



# Framing the 2023 Gaza War: An Analytical Study of TRT Arabic's Main News Broadcasts

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## Keywords

1. 2023 Gaza War
2. TRT Arabic
3. News Framing
4. Palestinian-Israeli Conflict
5. Israel-Hamas War
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## Abstract:

This study aims to investigate the framing tactics used by the Turkish channel TRT Arabic when covering the 2023 Israeli war on Gaza. It focuses on the frames used by the channel to present the news items on the 2023 conflict in terms of humanitarian concerns, consequences, responsibility, strategy, and ethics. A quantitative content analysis was conducted of the discursive framing of the 90 news bulletins of TRT Arabic discussing the 2023 Gaza war. The data included news reports and interviews that spanned the 2023 conflict. Results suggest that the channel's news coverage was mainly within the humanitarian frame, which is consistent with Turkey's official stance on Palestinians' rights. TRT Arabic predominantly used field reporters as information sources and employed framing-based journalism tactics in order to manipulate the news coverage. Some of the tactics included omission, selection, and repetition. Furthermore, TRT Arabic provided a full reconstruction of the war events on the ground, through field reports, log updates, and live or phone interviews. The study then concludes that the channel focused on the war and its effects, using field reporters and selective framing. Common formats were documentary reports and interviews. The findings also demonstrate how the media, even progressive media, can shape public perceptions by choosing to emphasize certain aspects of complex events.

## التأطير الإخباري للحرب على غزة عام 2023 دراسة تحليلية لنشرات الأخبار الرئيسية لقناة عربي TRT

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### الكلمات المفتاحية

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|----------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. حرب غزة 2023      | 2. قناة TRT عربي               |
| 3. التأطير الإخباري  | 4. الصراع الفلسطيني الإسرائيلي |
| 5. حرب حماس وإسرائيل | 6. وسائل الإعلام التركية       |

### الملخص:

الأهداف: التعرف على آليات التأطير التي تستخدمها قناة TRT عربي في تغطيتها للصراع العربي الإسرائيلي، والكشف عن طرق تقديم الأطر الإخبارية مثل الصراع والإنساني والعواقب والمسؤولية والاستراتيجية والأخلاقيات. المنهج: تم تحليل التغطية الإخبارية لحرب غزة الإسرائيلية 2023 بناء على محتويات النشرات التي تم بثها على قناة TRT عربي التركية، وباستخدام تحليل المضمون وإجراء تحليل مفصل ل (90) نشرة رئيسية، وكانت المقابلات والتقرير الإخباري الذي بثته عن الحرب في عام 2023 جزء من هذا التحليل. النتائج: إن التغطية كانت تعتمد في الغالب على الإطار الإنساني ويتوافق هذا مع الموقف الرسمي للحكومة التركية الداعم للحقوق الفلسطينية، كما استندت القناة بالكامل في الأخبار على المراسلين الميدانيين كمصدر رئيس لها، واستخدمت آليات التأطير مثل الإغفال والاختيار والتكرار، بالإضافة إلى ذلك بثت القناة مجموعة متنوعة من أحداث الحرب مع التركيز بشكل خاص على التقارير والمقابلات الحية عبر الهاتف أو السكايب. الاستنتاجات: أثبتت الدراسة إلى أن قناة TRT عربي ركزت على الحرب وآثارها، مستخدمة المراسلين الميدانيين وإطارات إخبارية انتقائية، وكانت أساليب العرض الأكثر للأحداث هي التقارير الوثائقية والمقابلات، كما ركزت القناة على أهمية وسائل الإعلام في تشكيل تصورات الجمهور من خلال التركيز على جانب معين من أحداث الحرب وتجاهل الآخر وفق توجهاتها.

## Introduction:

The Arab-Israeli conflict is a long-lasting problem that has been a source of concern both for the Arab World and the international community since 1948. This is due to the on-and-off conflicts between the Arabs and Palestinians on one hand and Israel on the other hand. The latest of such conflict is the Gaza war in 2023, which was especially notorious for its heavy cost in terms of the losses of human life and the multi-faceted regional ripple effects. If we look at the media coverage of wars in Gaza, we can see that these wars have received much attention from all local, Arab, and international – particularly Middle Eastern – outlets. And of course Western-minded TV channels often mold the narratives and perceptions of the events according to the same (or slightly modified) political and ideological positions adopted by the state's policy (Eliades, 2006; Richter & Kozman, 2021). In this context, the current study focuses on the 2023 Gaza War news reports by the international channel TRT Arabic, a Turkish Radio and Television Corporation (TRT) affiliate that is perhaps the first Turkish channel to broadcast in the Arabic language. This channel has been on air since its inception in April 2010 as part of Turkey's ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP)'s efforts to boost cultural and fraternal relations between Turkey and the Arab world. The TRT Arabic's content reflects the Turkish foreign policy and regional aspirations that have become more visible in its news coverage of the Middle East events. This implies that the channel must be using certain framing tactics when reporting on high-stake events such as the Gaza war, which differentiates it from other networks (Sim & Göksu, 2019).

## 2. Literature Review

The way journalists frame news affects the way people think of and interpret events. That is, the media coverage of ongoing events may give much more attention and space to certain dimensions of reality but obscures others (Entman, 1993). In context of reporting on war and conflict, framing frequently emphasizes military maneuvers, human suffering, humanitarian appeals, diplomatic struggles, and moral predicaments. These frames, whether positive or negative, matter a lot for the public

(Göksu, 2020; Liu, 2024; Sim & Göksu, 2019). Unique framing patterns for the 2023 Israeli war in Gaza were addressed in recent studies. For instance, analyses of news reports by BBC and Al Jazeera English found that humanitarian disaster was the angle upon which their coverage was mostly based (Alshaikh, 2025; El Damanhoury et al., 2025). They presented critical perspectives regarding Israeli military actions, particularly when it came to the suffering of the Palestinian civilians. Some other studies have observed clear bias, and that is when one side of the conflict is portrayed as more humanized than the other by some channels (Doufesh & Briel, 2021; Gharayagh-Zandi, 2022).

Anyhow, this study looks at how TRT Arabic constructed the 2023 war in Gaza. It investigates the different ways the channel frames news reports, interviews, and discussions. Knowledge of these patterns is necessary to measure the impact of Turkish state-run media on the attitudes of the Arab nations towards this ongoing conflict.

### 2.1 Framing Theory and Conflict Coverage

Framing theory draws on multiple disciplines and has rapidly evolved. It is rooted in the work of Erving Goffman, who proposed that individuals make sense of their environment using cognitive schemas that help them organize and interpret information (Goffman, 1974; Pan & Kosicki, 1993; Scheufele & Tewksbury, 2007). Goffman's work highlights that framing is an inherent human behavior, and thus it is a form of power (Livingston & Nassetta, 2018). It influences how people perceive the world, and shapes their actions and beliefs (Entman, 1993; Garrison, 2001).

Entman (1993, p. 52) defines framing as the selection and salience of certain aspects of a perceived reality in a communicative text. This process helps to define problems, assign causation, offer moral judgments, and propose solutions. Editorial choices of what to include, exclude, and emphasize are central to framing. Media outlets decide which elements to highlight or ignore, often aligning content with cultural or political agendas (De Vreese et al., 2001; Entman, 1993).

Framing is frequently used to analyze news media. The same event can be portrayed

differently across various outlets, influencing how audiences understand the issue. Goffman argued that key frames are essential for interpretation (Goffman, 2001). Gitlin claimed that media frames are persistent ways of interpreting information, often shaping discourse by including or omitting specific details (Gitlin, 2003).

Semetko and Valkenburg (2000) identified six common television news frames: attribution of responsibility, conflict, economic consequences, human interest, morality, and strategy. While the human-interest frame is often used by sensational media, responsibility attribution is the most prevalent in major news coverage. The choice of frame depends on both the media outlet and the topic being reported.

Prior studies on conflict framing show differences in media approaches. For example, during the 2003 Gulf War, American media focused on military achievements and humanitarian efforts, while non-American media emphasized accountability (De Vreese, 2005). D'Angelo (2002) categorized framing into three primary types: strategy, conflict, and humanitarian. Western outlets, particularly in the U.S., tend to rely on conflict and strategy frames when reporting war.

CNN, for instance, often adopted official government frames when covering the war in Afghanistan, reinforcing state narratives (Jasperson & El-Kikhia, 2004). This is in line with the argument that journalists frequently legitimize official views instead of challenging political figures (Ryan, 2004). Similarly, Norris et al. (2004) noted that Western media frequently use the language of government officials.

In covering terrorism, military and conflict frames dominate. Ryan (2004) noted that American newspapers emphasized military actions in their war-on-terror coverage. Channels like the BBC, CNN, and NBC heavily reported on U.S. military power and technology during the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq (Riegert & Johansson, 2005).

Media framing also varies based on political leanings, the ownership of the outlet, and the intended audience. For instance, Sputnik and BBC framed Iran's role in Syria differently based on their national contexts (Gharayagh-

Zandi, 2022). Likewise, Al Jazeera and TRT diverged in their framing of the Syrian conflict (Sim & Göksu, 2019).

The coverage of the 2023 Gaza war by major Arab news channels showed sharp variations that directly reflected the political agendas of the states funding them concerning the Arab-Israeli conflict. Cairo News Channel, an Egyptian outlet, employed specific framing devices in its coverage of the war to serve its own narrative, aligning with Egypt's official position on the conflict. The most prominent frames were the human-interest and consequence frames, the purpose of which was to highlight the scale of destruction and the overall tragedy resulting from the aggression. Conversely, the channel strongly relied on the responsibility and morality frames, focusing on official positions and diplomatic consultations aimed at prompting action. The coverage also balanced between the military conflict and condemnation frames, steering the narrative toward exposing the atrocities and calling for an immediate official intervention (Badri, 2025). Likewise, Qatar's Al Jazeera Channel led the Palestinian narrative, with an intensive focus on the consequences and civilian loss frames. The channel consistently referred to the operations as "aggression" and "genocide," thereby reinforcing its supportive stance toward the resistance (Wodd & Fahmy, 2025; Badri, 2025; Al-Kubaisi, 2024). In contrast, Al Arabiya and Saudi media outlets more broadly adopted a diplomatic and cautious approach in their coverage. Their reporting placed strong emphasis on the Kingdom's established political stance toward the Palestinian cause. This editorial line sought to maintain balance, avoiding confrontational rhetoric while working to revive the political track and advocate for a two-state solution. Coverage also focused on negotiations and repeatedly warned against the risk of regional escalation, thereby reinforcing Saudi Arabia's image as a responsible and active mediator (Al Riyadh Newspaper, 2023; Al Arabiya.net, 2023). In another direction, UAE-based channels, such as Sky News Arabia, focused mainly on humanitarian and relief efforts, while also warning against the regional expansion of the war. This approach

aligned with the UAE's goals of promoting de-escalation and emphasizing its role in seeking a peaceful resolution to the crisis (Sky News Arabia, 2024; Emarat71, 2023). These differences highlight how Arab media coverage functions as a tool for shaping public awareness in ways that reflect each country's foreign policy positions toward the conflict's developments.

The above review suggests that media framing constructs narratives rather than merely presenting facts.

## 2.2 Media Frames Used in This Study

This study identifies and analyzes six media frames commonly used in conflict reporting, particularly in TRT Arabic's coverage of the 2023 Gaza War:

1. **Humanitarian Frame:** It focuses on civilian suffering, emotional impact, psychological trauma, and humanitarian needs (Arowolo, 2017).
2. **Conflict Frame:** This frame emphasizes the military aspect- aerial attacks, confrontation by arms, exchange of fire (Arowolo, 2017).
3. **Outcome Frame:** This discusses the consequences of conflict, whether military, political, economic, or social, which may range from real or perceived victories or defeats (Arowolo, 2017).
4. **Ethical Lens:** This focuses on questions of fairness, human rights, legal infringement, and moral liability (Arowolo, 2017).
5. **Responsibility Frame:** This distributes the blame or credit to some actors or individuals in the conflict (Arowolo, 2017).
6. **Critical Frame:** emphasizes political and military actions, particularly decisions made by the Israeli government about the war (Hallahan, 2008).

This research article seeks to identify patterns of media bias and framing in TRT Arabic coverage of the 2023 Gaza War. The processing of news articles and interviews is a must, since they are crucial media for narrative disciplines and public opinion.

2.3 Official opinions of Arab and other countries on the conflict between Palestine and Israel within the timeframe of 2023.

Clear and significant divisions exist among countries worldwide. Some support the Palestinians' right to self-defense, while others urge calm and restraint. Conversely, other countries express support for Israel's right to protect itself. This conflict is unfolding amid heightened tensions and deteriorating humanitarian conditions. These states and official organizations have strongly reiterated their respective positions.

These differing views highlight the complexities of global politics, making it difficult to reach a unified international response to the crisis.

Since the conflict began in Gaza, the Kingdom of Jordan has condemned crimes against Palestinians, including war crimes and genocide. King Abdullah II stated that any solution must respect Palestinian rights and avoid reoccupation of Gaza. He warned that the conflict in the West Bank could escalate due to ongoing settler attacks. In a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, the king of Jordan opposed any plans to displace Palestinians and emphasized the need for safe corridors to deliver aid to Gaza (Al Jazeera, 2023b).

The United States does not support further military intervention in Gaza. However, it has deployed additional troops to the region and provided Israel with resources and combat training. The U.S. also increased financial and military aid to Israel by \$14.3 billion (Foran & Rimmer, 2023; Masters & Merrow, 2024).

Russia's position was clear when it met with a Hamas delegation in Moscow early in the conflict. This meeting demonstrated support for the Palestinian cause against Israel. Russia advocates for the "two-state solution" and urges the U.S. to seek a fair outcome. It also refrains from labeling Hamas as a terrorist group. Russia has skillfully managed its relations with Muslims in the Caucasus, enhancing Arab satisfaction. This diplomacy earned Russia support from both global and Islamic communities (Reuters, 2023; The Moscow Times, 2023).

Wang Yi, the spokesperson for China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, assured the Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad Al-Maliki



fairly to audiences worldwide. Its motto is “With people wherever they are” (TRT Arabic, 2024).

TRT Arabic offers a critical alternative viewpoint that emphasizes the Palestinian narrative and highlights the humanitarian consequences of the ongoing conflict. This approach plays a vital role in fostering a more balanced and inclusive global conversation. It also contests dominant narratives and provides multiple perspectives (Zhaparaliev & Atabek, 2021).

TRT Arabic is an Arabic-language Turkish state-owned news TV channel available on television, satellite, IPTV, and digital media platforms. Turkish foreign policy is also becoming more assertive in the Middle East, and the channel is also sympathetic to certain parties in the region. It has embraced the cause of the Palestinian people. This perspective probably also affects its reporting (Sim & Göksu, 2019). Research on TRT World's coverage of the Syrian conflict has also evidenced support towards the foreign policy of Turkey (ibid). Thus, the current study attempts to examine how Turkish government-owned media spin the narratives of international events, as displayed in the war, by reflecting national interests and perspectives.

### 2.5 Research Questions

1. Which news frames did TRT Arabic use in its news coverage of the 2023 war in Gaza?
2. What were the main sources of news that TRT Arabic drew on?
3. What were the primary modes of framing the news in TRT Arabic's coverage?
4. Who were the most prominent figures mentioned in TRT Arabic's reports?
5. What specific framing mechanisms were used in TRT Arabic's bulletins about the 2023 Gaza War?

## 3. Methodology

### 3.1 Research Design

This research article studies how TRT Arabic covered events related to the Israeli war in Gaza during 2023. It employed quantitative content analysis to identify patterns in media messages and better understand the content of communications (Neuendorf, 2017). TRT Arabic was chosen for several reasons:

1. It is affiliated with the Turkish government and reflects its official positions on world events.

2. Its declared political stance is generally supportive of Arab issues.

3. The channel offers an opportunity to examine how news is narrated from both the Palestinian and Israeli perspectives regarding the 2023 Gaza war.

### 3.2 Sample

The research sample included TRT Arabic's main news bulletins, covering the period from October 7, 2023 to January 7, 2024, during the Gaza war. These bulletins were collected using a comprehensive survey method. This timeframe was selected due to the escalation of the conflict and subsequent truce. The analysis involved 90 main news bulletins broadcast at 10:00 a.m. Turkish time (7:00 p.m. GMT). The researcher manually recorded these bulletins daily from the television screen. The unit of analysis was the reports and interviews within the bulletins, as they tend to provide more in-depth information and direct opinions than brief news items or headlines.

### 3.3 Coding Tool and Procedure

A news categorization tool was developed based on six predefined frames: human interest, conflict, outcome, morality, responsibility, and strategy. Each frame was clearly defined using specific indicators to ensure consistent categorization. For each news report and interview, the researcher assessed:

- The main frame(s) presented.
- The frequency of specific words, phrases, themes, and visual elements related to each frame.
- The main news sources cited, such as reporters, government officials, and eyewitnesses.

The categorization process included reviewing transcripts or recordings of the selected news reports and interviews. A key observation was the reliance on reporters as primary news sources, indicating a focus on field reports and firsthand accounts. The study also considered “selection,” “exclusion,” and “omission” as important elements of the channel's news construction strategy.

### 3.4 Data Analysis

Data collected from coding sheets were analyzed quantitatively to determine the frequency of occurrence of each frame in TRT Arabic's

coverage. Statistical analysis identified the patterns and the salience of these frames in the news coverage.

#### 4. Results

Content analysis of news reports and interviews from TRT Arabic during the 2023 Gaza war revealed distinct framing patterns and strategies that align with the channel's goals and editorial policies.

##### 4.1. Number of News Items Analyzed

Table 1 shows the total number of news reports and interviews analyzed from TRT Arabic during the study period:

As the data in Table 1 indicates, news items comprised 74% and interviews 26% of the total bulletin. TRT Arabic operated in a rapidly changing news environment. Each hour-long bulletin had between 12 and 15 news items, featuring reports and interviews. The focus was primarily on the Israeli war in Gaza in 2023. The bulletin included statements from Israeli and American government officials, along with discussions from the White House involving Arab and foreign nations. It also covered the ongoing conflict and armed clashes between Hamas and the Israeli army. Discussions between Turkish and Arab representatives about a ceasefire in Gaza were featured. There were direct interviews on Egyptian and Qatari mediation efforts to secure prisoner releases from both sides.

The bulletin highlighted the Israeli army's arrests of Palestinian civilians, which occurred during military operations. These actions led to damage in Gaza, affecting public facilities, schools, medical centers, and hospitals. The images presented a tragic situation for civilians in Gaza, drawing significant global reactions from both Arab and foreign countries.

**Table 1. Total News Reports and Interviews Analyzed for TRT Arabic**

Content Type	Frequency	Percentage
New Reports	926	74%
Interviews	333	26%
Total	1259	100%

##### 4.2. Types of News Frames Used in TRT Arabic's Coverage

Table 2 lists the main frameworks analyzed for news coverage of the Israeli war in Gaza on TRT Arabic. The humanitarian framework

ranked first, accounting for 39% of the total. The conflict framework followed, representing 21%. The cooperation and results framework ranked third, accounting for 19%. The strategic framework ranked fourth, accounting for 9% of the total. The ethical framework ranked fifth, accounting for 7% of the total, and finally, the responsibility framework ranked sixth, accounting for 5% of the total. We note from the table that the channel sought to focus more on the humanitarian framework, including the suffering of Palestinian civilians and the resulting shortages of necessities such as water and food, in addition to secondary issues such as internet outages and fuel shortages. Second, the framework of the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas, including military operations, airstrikes, and clashes with medium and light weapons. Third, it focused on highlighting the framework of cooperation and results, including figures and data on the latest developments in the war in Gaza, with its humanitarian, economic, and health repercussions. It also focused on the cooperative efforts between Arab and foreign countries to achieve a ceasefire between Hamas and Israel. Fourth, the strategic framework, where the channel focused on Israel's military preparations for its new war with Hamas and the need to form a war council and a special emergency government responsible for managing military and combat operations to ensure its right to self-defense. Fifth, the moral framework, where the statement focused on highlighting the concerns of Palestinians and expressing solidarity with them in the face of the destruction and aerial bombardment they are subjected to, while highlighting the protests supporting them. Finally, the framework of responsibility, where the statement described the United States and France as the most prominent supporters of the war with Israel against the Palestinians, through providing military and financial support.

**Table 2. News Frames in TRT Arabic's Coverage of the 2023 Israeli War on Gaza**

Frame Category	Frequency	Percentage
Humanitarian Framework	600	39%
Conflict Framework	326	21%
Cooperation and Results Framework	284	19%
Strategic Framework	135	9%
Ethical Framework	100	7%
Responsibility Framework	81	5%
Total	1526	100%

**4.3. Primary News Sources TRT Arabic's Coverage**  
 TRT Arabic relies on a solid and diverse network of sources, which explains the high total frequency of sources (1393). It strengthens its credibility in news coverage, particularly during crises such as the Gaza war. Correspondents rank first as the main internal source, accounting for 39%. They are the primary providers of direct and reliable information, whether through live broadcasts or recorded reports from conflict zones and regional fields. This demonstrates the channel's strong capacity for on-the-ground reporting.

Official statements come second with 27%. They include press releases and reports from the ministries of foreign affairs, defense, and health in Palestine, as well as from Arab and foreign governments. These statements are clearly attributed to their sources through conferences or media outlets. In addition, 15% of the channel's news coverage relies on major international and local news agencies such as Reuters, Associated Press, Agence France-Presse, Anadolu, and Wafa. These sources help fill coverage gaps caused by security constraints and allow the channel, through its financial resources, to quickly gather information through partnerships.

TRT Arabic enriches its coverage with diverse and high-quality sources to highlight both the humanitarian and strategic dimensions. It uses eyewitness and civilian testimonies to convey human suffering directly. The channel also relies on analysts and experts to interpret events and place them in a broader political and military context. Finally, it draws on

international and humanitarian organizations such as the United Nations and the Red Cross, which are considered highly credible sources for monitoring the legal and humanitarian aspects of conflicts. This combination ensures accurate and balanced reporting to avoid dependence on a single source.

It also guarantees access to comprehensive and reliable information, which strengthens the channel's professionalism and credibility in covering sensitive events.

**Table 3. Primary News Sources in TRT Arabic's Coverage of the 2023 Gaza War**

Type of News Source	Frequency	Percentage
Correspondents	556	39%
Official statements from foreign and Arab government agencies	380	27%
Foreign and Arab newspapers and agencies	211	15%
Eyewitnesses/affected civilians	120	9%
Analysts/experts	77	6%
Other entities (such as NGOs and international bodies)	49	4%
Total	1393	100%

**4.4. Forms of News Presentation in TRT Arabic's Coverage**

The data in Table 4 shows that TRT Arabic relied heavily on correspondents to cover events on the ground, with an emphasis on speed and live broadcasting. Additionally, the "news with documentary report" and "news with interviews via satellite/phone/Skype" formats were the most popular, demonstrating their emphasis on in-depth coverage and immediate engagement with events and people affected by the conflict.

**Table 4. Forms of News Presentation in TRT Arabic's Coverage**

Form of Presentation	Frequency	Percentage
News with a documentary report	524	42%
News with an interview via satellite/phone/Skype	333	26%

Regular news report (from the studio)	213	17%
Breaking news/ flashes connected to the report	189	15%
Total	1259	100%

#### 4.5. Mentions of Key Figures in TRT Arabic's Coverage

Table 5 displays the frequency with which general categories of key figures were mentioned in the news reports and interviews analyzed.

Table 5 shows the most influential figures in TRT Arabic's coverage of the Gaza war, as follows:

- First, regarding Palestinians (civilians/resistance/officials), we note that the focus was on statements from the resistance, including former Hamas political bureau chief Ismail Haniyeh, Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades commander Mohammed Deif, and Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades spokesman Abu Obeida. Among the officials, the focus was on statements from Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, Health Minister Mai al-Kaila, and Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad al-Maliki, in addition to interviews with eyewitnesses and Palestinian citizens.
- Second, within the category of Arab and foreign officials, the focus was on statements from Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan, US Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, and US Secretary of State Antony Blinken. The focus also focused on statements from Qatari Foreign Ministry spokesman Majed al-Ansari and Tunisian Foreign Minister Nabil Ammar.
- Third, within the Israeli category (military/officials), the channel focused on statements by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, IDF spokesperson to the Arab media Avichay Adraee, Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, and War Cabinet leaders Benny Gantz and Ron Dermer.
- Fourth, within international organizations (UN/aid organizations), the channel focused on statements by UN Secretary-General António Guterres, World Health Organization Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, and the head of the Jordanian Red Crescent, Mohammad Al-Hadid.

- Fifth, regarding analysts and experts, the names varied from one country to another, and the channel did not settle on a permanent analyst or expert during the research period.

**Table 5. Mentions of Key Figures in TRT Arabic's Coverage**

Category of actors mentioned	Frequency	Percentage
Palestinians (civilians/resistance/officials)	590	45%
Presidents and prime ministers of Arab and foreign countries	276	21%
Israelis (military personnel/officials)	200	15%
International organizations (UN/aid organizations)	186	14%
Experts and analysts from Arab and foreign countries	70	5%
Total	1322	100%

#### 4.6. Mechanisms for formulating news related to the events of the Gaza War in TRT Arabic's coverage

An analysis of the data in Table 6 shows that TRT Arabic ranks highest in the "Choice" category (50%), reflecting its editorial focus on selecting content that is most relevant and engaging to viewers. This strategic selection directs audience attention to current issues aligned with the channel's editorial policy. TRT Arabic emphasized the concerns of Palestinians, particularly the impact of Israeli bombardment, and the severe shortages of food, water, and other necessities.

The second most frequent is the "Omissions" category (28%): pieces of information of events left out that would not correspond to the Turkish institution's editorial line, like (for instance) mentions of the Israeli material losses, or the treatments of the situation of the Israeli prisoners held by Hamas.

A third category, "Prominence" (13%), represents engagement with channel(s) in which certain pieces of information or

statements are designed to stand out and attract attention. It also encompasses burying Palestinian lives throughout the Israeli War on Gaza 2023, by the constant attempts in reporting at the start, middle, and end of its bulletins, which serve to normalise the suffering of Palestinian civilians. The channel also made use of data like the total number of martyrs, the number of people injured, the number arrested, and other such figures to bolster the impact of the message.

The categories of “Quotes,” “Numbers and Statistics,” and “Repetition” had also relatively small percentages, which indicate their quite limited degree of contribution to TRT Arabic's framing strategy.

**Table 6. Mechanisms of news framing in TRT Arabic's Coverage of the 2023 Gaza War news bulletins.**

Mechanisms for formulating news	Frequency	Percentage
Selection	623	50%
Omission	347	28%
Prominence	163	13%
Repetition	63	5%
Presentation of figures and statistics	40	3%
Quotations	23	1%
Total	1259	100%

### 5. Discussion

The results of this study reveal that media ownership and editorial stance play a crucial role in shaping the narratives of such international conflicts, as is the case with TRT Arabic. The channel adopts a framing strategy that is based on humanitarian, moral, and responsibility frames. The strategy reflects Turkey's ongoing advocacy for humanitarianism in Palestine and its broader foreign policy interests in the region.

TRT Arabic focuses on Palestinian suffering to win over international sympathies and to draw attention to Turkey's stand in favor of Palestinian causes. The channel can be considered as a showcase for Palestinian personalities and happenings. It appears to view the Palestinian cause as the most important of all issues on its

agenda, and focuses on Israel's air strikes on Gaza.

The channel depends heavily on field reports for its firsthand accounts of the conflict. These frontline accounts and direct reports allow viewers unparalleled access to the events and the underlying issues and themes, providing greater depth and context to the news coverage. TRT Arabic continues to boost the Palestinian narrative with the coverage of the crimes committed by the Israeli army against the Palestinian civilians who are not in the combat zone. It also documents the consequent humanitarian and economic destruction. This framing illustrates how framing can subtly yet powerfully shape media sense-making.

In this sense, feel-good stories bear broad similarities to how many news organizations shape the national narrative even as that narrative, in turn, shapes them, including who and what is heard or valued.

### 6. Conclusion

This study examines TRT Arabic's coverage of the 2023 Gaza War. The content analysis shows a coherent policy in accordance with the ideology and politics of the channel. TRT Arabic also highlighted human issues, but was more about war and its consequences, through field reporters and a selective approach of construction and omissions. The most common formats were documentary reports and satellite or Skype interviews.

The study results highlight the role of national interest and editorial policy in mediating public knowledge of international hostilities. They demonstrate how the media, even progressive media, can shape public perceptions by choosing to emphasize certain aspects of complex events.

### 7. Limitations and Future Research

The limitations of this study include the exclusive use of quantitative content analysis conducted on a single media outlet. Overall, further research is needed to investigate the contrastive and/or interlingual operations (including competitive ones) at play in TRT Arabic's discourse. This can be conducted through a critical discourse analysis that takes a closer look at the language, rhetorical

devices, and visual framing employed by the outlet.

Also, the range is suggested to be expanded to include comparative studies with other regional or international media networks or discourse analysis of other types of media content, such as social media messages or opinion pieces. This would provide a more comprehensive representation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict at the different levels of representation.

Furthermore, audience reception analyses would help investigate how different sectors interpret and understand the framing strategies of newspapers.

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