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Media Coverage of the 2021 Palestinian-Israeli Conflict: A Content Analysis Into the Online Version of Newspapers in Jordan

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Abstract: This study seeks to determine how the Jordanian online newspapers covered the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021. It also aims to identify the topics and frames used in this coverage by using the content analysis method for all media materials published in the online versions of the three major Jordanian daily newspapers (Alrai, Addustour, and Alghad). The number of articles analyzed was (1234) during the conflict period. This study identified the different frames used in the three selected newspapers. The two frameworks of solidarity and military confrontations came at the forefront of the most used frames in the three newspapers, with a percentage of 56%. The findings reveal that the three newspapers mainly relied on information collected by field correspondents as their primary sources. This study also finds that there were four topics that the three newspapers focused on significantly, amounting to more than (50%) of the topics identified by the researchers. These topics revolved around urging support for Gaza, the practices and violations committed by Israel, the escalation of the conflict, and the position of the Arab countries on the conflict.

Keywords: Online newspapers, Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Conflicts, War Reports.

1 Introduction

Online newspapers are considered an important news source for the Jordanian audience, especially concerning conflicts, wars, and urgent events. Jordan's location next to both Palestine and Israel has made what happens inside Palestine and the West Bank very relevant to many Jordanians. In addition, Jordan includes the most significant percentage of Palestinian refugees since the beginning of the conflict inside the West Bank and the occupied territories. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict in 2021, which lasted two weeks, resulted in the killing of (256) Palestinians and (13) Israelis.

Makharesh, Alharethi, and Campbell (2022) indicated that huge media corporations are primarily responsible for instilling a sense of animosity in Westerners against minorities in general and the Arab and Islamic world in particular. It is observed that, even though this hostility is based on tactics used by other terrorist organizations, most of which have Arabic and Islamic roots, Western media institutions use their influence and power to steer the media discourse and turn it into widely consumed content that has an impact on audiences. It impacts the viewer or the Western audience, giving them a false idea of the Eastern communities. Makharesh, Alharethi, and Campbell (2022) continued to report that media representations appear on the screen as foreign devils, comic villains, the creation of Israel, the Iranian Islamic revolution, or the demise of the Soviet Union[1].

The violence and clash events escalated between the Israeli forces and Palestinian citizens on May 7th, 2021 after the decision of the Israeli Supreme Court's decision regarding evading Palestinian families from their homes inside the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood and giving them to Israeli settlers. On May 7th, the Israeli forces stormed the courtyards of Al-Aqsa Mosque and assaulted the worshippers. The Israeli forces inflicted more than 200 injuries on Palestinian civilians. Violent confrontations also occurred on May 10th after the Israeli forces stormed Al-Aqsa Mosque again, which led to more than 300 civilian injuries.

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As a result of the events that took place in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood and Al-Aqsa Mosque, Al-Qassam Brigades (the military wing of Hamas) issued a statement stating that the leadership of the resistance is giving Israel until six o'clock in the evening to withdraw its forces from Al-Aqsa Mosque and release the detainees, but Israel did not respond. Therefore, the Palestinian factions bombed Israeli cities with missiles, so Israel started a massive war in the Gaza Strip. This conflict led to the death of 232 Palestinian civilians, and more than 1900 Palestinians were injured with various injuries. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) announced that the Palestinian-Israeli conflict led to the displacement of more than 75 thousand Palestinians from their homes, either because of the demolition of their homes or to escape from the bombing.

During the conflict period from May 7th, 2021, to May 21st, 2021, the Jordanian online newspapers followed up on the events, not only inside the Gaza Strip and Palestine but also at the Jordanian local and global levels where these media outlets played an essential role in covering the violations and attacks committed by the Israeli forces against the Palestinians. These media outlets also monitored the Israeli military operations of bombing, torture, and killing of civilians inside the Gaza Strip. Furthermore, these news outlets shed light on the military response of Hamas, which proved its strength and capabilities by launching more than 4 thousand missiles toward the occupied territories. The Jordanian online newspapers used various outlets, such as their websites and social media platforms[2,3], to reach out to the Jordanian audience and mobilize it to support the Palestinians inside the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict began in Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip on May 7th, 2021. It continued until May 21st, 2021, when the ceasefire agreement took place between the Israeli forces and the Palestinian resistance represented by Hamas. During this period, thousands of civilians and citizens were killed and injured. Most of them are Palestinians, and this conflict has dramatically impacted the media inside Jordan, especially the online versions, such as the websites of the primary and most widely circulated Jordanian daily newspapers (Alrai, Addustour, and Alghad). These newspapers contributed through their online websites in shaping and mobilizing public opinion towards what took place in the Gaza Strip by providing intensive, immediate, and rapid news coverage of the news and updates of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021. Therefore, the researchers seek through this study to explore how the three selected Jordanian online newspapers covered the conflict in 2021 in terms of content and topics, frames, trends, and other aspects related to the forms of coverage and journalistic treatment of the conflict.

The importance of this study stems from its attempt to provide a further understanding of the measurement of how the major Jordanian online newspapers (Alrai, Addustour, and Alghad) framed the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021. The importance of this paper also stems from the fact that the media content in the online versions of these newspapers can influence the audience's attitudes, ideas, and opinions toward the relations that govern both sides (the Palestinians and Israelis). This effect can be identified by highlighting the economic and humanitarian impact of the bombardment between the two parties, the topics covered, the frameworks used in this media coverage, the type and direction of coverage, and other aspects related to the media framework analysis of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021.

This study aims to find out how Jordanian online newspapers cover the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021 and provide a better understanding of the topics that the Jordanian online newspapers focused on during their coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021. Moreover, this paper focused on the frameworks of the Jordanian online newspapers' coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, Journalistic forms used in the Jordanian online newspapers' coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict 2021, the journalistic sources on which the Jordanian online newspapers relied in

their coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021, and highlighting elements used in Jordanian online newspapers' coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021.

2 Research Questions

This study seeks to answer the following questions:

RQ1. What topics did the Jordanian online newspapers focus on during their coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021?

RQ2: What are the frameworks used in the Jordanian online newspapers' coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021?

RQ3: What types did Jordanian online newspapers use in their coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021?

RQ4: What are the Jordanian online newspapers' trends in covering the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021?

RQ5: What are the appeals that Jordanian online newspapers used in their coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021?

RQ6: What journalistic forms that Jordanian online newspapers use in their coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021?

RQ7: What journalistic sources did the Jordanian online newspapers rely on during their coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021?

RQ8. What highlighting elements did the Jordanian online newspapers rely on during their coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021?

3 Literature review

Media in the Arab world began to take on new regional political, and cultural responsibilities. Most of these positions had a focus on fostering national development[4,5]. As was previously said, the Arab regimes tightly controlled these media outlets. The government also imposed stringent limitations on private media[6,7]. Many scholars highlighted press coverage of online newspapers of wars and conflicts in general, particularly the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. There needs to be more research in the international and eastern media coverage of conflicts. Despite this conflict going back several decades ago, most of the research appeared at the beginning of the last decade regarding the intensity of Arab and Jordanian media coverage. Faraj (2011) sought to identify the extent to which three Arab newspapers covered the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2009, and he found that Alrai newspaper had a higher density of coverage of the conflict than the Egyptian newspapers Ahram and Alquds Alarabi-London[8]. Ananza (2017) also analyzed the coverage of three Jordanian online newspapers (Ammon, Saraya, and Al-Sawsana) of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2014. He found that the rate of coverage was relatively high in general[9]. In the same regard, Al-Salhi (2014) studied the Egyptian online newspaper websites' treatment of Arab political crises and found that the Palestinian case took the least Arab issue dealt with by (10%)[10].

In terms of the news frames and coverage topics, Issa (2016) analyzed The New York Times' coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in (2004)[11]. Findings revealed that the frames of conflict, responsibility, and human interests are the most used news frames. Moreover, Alzyoud (2022) examined how The New York Times newspaper depicted Muslims during a period when the group ISIS's massacres in Syria and Iraq, committed in the name of Islam, were distorting Muslims' perceptions around the globe[12].

Historical research was centered on the articles written and published in the first half of 2014. The investigation showed that The New York Times' coverage of the 2014 conflict between Israel and Palestine suggested Hamas could not consider the needs of the Palestinian people, particularly those in the Gaza Strip, throughout the conflict. Alzyoud (2022) stated, "the newspaper directly attributed the poor conditions suffered by the people in Gaza during and after the war to Hamas's weak Islamic political performance"[12]. In other words, the newspaper showed that Hamas was responsible for the Palestinian deaths during the war, not Israel.

Stawicki (2009) aimed to reveal how three American newspapers covered the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The results showed that the New York Times and Lewis Post-Dispatch focused on the Israeli government's law pursuit, order and security, unintended events, and minor conflicts that occur at the individual level[13].

Christian Science newspaper focused on the conflict's complexity, and the New York Times focused on Israel as an oppressive military power targeting Palestinians after the Easter massacre in 2002. In close regard, Odine (2016) sought to find out how Western media covered the Gaza-Israel war in 2014. It concluded that there was a bias to support Israel during its war on Gaza and a negative stereotype towards the residents of the Strip[14].

Tenenboim (2017) analyzed the messages posted on Twitter by 40 international and Israeli journalists. The study showed that the Israeli journalists focused on the firing of rockets at Israel, while the internationals focused on the events in the Gaza Strip and the humanitarian consequences of the conflict[15]. While the results (Faraj, 2011) showed that focusing on topics related to the conflict consequences on the political level was 42%, and the conflict consequences on the Palestinian people was 26.5%. Regarding the journalistic forms[8], Awad Allah (2014) analyzed the contents of 3 foreign media Arabic websites (Russia Today, Alhurra, and France 24) from 1/11/2012 to 31/12/2012. The study concluded that the press release was the most prominent journalist form that was used[16]. San Allah (2017) analyzed three foreign websites (BBC, RT, CNN) in terms of the media materials related to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2014 and concluded that the news, the report, and the article are the most used forms, respectively. In the same context[17], Al-Salhi (2014) indicated that the news template is the most used by 61%, followed by the news analysis template with 15%. Concerning the sources of information[10], Awad Allah (2014) showed that the three websites (Russia Today, Al Hurra, and France 24) did not rely on any Israeli news agencies[16].

San Allah (2017) continued to show that the three news websites (BBC, RT, CNN) depended on press statements by 44% and direct statements by 21% as the most methods of obtaining information. Also, it relied 30% on Palestinian and Israeli sources by 26%[17]. Dagher (2010) analyzed the New York Times and the BBC's websites. The study revealed that both newspaper websites relied more on Israeli than Palestinian sources in their coverage of the Israeli attacks on Gaza in 2009[18]. Artz (2014) examined the editorial choices of The New York Times in its coverage of the 2014 war on Gaza. It revealed that there was a selective choice of topics, legitimization of the sources used, and ignoring essential facts[19]. Tenenboim (2017) reported that Israeli journalists were more likely to rely on actors, elites, and officials to cover the conflict. International journalists relied on organizations and media personnel that could be considered elite actors[15].

This study relies on the Frame Analysis theory, which allows researchers to measure the implicit content of media messages. This theory systematically explains the media's role in shaping individuals' opinions, ideas, and attitudes toward the prominent issues that these media focus on. The theory assumes that events do not refer to a certain meaning; rather, it acquires their meanings

and purposes by placing them in a framework that organizes, defines, and gives them consistency. This process can be done by focusing on specific aspects of the issue or event and omitting other aspects.

Tuckman (1978) describes the news as a window whose frame limits the perception of reality by limiting the perception of various issues and events and focusing on a specific part. As a result of these processes, some aspects of reality perceived through the news will be more salient than others. News are textual and visual structures built around a central intellectual axis from a certain perspective and by journalists who provide an interpretive framework for audiences exposed to news[20]. However, these journalists must tell a story within certain temporal and spatial constraints and make it available to broad and often heterogeneous public audiences.

The only way to build this structure is by structuring the information (framing it) and creating an interpretive framework that allows understanding of the message. Journalists use frameworks when writing news to give meaning to reality, simplify it, and preserve the public's interest[21].

The media frame of an issue can be defined as selecting some aspects of an event or issue and giving it more focus or importance. Therefore, the problem is identified, its causes are diagnosed, moral judgments are proposed, and appropriate solutions and procedures are proposed[22]. Entman (1993) identifies four primary purposes of the media frame analysis: The first is to describe problems—to recognize what causal agents are doing, their losses and profits, and how cultural norms often judge these things. The second is to diagnose causes to identify the reason behind the problem. Third, make moral judgments that consider the causes and effects of causative factors. Fourth, recommend treatments, which entails outlining potential solutions and justifying them while also foreseeing possible outcomes[22].

It can be said that the media frame draws attention to some aspects of reality at the expense of others. To define this frame, what has been described and neglected should be taken into account; therefore, the framing is present in the journalist's mind who writes and builds the news report. However, it appears to the reader through the process of decoding to understand the news report and the reality it refers to[20].

Accordingly, the news frame affects the sender, the receiver, and the media text. The literature often distinguishes between media and audience frameworks. Journalists are subject to the red tape of the news industry and the constraints of time and space in framing reality by deciding what will become news and what will be ignored. The framing process begins with choosing some aspects of the news event and distinguishing them from others, defining and evaluating the problem, pointing out the causes, and proposing solutions to the problem. In the end, building a media frame is a process that has been called frame building because of its similarity to the process of agenda building or prioritization. These media-generated frames can be defined as a central organizing idea or storyline that provides the meaning of events and create a link between them[23,24, 25]. After the completion of the frame-building process in the media, decoding begins with the audience and is conditioned by elements in the social environment, individuals, and communicative situation[26]. Receivers store their interpretation of the event in a scheme that can be used in the future to decode new information as they are joint schemes based on the attitudes of journalists who organize information in a way that can be understood by the audience[27,28,29].

From the media framing theory perspective, Jordanian online newspapers may choose and focus on one aspect of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021 to provide meaning to events and practices related to the conflict and influence public perceptions of the masses. Although news coverage of Israeli violations inside the occupied Palestinian territories is usually viewed as factual, journalists do not act as a mirror of reality and report what is happening. Instead, they participate in creating

the events and the updates on the conflict. Journalists work on framing it in the media to shape public opinion. The facts and values included in news stories are then used to find out how the audience responds to the different frames related to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021. Studies in this regard have shown that the different frames of news stories revolve around the same topic or story. However, it produces different readers' responses as a result of differences in their perceptions produced by media frames.

In this study, news media coverage refers to how Jordanian online newspapers deal with various aspects of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021 by tracking its course, updates, dimensions, effects, and human and material losses. In addition, online newspapers also aim to communicate these aspects to the public to create a positive or negative change in its views and attitudes towards the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

Jordanian online newspapers are the websites of the Jordanian daily newspapers. These websites are issued and published on the Internet, and their news and press materials are updated periodically according to the authority responsible for their issuance.

The Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021 occurred between the Palestinian and Israeli parties from May 7th to May 21st, 2021. It began due to clashes between Palestinian protesters and the Israeli forces after the Israeli Supreme Court decided to evict Palestinian families from their homes in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood on the eastern side of the Old City in Jerusalem to house Israeli families instead.

4 Methodologies

This study uses the content analysis method to provide an identification of the different frames used in the three selected newspapers (Alrai, Addustour, and Alghad). This method approach aims to explore detailed knowledge of a specific research problem or phenomenon, intending to reach a deeper understanding of it. It also provides information and facts related to the problem. Descriptive research requires the adequacy of information and data necessary to reach generalizations, conclusions, and appropriate procedures to address the problem or phenomenon.

In this study, the content analysis approach relies on revealing the topics of the Jordanian online newspapers' news coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021. It also aims to understand how the selected online newspapers covered these topics and determine the frames used in the coverage, in addition to knowing the type and direction of the coverage, the sources that relied on, and the highlighting elements. The content analysis approach in this study focuses on answering two main questions: What was said about the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021 in Jordanian online newspapers? Furthermore, how was it said?

The population of this study represented all Jordanian online newspapers with paper copies. The online newspapers (Alrai, Addustour, and Alghad) were selected as the largest and most widespread Jordanian newspapers, representing the three types of ownership in Jordan: governmental, semi-governmental, and private. There were 1,234 articles published by the three selected newspapers related to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict from May 7th to May 21st, 2021. All of the articles were gathered and analyzed. Table 1 represents the distribution of the analyzed articles in the studied newspapers.

Intercoder reliability is a crucial methodological concern in the content analysis approach to ensure that the study instrument achieves high accuracy and agreement between the coders. All study researchers participated in the coding process to ensure consistency in the coding. Before beginning the final study, they examined 5% of the news reports on the Israel-Gaza conflict in 2021 (see table 1).

Table (1): The distribution of the press materials published in the three selected newspapers

Variable	Type	N	%
Newspaper	Alrai	737	59.7%
	Addustour	126	10.2%
	Alghad	371	30.1%
The period that the material was published	May 7th – 11th (The beginning of the conflict)	279	22.5%
	May 12th – 16th (The escalation and clashes)	458	37.2%
	May 17th – 21st (The peak period until the ceasefire)	497	40.3%
Total= 1234			

A coding sheet was designed and used to collect the data for this study. The unit of analysis was the published topic as it is considered one of the basic units used in content analysis research. It was intended to analyze the phrases and ideas included in the Jordanian online newspapers that dealt with the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021. The coding sheet included the categories: subject, frames, coverage type, coverage direction, emotions used, journalistic types, journalistic sources, and highlighting elements.

The coders' degree of accuracy and agreement was determined using Holsti's coefficient approach[30]. The researchers discussed their differences. The data analysis outcomes, however, reflect the many viewpoints and interpretations brought to the data analysis by the researchers who coded the data.

Intercoder reliability is the degree to which two researchers agree on how to code the same piece of content. When several researchers code the same piece of data, intercoder reliability makes sure that their interpretations are consistent. Intercoder reliability enables dividing the job and assigning each researcher a different data set since it gives confidence that the researchers can code the data reasonably and consistently. This will ensure that the data is coded consistently. To calculate intercoder reliability, researchers use holsti's intercoder reliability formula: $2M / (N1 + N2)$

$N1, N2$ = the number of units being analyzed for each coder.

M : number of agreed units between the two coders.

In this study, the reliability value after applying the formula was (93.7%), indicating high-level internal reliability in the categories and measures of the coding sheet. Therefore, the percentage of agreement between coders was high and within the acceptable range in media research.

5 Results

1. News coverage topics

Table 2 indicates that Alrai and Addustour newspapers have come together regarding the most prominent topics in their coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021. They highlighted practices and violations related to the conflict through 109 news articles in Alrai newspaper, compared to 37 news articles in Addustour newspaper. In the same regard, 100 topics of the topic urging support for Gaza were identified in Alrai newspaper compared to 27 articles in Addustour newspaper. Furthermore, the topic of the Arab position on the conflict was identified in 81 news articles in Alrai newspaper compared to 12 news articles in Addustour newspaper, while the most prominent topics that Alghad newspaper reported were the topics of urging support for Gaza and the origins and developments of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict by 63 news articles for each. In contrast, the topic of the Arab position on the conflict was reported by 33 news articles (see table 2).

Table (2): Topics that the newspapers focused on in their coverage

Topics	Newspapers						Total	
	Alrai		Addustour		Alghad		N	%
Urging to support Gaza.	100	13.6%	27	21.4%	63	17%	190	15.4%
Highlighting practices and violations committed by Israel.	109	14.8%	37	29.4%	25	6.7%	171	13.9%
Escalations of the conflict.	63	8.5%	4	3.2%	63	17%	130	10.5%
Highlighting where Arab communities stand in this conflict.	81	11%	12	9.5%	33	8.9%	126	10.2%
Protests, demonstrations, and rallies.	75	10.2%	11	8.7%	20	5.4%	106	8.6%
Presenting facts and figures related to human losses on both sides.	64	8.7%	9	7.1%	30	8.1%	103	8.3%
Highlighting where international communities stand in this conflict.	64	8.7%	3	2.4%	16	4.3%	83	6.7%
Israel's airstrikes towards Gaza.	43	5.8%	2	1.6%	32	8.6%	77	6.2%
A call for ceasefire and peace.	43	5.8%	5	4%	19	5.1%	67	5.4%
Hamas's airstrikes towards Israel.	34	4.6%	4	3.2%	27	7.3%	65	5.3%
Impact of the conflict on citizens.	30	4.1%	7	5.6%	21	5.7%	58	4.7%
Call for escalation.	19	2.6%	2	1.6%	14	3.8%	35	2.8%
Facts and figures related to material losses.	7	0.9%	1	0.8%	3	0.8%	11	0.9%
Urging to boycott Israel.	4	0.5%	0	0%	4	1.1%	8	0.6%
Offering alternatives and solutions to de-escalate the tensions.	1	0.1%	2	1.6%	1	0.3%	4	0.3%
Total	737	100%	126	100%	371	100%	1234	100%

2. Frames

Table 3 reports that the selected newspapers (Alrai, Addustour, and Alghad) used the same frames in their coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021. These frames were represented in the cooperation, support, and advocacy by 244 news articles in Alrai, 37 in Addustour, and 80 in Alghad. The military assault frame was represented by 206 news articles in Alrai, 36 in Addustour, and 73 in Alghad. The frame of military implications was represented by 63 news articles in Alrai, ten news articles in Addustour, and 67 news articles in Alghad (see table 3).

Table (3): Frames used in the studied newspaper's coverage of the 2021 Israel-Gaza conflict

Frames	Newspapers						Total	
	Alrai		Addustour		Alghad		N	%
The frame of solidarity and support.	244	33.1%	37	29.4%	80	21.6%	361	29.3%
The frame of military confrontation.	206	28%	36	28.6%	73	19.7%	315	25.5%
The frame of political implications.	63	8.5%	10	7.9%	67	18.1%	140	11.3%
The frame of shielding.	51	6.9%	7	5.6%	37	10%	95	7.7%
The frame of humanitarian implications.	33	4.5%	10	7.9%	46	12.4%	89	7.2%
The frame of peace and de-escalation.	59	8%	7	5.6%	13	3.5%	79	6.4%
The frame of assigning the responsibility.	38	5.2%	10	7.9%	30	8.1%	78	6.3%
The frame of economic implications.	23	3.1%	4	3.2%	10	2.7%	37	3%
The frame of health implications.	10	1.4%	4	3.2%	6	1.6%	20	1.6%
The frame of warnings.	10	1.4%	1	0.8%	9	2.4%	20	1.6%
Total	737	100%	126	100%	371	100%	1234	100%

3. Type of News Coverage

The data in Table 4 indicates that the three newspapers (Alrai, Addustour, and Alghad) agreed that Reporting Coverage is the most coverage type used in the coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021, with 650 news articles in Alrai, and 102 news articles in Addustour; and 314 news articles in Alghad. However, there is a difference between the three newspapers in other types of order in their coverage of the Israeli attacks. The Initial Coverage came in the second order for Alrai newspaper with 49 news articles. In comparison, it came in the third order for both Addustour newspapers (3 news articles) and Alghad (6 news materials). The Interpretative Coverage came in the third order for Alrai newspaper with 38 news articles, while it came in the second order for both Addustour newspaper (21 news articles) and Alghad (51 news articles) (see table 4).

Table (4): Coverage Type of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021

Type of Coverage	Newspapers						Total	
	Alrai		Addustour		Alghad		N	%
Initial Coverage	49	6.6%	3	2.4%	6	1.6%	58	4.7%
Reporting Coverage	650	88.2%	102	80.9%	314	84.6%	1066	86.4%
Interpretative Coverage	38	5.2%	21	16.7%	51	13.8%	110	8.9%
Total	737	100%	126	100%	371	100%	1234	100%

4. News Coverage Trends

Table 5 indicates a clear difference between the trends in the news coverage of the selected newspapers (Alrai, Addustour, and Alghad) of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021. In Alrai, the Neutral trend came first with 352 news articles, the Supportive trend came with 135 news articles, and the Unclear trend came with 141 news articles. As for Addustour newspaper, the Unclear trend came first with 56 news articles, the Supportive trend came with 33 news articles, the Neutral trend came with 20 news articles, and the Opposition trend came with 17 news articles. While for Alghad newspaper, the Neutral trend came first with 177 news articles, the Opposition trend came with 104 news articles, the Supportive trend came with 59 news articles, and the Unclear trend came with 31 news articles (see table 5).

Table (5): News Coverage Trends of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict in 2021

Trend of Coverage	Newspapers						Total	
	Alrai		Addustour		Alghad		N	%
Supportive	135	18.3%	33	26.2%	59	15.9%	227	18.4%
Neutral	352	47.7%	20	15.9%	177	47.7%	549	44.5%
Opposite	109	14.9%	17	13.5%	104	28%	230	18.6%
Unclear	141	19.1%	56	44.4%	31	8.4%	228	18.5%
Total	737	100%	126	100%	371	100%	1234	100%

5. News Coverage Appeals

Table 6 indicates that Alrai and Alghad agreed on the appeals in their news coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021. Four hundred thirty-three news articles indicated the Rational Appeals in Alrai newspaper, while 170 news articles in Alghad newspaper reported the Rational Appeals. Mixed Appeals first appeared with 258 news articles in Alrai and 112 in Alghad. Meanwhile, Emotional Appeals appeared in 36 news articles in Alrai and 79 in Alghad. Intimidation appeared in 10 news articles in both newspapers. As for Addustour, Mixed Appeals appeared firstly with 51 news articles, while Rational Appeals came secondly with 44 news articles. The Emotional Appeals appeared in 28 news articles, while the Intimidation Appeals appeared in only three (see table 6).

Table (6): News Coverage Appeals of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict in 2021

Appeals	Newspapers						Total	
	Alrai		Addustour		Alghad		N	%
Rational	433	58.7%	44	34.9%	170	45.8%	647	52.4%
Emotional	36	4.9%	28	22.2%	79	21.3%	143	11.6%
Intimidation	10	1.4%	3	2.4%	10	2.7%	23	1.9%
Mixed	258	35%	51	40.5%	112	30.2%	421	34.1%
Total	737	100%	126	100%	371	100%	1234	100%

6. News Types

The data in Table 7 indicates the agreement of the three newspapers (Alrai, Addustour, and Alghad) that the most prominent journalistic types used in the news coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021 are news with 536 news in Alrai, 74 news in Addustour, and 231 news in Alghad.

There was a difference between the selected newspapers regarding the arrangement of the rest of the news writing types. Alrai and Alghad newspapers were placed as the most prominent News Report type, with 124 news reports in Alrai and 83 news reports in Alghad newspaper. The News Article type came with 62 news articles in the Alrai newspaper and 47 articles in Alghad. In comparison, the most prominent type of Addustour newspaper was the News Article, which came with 40 articles, followed by the News Report with 11 reports (see table 7).

Table (7): News Types Used in Press Coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict in 2021

News Type	Newspapers						Total	
	Alrai		Addustour		Alghad		N	%
News	536	72.7%	74	58.8%	231	62.3%	841	68.2%
News Report	124	16.8%	11	8.7%	83	22.4%	218	17.7%
News Article	62	8.4%	40	31.7%	47	12.7%	149	12.1%
News Story	10	1.4%	1	0.8%	3	0.8%	14	1.1%
Investigative Report	0	0%	0	0%	6	1.6%	6	0.5%
Caricature	5	0.7%	0	0%	1	0.3%	6	0.5%
Interview	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	737	100%	126	100%	371	100%	1234	100%

7. News Sources

Table 8 indicates a clear difference between the news sources on which the selected newspapers covered the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021. The most prominent news source in Alrai newspaper is the Jordanian News Agency (Petra) which came with 265 news articles, followed by an Internal Source (journalist, reporter, columnist) which came with 252 news articles. The multiple sources came right after with 73 news articles. As for Addustour newspaper, the most prominent news source was the Internal Source (journalist, reporter, columnist) which came with 62 news articles, followed by the Jordan News Agency (Petra), which came with 23 news articles. Then, the unspecified sources came with 14 news articles. Regarding Alghad newspaper, the most prominent news sources of Alghad newspaper are Internal Sources (journalist, reporter, columnist) with 174 news articles, followed by Foreign News Agencies with 52 news articles, and the Jordan News Agency (Petra) with 46 news articles (see table 8).

Table (8) news sources used in the newspapers during the 2021 Israel-Gaza conflict

Press Sources	Newspapers						Total	
	Alrai		Addustour		Alghad		N	%
Field reporters.	252	34.2%	62	49.2%	174	46.9%	488	39.5%
Petra news agency (Jordan).	265	36%	23	18.3%	46	12.4%	334	27.1%
International news agencies.	63	8.5%	5	4%	52	14%	120	9.7%
Multiple news sources.	73	9.9%	7	5.6%	26	7%	106	8.6%
Not mentioned.	43	5.8%	14	11.1%	14	3.8%	71	5.8%
Arab news agencies.	37	5%	0	0%	3	0.8%	40	3.2%
Palestinian media.	1	0.1%	11	8.7%	22	5.9%	34	2.8%
Palestine News Agency (Wafa).	2	0.3%	2	1.6%	21	5.7%	25	2%
Israel media.	1	0.1%	2	1.6%	174	3.5%	16	1.3%
Total	737	100%	126	100%	371	100%	1234	100%

8. Highlighting Elements

A. Headlines

Table 9 indicates the agreement between the three newspapers (Alrai, Addustour, and Alghad) regarding the most prominent forms of headlines used in news coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021). The Main Headlines came in first place with 731 news articles in Alrai, Addustour's news articles with 126 articles, and 370 news articles in Alghad. The Sub-Headlines came second with 20 news articles in Alrai and 22 in Alghad. Also, the Secondary Headlines came

in third place, with 6 news articles in Alrai and 16 in Alghad. Finally, 5 news articles in Alrai and 1 article in Alghad came in the Without Headline category (see table 9).

Table (9): Highlighting Elements used in the newspapers

Headline	Newspaper						Total	
	Alrai		Addustour		Alghad		N	%
Main Headlines	731	95.9%	126	100%	370	90.5%	1227	94.6%
Sub-Headlines	20	2.6%	0	0%	22	5.4%	42	3.2%
Secondary Headlines	6	0.8%	0	0%	16	3.9%	22	1.7%
Without Headline	5	0.7%	0	0%	1	0.2%	6	0.5%
Introductory	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total(*)	762	100%	126	100%	409	100%	1297*	100%

(*) Due to the possibility of having more than one title within the same news article.

B. Images

Table 10 shows the agreement between the three newspapers (Alrai, Addustour, and Alghad) regarding the most prominent types of images used in the news coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021. The data shows that News Image appeared in 527 news articles in Alrai, 46 in the Addustour, and 265 in Alghad. Also, there was a difference between the three newspapers arranging the other types of images. It was arranged in Alrai and Alghad newspapers as follows: The Archival Image appeared in 123 news articles in Alrai and 76 news articles in Alghad. The Personal Image appeared in 69 news articles in Alrai and 27 in Alghad. However, 18 news articles in Alrai; and 3 in Alghad came in the Without Image category." The rest of the types of images in Addustour newspaper were arranged according to the following: Without Image appeared in 29 news articles, followed by Personal Photo, which appeared in 37 news articles, and Archival Image, which appeared in 14 news articles (see table 10).

Table (10): Images used in the newspapers

Image	Newspapers						Total	
	Alrai		Addustour		Alghad		N	%
News Image	527	71.5%	46	36.5%	265	71.4%	838	67.9%
Personal Image	69	9.4%	37	29.4%	27	7.3%	133	10.8%
Archival Image	123	16.7%	14	11.1%	76	20.5%	213	17.3%
Without an Image	18	2.4%	29	23%	3	0.8%	50	4.1%
Total	737	100%	126	100%	371	100%	1234	100%

C. Multimedia

Table 11 indicates that the largest percentage of news stories in the three newspapers (Alrai, Addustour, and Alghad) that dealt with the Palestinian-Israeli in 2021 did not contain multimedia. Alrai newspaper had 722 news articles, Addustour had 124 news articles, and Alghad had 363 news articles without multimedia. While the number of articles that contained a video clip was 25 news articles divided by three newspapers as follows: 15 news articles in Alrai, two news articles in Addustour, and eight news articles in Alghad (see table 11).

Table (11): Multimedia used in the newspapers

Multimedia	Newspapers						Total	
	Alrai		Addustour		Alghad		N	%
Without Multimedia	722	98%	124	98.4%	363	97.8%	1209	98%
Video	15	2%	2	1.6%	8	2.2%	25	2%
Audio	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Cartoons	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%	0	0%
Total	737	100%	126	100%	371	100%	1234	100%

6 Discussions

Jordanian Newspapers play a significant role in shaping the public's opinions and perceptions through their coverage of issues and events[31]. According to the media framing theory, Jordanian newspapers and journalists may set a wide range of attention to specific topics and stories and neglect others. Even though journalists strive to work hard to uncover the truth, reveal reality, and report what is happening. However, even in countries that are thought to have a wide range of freedoms, their journalism methods necessitate self-pre-edits that adhere to their perceived institutional norms and the cultural settings to which they report[32]. Notably, media outlets frequently face accusations of bias against one side of the debate when covering the Israeli-Palestinian conflict[33,34].

The main goal of this study, which examine the news coverage of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021 in the top three Jordanian newspapers (Alrai, Addustour, and Alghad). The analysis found that there were differences in how the selected Jordanian newspapers throughout their online websites covered the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021. Before pointing out these differences, it is essential to mention that the violence and clashes between the two sides throughout the war received extensive coverage. Although the three selected newspapers also covered a wide range of conflict-related topics, it is clear that they supported the Palestinian side in their coverage of the conflict. More articles against the Israeli forces' activities and abuses were published in both Alrai and Addustour newspapers. In contrast, Alghad newspaper covered more of the escalations and the urgent need to support Gaza-based Palestinians who are suffering. This study revealed the different frames covered by the three selected newspapers, which turned mostly around solidarity with the Palestinians by 29%, followed by the military confrontation frame by 25.5%.

For instance, the solidarity frame was reported to write that national discussions among politicians debate providing medical aid to injured children and their families in Palestine. There are other examples in terms of political discussions, such as reporting "how to help defuse the situation and social aspirations for helping the Palestinians who are suffering." The military confrontation frame was reported to state "apprehensions that the treatment of Palestinian families in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood may trigger significant escalation and conflict" by example. While Entman (1993) noted that all other frames mentioned in the literature were highlighted within the frames utilized in the selected newspaper's coverage, these two frames were the most frequently reported in the three newspapers. One of these frames, the military conflicts frame, defines the issue of the conflict and its root causes. At the same time[22], Entman (1993) found that the frames of shielding, peace, and de-escalation more frequently echoed the frame of proposing cures. As with other implications and warning frames, including humanitarian implications, the frame of making a moral judgment was presented. These frames were translated according to the subjects the researchers most frequently identified. The data of this study discovered that issues advocating support for Gaza, emphasizing Israeli policies and abuses, the escalation of the conflict, and the stance of Arab countries in the conflict were the topics that the selected newspapers focused on very often, accounting for more than (50%) of the total topics[22].

Regarding the appeals used in the three selected newspapers, the study indicated that the three newspapers' persuasive arguments were most effective when they delivered audience-appealing factual facts and numbers (52.4%), such as emphasizing the number of fatalities and casualties. This was more prevalent in news pieces that reported the breaking news without analysis or expert commentary (68%). The employment of mixed persuasive appeals came right after with 34%. In contrast, the emotional appeal was relatively low (11.6%). This appeal was repeated in the newspaper coverage, which focused on the heinous crimes by telling the injured, displaced, and

afflicted Palestinians. These stories appeared most in the news reports, indicating opinions (31.8%). Finally, it was evident from the sources used that the three selected newspapers heavily depended on first-hand information gathered by their field reporters (39.5%). On the other hand, the three selected Jordanian newspapers tended to rely less on Palestinian media, such as television stations and news agencies, giving their reporting greater accuracy and trustworthiness.

7 Conclusions

Newspapers are a valuable source of information in Jordan. Jordanians and Palestinians have similar histories, cultures, religious values, and perspectives. In addition, Jordan is home to the most significant number of Palestinian refugees worldwide. The framing theory, which enables researchers to gauge the implicit content of press communications, has been considered in this study. The theory offers a framework to explain how framing affects how the public perceives topics and events, forms opinions about them, and reacts. As a result, this study used the framing theory to examine how the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in 2021 was covered. Results of this study indicated that all of the media frames that Entman mentioned had been depicted in the three selected newspapers' coverage (Alrai, Addustour, and Alghad). Therefore, these newspapers' articles employed frames that expressed definitions and the conflict's root causes.

The frames employed also proposed solutions and the many ramifications of the conflict on society. The researchers gathered and identified all the issues that reflect the study's frames. Entman's frames, such as calls for solidarity for Gaza, Israeli actions and abuses, and the escalation of the conflict, are reflected in the selected newspapers' issues. The study also found that the three publications committed to and primarily relied on reporting facts to Jordanian audiences. Last but not least, the study found that the three newspapers mainly depended on field reporters as their sources.

8 Recommendations

The scientific data regarding the news media framing in Jordan are expanded in this research. It concludes that newspapers in Jordan or elsewhere continue to favor one side of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and utilize specific frames to convey a particular image of that conflict, which may be linked to cultural and historical ties.

According to the study's findings, Jordanian online newspapers rarely cover issues that suggest compromises and ways to reduce tensions. To promote peace and coexistence, journalists need to focus more on these subjects instead of concentrating on the fights, disagreements, damage to property, and casualties among people that would worsen the dispute and public opinion.

The three newspapers' coverage tended to be written in a straightforward narration of events as they happened. However, there was less reporting in other journalistic editing styles like investigative reporting and news stories. As they are more in-depth than typical news articles and go beyond giving the most crucial facts, more focus on these writing styles is required because they provide a thorough description of a location, a person, or true stories. No matter how close two countries are politically and culturally, it should not affect a journalist's ability to cover global news and crises. It is crucial to stress the importance of the journalists' commitment to the ethical standards that guide the media industry, such as impartiality, neutrality, and reporting the facts without regard to cultural context or intellectual allegiances. To comprehend the factors influencing their professional performance, more research is required to evaluate the media messages and contents provided via digital platforms.

Conflicts of Interest Statement

The authors certify that they have NO affiliations with or involvement in any organization or entity with any financial interest (such as honoraria; educational grants; participation in speakers' bureaus; membership, employment, consultancies, stock ownership, or other equity interest; and expert testimony or patent-licensing arrangements), or non-financial interest (such as personal or professional relationships, affiliations, knowledge or beliefs) in the subject matter or materials discussed in this manuscript.

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