IBN HALDUN UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF GRADUATE STUDIES
DEPARTMENT OF RADIO, TELEVISION AND CINEMA

MASTER THESIS

AN ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY FILMS ON THE 2008-09 ISRAELI WAR ON THE GAZA STRIP

WESAM HASSAN M. ABUHAMDA

THESIS SUPERVISOR
ASST. PROF. HAKKI ÖCAL

ISTANBUL, 2022

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by
WESAM HASSAN M. ABUHAMDA

A thesis submitted to the School of Graduate Studies in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Arts in Radio Television and Cinema

THESIS SUPERVISOR
ASST. PROF. HAKKI ÖCAL

ISTANBUL, 2022

APPROVAL PAGE

This is to certify that we have read this thesis and that in our opinion it is fully adequate, in scope and quality, as a thesis for the degree of Master of Art in Radio, TV and Cinema Program.

Thesis Jury Members

Title - Name Surname	Opinion	Signature
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

This is to confirm that this thesis complies with all the standards set by the School of Graduate Studies of Ibn Haldun University.

Date of Submission Seal/Signature

ACADEMIC HONESTY ATTESTATION

I hereby declare that all information in this document has been obtained and presented in accordance with academic rules and ethical conduct. I also declare that, as required by these rules and conduct, I have fully cited and referenced all material and results that are not original to this work.

Name Surname: Wesam H. M. ABUHAMDA

Signature:

ÖZ

İSRAİL GAZZE 2008-2009 SAVAŞININ BELGESEL FİLMLERİNİN ANALİZİ

Abuhamda, Wesam H. M.
Radyo, Televizyon ve Sinema Yüksek Lisans Programı
Öğrenci Numarası: 187050009
Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORC-ID): 0000-0003-4523-4487
Ulusal Tez Merkezi Referans Numarası: 10472931

Tez Danışmanı: Dr. Öğr. Üyesi Hakkı Öcal
Ekim 2022, 96 sayfa

Çalışma, İsrail'in 2009 ve 2012'de Gazze Şeridi'ndeki savaşının belgesellerini tespit etmeyi ve bu filmlerin uluslararası forumlarda Filistin davasını ele alma ve öne çıkarmadaki başarısının yönlerini ortaya koymayı ve İsrail ihlallerine ışık tutmayı amaçladı. Ve Gazze Şeridi'nde Filistinlilere karşı işlenen suçlar, İsrail medyasının yanlış ve yönlendirilmiş olduğunu ve Filistin halkını hedef alan yanıltıcı Siyonist propagandayı yansıtıncaya kadar. Çalışma, toplanan verileri ve gerçekleri sınıflandırmayı, ardından bu verileri kapsamlı bir analizde yorumlamayı ve analiz etmeyi ve faydalı çağrışımları çıkarmayı amaçlayan betimsel analitik yaklaşımı kullandı. 2009 yılında İsrail'in Gazze Şeridi'ndeki savaşı konusunu ele alan belgesellerin toplamından oluşan çalışma alanından basit bir rastgele örneklem seçilmiştir. Örnekleme göre film sayısı, yaygınlıklarına göre seçilen beş filmdir. Ve yerel ve uluslararası düzeyde popülerlik ve işgal suçlarını belgeleme yetenekleri. Çalışma, sınıflandırma kapsamındaki çeşitli konular arasında İsrail saldırıları konusunun ikinci sırada yer aldığını gösterdi ve bu sonuç, İsrail saldırılarının ani ve şiddetli olması nedeniyle bu savaşta en önemli faktör olduğu gerçeğini doğruluyor. Maddi kayıpların yanı sıra siviller arasında çok sayıda can kaybı yaşandı.

Anahtar Kelimeler: Belgeseller, Çalışma, Filistin, Filmler, Gazze, İsrail, Savaş.

ABSTRACT

AN ANALYSIS OF DOCUMENTARY FILMS ON THE 2008-09 ISRAELI WAR ON THE GAZA STRIP

Abuhamda, Wesam H. M.
MA in Radio, Television and cinema
Student ID: 187050009
Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORC-ID): 0000-0003-4523-4487
National Thesis Center Reference Number: 10472931

Thesis Supervisor: Asst. Prof. Hakkı Öcal
October 2022, 96 Pages

This study aims to identify the documentaries on the subject of the 2008-09 Israeli war on the Gaza Strip to analyze the success of these movies in addressing and highlighting the Palestinian case in international fora and shed light on Israeli violations and crimes committed against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. It reflects the false and directed Israeli media and misleading Zionist propaganda focusing on the Palestinian people. The study used a descriptive analytical approach, which classifies the data and facts that are collected, then interprets and analyzes these data in a comprehensive analysis to extract useful connotations. A simple random sample was selected from the field of study, which is the total number of documentaries that dealt with the issue of the Israeli war on the Gaza Strip in 2008-09. Five films selected based on their prevalence and popularity at the local and international levels and their ability to document the crimes of the occupation. The study showed that the issues of the Israeli attacks came in the second place out of the various issues under the classification, and this result confirms the fact that the Israeli attacks were the most prominent factor in this war, as they were sudden and violent, causing many casualties among civilians, in addition to material losses.

Keywords: Analysis, Content, Documentaries, Gaza, Israeli, Occupation, Strip, Violent, War.

DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my parents who pushed me through the hardships and supported me endlessly through my dream's pursuit, to my brother Hussam, who passed away fighting for his dream of seeing a liberated Palestine, and finally to my dear son residing in Palestine.

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Wesam H. M. ABUHAMDA

ISTANBUL, 2022

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CHAPTER I

INTRODUCTION

Media is the master of influence and the most significant agent of change in civilizations. It feeds minds and illuminates everything that occurs in the orbit at all times. The foundation of media work is documentation and education that support the civilization of peoples, in addition to recording violations and monitoring current events (MBN, 2022).

The Palestinian people have been subjected to persecution and are unable to obtain their freedom since their existence and specifically, since the Turkish era, British mandate, and Israeli occupation. Under the Egyptian and Jordanian administrations and under Israeli occupation, it became necessary for Palestinians to be the first to record this history, experienced by none before (Al-Bardawil, 1996).

The Palestinian media differs from other Arab or international media in the specificity of its political situation and is considered a transmitter and even a documenter of the events, issues, and disturbances resulting from Israeli occupation since 1948. The illegal occupation in Palestine has not occurred in any other region of the world, and due to the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, this issue has always garnered the most attention from the media.

The successive events in the Gaza Strip, including the aggression of 2008 and the aggression of 2019, indicated the importance of the role played by the media and documentaries in the process of highlighting and exposing the schemes and crimes of the Israelis.

These crimes include killing, destruction, demolition, siege, and finally the process of influencing internal Palestinian public opinion and international public opinion. As a result, it exposes its ongoing and continuous practices in the Arab Israeli conflict in the light of the directed media, which helped to sabotage the Israeli media's chance to compete independently. In terms of politics, society, and the economy, it benefits the

Palestinian people and opens new avenues for resolving numerous unresolved issues related to the Palestinian cause, including the right of return, the plight of refugees, the wall issue, the lifting of the siege on the Gaza Strip, the plight of prisoners, and others.

1.1. Problem of the Study

Documentaries are vital media material that chronicle the history of nations. In the case of the Gaza Strip, media was limited for reasons related to weaknesses of the production and the analysis of films. Despite the presence of raw material and the appropriate environment required for completing a successful documentary, the Palestinian cause was far from achieving its goal of influencing local and global public opinion on the Israeli occupation.

The problem of the study can be summarized as the scarcity of documentaries covering the Israeli wars on the Gaza Strip, and their inability to reach international public opinion and defend the Palestinian cause.

1.2. The Importance of the Study

The Palestinian cause and the role that documentaries play in addressing occupied land is considered a scientific subject on which researchers and scholars rely on.

i) It is considered as one of the studies that aim to analyze the content of documentaries pertaining to the issue of aggression against the Gaza Strip.
ii) It attempts to reveal aspects of the success of documentaries in addressing and highlighting the Palestinian cause in international forums.
iii) It sheds lights on the Israeli violations and crimes committed against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.
iv) It reflects the image of the fake and directed Israeli media including the misleading Zionist propaganda targeting the Palestinian people.

1.3. Objectives of the Study

i) Identifying documentaries and their role in addressing the issue of the aggression on the Gaza Strip.
ii) Knowing the extent to which documentaries can document the crimes of the Israeli occupation.
iii) Exposure of the total values and principles carried by the documentaries on the aggression against Gaza Strip.
iv) Documenting the events and positions caused by the Israeli aggression during the attack on Gaza Strip.
v) Highlighting the crimes of the Israeli occupation in its aggression on the Strip and condemning the ugliness of those crimes.
vi) Trying to change the negative image broadcasted by the Israeli media about the Palestinian people.

1.4. The Study Questions

1.4.1. The Study Questions in Terms of Content

i) What are the topics covered by the documentaries in the aggression on Gaza?
ii) What are the sources on which documentaries rely on in obtaining information and presenting it to the viewer?
iii) What are the characters chosen by the documentaries in documenting the crimes of the aggression on Gaza?
iv) What are the Israeli practices that the Palestinian documentaries focused on in revealing and displaying the aggression against the Gaza Strip?
v) What values and principles did the documentaries carry through their documentation of the aggression on Gaza?

1.4.2. The Study Questions in Terms of Form

i) What are the means of illustration that documentaries have relied on in their coverage of the aggression on the Gaza Strip?

ii) The extent to which documentaries can document information compared to the duration of the prepared film.

iii) The extent to which documentaries focus on eyewitnesses, recorded film material and photographs in their presentation of the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip.

CHAPTER II

LITERATURE REVIEW

The researcher reviewed a group of scientific periodicals, research and studies that dealt with topics related to the main themes of the title of the study. The purpose is to benefit from their methodology, tools, and results, in addition to monitoring the studies closest to the title of the current study. It is divided into two axes and its presentation (chronologically) are as follows:

2.1. Studies Related to the Attitudes of Youth Towards the Palestinian Cause

2.1.1. Study of Huda Baroud (2009) Entitled: "Attitudes of Media Students in Gaza Universities Towards Watching Palestinian Documentary Films"

This study aims to collect basic and detailed data related to the subject and uses a questionnaire method to learn the trends of media students towards watching documentaries.

The study produced the following results:

a. Relying solely on the Palestinian perspective when critiquing the films and their creation without posing concerns that might provide the viewer with the impression that the films' goal is to distort the Palestinian cause.
b. Diversifying the topics presented by Palestinian documentaries and not confining them to prominent incidents but going beyond them to delve into the aspects of life for the Palestinian citizen.
c. Using academic expertise as well as professional expertise to advance the Palestinian documentary film in a way that achieves the desired effect.

2.1.2. Study of Heba Hanafi Moawad (2012) Entitled: "Attitudes of Egyptian Youth Towards the Palestinian Cause Presented Through Documentaries on Arab Satellite Channels"

This study intended to identify the attitudes of the Egyptian youth towards the Palestinian issue dealt with by documentaries shown on Arab satellite channels. The study was conducted on a sample of (300) Egyptian youth, by using the sample survey method and a questionnaire form. It was applied to a sample of university students, faculty members and their assistants (males - females) in the age group (21-40) years, in three Egyptian universities: Cairo, Benha, and Al-Mustaqbal, where two faculties were selected from each university, one theoretical and the other applied. The study has located several findings including the following:

- The percentage of utilitarian motives is higher than the ritual motives, foremost of which is the understanding of the dimensions of the Palestinian cause and the formation of specific political trends towards the Arab cause.

- The percentage of positive attitudes towards the Palestinian cause presented by documentaries is high.

2.1.3. Study of Nidaa Nasser Qudeih and Nahid Khalid Al-Arqan (2012) Entitled: "News Coverage in Palestinian Channels of Political Events Related to the Palestinian-Israeli Conflict"

The study analyzed news coverage of the issues pertaining to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in Palestine TV and Al-Aqsa TV, both Palestinian channels. Furthermore, it made a comparison between the two channels of the study's coverage of the issues of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

This study produced several results, the most important of which are:

- The percentage of video material that is added to the news text in the two channels of study on Al-Aqsa TV is 51.2% and 49.1% is on Palestine TV.

- The study showed an increase in the dependence on the graphic material from the site of the political event, as it reached 98.1% on Al-Aqsa TV, and 85.4% on Palestine TV.

2.1.4. Study of Abdullah Afif Musleh and Hassan Mahmoud Qazzaz (2021) Entitled: "Addressing the Palestinian Issue in the Egyptian Narrative Cinema from the Point of View of Media Students in Palestinian Universities (A Field Study)"

The study aimed to discover the characteristics and features of the Egyptian cinematic films' treatment of the Palestinian cause and to measure the role of these films in shaping the attitudes and behaviour of media students in Palestinian universities towards the issue. Furthermore, it highlighted the treatment of the feature film and its investment in the Palestinian cause and emphasized the role of Egyptian cinema in documenting the political events experienced by the Arab Israeli conflict.

Furthermore, the study followed the descriptive analytical approach and used a media survey. A questionnaire was used as the study tool to collect data and information from its primary and secondary sources. The current study sample consisted of 148 media students in Palestinian universities, and the method of selecting the study sample was through the "intentional" sample and concluded the following:

i) The interest of media students in Palestinian universities to watch Egyptian fiction films that deal with the Palestinian issue was moderately acceptable.

ii) There was a high degree of acceptance and the motivation for media students in the sample was to learn more about the Palestinian issue.

iii) The impact of Egyptian feature films that present the Palestinian issue on the attitudes and behavior of media students in Palestinian universities displays a medium to high degree of acceptance.

2.2. Previous Studies Related to Documentaries, Cinemas and Their Relationship to the Palestinian Cause and the Israeli War on Gaza

2.2.1. Study of Alexander Livia (2001) Entitled: "Conflicting Images: Palestinian and Israeli Cinemas, 1988–1998"

This research discusses the image of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict in the cinema for ten as it dealt with the most important features of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict from the beginning of the first intifada in 1987 until the fiftieth anniversary of the Nakba in 1948. One of the most important results of the study was that political film is another field. The Israeli films showed a tendency towards escapism and held the political position of moral meanings. In contrast, the Palestinian films reflected clear concepts of nationalism, belonging and identity, and their directors worked to employ the cinematic language to confirm a national and humanitarian message. The study also identified the factors affecting the formation of a peripheral perception in identity, culture, and conflict.

2.2.2. Study of Elana Shefrin (2007) Entitled: "Re-Mediating the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: The Use of Films to Facilitate Dialogue"

This study's objective was to evaluate Palestinian and Israeli films and formulate them to activate and facilitate the language of dialogue, based on the Palestinian-Israeli historical political conflict and enmity. The possibility of Palestinians and Israelis coming to a creative way of cooperation and coexistence. Since its inception, Palestinian cinema works against Israel and has been oriented towards the right of self-determination. During the 1990's, presentation shifted towards the suffering of the Palestinians from the occupation and settlers. And there are many films that are not referred to, through which a bridge can be built to change the language of dialogue, and to change the language of dialogue, culture and friendship must be exchanged, and for the historical aspect, the films were based on enmity based on culture, politics and history, as the results also indicated. The Palestinian films share a common policy, which is to preserve the Palestinian identity.

2.2.3. Study of Ezz El-Din Shallah (2008) Entitled: "The Palestinian Narrative Cinema Treatment of the Al-Aqsa Intifada / Analytical Study"

This research aimed to monitor the reality of producing Palestinian narrative films to serve the Palestinian cause. It used the content analysis tool, in-depth interviews, with the study sample consisting of six Palestinian fiction films. The first topic was the Al-Aqsa Intifada, followed by the Palestinian families, and finally, the live illustrated material.

2.2.4. Study of Aladdin Muhammad Ayyash (2009) Entitled: "Palestinian Documentary Films' Treatment of the Palestinian Cause"

This study discusses how Palestinian documentary films address the Palestinian cause in general. The study sample consisted of sixty Palestinian documentary films that were produced from the beginning of the Al-Aqsa Intifada until the end of 2007. "Private Palestinian production bodies" ranked first in the production of Palestinian documentaries, and "official Palestinian production bodies" ranked second. One of the topics most dealt with by Palestinian documentaries is "Al-Aqsa Intifada," followed by "Crossings and Checkpoints". The goal of "highlighting the suffering of the Palestinians" was one of the main goals of the Palestinian documentary films, followed by "documenting the events" and finally colloquial Arabic came in a high proportion.

2.2.5. Study of Alaa Hamdi Matar (2010) Entitled: "The Role of Political Documentary Programs Presented on Arab Satellite Channels in Awareness of the Palestinian Public on Political Issues"

The following questions were discussed in this study, including:

i) The demand of watching Arab satellite channels.
ii) The extent of the study sample's interest in watching political documentaries broadcasted on Arab satellite channels.
iii) The extent to which documentaries can enhance political awareness among the Palestinian public.

iv) The extent of interest of Arab satellite channels in the political issues of the Palestinian public.

The researcher concluded that 36.25% from the study sample believe that political documentaries have a positive role in enhancing political awareness among the Palestinian public, and that the issues of the Intifada dealt with by documentaries garnered 26.2%. Additionally, the refugee issue carried15% and the crossings issues 8.7%, followed by internal reconciliation between the factions, the settlements, and the siege imposed on Gaza.

2.2.6. Study of Wafaa Abdel Rahim Hamdan (2011) Entitled: "The Extent of the Success of Local Radio Stations in News Coverage of the War on the Gaza Strip?"

The research problem was summarized in the extent of knowledge of the success of local radio stations in news coverage of the war on Gaza from December 27, 2008, to January 18, 2009.

This study produced the following results:

i) The study showed that the industrial influences on the news coverage of the recent war on Gaza ranked first among the media used in Al-Quds Radio with a percentage of 38%.
ii) The study revealed that the war on Gaza ranked first among the categories of radio used on Al-Quds Radio with 67%.
iii) The study showed that the news coverage of Israeli practices came in the category of aerial bombardment by 29%.
iv) The study revealed that during Al-Quds Radio's coverage of the recent war on Gaza, it covered the topic of the content category in an appropriate manner with military topics ranked first at 63%.

CHAPTER III

METHODOLOGY AND APPLICATION

3.1. Concepts of the Study

3.1.1. Media

Media aims to provide the public with all the facts, correct news and sound information about issues, topics, and problems. These are presented accurately and objectively, leading to the creation of the largest possible degree of knowledge, awareness, and comprehensive briefing among the categories of the public receiving the media material (Suzan al-Qalini, 1998).

3.1.2. Content Analysis

Content analysis is the process of shortening the collected information in a manner that leads to a solution to the research problem, by linking this answer or solution with the results of other scientific research or with current and existing intellectual entities (Amman, Dar Al-Fikr, 1995).

3.1.3. Documentaries

The French were the first to use the term documentary film, and Grierson defined the documentary film as “the creative treatment of reality.” He distinguished it from other types of documentary production, whether it be material for newspapers, movies, magazines, dramatic or digressive knowledge films, educational films, or science films by stating that documentary films are those that show the elements of nature (Dar Al-Fikr Al-Arabi, 2002).

3.1.4. War

Kelman defines it as “a violent social act, internal on the one hand and between societies on the other hand, and it is practiced within the framework of one country or within the international sphere” (Maher, 2006, p. 142).

3.1.5. Gaza Strip

Located in the southern region of the Palestinian coast on the Mediterranean Sea. It is in the form of a narrow strip in the northeast of the Sinai Peninsula, which constitutes approximately 1.33% of the area of historical Palestine (from the river to the sea). The sector extends over an area of 360 km2, its length is forty one km, and its width varies between 5-15 km. The Gaza Strip borders Israel to the north and east, while Egypt borders it to the southwest, and it is called the Gaza Strip in relation to its largest city, Gaza (Wikipedia, n.d.).

3.2. Study Methodology

This study falls under the qualitative methodology category of descriptive analytical research by content analysis, which aims to categorize the facts and data that are gathered, interpret those facts and data in a thorough analysis, and then extract helpful connotations (Hussein, 1994). Additionally, it aims to match the form and content of the scientific and media resources offered by the documentaries in their coverage and treatment of the Gaza Strip War issue (Al-Hadi, 1995)

3.2.1. Field of Study

This refers to all the vocabulary of the phenomenon that the researcher studies and is the subject of the research problem (Hussein, 1994), Furthermore, the field of study was determined for all the documentaries that documented the war on the Gaza Strip 2008-09.

3.2.2. Study Sample

A simple random sample was selected from 10 films, which is the total number of documentaries that dealt with the issue of the Israeli war on the Gaza Strip in 2008-09. The number of films according to the sample is five films that were selected based on their prevalence and popularity at the local and international levels and their ability to document the crimes of the occupation.

The random sample are as follows:

i) Fatafeet Rukham directed by: Abdul Rahman Al-Hamran
ii) War on Gaza directed by: Ahmad Muhanna
iii) Tears of Gaza directed by: Vibeke Løkkeberg
iv) Safar Alkharab directed by: Mustafa Al-Nabih
v) The war on Gaza directed by: Hamas Government Office

3.3. Subject Analysis Units

One of the characteristics of content analysis is the quantitative tools used to reach a qualitative assessment of the phenomena of the analysis. Therefore, units must be included through which the researcher relies on the number of these phenomena. In this study, the researcher resorted to using several units, namely:

3.3.1. Character Unit

This unit is used in studies that document personalities, whether in dramatic or literary works. Israeli, Palestinian, European...etc.)

3.3.2. Subject Unit (Idea)

It is one of the most important units through which communication trends and opinions are revealed in the media message. It was used in the study to discover the topics that documentaries focused on, and the trends adopted in documenting the war on the Gaza Strip in the year 2008-09.

3.3.3. Unit of Space and Time

It is related to the audio-visual media material and is divided into seconds and minutes. This will be used in the study by quantifying the space given to the viewer within the movie, such as the bombing, incursions, injuries, and interview period that each movie singled out in its content about the war on the Gaza Strip.

3.4. Categories of Content Analysis

These are the primary components in which the units of analysis have been positioned, and on which the research can base the content's characteristics and classification.

3.4.1. Topics Category

This includes the topics covered by the films in their articles on war, including (political, military, security, sports, economic, humanitarian, religious, other).

3.4.2. The Category of Issues

It deals with the types of issues that the documentaries focused on in their film content, including siege, movement of crossings, firing of missiles, political movements, solidarity activists, Israeli attacks, incursions, and others.

3.4.3. Character Category

Character category deals with the nature of the personalities that the documentaries focused on to comment on the events. These include Israeli, Arab, Palestinian, foreigners, and other personalities.

3.4.4. Trend Category

Trend category relates to the direction of the media message presented by documentaries during the war on Gaza. These include positive, negative, and neutral.

3.4.5. Israeli Practices Category

It deals with the forms of Israeli practices that documentaries covered during the war on Gaza, including martyrs, aerial bombardment, artillery shelling, house demolitions, assassinations, injuries, and others.

3.4.6. Values Category

It deals with the values carried by the documentaries through their documentation of the war on the Gaza Strip. These include positive values such as peace, love, honesty, safety, cooperation, and others. Conversely, negative values include hostility, fear, hate, sadness, and others.

3.4.7. Geographical Scope Category

This highlights the geographical distribution of the areas in which the political events occurred, and which received more attention than documentaries. These include northern Gaza Strip, Gaza City, central Gaza Strip, southern Gaza Strip, 48 lands, West Bank, and others.

3.4.8. Photography Category

It is represented in the director's selection of the locations and time of filming and the collected footage of the documentary film and the significance of each of them. The locations include indoor, outdoor, morning, evening, and others.

3.4.9. Places Category

It is represented in filming footage either in public places or closed places, and includes the public, homes, and mosques.

3.4.10. Shot Size Category

It is depicted in the film director's selection of shot types, such as general, medium, close, and very close, as well as their sizes and qualities.

3.4.11. Effects Category

This refers to the edits that are done on the film, including musical, static image, animation, readable material, and others.

3.4.12. Time Category

Five seconds, ten seconds, twenty seconds, thirty seconds, and sixty seconds are all included as examples of the time that the scene corresponds with on the documentary's timeline.

3.5. Study Tool

Several documentaries were collected to find out the extent of their documentation of the crimes committed on the Gaza strip. The content analysis form is considered as a study tool to describe the phenomenon or content of the media material in an objective, systematic and quantitative manner.

3.6. Credibility and Reliability Test

The researcher conducted an apparent validity test on the content analysis form which was reviewed by a group of specialists who made the required modifications to the form.[1]

[1] Arbitrators' names:

1. Fayek Jarada: Palestinian director, holder of a higher degree in radio and television, and many courses in film and television directing at home and abroad, the most important of which are in Tunisia and Egypt, director of the Documentary Films Department at Palestine TV, director of the Film Forum for Media Production.
2. Muhammad Al-Borai: Palestinian photographer, holder of a postgraduate certificate in media, many courses in film directing and media photography, and a trainer in photography and television.

CHAPTER IV

THE METHODOLOGICAL FRAMEWORK OF THE STUDY

4.1. Documentaries

There is great confusion that a documentary film is merely a short film, or that the palace is one of the characteristics of the documentary film alone. Palaces are a feature, and the documentary is likened to a novelist that can be short or long. The determining factor in any type of film is the subject and the artistic form.

According to Andre Bazin, Robert Flaherty, and other directors and theorists, the two main points that comprise a documentary is to avoid exaggeration on incidents occurred and to ensure the veracity of said incidents. Documentary cinema has become based on life matter and on objectively existing phenomena and materials, and this means that documentary cinema has become a state, and reality in it is a raw material from which the creator extracts everything that is new without merely copying and presenting this reality. On the screen as it is as it was from the start.

4.2. General Definition of Documentaries

The documentary film is defined as a creative treatment of reality. Drama in a documentary film is a process of discovery and adoption, in contrast to drama in a feature film which is prepared in advance by the writer. The imaginary world in a feature film can sometimes transcend the truth while it cannot be transcended in a documentary film, and the ability of a documentary film to influence public opinion is stronger than the ability of the novelist to do so.

A documentary film is a cinematic or television genre that relies on documenting, recording, and presenting reality without interference or falsification. This distinguishes it from a feature film whose maker has all the authority to weave its real and imaginary events according to his vision.

This is theoretical, but, even in documentary film, imagination overlaps with reality, especially in documentaries and films that raise issues that try to influence reality. The goal of a documentary film is to monitor reality through a creative treatment that allows for a margin of creativity without a direct presentation of reality. Thus, the phrase "creative treatment of reality" is the definition of the documentary film that is used the most frequently.[2]

The documentary film deals with all forms of life topics and facts (scientific, historical, natural, etc.), whether current, past, or even future, in an impartial and objective manner in which the maker relies on materials, documents and researched documented sources.

Documentary films, according to one of their Scottish founders, John Grierson, are divided into two levels. The first level are educational films and reportage, in which the director is freed from many of the controls of the documentary film, such as the duration of the film, the frame of the film, sound and montage techniques, language, and effective elements.

The second level is documentary cinema, which is the creative treatment of reality, as it includes the objective (processing) and subjective (creative) sides.

In 1948, the International Federation of Documentary Films defined documentary films as the following: All methods of recording a film are shown either by means of direct imaging or truthfully rebuilding it and when necessary, in order to inspire the viewer to act, to broaden their perceptions of human knowledge and understanding, or to develop realistic solutions to a variety of problems in the fields of economics, culture, or human relations.

Moreover, it is a type of non-fiction film that does not depend on a written story and fiction, but rather takes its material from reality, whether it is by direct transmission of events that occurred, or by reconfiguring and modifying this reality close to the truth.

[2] Website, http://www.docupicture.com/2011/08/documentaries-types/

The documentary film is known as “the creative treatment of reality.” The drama in the documentary film is: “a process of discovery and adoption, while the drama in the feature film is prepared in advance by the writer and then reaches the climax, leading to the solution.”

As “Richard what was” knew the documentary film: “The originality and value of the documentary film does not stem from its reliance on material from reality only, as much as it returns to the authenticity and documentation of this factual material, meaning that the document is the most important when it honestly expresses reality” (Dar Al-Fikr Al-Arabi, 2004, p. 24).

4.3. The Emergence and Development of the Documentary Film

The first time that the term or concept of documentary was used to express a film taken from reality was in 1923. Furthermore, on the same year, documentaries began growing in popularity with many of them being released. As a result, documentary film began to transition into an independent science.

The French used the term Le film documentaries, taken after the invention of “Louis Loniard” a device used for capturing and displaying motion pictures in 1895. The device was created to film the travel movies. Travel enthusiasts were more likely to film “trip movies” with the aim of documenting aspects of their activities, and recording their observations, to present them to friends and family as a souvenir. The documentary film is a historical document with knowledge as its goal, thus it’s referred to as the educational film, the scientific film, and the training film.

In the science of photography, the term documentary film appeared in 1920 as a modern art, although its features had not yet been formed. It also began appearing in several writings and films during the period between 1920-1930, and the most famous of those films is ‘Chandelles’, released in 1934. The film was produced by one of the pioneers of cinema at the time, ‘Marcel Ichac’, and revolved around ski scenes in the alps. Additionally, Marcel Ichac was one of the first to use a mobile camera while filming.

The cinematic renaissance at that stage contributed to the development of the documentary film, and the largest work was done by the pioneer of documentary films, John Grierson. Following the World War, the documentary film began to decline, like other arts, despite the significant presence of propaganda films and mutual incitement during the war. Documentary films resurged in 1950, with newer techniques and means developed, with more diversified topics. This occurred as the concept of vérité/direct cinema appeared to express documentaries that depended on editing and cinematic processing and not only direct presentation of reality. Among the most famous of these are Les Requesters', Showman, Salesman, Near Death, The Children Were Watching, Gray Gardens.[3]

Towards the end of the 1980s and the beginning of the 1990s, documentary films had a status and value as a fine art with an important message. This development was coupled with the media and technical revolution and with the emergence of many production companies, all of which gave documentary filmmakers a large margin of creativity and documentary presentation.

4.4. Divisions of the Documentary Film

Although there are many divisions and types of documentary films, John Grierson divides documentary films into two levels, the higher level, and the lower level. The higher level includes that in which the filmmaker can analyze and create, and the lower level includes all the newspapers and educational films. However, Swartswood divides documentaries into vanguard films, living films, graphic films, animations, discussion films, editorial films and educational films. According to Evalina Norgelska, documentaries are divided into reportage, film newspapers, film magazines, article films, pure films, and incitement films. (Atallah, n.d)

In terms of content, there are two types of documentaries:

[3] Documentary image, website, http://www.docupicture.com/2011/05/what-is-the-doc-film/

i) Films with Media Value

These types of film are more suitable for television than cinema, as the script is nearly completed before montage and the locations and nature of filming is predetermined. Furthermore, the questions, interview styles, types of personalities are also determined, and to an extent even the sizes of the clips are determined.

ii) Films with Cultural Value

These types of film aim to reveal the political, social, or economic reality of the topic; however, it differs from films with media value in that the idea and general conception of the building is written. The director aims to capture reality and is unaware of what will occur while shooting which is why an idea, vision and goal are important while shooting these types of films. However, as recording may be unpredictable, this may consume large amounts of raw film material as the director may constantly be recording.

The non-media documentary film, that is, of cultural value, is of special importance, as its aim is not to coerce the viewer, but rather aims to increase his knowledge of the truth to help him find solutions and interact with reality. This type of film contributes a great deal to the process of political awareness by exposing the nature of the enemy, contradictions, oppression, and exploitation. Furthermore, cultural value films reflect the human and cultural value, and simultaneously reveals the sites of defects (Al-Muzaini, 2011).

We can categorize documentaries as follows:

- Classification by content.
- Classification by analysis.
- Classification by constructivism.

i) Classification of Documentaries According to Content (Topic)

This category of film deals with a specific issue that is classified as social, political, religious, cultural, artistic, historical events or personalities, scientific or others. The classification here is based on the subject (content). For example, if a film deals with the issue of poverty in a society, then this content is classified as social. This can be combined with poverty as a social impact and its political impact on people's revolutions, so the film has dealt with its social and political content, and so on.

The following are a few films that are categorized with a classification:

- 'Muslim Scholars Al-Idrisi - The World of Geography' is a movie that is classified under the historical films (characters).
- World War I films are historical (events) films.
- The movie 'Science in Your Hands: Spiders' is a science documentary (Entomology)
- The movie 'Why They Chose Islam' is a religious movie.

  The first type of classification is based on the content of the film, its information, interviews, and pictures.

ii) Classification of Documentaries According to Processing (Approach)

Processing refers to the way ideas are presented, arranged, and discussed in any style the director desires to produce the film. For example, a movie that deals with bank robbery gangs and their activities requires the Journalistic Investigation approach. Next, the film is planned including the script, photography types, and interviews. Conversely, a documentary about the negative impact of plastic containers on the environment, requires the educational approach as concepts are explained step by step and supported with scientific research and observations of reality. Each film has an approach according to its subject, goal, and target audience (Kemal & Wahba, 1973).

In the following, let us try to identify the types of documentaries according to treatment:

Exploration films (spatial or cultural): Includes films exploring the jungles of Africa or a remote island in the middle of the ocean, or a film that talks about a strange culture in India.

a. **Historical narrative films (of events or characters):** For instance, a documentary on the Ottoman Empire calls for a great deal of historical treatment based on documents, records, and cumulative historical sequence. Thus, it can be said that a treatment that fits the narration of a story is required. Islam – Empire of Faith III – The Ottomans is an example of a historical narrative film.

b. **Films of achievements or projects:** These films are widely spread in Europe and America. These types of films usually revolve around a specific project, disaster, crises, and would begin filming by providing an introduction followed by a step-by-step sequence. For example, a movie about building a distinctive bridge begins by filming it from the idea, planning, execution, construction, difficulties, and challenges faced, until the project is completed. The suspense, and the phased construction hooks the viewer who looks forward to knowing the end of the project. An example of a film revolving a disaster is of the mining accident that occurred in Chile and their stay for nearly two months underground. Shootings were taken daily along with numerous attempts made to extract them, until one of the attempts succeeded. Footage covered the moment the rescue concluded and captured the emotions and feelings during their rescue.

c. **Movies of current facts or hot issues**: The director sheds light on a hot (current) issue that occupies public opinion, and attempts to address it in depth, analyze its causes and predict its consequences. The disadvantage to this type of film is that events may change dramatically on the ground after production, which will render the film contradictory to reality. For example, if a director released a film about the revolution of the Libyan people against the leader Muammar Gaddafi, and new developments occurred, then this would result in people losing interest and trust in the director. In this context, dozens of films were made about the events of September 11 immediately after the incident, and when compared to documentaries that were produced several years later, displayed the vast difference between the depth, accuracy and comprehensiveness between the films.

It is important to mention that these types of film require a certain amount of investigative journalism in accordance with the nature of the topic, the objective, and the target audience. An example of this type is ‘Film series: Top Secret’ produced by Al Jazeera.

d. Scientific, educational or awareness films: This type of films adopts the educational method of suspense in conveying information as it considers that the audience have minimal knowledge on the subject. Therefore, the director attempts to present these concepts in an engaging and educational way. Graphics usually play an important role in clarifying and explaining some of the contents of these films. An example is ‘Secrets of Child Development –Children Growth Secrets’.

iii) Classification of Documentaries According to the Structure

This classification focuses on the structure of the film, and can be divided as follows:

a. Constructivism based on scenes, the sequence-driven: Films falling under this category are shot with interviews or voices, rather the film is constructed within the context of the shots and scenes.

b. Constructivism based on personality, the character-driven: The film is built on one character, or perhaps several characters who share one issue. The characters voices are used but a narrator’s voice is not necessarily applied.

c. Constructivism based on the novel (audio commentary); The narration – driven: This is the classic style used in documentaries and includes a narrator to clarify certain portions of the film. Yousry Fouda is considered one of the best commentators in Arab documentaries.

d. Constructivism depending on the broadcaster, The Hosted Documentaries: These types of documentaries have a presenter on-screen and is usually an expert in the subject of the film, adding value to the film. An example of this type of documentary is ‘The BBC in the natural environment’.

e. **Constructivism based on personal reflective vision, The Personal Reflexive documents**: This type of film is from the director's point of view, so it may be accompanied by the director's voice and sometimes the director may appear. An example of this kind of film is an anti-Semitism movie or 'Super-Size Me'.

To conclude, several genres may overlap in a single film based on the content, treatment, and construction.

4.5. Documentary Film Making

Documentary films are directed based on basic stages, which are:

4.5.1. Scenario Building

The stages of scenario building are embodied in the questions that must be considered, namely:

- What do I choose?
- Why do I choose?
- How do I choose?
- How will I be treated?
- Whom will I show?
- When will I show?
- How will I display?

The stages of scenario building begin with the idea, which is one of the most difficult stages, and it must answer the following set of questions:

- Why this idea?
- Is this idea real? Or is it renewed?
- Will the film be produced and then stored away?
- Is my thought influential?
- How do I make it effective?
- How many are they?

Upon answering the questions, the next stage requires the goal to be defined and for data collection through documents, photos, meetings, and other sources. The director then develops the direction in which the information will be addressed, by using his culture, and the extent of his interest and knowledge of the subject (StarTimes, 2012). It must be noted that excess information does not necessarily lead to a successful movie, rather it is the focus of the topic that is the determining factor. Additionally, the feasibility of achieving the purpose of the film must be determined.

The information processing stage is crucial when developing the documentary film because the director's level and his abilities for professional processing determine the feasibility of achieving the goal of the film. The director should also aim to incorporate creativity and content enhancement through other materials that support the goal of the film but without distorting the facts.

4.5.2. Coordination Stage

The coordination stage is where the film montage initiates and is assembled according to the sequence and construction desired and with respect to the goal of the film.

The composite method is a technique that ignores the order of the scenes and instead relies on the director's ability to create by concentrating only on a particular aspect of the action or on what is developing in front of him as he is filming or documenting. Most films use both composite and montage methods simultaneously to achieve the goal of the film. Montage remains one of the most important means to give the film the privacy and the shape that the film maker wants, and it shows the nature of the speech is direct or indirect, and indicates what effect this film will if it is strong or soft.

4.5.3. Comment

Commentary is one of the elements that are added to the documentary material in most films and is used to either fill the void that the viewer may leave or to enrich the film with additional content. It is essential that the commentator is not satisfied with describing what the image presents, but rather present what the clips cannot display. The combination of image and comments along with the right language and audio are

main factors regarding commentary. However, fewer comments are preferred in the field of cinema.

Cinema is the language of images rather than sound; however, the latter remains crucial to manipulate the effects of the image. The following are features of comments:

- The comment must provide additional information that the image cannot.
- Commentary should focus on something the picture cannot convey.
- The comment must be not naïve.
- The comment must not repeat something that the picture has shown, or it should explain the flow of what is happening in the picture in the act.

4.6. Prior Thinking of the Montage Structure in the Documentary Film

Many works might be produced on the same subject depending on their depth, emotional, and intellectual values. It depends on the goal of the filmmaker, who may only desire to record and explain the event, or to give a personal interpretation of the theme. Ultimately, the filmmaker uses the goal to present a subjective vision of the subject, thus creating either a descriptive or an analytical work that pushes the viewer to meditate and think.

In the first stage of montage, only process of cutting and pasting is done. However, in the second stage, known as the analytical case, the director uses creativity to develop the story and present it in its desired form. Each director has their own preference and disagree often with other methods.

4.6.1. There Are Two Techniques Used by Documentary Filmmakers

i) **Analytical Method:** Through it, the director installs clips that consider the continuity of the event and its flow in the structure of time and place. This flow results in a perceptual level for the viewer, and this method is used by most directors.

ii) **Combined Method:** In this method there is creativity, as the director does not consider the continuity of the event or the chronology. In many cases, it is characterized by deficiency, as it depends on the selection of parts of the situation or the event.

Each of these methods elicits a different effect in terms of understanding of the viewer, as each of them serves certain goals. The film maker consciously mixes between these two methods in building his film based on predetermined goals.

Therefore, montage is a means by which the director can influence the film, thus his leadership in describing the event soft, or show the film in an intense, elaborate, presentation (Ayal Dubai, n.d.).

4.7. Elements of Building the Scene in the Documentary Film

The directors agree on three important elements of scene-building in the documentary and are defined in attention, sequencing, and neutrality.

First: Directing attention is determined by the fact that reality is multifaceted, and we have to define or direct the viewer’s attention towards the idea of the movie without distracting his thinking. By directing his attention towards something he loves or by creating a conflict, that conflict reaches a climax and then the resolution.

Second: The sequence element is by moving from the general shots, which are the constituent shots, to the narrower shots. Through this process, an arrangement or construction of shots is created within a logical sequence that is not stressful for the viewer, leading to an understanding of the subject according to the laws of dramatic construction with the help of reality that achieves for us the continuity of the flowing action.

Third: Dealing with the documentary film is dealing with reality, and therefore the film's credibility stems from its being impartial in presenting reality. There are many documentaries that are not neutral and do not deserve respect or appreciation, as they do not touch reality and do not convey it honestly and objectively. It is true that

conveying the reality in all its details is a very difficult and sometimes impossible matter, but what is required in the first place is respect for the reality, not distorting it, and conveying it with impartiality and honesty.

4.8. Characteristics of Documentary Films

Grierson distinguished the documentary, and confined it to the following rules:

- Distinguishing between description and drama, i.e., the distinction between style that is limited to merely describing the superficial values of the subject and the style that effectively reveals the subtleties of matters.
- The documentary and its material are derived from the reality of the place (in which the filming takes place) and from the reality of life (the real and not fabricated roles of people).
- Choosing and organizing material derived from real life, arranging, and presenting it to the recipient in an artistic way that reflects the film director's point of view. This will enable reaching a creative treatment of reality and presenting the communicator's vision on a specific topic to a target audience approved, such as relying on reality and truth.
- It does not aim for material profit, but rather is concerned with achieving educational and cultural goals or preserving heritage and history. It usually addresses a particular class or group of audience and is characterized by seriousness and depth of study.

4.9. The Difference Between a Feature Film and a Documentary Film

While fact cannot be surpassed in documentaries, the imagined world can occasionally outweigh reality in feature films. However, the documentary film has a greater capacity than the feature film for swaying and influencing public opinion.

A documentary's length is not necessarily a defining quality of this kind of movie; it might vary. This is comparable to feature films, where length can also change based on the story's theme and the director's method. Whether it is a fictional, factual, or other form of film, the technique of treatment determines how long it will be (Munis, 2006).

4.9.1. TV Documentary Film

Today, the television documentary film dominates over its cinema counterpart, as the latter is the reference in documentary cinema through its great commitment to the rules of documentary film. However, it is declining due to the wave of films and documentary series directed to television broadcasting. This decline is due to the strength of television documentary production companies such as BBC and National Geographic. Additionally, the weakness of cinematic documentaries in reaching the viewer through huge productions that attracts viewers is another contributing factor. On the other hand, television films have come to the fore with their production strength, the variety of materials they treat, as well as the very high technologies that these films have used. Among recent examples of these films that achieved a very high following volume are Frozen planet 2011, co-produced by BBC and Discovery channel, ZDF, and several companies from all over the world (including Human planet, Apocalypse, World War II, and Planet Earth).[4]

Every artistic practice requires a classification of its types to facilitate its study, reconstruction, and differentiation from similar ones. Although documentary production is a creative human art, it should not be limited to specific types. However, categorizing documentaries and analyzing their differences in treatment, content and form allows students and practitioners to select the suitable type for their documentary.

4.9.2. The Importance of Documentaries

Film documents have several advantages, the most important of which are:

- It is used to have an educational effect on the target audience.
- It plays a role in modifying and changing people of their social and moral values.
- It enriches an individual's culture.
- Transfer of ideas and customs between different peoples.
- Awareness.

[4]Documentary image website, previous reference:
http://www.docupicture.com/2011/08/documentaries-types/

• Documenting the stages in each year and the characteristics of each era.

4.10. Uses of Documentary

Documentaries can be used for the following purposes:

i) For scientific purposes: Presenting scientific documentary material such as history, biology, physics, medicine, among others.

ii) For cultural purposes enriches the culture of the individual.

iii) Documentation of specific events. [5]

4.10.1. What Comes Out of the Documentary?

Understanding the contents of a documentary can be challenging, especially with the overlapping of films. One of the best resources on this topic is Barry Hamp' book 'Making Documentary Films and Videos', which will be summarized in the following paragraphs.

There are four film forms that Hamp asserts are not documentaries, and they are:

i) T**he Documentary Drama (Docudramas):** They are films that are represented based on historical events, or personal lives, so that actors are used, and an entire script is formulated from the dramatic plot. Therefore, Hamp considers this as a type of non-documentary, because he is sometimes subjected to distorting the course of the historical or personal incident to suit the dramatic plot, as Hamp expresses it as a "dramatic need."

The difference between documentary drama and documentaries is one of quality, not content. Documentary drama is an important and influential model, but it is not classified as documentary. Instead, it is considered a work of fiction (dramatic film). Therefore, documentary dramas are ultimately classified as fiction. For

[5]Documentary image website, previous reference: http://www.docupicture.com/2011/05/what-is-the-doc-film/

example, the famous film "Omar Mukhtar: The Lion of the Desert" (1981) is based on a personal biography and real historical events but dramatized to fit the plot.

Another example is the film "Munich" (2005), which depicts the story of a historical event that took place during the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich. A group of armed Palestinians killed members of the Israeli delegation; an event known as Black September. The creation of a documentary drama requires adaptation to the circumstances of the scenario, shooting, budget, etc. For this reason, drama-documentaries are not usually classified by Hamp as documentaries.

The use of re-enactments in documentaries, especially in the representation of events or emotions, does not reduce the quality of the documentary. For example, while making a film about the floods in Jeddah in 2009 and 2011, a film director would naturally look for archive footage of the floods, people drowning and rescue operations. However, to produce the film in a documentary style, the film director might choose to follow a family affected by the floods. Additionally, the viewer might need additional explanation on the extent of the fear and terror that this family experienced during the flood. Thus, the scene may need to be reenacted to best represent the flood and the horrors caused by it.

An unusable room can be located and furnished with furniture and other items. Then the scene shows the children from inside the room watching from the window (archive exterior shots: for example, cars swept away by torrents), and use a water source to symbolically pour water into the room, visualize the movement of the furniture, and depict the children's reaction as they feel the water level rising in the room. Then another shot of the wife picking up the phone and calling her husband, and water dripping from the handset followed by a scene of the husband at work, who is shocked and afraid for his family and seems confused.

To add more effect, visual and sound effects can be used to depict the psychological state in which the families of the city of Jeddah were living during the torrent, along with the voice-over of a narrator or the main actor. This would

be classified as a partial representation of the floods, as characters were used to reenact the scenes.

A documented representation would include interviews with people affected by the flood, and real images of the effects of the floods. This is the re-creation of scenes, and it is used impressively and professionally in some documentaries such as (The Thin Blue Line 1988) by Errol Morris, in which he re-enacted the scene of the murder of a policeman while stopping a motorist's car in the middle of the night (Morris, 1988).

ii) **Reality TV:** Barry Hump emphasizes that reality TV shows are not documentaries either, and an example of this is 'Survivor' shown on CBS. Survivor is a show where a group of contestants compete in physical and mental competitions, to determine who remains last and ultimately wins a million dollars. Another example of reality TV is 'Man Vs. Wild' by Bear Grilles as he travels to diverse environments and adapts to challenging natural conditions, offering ideas for hunting and surviving dangers. Both programs are well arranged, which is why Barry Hump describes this type of program as not documentaries because it is produced in an "artificial environment". To elaborate, it does not reflect the fact that the presenter lives in the Sahara Desert in Africa and is trying to adapt to poor conditions, rather he came to the desert to simulate the life of the residents there. Thus, as Barry says, "Would these events happen [with the staff] if there was no camera?" The answer is no, so this type of program is not classified as documentaries.[6].

iii) **Documentary Advertising:** Here Barry Hamp draws attention to the way the documentary film is treated which may take it outside the framework of documentary films. Films that have propaganda (political, intellectual, sectarian, or other types of propaganda) presents only one side of the issue. According to Hamp, this is not considered "true" but rather one-sided, thus the director loses the opportunity to present the other opinion, and it is not considered a documentary.

[6]Documentary Film Blog website, previous reference: http://documenfilms.blogspot.com/2011/04/1923.html

For example, a documentary film producer wished to portray the extent to which a car company exploited the society's need for a car, so the prices were raised. He did not make any reference to these projects (service or charitable), but rather the entire film focused on the company's negativity to raise prices. The producer conducted interviews with customers and experts but did not provide an opportunity for representatives of the company itself to clarify its position. According to Hamp, the film is biased to one party which sis a radical insult to the concept of truth. Therefore, this film should not be described as a documentary, but rather a documentary propaganda film.

To clarify this point, if a producer wanted to produce a documentary film about the Commission for the Promotion of Virtue and the Prevention of Vice in Saudi Arabia - which has recently begun to be interested in producing short film clips to educate public opinion – and only mentioned its positives then it would be considered biased and not a documentary. However, if he desires to deal with this issue in a balanced manner, he mentions what some consider transgressions by the Authority, and interviews are given by both parties. This allows the authority an opportunity to justify its position or acknowledge their shortcomings, and in the end the final judgment remains on the viewer. The researcher agrees with Hamp that the responsibility of truth in the documentary makes it imperative for the producer to be fair and courageous in displaying both sides of the issue.

iv) TV Journalism: Here, in brief, Barry Hamp points out in his book "Documentary Filmmaking" that television reports and reporting are also not a documentary film, because television reports are quick, instant, and superficial. Conversely, documentaries delve into the depths, analyze and try to understand phenomena and causes and find proposals and solutions. Hamp compares the difference between television journalism and films and describes documentary as the difference between an article and a book.[7]

[7]Documentary Film Blog website, previous reference: http://documenfilms.blogspot.com/2011/04/1923.html

The phrase “Through this film, series or play I wanted to convey a message” holds great value. This indicates that the goal of each film is to convey a specific message that reflects a social and religious situation the one hand and enlightens the viewer's mind and educates him about many issues on the other hand. Similarly, documentaries reflect different phenomena of society and sheds light on a particular issue, meanwhile the people of the event are its heroes and revolves in the same place of the event. Silence in some scenes is often the truest expression of any other dialogue or long written script. Hence, the director of the documentary film is often its writer, and with his directorial vision and his written vision, he embodies the state of this or that society and any other issue. Despite the importance of documentaries, we do not forget that this field sometimes suffers from the lack of production of such films and the lack of faith and interest of some people.

CHAPTER V

THE WAR ON GAZA STRIP

5.1. Introduction

On December 27, 2008, at approximately 11:24 pm, Israeli forces launched an attack on the Gaza Strip, to claim the lives of thousands of innocent people. A large-scale aerial bombardment of 40 security and police headquarters, public, and government buildings throughout the Strip, which led to the killing of 355 civilians, making this day the bloodiest day in the history of the Israeli occupation. The attacks continued for 23 days, which ended with the announcement of a unilateral Israeli ceasefire, on the evening of Sunday, January 18, 2009.

In its aggression on the Gaza Strip, the forces of the Israeli military occupation state used the most powerful air, land, and sea war machines, as well as internationally prohibited weapons. This resulted in the killing of 1,359 Palestinian citizens, the vast majority of whom were civilians, among them 244 children, 203 women, and thousands injured.

The Israeli aggression also left extensive destruction in many governorates of the Gaza Strip, as documented by the Al-Dameer Foundation for Human Rights in 2011. Furthermore, the governorates held the largest share in the number of cases of targeting of civilian objects and property. 781 cases of destruction were recorded in Gaza Strip, 707 cases of destruction were recorded in northern Gaza Strip, 404 cases of destruction were recorded in Khan Yunis and Rafah, and 119 cases of destruction were recorded in the central governate[8].

The forces of the Israeli military occupation state systematically destroyed all basic and service facilities in the Gaza Strip, which made the civilian population in the Gaza Strip live in an unprecedented state of deteriorating humanitarian conditions. Supplies

[8] Addameer for Human Rights, the first anniversary of the war on the Gaza Strip, annual report, http://arabicweb.aldameer.org

of food, fuel, and fuel, and a shortage of basic foodstuffs were documented. The siege also deprived hospitals of supplies of medicines and medical supplies, electricity, and potable water.

The war on Gaza exposed the progress of Israeli military operations in expanding their occupation on Palestine. In addition, it revealed to the Arab and international world the impact of the war on the psychological, economic, health, and social conditions in the territories of the Palestinian Authority and its people. It also depicted the management of the crisis by the governmental authority and the Palestinian national and Islamic factions.

5.2. Gaza Strip

The Gaza Strip is in the southern region of the Palestinian coast on the Mediterranean Sea. It is in the form of a narrow strip in the northeast of the Sinai Peninsula, which constitutes approximately 1.33% of the area of historical Palestine (from the Jordan River to the Mediterranean Sea). The sector extends over an area of 360 km2, its length is forty-one km, and its width varies between five to 15 km. The Gaza Strip borders Israel to the north and east, while Egypt borders it to the southwest.

The Gaza Strip was an integral part of the area of the British Mandate over Palestine until its abolition in May 1948. In the plan to partition Palestine, the Strip was among the promised lands of the Palestinian Arab state, but this plan was never implemented, and lost its validity following the repercussions of the 1948 war. Between 1948 and 1956 the sector was subjected to Egyptian military rule, and then the Israeli army occupied it for 5 months in an attack on Egypt that was part of the military operations related to the Suez Crisis. In March 1957 the Israeli army withdrew and Egypt renewed military rule over the Strip. In the 1967 war, the Israeli army occupied the Gaza Strip again along with the Sinai Peninsula. In 1982, Israel completed its withdrawal from the Sinai under the Egyptian-Israeli peace treaty, but the Strip remained under Israeli military rule, as Egypt preferred not to renew its authority over it.

The Palestinian National Authority entered some of its areas after the signing of the Oslo Accords in 1993, and in February 2005, the Israeli government voted to implement Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's plan for unilateral withdrawal from

the Gaza Strip and the removal of all Israeli settlements, settlers and military bases from the Strip, and the process was completed. On September 12, 2005, it announced the end of military rule in Gaza Strip.

Gaza Strip, along with the West Bank, constitutes the nucleus of the promised Palestinian state, which the Palestinian Authority has been negotiating to establish for more than 15 years, and which were occupied by Israel on June 5, 1967.

The city of Gaza alone includes 400,000 people, and most of the residents of the Strip are 1948 refugees. The Strip includes several refugee camps, most notably Rafah, Khan Yunis, Deir al-Balah, Nusairat, al-Shati, al-Maghazi, al-Bureij and Jabalia.

There are 44 localities in it, the most important of which are Gaza, Rafah, Khan Yunis, Bani Suhaila, Khuza'a, Abasan Al-Kabirah, Abasan Al-Jadida, Deir Al-Balah, Beit Lahia, Beit Hanoun and Jabalia. The sector is considered one of the most densely populated areas in the world. The density, according to recent figures, is 26,000 inhabitants per square kilometer, while in the camps; the population density is approximately 55,000 inhabitants per square kilometer (Palestinian Statistics Center, 2022).

Gaza Strip is surrounded by seven crossings, six of which are under the control of Israel, and the only crossing recently outside the control of the occupation is the Rafah crossing. Each of the first six crossings has two names, one Arab and the other Israeli.

The seven Gaza crossings are the Rafah Crossing, the Al-Mentar Crossing (Karni), the Kerem Shalom Crossing (Kerem Shalom), the Beit Hanoun Crossing (Erez), the Return Crossing (Sofa), the Shujaiya Crossing (Nahal Oz) and the Qarara Crossing (Kissoufim). The first is located on the border between the Gaza Strip and Egypt, and the other six are between Gaza and Israel.

5.2.1. Gaza Strip Between the Year 1948-2009

Until 1948, the date of the declaration of the establishment of Israel, the Gaza Strip was under the authority of the British Mandate over Palestine, until the sector was

subjected to Egyptian military rule between the year 1948-1956. The Israeli army then occupied it for five months during the tripartite aggression against Egypt in 1956 until March 1957, returning the sector again under Egyptian rule. In the 1967 war, the Israeli army occupied the Gaza Strip again with the Sinai Peninsula and the Golan Heights and remained under direct Israeli military occupation until its withdrawal in September 2005. This included the evacuation of settlements that existed on Gaza land, and the Strip had become self-governing under the Oslo agreement, which was signed by the Palestine Liberation Organization and Israel in 1993.

5.2.2. Political Life in Gaza Strip

Hamas took control of the Gaza Strip on June 14, 2007, and Gaza, which was under tight siege, came under a comprehensive Israeli attack in the last days of 2008.[9] Between December 27, 2008 to January 17, 2009, the Israeli state waged an extremely violent war on the Gaza Strip. The war on Gaza is considered one of the most prominent developments in the Arab-Israeli conflict, both politically and militarily.

As soon as the war ended, its results had left tangible effects on the Palestinian and Arab regional political situation, and international movements in the Middle East. The war revealed once again the limits of the Israeli army in dealing with an irregular military force, based on a strong and broad popular incubator. The war also reaffirmed the impact that Arab and international public opinion could have on the course of the conflict over Palestine (Safi, 2011).

5.2.3. Prelude to the War on Gaza Strip

On June 25, 2006, a cell of the Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades entered Israel through a tunnel and attacked an Israeli armored force that was monitoring the border, killing two soldiers and wounding others. The Palestinian group arrested one of the soldiers, "Gilad Shalit", and transferred him to the Gaza Strip, where they imprisoned him, demanding the release of some Palestinian prisoners in Israeli prisons in exchange for his liberation. In response to the attack, large forces of the Israeli army entered the

[9] Al-Jazeera website - news http://www.aljazeera.net/news/pages/4050050b-db19-4fc2-bb53-06c38bc2c9ca

Gaza Strip, and the Israeli Air Force bombed several sites throughout the Strip, most notably the Gaza Electricity Company, affecting Gaza Strip citizens until now.

On November 26, 2006, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert agreed to a ceasefire and the withdrawal of the Israeli army from the Gaza Strip without liberating Gilad Shalit. In the following months, the internal conflict between Hamas and Fatah supporters in the Gaza Strip escalated, and armed clashes escalated between the two sides, ending with Hamas taking control of the Gaza Strip. In response, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas announced the dissolution of the Palestinian government headed by Ismail Haniyeh of Hamas and the appointment of an emergency government headed by Salam Fayyad. However, Hamas rejected the decision and insisted on the legitimacy of the Ismail Haniyeh government, which still rules the Gaza Strip until now, and from here, Gaza and the West Bank became independent from the other government (Al-Jabali, 2009, p. 12).

5.2.4. The Siege on Gaza Strip

The Gaza Strip has been subject to a suffocating siege imposed by Israel since the Hamas movement took control of the Strip in the summer of 2007. It includes preventing or rationing the entry of fuel, building materials and many basic commodities, as well as prohibiting fishing in the depths of the sea. Unemployment reached 80% to become the highest unemployment rate in the world, in addition to a severe shortage of medicines and all medical materials, and inability of patients to travel overseas for treatment. This resulted in the death of about 400 patients in 9 months. Furthermore, construction was completely disrupted, as more than 4100 houses and apartments were destroyed in the war on Gaza.

The people of Gaza have devised a method of digging underground tunnels that extend from the city of Rafah in the southern Gaza Strip to the neighboring Egyptian city of Rafah, through which goods, food and fuel are brought in, in addition to some building materials, but at exorbitantly high prices.

5.2.5. Electricity Crisis

Due to the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip and Israel's failure to allow enough fuel to enter, power outages occurred during which electricity was cut for periods of over 12 hours a day and until the complete shutdown of the Gaza power station. Disputes over the collection of electricity bills prompted the citizens to rely on generators and equipment UBS and what is known as 'Lids'. The power outage affects aspects of life in Gaza in terms of its contact with the outside world, food spoilage and material losses to stakeholders and shops.

5.2.6. Rafah Crossing

The Rafah crossing is located on the Egyptian border with the Gaza Strip and is the only land crossing that allows Palestinians to leave the Gaza Strip to Egypt. It was fully under the administration of Israel until its withdrawal, where it was handed over to the Palestinian National Authority with the presence of European observers, as stipulated by Israel. After the power struggle between Fatah and Hamas, the security forces of Hamas took over. Problems then emerged between Hamas and Egypt due to the latter's rejection of the result of Hamas' move against the Palestinian National Authority, as well as its rejection of the existence of tunnels that threaten Egyptian national security, as claimed by the Egyptian leadership. The crossing was partially closed and opened two days a week, after a siege-breaking ship carried out by private European institutions resulted in the killing of 9 Turks by the Israeli occupation army (Wikipedia, n.d.).

5.2.7. Signs of War on Gaza Strip

It can be argued that the Israeli government has begun preparing for the possibility of war on Gaza since the entry into force of the last truce in June 2008, including setting up a large media and public relations apparatus to prepare Western public opinion for a war against the "terrorist" Hamas government in the Gaza Strip. However, there are major circumstances that paved the way for the outbreak of war.

Hamas' refusal to renew the truce on December 19 under Israeli conditions, and the firing of rockets and mortar shells from the Gaza Strip, in response to the Israeli incursions and attacks, constituted a real challenge to the Jewish state, its sovereignty, role and position in the region. The first role of any state is to provide security for its people, and although the Palestinian rockets and missiles did not cause tangible loss of life, they were a real challenge to the vision of the Israeli state for itself and its role.

The Israeli leadership believed that the Gaza Strip would not be a difficult target, and that the war on the Strip would contribute to restoring the Israeli deterrence capacity. It had been undermined during the years after the withdrawal from southern Lebanon in the spring of 2000, especially after the Israeli military failure in the summer of 2006.

5.3. Concerning the Circumstances Provided by the Failure of the Palestinian National Dialogue

The Israeli leadership saw that Hamas and Islamic Jihad refused to join the Palestinian national dialogue in Cairo because of the conditions put forward by the Egyptian mediation. Some Arab countries intended to punish and subjugate Hamas, and thus enhance the chances of negotiating a final settlement under the auspices of the Obama administration.

5.4. Israeli Plans to Strike Iran

The Israelis had not yet taken a decision to launch a military strike on Iranian nuclear facilities, but they had to consider that such a strike in the future may trigger reactions from Hezbollah in Lebanon and the Palestinian resistance forces in the Gaza Strip. However, Palestinian resistance forces will need to think carefully before they respond to the expected Israeli attack on Iran (Safi, 2011).

It relates to the direct objective of the war, i.e., what is known as the military assignment. Neither the Israeli mini government nor the Israeli Ministry of Defense have clearly and unequivocally defined the military objective that the Southern Command of the Army was entrusted with achieving. The tasks involve bringing down the Hamas government in Gaza, opening the way for the return of the Ramallah

authority, returning to imposing a direct Israeli occupation on the Strip, or any other goal of war. As Clausewitz says: “It is politics by other means”, the ultimate politics of war.

The reoccupation of the Gaza Strip was not an Israeli goal, and it is not clear whether the Israeli leadership aimed to overthrow the Hamas government and hand the Gaza Strip over to the Ramallah administration. Furthermore, it is possible that the Israelis expected the painful blows to the resistance forces and the people to turn the population against the Hamas administration and undermine the morale of the Hamas leadership. This prompted it to present to Cairo its desire to abandon the unilateral rule and to welcome the return of the self-governing authority to the Strip. There is no doubt that the Israeli leadership aimed to inflict the largest possible losses on the resistance forces, in terms of people, armaments and equipment, and to punish the people of the Gaza Strip for their support of Hamas and its government.

5.5. The War on Gaza Strip

It can be said that the behavior of the main parties that played a direct or indirect role in this war, which are Israel, Hamas, Jihad and other resistance forces, the Palestinian Authority Palestine, Egypt and several other Arab countries, the United States and other international powers, has been characterized by major features during the three weeks of the war (Al-Houli, 2011).

5.5.1. The First Phase of the War (December 27, 2008)

The Israeli attack on the Gaza Strip began with raids targeting the headquarters and camps of the security services, and some of the headquarters of the Hamas and Jihad movements known to the Israelis. Subsequently, the attack escalated to all the headquarters of the government, mosques where Islamists are active or believed to be used as weapons stores, or rockets were fired from their neighborhoods or rooftops. The tunnel between the Gaza Strip and Egypt was also heavily bombed.

The raids began targeting a number of the homes of the resistance leaders, and succeeded in assassinating Nizar Rayan, one of the main Hamas leaders, who refused

to leave his house. Additionally, the Hamas leader and the Minister of the Interior of its government, Saeed Siyam was assassinated in a raid on the house of his brother who was visiting.

The Israeli attack developed during the first week of the war into limited ground incursions, with the aim of dismembering the Strip. In the same way, the attack concentrated in vacant areas around the main cities, especially Gaza City and the northern area of the Strip.

5.5.2. The Second Phase of the War (January 3, 2009)

The Israeli forces began incursions into the main population areas, with the aim of destroying military bases and resistance forces control centers and attracting the largest possible number of resistance fighters into an unequal confrontation. In these penetrations, the Israelis used jets and helicopters extensively.

To avoid the main roads that the resistance booby-trapped, the Israeli forces made their way through neighborhoods and houses, using heavy destruction equipment and building roads. The Israeli attacks led to heavy casualties among civilians, especially since the Gaza Strip is one of the most densely populated areas in the world, and to the displacement of tens of thousands of residents whose homes were destroyed (Ashraf Ibrahim Al-Jabali, 2009).

The Israelis succeeded in splitting the Gaza Strip at the Netzarim axis in half. They also succeeded in partially besieging Gaza City. In the last week of the war, they had made breakthroughs in Jabalia and Beit Lahia and in the eastern cities of Rafah and Khan Younis (the areas that the Israelis believed were the centers of rocket launch). Furhtmore, the Israeli armored units entered the Zaytoun and Tel al-Hawa neighborhoods and the outskirts of Sheikh Ajlin in Gaza City.

Although Tel al-Hawa is not far from the city center and its official centers, the Israeli forces did not advance further. Perhaps the reason behind that decision was the fear of heavy losses in the ranks of the Israeli army and among civilians, which would contribute to the upheaval of Israeli public opinion, and in the deepening and widening

of the global reaction. It could also be that full control of the city meant a prolonged occupation of the Strip, which the Israeli political leadership did not want to return to.

Given the ambiguity of the direct objectives of the military campaign, and the small losses in the ranks of the Israeli forces, the Israeli leadership could have declared a unilateral ceasefire, three weeks after the start of the campaign, and claimed victory. In fact, the tangible results of the military war did not indicate essential changes in the situation of the military or political sector context.

The Israeli mini government led most of the war's phases, both politically and militarily, the decision in the end was limited to the trio of Olmert, Livni, and Barak. The Israeli leadership decided to start the campaign before Obama took office in Washington, perhaps because it trusted the support of the Bush administration and did not want to surprise the new president with a war in the Middle East. Therefore, it is most likely that the campaign was originally planned to last for only a few weeks, and it is not true that the Israeli leadership was forced to cease fire to make room for the media to take over the new American president (Palestinian Ministry of Health, 2009).

Whatever the case, the Israelis made a major mistake during the preparation for the war, which was represented in the visit of Prime Minister Olmert, a few days before the start of the war, to the Turkish capital, Ankara. Discussions with the Turkish Prime Minister focused on progressing the Israeli-Syrian peace talks, in which Turkey plays a role mediator and host. When the war began, and the media began broadcasting scenes of casualties and destruction, the Turkish leadership saw that Olmert used his visit to Ankara to cover the war plan, which was considered a grave insult to the Turkish state. The irony is that the similar visit paid by Foreign Minister Livni to Cairo, just two days before the war, which Cairo announced on the situation in the Gaza Strip and Egyptian efforts to calm the situation, did not elicit similar reactions from the Egyptian government.

The Israeli government had formed many public relations teams, which were tasked with contacting all Western media and to present Israel’s justification for war. This was depicted as an option that the Jewish state was forced to make to defend its citizens against the missiles of the terrorist organizations that control the Gaza Strip. The

speech that the Israelis addressed to the people of the Gaza Strip did not differ. The Palestinians were told that the war they were exposed to was the result of the policies of Hamas, and that the Hebrew state was working to help the Palestinian Authority. Thus, Israeli officials called on the people of the Gaza Strip to overthrow the Hamas government. However, as soon as it became clear that the people of the Gaza Strip stood behind the resistance forces and against the aggression, and that no voice was issued to criticize Hamas, the Israeli discourse changed and became more blatant in its emphasis on bringing the Gaza Strip to its knees.

During Livni's visit to Paris on January 1, the Israelis refused to respond to French President Sarkozy's call to declare a temporary truce and to allow relief convoys and medical aid to pass through the Strip. Nonetheless, it is clear that the Israelis were reassured of the position of the main European countries, at least if the war did not last long. The Israelis, apparently surprised by the reaction of Arab and international public opinion, did quickly allow some medical aid to pass through from the Egyptian side. The Israeli Foreign Minister also announced its opposition to the presence of international monitoring forces in the Gaza Strip, just as the leadership of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other resistance forces announced its rejection of the presence of such forces.

The ambiguity that surrounded the direct objectives of the campaign against the Gaza Strip, also affected the Israeli political management of the course of the war. As soon as the Egyptian president announced the general outlines of the Egyptian initiative, the Israelis showed a willingness to deal with the initiative. This was done without specifying an explicit position, and whether they were waiting for the achievement of specific objectives, military objectives or through negotiations.

The Israeli government assigned Amos Gilad, the assistant defense minister for political affairs, to manage the negotiations with Cairo. However, as soon as the Egyptian move became clear, a dispute began among the members of the tripartite Israeli leadership over whether it was better for the Hebrew state to reach a long-term and open-ended truce agreement (Barak), or not to seek a truce agreement and keep the Gaza Strip under threat from the continuous Israeli response to every missile launch (Livni). However, the Israeli leadership did not give special importance to the

Egyptian negotiating effort, and there was no logical link between the Israeli decision to cease fire, which was announced unilaterally, and the results of the Egyptian mediation between Hamas and the Israeli negotiator. Within a month of the end of the war, and after great Egyptian efforts to reach a truce agreement with Hamas that satisfies the Israeli side, Olmert announced linking the negotiations on the truce with the release of the Israeli prisoner held by Hamas, implying his readiness to leave the file in its entirety to the next Israeli government. The Israelis turned to the United States and Europe to provide the political framework to stop the war.

Two days after the Hebrew state announced a ceasefire and began withdrawing from the Gaza Strip, the Israeli foreign minister and the US Secretary of State signed a protocol of understanding in Washington on January 19, in which the Bush administration pledged to work to prevent arms smuggling into the Gaza Strip. This agreement seemed to be the most important political achievement of the war (Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2022). Three days later, on January 22, a delegation of European leaders arrived in the Jewish state, on their second stop after Sharm el-Sheikh, where they stressed, for their part, to work to stop arms smuggling into the Strip, thus emphasizing on providing this political cover for the Israeli decision to cease fire and withdraw. Within a few days, European and American ships had begun to intercept suspected ships in the Mediterranean and Red Seas and had already stopped a Cypriot ship carrying Iranian light weapons. However, it is certain that the ship was not on its way to the Gaza Strip. It is also doubtful that a weapon had smuggled into the Strip by sea in the past.

The question about the legality of American or European ships intercepting other ships in international waters is certainly not a Palestinian affair, as the countries of the region are supposed to defend their sovereignty and the security of their sea lines. Numerous reports have indicated that the entry of weapons into the Strip across the border with Egypt continued after the end of the war, as it had been before.

In addition to the evidence that the Israeli leadership has considered, the possibility of a military strike on the Gaza Strip since the summer of 2008, at least, the war on the Gaza Strip was a relatively simple matter from a political point of view. The war is directed against a limited region, and against one political party, which lives under an

international siege and does not enjoy good relations with a significant number of Arab countries. It was, therefore, assumed that the Israeli political management of the war would be highly efficient and clear. But that was not the picture shown by the Israeli leadership of the war. Just as the objectives of the war were not specifically announced, it was not known why and on what grounds the Israeli leadership took the decision to end the war.

Throughout the weeks of the war and after the Israeli trio's relations were characterized by competition and disagreement. On the way, the image of the Hebrew state in the world had been shaken, its relations with Turkey had been deeply damaged, and its relations with Egypt had been marred by a degree of loss of confidence, and the Gaza Strip had restored Arab and popular solidarity with Palestine as it had not been for decades (Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, 2022).

5.5.3. Hamas and the Forces of Resistance

From the outset, the war called for an introspective comparison between the Gaza Strip's resistance to the campaign and Hezbollah's resistance in the 2006 war. However, it would be wrong to make comparisons between this war and the 2006 war. The only similarity between the two wars is the steadfastness of a small resistance force in the face of a heavily armed army and a superior military force.

However, the capabilities and efficiency of the resistance fighters in the Gaza Strip are much less than the capabilities and competencies of Hezbollah fighters. Moreover, the sector does not enjoy the direct strategic (Lebanese, Syrian-Iranian) depth that Hezbollah enjoyed. While Hezbollah fought in geographical terrain too difficult for the Israeli army, the resistance in the Gaza Strip fought in densely populated, civilian terrain.

Fighters of all factions demonstrated valiant resistance against the Israeli forces, especially in the northern Gaza Strip (Beit Lahia and Jabalia), which were the target of early Israeli ground incursions.

The attacks of the resistance units on the Israeli forces stationed in these areas continued until the end of the war. The neighborhoods east of Gaza City, in Zaytoun and Al-Tuffah, witnessed no less valiant resistance. In some locations, fighters continued for long days in underground trenches, surviving on little water and food, and waiting for an opportunity to attack armored vehicles or Israeli units The most prominent evidence of the resistance's steadfastness in retaining the ability to launch missiles, including Grad missiles, became apparent throughout the days of war and even hours after the cease-fire.

The resistance's military performance also witnessed shortcomings. Holding a police graduation ceremony on the day the war began, despite the increasing indications that the moment of the Israeli attack was approaching, was a grave mistake that allowed the Israelis to inflict heavy losses on the police forces and on many of the security forces. On the other hand, the resistance forces seemed surprised by the size and extent of the Israeli campaign, and many of the elements and units lost connection with the leadership. There was no coordination between the branches of the armed resistance forces, neither locally nor at a central level.

The aforementioned factors made the resistance lose the ability to adapt to the tactics used by the Israelis in the ground incursions when the Israeli forces avoided the booby-trapped streets and made their way through neighborhoods and through houses from several axes. The Israeli forces entered the Tel al-Hawa area, without tangible resistance from the fighters, and this is due to the forces' adoption of tactics that surprised the resistance. The tactics do not depend on the human element or high combat skills, but on the strength of weapons and the intensity of fire in the absence of any alternative to the resistance to confront it (Abu Zaida, 2010).

Hamas managed the political side of the battle almost single-handedly. Its leadership at home and abroad showed cunningness and toughness, supporting the alignment of the Jihad leadership and other organizations behind the line decided by Hamas. Mistakes were also committed, and the countdown to the war began with the failure of the Egyptian project for the Palestinian national dialogue in Cairo, after Hamas decided, backed by Jihad, to boycott the dialogue. However, the Hamas leadership never clarified the political grounds that prompted it to thwart the dialogue. Days

before the national dialogue on November 9, the deputy head of Hamas' political bureau, Dr. Musa Abu Marzouk suggested that the dialogue would be held on time, and that the remaining obstacles had been overcome by understanding with the Egyptian side. The failure of the dialogue in Cairo was a grave affront to Cairo, and directly contributed to the exposure of the Arab cover on the Gaza Strip.

As soon as the Israeli attack began, and in view of the atmosphere of mistrust and the signals issued about the negative Egyptian position, Hamas' main concern became that Cairo multilaterally leads the political movement and negotiations to stop the war, and that Turkey be a full partner in the negotiations. Hamas refrained from sending a negotiating delegation to Cairo until January 5, despite Cairo's desire for such a delegation to arrive. However, as soon as contacts began between Hamas and Cairo, the Egyptians, with European and American support, succeeded in marginalizing the Turkish role and singling out the negotiating file.

In the third week of the war, and as soon as the Qatari call for an emergency Arab summit became clear and the Egyptian’s efforts in working to end the Israeli attack became clear, Hamas had a short opportunity to clearly define its position. After doing so, Hamas could withdraw from the negotiations and assign Egypt, Turkey, and Qatar to negotiate on behalf of the Palestinian side.

However, the slow decision-making process, and perhaps insufficient appreciation of the positive return of such a situation, missed the opportunity. Nonetheless, the Hamas leadership showed unmistakable resistance during the three weeks of war, whether before or after the start of negotiations in Cairo. The Hamas leadership at home and abroad took a clear and public position with determination to confront the Israeli attack, and they strengthened the confidence of the Palestinians and the Arab street in the rightness of the Palestinian position and the resistance's determination to stand firm. As soon as the negotiations began, Hamas refused to submit to the pressures of the attack and the heavy civilian casualties, and submitted detailed objections to the Egyptian proposals, regardless of how long the negotiations took.

Hamas and the other resistance forces rejected the proposal of the international forces, refused to agree to a long and indefinite truce and refused to accept the presence of a

buffer strip on the Palestinian side of the border with Egypt. Furthermore, Hamas refused to pledge not to smuggle weapons to the Strip and emphasized the link between the truce and the end of the siege.

Despite the alignment of Jihad and all the resistance organizations in the Gaza Strip and Damascus behind the Hamas leadership of the political movement, there was no permanent and detailed coordination between Hamas and its allies. Thus, Hamas was not able to establish a sense of partnership among the other organizations. It was possible to strengthen this variable and establish a partnership between Hamas, Jihad, the Popular Front, and other allied organizations. However, Hamas did not make a tangible effort in this direction.

Surprisingly, despite Hamas's need for its negotiating allies to stand up to Israeli and Arab pressures, it entered negotiations with the Egyptian side alone.

5.6. The Effect of the Gaza War on the Regional and International Arenas

5.6.1. The Presidency and Government in the West Bank

The war was a political disaster for the self-governing power. It is not clear whether there was complicity between some parties in the authority and the Israelis in preparing for the war, or during its three weeks.

The first voices issued by some authority figures during the first hours of the war sought to hold Hamas and not the Israel responsible for the war. However, the extent of the losses among the people, the steadfastness of the sector and the resistance, and the Arab and international reaction, prompted the authority to make an amendment to its discourse. The statements of President Abbas and those close to him became more explicit in their condemnation of the Hebrew state and calls for a Palestinian national dialogue and unification of the Palestinian ranks began.

Behind these calls, the Palestinian Authority did not hide its determination to prevent the expansion of popular movement in the West Bank. In some cases, the Ramallah government did not hesitate to order the police to confront protesters with tear gas.

The weakness of the popular movement and the absence of resistance solidarity in the West Bank showed the extent of the destruction inflicted by the Autonomous Authority on Palestinian society in the West Bank. This was made clear at the level of demilitarizing the West Bank, closing dozens of civil social institutions, and arresting hundreds of cadres of political and armed resistance organizations.

The emergence of Yasser Abed Rabbo as an expression of Abbas's position and the authority during the war, and the almost total absence of Fatah leaders from the political arena, also showed the extent of the marginalization by President Abbas of the role of the Fatah movement. This situation created deep bitterness in the ranks of Fatah leaders and cadres and strengthened the movement's tendencies to reach a serious reconciliation with Hamas.

The Palestinian Authority relied on Egyptian and European support to maintain its role during the war. Despite this, the Palestinian Authority made a miscalculation when it succumbed to Egyptian-Saudi pressure and refrained from going to the Doha summit. The Qatari position, by inviting Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and a group of Damascus organizations to attend the conference, dealt a major blow to the authority, which it had not considered.

On the other hand, the authority was reassured by the Egyptian position that the Rafah crossing should not be officially opened without returning to the crossing agreement, which stipulates the presence of European observers, administration, and security forces from the Palestinian Authority.

The Europeans and Americans' emphasis on, and the indications by some Arab countries of the moderate camp that the reconstruction of the Gaza Strip will not take place without the return of the authority to the Gaza Strip, re-emphasized the authority's position and role. This was one of the main reasons for re-launching the Palestinian national dialogue in Cairo at the end of February, although it was not the only reason.

5.6.2. Egypt and the Division of the Arab Position

The Arab camp of moderation began to deteriorate even before the outbreak of the war. Jordan began to show its apprehension about the ongoing negotiations between the Palestinian Authority and the Hebrew state for months, which led to the decline of Jordan's relationship with President Abbas.

Jordan opened a channel of communication with Hamas and showed muted joy at the failure of the Palestinian national dialogue in November. Additionally, Jordan was keen during the war to keep a distance between itself, Egypt, and Saudi Arabia. Oman did not blame Hamas, gave way to the popular protest movement, and sent rapid aid to the Strip. As Jordan's distance from the Egyptian and Saudi positions was limited, its role in the diplomatic movement was also limited. Soon, Jordan came under pressure and returned to the camp of Arab moderation in Abu Dhabi.

There are several factors that determined the Egyptian position on Hamas and its control over the Gaza Strip. Although Cairo opened early channels of communication with the Hamas and Islamic Jihad movements, the Islamist trends of these two movements do not appeal to the government in Egypt. In addition, Hamas is considered part of the Muslim Brotherhood. Despite the close relations between Hamas and Islamic Jihad, on the one hand, and Cairo, on the other, Cairo was not able to turn the Palestinian Islamists into a vassal. The official Egyptian apprehension of Hamas has become deeper in the past two years, given the close ties that bind Hamas to Tehran and Hezbollah, and the great support Tehran has provided to the Hamas government in Gaza since the movement's control of the Strip. Additionally, it is seen in Cairo that Hamas is on the Syrian side of the camp of Arab divisions.

Due to the United States and the European bloc’s view of Hamas an obstacle in the way of the peace process, the Egyptian policy is based on trying to weaken Hamas as much as possible, or remove it from the context of the peace process, or coerce it into accepting this process. For all this, the relationship between Cairo and Hamas has always been marred by doubts, and these suspicions became deeper after Hamas took control of the Gaza Strip in the summer of 2006 and turned into an undisputed rivalry after the failure of the national dialogue in November 2008 (Voice of Al-Aqsa Radio).

As with the position of the Palestinian Authority, the first statements of the Egyptian and Saudi foreign ministers blamed Hamas for the war. Perhaps both Cairo and Riyadh were waiting for a moral collapse of the Hamas leadership in the Gaza Strip, and consequently the collapse of the Hamas government in the Strip. However, the two countries quickly reset their positions after the launch of the popular solidarity movement, and the sector's determination to stand firm became clear. Despite the early visit of the Egyptian Foreign Minister to Ankara, and what seemed to be an encouragement from Cairo for Turkey to contribute to the negotiating effort, Cairo's goal remained to preserve the Palestinian file in the official Egyptian hand. Therefore, the Egyptian officials did not allow the Turkish negotiator to have an active role in determining the issues of negotiation with Hamas or to be a full partner in the negotiations.

The most important factor in the Egyptian role is that it did not depart from the role of mediator between the Hebrew state and Hamas, except in President Mubarak’s speech, which directed a direct condemnation of the Hebrew state. Additionally, Cairo did not hide its angry rejection of the Israeli-American protocol. The Egyptian position on the Rafah crossing was widely condemned. Although the Egyptian position on the crossing (since the Gaza Strip is an occupied area) remained the same, the crossing was opened for humanitarian aid and the exit of the wounded throughout most of the war. There is no doubt that Cairo sensed the great burden of the war on Egyptian politics and the image of this policy in front of public opinion in Egypt and the Arab world, which prompted the Egyptian leadership to try to formulate an initiative to end the Israeli attack and address the Palestinian division since the early days of the war.

However, the Egyptian initiative was not announced in its general outlines except in the joint press conference between Presidents Mubarak and Sarkozy on January 7th. During the following weeks, with explicit European support, and less explicit American support, the Egyptian initiative retained the framework that preserved Cairo's role as a reference for negotiations to exit the war. This resulted in attempts to end the Palestinian division, providing President Abbas with a national mandate to continue peace negotiations. The initiative included three basic elements: a cease-fire, an agreement on a long armistice, and a Palestinian national reconciliation. Despite the lack of a written formula for the initiative, it was understood when it was launched

that the three elements reflect a successive negotiating move in time. It further concluded that the lifting of the siege on the Gaza Strip, including the opening of the Rafah crossing, is conditional on progress in the political negotiation move to an end. The second goal of Cairo during the war was to fully control the Arab movement. Given that the Egyptian-Saudi position was working to not escalate the Arab political position, and that the General Secretariat of the Arab League realized the limits of the Egyptian-Saudi position, this position had a negative and severe impact on the image of the League and its credibility with Arab public opinion.

Egypt and Saudi Arabia resisted all early calls (Qatar, Syria, Yemen) for an urgent Arab summit. The Arab League Council did not meet at the level of foreign ministers until the end of the first week of the war, January 1. The meeting of the ministers was marked by sharp differences, and only a weak statement resulted in the Arab regime's intention to resort to the Security Council. However, the most prominent challenge to the so-called Arab moderation camp came from Qatar's insistence in the third week of the war to hold an urgent summit, supported by sweeping Arab public opinion.

Egypt and Saudi Arabia agreed to hold the emergency summit, under the pretext of convening an Arab economic summit originally scheduled in Kuwait within days. However, Qatar and its supporters argued that it was inappropriate or serious to discuss the war on Gaza on the sidelines of the economic summit. During the two days preceding the summit on January 16, Saudi Arabia, and Egypt worked to prevent a quorum in Doha. They also forced the Secretary-General of the Arab League and Palestinian President Abbas not to attend the Doha summit. The Qataris took a huge and unprecedented decision when they insisted on holding the summit with attended, and when they invited the Palestinian opposition organizations to represent Palestine at the summit and gave Khaled Meshaal the keynote speech in the opening session.

In terms of results, the Doha summit may not have contributed to ending the war, and its most prominent decisions were the closure of the Israeli embassy in Mauritania and the economic office in Doha. But the summit provided conclusive evidence that the Egyptian-Saudi position does not control the official Arab decision, not even the decision of all moderate countries, and that there is a remnant in the Arab system that

can rise to the level of public opinion. Doha also provided the Palestinian resistance forces with a legitimate window that had not been opened for them before.

The Arab division that became apparent in the Doha conference re-emerged at the Kuwait Economic Summit, where President Mubarak sharply and angrily defended the Egyptian position, and President Abbas tried to match the Egyptian position. This provided him with an umbrella and refuge throughout the weeks of the war. Additionally, King Abdullah surprised the conference with a conciliatory speech, in which he called for an end to Arab disputes. However, the statement of the Kuwait conference regarding the war did not differ much from the Egyptian-Saudi position, which raised deep doubts about the true intentions behind the conciliatory Saudi discourse (Voice of Al-Aqsa Radio). There is no doubt that the war posed a challenge to all Arab parties, the so-called moderates, and reluctances, and that all parties met in the last week of the war with the goal of putting an end to the Israeli campaign.

The problem was that Egypt and Saudi Arabia did not realize that their policies of avoiding confrontation with the American policy, and avoiding escalation with the Hebrew state, led to the perversion of Arab interests. Furthermore, it affected the state of fragmentation in the official Arab system, and to most of its countries' underestimation of the role of Cairo and Riyadh, and even to the stumbling of the peace path that they wanted Cairo and Riyadh to progress to.

Behind all this was an undisputed development that the war left behind, which was that Cairo and Riyadh's endeavor to bring Syria to its knees, and bring Hamas back to the house of obedience, is no longer possible, neither in real political scales nor in the immediate political time. Syria's allies in the region are steadfast in wars, and regional, and international windows are opening in succession on Damascus. Furthermore, American, and European signals are waving a more realistic policy in dealing with the Palestinian political map.

5.7. Iran and Turkey

Among the non-Arab regional powers, the war indicated that Turkey and Iran as well as any of the major Arab states are implicated. Iran was considered the main regional

ally of Hamas, and it is a major source of financial support for the Hamas government in Gaza. It also constitutes, directly or through Hezbollah, a source of military support for Hamas and Islamic Jihad. But the Iranians have seen since the beginning of the war that there are limits to their interference in its military and political processes. Although the Egyptian position on the Rafah crossing was blatantly attacked by the leader of Hezbollah, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the Iranian discourse on the war avoided entering Arab controversy and disputes. Thus, he declared his confidence in the Palestinians' ability to defend themselves. However, the Iranian leadership was aware, in any case, that the movement of solidarity and popular protest, Arab and Islamic, the embarrassment of the Arab moderation countries, and the failure of the Israelis in the Gaza Strip, would also benefit it (Saeed, 2010).

Turkey has not been an ally of Hamas, although it has maintained calm relations with it since its success in the Palestinian elections. The Justice and Development government has always called on Washington and Western capitals to be open to Hamas and engage in dialogue with it, which has established a solid trust between the Turkish government and the Hamas leadership. Given Turkey's Western and Israeli relations, and its relations with various Arab countries, it was in a better position to play a prominent role in the political movements unleashed by the war. The scenes of the war from its first day aroused the anger and sadness of the Turkish Prime Minister, who was quick to denounce the Israeli position in uncompromising and unequivocal terms. Over the next few weeks, the Turkish position on the war lead to a crisis in Turkish-Israeli relations. However, the truth is that Erdogan's position did not differ much from a series of positions of his predecessors on the Palestinian issue, since 1967. To elaborate, it did not differ specifically from the description of the former Prime Minister, Bulent Ecevit, of the Israeli invasion of the West Bank in 2002 as a massacre.

The Turkish position on the war did not stem solely from the personal position of the Prime Minister. Since it took office in 2002, the Justice and Development government has pursued a foreign policy based on closer relations with the Arab and Islamic neighborhoods of Turkey, instead of limiting it to the Euro-American dimension of Turkish foreign policy. The new Turkish leaders were also keen on building parallel foreign economic relations. Turkey's foreign trade with European Union countries

dropped in 2008 to less than 50 percent of its foreign trade volume for the first time in decades. There is no doubt that Erdogan's government is aware of the central position of the Palestinian cause, on the Arab and Islamic levels. Turkish people of all backgrounds move throughout the country, in solidarity with the Palestinians.

In addition, the Turkish Prime Minister, whose government plays the role of mediator and host for the Israeli-Syrian negotiations, felt deceived and insulted, after he received the Israeli Prime Minister in Ankara. He was led to believe that the meeting was intended to discuss developing negotiations with Syria, four days before the start of the war. Within a few days of the outbreak of the war, the Turkish prime minister rushed on a tour that took him to several Arab capitals. The Turkish position was summed up by working for a quick halt to the Israeli campaign, exchanging the truce with the end of the siege on the Gaza Strip, and including Hamas in the political process.

Ankara also received the Egyptian Foreign Minister, on a visit described as insinuating an Egyptian request from Turkey to help in efforts to stop the war. The Hamas leadership in Damascus has expressed its welcome for Turkish mediation as well as Egyptian mediation. This was reflected in the arrival of the Turkish Prime Minister's Adviser for Foreign Affairs, Ahmet Davutoglu, to Cairo to participate in the Egyptian talks with the Hamas delegation. When it seemed that the first round of negotiations between Egyptian officials and the Hamas delegation which took place between January 5- to January 7 did not lead to a tangible result, Davutoglu left Cairo for Damascus to meet with the Hamas leadership and returned again to Cairo with new proposals.

However, there are enough indications that the Egyptian side was keen throughout the weeks of the war to exclude any effective role for Turkey, and to get rid of all Turkish proposals. The Egyptian position caused a decline in the level of confidence of Turkish officials in Cairo and necessitated President Mubarak's visit to Turkey after the end of the war, to restore relations to normal. Turkish cities witnessed a large-scale solidarity movement with the Palestinians in Gaza. Turkey also received a number of wounded Palestinians and sent medical and other in-kind aid to the Gaza Strip. Even the wife of

the Prime Minister contributed to the solidarity activity with the Gaza Strip by inviting several wives of Arab and Muslim leaders to a solidarity meeting in Istanbul.

Erdogan's government did not hesitate to send an official Turkish delegate to the Doha summit, despite its awareness of the Arab division over the summit. Despite the moral stances of Turkey, during the events in Gaza, which interpreted the bias of one party rather than the other, everyone is strongly sensitive to the importance and necessity of the continued existence of an intermediary force (Saeed, 2010).

The position of Erdogan's government produced widespread positive reactions in the Arab street and among the Arab unofficial political circles. As for official Arab circles, it may have called for a reconsideration of the perception of Arab moderation regimes that Turkey would be just a partner in confronting Iranian influence, especially since Ankara's stance on the war showed a great deal of independence from regional axes. Despite the negative reactions generated by the position of Erdogan's government in the Turkish secular circles and the circles supporting the Hebrew state, Erdogan received support from the army, which was reflected in the statement of the Turkish National Security Council. This raised concerns about the scale of the campaign on Gaza and the losses among Palestinian civilians.

Erdogan's sense of responsibility and duty towards the Palestinians in Gaza automatically turned into a political opportunity, and that his categorical condemnation of the Hebrew state would boost the chances of justice and development in the local elections scheduled for the end of March. Even in Washington, the Turkish position did not reflect negatively on the position of the Obama administration towards the Erdogan government, which implicates the importance of the Turkish role and position in the region. As for the Hebrew state, after expressions of bitterness and veiled threats, Israel rushed to try to absorb Turkish anger and overcome the crisis. The Turkish position on the war, in short, reflected a Turkish sense of self-confidence, and an awareness of the cards Turkey possesses. Additionally, it showed what is most useful for Turkish national interests and the strategy of political and economic openness to the Arab and Islamic neighborhood (Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, n.d.).

5.8. International Powers

The Hebrew state received clear support since the beginning of the war from the Bush administration, which was probably aware of the Israeli operation and its extent in advance.

The Bush administration remained supportive of the Israeli position until the end. The US Secretary of State abstained from voting on the draft Security Council resolution, which had been amended at her request, calling for a cease-fire. Rice also signed a protocol of understanding with Livni, obligating the United States to work to prevent arms smuggling into the Gaza Strip. This agreement was presented to the Israeli public opinion as the most important achievement of the political war.

The Obama administration, which took over the White House immediately after declaring the cease-fire, was keen to keep a distance between it and the Israeli position, despite not condemning the war. This indicates that Obama wanted to keep his options open beyond the war.

Unlike Germany, which adhered to a clear position in its support for the Hebrew state, the European position was less explicit in its support for the war. Indeed, officials from the ruling Socialist Party in Spain participated in the protests.

The British Foreign Secretary stated in the House of Commons for an investigation into the accusations levelled against the Hebrew state about the usage of prohibited weapons. This was in attempt to accommodate the British public opinion, and not to repeat Blair's blind subordination to Washington in 2006. As the Bush administration, in its last hours, was not able to allow it to move actively diplomatically, French President Sarkozy tried to seize the opportunity by asserting his position as one of the European and global leaders.

However, his early proposal for a temporary humanitarian cease-fire did not resonate with the Israelis. Additionally, his great efforts to introduce a European-international force into the Gaza Strip (understanding that it would be led by France), were not

welcomed by Cairo (which does not want partners in the Gaza Strip) and was met with a categorical rejection by the resistance forces.

In the end, and like the rest of the European countries, the French move settled on handing over to Egypt the leadership of the negotiating efforts and providing a Western cover for these efforts. This was done without directing meaningful criticism of the Hebrew state.

During the last week of the war, almost all European governments had sensed the extent of the Arab and Islamic popular movement and were surprised by the European public opinion's condemnation of the war. Consequently, they were keen to show their eagerness to put an end to the war. The Europeans wanted the war to end with a truce agreement and were not happy with the Hebrew state's unilateral declaration of a cease-fire. This necessitated the arrival of European leaders to the region, where they affirmed in Sharm el-Sheikh their support for the continuation of Egyptian efforts. During the meeting with Israeli leaders, they emphasized their support for the Israeli-American agreement to prevent arms smuggling into the Gaza Strip.

The important development in the European situation was the wide and active role played by the Arab and Islamic communities, along with the anti-war forces, which was noticed by European governments, as well as the Hebrew state. During the coming period, this development will be discussed in official European circles, as well as in circles loyal to the Hebrew state.

China and Russia did not play any distinct role during the war, for several reasons. China, for its part, still adheres to the position of non-active intervention in international crises outside the sphere of its direct influence, or those that do not affect its vital interests around the world. On the other hand, Russia considered the Euro-American's quick disregard for the results of the Georgian crisis, and the signals issued by the Obama administration. They proposed a reconsideration of the US missile shield policy in Eastern Europe, and the exclusion of Georgia and Ukraine joining NATO.

It was expected, however, that the first period of the Obama administration will be a period of calming and bargaining with China and Russia, especially since China was about to become the largest investor in US bonds. If achieved, this indicates that the Russian-Chinese voice opposing the policies of America and its allies will decrease (Palestinian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, n.d.).

5.9. Arab and International Media

5.9.1. Israeli Media

Israeli media abandoned the concepts of liberalism and freedom of opinion and the impartiality and objectivity that followed, which it was trying to forsake and always deceive the world through it. In the Gaza war, the ugly face of Zionist racism was revealed, and all Zionist media outlets presented media dominated by propaganda and psychological war games. Before the war on Gaza, the Zionist media relayed to its viewers and readers that a major event would happen during the coming period in response to the alleged threats of Qassam rockets.

The major Hebrew newspapers Ma'an Reef, Yediot Aharonot, and Ha'aretz, published their headlines in red before and after the start of the war. This was accompanied by statements by Zionist politicians that their country's patience was running out due to the continued attacks of Hamas against civilians, as they claim. The Foreign Minister of Zionism (Tzipi Livni) represented 60 countries on a tour of southern occupied Palestine, during which she stressed the need for international powers to support the Zionist moves against the Gaza Strip.

The Zionists also recruited media crews whose training took many months in preparation for the battle. This was confirmed by Professor Dov Shinar, a lecturer at Ben-Gurion University in Beersheba, who said in a statement to (AFP): “Israel has learned from its previous experiences to use public relations and the means of public relations. To address diplomats; let the world know the reasons and details of the military campaign.”

After the outbreak of the military operations media hid the pictures of civilians, women, and children who had been killed by those operations, as well as pictures of

the areas hit by the bombing. In fact, the Zionist Foreign Ministry distributed a pamphlet described as the obligatory pamphlet to all Zionist spokesmen and demanded that they abide by the contents of this pamphlet, which ultimately confirms Hamas' responsibility for what is happening in the Gaza Strip. The pamphlet also stresses that the residents of the Gaza Strip are not enemies of the Zionist state. The unquestionable truth is that everything in Gaza is a target for planes, tanks and battleships of the Zionist killing machine. The work of the Zionist media is synonymous with political and military action. The newspaper Yediot Aharonot published on its front page the following headline “On the Line of Fire.” Additionally, Haaretz newspaper was not the least inciting to confront the Gaza Strip. In its editorial, it published an article to prepare world public opinion if the number of killings of Palestinians exceeded the acceptable number according to global trends. Therefore, Lionel Marcus wrote under the title “Thunder without lightning”: “It is important for Israel to have global support for every operation it decides; Experience confirms that in any military operation inside civilian gatherings, the whole world provokes us; Especially if women and children are injured” (Wikipedia, 2022).

5.9.2. American Media

Those who follow the American media do not deny that its media focuses its attention on the American domestic issue to a large extent, even if it is an issue in a small state of the United States. In the events in Gaza, the Pew Research Center, an American center specialized in research and opinion polls related to the media, revealed that both the American media and the Americans are not interested in the situation in Gaza. Rather, the Americans' attention is focused on the aftermath of the US presidential elections and the bad economic conditions.

The American media devoted less than 2% of its media coverage to covering the war on Gaza during the first week of that war, and only less than 2% of Americans were interested in the situation there.

5.9.3. Arab Media and the Absence of the Compass

While the Zionist state enjoys comprehensive international support to do whatever it wants in the Gaza Strip, the Arab media was divided over the media coverage of the Gaza war and its contents. Between the political event and the humanitarian event, scenes of the Gaza war were shared, but the word ‘urgent’ did not unite everyone.

The word ‘urgent’ in red was the main title of all Arab satellite channels, regardless of their political and religious content. The orientations of Al-Arabiya channel on the first day of the war did not differ from the days that followed. On the first day, Al-Arabiya presenter describes the Zionist missiles that are destroying Hamas headquarters, as if they are hostile to the issues of the nation and the homeland. As for the news headlines a week after the war and the beginning of the ground invasion, they were as follows: “A severe blow to Hamas, the Zionist entity is moving thousands of reserve soldiers to participate in the incursion.”

In the pictures transmitted on Al-Arabiya channel until after the end of the tenth day and the increase in the number of martyrs, pictures of victims and their tragedies were not shown. Instead, a movie entitled ‘Single Mothers’ was aired, which could have been postponed to a later date.

Al-Jazeera channel professionally reported the event moment by moment and provided analysis and extensive information from its correspondents. It is a legal, moral, and political responsibility of coverage providers of the Gaza Strip war to respond to the slanders of the leaders of the Zionist army or the spokesmen for the Zionist government hosted by the channel from time to time. Al-Jazeera channel contributed to the transmission of the stories of mothers looking for their children and the stories of families whose children were displaced amid the rubble and died because of the barbaric bombing.

All these images give public opinion the impression that the situation in Gaza is natural and a legitimate Zionist right for self-defense. On the other hand, viewers are made to believe that two parties are at war in equal number and weapons. It appears that the Al Jazeera English Channel in the Gaza war was another image of what was presented on

the screens of the European and American satellite channels, which requires specialists to strive to avoid this deficiency as quickly as possible (Ghannam, 2009).

5.9.4. Arab Media Confusion

On the Arab level, Egyptian television launched its terrestrial and satellite channels including public and private channels such as Hayat, Dream, Mehwar, Al-Sa'a, V and on TV, and specialized Nile channels. A sharp criticism towards Arab satellite channels, especially Al-Jazeera and Al-Manar was done. This was in response to the criticism and sharp reprimand levelled by those Arab satellite channels against Egypt's position on the recent events in Gaza.

The Egyptian TV refused to outbid Egypt's role in the Gaza events, through the "Your Home" program on the Egyptian satellite channel. It described the media war by Al-Jazeera and Al-Manar as a dirty war waged by those satellite channels against Egypt without the slightest moral standards.

Private and governmental Egyptian channels mobilized on the night of the land invasion to defend the Egyptian position. Researcher Abdel Moneim Saeed supported Egypt's position on Al Hayat TV and Professor Hussein Amin attacked Qatar and Al Jazeera. Additionally, novelist Bahaa Taher also defended Egypt's stance on Al Mehwar channel. As for the Dream Channel, it was the frankest, especially on the Mona Al-Shazly program. Major General Staff Talaat Muslim demanded a departure from the language of manna and bragging regarding the Egyptian sacrifices for Palestine, stressing that Egypt was defending its national security, and not Palestine. He expressed his astonishment at preventing Qatari trucks from crossing the Rafah crossing and directing them to the Kerem Shalom crossing.

It is not possible to ignore what some channels have done, such as Al-Majd, Al-Risala, Iqra, Al-Nas, Bidaya and other channels that are classified as conservative channels. In conveying the facts of the massacres in Gaza, each in their own way, it cannot be compared in any way with the satellite channels specialized in transmitting news. Some Labenese and Arab stations ignored coverage of the war on the Gaza Strip, as opposed to others who began reporting from the beginning of the war.

Channels such as LBC, OTV, Al-Mustaqbal, Dubai, MBC, Abu Dhabi, and most Egyptian channels insisted on absenteeism, so they continued their usual programs without any modification. On the other hand, Palestine TV displayed the war from a third party point of view, while the news of President Mahmoud Abbas occupied the largest part of the news bulletins (Wikipedia, 2022).

5.10. Popular Moves

Demonstrations pervaded most Arab and Islamic countries, from east to west, and in some cases developed into attempts to attack the Israeli and American embassies in several Arab and Islamic countries. Demonstrators in many of these countries also demanded the closure of Israeli embassies and the severing of relations.

5.10.1. Solidarity Ships and Solidarity Delegations

Years ago, the march of solidarity with the besieged Palestinians in the Gaza Strip took nine cruises, four of which were able to reach, and the others were prevented.

On August 23, 2008, the ships “Freedom” and “Free Gaza” arrived in Gaza in the first attempt to break the unjust Zionist siege on the Gaza Strip, carrying more than forty solidarity activists from 17 countries, after a forty-hour voyage at sea. Upon leaving, they took six Palestinians who had Cypriot identity papers, and who were stuck there.

On October 29, 2008, the ship “Al-Amal” arrived in the Gaza Strip in the second attempt to break the blockade by sea, carrying 27 activists from ten countries on board. The ship was carrying medical equipment and medicines. The ship also transported the Arab Member of the Israeli Knesset Jamal Zahalka, and Mrs. Merid Corrigan Maguire. The winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, and a few foreign doctors who have performed several emergency surgeries in the sector.

On November 8, 2008, the Dignity ship arrived in Gaza from the Cypriot port of Larnaca, carrying twenty-two European parliamentary figures, journalists, and foreign solidarity activists, in addition to the participation Claire Short, the Minister of International Cooperation in the former government of Tony Blair.

Then, on December 20, 2008, the "Qatari Dignity" ship arrived in Gaza. It carried Qatari charity organizations, several foreign solidarity activists and journalists, and a ton of medicines and medical supplies.

The 'Libyan Marwa' ship was the first Arab aid ship attempting to reach the shores of Gaza, carrying 3 tons of medicines. However, December 1, 2008, it was prevented from arriving.

On December 7, 2008, the occupation prevented the 'Eid Ship' from sailing from the Jaffa port towards the shores of Gaza and confiscated it and all the medical and relief aid and gifts for children presented by the Palestinian leaders and the Palestinian people inside the Palestinian territories.

On February 2 2009, the occupation prevented the arrival of the 'Lebanese Brotherhood' ship after it refused to obey the orders of the Israeli war boats to return its cargo. Additionally, its team was arrested for several days after raiding the ship and assaulting them.

On June 30, 2009, Israeli warships intercepted the ship 'The Spirit of Humanity,' which was carrying humanitarian aid from Cyprus. The ship was sailed by the Free Gaza Movement, carrying twenty Arab and Western political and human rights activists, in addition to quantities of medical aid and medicine.

On January 14, 2009, the occupation army prevented the arrival of the 'Al-Karamah' ship, which was operated by the Free Gaza Movement.

The 'Freedom Fleet' was subjected to Israeli piracy in international waters, killing nine Turkish solidarity activists and wounding dozens of them. This fleet is considered the largest in terms of ship size and the aids loaded on board. It consisted of eight ships, and carried 750 participants from more than 40 countries, including 44 officials, parliamentary and European and Arab figures, and more than 10,000 tons of medical aid. Additionally, it carried building materials and wood, and 100 ready-made homes to help tens of thousands of residents who lost their homes, as well as 500 electric vehicles for the physically disabled.

Gaza received with the news of the Israeli attack on the Freedom Flotilla, and Palestinian parties described what happened as a 'combined crime' and that what Israel did was a "political and media scandal." Human rights organizations denounced what happened on board the ships and said the solidarity activists are civilians who carry relief aid and their humanitarian message calling only for the need to rescue the besieged residents of Gaza (Atallah, 2010).

5.10.2. International Institutions Operating in Gaza Strip and Their Role During the War

The most prominent international institutions operating during the war on the Gaza Strip were the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and UNRWA. On January 7, 2009 four ambulances belonging to the Palestine Red Crescent Society and the International Committee of the Red Cross were available to obtain for the first time. The ICRC had requested safe passage to enable ambulances to reach the Zaytoun neighborhood since January 3, 2009 but was only granted access by the Israeli army on the afternoon of January 7, 2009.

In one house, the joint ICRC-Palestine Red Crescent team found four children sitting near the bodies of their mothers. They had become so weak that they were no longer able to stand, along with a man was also found alive, but also in a state of weakness. In total, there were at least 12 bodies lying on mattresses.

This was the first move that the International Committee of the Red Cross succeeded in reaching, followed by a number of achievements in reaching and evacuating citizens in areas of intense fighting. The relief role of UNRWA continued to provide all forms of support to the displaced citizens by sheltering them in the Agency's schools and providing food supplies to them. Additionally, they distributed aid to the rest of the areas according to the damage they were exposed to, while most other United Nations institutions stopped providing their services during the war and resumed them largely after its end.

5.10.3. Effects of the War on the Palestinians (From a Health Standpoint)

The number of martyrs reached 1440, the number of wounded reached 5450, the number of destroyed health facilities reached 34, and most Palestinian hospitals suffered from a severe shortage of medicines and medical materials. Furthermore, ambulances were unable to reach many of the injured due to the difficult security conditions and the Israeli ban.

Egyptian and Arab doctors returning from Gaza after participating in surgical operations for victims of the brutal Israeli occupation aggression, revealed that they witnessed horrors in Gaza and injuries they had never seen before. The doctors delegated by the Relief and Emergency Committee of the Medical Union presented their experience in a press conference for Dar Al-Hekma. They relayed the nature of the health situation in Palestinian hospitals considering the continuous bombing and targeting of medical staff and shortages of medicines and medical supplies, while the Israeli occupation army deliberately used weapons containing chemical and toxic substances instantly kill. In addition, they also demanded the formation of a committee of Arab and European forensic doctors to investigate the crimes committed by the Israelis so that they do not escape punishment.

The Relief and Emergency Committee of the Arab Doctors Union had sent three Arab and foreign medical delegations to the sector. The total number reached 140 doctors, including Egyptian, Yemeni, Moroccan, Syrian, Jordanian, Sudanese, French, German, and others. Several senior Egyptian doctors participated in the delegations such as Dr. Mohamed Ghoneim, the pioneer of nephrology in Egypt, Dr. Ahmed Abdel Aziz, a pioneer in orthopedic surgery, Dr. Medhat Assem, a well-known surgeon, and other top doctors in various specialties.

The doctors stated that they saw horrific scenes that can only be seen in horror films about the massacre of the occupation, describing victims with burns, amputations, body poisoning, and penetration of the skin with burns to the bones. They also described phosphorous bombs that burn green and deadly toxic materials were used.

Amnesty International confirmed that the military attack launched by the Zionist occupation forces on Gaza in late December 2008 pushed the humanitarian situation in the Gaza Strip to the brink of disaster. Due to the blockade and other restrictions imposed by the occupation, the local economy was suffering because of the lack of imports and the ban on exports before the attack.

The organization said in its 2009 report, which was issued on May 28, 2009 on the situation of human rights in the world: "The shortage of most basic materials in the Gaza Strip has led to an increase in prices, which made about 80% of the population of the Strip dependent on international aid, and faced United Nations bodies and other relief and humanitarian organizations have further restricted their ability to provide aid and services to the people of Gaza" (Palestinian Center for Human Rights, 2009).

It condemned the restrictions on freedom of movement and the right to treatment, explaining that there were a number of seriously ill patients who needed medical care that was not available in Gaza, in addition to hundreds of students and workers who wanted to travel abroad for study or work. However, the Zionist forces only allowed a few of them to leave the Gaza Strip, which resulted in the death of a variety of patients who were prevented from leaving.

The organization pointed out that the 600 Israeli military checkpoints in the West Bank led to restricting the movement of Palestinians and impeding their access to their places of work, educational and health facilities, and other necessary services. Within the West Bank, hundreds of thousands of Palestinian farmers were isolated from their lands.

The report stressed that the occupation prevented Palestinian citizens from accessing vast areas of the West Bank adjacent to the Zionist settlements that were built and are still established despite their violation of international law.

The report indicated that the occupation forces killed about 450 Palestinians during air and other attacks, most of which took place during the first half of 2008 in the Gaza Strip. About half of them were civilians, including 70 children, and the rest were

members of the resistance factions who were martyred in armed confrontations or were targeted in air strikes.

In its aggression on Gaza, Israel used all internationally prohibited weapons as if it was facing the armies of the world, and the most prominent of these weapons is white phosphorous (Sweidan, 2009, p. 445).

The organization confirmed that the occupation forces arrested hundreds of Palestinians, including dozens of children, in the occupied Palestinian territories, and held many of them incommunicado for long periods. Most of them were released later without charges, but they hundreds of others were charged with security charges and tried before military courts. Its procedures often do not meet international fair trial standards.

The organization also added: "It remained in the prisons 'Israeli' by the end of last year, about 8000 Palestinians who were arrested during 2008 or previous years, including about 300 children and 550 people who remained in detention without charge or trial under administrative detention orders". The report indicated those cases of torture and other forms of ill-treatment increased by the Zionist General Security Service, especially during the investigation of Palestinians who were suspected of being involved in or planning resistance operations.

It stated that among the methods of torture reported were shackling for long periods in painful positions, deprivation of sleep, and threats to harm detainees' families. In addition, reports were made of beating detainees and subjecting them to other forms of ill-treatment during and after their arrest and during their transfer from one location to another. The report emphasized that the violent attacks carried out by Zionist rapists against Palestinians and their property in various parts of the West Bank increased significantly in the last quarter of last year, especially during the olive harvest and during the occupation army's attempt to vacate Palestinian homes after seizing them (Radio Al-Aqsa). The report also mentioned that "Rarely did the Zionist military judge's order investigations into allegations of torture and other ill-treatment made by Palestinian defendants during their trial before the Zionist military courts, and none of the officers of the Zionist General Security Service was brought to trial for torturing

Palestinians." The report considered that impunity remained the common rule for Zionist soldiers, members of the security forces and rapists, who committed grave violations against Palestinians, including unlawful killings, physical attacks, and attacks on property. Only a few investigations were conducted into these violations, most of which were due to insufficient evidence. He stressed that the occupation forces destroyed many Palestinian homes and factories, as well as other civilian buildings in the Gaza Strip during the first days of the military operation they launched on December 27, 2008. This resulted to the removal of entire neighborhoods (Radio Al-Aqsa).

5.10.4. Psychological and Social Effects

Perhaps the war on Gaza is part of the suffering that extended over the past years, during which internationally prohibited weapons were used and mainly targeted civilians, schools, universities, educational institutions, and mosques.

The Zionist war machine is a destructive and inhuman machine that does not respect international charters or rights and aims to destroy everything. Those painful events remain firmly rooted in the memory of the individual who lived those living events and felt terror and anxiety because of the war. Wars and the calamities that accompany them have a much greater psychological impact on children who require treatment, especially if the parents are unable to contain these cases and help the child overcome them.

The results of one psychiatric study conducted by the Psychiatric Health Center of the United States of America in 2002 indicated that wars and brutal processes create an environment of psychological stress, and another suggested that the incidence of psychiatric illness varies depending on the nature and magnitude of the trauma: Natural disasters amounted to 4-5%, shelling and war incidents to 34%, hurricanes to 7%, industrial accidents to 6% and violent attacks to 19%.

In Palestine, a large percentage of children needed psychological treatment due to the psychological trauma suffered by children during the war and the subsequent destruction and siege. Young children, who are our greatest concern, are not qualified

to bear this horrific amount of destruction, loss, trauma, and bloody scenes. It affects their personality clearly in the form of negative psychological, behavioral, and cognitive repercussions. The events of the war may constitute a vibration of self-confidence and of others, a feeling of insecurity and threat. The Palestinian reality must be equipped with awareness and knowledge to help these children overcome the war crisis safely.

It also appeared that there was a negative impact of aggression on students' achievement and their motivation towards learning. The level of impact of aggression in the first six months on students' achievement level was 48%, and motivation 52%, while regarding students' concentration level it was negatively affected by 50% as well. Their activity and participation in the classroom were affected by 58%, as for the level of violence within the school, it increased by 52%, and the level of indiscipline was affected to constitute an increase of 53%. The results also showed that the level of parents' interest in visiting schools and asking about their children's performance was negatively affected, reaching 50% in the first months after the war. As for the level of frustration, pessimism, and fear of the future, it appears more in the sixth grade and beyond, and the level of frustration and fear of the future is 40% (Khafaga, 2013).

5.11. Evaluation of the War on Gaza

When Israel launched aggression on Gaza Strip, it set basic goals for it, and it envisioned achieving these goals within a limited period. Its plan was to end the war before Barack Obama assumed the presidency of the United States of America on January 20, 2009, for many considerations. Its program is based on the principle of a policy of change internally and externally, and its policy differs from that of George W. Bush. To elaborate, the policy is based on hegemony and domination of the world, and the continuation of the unipolar policy, which emerged clearly after the collapse of the Soviet Union. For this reason, Israel hastened to launch the war on Gaza during the last Bush term. George W. Bush supported Israel financially, politically, socially, and he is the sponsor and encourager of its wars against the Arabs in Lebanon and Palestine, all of which failed. However, Israel could not end the war in Gaza as it had planned in a few days, rather the aggression lasted for three weeks.

The elimination of Hamas in the Gaza Strip, as well as the elimination of the Palestinian factions that engage in armed struggle in the Gaza Strip, is the desired outcome of Israel. Additionally, the Jewish state wishes to impose a settlement of the Palestinian issue as it sees it and according to its terms. The resistance forces advocate for Palestinian rights, the establishment of a Palestinian state on all the territories of 1967, with Jerusalem as its capital, Israel's withdrawal to the June 4, 1967 borders, and the dismantling of all settlements and the separation wall. Israel does not want the establishment of a Palestinian state with Jerusalem as its capital, despite the meetings between Abu Mazen and Ehud Olmert on the one hand, and the Palestinian delegation negotiating with the Israeli side led by Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni. The policy of delaying and stifling matters after each meeting between Abu Mazen and Olmert was the one who controlled the results. Consequently, Hamas and all Palestinian armed factions remained in the Gaza Strip, and Israel failed to eliminate Hamas and the rest of the Palestinian factions.

The goal of the war was to stop rockets from Hamas, however new types of rockets and missiles appeared. These rockets reached a distance of forty-five kilometers and began to threaten the city of Beersheba and the southern suburbs of Tel Aviv. Palestinian shells and rockets continued to be fired at Israel until the last hour of the ceasefire. Even after the ceasefire, the resistance forces occasionally fired rockets, which indicates that Israel was not in control.

Israel tried to unsuccessfully destroy the tunnels that were used to smuggle weapons, yet some tunnels were still intact. It became clear that weapons reach the Gaza Strip via the sea, and part of it is through the arms mafia and from the Israeli warehouses. Thus, Livni met with Condoleezza Rice and signed a security agreement to curb arms smuggling across the sea. Arms smuggling was mainly via Tehran, but this does not preclude he Palestinian resistance factions right to obtain arms to resist the Israeli occupation, as is their right, as per international laws. These are the main goals of the aggression, in addition to other secondary goals, related to the results of the war which was considered a failure. Ultimately, Israel did not achieve any gain, and sought a cease fire unilaterally.

The transfer of power in the United States of America to Barack Obama was imminent, as only three days remained for him to assume presidency of the United States. Israel did not want to continue its war on the Gaza Strip with Obama at the helm, especially as he adopts a policy of change. World public opinion denounces the war, condemns Israel's crimes, and some call for submitting its leaders responsible for the war to the International Criminal Court, especially Olmert, Barak and Livni. The Israeli enemy killed more than one thousand and three hundred martyrs, and about five thousand wounded, and destroying numerous buildings. In addition, Israel's use of internationally prohibited weapons, including white phosphorous and incendiary bombs, prompted many international organizations to condemn this aggression and denounce Israel's crimes.

It has lost many Arab allies because of this criminal aggression, such as the State of Qatar and Mauritania, which cut off diplomatic relations with Israel, as well as Jordan, which recalled its ambassador from Israel. Furthermore, King Abdullah Al Saud attacked Israel and denounced the aggression, describing Israel as a criminal gang, and called to the Arab brotherhood and reconciled between them.

Arab communities in the world staged violent demonstrations denouncing the aggression and Israel and calling for jihad against it. This war showed Israel’s brutality regionally and globally, and that Israel leads and carries out war crimes, and despite that, it is the only country that has never been held accountable for the crimes (Al-Khawaja, 2009).

CHAPTER VI

ANALYTICAL STUDY RESULTS

Table 6.1. It Shows the Percentages and Frequencies of the Topics Covered by the Documentaries

Topics	Repetition	The ratio
Politician	26	5%
Soldier	184	36%
wish	5	1%
Athlete	0	0%
economic	0	0%
Humanitarian	297	58%
Total	512	99%

Humanitarian topics were presented 297 times in the five films the sample of the study, followed by military topics which was mentioned 184 times, political topics which was mentioned 26 times, and finally security issues which was mentioned 5 times. Meanwhile, five documentaries did not present any sports, economic, religious, or any other relevant topics.

It has been shown that this presentation of humanitarian issues reflected a painful reality in the war on Gaza in 2009, namely the huge losses among the Palestinians at all levels, as an inevitable result of the excessive use of force by the Israeli side. The media presentation of the horrific size of losses overshadowed the media presentation that dealt with the military aspect of the Israeli military operations and the resistance operations. These films did not deal with any other topics effectively, due to the tyranny of human losses in this war.

Table 6.2. It Shows the Proportions and Recurrences of Issues Covered by Documentaries

The case	Repetition	The ratio
Rocket launch	14	3%
In solidarity	10	2%
Political moves	20	4%
Israeli attacks	335	72%
Other	86	19%
Total	465	99%

The number of times in which the films and the study sample presented the issue of the Israeli aggressions was 335 times or 72% and came in second place. Additionally, the number of times an issue other than the aggressions was 86 times or 19%. These issues include ‘life before the war’, ‘the return of life after the war’, ‘civilians in war’, and ‘general scenes from Gaza City’. These were followed by a group of issues that are ’political moves, rocket fire, and solidarity’.

This result confirms the fact that the Israeli attacks were the most prominent factor in this war, as they were sudden and violent, and inflicted many casualties among civilians in addition to material losses. The films varied after that in their presentation of issues in a way that differed from one film to another according to the artistic vision of the party executing.

Table 6.3. It Shows the Proportions and Recurrences of Positive Values Covered by Documentaries

positive values	Repetition	The ratio
peace	39	18%
love	4	2%
safety	6	3%
cooperation	81	37%
Other	89	40%
Total	219	99%

A group of values under the classification of ‘others’ ranked first in the number of submissions and was mentioned 89 times or 40%. A variety of positive values fall under this classification, including ‘advancement after trauma, resistance, and challenge’. This is followed by the value of cooperation with a number of submissions which amounted to 81 times. Moreover, the recurrence rate is 37%, with ‘peace’ have being mentioned 39 times, followed by ‘safety’ being mentioned 6 times, and ‘love’ 4 times. Finally, ‘honesty’ was not mentioned throughout the five films used in the sample of the study.

The values of ‘rise after shock’, ‘resistance’, and ‘challenge’ came in first place because they represent the few positive values that appear in any people going through ordeal. People cooperate in a time of crisis and the forces of resistance unite against the enemy. The values of ‘peace’, ‘safety’, and ‘love’, was shown during these films as a hope that souls yearn for in the darkness and tragedies of war. In contrast, the value of honesty did not seem suitable in films dealing with the theme of war.

Table 6.4. It Shows the Percentages and Recurrences of Negative Values That Were Dealt with in Documentaries

negative values	Repetition	The ratio
runner	92	19%
fear	157	32%
hatred	27	5%
Sadness	213	43%
Total	489	99%

‘Fear’ was mentioned 157 times, with a frequency of 32%, followed by ‘hostility’ which was mentioned 92 times, and finally, ‘hatred’ was mentioned 27 times. The five films presented the value of ‘sadness’ as an of the size and horror of what the Palestinian man saw in this war. This was shown through the eyes of children, mothers, widows, and comrades in arms who lost their parents and loved ones. The value of ‘fear’ was depicted through the enemy and the unknown among children, as well as fear for children. In addition, the value of ‘hostility’ was presented through the manifestations of conflict, defense, and attack in the war. Finally, the value of ‘hatred’ that the Israelis have for the people of Gaza was evident through their brutal attack with all their war machines on the Strip.

Table 6.5. The Proportions and Frequencies of Characters That Have Appeared in Documentaries

Personalities	Repetition	The ratio
Israeli	4	22%
Palestinian	3	17%
Arabic	5	28%
foreign	6	33%
Total	18	99%

The number of foreign characters who appeared in the films was 6 people, at a rate of 33%, while the number of Arab characters was 5 people, at a rate of 28%. Furthermore, the number of Israeli characters was 4 people, at 22%, and the Palestinian characters were 3 people, at 17%.

The researcher saw that the low number of characters appearing in the films and the closeness of their number is due to the tendency of most film directors and producers to focus on the humanitarian situation more than on the statements of politicians and leaders. Furthermore, this was done to prove that the active party in the war on Gaza and the party that determined the form and end of the war is the Palestinian people on the land sector, not the various political leaders.

Table 6.6. The Percentages and Frequencies of the Time Period of One Scene in Documentaries

The time period for a single scene	Repetition	The ratio
second	54	11%
5 seconds or less	344	71%
20 seconds or less	79	16%
30 seconds or less	5	1%
60 seconds or less	5	1%
Total	487	99%

The number of scenes with a duration of 5 seconds or less was 344 scenes in all the films of the study sample, at a rate of 71%, followed by scenes with a duration of 20 seconds or less was 79 scenes, at a rate of 16%. Furthermore, the scenes of one second with 54 scenes had a rate of 11%, and the scenes with the duration of 30 seconds or less and 60 seconds or less had a rate of 5 times the width or 1%.

The researcher believes that this is an indication that the general trend among documentary film makers today in Palestine is towards short and quick scenes that, in succession, express the idea to be communicated, better than the traditional long presentation method.

Table 6.7. Rate and Frequencies of Regions That Appeared in the Movies

Regions that appeared in the movies	Repetition	The ratio
North Gaza	82	16%
Gaza	352	71%
Middle finger	34	7%
bank	4	1%
Land 48	4	1%
Other	14	3%
Total	490	99%

The number of times that ‘Gaza City’ appeared was 352 times, or 72%, then the ‘North region’ appeared 82 times, or 16%. This was followed by the ‘Central region’ which appeared 34 times, or 7%, and the rest of the regions followed closely.

This percentage reflects the areas of fighting and operations in the war on the Gaza Strip, where most of the operations were concentrated in the east and north of Gaza City, followed by the northern, and eastern regions of the central governate. Most video scenes of the military operations were concentrated in these areas, and some scenes covered the solidarity activists in the West Bank. Falling under the ‘others’ category, were ‘Israeli leaders in the 48 territories’, followed by scenes of ‘political movements in several countries of the world’. In contrast, the films did not show any scenes from the cities of Rafah and Khan Yunis, where the conditions were relatively calm.

Table 6.8. The Proportions and Frequencies of the Attitudes That Came in Documentaries

directions	Repetition	The ratio
positive	128	28%
negative	302	67%
neutral	23	5%
Total	453	99%

‘Negative attitudes’ amounted to 302 times at a rate of 67%, followed by positive attitudes of 128 times at a rate of 28%, and neutral attitudes amounted to 23 times at a rate of 5%. Naturally, films showing the tragedies of the war on Gaza must carry negative attitudes, bearing violent and painful images of the victims of the war. The positive attitudes were represented in the scenes of resistance and revival after the trauma.

Table 6.9. The Percentages and Recurrences of Israeli Practices That Have Been Dealt with in Documentaries

Israeli practices	Repetition	The ratio
aerial bombardment	62	25%
martyrs	79	31%
Artillery	3	1%
scraping	11	4%
demolish houses	33	13%
injuries	57	23%
Other	6	3%
Total	251	99%

The number of times scenes of ‘house demolitions’ were shown in the movies of the study sample was 122 times, or 33%, followed by scenes of ‘martyrs’, 79 times and 21%. Furthermore, ‘air bombing’ scenes appeared 62 times or 17%, followed by the rest of the ‘Israeli practices’ in different proportions.

The researcher believes that this percentage reflects the extent of Israeli practices on the ground in the war in 2009, where house demolitions, whether by bulldozing or bombing, were the most brutal and most used process by the Israeli army. This was followed by scenes of martyrs, especially on the first day of the war, which stuck in the memory of many in the Gaza Strip. Moreover, the documentation of the picture was in proportion to the size of the Israeli practices on the ground.

Table 6.10. It Shows the Proportions and Frequencies of the Types of Scenes Dealt with in Documentaries

Scene types	Repetition	The ratio
internal	49	6%
external	386	47%
morning	329	40%
evening	46	6%
Total	810	.99%

The number of ‘external’ scenes in the study sample movies was 386, while the ‘morning’ scenes amounted to 329, followed by the ‘evening’ and ‘internal’ scenes which amounted to 49 scenes each.

Most of the attacks were on public or private places and houses around which people enters with the aim of rescue or conveying news. As for the high rate of morning scenes compared to the evening scenes, this is due to the curfew that the war conditions imposed on citizens in the evening period. This prompted most of the photographers to go out during the day only due to the security and military conditions.

Table 6.11. It Shows the Proportions and Repetitions of the Places That Came in the Documentaries

the places	Repetition	The ratio
general	419	95%
houses	20	4%
Total	439	99%

The number of appearances of ‘public places’ reached 419 times at a rate of 95%, while the number of appearances of ‘homes’ reached 20 times at a rate of 5%. Finally, mosques did not appear in any of the films in the study sample. This is because most of the places that were targeted by the occupation were reachable by the photographers who were able to capture photos.

Table 6.12. The Proportions and Frequencies of the Types of Shots That Came in Documentaries

Shot type	Repetition	The ratio
general	343	79%
medium	45	10%
Close	46	10%
So close	1	1%
Total	435	99%

The number of ‘general’ shots was 343 at a rate of 79%, while the ‘medium’ shots were 45 shots or 10%, followed by the ‘close’ shots which were 46 shots or 11%. This is because most of the footage was taken by news photographers trained in general shots, not by professional documentaries.

Table 6.13. The Ratios and Frequencies of Effects Used in Documentaries

Effects used	Repetition	The ratio
Music	145	%22
movie material	434	65%
Read article	11	%1
cartoons	16	%2
Other	62	.%
Total	668	.99%

‘Film materials’ were used 434 times, while ‘music’ was used in 145 different scenes in the five sample films. Meanwhile, the category ‘others’ was used 62 times, which included sound effects, and graphic works. It is evident that documentary films used film material as a basis for their work, and it may be the best influences used to present films such as the sample of this study.

6.1. Film Analysis

6.1.1. Fatafeet Rukham

2:33 minutes
The director: Abdul Rahman Al-Hamran
Produced by: (culture and free thought association)

The duration of the film is 17 minutes, during which it presents humanitarian issues in 127 scenes, and political issues in one scene. Thus, it is considered a movie that discusses the humanitarian situation during and after the war on Gaza. The film dealt with the Israeli attacks in 106 places and presented sev.

eral positive values in the film, most of which revolve around steadfastness and the desire to rise from the rubble. Perhaps the scene in which he presents children who

made swings from the rubble of houses and over their shoveled houses best reflects this idea.

The film adopted the tactic of successive short scenes that depict a story, with filming focusing on Gaza City, the North Governorate, and the eastern Central Governate. While sadness prevailed in most of the scenes of the film, the film portrayed children as the true heroes of the war, instead of showing political figures. Furthermore, the film focused on the destroyed houses as a direct impact of the war on Gaza, through various scenes, mostly morning and external. The film used all kinds of footage with a camera specialized in documentaries, and incorporated sound effects.

In addition, it dealt with scenes of devastation after the war, stories of the victims, and the impact of the war on families, homes, education, and even plants and animals.

6.1.2. War on Gaza

5:41 minutes silent film
Idea and directed by Ahmad Muhanna

50 humanitarian topics were presented in this short silent film with a set of issues centered on a cultural and educational renaissance after the war. This was depicted through some representative scenes, and through which he presented a set of positive values such as tolerance and peace, and some scenes of sadness and fear. The film did not present any political figure and most of the scenes in the film were 5 seconds or less. Additionally, all of its scenes were filmed in Gaza City, and it presented 39 positive messages, with very few pictures of Israeli practices. Many of the scenes were morning and outdoor, and all scenes were in public places, adopting basic music.

The film begins with quiet scenes, then the war begins suddenly and violently, depicting people's fear and panic, and then presents several representative scenes for a cultural and educational renaissance that proceeds despite the pain.

6.1.3. Tears of Gaza

(5-11-2010)
1:21:00 minutes.
2010 Norwegian anti-war film concerning the Gaza War as seen through the eyes of a group of Palestinian children. The documentary was directed by Vibeke Løkkeberg.

All topics were presented equally using short and long scenes, with a variety of issues and political figures of all nationalities depicted. Furthermore, it is the only film that presented scenes from Arab and regional countries and the report presented all scenes of Israeli practices, through most of the scenes were morning and external, with most of the shooting done in public.

6.1.4. Travel of Desolation "SAFAR ALKHARAB"

17:19 minutes
Produced :(Palestine Media Production – PMP)
Palestinian director: Mustafa Al-Nabih

In its presentation, the film focused on military and humanitarian issues, and presented the Israeli attacks as a basic issue for the film. Several positive values were represented, the most important of which is cooperation. In return, there were many negative values, and some international and Arab human rights personalities appeared through it. Overall, the direction of the film in general tended towards negativity and focused on its presentation of the Israeli practices on injuries and martyrs. Most of the scenes were filmed in Gaza and the north, using a variety of visual and musical effects.

6.1.5. The War on Gaza

18:07 minutes

By: Hamas government media office

The film presented several topics, the most important of which are humanitarian and military. It presented the Israeli attacks in 43 scenes, and presented the value of cooperation in 18 scenes, and the value of sadness in 89 scenes. In addition, the film was presented in northern Gaza and Gaza City, and the film was presented through a variety of Israeli practices. Most of the scenes were morning and outdoor, and the film was mainly based on film material.

6.2. Results

i) The study concluded that the presentation of issues of a humanitarian nature, which is the huge losses among the Palestinians at all levels, came as an inevitable result of the excessive use of force by the Israeli side. Thus, the humanitarian media presentation dominated the media presentation that dealt with the military side of the Israeli military operations and the responses of the resistance to them.

ii) The study showed that the classification of Israeli attacks came in second place, and this result confirms the fact that the Israeli attacks were the most prominent factor in this war, as they were sudden and violent, causing many casualties among civilians, in addition to material losses.

iii) The study showed that the positive values, the most important of which are the rise after the shock, the resistance, and the challenge came first, because they represent the real strength of the peoples struggling for their freedom, and the value of cooperation was evident in these films.

iv) The five films presented the values of sadness, hostility and hatred which were the most negative values that appeared. This was done to highlight the horror of the tragedy of the Palestinian man in the war on Gaza.

v) The study showed the low number of characters appearing in the films are due to the desire of film producers to focus on the human condition that show the suffering of the Palestinian human being. Furthermore, it neglects the narrative that shows political figures and leaders as an original actor in the war.

vi) The study revealed that the number of scenes with a duration of five seconds or less was very large compared to scenes of more than 20 seconds, indicating that the general tendency of documentary filmmakers is towards short and fast scenes.

vii) The study concluded that the film focused on the action areas during the war on the Gaza Strip. The areas north of Gaza City came first, followed by the eastern areas of the central governorates of the Strip.

viii) The study dealt with the Palestinian side resisting the Israeli attack on the Gaza Strip and worked to shed light on the positives of this work and the attempts to confront the Israeli aggression.

ix) The study found that most of the film materials that were shown in the films are mostly by amateur photographers and not specialized in working on documentary production.

6.3. Discussion

The results indicate that the human character in presenting matters prevails over films, with a full focus on the heavy losses among the Palestinians. In contrast to the media presentation of the military role in this war in terms of documenting the battles that took place in this war between the Israeli army and the Palestinian resistance. Israel's attack on the Gaza Strip was unexpected, and suddenly multiple locations within the Gaza Strip was bombed at the same time by F16 planes. This resulted in severe destruction, with many martyrs, and many wounded, beginning a new phase in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in a way unprecedented.

The data indicates that positive values, the most important of which are uniting against aggression with cooperation to stop and resist it, represent the real power in victory.

This was evident at the end of the war, as the Palestinian side emerged victorious, and the Israeli army did not achieve any of its goals in this war.

The data also indicate that negative values such as grief, hostility and hatred are evident from the atrocity caused by the Israeli armies to the civilian population in the Gaza Strip, from which man, plant and animal were not spared.

The results indicate that filmmakers and their producers have been aiming for a human rather than a material gain from the industry. This is clear from the focus on the human situation compared to the number of characters appearing and the lack of political figures as the original actors in the war.

The data also indicates the trend in film directors towards short scenes of less than 20 seconds, because of the considerable momentum in the current situation and the lack of flexibility in filming this dangerous environment.

The results also add to the inability of filmmakers to cover all areas of the Gaza Strip because of their strong focus on the northern and eastern areas of the Gaza Strip. These areas have faced aggression from the first to the last minute of this war because it's the Gaza Strip's border seam areas.

The study illustrates the Palestinian side that is resistant to the Israeli attack on the Gaza Strip and highlights the positives of the Palestinian resistance, which has hampered the Israeli aggression.

Furthermore, the research shows correlation between photographers' inability to focus on the details that serve the main message of the movies and the low quality of the films in terms of filming. This is due to the prohibition of the import of technical equipment such as cameras and lenses, and the blockade imposed on the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip.

6.4. Recommendations

After reviewing the previous results of the analytical study that was conducted, the researcher can come up with a variety of proposals to contribute to increasing interest in the documentary film and work to develop the performance of workers and those interested, namely:

1. Using academic expertise as well as professional expertise to advance the Palestinian documentary films in a way that achieves the desired effect.
2. Providing financial and material support and providing the necessary capabilities of cameras and cinematic equipment for the success of Palestinian documentaries.
3. Calling for interest in the field of films at the government level and civil institutions.
4. Paying attention to the promotional and advertising aspect of Palestinian documentaries and providing dedicated places for their presentation, such as theaters.
5. Diversifying the topics presented by documentaries, not confining them to notable events, but transcending them to advance the various aspects of the Palestinian citizen's life.
6. Relying on the image from the archive, and not limiting the work to the live image of the Palestinian citizen.
7. Unifying the efforts of Palestinian directors and producers in the Gaza Strip, the West Bank, the diaspora, and the occupied interior to produce high quality films and a perfect job.
8. Participation in Arab and international competitions to raise the name of Palestine in this field.
9. Grand more on documenting the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip and exposing the crimes of the Israeli in the world.

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CURRICULUM VITAE

Personal Information:

Name - Surname: Wesam Abuhamda

Education:

2011-2015 BA in Media, Al-Azhar Universitesi, Palestine.

2020-2022 MA in Radio, Television and cinema, Ibn Haldun University, Turkey.

Experience:

September, 2021 - 2023

Content Editor and Script writer at 4 Production Company.

September, 2020 - September 2021

Former supervisor at İssam group for General Services.

May 2015 – September 2020

Former HR and recruitment consultant at Jawabkom.com