

Academic Ombudsman

SPECIAL ISSUE 2 (GAZA) EXTENDED ABSTRACTS



MAY-2024

Academic Ombudsman

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REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE
THE OMBUDSMAN INSTITUTION
PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL EXTENDED ABSTRACTS

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ISSN
2148-256X

Print Run
500

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Apartmanı, ÇANKAYA/ANKARA
www.pirireisajans.com
Design: Emiliya Selin DEMİRCİ

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PREFACE

The humanitarian crisis in Palestine, particularly in Gaza, is a crucial and urgent issue on the international community's agenda. The long-standing blockade and occupation in Gaza have led to violations of fundamental human rights and immense suffering for the people of the region. As the Ombudsman Academic Journal, we felt compelled to address the human rights violations in Gaza from an academic perspective and bring them to the attention of world public opinion through this "Gaza Special Issue."

In this special issue, we have examined the Palestinian issue from various aspects, including political, legal, social, economic, and cultural perspectives. The articles, prepared with contributions from esteemed scholars and experts from various disciplines, present a multidimensional picture of the humanitarian drama in Gaza. These works reveal the destructive effects of the occupation and blockade on the Palestinian people, which violate international law, and serve as a call for concrete steps to be taken towards resolving the problem.

The situation in Gaza has become a matter of global conscience and justice. The comprehensive studies featured in the Journal aim to draw attention to the violations of international law, remind us of the achievements of universal human rights, and provide the necessary awareness and solutions to end this tragedy.

As I conclude my words, I would like to express my gratitude to Editor Dr. Nurullah Güngör, associate editors Selman Erol and Duran Akkan, and everyone who has contributed to the preparation of this issue. We hope that this work can contribute to the steps to be taken towards establishing justice and peace in Gaza and raise awareness on this issue.

Şeref MALKOÇ
Chief Ombudsman

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A QUANTITATIVE RESEARCH ON TÜRKİYE AND TURKISH IMAGE IN PALESTINE

Lecturer, Mahmut Fevzi CENGİZ* – Prof. Dr. Sibel Serpil AYDOS**

Image can be defined as the ideas and opinions that individuals have about other people, events, objects, situations, organizations, places or states. Images begin to form with first impressions and are shaped by experiences. Images can be formed by direct experience or indirectly by information obtained from the environment. It can be seen different categories such as personal image, product image, brand image, corporate image, destination image and country image in the literature regarding the concept of image. Country image can be defined as people's feelings, thoughts, views and opinions about a country. The image of a country is affected by its cultural values, the products it produces, the brands it owns, its technology, its economic-military power and even its sporting achievements. However, most of the existing country image studies in the literature address the issue narrowly and associate country image with destination image and country of origin image. It is seen that the number of studies that comprehensively address and measure the subject with its historical, political, cultural and social dimensions is extremely limited.

The long-rooted relations between Turks and Arabs date back to the 7th century. The Battle of Talas is considered a turning point in Turkish-Arab relations and the Turks' acceptance of Islam. Karluks sided with the Muslim Arab armies and played an important role in the victory of the Battle of Talas by the Muslim armies. In the Battle of Talas, Karluk Turks sided with the Muslim Arab armies and determined not only the course of the war but also the direction of Turks destiny. After this battle, Turks began to accept Islam in droves. Relations between

* This study is based on the first author's PhD thesis titled "Turkey Image in Arab Countries in the context of Country Image: The Cases of Morocco, Algeria, Jordan and Palestine".

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Turks and Arabs made great progress during the Ghaznavids and Great Seljuks periods. Even kinship relations were established between the Great Seljuk Dynasty and the Abbasid Dynasty through marriages. However, during the Ottoman Empire, Turkish-Arab relations gained a different dimension. With the Battles of Mercidâbik and Ridâniye, which took place between the Ottoman Empire and the Mamluks in 1516 and 1517 during the reign of Yavuz Sultan Selim, today's Arab geographies came under Ottoman protection and Turkish domination was established in these lands for centuries. Ottoman rule ended in today's Palestinian territories during the First World War. As a result of the First World War, the Ottoman Empire went out of existence and the Republic of Türkiye, which was established in its place, dealt with its own internal problems for a long while. Türkiye did not take sides in the Palestine issue until the situation of Palestine was placed on the UN agenda in 1947. However, while the issue was being discussed at the UN General Assembly on May 15, 1947, Türkiye took a similar stance as the Arab states and opposed the decision to divide the Palestinian lands between Arabs and Jews. Türkiye accepted the Palestine Liberation Organization as its official interlocutor in the 1970s, and in 1979 the PLO opened its first representative office in Türkiye. The Palestinian National Council declared the independence of Palestine in 1988, and Türkiye was one of the states that recognized this declaration of independence on the first day. Türkiye's pro-Palestinian policies continued in the 1990s, but after the Justice and Development Party came to power in the 2000s, Türkiye's support for Palestine increased further. Today, Türkiye continues its policies regarding the Palestine issue that protects the rights of Palestinians. Türkiye advocates that the Israeli occupation of Palestinian lands should be ended and the pre-1967 borders should be returned.

Türkiye's supportive policies towards Arab countries and Palestine in recent years have led to an increase in sympathy and interest towards Türkiye and Turks in the Arab world. In addition, research conducted in recent years reveals that Türkiye's public diplomacy activities in Arab countries and Turkish television series broadcast in these countries have an impact on this increase in interest. However, there are very limited studies in the literature examining the perception of Türkiye and Turks among Arab people. It has been observed that there are very few studies measuring Türkiye's image, especially in Palestine. It has been observed that there are very few studies measuring Türkiye's image, especially in Palestine, and the existing studies address the subject narrowly. The main purpose of this research is to

reveal what kind of image Türkiye and the Turks have in the eyes of Palestinians. In the survey conducted within the scope of the study, participants were first asked some questions about the problems in their countries and regions. In the research, participants were asked questions about the main problems in their countries and regions and it was investigated which international organizations and countries they considered competent in solving these problems. In the second part of the research, multiple choice and graded questions were asked to measure the participants' current perceptions about Türkiye and Turks. In this section, positive and negative judgments were made about Türkiye and the participants were asked to what extent they agreed with these judgments. In addition, some questions were asked to the participants to measure their practices and reasons for watching Turkish TV series, and the relationship between the participants' practices of watching Turkish TV series and their perspectives on Türkiye and Turks was analyzed with cross tests (Chi Square).

Since the research will be based on quantitative data, survey data collection technique was used. In the survey prepared in this context, some of the questions were multiple choice and the other part was prepared using the Likert scale. For the research, a total of 457 participants were reached through simple random sampling method, 217 participants from the Gaza region and 240 participants from the West Bank region. Surveys were delivered to participants using online and face-to-face tools, and research data were collected between 28.03.2023-21.05.2023. According to the findings of the research, Türkiye has a very positive and strong image among Palestinian participants. Participants consider Türkiye as the most powerful and influential country in the Middle East in terms of economy, military and culture, and the country most competent to speak on behalf of the Muslim world. East and most competent to speak on behalf of the Muslim world. They also think more positively about Türkiye than Arab countries on many issues. In addition, while they show wide participation in positive judgments about Türkiye, they show very low participation in negative judgments.

Key Words: Image, Country Image, Türkiye Image, Palestine, Türkiye-Palestine Relations

PROPAGANDA AND PERCEPTION MANAGEMENT ON SOCIAL MEDIA: THE ISRAEL-PALESTINE WAR

Assoc. Prof. Dr. Ali Fikret AYDIN*

Propaganda manipulates public opinion to change the masses' thoughts and actions in line with specific interests. Using the media, propagandists try to impose their ideologies on the masses and mobilize them. Propaganda messages are designed in a way that does not allow individuals to think critically and questioningly. Distorted and lie-based messages are presented to the masses, and people are asked to take action in line with these messages. In this way, the internalization of ideas will become easier.

One of the standard classifications of propaganda is based on the source of the message, of which there are three types: black, white, and gray propaganda. In white propaganda, the source is known and usually official. Gray propaganda, in which lies and truth are intertwined, includes rumors and conspiracy theories. The source's anonymity makes it impossible to know whether it is a friend or foe. The information conveyed is meant to be exciting and confusing. Black propaganda, the opposite of white propaganda, uses dark and insidious methods. Although the source of the information is known, it is presented as if it comes from another source. All kinds of means, such as slander, lies, and defeatism, are used. Especially in times of earthquake and war, black propaganda is frequently used, and a lot of information pollution occurs.

Propaganda activities are planned to direct the perceptions of the masses. In this context, the concept of perception management emerges. Perception management, which uses propaganda as a tool, legitimizes its actors' actions, gains public support, influences the attitudes and behaviors of the target audience, and ensures that they act in the desired direction. People's easy and rapid access to information

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leads to the same amount of information pollution, which affects perceptions by many factors and makes them vulnerable to external interventions. Therefore, perceptions are easily managed, and social events can be easily manipulated. In the perception process, the reality created through the media becomes more dominant than the individual's own opinions and reality. Therefore, managing the perceptions of people exposed to false and misleading information can be more accessible.

Propaganda activities have become more widespread with the emergence of social media. In social networks, where every user becomes a content producer at the same time, the lack of adequate control mechanisms and the lack of confirmation of news create a favorable environment for propaganda and perception management. The fact that social media is cheap and updatable can create mobilization, the effect on the target audience as a result of the posts can be monitored instantly, and most importantly, its interactivity makes social media an effective and essential tool for propaganda. With the increase in the speed of message dissemination, it has become easier to manage the perceptions of the masses.

Social media can be used for propaganda by governments, institutions, political parties, non-governmental organizations, and companies. These uses are only sometimes well-intentioned. States, in particular, are increasingly concerned about fake news and manipulation. Modern propaganda uses new technologies to distort public perception through disinformation. Recently, countries like the US, Germany, France, and Turkey have been trying to prevent the malicious use of social media with some legal regulations. For example, in Turkey, a law has come into force that provides for imprisonment for those who misinform the public, cause fear and panic, and publicly disseminate manipulative content. In fact, during the Kahramanmaraş earthquake last year, a person who lived in a city outside the earthquake zone and was found to have posted disinformation on social media stating that he was under the collapse was arrested under the relevant law.

Black propaganda on social media in times of crisis, such as epidemics, earthquakes, and wars, causes manipulation of the masses. Social platforms, which have become a means of communication, especially in times of crisis, need help transmitting information. The rapid formation of a disinformation environment by decontextualizing reality causes propaganda to occur more easily on social media. Claims shared by fake accounts under the influence of political and economic interests

make it difficult to access accurate information. Fake documents and images that distort the truth increase the impact of propaganda and cause it to spread further.

This study, which examines the fake news content widely shared on social media during the Israel-Palestinian war, aims to reveal the extent to which propaganda and perception management activities took place. Within the scope of the research, all claims identified by the verification platform *teyit.org* between October 7 and December 31, 2023, are included. This platform was chosen because it examines suspicious allegations on the agenda of social media. Since it is impossible to include all allegations in the study, a sample of the types of false news that emerged from the analysis is discussed. The research showed that most of the content shared on social media was false, and suggestions were made on what should be done to combat this problem.

In extraordinary situations such as earthquakes and wars, where the need for accurate information is felt intensely, the rapid spread of exaggerated and distorted information on social media can lead to significant social problems. In particular, posts targeting specific segments of society cause social segregation and conflict. Propaganda makers who try to manipulate the perceptions of the masses by exploiting individuals' feelings of fear and anxiety also hinder the freedom of information of society. It is seen that this situation, which was previously experienced in the pandemic and the Kahramanmaraş earthquake, is being maintained in the same way in the ongoing Israel-Palestinian War. During the war, the parties started to wage psychological warfare on social media. Israel and Hamas tried to manage the perceptions of the masses through propaganda activities based on fake and manipulative news they circulated on social networks. This situation has created a significant obstacle to the freedom of information for those who want to learn the truth.

Key Words: Social Media, Propaganda, Perception Management, Disinformation, Israel-Palestinian War.

WAR CRIME AND POWER RELATIONSHIP IN THE MODERN WORLD, A HUMANISTIC PERSPECTIVE

Assoc. Prof. Dr. İbrahim DURMUŞ* - Asst. Prof. Faruk SEZER**

Countries that hold power in the world generally provide more direct or indirect support for war crimes. In particular, countries with more financial power and support can declare war on countries with relatively less power and land or valuable resources (especially natural resources for underground wealth). This situation makes it necessary to question the war policies of many developed and developing countries, especially international law. An understanding that makes exploitation a country policy and ignores human values is also criticized by the citizens of many countries. In this respect, the war crimes that exist today have generally turned into social reactions of the country's citizens and unmanned practices of politicians. Today, Israel's inhuman (immoral) attacks on Gaza are the clearest indicator of this situation. In addition, the support given by powerful countries to terrorism in many parts of the world is an important obstacle to the development of especially underdeveloped or developing countries. This situation shows that power is the basis of the inhumane policies of the politicians of the countries who directly or indirectly commit or cause war crimes to be committed. Power is used by politicians of many countries as an actor supporting war crimes.

It is clear that Israel, which committed war crimes, has committed a crime against humanity in general. This situation shows that international law generally sided with the powerful (economically, politically, or ideologically) in war crimes committed and did not take an impartial and free stance. Israel's disproportionate use of force against Gaza causes many civilians to be murdered and Palestinian citizens to suffer many moral and material losses. This situation brings to mind the question of whom the rules of international law exist. Considering the articles

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of international law that generally cause war crimes, it is understood that Israel generally commits all war crimes unlawfully. This situation shows that if the ICC does not make the necessary sanction decisions or is late in this regard, it will pave the way for new and similar massacres in the future.

In the research, an attempt was made to clarify the effectiveness of war crime and power relations, which do not find much space in the literature despite being very effective in the world, and the place of countries in these activities in general, in the light of the literature. In the application, bibliometric analyses were carried out using the Bibtex file in the Web of Science database. The research focused on articles revealing the relationship between war crimes and power in the WoS database. The limitation regarding the application carried out on 12.12.2023 in the WoS database was made only on articles in English. In this respect, the research sample consisted of 500 articles.

In studies revealing the relationship between war crimes and power, it has been understood that terrorism is frequently emphasized and is quite effective. Today, terrorism has many negative effects in terms of regional, social, and humanity in many parts of the world. The fact that powerful countries do not take a clear stance against terrorism and also support terrorism in many parts of the world can hinder the development of countries. Terrorism, especially the formation of a safe zone, poses serious problems for economic, political, regional, and social development. Many countries in the world, despite having power, openly support terrorism and its supporters. This situation has negative effects on the development levels of countries that are victims of terrorism. All forms of terrorism leave deep wounds in the history of countries. Any support given by powerful countries to terrorism directly contributes to the occurrence of war crimes.

In this research, in which articles expressing the relationship between war crimes and power were examined, it was seen that many countries in the world committed or caused war crimes to be committed by abusing power. It has been understood that International Law Rules or International Criminal Courts cannot play an active role in the formation and continuity of war crimes. It has been understood that power is a dominant factor in International Law Rules. In the research, it was seen that the policies of many countries prioritize material interests and that people and human values are murdered for the sake of ambitions and malicious purposes. As a result of the examination, it was understood that the

relationship between war crime and power has a very intense structure and many concepts are effective in this relationship. As a result of the application, among the keywords that the authors emphasized most in their research were; war crimes, violence, crime, war, terrorism, security, international law, organized crime, human rights, genocide, justice, law, Mexico, conflict, history, international, policing, transitional justice, gender, police, police force, United Nations, China, protection, drug trafficking, power, International Criminal Court, responsibility to protect, world war two, sovereignty, Japan, legality, military, torture, Ukraine, war on drugs, armed conflict, civil war, Colombia, empire, fascism, globalization, insecurity, India, Latin America and mafia included it was understood that the words. In terms of concepts with high centrality and intensity, it has been observed that the words war crime, war, international law, justice, Japan, the Second World War, fascism, India, nationalism, and consensus have been used frequently in recent years. As a result of the analysis, it was seen that the concepts of war crimes, International Law, human rights, sovereignty, United Nations, justice, Japan, and transitional justice have strong relationships together. It has also been observed that the words violence, crime, war, Mexico, protection, war on drugs, gender, police, and power reveal very strong relationships. International Law Rules, international agreements, and decisions taken by country politicians, especially powerful countries, are very effective in preventing the Palestine-Israel war. The inferences obtained as a result of the research can be expressed as follows.

- The Israel government uses disproportionate force against Gaza and Palestine. The Israel government is committing war crimes.
- Political decisions taken by country administrators regarding war crime and power relations affect the future of countries.
- One of the effective factors that drives countries to war is power, but in addition to power, many material interests cause war.
- It is understood that countries that abuse power generally carry out colonialist policies, and this situation is very effective in the formation of war crimes.
- It is understood that many countries in the world carry out practices that discriminate against religion, language, race, culture, or gender, and this situation is effective in the formation of war crimes.

- It is predicted that if the non-human activities of the Israeli government continue, it may experience a serious loss of prestige all over the world, and especially the trade volume will shrink further.
- Citizens of many countries show their reaction to wars through social media, actual marches, and different methods (in areas such as any sports competition). This situation shows that the war has a structure that is not generally accepted by societies and that the country's politicians make serious mistakes by not taking into account both their society and the social reactions of the world.
- The fact that the effects of past wars continue today reveals the necessity for countries to prioritize humanitarian policies. The biological and psychological effects of war occupy the minds of humanity for many years and can prevent the continuity of social peace and human peace.
- Decision makers who cause war and pave the way for war crimes are responsible for material and moral massacres, genocides, and generally unfair practices; There is an urgent need for the effectiveness of an accountable structure before International Law.
- To achieve world peace, countries that are considered particularly strong will need to exhibit more humane approaches in their policies towards other countries.

In practice, emphasis was placed on Palestine's struggle for independence. It has been stated that countries have focused on the defense industry in recent years, depending on their power. Israel's power imbalance in the war, self-interested policies, massacres, lawlessness, and war crime activities have been discussed within the framework of International Law. Israel committed one of the largest massacres in history. In the research, the discourses of the world communities supporting Palestine and the actions of powerful country politicians that caused war crimes were stated. As a result, it was understood that war crimes and power relations turned into massacres with the actions of malicious politicians.

As a result, country leaders need to take a consistent stance towards preventing war crimes from being committed. In particular, the importance of country policies should be generally supportive of the development of the world, and of having

the understanding that interests and ambitions should not take precedence over humanity and human dignity. The research was limited to 500 articles in the WoS category examining the relationship between war crimes and power. In future research, the effects of renewable energy sources and social peace, which can prevent the occurrence of wars, on country policies can be examined.

Key Words: Power, War Crime, International Law, Palestine-Israel War.

REGARDING THE DIPLOMATIC CONDUCT OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS DURING THE ISRAELI-PALESTINIAN WAR: UN SAMPLE

Dr. Mustafa CANBEY*

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which began on October 7, 2023, has taken on a new dimension as a result of the Israeli attacks, and the humanitarian tragedy has caused trauma in numerous ways. The conflicts that had been raging in the region for years have escalated into war, and as of today (January 3), when this article was written, the death toll had approached 23 thousand. These events taking place in this modern period, in which peace, nature, and human living spaces are planned to be improved on a daily basis in accordance with the United Nations Development Goals, have elicited reactions in a variety of political, economic, sociological, psychological, and scientific fields.

As the Islamic world's first qibla, the al-Aqsa Mosque and the Quds al-Sharif, in which it is located, hold a special place for Muslims. At the same time, a chronological examination of history reveals that Jerusalem is home to humanity's oldest settlements and civilisations. Since the Ottoman Empire, people of all faiths have lived in Jerusalem in peace and tranquility. The Jewish Genocide during the Second World War, when citizens of today's State of Israel fled their homes and relocated to Palestinian territory, gradually deteriorated and was replaced by a bloody war.

Blood, tears, tension, and conflict have never been in short supply since the Ottoman Empire's departure from the region and the migration of the Jewish population to the Palestinian territories after the Second World War. Injustices and oppression against the Palestinian people, as well as attacks on the grace of Jerusalem, which contains the holy places of three religions, and particularly the al-Aqsa Mosque, have continued on a regular and strategic basis, laying the groundwork for war and conflict rather than a peace policy.

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At the moment, developing plans disregarding the Palestinian people in the region, drawing new maps, and decentralising the Palestinian people are the primary causes of the current bloodshed. The difference between the 1947 Palestinian territories and today's Palestinian territories can be clearly seen on a map. The primary purpose is to de-racialise a nation and people by displacing them, as well as expelling the Palestinians from the territory. It is the prevention of a nation's existence.

In our modern era, instead of capitalising on the opportunities afforded by technology and science to create a world that is more livable, just, and peaceful for future generations, a series of sad events have occurred and continue to occur. As a result of Israel's attacks, all civilians, including children, women, and the elderly, were targeted with bombs and gunfire. While many children are orphaned, parents have lost their greatest blessing: their children.

The international community, institutions, and organisations are thought to have failed miserably during the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. None of the promises made were followed; relief corridors were not established, and those seeking evacuation were kept waiting at border crossings. In this regard, one may claim that the United Nations, in particular, and other institutions have abandoned the Palestinian people and failed to protect their rights and freedoms.

It is apparent that the violence will continue until a lasting two-state peace agreement is reached in the region. Israel's strategy of neglecting the Palestinian people's fundamental rights and executing every Palestinian who stands in its way also endangers the security of its own people. While civilians should be kept out of conflicts as part of war diplomacy or rules of engagement, keeping civilians in the fight created a threat and danger to people on both sides.

This massacre, which occurred in broad daylight, ought to have compelled governments, non-governmental organisations, and international organisations to respond. However, the intended response and position were unable to materialise. The prevailing viewpoint is that the dispute between the two states ought to be resolved bilaterally.

Had the two-state solution been formulated in the region and appropriate diplomatic actions been implemented, the current precarious state of affairs could have been averted. The responsibility for intervening and engaging in peace diplomacy processes in such situations falls upon states and institutions, representing the

shared duty of all humanity in this endeavour. Regrettably, the current situation in the area has transformed into a human tragedy. Israel has obstructed the supply of electricity and refuelling to Palestine, in addition to bombing civilian settlements and obstructing access to clean water and food.

These and analogous circumstances have exacerbated the intensity of the suffering and distress endured. Undoubtedly, a significant challenge has been the global community's collective incapability to firmly condemn this situation. The endorsement of Israeli aggression by the United States and other western nations has not halted this conflict but rather escalated the intensity of the violence to an unprecedented degree. The region's strategic and geopolitical significance may indicate that certain states possess other objectives.

Despite Western states' foreign policies exhibiting sympathy towards Israel, the general public reacted to this resolve by organising street marches that advocated for Palestine and served as a commemoration of the genocide that had transpired. These demonstrations, which were organised on an individual level, have eclipsed reputable, valid, and well-known institutions such as the United Nations. The protests have garnered international attention via social media platforms, resulting in an exponential surge in responses. Dissatisfied with this situation, the Western media has continued to disregard the tragedy that has transpired.

Upon reassessing the region's strategic significance, it becomes evident that Israel's objective is the annihilation of the Palestinian people. Israel, indiscriminately taking lives in Gaza, including children, civilians, women, and the elderly, offers the Palestinian people no alternative but to succumb to the ideology they impose upon them. Israel, committing indiscriminate massacres in the region, forced the remaining Palestinian people to emigrate. The displaced Palestinian people, uprooted from their homes and homeland, are being scattered across various parts of the world in an attempt to detach them from their national identity and the awareness of being a unified nation. The ineffective efforts of the diplomatic initiatives led by the United Nations, which should be addressing this situation with the most tangible methods, can be seen in more detail in the following sections.

Another aspect worth mentioning regarding the subject is the conceptual debate between the "Palestine Issue" and the "Israel Issue." It is clear that there are certain parties who do not want to define the issue as the "Palestine issue." Despite

the evident developments today, marked by the rising toll of Palestinian casualties and the unrelenting displacement of Gazans from their homes and lands, it is striking that some use the concept “Israel issue” to depict Israel as an ongoing victim, disregarding the historical reality of Palestine’s historical sovereignty in the region as observed in the 1947 borders. This situation is also addressed in this study. The existence of Palestine and Israel in the region is also examined within a historical context, with the aim of elucidating the evolution of the process and the prevailing situation.

In this regard, the problem of this study, it scrutinises the diplomatic dimensions of the bitter conflict between Israel and Palestine, delving into questions surrounding what diplomatic actions are taken while civilians bear the brunt of the pain, exploring how international institutions and organisations contribute to peace efforts and analysing the engagement of various states or organisations in peace diplomacy.

While the universe of the study consists of international organizations, the sample of the study is the United Nations. It will draw inferences regarding the behaviour, attitude, and diplomatic performance of the UN among international organisations in this context by analysing the initial reaction of the UN from the onset of the conflicts on October 7 until today, examining the steps taken in the realm of peace diplomacy, delving into the UN’s efforts in establishing aid corridors, assessing the extent to which the organisation utilised its powers, and contemplating the subsequent steps it might take in the aftermath of this process.

The study was conducted by adopting the principles of the qualitative research method (Yıldırım and Şimşek, 2016). The design of the research is situation analysis because it analyzes the current situation. By resorting to document analysis (2016: 129-156), one of the most important and frequently used data collection techniques of qualitative research, data in the literature on the subject were tried to be collected. According to Yıldırım and Şimşek, superficial analysis of the data obtained is descriptive analysis (2016: 237-268). By analyzing the data collected in this study with descriptive analysis, the performance of the UN in terms of diplomatic traffic will be neatly added to the literature and will contribute to the existing literature.

Key Words: United Nations, Palestine, Israel, Diplomacy, Conflict.

POLITICIZATION OF THE ISLAMIC MOVEMENT IN PALESTINE: HAMAS (1946-2024)

Asst. Prof. Gökhan ÇINKARA*

This academic study examines the social, political, and geopolitical factors that enabled the emergence of Hamas through the process of politicization of the Islamic movement in Palestine. Although Hamas declared its establishment in 1987, it rose upon a broad elite pool, networks of social solidarity, and a supportive cluster accelerated by international balances. In essence, Hamas is a local and dynamic branch of the institutionalized Muslim Brotherhood in Palestine. Members of the Muslim Brotherhood have attributed special importance to Palestine since their foundation under the leadership of Hasan al-Banna. The Muslim Brotherhood initiated its institutionalization process in Palestine in 1946. This process has caused the Islamic movement in Palestine to be influenced by the challenges they faced or the opportunities that arose, particularly through the branches of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt and Jordan. Therefore, it can be said that Hamas's development process has been shaped by the internal and external developments of the Muslim Brotherhood. Besides these factors, it is also feasible to state that Hamas has interacted with the Islamic Movement that flourished in the geography occupied by Israel after 1948, including its Northern and Southern branches. Viewing Hamas merely as a confined, isolated, and local formation within Gaza is flawed from these perspectives.

The primary research subject of this article is to examine Hamas's historical and social development processes through elites, institutions, and events. The main research questions of the article are as follows: What kinds of factors have been effective in the emergence of Hamas? What could be the social, political, and geopolitical origins of Hamas? In answering these questions, the dominant role of structural factors has been methodologically considered. These can include social institutions, relationships, culture, and geopolitics that are not affected by conjunctural develop-

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ments. On the other hand, the preferences of elites and moments of current crises can be shown as factors dependent on the conjuncture. These two main dynamics, structural and conjunctural factors, have been processed in the article as the main guides in the development and formation processes of Hamas.

The article concludes that Hamas is a local and dynamic branch of the Muslim Brotherhood. This is because Hamas has benefited from the doctrine, ideology, and cadres of the Muslim Brotherhood, which has been organized in Palestine since 1946. It is difficult to say that Hamas has been the executor of the Muslim Brotherhood's agenda specifically for Palestine. This is because the stages of liberation from occupation, return of the people, and state formation in Palestine necessitate following a nationalist and dynamic policy. Therefore, due to its dynamic nature, Hamas was able to update its founding principles according to the conjuncture in 2017.

In 2017, a document published by Hamas put forth the possibility of a Palestinian state that could exist alongside Israel, with Jerusalem as its capital. This document, while considering Israel's existence as a temporary condition, marked a significant deviation in language and practice compared to the Covenant published by Hamas in 1988. This suggests an evolution in Hamas's ideological stance and political strategy.

Hamas emerged in the late 1980s as the political and armed wing of the Palestinian Islamic Movement, grounding its ideological roots in the ideas of the Muslim Brotherhood. Founded under the leadership of Hassan al-Banna, the Muslim Brotherhood attached special importance to the Palestinian issue, emerging as a social movement in this regard. The geographical proximity enhanced the influence of the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt on Hamas. However, despite Hamas's origins as an extension of the Muslim Brotherhood, it must be emphasized that Hamas has evolved into an independent organization with its own distinct agenda and strategies.

Hamas has successfully added a profound and comprehensive religious dimension to Palestinian nationalism, which has been dominant in Palestinian politics since the 1950s. By developing widespread social organizations and new methods of struggle, Hamas has played an effective role in Palestine. Its conflict with Israel is characterized by a complex structure that incorporates both religious and nationalist elements.

Despite sometimes experiencing challenging relations within Palestinian politics, Hamas has maintained its influence. It achieved a significant victory in the 2006 Palestinian legislative elections. Differing from the PLO, Hamas faced forced isolation imposed by regional countries. With the internal debates brought by the Arab Spring and shifts in external balances, Hamas entered a new period. The geopolitical shifts led Hamas to limit its alliances primarily to Qatar and Turkey, as the post-Arab Spring search for a new order that is opposed to the Muslim Brotherhood marginalized and isolated Hamas from regional politics. This has resulted in the exclusion or arrest of Hamas members in Gulf Arab countries, accelerating the search for new alliances in Palestinian politics influenced by regional geopolitics.

The 2017 document is seen as the first indicator of Hamas's change in strategy and policies, taking into account the new balances after the Arab Spring. This document has taken the relations with the Muslim Brotherhood to a new dimension and led to a change in discourse towards the reality of Israel. Adapting its strategy, discourse, and practices based on regional geopolitical and political dynamics, Hamas, as a military and political organization, will continue to exist as long as the issues of state and sovereignty in Palestine persist.

Hamas's extensive social resources, diverse regional, and international connections make it a formidable actor that cannot be overlooked. The geopolitical isolation, military operations, and targeted assassinations it faces have not led to the dissolution of its institutional structure. Despite the increase in civilian casualties in Gaza controlled by Hamas due to Israeli attacks starting with the October 7 Incidents, there has been no concrete development indicating a weakening of its military and political effectiveness.

The fragmented nature of Palestinian politics and the unique interests of elite groups have kept interest in Hamas alive. In its early days, the primary expectation from Hamas reflected social anger towards the failure of the status quo established by the PLO to eliminate the practices of occupation experienced by the Palestinian people. Therefore, by positioning itself against Israel's occupation policies, Hamas has helped consolidate itself as a natural actor in the conflict.

Key Words: Palestine, Palestinian Politics, Palestinian Nationalism, Palestinian Islamic Movement, HAMAS.

ANALYZING ISRAEL'S DISINFORMATION STRATEGY: THE CASE OF GAZA ATTACKS

Assoc. Prof. Abdulkadir GÖLCÜ* - Research Asst. Betül KARADENİZ DEMİRATA**

The main obstacle to a correct understanding of the Palestine issue at the regional and global level is undoubtedly the theopolitically based disinformation initiatives historically produced by the Jewish society and the Israeli administration. These initiatives continue to produce disinformation that the Palestinian lands belong to the Jewish community, using references from the distorted Torah and Old Testament. The latest example of this is the disinformation war that took place after the "Aqsa Flood" launched against Israel by the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades, the armed wing of Hamas, the legal government of the Gaza Strip, on October 7, 2023, in response to Israel's continued aggression for years. Since October 7, Israel has launched a war of brutal aggression and mass punishment, aiming to completely occupy Gaza, with plans to evacuate the Gaza Strip and exile 2.5 million Palestinians to Egypt. While Israel prevents the entry of needs such as humanitarian aid, food and water into the Gaza Strip, which it blockades by air and land; it also wanted to prevent the flow of information from Gaza to the world public. Because the Israeli administration is trying to legitimize the state terrorism and genocide in Gaza by using various disinformation strategies and to cover up the human tragedy in the region. It does this by misinforming the world public about the events taking place in Gaza, by spreading disinformation-based news and content, by taking events out of context and by manipulating them, by effectively using its relationships in global media networks, and by preventing the receipt and outflow of information from the region. Leaving aside the fact that the occupying policies and rights violations that have been going on for years in the Palestinian lands, which are the main justification of the Palestinian Resistance, the Israeli administration tries to convince the

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whole world public opinion that it protects the right of self-defense in the face of the reactions of the resistance, and that the Palestinians are a threat to the existence of Israel and indirectly to the existence of 'humanity' is working. In this context, the Israeli administration resorts to fake news, false content, misleading claims and professional disinformation strategies to legitimize its own actions and policies. First of all, the Israeli administration continues its approach of covering up or distorting the existing reality regarding the causes and consequences of the events and replacing it with a fictionalized reality, as it has traditionally done in the events experienced in the historical process. In this context, the Israeli administration is implementing a disinformation strategy that hides the background and context of its attacks on Gaza by using manipulative content, disinformation techniques and fake news. It is also vital for the increase and permanence of the impact of media content containing disinformation produced by the Israeli administration. In this context, the Israeli administration, which wanted to prevent the release of information in order to prevent the events in the region beyond its control from being presented to the world public since the beginning of the war, has implemented this strategy at various stages. For this purpose, attacks on infrastructure such as attempts to destroy information-communication networks, destruction of electricity production and distribution mechanisms, and bombing of fuel and energy resources have been carried out. As part of the disinformation strategy adopted in this process, the Israeli administration planned to destroy the human capital required for the use of information-communication technologies in the second stage. Israel, which especially banned media employees from entering the region, targeted Palestinian national media workers and journalists, bombed their homes and carried out attacks that killed their families. There have also been interesting tactics, intimidation efforts and bans adopted by the Israeli administration in the process of implementing its disinformation strategy. Israeli security forces interfering with the content of reporters in news transmissions based in Tel Aviv or Jerusalem; While it banned handing microphones to Palestinians, it carried out various attacks on media organizations and their employees that follow a broadcast policy regarding the rightness of the Palestinian side. In addition to the attacks on the employees of TRT, Habertürk, CNN Türk and Turkish media organizations; Some of the employees of global news networks such as Reuters, Al Jazeera and AFP were deliberately killed or attacked. An interesting example of the Israeli administration's censorship efforts is the ban on journalists it allowed to enter Palestinian territory and

Gaza to communicate with Palestinians. In addition, these journalists are required to obtain approval from Israeli authorities for the news they prepare, and they are required to have the news checked before it is served. This practice proves that it is not desired for any information to come out of the region and circulate without Israel's approval. One part of the Israeli administration's disinformation strategy is its activities on social media. The fact that its influence and direction efforts towards the international media were exposed to criticism at some stages and the disclosure of disinformation originating from Israel in various social media channels caused the Israeli administration to make more intense efforts specifically on social media platforms. However, the fact that it is very difficult to control content and sharing on social media platforms has prompted the Israeli administration to contact the owners of these channels. It tried to obtain the support it gained through its relationships in global media networks by interacting with the owners of social media channels. One dimension of the Israeli administration's disinformation strategy is its attempt to make a series of misleading statements and distort information about Hamas's leadership, activities and statements. The Israeli administration, which announced through official sources that the entry of aid trucks to Gaza was blocked by Hamas and that the aid was stolen by Hamas, claimed that Hamas administrators deliberately planned these activities and demanded that the people of Gaza take action against Hamas. In this context, World War II was enough to drop flyers from planes. The Israeli administration, which does not hesitate to use even outdated methods from the World War, has spread fictional content on traditional media and social media platforms to "demonise" Hamas leaders and announced that it has put a bounty on their heads. While the Israeli administration simultaneously preferred to spread the content more by highlighting its military power, it preferred to publish news claiming that the attack images published by Hamas and the casualties of the Israeli side were content containing "disinformation" far from reality. The Israeli administration has named all kinds of information production and circulation that would lead to disinformation attempts regarding the Gaza war as "disinformation" and claimed that it is far from reality.

Key Words: Disinformation, Information Warfare, News-Information Flow, Strategy, Gaza War.

THE PROCESS OF BAHAI SETTLEMENT IN PALESTINE AND THE ALLEGATIONS THAT THEY SOLD LAND TO THE ZIONISTS (1868-1922)*

Lecturer, Dr. Zikrullah AYKAÇ**

The Bâbi movement emerged in 1844 within the dominant Shia mentality in Iran. When the Babis rejected the Islamic Sharia and claimed that they were an independent religion, the founding leader of the movement, Ali Muhammad of Shiraz, was executed by the Iranian government, and his supporters were sentenced to heavy punishment. Some of its pioneers and supporters, such as Mirza Hussein Ali, escaped from Iran and took refuge in Iraq under the rule of the Ottoman Empire. After Mirza Hüseyin Ali took refuge in the Ottoman Empire and declared himself the new prophet, the Bâbi movement began to evolve into the Bahá'í movement. The Baha'i community, led by Mirza Hüseyin Ali, remained in exile in Baghdad, Istanbul, Edirne and Akka at various times. Although the intellectual foundations of the Baha'i movement were laid in Iran, its development process and reaching an international dimension took place in the Ottoman geography. The current conditions of the Ottoman Empire in the last hundred years directly affected the structural and intellectual characteristics and development of the movement.

Needing the authority of a strong leader, the Babis began to regroup around Mirza Hüseyin Ali Nuri and his half-brother Mirza Yahya Nuri in Baghdad. Mirza Hussein Ali succeeded in bringing the Babis together again by having his leadership largely accepted in Baghdad, where he stayed for ten years. The reorganization of the Babis under the leadership of Mirza Hussein Ali and their active activities increased Iran's attention and reaction. Iran demanded that the Babi group, which it defined as a heretical movement, be extradited to them or be transferred to a place isolated from society, far from the Iranian border. The request of the Iranian government was pre-

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sented to Sultan Abdülaziz by Grand Vizier Mehmed Emin Ali Pasha and Minister of Foreign Affairs Fuad Pasha, and a will was issued to send the Babis to Istanbul. In the will issued, the expression “sect-i bâtil ve hafî” was used for the Babis, and it was also stated that it was a necessity for this movement, which attempted to assassinate the Shah, to be on the Iranian border, and that it would not be in accordance with international law, especially the leadership team should be transferred to a place far from Iran. Iran’s request to return the Babis to them was rejected on the grounds that it was not in accordance with state law and reputation. Despite the report of Baghdad Governor Namık Pasha declaring that the Babis were not a threat, the Sublime Porte decided to exile the group in 1863, stating that such a movement could harm the Supreme State due to the cosmopolitan structure of Baghdad. In order for the Babis to be exiled to Edirne, a will was issued to ensure that 25 thousand kuruş was allocated from the Baghdad treasury and they were sent accompanied by guards. The exile group reached Istanbul after a four-month journey, and after staying there for two and a half months, they were sent to Edirne, their expenses covered by the treasury. The Bâbî group, which reached Edirne on 12 December 1863, lived here for about five years until they were exiled to Akka on 12 August 1868.

The leadership struggle that started in Baghdad between Mirza Hüseyin Ali and his brother Mirza Yahya Nuri resulted in the separation of the community into two branches in Edirne. Supporters of Mirza Hüseyin Ali began to be called Bahá’ís and supporters of Mirza Yahya Nuri began to be called Ezellis. The intense pressure of Iran’s Ambassador to Istanbul, Hacı Mirza Hüseyin Khan (Sipahlar), on the government to exile the Babis to a more distant and limited place from Edirne, and the constant attacks of Mirza Hüseyin Ali and Mirza Nuri Yahya against each other against the Iranian Embassy and the Sublime Porte. As a result of sending petitions of complaint, some Babis in Istanbul were arrested and an investigation was initiated. As a result of the interrogation and investigation, the Babis were sentenced to “nefy-i ebed” and “kalebentlik” in 1868, in accordance with Article 28 of the penal code. The Ottoman Empire exiled Mirza Hüseyin Ali with her supporters (Bahais) to Akka, and Subh-i Ezel (Ezelis) to Famagusta, Cyprus.

Bahá’ís, who were exiled to Akka, made great progress there, reached large masses and transformed Bahá’iism into an independent religion. His eldest son, Abbas Efendi (Abdul-Baha), who succeeded Mirza Hussein Ali after his death (1892), gave Bahá’ism an institutional structure and began to reach an international power by carrying its activities to Europe and America. The exile life of the Bahá’ís, who were exiled

to places such as Istanbul, Edirne, Cyprus and Acre, began in 1908 during World War II. It ended with the general amnesty issued after the declaration of the Constitutional Monarchy. However, although their exile ended, the Bahá'ís remained here and continued their activities in Akka and Haifa.

Bahá'ism, which was born within the borders of the Ottoman Empire in the 1860s, has now become an independent religion with millions of followers all over the world. Many academic studies have been conducted on Baha'ism, especially in America and Europe. However, it can be said that the Ottoman State archives, which are the main sources, are not sufficiently utilized when discussing the historical development of these Bahá'í-themed studies covering the Ottoman Empire (1863-1922). However, it is of vital importance to reveal the settlement processes and activities in Palestine, which is considered the religious center of the Baha'í faith, with the documents in question, apart from the Baha'í narratives. The archive in question contains a rich source that will shed light on the development process, activities and relations of the movement. These archives also contain important documents in terms of elucidating the relations of Bahá'ís with the Zionists (1868-1922). In this study, based on the Ottoman Archive (BOA) documents, the emergence of the Babism and Bahá'í movements, their development within the borders of the Ottoman Empire, and the exile conditions of the Bahá'ís in Akka and their activities there are discussed. Finally, the existing complaint reports that the Zionists used Bahá'ís as intermediaries to purchase land for the establishment of Jewish settlements in Palestine and the investigation commission reports formed in line with these complaints were discussed.

Key Words: Ottoman Empire, Palestine, Bábism, Bahá'ism, Mirza Husayn Ali, Acre.

TÜRKİYE'S GAZA DIPLOMACY AFTER OCTOBER 7: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES TO PEACEBUILDING IN PALESTINE

Asst. Prof. Hikmet MENGÜASLAN*

This study asserts that Türkiye's Gaza diplomacy, a recent and remarkable example of "the Turkish brand in humanitarian diplomacy", has acquired a key position thanks to its novelties addressing the deadlock in both ending the humanitarian crisis after October 7 conflict and peacebuilding in Palestine in general. To identify its outcomes as to solution of the Israeli-Palestinian issue, the study examines the Gaza diplomacy's discursive, operational, and practical components with process tracing approach based on interpretive analysis of data gathered from various sources including key speeches and reports (such as TİKA) as well as databases (such as OECD and World Bank).

The deadlock and abeyance as to the Israeli-Palestinian issue in general seems to necessitate more than ever fresh ideas, approaches, and solutions. For in the face of ever deteriorating humanitarian crisis in Gaza after October 7, the conventional diplomacy approaches and its actors which operate on the basis of political and security concerns have neither succeeded in ending the humanitarian crisis, nor deterring Israel from using unproportional force. And the study singles out three main dynamics at play. Firstly, the majority of the parties to the Israeli-Palestinian issue, the Western countries in particular, prioritize security concerns of Israel and remain incapable of addressing issues of the humanitarian crisis within limits of conventional diplomacy. Secondly, the asymmetrical power capabilities between Israel and Palestine results in legitimization of Israeli expansionism. This renders crucial the pressure of the international society in deterring Israel from violating international law and human rights. Thirdly, Israel's control, isolation, and siege policy towards Palestinians casts doubt on the belief in peaceful negotiations as a

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solution and increases the frequency and intensity of hard power politics in return. Accordingly, post-October 7 underlines clearly that a humanitarian and holistic framework is essential for carrying out urgent and long-term solutions together.

In the same period, Türkiye put into practice the Gaza diplomacy shaped by “Turkish type Humanitarian Diplomacy” understanding. The main argument of the study is that the Gaza diplomacy has brought innovation - concrete steps and functional mechanisms– in (at least) three ways which together contributes greatly to a peaceful solution in the Israeli-Palestinian issue.

To begin with, the humanitarian and holistic approach distinguishes the Gaza diplomacy from other conventional diplomacy approaches. With Gaza diplomacy, Türkiye has been one of the first countries that directed humanitarian aid to alleviate effects of the humanitarian crisis. Türkiye has also contributed to the efforts on rallying the international society towards taking a firm stance on the urgency of a humanitarian ceasefire. However, the Gaza diplomacy goes beyond merely providing humanitarian aid and advocating peace. Given that Palestinians have been struggling with statelessness particularly and the problems of dispossession, poverty, and underdevelopment as well due to the Israeli policies, the Gaza diplomacy also includes phases which enable to carry out together the development and state building processes in Palestine. Secondly, the Gaza diplomacy devises certain mechanisms based especially on the deterrence-guardianship provided by the international society to prevent the asymmetrical power capacities between Palestine and Israel from negatively affecting the Palestinians’ right to self-determination. In this regard, Türkiye presented an alternative and functional mechanism – “the guarantor formula”. Based on the two-state solution, the guarantor formula consists in ensuring the peace by becoming guarantor to either Palestine or Israel during and after the peace negotiations. And the formula as Turkey proposed is open to contribution of international society in terms of final form, content, and scope. Addressing the skepticism and criticism against Türkiye’s formula, the study contends that it has a great potential to actualize a peaceful solution hinged upon the rule of international law and multilateralism. As such, the study describes the formula as a human-oriented, functional alternative for the two-state solution and argues that it represents a significant landmark in establishing peace in the Israeli- Palestinian conflict. Thirdly, the Gaza diplomacy provides Türkiye with an influential position that will increase its clout over peacebuilding and state

building in Palestine. In fact, Türkiye already uttered its motivation to become one of the guarantors for Palestine. If and when Türkiye becomes guarantor, it can grant extensive support to not only keeping peace negotiations but also providing the necessary assistance of which Palestine needs on the ground.

As a conclusion, Türkiye's understanding of humanitarian diplomacy goes beyond merely providing humanitarian aid and covers various instruments/roles such as advocacy, mediation-facilitation, conflict resolution and peace building. As such, Türkiye's active and humanitarian Gaza diplomacy is particularly distinguished by not only contributing with solutions to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza but also presenting an alternative way for ensuring peace in the Palestine-Israeli conflict. However, there is not yet enough discussion and awareness with regard to the mechanisms devised by Türkiye's alternative framework. In addition to contributing to this purpose, the findings of the study provide fresh insights about the Turkish brand in humanitarian diplomacy by presenting a concrete example of humanitarian diplomacy in which the principles of humanitarianism, international cooperation, and multilateralism actively function. Thus, it also helps to promote a competent framework of humanitarian diplomacy which other actors, developing countries in particular, can adopt to ensure regional and international peace.

Key Words: Israeli-Palestinian Issue, Humanitarian Diplomacy, October 7 Conflict, Peacebuilding, Humanitarian Crisis.

ISRAEL'S OCCUPATION OF PALESTINIAN TERRITORIES: ASSESSING THE VIOLATION OF THE RIGHT TO WATER OF GAZANS IN TERMS OF INTERNATIONAL LAW

Research Asst. Fatih TUNA*

The Al-Aqsa Flood operation was carried out by the Palestinian Islamic resistance movement, Hamas, on October 7, 2023, against Israel due to its unacceptable attacks on Muslim women, disrespect for the sanctity of the Al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem, and the blockade of Gaza. In response to Hamas' operation, the Israeli side launched the Swords of Iron operation. Although Israel claimed that the purpose of the operation was to destroy Hamas' military infrastructure in Gaza, statements made by senior Israeli officials indicated that the Tel Aviv administration had a different purpose. Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant described Palestinians as 'human animals,' while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu likened the people of Gaza to the tribe of Amalek, mentioned in the Old Testament, whom God commanded the Israelis to destroy. Such statements, among others, indicate that the Tel Aviv administration is conducting a genocidal attack against Palestinians. Israel immediately cut off the supply of fuel, electricity, water, food, and medical supplies to Gaza after October 7. In the attacks carried out by Israel, more than 30,000 civilians, mostly women and children, were killed in Gaza. Since October 7, 2023, one in every hundred people in Gaza has been killed by Israel, and two in every ten buildings have been damaged. It is feared that if Israel continues its heavy blockade of Gaza, more Palestinians may die from hunger and disease than those killed in the attacks. Approximately 2 million Palestinians, constituting 85 percent of Gaza's population, were displaced due to Israeli attacks, which also destroyed Gaza's infrastructure. Israel rendered two out of every three hospitals in Gaza unusable.

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The conditions in currently operating hospitals are inadequate in terms of hygiene standards. According to the United Nations World Food Program, 80 percent of people at risk of dying from hunger worldwide are currently in Gaza. According to World Health Organization data, under current conditions in Gaza, there is one toilet for every 220 Palestinian civilians and one shower for every 4,500 Palestinian civilians. Seawater desalination facilities in Gaza are not working due to Israel cutting off electricity and fuel. Thereby, displaced Gazans have access to only 2 liters of water to meet all their daily needs. The international community is concerned that Israel violates one of the most fundamental human rights, the right to water. In addition to making derogatory statements towards Palestinians in Gaza and cutting off all vital supplies to the region, the long-standing problem of access to clean water has come to the forefront again. It can be said that the water problem that emerged with Israel's occupation of Palestinian territories has been a significant issue for a long time. According to World Bank data, water reserves in Gaza have been at crisis levels since 2005. According to a calculation made by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), only 10 percent of the Palestinian population in Gaza has access to clean and drinkable water resources. The Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) states that 95 percent of the population of Gaza does not have access to clean water. With Israel cutting off clean and drinkable water supplies to Gaza, Palestinians are attempting to create water resources by digging wells on their own. However, these sources cause vital health problems as they are largely mixed with seawater and sewage. Imports of cement and iron necessary for the reconstruction of water infrastructure in Gaza are prevented by Israel. According to the Oslo Accords, Israel is obligated to send 5 million cubic meters of clean and drinkable water to Gaza annually. However, this water sent by Israel through the old pipeline is contaminated by mixing with sewage water. The right to water is universally guaranteed by relevant articles of the International Convention on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The right to water means that clean water resources of appropriate quality compatible with human dignity and health should be available and accessible to everyone. Israel's blockade of all Gazans' access to water rights in response to the Al-Aqsa Flood operation carried out by Hamas constitutes an example of collective punishment prohibited by international humanitarian law. Israel's deprivation of the right to water to hundreds of thousands

of innocent civilians in Gaza, and therefore preventing Gazans from accessing clean, drinkable, and safe water resources, can also be considered a crime against humanity. It is clear that Israel, which has occupied Palestinian territories for many years, violates many universal fundamental human rights of Palestinian civilians. These fundamental human rights violations by Israel have once again been on the agenda of the international community, especially with the Swords of Iron operation carried out by the Tel Aviv administration. It is almost impossible to comprehensively examine all of the rights violations committed by the occupier Israeli administration in a single study. Therefore, this research will examine how Israel violated the Palestinians' right to water, considered one of the most basic human rights, within the scope of international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and international law of treaties. A notable initiative to hold Israel responsible in the context of international law for the attacks it has recently carried out in Gaza has been taken by the South African Republic. An 84-page file prepared by the South African Republic, alleging that Israel aims to eliminate a significant portion of Palestinians by violating the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, was submitted to the International Court of Justice. The relevant file states that a total of eight different actions by the Israeli side, including the violation of the water rights of civilians in Gaza, fall within the scope of the crime of genocide, especially against the Palestinians living in Gaza. Therefore, Israel's violation of the Palestinians' right to water, which is guaranteed by international law, is directly related to Israel's trial at the International Court of Justice for allegedly committing genocide. Some countries, including Turkey, support this initiative. His Excellency President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan stated that the documents provided by Türkiye were also used in the relevant case. On January 26, 2024, the International Court of Justice issued provisional measures in the case, but the final decision on genocide is likely to take many years. Nevertheless, this step taken before the International Court of Justice is extremely meaningful symbolically. Israel's violation of Palestinians' right to water is among the eight fundamental human rights violations that led to it being accused of genocide. In this context, Israel's violation of the Palestinians' right to water will be discussed in this study in terms of international humanitarian law, international human rights law, and international law of treaties.

Key Words: Palestine, Israel, Gaza, Al Aqsa Flood, Right to Water.

THE PALESTINIAN-ISRAELI CONFLICT: AN INTERNATIONAL ANALYSIS FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF THE LIBERAL PRESS

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Liberal press theory reflects a system of thought that develops on the basis of freedoms and rights. This theory adopts a basic principle by defending justice and freedom against oppression, dogma and rights violations. In this context, there are many media organizations that undertake the liberal press mission. However, among these organizations, some have wider recognition and influence. This research aims to analyze the approaches of three media organizations, which are considered important worldwide, to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in the Middle East.

The study was carried out with the content analysis method and aimed to examine how The New York Times, The Guardian and Hürriyet newspapers, which adopt the liberal press theory, handled the Palestine-Israel conflict. Content analysis is a research method used in the evaluation of written materials and generally has the characteristics of objectivity, systematicity and generality. The study determined a period covering October 8-12, 2023 as a sample selection and examined the news about the Palestine-Israel conflict on the front pages of The New York Times, The Guardian and Hürriyet newspapers. The data collection process was carried out using a systematic sampling algorithm and a numerical analysis was applied to this sampling. The coding table was organized into main themes and subthemes, and these themes included "Attacks", "Warring Parties", "Deaths", "Occupier-Settler", "State" and "Actors". These codings were used to analyze different aspects of the conflict in detail.

Newspapers' definitions of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict: The New York Times defined the conflict with the concepts of "attack," "conflict," "operation" and

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“war.” He described the warring parties with terms such as “militant,” “soldier” and “Israeli army” and emphasized the deaths with the concepts of “dead-dead-killed” and “massacre.” Although there is no particular emphasis on occupier-settler definitions, the direction of the conflict is emphasized by focusing prominently on the term “ Hamas”. The Guardian has frequently used the terms “Israel” and “ Hamas” in the conflict. Terms such as “aggression” and “war” focused on the violent aspects of the conflict, and the terms occupier-settler were rarely or never mentioned. The concepts used emphasize the human dimension of the conflict. Hürriyet framed the intensity of the conflict with the terms “attack” and “war”. He described the warring parties with terms such as “militant,” “Israeli army,” and “army,” and emphasized the deaths as “massacre” and “dead-dead-murdered.” Although there seems to have been no particular emphasis on occupier-settler definitions, there was a distinct emphasis on the term “ Hamas”, indicating that the conflict was seen from a particular perspective. The analysis questions how newspapers represent the conflict, what perspective they reflect and their level of impartiality. The results show that newspapers generally tried to cover different aspects of the conflict, but emphasized a particular point of view (anti-Hamas). Due to this situation, it can be stated that objectivity and diversity are lacking in terms of liberal press principles in the newspapers that were sampled for the research.

In summary, this research includes an analysis of the liberal media’s coverage of the conflict. The text includes an evaluation of the selection of concepts used by The New York Times, The Guardian and Hürriyet newspapers in their news content. It is generally stated that newspapers display an objective approach, but emphasize a certain perspective and create a perspective resulting from an imbalance of power. The examined newspapers are criticized on the basis of their use of certain terms, language and style in their news about the conflict, and it is stated that the imbalance of power between the parties in the conflict affects the public’s perception of news. It is stated that newspapers include expressions emphasizing human rights in their news content, but these news generally use a language and tone in favor of Israel or against Hamas. How newspapers shape their news through the way they represent conflicts, the concepts they prefer and the language they use are considered important factors affecting the impartiality of the news of the relevant newspapers. Additionally, various biases of the newspapers in the sample are also noted. It was also pointed out that a complete evaluation could not be made by basing this evaluation only on the concepts used in the news, and it was stated that other stud-

ies based on a broader perspective and carried out systematically could reach more definitive results on this subject.

The findings show that the liberal media has moved away from objectivity in some areas and acted against the principle of impartiality. Therefore, it should be argued that liberal media should be criticized, and reforms are needed. Some reform suggestions that can be made in liberal media include:

Reviewing the Use of Language: The language used in the news needs to be chosen more carefully to ensure impartiality. In particular, it is important to prefer a more objective language by avoiding biased or emotional expressions. As revealed in this study, presentations made in the context of “ Hamas, militants, terrorists ” do not comply with the principle of impartiality.

Balance in Conflict and Crisis Situations: Especially in conflict and crisis situations, news organizations should ensure a fair balance between the parties. While giving weight to the views of one side, the views of the other side should also be given equal space. Throughout the research, the killing of Palestinians, most of whom were children and thousands of civilians, in Israel’s sieges and bombings was presented in a proportionally less and qualitatively neutral manner (just “died”), while the Israelis who lost their lives in Hamas attacks were described as “massacre”, “genocide” and “horrible”. Highly emotional terms such as “ were given disproportionate coverage, especially in the New York Times. The disproportionate force that Israel exerts on the Palestinians has been reported disproportionately in favor of Israel in these organizations that defend liberal values.

Comprehensive and Analytical Journalism: A style of journalism that examines events not only from the surface but also in more depth and explains their background and reasons should be adopted. This gives viewers a broader perspective and makes the news more meaningful. In this research, it has been seen that while the issue of ‘Jewish settlers’, which is the main problem of the Palestine-Israel conflict, is not expressed in newspapers advocating liberal values, focusing only on mutual attacks and their consequences does not offer a sufficient perspective. These recommendations could ensure that the liberal media adheres more closely to the principles of neutrality and objectivity and provides more reliable and comprehensive news to its readers.

Key Words: Palestine-Israel Conflict, Liberal Press, Content Analysis, The New York Times, The Guardian, Hürriyet.

AN EXAMINATION OF ISRAEL'S ACTIONS TOWARDS PALESTINE IN TERMS OF THEIR EFFECTS ON A JUST AND SUSTAINABLE WORLD

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Significantly affecting both regional and global political balances in front of the eyes of the world; Israel's aggressive actions against Palestine, which are a subject of wide debate in the international arena, are criticized and solutions are proposed by many organizations, non-governmental organizations and countries. However, Israel's actions against Palestine, shaped by a long history and changing dynamics and political developments, continues with the partial but highly armed support received. Having deep roots in historical, cultural and religious context; The harms of Israel's inhumane actions towards Palestine, with which it has to live together, to regional and global actors continue to be ignored.

Although Israel's settlements in Palestinian territories are considered contrary to international law, they also commit crimes against humanity with their policies that include a strict blockade in the Gaza Strip. The most important of these are the destruction of settlements as a result of bombardments that target civilians and cause their deaths, the destruction of infrastructure, and the complication of living conditions by preventing the arrival of humanitarian aid.

Such inhumane actions of Israel against Palestine have negative effects on the establishment of a just and sustainable life in the world, and on the protection and development of human rights and fundamental freedoms, apart from the people of the region.

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Fundamental human rights such as the right to live, freedom, security, freedom of thought, freedom of expression and the right to education, which are granted to all individuals regardless of race, gender, religion, language or any other discrimination, are violated in the region. Actions such as not complying with universal law and order on a micro scale have macro effects and repercussions. These can be grouped under main headings that affect regional and global relations, such as peace and security, environmental and economic impacts, human rights and moral dimension, social injustice and polarization among people, refugee problem and migration.

The interaction details of these topics are the subject of this qualitative study. First of all, we can say: Establishing a justice-based peace can increase security both in the region and around the world. However, the continuation of the conflict with partial political support endangers ethical values, security, and the solution of global problems day by day. Ethical values reflect the international community's effort to determine common values and standards, supporting the vision of a world that is just, sustainable and respectful to people on a global level. Because ethical and moral values shape and regulate the world in which human beings live. Objectively accepted ethical values constitute the legal framework. Morality, which is a subjective, personal concept, can be defined as the reflection of ethics in practice. This reflection enables a person to make judgments on his moral values, which leads him to make a judgment about his own behavior and shapes his conscience.

International diplomacy, is guided by ethical values that include cooperation, international relations, globally accepted standards and principles of behavior. Various international organizations exist to promote guidance, compliance with international standards, and address violations. International ethical principles and institutions that adopt these principles, such as the United Nations Human Rights Council, the United Nations Security Council, the United Nations Peacekeeping Forces, the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court, have the mission of protecting and promoting the ethical values determined by the international community. But, Israel's actions towards Palestine also erode ethical values on an international scale. However, ethical values, which include globally accepted behavioral norms and principles, guide international relations, diplomacy and global cooperation. This guidance also plays an important role in achieving human rights, international law, a just peace and sustainable development goals.

It was seen that the existing economic development policies of the period were inadequate in terms of social justice and the environment. Therefore, with the efforts of the United Nations to include sustainable development in country policies and to create global goals, the concept of sustainable development began to be used with the 1972 Conference on Environment and Sustainable Development. The concept, which was first used to find answers to environmental problems, began to include social and economic perspectives over time. Thus, sustainable development began to solve social and economic problems by also taking ecological ones into account. However, despite the positive effects of digitalization as well as problems such as global warming and fragmentation, its unpredictable dimension makes the world increasingly uncertain. Pessimism is increasing due to the increasing problems of the world, including those caused by religion. Because the basis of the messages given at the Davos Summit held by the World Economic Forum between 15-19 January 2024 with the main theme of Rebuilding Trust is that global cooperation should be advanced more than ever (for the reasons summarized in the next paragraph).

In various parts of the world, a strengthening of racist and discriminatory ideas and an increase in hate speech and crimes is witnessed. Violent attacks, especially against places of worship such as mosques, synagogues and churches, are becoming common. Because it is ignored that using cultural racism as a material for politics will make daily life difficult and hinder people's desire to live together. However, increasing geopolitical tensions and divisive approaches with the emergence of active hostilities in many regions contributes to an unstable environment that erodes trust in the global order. At the same time, countries are grappling with the effects of record-breaking extreme weather conditions and climate change. On an economic level, high inflation and interest rates continue to hurt as they increase the cost of living in most parts of the world. In such an environment, the arms race and the necessity of depleting its stocks further increase the despair for humanity and the world, while the religions that are expected/should be a remedy are used as provocative war materials in the hands of their representatives. After this general evaluation, the following suggestions can be developed by making determinations and comments regarding the purpose and results of the study with the following questions:

What is the purpose of holy books or monotheistic religions, how many differences are there between their purposes so that derogatory speeches are made based on religious beliefs? When will it be realized that these pose a threat to world peace? Don't the actions led by Israel and provoked by the parties only benefit the marginals and harm the innocent? Sanctifying the killing of people, degrading their values, or actions that legitimize violence turns the region into a ring of fire. This poses major obstacles to the implementation of sustainability-related decisions and thus to the goal of a fair and sustainable world. In short, leaders who influence nationally and the masses need to be careful about their general speeches. In cases where this is not the case, statements that encourage marginal behavior and pose a great threat to regional and world peace must be audited. The international institution that will do this must be established and operated in a way that has high sanction power and that each member has one vote in its management.

To summarize, in today's environment where discrimination against various ethnic identities, religions, languages and appearances of societies is widespread, why did those who perpetrated and lived through the Holocaust between 1933 and 1945 not learn from the past? The fact that the same approach is being perpetuated even more ruthlessly nowadays and that bystanders remain bystanders destroys all values and institutions. Because not only human values are violated, but all rules and institutions are ignored. Therefore, what will replace unrecognized institutions? If general concepts such as barbarism, terrorism, terrorists, violence, self-defense, war crimes, etc. change depending on the point of view, will this world not continue to be hell for the innocent? Won't this play into the hands of those who are prejudiced against Jews and harbor hostile feelings? Remember, a just and sustainable world is a matter of equality and balance in relation to sustainable development, social, economic and environmental sustainability.

Key Words: Morality and Ethics, Human Rights, Human Rights Violations, Sustainability, International Organizations.

ISRAELI ATTACKS ON GAZA AFTER OCTOBER 7 AND DISINFORMATION

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Israel initiated attacks on Gaza on October 7, 2023, resulting in the loss of over 35,000 civilian lives. Despite a lawsuit filed on December 29, 2023, claiming Israel's violations of the United Nations Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide from 1948, the attacks persist. Over 100 journalists have also lost their lives in these ongoing attacks. The deaths of journalists can be considered an attempt to prevent the accurate dissemination of events in Gaza to the world. Blocking the free press from broadcasting all aspects of the truth constitutes disinformative action, as "informing" is the primary function of the press. Preventing the press from freely fulfilling its "informing" function renders the truth more susceptible to disinformation. Disinformation is defined in the Turkish Language Association Dictionary as "distortion of information" (TDK Dictionary, 2024). It can also be described as the intentional sharing of information known to be untrue with the intent to harm public peace (Balçı and Çakır, 2023: 4).

Disinformation is a type of information pollution. Alongside disinformation, misinformation and malinformation campaigns also aim to hinder people's access to the truth. While disinformation involves intentionally sharing false information with harmful intent, misinformation involves unintentionally sharing false information, and malinformation involves transmitting information to cause harm (Wardle and Derakhshan, 2017: 5). Disinformation can also be characterized as a set of false news that can deceive the public on a large scale (Lazer et al., 2018: 1094).

Social media is the most prevalent and accessible platform for disseminating disinformation. There is no universally accepted standard for sharing information online, and in the digital realm, facts can easily be altered, stolen, distorted, or fab-

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ricated (Metzger, 2007: 2079). Consequently, social media posts bombard users with vast amounts of data, making it impossible to distinguish between truth and falsehood. Additionally, there is a shift towards a process where reality is detached from its context, and the importance of facts, truths, and statistics diminishes. This emerging hyperreality, related to disinformation, tends to be less effective in guiding public opinion than appeals to emotion and personal belief. Without intervention, this process can erode the foundations of trust, creating a fragile social structure built on suspicion (Modreanu, 2017: 7).

Media organizations, trolls, social media platforms, and sometimes terrorist groups are among the sources of disinformation (Tan and Lee, 2022). Unfortunately, disinformation has become more widespread with the proliferation of modern technologies like social media and the internet. Digital technologies facilitate the rapid spread of false information to large audiences. However, the history of disinformation dates back far into the past. For instance, many countries have resorted to black propaganda campaigns during wartime to weaken the enemy or support their own war efforts.

One significant reason for the spread of disinformation is the pressure on media organizations to publish news quickly. Consequently, some news platforms publish news without verifying their accuracy (Woolley and Howard, 2016). Moreover, the proliferation of misinformation and misleading information complicates people's access to correct information when researching online. The consequences of disinformation can be more severe and widespread than anticipated. For example, false news and fabrications have the power to influence political campaigns (Allcott and Gentzkow, 2017). Misleading information in the health sector can lead people to choose incorrect treatment methods, as seen during the Covid-19 pandemic (Broniatowski et al., 2018). Therefore, the importance of combating disinformation and promoting accurate information dissemination cannot be overstated. Even though disinformation is systematically circulated, news media outlets can sometimes publish false news based on deliberately manipulated misinformation.

In this article, we evaluate how Israel's attacks initiated on October 7, 2023, on Gaza and the events in Gaza have been subjected to disinformation by Israeli media, other media outlets, and trolls, particularly through the use of social media.

The data obtained consist of news and social media posts. Data obtained using the “convenience sampling” technique were analyzed using the descriptive (thematic) analysis method. In “convenience sampling,” a researcher continues to collect sample cases or amounts of new information until data saturation is reached (Neuman, 2014: 326). Qualitative researchers select representative samples from a large number of cases to examine them intensively. They focus on the relevance to the research topic rather than the representativeness of the data (Flick, 1998: 41). Qualitative researchers tend to use non-probabilistic samples, meaning they often do not predetermine sample sizes and have limited information about the larger group from which the sample is drawn. Unlike quantitative researchers who use a planned approach based on mathematical theory, qualitative researchers select cases gradually, guided by the specific content of the case. Qualitative research requires “thematic analysis,” presenting social reality in this way. Qualitative researchers think in detail within a questioning, open-ended “fitting” process about the theoretical-philosophical paradigm rather than focusing narrowly on a specific question. They analyze and evaluate the data obtained accordingly (Neuman, 2014: 22).

Regarding Israel’s attacks on Gaza, as of the writing of this article, a total of 151 disinformation activities (false news and fake media sharing) have been identified. Proportionally, it is noteworthy that an average of 1.4 false news or disinformation-related social media posts are circulated daily. It has been determined that the majority of disinformation content shared during Israel’s attacks on Gaza originated from Israeli sources. Additionally, some media outlets outside Israel, such as The Times published in the UK, have engaged in disinformation attempts contrary to universally accepted and endorsed press principles. Individual social media users have also been found to participate in these disinformation processes. When evaluated in the context of Israel and its activities in Gaza, which represent a significant communication problem of our time, this study will contribute to the literature and shed light on new studies, emphasizing the importance of media literacy, especially digital media literacy.

Key Words: Disinformation, Media, Communication, News, Gaza.

GAZA AT THE INTERSECTION OF SOCIAL WORK AND HUMAN RIGHTS

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Human rights is the concept of defining the rights that individuals have from birth and expressing the rights set forth by limiting the intervention of a third person, institution or state. Many events such as world wars, terrorist incidents, migrations, natural disasters and social problems have played a major role in the emergence, shaping and development of human rights. In this respect, it can be stated that human rights have a dynamic and global character. Many different rights such as the right to life, the right not to be subjected to torture, freedom of worship, freedom of thought and expression, the right to work, the right to rest, the right to the environment, the rights of future generations have been classified under various generations.

These rights are not only guaranteed by national laws but also reinforced by international treaties. At this point, many global organisations, especially the United Nations, carry out activities for the protection, development and prevention of violations of human rights. It is seen that this structure, which carries the ideals of protecting the honour and dignity of people and building a just, free and equal society, is not as successful in practice as it is portrayed. It is noteworthy that human rights violations occur systematically in many geographies of the world. The events in Gaza are one of the most vivid and deep-rooted examples of this. According to information on the United Nations website, on 7 October 2023, Palestinian armed groups attacked Israel from Gaza, firing rockets, crossing the border, killing and capturing Israeli forces and civilians, prompting Israel to declare a state of war and launch a counter-attack on Gaza. It was stated that the Israeli attack targeted residential and

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health facilities, killed thousands of people, displaced more than one million people and destroyed parts of Gaza. This study is presented in the format of a literature review in order to evaluate the impact of the events that started on 7 October 2023 on Gaza in the context of human rights. However, it should be noted that the events in Palestine date back long before this date and that Israel has been violating human rights in the region for a long time. However, the study was prepared based on what happened in the wave after 7 October 2023 and what happened in the historical process was left out of the scope. At this point, the article has an important and unique characteristic in terms of addressing Israel's aggressive policy in Gaza within the framework of current events and in the context of human rights. As a matter of fact, Israel, which has a controversial presence within the borders of the Palestinian state, has caused the deaths of tens of thousands of civilians, mostly women and children, with its policies contrary to the law and human rights over the past decades. In this process, many unlawful practices have been recorded, such as the use of banned chemical and weapons of mass destruction, indiscriminate bombing of homes, workplaces, hospitals, places of worship and all kinds of public service buildings, unlawful seizure of people's homes and property, restricting the access of food and water resources to areas where civilians live. There are multidimensional problems such as children becoming open targets, being killed, abducted, subjected to sexual abuse, and being deprived of their basic vital rights as well as their social rights such as access to education and health services. The data on the problems experienced are striking. Accordingly, by mid-December 2023, Israeli attacks had destroyed approximately half of the kindergartens, primary and secondary schools in Gaza (215 kindergartens and 319 other schools). Around 50 UNRWA-run schools and around 14 higher education institutions were destroyed. There are UNICEF reports predicting that the amount of water per capita has fallen to an average of 1.5-2 litres, leading to dehydration, as well as the spread of diseases such as scabies, lice, diarrhoea and chicken pox. Again, international aid trucks are prevented from reaching those in need. As a result of this situation, it is stated that approximately 93% of the population in Gaza faces the risk of starvation. 126 government facilities, 3 churches and 116 mosques were completely destroyed and 200 mosques were damaged. It is stated that health equipment is inadequate, patient care and surgeries are carried out in inhumane conditions under inappropriate conditions, and serious risks related to childbirth are on the agenda, especially for women. It was also reported that people frequently experience emotions such as fear, anxiety,

hopelessness and helplessness, and that the resulting psychological problems may bring serious mental health risks. While all this has been taking place, it is observed that debates on the binding nature of international texts and the functionality of international organisations in practice have been increasing and gaining legitimacy. In fact, it has been observed that no concrete reaction and sanctions have been put forward even in the face of many attacks targeting the United Nations institutions and personnel. While all this is happening, it should be noted that people from various parts of the world have reacted to the current situation. Millions of people took to the streets in many central parts of the world such as Istanbul, London, Paris, New York, Washington, Madrid and Berlin and organised demonstrations in support of Gaza. At this point, one of the most concrete and recent steps has been South Africa's application to the International Court of Justice accusing Israel of committing the crime of genocide. Following this application, the International Court of Justice decided that Israel's actions should be considered within the scope of genocide and that it should be stopped.

However, it is observed that both civilian reactions and the statements of official institutions have not changed the process on the ground. As of 31 January 2024, the attacks continued on the 117th day, dozens of people lost their lives and civilian settlements were subjected to attacks. When the events in Gaza are considered in the context of social work, it should be stated that the science and profession of social work has some ideal discourses on roles such as advocacy, conflict resolution, mediation and the right to self-determination. Whether this intellectual position of social work is reflected in practice is a matter for another evaluation. The attitude of the IFSW, as a pioneering social work organization on a world scale, can give an idea at this point. IFSW has drawn attention to Gaza by calling for a ceasefire in several statements made at different times. However, the effectiveness of these statements in the field can be considered as a matter of debate. Although a positive situation is portrayed at the level of discourse in terms of social work ideals, it is thought that a sufficient step has not been taken in terms of practices. It should be stated that these events taking place in front of the eyes of the world are not an issue that concerns only Gazans, on the contrary, the issue should be kept on the agenda for all humanity.

Key Words: Social Work, Human Rights, Social Work Values, Gaza, Israel Attacks.

PROPOSAL OF A NEW ACTOR FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN ARMED CONFLICTS: INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN OMBUDSMAN (THE GAZA CASE)

Dr. Berna SÜER

The human rights violations in Gaza because of Israel's attacks since October 7, 2023 and the silence against these violations are unacceptable, and the desperation here reveals the problem of protecting human rights in armed conflicts. As an answer to this problem, this article firstly evaluates which international law, international human rights law or international humanitarian law, will be operative in the protection of human rights in armed conflicts. As a result of this analysis, despite of some legal dilemmas it is accepted that the complementarities of the two branches of law are increasing today. However, when this complementarity is accepted, the problem of how the practice will be shaped arises. In this article, the establishment of an international humanitarian ombudsman is proposed as a solution to this problem of the transition from theory to practice. The article will be shaped around two important issues: first, the issue of which branch of law will be valid in the protection of human rights in armed conflicts; the second is whether ombudsman institutions have any role in protecting human rights in armed conflicts.

Looking at the article plan; in the first part, which branch of international law will be taken into account for the protection of human rights in armed conflicts will be discussed. In this discussion, the development processes of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and the situations in which they complement and exclude each other will be determined. Although it is accepted that their complementarity has increased, the problem of how the practice will be shaped still exists. In the next section, examples of existing international mechanisms that can be effective against possible human rights violations in

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armed conflicts will be given and the efforts made so far to establish an international humanitarian ombudsman institution will be examined. In the last section, the attitudes of the Palestinian and Israeli Ombudsmen towards what is happening in Gaza, and the need for the functioning of the international humanitarian ombudsman as an independent actor that will work only for the protection of human rights in situations of armed conflict, will be revealed.

The question of which branch of law will be valid for the protection of human rights in armed conflicts is a fundamental question and when this question is addressed, legal dilemmas first arise. The most striking aspect of these dilemmas is that while international human rights law does not accept deprivation of the right to life in any way, international humanitarian law recognizes that some situations in armed conflicts may not constitute a violation of the right not to be deprived of the right to life. Another important point is what can be done in practice. As a solution to this problem of transition from theory to practice, the humanitarian law ombudsman is proposed in this article.

When we look at the definition of ombudsman, it is defined as an institution that receives applications regarding the functioning of the administration and checks whether the rules regarding the functioning of the administration are complied with. Along with this essential duty, ombudsmen, as national human rights institutions, generally work to implement internationally accepted human rights standards in the country.

When we analyse the relationship between international human rights law and international humanitarian law, they share the same basic principles in terms of the protection of human beings, but they are concretized as two different branches of law, and basically one of them is accepted as the norms to be applied in times of peace and the other in times of war. Today, the complementary nature of both is highlighted and it is even accepted that the functionality of international human rights law continues in times of war. Some describe this situation as the “humanization” of international human rights law and claim that humanization is achieved by interpreting human rights based on the principle of systemic integrity in the light of humanitarian law.

In this article, it is accepted that the most accurate approach to the relationship between two branches is that each branch of law has different areas of application, but in any case, they do not exclude each other, they complement each other, and

there is a “symbiotic” relationship between them. Another acceptance is that, when it comes to armed conflicts, international humanitarian law draws an undeniable general framework, while international human rights law fills the gaps. However, the most important point is how this complementarity will be realized in practice. The answer to this question will also guide the establishment of the international humanitarian ombudsman institution. Because the international humanitarian ombudsman institution is expected to work at the intersection of two branches of law. Since it is not yet possible to implement this idea, it is argued that existing ombudsman institutions can fill this gap.

The article reveals that the idea of establishing an international humanitarian ombudsman is not actually new and it was inspired by the desperation against the failure to protect civilians during the genocide in Rwanda in 1994. The humanitarian ombudsman was tried to be concretized in the 2000s to supervise humanitarian aid processes in armed conflicts, but these efforts remained obsolete at the project level. In this context, it would not be wrong to say that the international humanitarian ombudsman proposed in this article does not have any predecessors, and that the projected humanitarian ombudsman institution started with the most concrete and relatively easiest part in the protection of human rights violations in armed conflicts. Although it is difficult to concretize the international humanitarian ombudsman institution, as the basic principles of this institution, independency, impartiality, flexibility and readiness should be specified.

In the last part of the article, the attitudes of the Palestinian and Israeli Ombudsmen towards human rights violations in Gaza are examined comparatively, and the reactions and actions of the Palestinian and Israeli Ombudsmen against the inhumane events in Gaza were revealed. The important difference here is that it provides the opportunity to compare the attitudes of two ombudsman institutions towards human rights violations due to the same war.

As a result of the comparison, it would not be wrong to say that the Israeli Ombudsman acts within a very narrow framework as an administrative control mechanism within the borders of its own country, ignoring the human rights violations in Gaza. Although territorial borders make sense of this narrow framework to some extent, a more sensitive attitude is expected in the face of the human tragedy and as a requirement of the responsibility to protect. On the other

hand, it is found that the Palestinian Ombudsman is doing everything he can do, at least report what is happening. The attitude of the Israeli Ombudsman justifies the concerns of the Palestinian Ombudsman regarding the universality of human rights, and this problem of universality is perhaps the first obstacle to be overcome in the protection of human rights in armed conflicts. The biased attitude of the Israeli Ombudsman towards the events in Gaza reveals the need for an international humanitarian ombudsman.

In conclusion, as soon as an armed conflict begins and continues, there is need for a mechanism, which will automatically act in the name of humanity and moral responsibility, leaving aside selectivity, double standard attitudes, politics and power balances. The establishment of an international humanitarian ombudsman as a mechanism that can bear independent and impartial witness by monitoring and reporting violations is an ideal for now, but it is also inspiring.

Key Words: International Human Rights Law, International Humanitarian Law, Ombudsman, International Humanitarian Ombudsman, the Gaza War.

THE PERSPECTIVE OF AN ISLAMOPHOBIC GROUP (STOP ISLAMISATION OF AMERICA) ON THE PALESTINE-ISRAEL CONFLICT

Asst. Prof. Uğur ÜLGER*

Introduction

Hamas launched a missile attack against Israel on October 7, 2023. The attack's ability to pass through Israel's air defense line brought the war to a new threshold. The war had a great impact on the world's public opinion. With the influence of identity-based propaganda, the war created an environment for the parties to be marginalized based on their identities; anti-Semitic and Islamophobic rhetoric and attacks have increased (Yang, 10.11.2023).

In this study, the Palestinian-Israeli conflict will be discussed through the discourses and narratives of the organization called Stop Islamization of America (SIA), which was founded in the USA. The way the movement perceives and conveys the conflict will be examined. The organization, also known as the American Freedom Defense Initiative, presents its discourse through pro-Israel and anti-Muslim sentiments.

Methodology

To prepare the study, the publications of SIA's founders were examined, and the Twitter posts of the founders and their news portals were scanned by content analysis method, covering the dates 01.10.2023-10.01.2024. While trying to understand their general stance on the Palestine-Israeli conflict, in addition to the ideology of the movement, their comments on the current war were examined through research on news portals and Twitter accounts. The data obtained will be interpreted-

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ed within the framework of the concepts of Islamophobia and xenophobia. However, SIA's comments on Islam and the Quran will not be evaluated within a religious scientific framework, and the truth or falsity of these claims will not be discussed.

The research questions to be answered are:

1. What does the Palestinian-Israeli conflict mean for SIA?
2. What are SIA's reasons for supporting Israel?
3. According to SIA, what is the role of Muslims in the war?
4. What do they think needs to be done?

Islamophobia

Islamophobia, a type of xenophobia, can be defined as prejudice or hostility towards Muslims. The Islamophobic perspective starts from a simplified narrative of the Muslim world and Islam (Elman, 2012: 146; Taras, 2012: 97) and generalizes all Muslims. Moreover, it is argued that Islam is an unchanging and absolute religion and that the behavior of its followers is shaped on religious grounds (Halliday, 1996: 1). Since the concept involves seeing Muslims as a threat, it also includes their exclusion from social, political and economic relations (Allen, 2010: 189; The Runnymede Trust, 1997: 1-4).

Although populist radical right parties or groups cannot gain political influence on their own due to the two-party structure of American politics, there is a rapprochement between the mainstream center-right and the populist radical right, especially as shown by Donald Trump's presidency. Thus, the discourses of populist radical right parties and organizations find more space in mainstream politics and their discriminatory discourses become natural.

Stop Islamization of America (SIA) and the Palestine-Israel War

The founders of SIA are Pamela Geller and Robert Spencer. As a populist radical right initiative, SIA perceives the political field as the conflict of two opposing groups that are homogeneously articulated, in line with Laclau's understanding of populism (Laclau, 2005; Laclau, 2011). Moreover, while they interpret themselves as the voice of the true people, they assume that they are fighting corrupt elites,

whom they consider to be “useful idiots” in cooperation or contact with Muslims. The reason why they are right-wing is that they try to preserve the purity of society and are passionate defenders of capitalism; even neoliberalism. For example, they oppose increasing direct taxes, social aid, and transferring income between different economic classes (Geller and Spencer, 2010). However, their main political stance is based on ethnic and cultural differences. Particularly Muslims, black people, Native Americans, LGBTQ members, leftists, environmentalists, and feminists are the groups that SIA presents as dangerous, threatening or disturbing in its news and posts. Even though the groups they oppose are heterogeneous, they see them as part of an evil alliance of forces in a conspiracy against “Western civilization.” SIA present itself as defending the rights of everyone outside these groups even those who are members of these groups but also those who oppose these groups.

SIA assumes that Western Civilization is in the middle of an actual war. A war in which hot war and ideological war coexist. SIA’s reflex to this war is to glorify everything that they think belongs to Western Civilization. Because it is considered that those evil alliances try to subjugate Western Civilization. The hot fronts of the war are the conflicts and wars against Al-Qaeda, Iraq, Hezbollah, and Palestine. In these wars, Western civilization is seen not as an invader. Because for them West fight for its right of self-defense to protect its own culture and world ideals. According to SIA, Muslims are also waging an ideological war to spread their principles, to destroy Western democracy, establish a caliphate that reigns throughout the world, and dominate all people. Moreover, in this ideological war, Muslims are accused of taking advantage of democratic rights and freedoms to maintain their existence in the West and to establish a kind of Sharia order by eliminating Western democracy (Spencer, 2007b: 168,169). However, according to SIA, there is also a secret jihad that it fights without revealing itself (Geller, 2011). For this reason, it is emphasized that Westerners should be much more careful in their fight against Islam. This warning causes all Muslims to be portrayed as a potential enemy and others.

SIA’s perception of Palestine is parallel with their perception of Islam. According to SIA, Palestinians/Muslims are inhuman savages who cut off heads, and oppress women. So Israel should be supported without any question, according to them. Because Israel is believed to represent Western civilization while fighting against jihadists. SIA assumes that Muslims will turn to Europe and America after defeating Israel.

One of the main motivations of SIA is also refuting criticisms against Israel. For example, they try to show Palestinian civilians as they take an active role in the war, even if they portray Palestinian kids as soldiers to legitimize Israel's attacks on civilians including kids. For SIA, no one in Palestine is innocent. Also, they broadcast news and videos about public buildings such as schools or hospitals, as they are shelters for Hamas militants. While doing this, they try to legitimize Israel's attacks on public buildings. Also, they deny Israel's invasion of Palestine lands. According to them, the real invaders, and war-makers are Muslims. The ad which was able to be read on the New York subway shows their attitudes on the Palestine-Israel issue clearly: "In any war between the civilized and the savage, support the civilized man. Support Israel. Defeat Jihad," (Dabashi, 24.09.2012).

Conclusion

SIA sees the world through the lens of civilizations' war. For them biggest threat to their civilization comes from Islam since Islam is seen as incompetent for democratic norms and, an aggressive and suppressive religion. So they perceive the Palestine-Israel war as an attack of the Islamic world to the West. So, according to them, Israel should be supported without any question.

The war against Muslims is not only in Palestine. Because for SIA Muslims, liberals, communists, and Nazis are all members of a united group of evil waging war against Western civilization; they have infiltrated international and supranational institutions, especially the UN, and become active in academia and the media. All of these are a reflection of SIA's efforts to create a homogeneous indigenous culture that is anti-globalization and praises indigenous values.

Key Words: Islamophobia, Xenophobia, Islam Hatred, Stop Islamization of America, American Freedom Defense Initiative, Palestine-Israel War.

DEHUMANIZATION AS A TOOL OF LEGITIMACY: AN EVALUATION OF THE GENOCIDE IN PALESTINE FROM AN ORIENTALIST AND ZIONIST PERSPECTIVE

Dr. Ertuğrul YAZAR* - Salih GÜNAY**

Orientalism is defined by the West as the activity of producing knowledge about the languages, religions, histories, geographies, and cultures of Eastern societies. While some consider Orientalism as the “*reconnaissance arm of colonialism*”, there are also those who define it as the “*ammunition store of colonialism*”. However, the most notable interpretation of the concept is the role of Orientalism in terms of “*legitimizing colonialism*”.

Orientalism is expressed as the West establishing a dominance relationship based on knowledge of the East rather than knowing the East better or producing pure knowledge about Eastern societies. The concept was produced in Western laboratories and put on the market with a “*scientific disguise*”. Orientalism defines the lifestyles, traditions, and customs of Eastern peoples as archaic, stamps their history with barbarism, and despises their religion. While British Colonial Governor Lord Cromer labels the peoples of the East as “*dependent races*”, he refers to the West as the “*cradle of civilization*”.

Zionism, a colonial ideology, is a political ideology produced by approaching the Bible with an archaic understanding and interpreting it strictly. Zionism, which constitutes the founding philosophy of the State of Israel, has gained a place at the intersection of many phenomena, from colonialism to orientalism, from religious racism to nationalism, in terms of the time and place in which it emerged. The Zi-

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onist mentality, which expresses a radical break with the ancient Jewish tradition, turned the Middle East into a bloodbath with the spiral of serial violence it endangered and caused unexpected wounds on the ancient culture of Abraham and Moses, is inspired by orientalism in its roots.

Zionism has inherited, as a whole, the orientalist mechanism which the Westerners put forward to exploit Palestinian lands. Zionism, whose roots were laid in Vienna in the heart of Europe in the early 1880s, laid out the general principles in 1894 by the Austrian Jewish journalist Theodor Herzl with his book “*The Jewish State*” and was put into practice with the World Zionism Congress held in Basel in 1897. It is essentially an extension of the West in the region and has become an outpost of the West in the region. Although its ideologists and practitioners are Jewish, Zionism was ultimately born and raised in the West. Its perspective on Arabs and Arab culture is based on an ontological understanding, just like orientalism. That is why, the most concrete form of Zionism and the manifestation of a typical understanding of ontological superiority. The discourse that Jews belong to a “*superior race*” and that God has granted them a “*promised land*” cannot be understood without the orientalist roots of Zionism.

There is a complete unity of discourse between the views of British colonial officials towards Palestine and the Palestinians and the views of Zionists, including today’s Israeli leaders, regarding Palestine and the Palestinians. In the eyes of Zionists, Palestinian Arabs are less human and less valuable than Jews. They are uncivilized people who embody all kinds of ugliness and do not deserve the land on which they live.

Throughout history, genocides, mass murders, incarceration of large groups of people, forced displacement, and acts of intergroup aggression such as apartheid, colonization, slavery, and other atrocities have only been possible through the discourse of the dehumanization of the victims. This psychological process, which enables members of advantaged groups to “*morally separate*” from the suffering of disadvantaged groups and proceeds by demonizing the enemy, portraying them as less than human, and therefore deeming them unworthy of humane treatment, is referred to as dehumanization.

The process of gradual and widespread adoption of the view that some certain groups of people are less than humans acts as a gap in our social senses. In this way,

the other party is demonized and violence is legitimized. It is seen that a similar approach prevails in the Orientalist and Zionist perspectives. With the “*modern self-description*” created, Israelis ignore the Palestinians in their land and subject them to genocide within the framework of their so-called “*civilizing mission*”.

The dehumanization process begins with creating an enemy image. It continues by perceiving the groups defined as others as less valuable than humans, turning them into enemies, and making them less than human. As a result, it relieves the perpetrator’s remorse in the face of all kinds of violence and cruelty deemed permissible to achieve the goals.

As it is known, the brutality that has been going on in Palestinian lands for 75 years has reached the level of “*genocide*” after October 7, 2023. Israeli decision-making officials have made many statements to legitimize this atrocity taking place in Palestine. First of all, it should be underlined that the statements of the officials in the decision-making mechanisms are not ordinary statements and that these statements are not said randomly. It is of great significance to reveal the importance of the issue that the highest officials of the so-called State of Israel, such as Israeli President Isaac Herzog, Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu, and Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, also express the statements, which are interpreted as the expression of a particular mental world.

Herzog states “*We will eradicate evil so that there will be good for the entire region and the world.*”; following the statements by Netanyahu, who described Gaza as “*a city of evil*” on October 7, 2023: “*Gaza is a city of evil, we will turn into ruins every place where Hamas is positioned and hiding,*”, “*I say to the people of Gaza, get out of there immediately.*”, “*We will act everywhere and with full force.*”, “*We are the people of light; they are the people of darkness... We will fulfill the prophecy of Isaiah.*”; following statements by Gallant “*I ordered the complete siege of the Gaza Strip.*”, “*There will be no electricity, no food, no fuel, everything is closed... We are fighting against humanoid animals, and we act accordingly.*” All these statements reveal the relationship between the Zionist understanding and the processes of orientalism and dehumanization.

When the statements of both the founding fathers of Zionism and the current Israeli state officials are examined, it is seen that Zionism, the founding ideology of the State of Israel, continues to exist alive despite all the time that has passed and

that it tries to legitimize all kinds of crimes committed by Israel against the Palestinians with the new methods it has introduced. Zionists, who positioned themselves at the center throughout this process, has defined the Palestinians as the “other” and made them objects of intervention, thus inflicting indescribable oppression on them. In this context, the Israeli army has described themselves as “moral”, and the Palestinian army as “immoral”, or the Israelis as “children of light”, and the Palestinians as “children of darkness”. In these statements, Israel has represented “civilization” while Palestinians “immoral barbarism that deserves to die”. The statements has brought to light the Orientalist and Zionist perspectives towards Muslim Arabs. This study has revealed how Israeli officials in the decision-making mechanisms try to legitimize the genocide in Gaza-Palestine throughout hateful concrete statements, and that nothing has changed on the Western front from the past to the present.

Key Words: Human Rights, Orientalism, Zionism, Dehumanization, Palestine.

GAZA AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE WEST'S VALUE PROBLEM

Asst. Prof. Burak ÇAKIRCA*

On October 7, when no one expected it, HAMAS launched an operation against Israel. After this operation, which is called the Aqsa Flood, everything actually happened as expected in terms of Israel's aggression and lawlessness. It has been observed that the Western world unconditionally supports Israel and its attacks. In this framework, this study asks the question of how valid the values that the West claims to hold are in the case of what is happening in Gaza.

As a result of the blessings of technology, international news can be defined as a message that the whole world is affected by, describing the development, change, and events of an emerging issue. The characteristics of international news are determined by ideological foundations, local elements, periodic power balances, and the role and capacity of the news source in the global system. Considering its power and the dominant character of the ideology of modernism, it can be said that international news points to Western-centered coverage. The fact that events occurring in non-Western parts of the world are international news is presented by Western media organizations with their own interpretations as a reading of political, economic, and cultural superiority. News production is not only a neutral or impartial transmission of the events that occur but also an expression of a historical process. As a result of this dynamic process, international news becomes a reproduction of existing discourse. In this context, the dominance of the West in international media and news forms the basis for the identification of countries outside the West with technological and cultural backwardness, totalitarianism, and violence.

Emerging as a product of the 20th century, the global media, which we can define in the context of global communication and information, also fulfils the

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function of “consent generator” of the West and its liberal values. The West has been perceived as the centre of modernity and development, and elements such as democracy, human rights, and the free market, which form the basis of this perception, have been seen as absolute good qualities to be possessed. Through the ownership of these values, the categorization of “us” and “them” becomes an immutable reality as the Western media power makes sense of international issues in this context. One of the instruments of this Western-established ontology is the international media. The definition of Palestinians as occupiers in their own land stems from the fact that they are the “other” of Western values. The fact that Israel is portrayed as a victim in the international media is due to the fact that it is the fortress of Western development built in the Arab deserts.

The West has a continuous approach to the Palestinian issue through the ontology of the “other.” In this context, this study will ask whether the developments that emerged after the Aqsa Flood can be evaluated in this context. In the context of explaining the historical course of how the Aqsa Flood operation emerged, Cast Lead, Defence Column and Border Protection Operations will be mentioned, and the continuity of the value problem will be tried to be expressed with examples of the attitude exhibited by the Western media.

In the Western media, and especially in the US media, there is sympathy for Israel and prejudice against the Palestinians due to their strategic ties with Israel. For example, a study comparing the approach of the New York Times, a US newspaper, to that of the Israeli newspaper Haaretz on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict found that the New York Times adopted a more pro-Israeli stance than Haaretz. The European media did not behave in a very different manner. Palestine is not even recognised as a state, while Israel exercises its right of self-defence against HAMAS militants, who are considered terrorist elements. These definitions are seen as common features in all conflicts.

The Aqsa Flood is characterised as an example that once again shows that Western values are not valid when it comes to Israel and its aggression. The media has endeavoured to legitimise the value problem in question by producing false news. Western media outlets reported that HAMAS had killed 40 babies and bombed the hospital in order to show itself as a victim. Another example that shows the value problem of the West is the signature of intellectuals, who have one of the most important points in the Western intellectual tradition: statements that take a stance in favour of Israel.

It is seen that freedom of expression, which is one of the most important universal values, is not applied to those who take a stand to condemn the massacres committed by Israel. Many people from the world of art, sports, literature, politics, and academia were either dismissed from their jobs or subjected to serious pressure for making statements condemning Israel.

After Russia's aggression in Ukraine, the Western value system, especially in Europe, witnessed cultural fascism to such an extent that the works of Russian writers Dostoevsky and Tolstoy were banned. For Ukraine, which is defined as a Western state, Western values are something to be defended, whereas Gaza and Palestine are places where these values do not apply. The fact that the values that the West claims to be universal are not valid for everyone is based on the ontology of us and others, and the events in Palestine point to the continuity of the West's value problem. Israel's actions in Gaza correspond to a problem that the West, which is claimed to have a systematic value and which expresses universality, evaluates within the scope of interest and gives meaning on the basis of otherness. Israelis are killed, but Palestinians from Gaza die.

Key Words: Aqsa Flood, Palestine, Gaza, West, Human Rights, Media.

PUSHING THE BOUNDARIES OF SOCIAL MEDIA: THE CARNIVALESQUE REPRESENTATION OF GAZA

Asst. Prof. Osman ÜLKER*

On October 7, 2023, the military wing of Hamas declared war against Israel. This call turned into concrete action with the seizure of settlements around Gaza by Hamas. In response to this Israel has imposed a “comprehensive” blockade on the Gaza Strip. The events were broadcast worldwide through live broadcasts by international media organizations. However, Western media, particularly, has not been sufficiently objective in the process of reporting the events. The media’s biased attitude has led people to use social media to get news.

This occurrence is not unprecedented. Especially during the Arab Spring in 2010, protesters and civil society have effectively used social media platforms such as X to convey events to the world, shaking the authority of traditional media and enabling people to access news directly. In the case of the events in Gaza, despite the cutoff of electricity and the internet by Israel, people managed to find a way to convey the events to the world. However, social media has its own set of problems. News pollution about a particular event, lack of certainty about the accuracy of shared information, and the rapid spread of false information are fundamental issues with social media. Moreover, the dominant language in social media can also lead to trivializing serious societal events.

This study examines how the language dominant in social media affects the representation of events in Gaza. Initially, the concept of new media and related theories will be discussed, followed by an analysis of social media and its dominant sarcastic language through Bakhtin’s carnivalesque concept. Subsequently, social media news with the most interaction related to Gaza will be analyzed using criti-

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cal discourse analysis based on carnivalesque principles. As a result of this analysis, a comprehensive evaluation will be made of how the language dominant in social media affects the representation of major and serious events. The study will also examine tweets representing the following carnivalesque features: Topsy-Turvy World, Carnival Laughter, Market Square Language, and Grotesque Image.

1. Topsy-Turvy World emphasis is placed on the significance of the disruption of traditional authority and the festive transformation of the square during the carnival periods, symbolizing the world turning upside down. In the carnival atmosphere, with the interchange of duties, societal norms, and relationships, a space of freedom emerges for the people. However, in the postmodern era, with the collapse of grand narratives and the breakdown of modern institutions, the transience of the carnival has diminished. This phenomenon is illustrated, for instance, in events like the election of a comedian as the president of Ukraine. In the context of the events in Gaza, instances, where carnivalesque narration becomes effective in situations where formal and academic language falls short, are highlighted. The participation of Egyptian comedian Bassem Youseff in a television program is presented as an example, showcasing how individuals versed in carnival rules, and language can be embraced by broader audiences. Additionally, the tweet and photo shared about the program are described as embodying a carnivalesque stance that questions seriousness and garners more interaction for the comedian.
2. Laughter is a crucial aspect of carnival, characterized by uncontrollable laughter rather than subtle amusement. Bakhtin identifies several qualities of carnival laughter: firstly, it helps overcome fears by placing potential disasters in the form of comical monster characters. Secondly, it has a universal nature, symbolizing the triumph of the collective body of the people rather than individual victories. Thirdly, carnival laughter concretizes the freedom of festive days, carrying relative meaning in relation to the constraints of daily life norms. Lastly, laughter possesses an epistemological status by ridiculing symbols of power and authority, exposing the artificiality of societal order. The text also connects these ideas to the influence of social media, where parody, absurdity, humor, and irony become essential tools for interrupting the rapid flow of information and making serious

messages ludicrous. The example of Israeli soldiers spreading disinformation about a hospital in Gaza, countered by humorous responses on social media, demonstrates the power of carnival laughter in challenging and exposing deceptive narratives.

3. Marketplace Language emphasizes that in a carnival setting where authority dissolves, the language is determined by the people themselves. The official, predictable, and formal language yields to the dominance of slang and colloquialism, creating a free and humorous atmosphere within carnival boundaries. Bakhtin notes that in carnival, using disrespectful language, insults, curses, and profanity becomes not only acceptable but necessary. Social media language is shaped inadvertently by users, where comments, idioms, and prevalent styles that receive positive feedback start dominating the platform. The text illustrates this point with an example of a video portraying the daily life of a young girl living in makeshift camps in relatively safe areas of Gaza, showcasing the expansion of carnival language on social media. In this context, individuals share snippets of their day under headings like “a day at work,” “a day at home,” or “a day on vacation,” often presenting a day with elements of success, discipline, and entertainment adorned with symbols of societal status. However, the example of a Gazan girl sharing the difficult conditions of her life through this language on social media brings an ironic twist, as it contrasts starkly with the usual content shared under such headings. The text concludes by highlighting how irony, easily captured through this shared language, gains more attention and interest than a didactic narrative.
4. Grotesque imagery is a fundamental aspect of carnival theory characterized by deformity, exaggeration, and excess, particularly centered around the body. Grotesque representation aims to critique the image of the sacred, authoritative, ruling, wealthy, and powerful, creating a humorous effect through this criticism. This form of grotesque liberates the visual, signaling openness to new possibilities. In essence, grotesque images contribute to the construction of an alternative reality, aligning with the broader construction offered by the carnival. The dynamism of the grotesque body represents an alternative to the stagnation of official order, as it is an ever-unfinished and continually constructed entity, emphasizing the

dynamic processes between the body and the world, the old and the new. While official culture attempts to portray social relationships as natural and unchangeable, grotesque images resist this by highlighting the interconnectedness of human existence with transitional processes. In the context of the significant destruction in Gaza, seeking grotesque images may seem inappropriate. However, when the grotesque intertwines with the realities of war, creating these images falls to those who aim to conceal the truth within the noise of the carnival. The provided example of an Israeli social media influencer mocking Gazans illustrates how, in various videos prepared by Israeli users, the reality of the suffering in Gaza is attempted to be subsumed within the carnival atmosphere. As bodies transform into racist images, pain, and death are distorted into elements of carnival laughter.

The analyses lead to the conclusion that a significant aspect of carnival is laughter. However, laughing endlessly in a carnival atmosphere is not possible. During the carnival, life is not taken seriously, everything is turned upside down. Practices that would offend us turn into entertainment, violence becomes humorous, and insults turn into interaction. Throughout this carnival, new norms continue to exist. When it ends, social norms are re-established, and life returns to its old state. Nevertheless, in social media, carnivalesque will never end. In an endless and spaceless carnival where norms are not re-established, how can we distinguish what to laugh at and what not to laugh at? When reality and fake, serious and funny, pain and sweetness are so intertwined that they cannot be distinguished, how will we regulate our societal actions? While the events in Gaza are presented with bias in global traditional media, social media becomes a means for people to make their voices heard. However, the language dominance of social media tends to trivialize the narrative and dissolve the seriousness of the events within the carnival atmosphere.

Key Words: Gaza, Social Media, Carnivalesque, Bakhtin, Semiotics.

GAZA'S FORGOTTEN CHILDREN IN THE SHADOW OF CHILDREN'S RIGHTS

Lecturer, Alperen AVCI*

The majority of academic studies concerning Israel's attacks on Gaza have focused on issues such as whether Israel's airstrikes deliberately targeted civilians and whether they complied with international law. These studies underscore the significant humanitarian crisis that the conflict has engendered in Gaza, emphasizing that the bombardment of civilian areas has surpassed the bounds of legitimate self-defense. However, it has been noted that there is a scarcity of studies concentrating on the hardships experienced by children and conducting in-depth analyses of human rights violations. This research offers a novel perspective by centering on the urgent situation confronting children in Gaza. By delving into the historical trajectory of children's rights, it elucidates how these universal principles have evolved and endeavors to comprehend the challenges confronting children in Gaza, raise awareness of violations, and propose solutions. This research is structured according to a qualitative research design, with data being subjected to content analysis using document analysis, a qualitative data collection technique. Document analysis enables the examination of documents produced over a specific time frame on a research problem by various sources at different intervals. In this study, newspaper articles concerning Israel's attacks on Gaza from October 7, 2023, onwards were examined. Purposive sampling was utilized as the sampling method, with data collected from specific news sources such as Anadolu Agency, TRT Haber, Independent Türkçe, and Euronews. This sampling method facilitates the selection of samples possessing a specific characteristic relevant to the research aim and subject. The selection aimed to ensure comprehensive coverage of both local and international news. While Anadolu Agency and TRT Haber serve as Turkey's official news sources, reaching a broad audience, Independent Türkçe and Euronews

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offer diverse perspectives and an international outlook, enhancing the breadth of the research. Thus, the study is grounded in a wide-ranging perspective, providing a more comprehensive understanding.

This analysis, examining the violations of children's rights in Gaza, is comprehensively framed within the framework of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). Firstly, under the violation of fundamental rights, it emphasizes the lack of observance of children's rights to life, family unity, and protection against discrimination. Secondly, it addresses the violation of family and citizenship rights, particularly noting how factors such as home evictions and migration affect family unity. Thirdly, it tackles the violation of children's freedom and privacy rights, questioning practices such as the detention of children by Israeli forces and restrictions on freedom of expression. Lastly, it examines the violation of health and education services, highlighting events such as the targeting of health centers and the bombing of schools, which infringe upon children's rights to health and education.

These violations of children's rights indicate that children in Gaza are being deprived of the standards set by international law and children's rights conventions. This situation is not only concerning for the children in the region but also for the international community at large. Israel's actions in Gaza are openly described as contrary to international human rights and children's rights norms and morally unacceptable. In this context, there is an emphasized need for the international community to take more effective action to protect the rights of children in Gaza and improve their lives.

These findings provide a detailed examination of the violations of children's rights in Gaza caused by Israeli attacks and underscore the importance of international documents in emphasizing the protection of children's rights. The attacks by Israel seriously violate children's fundamental rights to life, health, education, family unity, and other basic rights. The dramatic conditions children endure, supported by official documents, clearly demonstrate how these rights are violated.

In particular, the attacks threaten children's right to life, hinder their access to healthcare and education, disrupt family unity, and adversely affect their psychosocial development. This situation prevents children from experiencing a normal childhood in a conflict environment and indicates a violation of their basic rights.

These violations of children's rights highlight the urgent need for more effective action by the international community. In addition to diplomatic efforts, civil society organizations, human rights advocates, and international organizations should collaborate to implement urgent aid programs to protect and establish the rights of children in Gaza.

In conclusion, the protection of children's rights and the improvement of living conditions for children in Gaza are among the primary responsibilities of the international community. In this context, in addition to diplomatic and humanitarian efforts, long-term solutions should be developed to mitigate the effects of war.

Key Words: Gaza, Law, Children's Rights, UNCRC, Israel-Gaza Conflict

APPLICATION BY THE UNITED KINGDOM TO INTERVENE IN THE GAMBIA/MYANMAR CASE IN THE CONTEXT OF ALLEGATIONS OF GENOCIDE IN GAZA

Dr. Ahmet ULUTAŞ*

On 11 November 2019, The Gambia, on behalf of the 57 members of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation, filed a case at the International Court of Justice (ICJ) alleging that Myanmar failed to fulfil its obligations to prevent and punish acts of genocide committed against the Rohingya in Rakhine State as required under the Genocide Convention.

In this regard, the International Court of Justice issued an order on 23 January 2020 directing Myanmar to “take all measures within its power” to prevent the commission of acts defined in the Genocide Convention, including ensuring that its military and any irregular armed units refrain from committing these acts. The International Court of Justice also ordered Myanmar to “take effective measures to prevent the destruction and ensure the preservation of evidence” related to the International Court of Justice proceedings, and to submit regular reports concerning the measures it has taken to comply with the order.

In 2022, the International Court of Justice rejected Myanmar’s preliminary objections to the jurisdiction of the Court, noting the Convention’s central purpose is the ‘common interest’ of all signatories to ensure the prevention and punishment of genocide and that The Gambia has the right to initiate proceedings against a fellow signatory in light of this “common interest”.

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Next, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) is expected to consider the parties' arguments on the merits of the case. Myanmar was directed to file its response to The Gambia's claims by 24 May 2023, which was subsequently postponed to 24 August 2023, following Myanmar's request for an extension of the time limit.

On 16 October 2023, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) issued an order for The Gambia to submit its reply to arguments made by Myanmar by 16 May 2024 and for Myanmar to submit a Rejoinder – its response to The Gambia's Reply – by 16 December 2024.

On 15 November 2023, Canada, Denmark, France, Federal Republic of Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom filed a joint declaration of intervention, given their "common interest in the accomplishment of the high purposes" of the 1948 Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of Genocide, pursuant to Article 63 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice.

The Maldives also filed a declaration to intervene, citing its deep concern "over the continued... human rights violations and barbarous assaults against the Rohingya Muslims" and recognizing the need for "international cooperation in the quest to prevent and punish genocide".¹

On the other hand, the UK government is facing accusations of double standards after formally submitting detailed legal arguments to the international court of justice in The Hague on 15 November 2023 to support claims that Myanmar committed genocide against the Rohingya ethnic group through its mass mistreatment of children and systematically depriving people of their homes and food.

The UK government made its 21-page "declaration of intervention" jointly with five other countries, namely Canada, The Kingdom of Denmark, The French Republic, The Federal Republic of Germany, The Kingdom of The Netherlands, but it is not supporting South Africa as it prepares to try to convince the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Thursday that Israel is at risk of committing genocide against the Palestinian people.

The UK submission on Myanmar argues there is a lower threshold for determining genocide if the damage has been inflicted on children as opposed to adults.

1 For more information. <https://iimm.un.org/icj-the-gambia-v-myanmar/#:~:text=On%2011%20November%202019%2C%20The,in%20Rakhine%20State%20as%20required> ; Access: 17.03.2024.

The submission said other actions that could be defined as genocidal, if systematic, include forced displacement from homes, deprivation of essential medical services and the imposition of subsistence diets.

It argues that given declarations of intent to commit genocide are rare, the court's test should not solely be explicit statements or numbers killed, but reasonable inference drawn from a pattern of conduct and factual evidence.

As it is mentioned above, the joint submission on 15 November 2023 was in support of an original application made to the International Court of Justice (ICJ) by The Gambia in November 2019 that genocidal acts occurred during a 2017 military campaign by Myanmar that drove 730,000 Rohingya into neighbouring Bangladesh.

Myanmar has always denied genocide, rejecting the UN findings as "biased and flawed". It says its crackdown was aimed at Rohingya rebels who had carried out terrorist attacks in Rakhine state.

The International Court of Justice unanimously accepted The Gambia's request for provisional measures in 2020, and issued a legally binding order to Myanmar to end its genocidal acts and report to the court on the steps it was taking to comply.

The International Court of Justice also threw out Myanmar's assertion that The Gambia had no right to bring the claim in 2022, and it is now making a determination of the case on its merits, allowing nation states such as the UK to intervene with supporting legal arguments.

The submission also highlights the importance of children in assessing a genocide claim. As stated in the news of the "the guardian" newspaper, more than 10,000 children and babies have been killed in Gaza, according to the territory's health authority, about 40% of the total fatalities.²

In this study, firstly, concise information is given about the case that Gambia (on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation-OIC's 57 member states) filed against Myanmar at the International Court of Justice. In this context, our study later included the Turkish translation of the declaration made jointly by

² For more information. <https://www.theguardian.com/law/2024/jan/07/uk-accused-of-hypocrisy-in-not-backing-claim-of-genocide-in-gaza-before-icj> ; Access: 17.03.2024.

the United Kingdom and other states in accordance with Article 63 of the Statute of the International Court of Justice in the case in question. Likewise, the prominent issues in the content of the declaration in question and the discussions held in the UK public in the context of this declaration were pointed out.

At this point, allegations of hypocrisy against the United Kingdom government for not following a similar attitude in the genocide case filed against Israel by the Republic of South Africa in the context of Israel's attack on Gaza are also briefly included.

Key Words: UK, Genocide Convention, ICJ, Joint Declaration of Intervention, Gaza.

Academic Ombudsman

SPECIAL ISSUE 2 (GAZA) EXTENDED ABSTRACTS



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