

# The Palestinian Woman in Media: Between Marginalization and Representation



# Monitoring Local and Regional Palestinian Media Content

# 2024



## The Palestinian Context:

This report comes in the context of an ongoing Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip, where Palestinians are subjected to a campaign of ethnic cleansing and systematic genocide, manifested in random bombings, forced displacement, and direct targeting of civilians, with an unprecedented rise in the number of martyrs and injured. As of October 5, 2024, the number of martyrs has reached 41,825, including 69% women and children, while the number of missing persons has exceeded 10,000, among them more than 4,700 women and children. The number of injured has surpassed 102,660, while the occupation has committed 3,615 massacres against Palestinians. The figures indicate a direct targeting of women, with 11,458 women killed at a rate of two women every hour, in addition to 2,419 elderly men and women who have been martyred. These numbers reflect the scale of the genocide faced by Palestinians especially women and children, in the absence of any international accountability and the continued bias in Western media coverage, which often justifies or ignores these crimes. While Palestinian and international institutions document these massacres, Palestinian journalists face direct targeting to prevent the truth from being conveyed, making media coverage part of the battle, as 171 journalists have been killed and 44 journalists have been arrested since the beginning of the genocide.

The Israeli aggression is not limited to the Gaza Strip; it extends to the West Bank, where the occupation has intensified systematic killings arrests, settlement activities, and the displacement of Palestinians from their lands.



Since the onset of the war on Gaza, the West Bank has witnessed an escalation in field executions at military checkpoints and incursions into cities and refugee camps, resulting in hundreds of martyrs and the arrest of thousands, including women and children. Settlers have also intensified their attacks, under the protection of the occupation army, by burning homes and farms and displacing Palestinians from remote villages. This escalation aims to impose a new reality of forced displacement and settlement, reflecting the integration of aggression in both the West Bank and Gaza within the policy of genocide and ethnic cleansing being carried out by the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people. These documented crimes serve as evidence of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

## Summary of the Report:

The media content monitoring report, which was based on an intensive follow-up of Arab and Palestinian news and media over 36 days, revealed a weak media coverage of women's issues during the aggression on Gaza, with a clear bias in favor of men. While violations by the Israeli occupation received extensive coverage (63%-66%), the focus on violations against women was marginal (2%-4%), and stories of women's resilience were almost absent from the media, with coverage not exceeding 6%, and a complete neglect of reconstruction issues. In political coverage, the marginalization of women was evident, as their representation did not exceed 6.3% in "domestic policies" compared to 93.7% for men.



Women were primarily presented in issues of displacement and humanitarian response (60% on Instagram), but without balanced representation. The results also showed that 89% of the news was reported by unknown correspondents, with female correspondents representing a very small percentage (2%), while there was heavy reliance on secondary sources (29%-42%), which weakened the direct narratives of women.

Regarding the representation of individuals in the news, males dominated news sites at 87.3%, while females accounted for only 10%. The portrayal of victims predominated the media narrative, with individuals presented as victims at a rate of 65.1% on Facebook and 56% on Instagram, focusing on suffering while neglecting stories of resilience and resistance. The media also failed to highlight women as leaders despite their leadership roles during the war, and their contributions to rebuilding homes and managing family affairs were not emphasized. Additionally, most media coverage ignored issues of gender inequality, with the percentage of coverage on this topic ranging from 53.3% to 82.8%, and prevailing stereotypes about women in the context of the conflict were not challenged.

Overall, the study showed that media coverage during the war on Gaza was unbalanced, with a clear marginalization of women's roles in resilience and resistance, relying on indirect narratives instead of genuinely highlighting women's voices. These findings underscore the need to improve the quality of media coverage to be more inclusive, provide narratives that go beyond stereotypes, and reflect the actual role of women in facing aggression and rebuilding society.



## Introduction:

Media plays a crucial role in shaping public opinion and conveying a complete picture of reality during times of conflict. However, coverage of women's issues during wars is often limited or distorted. In tense contexts, such as wars and occupations, women find themselves on the front lines of suffering, yet their presence in the media does not always reflect their multiple roles as victims, survivors, or even active participants in their communities. Media coverage of women during wars tends to focus on humanitarian dimensions and individual tragedies, while their participation in decision-making, resilience, and community and relief work is often overlooked.

In the context of the ongoing conflict in Palestine, women face compounded forms of suffering due to the Israeli occupation, imposed restrictions, and existing social challenges. Nevertheless, the coverage of Palestinian news regarding issues during wartime remains a subject that requires in-depth analysis, especially in light of media censorship, political biases, and the technical challenges faced by journalists.

This study aims to analyze how Palestinian women are represented in the media during times of war and conflict, and the extent of their presence in the news as active agents or as news subjects being addressed. It also seeks to answer fundamental questions, such as: How are Palestinian women represented in the media during wartime? Is the coverage limited to humanitarian aspects only, or are women's roles in resistance and resilience highlighted? To what extent are women present as newsmakers in Palestinian media? And how does the media influence the portrayal of women in conflict contexts?

Understanding the nature of news coverage of women during wars not only contributes to documenting violations and their specific needs but also plays a role in pushing for more just and balanced media coverage that reflects the reality on the ground and highlights women's voices as essential partners in facing challenges and building the future.

## Methodology:

This study was conducted through an intensive follow-up of Arab and local media for 36 days, during which news concerning Palestinian issues were monitored. The monitoring included tracking websites and Facebook and Instagram pages of nine major media outlets: Al Jazeera, Al Arabiya, Palestine Today, Palestine TV, Palestine Post, New Dawn TV, Sada News, Ma'an TV, and Al Mayadeen.

These news outlets were selected based on several criteria, the most important of which are their followership rates, the availability of social media platforms, and the ideological diversity and political background of these channels. Palestine TV represents the official media of the state, while Palestine Today reflects the news trends of the largest opposition party (Hamas), whereas some other stations adopt an independent approach.

The monitoring team consisted of 12 Palestinian journalists who analyzed the news content according to specific criteria, including the presence of women in the news, the nature of the roles assigned to them, and the methods of news coverage of their issues.

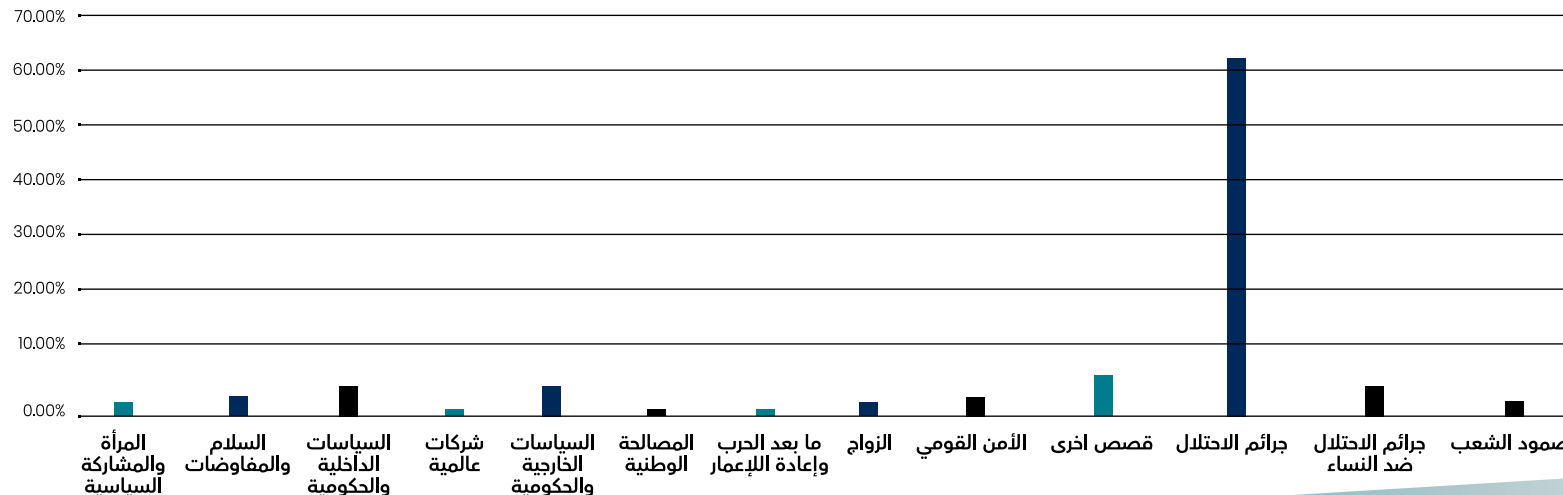
The study employed a content analysis methodology using both quantitative and qualitative approaches, where data was classified and analyzed based on the quantity and quality of news coverage related to women during the period of genocide against the Gaza Strip. The study also followed the Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP) framework provided by WACC, which offers a methodological framework for analyzing media coverage of women and helps assess the balance and biases in coverage, in addition to clarifying the prevailing patterns in the portrayal of women in the news. This approach aims to provide a comprehensive picture of the representation of Palestinian women in the news during times of war, focusing on coverage patterns and their fairness, as well as the challenges faced by journalists in conveying women's voices objectively and justly.

# Study Results:

## News Topics:

Among the topics that received extensive media coverage on the websites and Facebook and Instagram pages of the nine media outlets included in the study, violations by the Israeli occupation and settlers were at the forefront, with coverage rates ranging from 63% to 66% across all platforms. However, when focusing specifically on the topic of settler violence and violations against women, the percentage was much lower, ranging from 2% to 4% on the website and social media.

As for the topics of resilience and challenge, their coverage was relatively weak, with percentages ranging from 2% to 6%. More specifically, news addressing the strength and resilience of women was completely absent from the websites, while it appeared on social media platforms at modest rates ranging from 1.5% to 3%.



On the other hand, media coverage of topics that are central to the current situation faced by the Palestinian people under occupation, such as issues of reconstruction and rebuilding, was very weak. Despite the fact that 90% of housing in Gaza has been completely or partially destroyed, the coverage rate of this topic did not exceed 0.4% on websites and Facebook, while it was completely absent on Instagram.

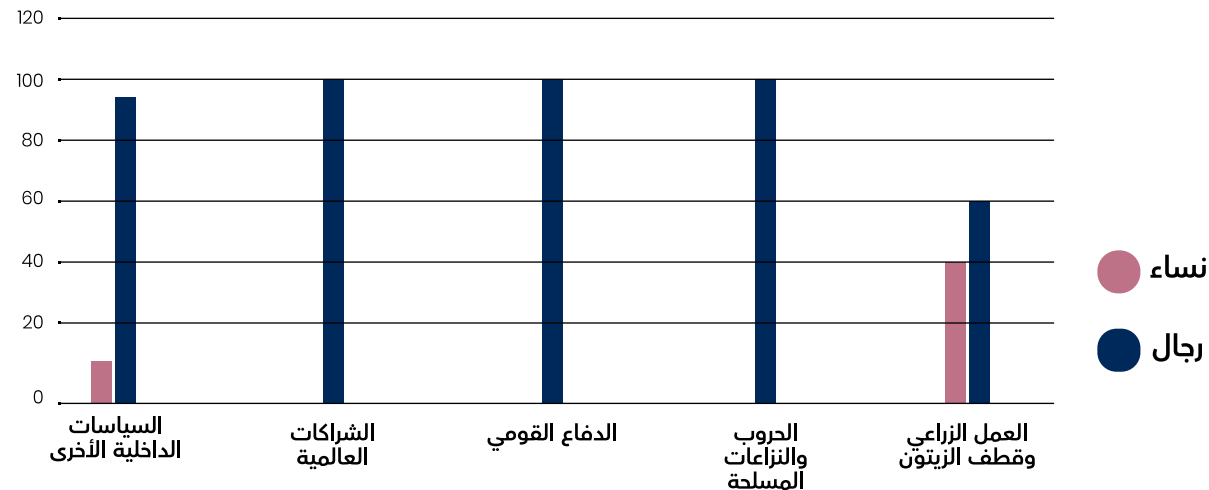
The coverage of the topic of women's political participation was also very minimal, not exceeding 2% on websites and social media. Additionally, media coverage of other topics such as negotiations, displacement, and humanitarian response was weak as well, despite the fact that these issues are a fundamental part of the Palestinian reality and occur continuously under occupation. As for topics related to national reconciliation, their coverage did not reach 1%.



## News Topics by Gender:

The results derived from the data indicate a clear disparity in the representation of women and men across various online platforms, with women being significantly marginalized in many political and social issues. For instance, in the topic of "other domestic policies," which includes local, regional, and national issues, the representation of women is extremely low at just 6.3%, compared to 93.7% for men. The same applies to "global partnerships," where the representation of women was 0.0%, while men's representation was 100.0%. Similarly, in issues such as "national defense, military spending, and military training and military presentations," as well as "wars and armed conflicts," the representation of women was 0.0%, reflecting a clear marginalization of women in these topics.

On the other hand, in humanitarian issues such as "displacement and humanitarian response," we find a greater representation of women, especially on platforms like Instagram, where women's representation reached 60% compared to 40% for men.



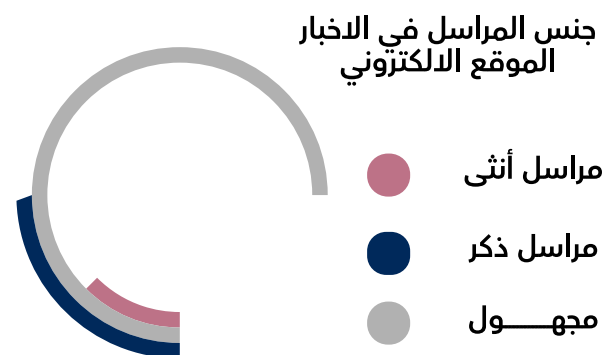
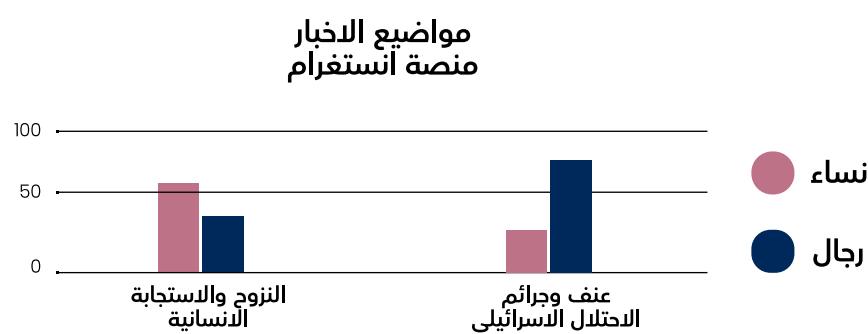
Meanwhile, on Facebook, the representation was 12% for women and 98% for men, reflecting a greater interest in the humanitarian aspect and the suffering that women endure during crises. This trend highlights the essential role of women in addressing humanitarian crises; however, it does not necessarily imply a balanced or comprehensive representation. Regarding the violence and crimes of the Israeli occupation, we observe that the representation of women on this topic remains limited. For example, on Instagram, the representation of women in "violence and crimes of the Israeli occupation and settlers" was 20.7%, compared to 79.3% for men. Meanwhile, on Facebook, the representation was 13.3% for women and 86.7% for men. Although these percentages show a slight increase in the representation of women in these issues, men still constitute the majority in media coverage.

These figures are undoubtedly shocking; for instance, agricultural work in Palestine especially during the olive-picking season, is a family endeavor that involves everyone. However, media coverage often overlooks the role of women in this field, despite the fact that women make up a significant portion of the agricultural workforce (39% according to statistics). In most news reports addressing settler attacks on Palestinian lands during the olive-picking season, the focus is on statements from village men or the mayor, while the contributions of women, who play a crucial role in agricultural work and in resisting these attacks, are often neglected.



## News Sources by Gender

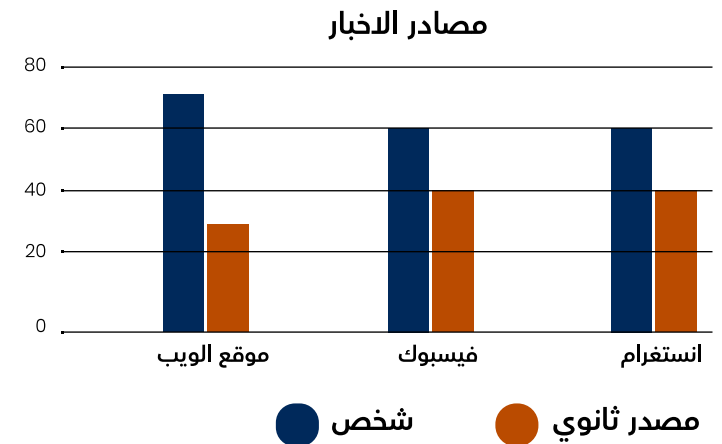
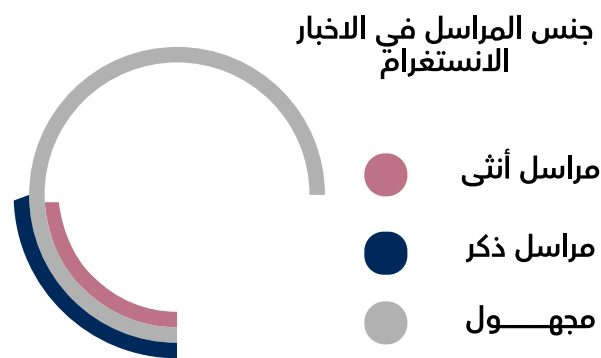
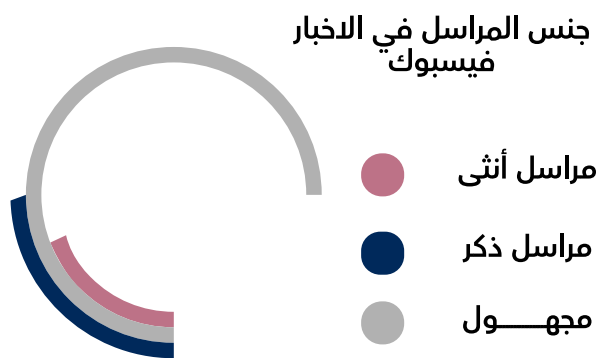
The analysis revealed that 89% of the news articles were attributed to unknown reporters on the website, which is the highest percentage compared to the news in which the reporter is identified. The percentage of news articles mentioning male reporters was 10%, while the representation of female reporters did not exceed 2%. These figures are not surprising, especially since a large portion of the analyzed news comes from local media outlets, which often rely on reporting news from larger Arabic or local channels, such as Palestine TV, Al Jazeera, and Al Arabiya. Consequently, these local stations do not have their own reporters and simply relay the news as information without referencing its source or reporter. It was noted that the anonymity of reporters was higher on websites compared to social media platforms. This is because social media platforms, such as Facebook and Instagram, heavily rely on short video clips, which often feature the voice or image of the person delivering the news, making it easier to identify the gender of the reporter. In contrast, websites primarily use written content accompanied by images, making it more challenging to determine the gender of the reporter. On Instagram, the percentage of the anonymity rate on Instagram was 83%, while the percentage of female reporters was 7% and male reporters was 10%. On Facebook, the anonymity rate reached 86%, with female reporters accounting for 5% and male reporters for 9%.



## Sources of News

News sources can be divided into primary and secondary sources. By "primary source," we mean news reported by individuals, groups, or entities directly involved in the events being reported. "Secondary sources," on the other hand, refer to news that is based on information from reports, articles, or other written materials. The results showed a high percentage of secondary sources in the news that was analyzed, with 29% on websites, 42% on Instagram, and 41% on Facebook. These results reflect a significant reliance on relaying news from other sources rather than direct coverage, especially in the context of events following October 7th. This reliance on secondary sources, in the context of war and occupation, poses a significant issue, as media coverage during such critical times requires accuracy and speed in conveying information, which is difficult to achieve when depending on sources that are not directly involved in the events.

The reliance on secondary sources can be attributed to the context of war, where Gaza is experiencing severe siege and systematic destruction, making the need for direct primary sources more urgent. However, the high percentage of secondary sources indicates a weakened ability to access the field due to security and logistical constraints, which drives media outlets to rely on reports transmitted from other channels or news agencies.



This situation particularly affects the coverage of issues related to women, who are often at the heart of the events and whose suffering is compounded by their traditional roles. For instance, forced displacement, loss of shelter, and security are significant challenges. The impact of losing privacy is greater for women than for men. Nevertheless, reliance on secondary sources means that their stories are often flattened or overlooked, as news is conveyed from an external perspective without a deep understanding of the local context.

For example, there may be a focus on casualty figures or physical destruction, while the personal experiences of women—such as how they cope with the loss of loved ones, their caregiving roles, and how they lead relief initiatives under extremely difficult conditions are ignored.

For example, one news report mentions the martyrdom of a mother and her daughter in Khan Younis, another report discusses settler attacks on Palestinian lands, and hundreds of reports focus on martyrs and injuries from the occupation's bombardment of Gaza, while another report talks about the demolition of homes in the Silwan area.

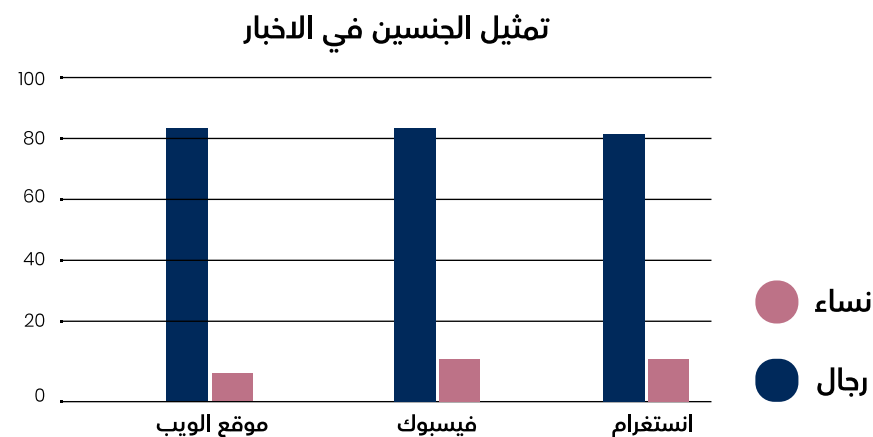
All of these news stories, and hundreds like them, contribute to flattening women's narratives, as they are indeed present in the events but are absent from the news. Thus, the high reliance on secondary sources in covering war news reinforces stereotypes about women by excluding them from the scene.

## People in the News:

The results show that male representation in the news significantly exceeds female representation across all platforms, with males accounting for 87.3% on the website, 82.8% on Instagram, and 84.2% on Facebook, while female representation did not exceed 10% on the website, 17.2% on Instagram, and 15.8% on Facebook. These figures reflect a clear media bias in favor of males, who are highlighted in leadership and public roles, while the roles of women are minimized or ignored. The results discussed above regarding the gender of reporters, sources, and the topics covered provide a natural explanation for this outcome. The limited appearance of women in the news is attributed to several interconnected and complex factors, the first of which is the high percentage of secondary sources in media coverage. Many media outlets rely on reporting news from other sources rather than direct coverage, which leads to weak representation of women, especially if the original sources do not prioritize their roles. Additionally, the low percentage of female journalists contributes to the reduced visibility of women in the news, as the absence of female reporters in the field means that women's stories and experiences are often overlooked or superficially reported.



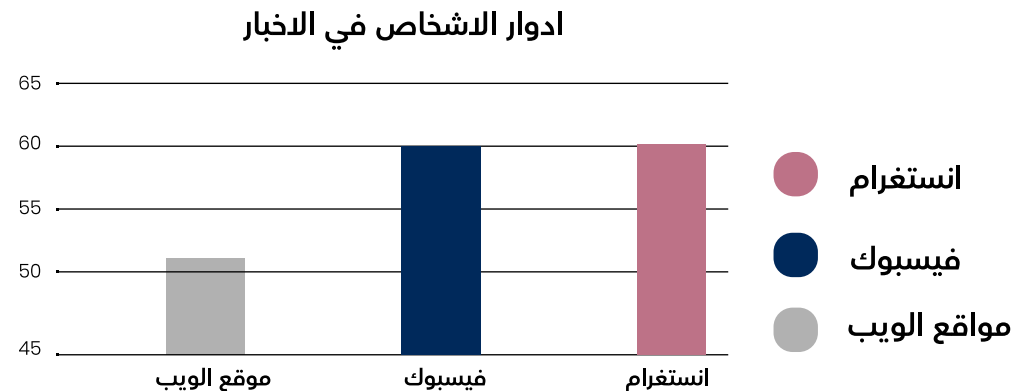
This situation also reflects the Palestinian social and political structure, where women's political participation remains relatively weak. This is evident in the results, as the topic of women's political participation was reflected in the news only 2% of the time across all topics, alongside the weak representation of women in both government institutions and political parties. Since news often focuses on political and leadership events, the under-representation of women in these areas directly impacts the portrayal of women in the media. In other words, the representation of women in the news reflects their role in society, their representation in institutions, and their political participation. According to data from the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics for the years 2018-2019, there is a clear gap in women's participation in decision-making positions; women accounted for 5.4% in the Central Council, 11.3% in the Legislative Council, 10.6% in the Palestinian National Council, 6.7% in the Executive Committee, 13.6% in the Cabinet, and 11.2% in the diplomatic corps. Based on these results, we can interpret the reason for women's absence from the news; while this is certainly not the only reason, it is a significant factor affecting the visibility of women's narratives in news as well as in various social, cultural, and legal contexts. It is important to note that most news topics have a political nature, and most speakers tend to be official representatives, which establishes a strong relationship between women's political representation and their appearance in the news.



## The Role of Individuals in News Stories:

The results show that more than half of the news on websites (51%) and social media platforms such as Instagram and Facebook (59.9%) do not clearly define the role of individuals, indicating a lack of detailed coverage of events. This finding is closely related to the previously analyzed source type results, as the high percentage of secondary sources (29% on the website, 42% on Instagram, and 41% on Facebook) often means the absence of individuals from the media narrative. When media outlets rely on reporting news from other sources instead of direct coverage, they lose the ability to identify individuals' roles in the story, leading to the neglect of personal stories and eyewitness accounts.

This situation reflects a structural challenge in media work, as reliance on secondary sources reduces opportunities for direct interaction with individuals who are experiencing the event, leading to a general and superficial media narrative. Additionally, the lack of media resources and the absence of field reporters in many media institutions exacerbate this challenge, as news is often reported from other sources without the ability to verify its accuracy or provide in depth coverage.



At the same time, we cannot ignore that the nature of fast news, especially on social media platforms, contributes to reinforcing this superficial approach, as the focus is on quickly conveying the event rather than providing deep analysis or personal stories. This approach not only diminishes the quality of media coverage but also limits the audience's understanding of the event in a comprehensive manner, especially when it comes to humanitarian or social issues that require a more detailed narrative.

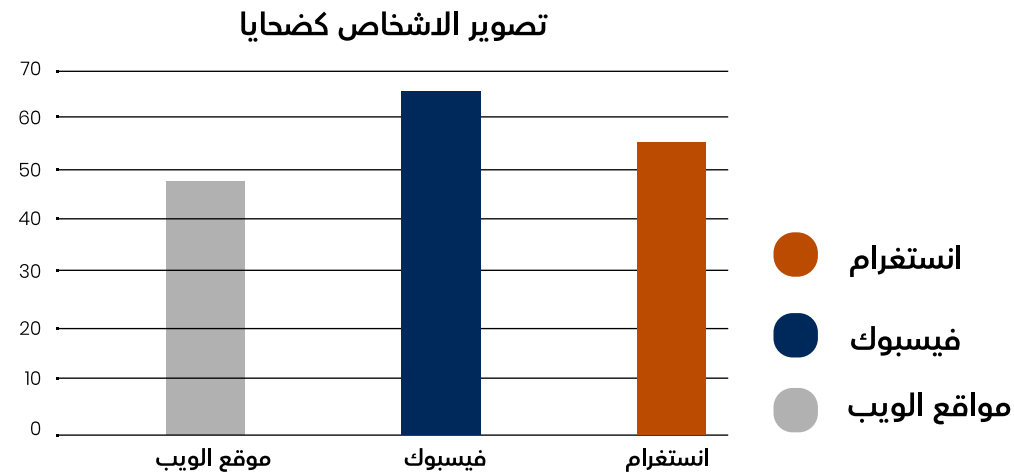
On the other hand, the data reveals a clear variation in the status of official sources compared to the subject owner across different platforms. In traditional news websites, the official spokesperson (44.7%) remains the most relied-upon source, reflecting the continued role of official entities in shaping the media discourse. Meanwhile, the subject owner (33.2%) has a strong presence, indicating an increasing interest from media outlets in conveying direct narratives from individuals involved in the event.

On Instagram, the role of the official spokesperson (3.3%) significantly declines, while the subject owner (24.5%) maintains a prominent position, reflecting users' preference for more personal and direct sources away from official discourse. On Facebook, the percentage of the official spokesperson (9.5%) is slightly higher than on Instagram, but it remains low, while the subject owner (24.3%) continues to hold a strong position.



## News Stories and Victim Discourse:

The results show that the portrayal of individuals as victims in news stories varies across media platforms. On websites, individuals were depicted as victims 47.8% of the time, while the percentage was higher on social media platforms, reaching 56.0% on Instagram and 65.1% on Facebook. This difference reflects the nature of each platform and how the audience interacts with the content. On websites, where content relies more on text and analysis, the coverage tends to be less emotional and more balanced. In contrast, on social media platforms like Instagram and Facebook, the visual and interactive nature of these platforms makes them more inclined to highlight the emotional and tragic aspects of events, facilitating the portrayal of individuals as victims.



For example, Al Arabiya's social media channel heavily relies on reels and personal stories that showcase the suffering of children, women, and families in Gaza due to hunger and displacement. These stories are often accompanied by short videos that directly depict destruction and human suffering, such as a crying child due to hunger or a family losing their home due to shelling. This method of presentation quickly and powerfully captures the audience's attention, as emotional and impactful content tends to be more widely shared and engaged with on social media platforms.

We observed during the monitoring process that portraying individuals as victims on social media is easier due to several factors, including the visual nature of the platforms that allow for the direct display of suffering through images and short videos. The rapid audience interaction with emotional content also plays a role, as impactful stories receive greater engagement in terms of likes and shares. However, the excessive focus on depicting individuals as victims may reinforce stereotypes of weakness and suffering, while diminishing the emphasis on stories of resilience and resistance.

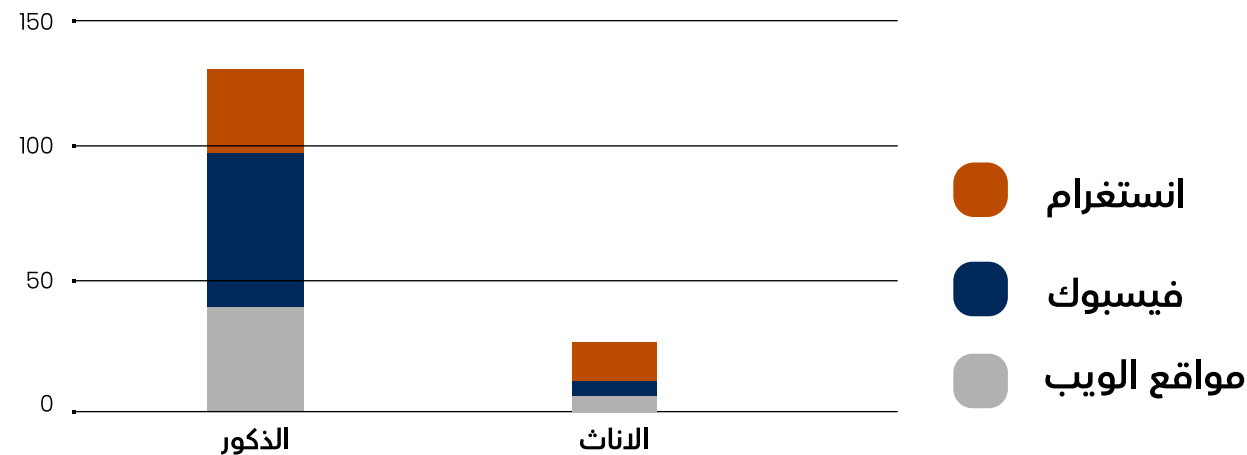
For example, a video of a woman crying because she cannot provide food for her children is very easy to spread, or another video of a man who lost his three children saying, "Now I want to distribute my heart over three graves." During our monitoring, we were careful to provide the option to view individuals in the news both as victims and as resilient and successful, in order to avoid bias or framing in the responses.



## Males and Females as Victims and Survivors in the News:

The aggregated results from Instagram, Facebook, and the website indicate significant gender differences in their representation as victims or survivors in the stories. Overall, a higher percentage of males were classified as victims or survivors compared to females, with the percentage of males classified as such being 36.8% on Instagram, 56.9% on Facebook, and 41.8% on the website. In contrast, the percentage of females classified as victims or survivors was significantly lower, at 20.0% on Instagram, 4.1% on Facebook, and 3.8% on the website. This clear gender gap may reflect differences in how males and females are represented in the stories, as it appears that males are more likely to be portrayed as victims or survivors compared to females, which may be due to the fact that most stories are about them.

### الذكور والاناث كضحايا وناجين في الاخبار



## Women and their Issues in News Stories:

Some news stories focus on a group of women or a specific woman, while others address issues that affect women in some way, such as stories about the lack of privacy for women in displacement areas or about women's reproductive health during wars. Analyzing the results related to the focus of news stories on women reveals a significant weakness in highlighting them, whether as individuals or as groups, across different media platforms.

On websites, only 6.2% of stories focus on a specific woman or group of women, while 93.8% ignore them, reflecting a clear absence of women in written media content. On Instagram, this percentage rises slightly to 13.1%, indicating that the visual nature of the platform may contribute to highlighting some women's stories, but the vast majority (86.9%) still marginalizes the role of women and their issues. On Facebook, the percentage of stories focusing on women is 10%, suggesting a slight improvement compared to websites, but it still reflects a lack of media interest in women's issues.

These results reflect a media bias that reinforces stereotypes that marginalize women and highlight men as the main actors in society. News rarely addresses women's issues in displacement areas or their living conditions, or their reproductive health, while stories related to women with disabilities or women's narratives in reconstruction issues are often overlooked, and their voices are completely absent in news about negotiations. It is important to note that some of these issues are addressed in reports or extended articles, but they are hardly noticeable in the news.

## News Stories and Issues of Inequality

Data indicates that the vast majority of media content does not clearly highlight issues of inequality between women and men. Across different categories, the percentage of news items that failed to shed light on these issues ranged between 53.3% and 82.8%, reflecting weak media coverage of women's issues and a lack of clear emphasis on gender gaps. Additionally, a significant proportion of news reports (45.4% and 20.9%) were assessed by the monitoring participants as either undecided or uncertain, suggesting that media presentations of these issues were often vague or unclear.

Conversely, the percentage of news stories that participants believed did highlight issues of inequality did not exceed 3.1% at best. This result is consistent with the data presented earlier, indicating that fast news reports from anonymous sources are unlikely to provide deep or nuanced content at any level.

It is important to note that by "issues of equality," we do not merely refer to the explicit mention of women, but rather to the inclusion of narratives that reflect the experiences and perspectives of all segments of society.

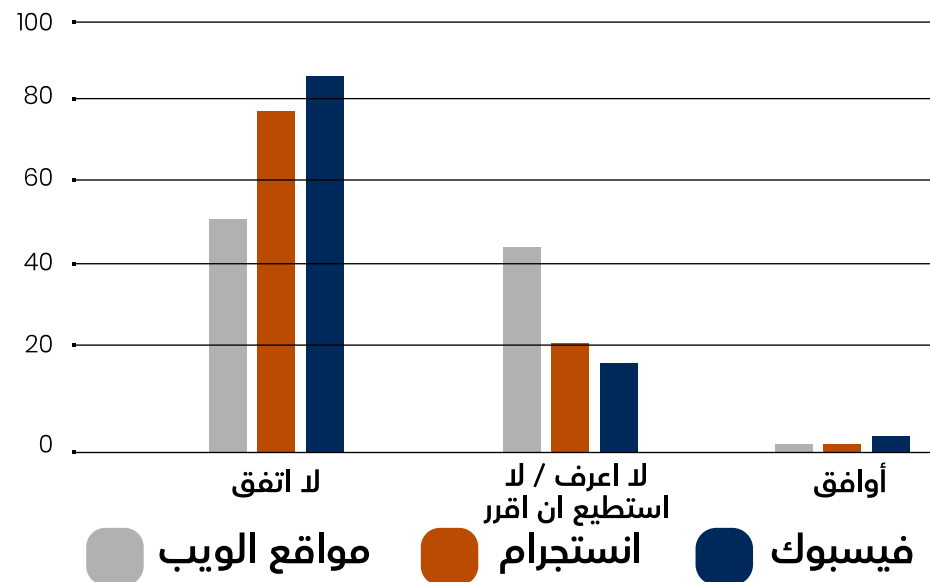


## News Stories and the Challenge of Stereotypes

The findings recorded during the war on Gaza — a period characterized by siege, continuous bombardment, and ongoing starvation — reveal that media content largely failed to challenge the prevailing stereotypes surrounding the conflict.

High rates of disagreement (52.6% on websites, 77.8% on Instagram, and 84.6% on Facebook) indicate that the majority of news stories did not present new or alternative narratives capable of confronting preconceived ideas. Additionally, the significant proportions of "Don't know/Unable to decide" responses (45.4% on websites, 20.9% on Instagram, and 13.3% on Facebook) suggest that a considerable portion of the content left monitoring participants uncertain as to whether the coverage reflected resilience, highlighting a lack of clarity in media messaging or insufficiency in the information provided within the reports.

### تحدي الصور النمطية في الاخبار



In the context of war, where social roles shift and women, for example, become primary breadwinners and caregivers in the absence of husbands due to displacement or martyrdom, it was expected that the media would highlight these radical shifts in roles. However, it seems that media content has not adequately emphasized these changes, reflecting a shortcoming in covering the humanitarian and social aspects of the conflict. Instead, media stories have largely remained confined to traditional stereotypes, failing to reflect the complexities of the new reality imposed by war.

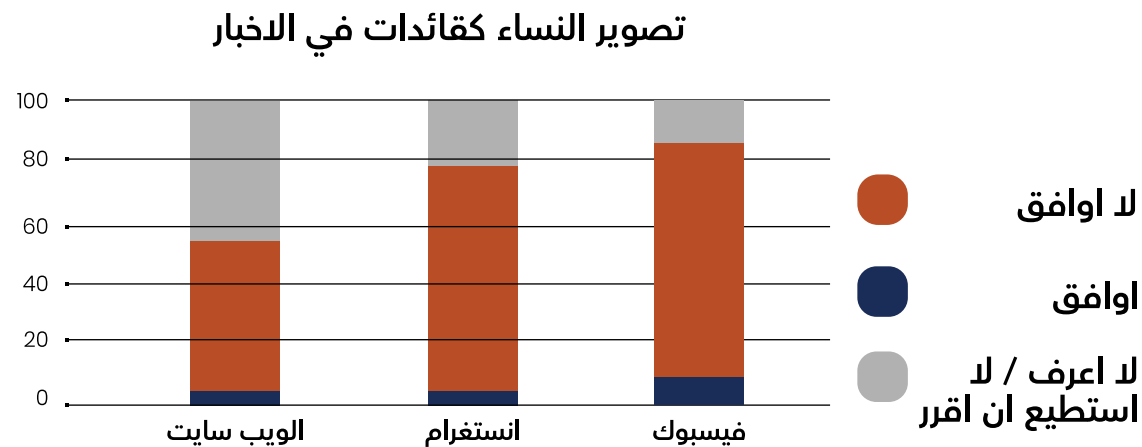


## Representation of Women as Leaders During the War

The findings indicate that media content during the war on Gaza largely failed to portray women as leaders, despite the crucial roles women played under the harsh conditions imposed by the conflict.

The high rates of "Disagree" responses (52.2% on websites, 77.0% on Instagram, and 82.3% on Facebook) reflect that the vast majority of news content did not provide an adequate or convincing representation of women in leadership roles.

Similarly, the elevated percentages of "Don't know/Unable to decide" responses (45.5% on websites, 20.9% on Instagram, and 13.3% on Facebook) suggest that the news content was often unclear, preventing participants from forming a solid opinion.



## The Representation of Palestinian Resilience in Media Content

The percentages indicate several key points regarding the portrayal of Palestinian resilience in media content during the war on Gaza.

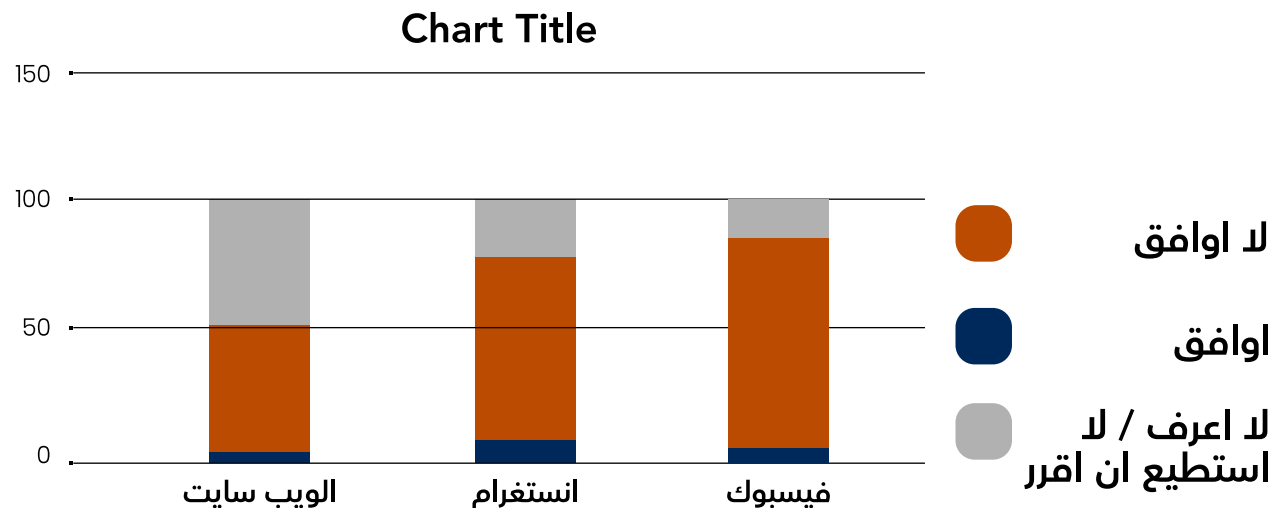
An analysis of the data reveals that the vast majority of news content failed to adequately or convincingly portray Palestinian resilience. The "Disagree" responses were significant, with 50.9% on websites, 71.9% on Instagram, and 79.7% on Facebook. This reflects the media's failure to emphasize daily resilience practices, such as rebuilding homes despite the threat of demolition, investing in education, or organizing cultural and awareness-raising events. Additionally, the high percentages of "Don't know / Unable to decide" responses (45.5% on websites, 20.9% on Instagram, and 13.8% on Facebook) suggest that the portrayal and discussion of resilience stories were not clear enough for monitors to form a definitive opinion on whether the media message accurately reflected resilience.



Differences between platforms are also notable, with the percentage of "I don't know / I can't decide" being high on the website (45.5%), suggesting that the content presented on this platform was less clear or impactful in conveying the message. In contrast, the percentage of "I disagree" was higher on Instagram (71.9%) and Facebook (79.7%), indicating that the content on these platforms was clearer, but negatively so, as it did not effectively portray resilience.

In the context of war and siege, it was expected that the media would focus on the daily resilience practices through which Palestinians express their determination to live, such as rebuilding, education, and cultural activities. However, the results indicate that media content failed to reflect these practices, highlighting a shortcoming in media coverage and its inability to keep pace with the complexities of life under occupation.

Finally, the low percentages of "I agree" (3.6% on the website, 7.2% on Instagram, and 5.4% on Facebook) confirm that media content was not effective in presenting a positive or realistic image of Palestinian resilience. This may be due to content bias or a lack of sufficient or convincing information to highlight these practices.



## Analysis:

Abu Muhammad from the village of Douma was forcibly displaced and now lives in a tent that offers no protection from the winter cold or the summer heat. In this news report broadcast by Al-Fajr Al-Jadid TV, which features a video interview with Abu Muhammad, a victim of settler violations, the headline focused solely on Abu Muhammad's displacement, neglecting to mention his family of 15 members. This may be attributed to a social mentality that views the man as the primary breadwinner of the family, especially with the use of the nickname "Abu," which automatically implies the existence of a family.

However, this portrayal reflects a stereotype of men as protectors and providers, without highlighting the roles or suffering of women in this crisis. The video did not shed light on the conditions of the women in Abu Muhammad's family, despite the fact that the burden of caregiving and support often falls on females in traditional societies, particularly in Bedouin environments like that of Abu Muhammad's family. The broadcaster also did not pose any questions regarding the status of women, and Abu Muhammad himself did not address this aspect.



## **Palestine wins awards at the conclusion of the 45th Cairo International Film Festival.**

This news story, as indicated by its title, focuses on Palestine's collective achievement at the Cairo International Film Festival, while not providing enough space for individual details, especially those related to directors Carol Mansour and Mona Khalidi, whose film "A Case of Love" won the award for Best Feature Documentary. Although their achievement was mentioned in the body of the news, the absence of an independent report about them or the film shows a minimization of the importance of highlighting this accomplishment, and it did not mention any details, even simple ones, about the film.

We also notice that the news emphasized the festival's role in supporting the Palestinian cause and Palestinian cinema, while it missed the opportunity to highlight the role of women's cinema, especially given the challenges facing the film industry in Palestine. Although the news mentioned the success of other films directed by women, such as "Dreams of a Square Kilometer" and "Transitory Dreams," these references were fleeting and did not provide the details they deserve. While the news succeeded in highlighting the importance of art in conveying the suffering of the Palestinian people, it missed the chance to spotlight how women are empowered in the film industry.



## **UNRWA: Baby formula in Gaza is nearly depleted, putting infants' lives at risk.**

On Monday, the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) stated that its supplies of baby formula are nearly exhausted in the Gaza Strip, putting infants' lives at risk."

UNRWA noted in a post on the platform "X" that only six boxes remain for distribution in Gaza, while about 8,500 infants in the sector rely on it for milk, explaining that "the remaining quantity was from a shipment received three months ago."

It emphasized that the shortage of supplies endangers the lives of infants and more than 200,000 people who depend on its services in the Gaza Strip. The agency added that about 19,000 children in the sector have been hospitalized due to severe malnutrition over the past four months, confirming that the number has doubled since the beginning of this year.

Earlier, Dr. Ahmed Al-Fara, director of Al-Tahrir Hospital for Children and Maternity in Nasser Medical Complex, stated in press remarks that Israeli occupation forces have prevented the entry of baby formula for three months, leading to a severe crisis in its availability after it ran out in the markets. Al-Fara pointed to the seriousness of the lack of milk and special formulas, whether in hospitals or pharmacies, as children especially infants, rely heavily on this source.



The news focused heavily on children as the primary victims of the crisis, while the role of women, especially mothers, was largely absent. It is strange that the news did not provide enough space for the voices of women who are directly suffering from the shortage of baby formula, even though they are the most affected by this crisis. At the same time, the news could have relied on female sources, such as mothers, to provide a more balanced perspective that reflects their real experiences. We did not hear from mothers, nor did we hear about them.

It is also noticeable that the sources used were predominantly male, such as statements from a doctor, while the absence of female sources reflects an indirect gender bias. The news could have addressed the emotional and psychological aspects of the crisis, such as the suffering of mothers who cannot feed their children, which would have added greater depth to the story. In reality, while the news may have succeeded in highlighting the humanitarian crisis, it failed to present a balanced gender perspective, overlooking the role and suffering of women, which could have made the coverage more comprehensive and humane.

In this context, we notice a clear trend in many news sites toward focusing on numbers and official statements, giving an impression of objectivity and credibility. However, this approach often strips individuals of their humanity, reducing them to mere numbers and statistics, which robs the story of its emotional and human depth. While numbers are important to illustrate the scale of the crisis, they are not sufficient on their own to understand its real impact on people's lives.

It is strange to see how humanitarian aspects, such as the stories of individuals suffering from the crisis, are ignored, even though these stories make the news more impactful and realistic. At the same time, these sites could balance between numbers and official statements on one hand, and personal stories and human experiences on the other, which would provide a more complete and truthful picture. An excessive focus on numbers and official data may enhance statistical credibility, but it loses the news its human spirit. These sites could have adopted a more balanced approach that integrates digital facts with personal stories, making the news more impactful and closer to people's realities.

## Analysis of the Video "Walaa: Four Loaves and a Story of Resilience"

The video presents the story of Walaa, a displaced woman from northern Gaza to the south, as she tries to meet her family's needs under harsh conditions. It is evident from the video that Walaa faces a dual struggle: she is not only a victim of occupation and war but also embodies the tangible image of women's resilience in displacement. The scene showing Walaa baking bread for her children expresses women's capacity to endure.

The video also illustrates that displacement does not affect men and women in the same way. Women experience this situation uniquely due to the additional challenges they face. In Walaa's case, it is clear from the video that she is not only dealing with hunger and cold but also bears the responsibility of caring for her children and maintaining family stability amidst displacement. Thus, the video highlights the impact of displacement on women's identity, portraying Walaa as a university graduate who aspired to build a stable life, but displacement has turned her goal into merely securing her family's basic needs.

The video conveys a message that women in displacement strive to maintain their dignity even in the toughest times. Walaa's refusal to accept help from others when she said, "What matters is that we do not extend our hands to anyone," reflects a societal culture that has become accustomed to the narratives of victimhood and seeking pity from women.

When clips show Walaa sharing her bread with her displaced neighbor, the video illustrates that displaced women create a network of mutual support, despite limited resources. This idea of female solidarity is considered a fundamental element in resisting the reality of displacement where cooperation among women transforms into a real strength facing daily challenges.



## **Analysis of the Video "The Spirit of the Soul" and the Martyrdom of Khaled Nabbhan: Breaking Stereotypes and Highlighting Humanity Amidst Tragedy**

The video documenting the martyrdom of Khaled Nabbhan (Abu Dia) in the Nuseirat camp in the Gaza Strip presents a profound human scene, beginning with a moment of personal pain that has transformed into a universal symbol of Palestinian suffering. The poignant scene of "the spirit of the soul," where Abu Dia carries the body of his granddaughter Reem, bidding her farewell with tears that shake the heart, is not merely a record of individual loss but a window into the collective tragedy experienced by a besieged people.

The footage showing him playing with children during recreational sessions or distributing aid with a smile despite his pain reveals a stark contrast to the stereotype that may be created by his external appearance (beard and traditional attire); instead of the "terrorist" imagined by some biased media narratives, we see a loving grandfather and a social reformer embodying human values in the toughest circumstances.



The video, through its documentation of Abu Dia's daily life, condemns not only the violence that ended his life but also the fragmented images that present Palestinians merely as "victims" or "fighters," ignoring stories of giving and solidarity. Scenes of him distributing food or sitting among children to bring smiles to their faces remind the world that Gaza is not just a war zone but a community filled with life and dignity. These small details expose the failure of global media to convey the human complexity of the conflict and reveal how simple personal narratives can transform numbers into faces and suffering into a global humanitarian issue.

The video does not merely evoke sympathy but raises legal and ethical questions about the targeting of civilians in camps, which are supposed to be protected under international law. The martyrdom of Abu Dia, who survived the loss of his granddaughter only to die later in another bombing, illustrates the tragic cycle of violence that does not differentiate between generations. Nevertheless, hope remains present through the last images of him organizing activities for children, as if he is planting joy in the face of death.



## General Recommendations:

### 1. Enhancing Balanced Coverage of Women's Issues:

- Avoid stereotypes that confine women to victim roles only, and highlight their roles as leaders, resistors, and workers in various fields during wars.
- Allocate more space in the media to cover stories of women's survival and success, and their impact in wartime contexts and beyond.
- Adopting an Ethical and Responsible Approach to Coverage:  
Establish codes of conduct and journalistic ethics that require media professionals to cover women's issues in wars with professionalism that respects their dignity and does not exploit their suffering for sensationalism.

### 2. Empowering Female Journalists and Enhancing Their Role in Media:

- Encourage the participation of female journalists in covering conflicts and wars, and provide a safe working environment for them to ensure deeper and more sensitive perspectives on women's issues.
- Train journalists on fair coverage techniques for women's issues in wars, including avoiding linguistic bias and highlighting the diversity of women's roles.
- Pursue international legal action regarding Israeli occupation crimes, especially concerning the targeting of journalists.

### 3. Enhancing Cooperation Between Media and Women's and Human Rights Organizations:

- Build partnerships between media outlets and women's organizations to ensure accurate and comprehensive coverage of women's issues in wars.
- Utilize data and statistics from relevant organizations to enhance the credibility of media coverage and avoid narratives not based on facts.

#### 4. Developing Media Content that Reflects Women's Realities in Wars:

- Produce reports and documentaries that highlight women's real experiences in conflicts, giving them space to express their viewpoints.
- Use digital platforms to amplify women's voices in wars to a wider audience and engage them in media content creation.

#### 5. Advocating for the Inclusion of Women's Issues in Media Policies:

- Work to include binding standards for media institutions to cover women's issues in conflicts within their editorial policies.
- Promote policies that support the presence of women in decision-making positions within media institutions to ensure broader representation of their issues.

## Recommendations for Social Media Platforms:

### 1. Enhancing Interactive Visual Content:

- Use short videos (reels) and stories to highlight women's stories in wars, focusing on human aspects and resilience. At the same time, the presenter and storyteller should provide context about the reality, blending the formal tone that lends credibility to the news with the human aspect that delves into details without portraying individuals as mere victims or tools for engagement. For example, when covering a story about a woman discussing her childbirth conditions, it would be beneficial to mention statistics on the number of births or the number of women and children who lost their lives in this war from human rights sources such as international organizations.
- Create interactive campaigns that allow women to share their personal experiences directly on platforms, giving them a larger voice.

### 2. Increasing Representation of Women in Content:

- Encourage platforms to highlight women as newsmakers, not just as news subjects, through direct interviews and field reports. For instance, in the case of the war in Gaza, a platform could be created to allow women to publish news, provided it is verified.

### 3.Improving the Quality of Emotional Content:

- Avoid excessive focus on portraying women solely as victims, while also emphasizing stories of resilience and resistance. It is important to note that portraying them as victims does not negate the depiction of their resilience; women in Gaza are victims of genocide but at the same time resist and create ways to survive.
- Use emotional content in a balanced manner, reflecting suffering without reinforcing negative stereotypes.

### 4.Enhancing Collaboration with Feminist Influencers:

- Collaborate with feminist influencers on social media platforms to raise awareness of women's issues in wars.
- Use these platforms to publish detailed reports on women's roles in resilience and resistance, involving influencers in content creation.

### 5.Improving Rapid and Direct Coverage:

- Leverage the speed of content dissemination on social media to cover events instantly, ensuring to highlight women's roles in these events.
- Use live broadcasting to provide direct field reports from women in conflict areas.

## Recommendations for Websites:

### 1.Improving Detailed Coverage:

- Increase focus on personal stories of women, rather than relying solely on numbers and statistics.
- Produce long, detailed reports that reflect women's experiences in wars, giving more space to their voices.

### 2.Increasing Representation of Women in Sources:

- Rely on female sources in news reports, such as mothers, activists, and local leaders.
- Conduct interviews with women from various age groups and social backgrounds to provide a more comprehensive perspective.

### 3.Improving News Coverage of Women's Issues:

- Allocate special sections on websites to cover women's issues in wars, such as reproductive health, displacement, and political participation.
- Produce content that reflects the challenges women face under occupation and war, highlighting their community initiatives.

### 4.Enhancing Transparency in Sources:

- Reduce reliance on secondary sources and focus on direct coverage from the field.
- Clarify the roles of women in news stories, clearly mentioning their names and contributions.

#### 5.Improving Media Coverage of Humanitarian Issues:

- Focus on the humanitarian aspects of crises, such as women's struggles to provide food and care for their children. Produce reports that reflect the impact of humanitarian crises on women specifically, giving more space to their voices.

#### 6.Creating an Archive of Women's Stories:

- Develop an electronic archive that collects women's stories in wars, which journalists and readers can refer to for improved media coverage.
- Encourage journalists to use these stories in their reports to enhance the representation of women in the media.

