humanitarian crisis that's captured attention and inflamed passions across the globe. Netanyahu's goal is to confine the Palestinian people to a narrow area in the south, leaving them with no place to go. He wants the Palestinians, whose homes have been reduced to rubble, to walk under their feet and not to be covered in the world's media. The perceived recklessness has marred his career, and the international community has criticized his actions. Netanyahu's political narrative is scrutinized to analyze his character traits, and diplomatic sources say that his statements are far from convincing. The international community demands a solution to the conflict, and Netanyahu's actions are not helping to achieve peace. The situation in Gaza remains dire, and the world community is watching closely, hoping for a peaceful resolution. The Council on American-Islamic Relations demanded international action to prevent starvation, disease, and genocide. The United Nations officials and medical groups have reiterated the harrowing conditions in the Gaza Strip due to Israel's war on Hamas. In conclusion, the situation in Gaza is a humanitarian crisis that requires urgent attention from the international community. The conflict between Israel and Palestine has been ongoing for years and has claimed many lives. Netanyahu's actions are not helping to achieve peace, and the international community demands a solution to the conflict. The world community must come together to find a peaceful resolution to this conflict, and the safety and well-being of the people of Gaza must be a top priority. The situation in Gaza remains dire, and the world community is watching closely, hoping for a peaceful resolution.

Keywords: Gaza, Palestanians, Character Analysis, Netanyahu, Hamas