The Arab and Israeli Online Newspapers' Coverage of the Events in the Sheikh Jarrah Neighborhood in East Jerusalem During May 2021: An Analytical Study on Electronic Newspapers (Al-Ghad, the Palestinian Days, the Israeli Times)

Manal Hilal Mazahra[1,*] & **Samar Y. Makanai**[2,3]

Abstract: Objective: The study aimed to identify the coverage of Sheikh Jarrah events in East Jerusalem during May 2021 by Arab and Israeli electronic newspapers, **Mothed:** The study uses descriptive survey methodology with content analysis and framing mechanisms. **Results:** The analysis revealed varied coverage across the selected newspapers. The Jordanian Al-Ghad website emphasized "solidarity, electronic interaction, and Jordanian sit-ins supporting Sheikh Jarrah residents" (16.9%). The Palestinian Al-Ayyam website focused on "residents' steadfastness against occupation forces and settlers" (27.8%). The Israeli newspaper The Times highlighted "Israeli police retreat, route changes for media marches from Damascus Gate, and reinforced forces in Jerusalem's Old City." (11.8%), Selection mechanisms differed: Al-Ghad prioritized images, while Al-Ayyam and The Times relied on word repetition. Active forces also varied. Al-Ghad focused on unions, popular events, the Jordanian government, and the occupation court. Al-Ayyam emphasized the Israeli police, popular events, Palestinian factions, and Hamas. The Times primarily covered internal Israeli issues, Palestinian factions, Hamas, and the Israeli police. **Conclusions:** These findings highlight distinct framing strategies and priorities in the coverage of the Sheikh Jarrah events across the newspaper websites studied. **Recommendations:** Expanding scholarly research on media framing and journalistic practices in covering crises and human rights violations affecting the Palestinian people in the occupied territories, with a focus on analyzing narratives, discourse patterns, and professional standards within news coverage.

Keywords: Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, electronic newspapers, Palestinian-Israeli conflict.

تغطية الصحف الإلكترونية العربية والإسرائيلية لأحداث حي الشيخ جراح في القدس الشرقية خلال شهر مايو 2021: دراسة تحليلية للصحف الإلكترونية (الغد، الأيام الفلسطينية، صحيفة إسرائيل تايمز)

منال هلال المزاهرة[1,*] **، و سمر يحيي مكناي**[2,3]

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المُلخّص: الأهداف: هدفت الدراسة الى التعرف إلى درجة تغطية الصحف الإلكترونية العربية والإسرائيلية لأحداث حي الشيخ جراح في القدس الشرقية خلال شهر مايو 2021، **المنهجية:** تم الاعتماد على منهج المسح الوصفي باستخدام كل من تحليل المضمون وآليات التأطير. **النتائج:** كشف التحليل عن تباين في التغطية بين الصحف المختارة. فقد ركزت صحيفة الغد الأردنية على "التضامن والتفاعل الإلكتروني والاعتصامات الأردنية الداعمة لأهالي الشيخ جراح" (16.9%). بينما ركزت صحيفة الأيام الفلسطينية على "صمود الأهالي في وجه قوات الاحتلال والمستوطنين" (27.8%). وسلطت صحيفة التايمز الإسرائيلية الضوء على "انسحاب الشرطة الإسرائيلية، وتغيير مسار المسيرات الإعلامية من باب العامود، وتعزيز القوات في البلدة القديمة بالقدس". اختلفت آليات الاختيار: فأعطت صحيفة الغد الأولوية للصور، بينما اعتمدت صحيفة الأيام وصحيفة التايمز على تكرار الكلمات. كما أظهرت الدراسة تباين القوى الفاعلة في الصحف محل الدراسة. ركزت صحيفة الغد على النقابات، والفعاليات الشعبية، والحكومة الأردنية، ومحكمة الاحتلال. بينما ركزت صحيفة الأيام على الشرطة الإسرائيلية، والفعاليات الشعبية، والفصائل الفلسطينية، وحركة حماس. أما صحيفة التايمز، فقد غطت بشكل رئيس القضايا الداخلية الإسرائيلية، والفصائل الفلسطينية، وحماس، والشرطة الإسرائيلية. **الاستنتاجات:** تُبرز هذه النتائج اختلاف استراتيجيات وأولويات التأطير في تغطية أحداث الشيخ جراح عبر المواقع الإلكترونية للصحف المدروسة. **التوصيات:** يوصي الباحثون بإجراء المزيد من الدراسات حول التغطية الصحفية للأزمات والانتهاكات التي يتعرض لها الشعب الفلسطيني في الأراضي المحتلة وخاصة المناطق المحيطة بالقدس الشرقية. وضرورة إنشاء فرق متخصصة تقوم على تفنيد والكشف عن زيف ادعاءات الجانب الإسرائيلي التي تقوم الترويج لها في أوقات الازمات التي يتعرض لها المقدسيون كأحداث حي الشيخ جراح وما بعدها سلوان وغيرها.

الكلمات المفتاحية: حي الشيخ جراح، الصحف الالكترونية، الصراع الفلسطيني الإسرائيلي.

1 Department of Journalism and Digital Media, Faculty of Mass Communication, University of Petra, Amman, Jordan
ORCID No: 0009-0001-2543-6535
* Corresponding author email: mmazahera@uop.edu.jo
2 Arab Open University, Amman, Jordan
3 **Currently:** Department of Digital Media, Faculty of Art and Humanities, Applied Sciences Private University, Amman, Jordan
ORCID No: 0000-0002-2813-0689
Email: _s_makanai@asu.edu.jo

1 قسم الصحافة والإعلام الرقمي، كلية الإعلام، جامعة البترا، عمّان، الأردن.
ORCID No: 0009-0001-2543-6535
* الباحث المراسل: mmazahera@uop.edu.jo
2 قسم الإعلام الرقمي، الجامعة العربية المفتوحه، عمان، الاردن
3 حالياً: قسم الإعلام الرقمي، كلية العلوم الإنسانية، جامعة العلوم التطبيقية الخاصة، عمّان، الأردن.
ORCID No: 0000-0002-2813-0689
البريد الالكتروني: s_makanai@asu.edu.jo

Introduction

News sites have become one of the important media that have emerged as a result of the integration of modern technology with the media among the masses, which has become part of their life behavior due to the characteristics that distinguish them in the transfer of news and information using the latest technologies that link writing, sound and image and the speed of transmitting and updating news, which led paper newspaper sites to search for a space to continue in the digital world by creating sites on the Internet, and became a competitor and alternative to the print press thanks to its employment of multimedia that Allows the browser to attend events live and live.

This study examines the coverage of a sample of Arab and Israeli newspapers of the Sheikh Jarrah events in East Jerusalem during the period from May 1 to May 30, 2021. This period witnessed a significant escalation in the Palestinian–Israeli conflict in occupied Jerusalem since April 2021. The escalation began with rising tensions among Palestinian demonstrators on May 6, 2021, over the planned eviction of seven families from their homes in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood on the eastern side of Jerusalem's Old City (Bumashtah, 2021). During this period, clashes intensified between Jerusalem residents, the Israeli occupation forces, and extremist settlers. These confrontations date back to 1972, when settlers first claimed ownership of the land on which these homes were built in 1954.

To date, they have not proven their ownership of this land. The Israeli government employs them to create demographic changes on Palestinian land. Then it plans to consolidate Jewish identity by strengthening the presence of an extremist Jewish majority within the Palestinian territories to isolate them from each other and displace Jerusalemites from their homes through settler organizations and extremists to seize them and transfer ownership

under the Absentee Property Law, which is applied in a racist manner to Jews, not Palestinians, to consolidate their illegitimate claims of sovereignty over occupied Jerusalem and link it to West Jerusalem to impose a fait accompli, despite Security Council resolutions. International Resolutions 242 and 338 affirm that Palestine has legal legitimacy under the Partition Resolution 181 and Resolution 2334, which consider Jerusalem occupied territory and reject settlements. Any measures taken by the occupation authorities are illegal.

However, the Israeli government is trying to assert that the occupied Palestinian territories are disputed territories, not occupied territories. In the face of all this evidence, these events revealed the broader strategy of the Israeli occupation to consolidate its control over East Jerusalem by fragmenting Palestinian neighborhoods and expanding settler enclaves (Arij, 2025). Jerusalemites face daily Palestinian struggle, steadfastness, and perseverance to defend their lands and their right to remain in their homes, which are threatened with eviction. This is a battle they are determined to continue and confront, especially after the delivery of official documents from the Jordanian government confirming their ownership of the homes they live in, which is worrisome given the Israeli settlement plan to Judaize Jerusalem. Hence, the researchers concluded that it is necessary to examine the extent to which Arab and Israeli electronic newspaper websites address this issue and the framing mechanisms they employ, given its humanitarian and historical significance for Jordanian and Palestinian society.

The events of Sheikh Jarrah are a deeper issue than a dispute over ownership and the seizure of Palestinian homes, which takes place between the owners of the land and the extremist settlers, but it is a political struggle to prevent the transformation of East Jerusalem into the capital of a future Palestinian state (Meckelberg, Yossi, 2021) These events are old and recent events that began since about twenty-eight Palestinian families settled in

1956 in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood after they were displaced from their homes following the Palestinian Nakba in 1948, as the West Bank At that time, under Jordanian rule from 1951 until the 1967 war, these families reached an agreement with the Jordanian Ministry of Construction and Reconstruction and the United Nations through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees "UNRWA" to provide housing for them in Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, provide land and donate money from UNRWA Construction costs, (Avocats Sans Frontières (ASF), 2011),provided that the families pay nominal wages for a period of three years after the completion of construction and the Jordanian government beatifies the ownership of the residents, where the ministry concluded individual agreements with the people to establish these(Arnout, 2022), The June War (Nakba) in 1967 prevented the completion of the declaration of the land and its registration in the names of the families due to Israel's occupation of the West Bank, including Jerusalem.

The beginning of the suffering of the Jerusalemites

In 1970, Israel passed the Legal and Administrative Affairs Law, granting Jews who lost property in East Jerusalem in 1948 the right to reclaim it, while denying the same right to displaced Palestinians. This discriminatory law fueled long-standing property disputes in East Jerusalem, particularly in Sheikh Jarrah, where Palestinian families settled in the 1950s after being displaced from West Jerusalem. The Sephardic Jewish Community Committee and the Israeli Knesset Committee claimed ownership of Sheikh Jarrah land dating to 1885, initiating eviction proceedings in 1972 against four Palestinian families. In 1976, an Israeli court recognized that the families had legally resided under Jordanian administration (1948–1967) but ruled that the land belonged to Israeli associations after 1967, creating a legal contradiction (Omran, 2021).

In 1982, the associations sued 24 families for eviction. Seventeen hired lawyer Tosia Cohen, and the case dragged on for years without conclusive proof of ownership by the settlers (Mohammed, 2021). In 1991, Cohen allegedly colluded with settler groups, signing an unauthorized agreement recognizing their ownership and converting the Palestinians into tenants under the Tenant Protection Law. This allowed eviction for non-payment of rent. When residents refused to pay, new legal cases began. In 1997, they obtained Ottoman-era deeds from Turkey, but Israeli courts rejected them in 2005 and 2006. The associations later sold the land to Nahalat Shimon. From 2008 onward, Israeli courts ruled in favor of settlers: the Kurdish family was evicted in 2008, followed by the Hanoun and Ghawi families in 2009. Settlers immediately occupied the homes and raised Israeli flags, symbolizing the deepening crisis. Since then, 12 additional families have faced eviction orders and appealed to the Israeli Supreme Court, highlighting Sheikh Jarrah as a stark emblem of unequal legal treatment and contested ownership in Jerusalem (Abu Wasel, 2021).

The escalating legal battle has transformed Sheikh Jarrah into a focal point of conflict. The neighborhood has seen frequent and violent confrontations between Palestinian residents and Israeli settlers, with Israeli police using tear gas, water cannons, and sponge bullets against protesters. Since May 2021, numerous Palestinian youths have been arrested (Aslan, 2021), The heightened tensions prompted the Israeli Supreme Court to postpone its decision on an appeal by four families. The court proposed a compromise: the families could remain as "protected tenants" if they recognized Israeli ownership and paid a symbolic annual rent. The residents are awaiting a new hearing, having submitted new documents from the Jordanian government, personally handed to Palestinian President

Mahmoud Abbas by the Jordanian foreign minister, which they hope will prove their right to the land and reverse the eviction decisions. The court has requested additional documentation and will issue a decision at an unspecified date. Some Israeli researchers argue for the court's independence and the government's responsibility to find rational solutions to prevent the residents from becoming refugees again. *The case is still pending in the Israeli courts to decide the fate of the residents of the neighborhood of Jarrah at the time of writing this article.*

The Judaization of Jerusalem is a significant priority of Israeli policies and the subject of numerous studies. The broader Palestinian-Israeli conflict is also extensively researched. However, academic studies are scarce, especially foreign ones, specifically covering the events in Sheikh Jarrah since 2021. Much of the foreign coverage is limited to press websites. The relevant research can be categorized into two main areas:

The Palestinian-Israeli Conflict and the Gaza Wars

Tukura and Suleiman (2024) concluded that unwavering U.S. support for Israel has contributed to an imbalance of power, fueling violence and hindering efforts to achieve a peaceful resolution to the humanitarian crisis in Gaza from 2006 to 2023. Qawariq (2022) found that Israeli media discourse lacks a unified perspective, reflecting ideological divisions and differing, sometimes contradictory, positions toward the war. Schones (2024) highlighted stark differences in media coverage of the 2023 war, with Al Jazeera focusing extensively on the conflict while CNN balanced its reporting. El Mir, Hamoud, and Mohammed (2023) found disparities in media coverage of Operation Flood in Al-Aqsa. Hatamleh (2022) found that Arab websites

relied most on Palestinian parties, followed by international parties.

The Events of the Sheikh Jarrah Neighborhood

A series of recent studies has examined the media, political, and social dynamics surrounding the Sheikh Jarrah crisis in Jerusalem, particularly during and after the 2021 escalation. Grice (2024) analyzed scenes from Sheikh Jarrah in 2021, framing the events as manifestations of injustice and inequality resulting from the Israeli occupation and extremist actions, which intensified violence and instability in the region. Similarly, Ghanem and Al-Saifi (2023) explored the Israeli government's policy of Judaizing Arab neighborhoods, especially Sheikh Jarrah, arguing that such measures aim to consolidate control over Jerusalem and forcibly displace Palestinians.

Media coverage of the 2021 conflict revealed stark contrasts. Malky and Miladi (2023) compared Al Jazeera English and Israel's i24News, finding that Al Jazeera tended to favor the Palestinian narrative—while i24News largely reflected state-aligned discourse. In the realm of digital activism, Al-Koua *et al*. (2023) conducted a content analysis of activist Mona Al-Kurd's social media accounts, finding that her Facebook posts primarily emphasized participation and solidarity, Instagram content highlighted the resilience of Sheikh Jarrah residents, and Twitter posts focused on condemning Israeli policies of ethnic cleansing, settlement expansion, and forced displacement.

Saqr (2021) compared Palestinian and international digital media coverage, finding that the Palestine newspaper website devoted significantly more space to Sheikh Jarrah than CNN Arabic. News stories were the dominant journalistic form on both platforms. Alawi (2021) examined official and grassroots

Palestinian responses and concluded that popular mobilization through protests and social media significantly amplified international awareness of the issue, successfully conveyed the suffering of Sheikh Jarrah residents, garnering unprecedented global solidarity compared to earlier displacements in 2008–2009.

A comprehensive historical and analytical overview of the Sheikh Jarrah case in the broader context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, locating it in the evolving arena of media reporting and political discourse. It successfully interlaces legal, historical, and humanitarian dimensions—showing how the 1970 Israeli Legal and Administrative Affairs Law legalized property discrimination and how years-long legal battles turned Sheikh Jarrah into an international symbol of injustice. The review is grounded in recent research (2021–2024), making it more contemporary and valid. It effectively bifurcates recent scholarship into two broad clusters: (1) scholarship on the Palestinian-Israeli dispute and Gaza conflicts, with emphasis on media bias and international power imbalances (e.g., Tukura & Suleiman, 2024; Schones, 2024), and (2) scholarship on Sheikh Jarrah with specific emphasis on differential framing of Arab and Israeli media and the online activism movement (e.g., Ghanem & Al-Saifi, 2023; Al-Koua *et al*., 2023; Saqr, 2021). The review covers a range of perspectives and empirical studies. However, it may benefit from a more distinct synthesis that interlinks the different framing strategies of Arab and Israeli media with the extant methodological limitations of comparative cross-platform studies. Overall, the literature review provides a strong basis for examining how Sheikh Jarrah was framed in Arab and Israeli online media, showing that, while research has paid more attention to the topic, a systematic, theory-informed analysis integrating political communication, media

framing, and digital activism still lags in this instance.

Research Gap

Although numerous studies have examined the Sheikh Jarrah events, there is a notable lack of in-depth analyses that address the issue in light of its historical and legal significance. Existing research tends to focus on the multidimensional repercussions of the events occurring in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of occupied Jerusalem, where the conflict has intensified since early 2020. Moreover, most media studies in this context have focused primarily on describing media content rather than measuring its actual outcomes or impact. There is also an evident shortage of research examining the censorship policies of social media platforms toward Palestinian content, as well as a lack of studies exploring the semiotics of images, language use, and decoding processes in digital communication. It is essential to address these research gaps, as doing so will direct future academic endeavors towards a more thorough examination of the political, communicative, and representational aspects of the Sheikh Jarrah issue.

Theoretical Framework

The study was based on both the theory of prioritization and the theory of journalistic frameworks for the scientific rooting of the subject of this study, as the agenda theory (prioritization) is defined as a process in which the media highlights specific issues as important issues by raising the public's attention to those issues, so that they become a priority within their agenda, and that the individual who relies on a media outlet and is exposed to it will adapt his perception according to the importance attributed to the issues of that medium (Al-Mazahra, 2018, p. 332). Although many overlapping variables affect the development of the agenda of the public in addition to the press, they do not equal

the strength of the media in setting the agenda (Craig, Mccombs, 2003, 36), some factors affect the setting of priorities when applied to this study related to the treatment of Arab and Israeli sites for the events in Sheikh Jarrah.

The idea of agenda-setting, as developed by Dering and Rogers, refers to the continuous competition among topics and issues to attract the attention of the media, the public, and the political elite. This concept suggests that the public agenda is essentially a reflection of the media agenda (McQuail, 2000). Its importance lies in its ability to reveal the hierarchy of issues according to their perceived importance, as well as to uncover how problems are constructed and framed in the media, particularly in understanding editorial policies and how they differ across outlets.

Although the agenda-setting theory was initially developed as a linear, one-way model, in which the media influenced the audience by determining what issues should occupy public attention, especially in political matters, this represented the first level of the theory; it can still be effectively applied to the digital environment. This is because the relationship between agenda-setting and political engagement assumes that highly interested audiences actively and effectively seek information, making them more susceptible to agenda-setting, whether in traditional or digital media.

However, the digital environment has introduced a significant transformation: it has allowed audiences to become participants with multiple choices rather than mere recipients. The audience has now become networked, interactive, and productive in shaping priorities and selecting platforms and publication sites. Media systems are no longer hierarchical as before. This transformation has also altered how media outlets themselves construct their agendas and priorities within the digital sphere.

Consequently, media institutions now tend to build their agendas based on the interests and engagement patterns of digital users. Audiences are no longer constrained to specific media sources; instead, the digital environment has enabled them to diversify their sources and select those that best match their needs and beliefs. In this context, the agenda-setting theory is employed in this study to analyze how Arab and Israeli news websites have addressed the Sheikh Jarrah case by identifying and measuring the issue agendas covered on these sites in line with audience interests. The study also aims to determine the most prominent and essential topics through content analysis of the media materials published on these websites, based on the following variables:

1. Nature and type of the issue: The events in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in East Jerusalem represent a political and legal dispute between Palestinian residents and extremist settlers, which was one of the primary triggers of the Palestinian-Israeli crisis of 2021.

2. The importance of the issue: The issue of the events of Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood is an important and fateful political issue for the residents of this neighborhood, which is based on the expulsion and displacement of the Palestinian population to be replaced by extremist settlers, and this is what the study of Carter and his colleagues assumed that there is a positive correlation between the degree of public interest in the issue and increasing its access to greater priorities.

3. The timing of raising the issue: Here comes the role of the study sites, which play their role of prioritizing coverage of the events of Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, at a time when confrontations are at the forefront of confrontations at Al-Aqsa Mosque between Palestinians, the occupation police and extremists in rejection of the occupation

policies that coincided with the holy month of Ramadan in May 2021.

The study was based on Media Framing Theory, which measures the implicit content of media coverage of issues raised during a specific period. It is defined as the selection and focus on specific elements related to a particular topic, while avoiding other elements. Lipman believes that the frame essentially contains both selection and prominence, in which certain aspects of reality are selected and made more prominent in media texts to identify problems, explain their causes, and offer solutions (Al-Mazharah, 2018). The theory was applied in this study by examining the websites of the newspapers in the study sample (Al-Ghad, Al-Ayyam, and Al-Times). It addressed the events in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood by highlighting certain aspects more than others on these websites. Selection mechanisms were also used to highlight certain forms of material on the websites and make them more prominent.

The process of media framing involves emphasizing certain features while downplaying or concealing others. The media constructs meaning by highlighting the most prominent aspects of the topics and issues it covers (Abu Al-Hamam, 2020). This process is fundamental in both traditional and digital media environments. Therefore, framing cannot be eliminated in the digital sphere; instead, it continues to play a significant role. However, framing has become more dynamic and adaptable following the decline of one-way communication in traditional media. The media's role extends beyond merely presenting news content; it now involves constructing meaning through the deliberate framing of stories from specific perspectives, thereby enabling the expression of evaluations and judgments. This underscores the importance of framing theory and its applications in academic research, as framing remains a crucial step in the production of news content (Tami, 2022).

The main objective of this study was to identify the treatment of the events in Sheikh Jarrah in the Arab and Israeli newspapers, as well as to answer the following questions:

1. What topics do the electronic newspapers of the study sample address about the events in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood?
2. What journalistic styles are used in the newspapers in dealing with the events of Sheikh Jarrah?
3. What elements did the newspapers use to highlight events in Sheikh Jarrah?
4. What selection elements were used by the study sites in addressing events in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood?
5. What are the active forces that the newspapers focused on in addressing the events of Sheikh Jarrah in East Jerusalem?

Methodology
Method

The article adopted a descriptive study design, which is suitable for exploring how researchers can observe and portray scientific phenomena, the surrounding conditions in their environments, and the scientific domains to which these phenomena belong, as well as visualizing the relationships between them and other influencing or influenced factors (Al-Mazahra, 2011, p. 130). Within this descriptive framework, two methodological approaches were employed: the media survey methodology and the methodology for studying mutual relations.

The media survey methodology, defined as "the systematic collection of information from respondents to understand and/or predict the behavior of the community under study" (Al-Mazahra, 2011, p. 167), was applied through a comprehensive survey of press websites covering events in Sheikh Jarrah, East

Jerusalem. These materials were analyzed from both descriptive and analytical perspectives: the descriptive component focused on gathering data regarding the nature of the published content on the sampled websites, while the analytical component sought to interpret this data, uncover patterns, and extract underlying meanings to identify dominant trends. Complementarily, the methodology for studying mutual relations employed a comparative approach to examine how different websites framed the Sheikh Jarrah events, identify similarities and differences across platforms, and link the findings of this research with those of previous studies on the same topic.

Population and sample of the study

The population refers to the total group sharing common characteristics (Aleessawi, 2023). This study focused on the websites of Arab and Israeli newspapers to analyze their coverage of events in Sheikh Jarrah, East Jerusalem. The sample included three news websites: Jordan's Al-Ghad, Palestine's Al-Ayyam, and Israel's Times of Israel (Arabic). These outlets were chosen using purposive non-probability sampling, which allows the researcher to select cases based on relevance and representational value (Al-Mazahera, 2020). The selection reflected distinct editorial orientations: Al-Ghad represents an independent Jordanian perspective, Al-Ayyam aligns with the Palestinian Authority and Fatah movement, and the Times of Israel (Arabic) presents an Israeli viewpoint aimed at Arabic-speaking readers. The study examined coverage during May 1–30, 2021—a period marked by intense clashes and violations in Sheikh Jarrah. A comprehensive content inventory was conducted to capture all materials published about the neighborhood's events during that time. In total, 271 content items were analyzed: 130 from Al-Ghad, 72 from Al-Ayyam, and 69 from the Times of

Israel (Arabic). This sample provided a balanced cross-section of regional and political media narratives regarding the Sheikh Jarrah crisis.

Data collection tools

To achieve the study's objectives and address its research questions, both content analysis and framing mechanisms were employed. These methodologies are outlined as follows:

Content Analysis: Content analysis was used to examine the press materials published on the websites of the selected newspapers regarding the events in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood. Content analysis is a scientific research method that seeks to identify correlations among the expressive characteristics of communication materials through objective, systematic analysis (Holsti, 1969, p. 105). This approach was applied to analyze the coverage of the Sheikh Jarrah events.

Framing Mechanisms: Framing mechanisms were identified through their explicit appearance in media texts, focusing on the following aspects:

– Prominence: This refers to the emphasis placed on specific information through the scope, nature, and frequency of coverage. Prominence highlights the media's stance and the significance of the coverage on the selected newspaper websites.

– Selection: This involves the deliberate choice of certain aspects of a story based on professional or institutional criteria. Selection can emphasize specific elements or omit others, shaping the narrative structure of the topic or issue.

Analysis Units and Categories

The study utilized the following units and categories for analysis:

Analysis Unit: The subject unit was adopted as a primary unit of analysis to indicate the trend and level of interest in coverage. The results of the quantitative analysis demonstrate the value of this unit in reflecting the media's focus and direction (Ben Tabba, 2015, p. 10).

Analysis Categories: The following categories were selected to measure the value and content of the analyzed materials:

– Subject Category: This category encompasses the topics covered by the newspaper websites regarding the Sheikh Jarrah events, as identified through the analysis of each website.

– Journalistic Styles Category: This refers to the journalistic formats used by the newspaper websites, including news, reports, investigations, and articles, to address the Sheikh Jarrah events.

– Active Forces Category: This category identifies the individuals, states, or entities (e.g., politicians, parties, or presidents) emphasized in the content, which play a significant role in influencing the events or issues.

Framing Mechanisms: These refer to the strategies newspapers use to shape their coverage of the Sheikh Jarrah events. These mechanisms include:

– Prominence: This involves emphasizing specific elements within a news story to convey key meanings. Prominence is achieved through placement (e.g., headlines, subtitles), repetition, thematic or personal photographs, and connections to related issues.

– Selection: This refers to the deliberate amplification or minimization of some aspects within the news story. Selection can involve overemphasis, repetition of words or images, or the omission or downplaying of specific aspects within the context of the Sheikh Jarrah events.

Limitations of the study

Spatial boundaries: This study was limited to three newspapers with different political orientations: Al-Ghad Al-Jordan, Al-Ayyam Al-Palestinian, and The Israeli Times.

Time limits: This study covers the period from 1/5/2021 to 30/5/2021. This period was during which the conflict between Palestinians, extremist settlers, and the occupation army escalated as a result of the attacks on the residents of the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood to evacuate the Palestinian population and hand it over to the extremist settlers.

Honesty and consistency

To ensure the study tool's sincerity, the analysis scout was presented to a group of media experts, and most agreed that it achieves the goal for which it was developed. To ensure the stability of the analysis, five issues of one of the newspaper sites were analyzed, and the percentage of agreement between the two researchers was extracted according to the Holsti equation for the stability of the analysis, which came as follows:

$$R = 2M / (N1+N2)$$

R: Stability of analysis. M: The number of iterations agreed upon by analysts. N1: The number of iterations in the first analysis. N2: The number of iterations in the second analysis, and the value of the agreement between the two researchers was 0.96, which is an acceptable value to apply the analysis scout and the validity of the data resulting from the analysis. And it's where verified against the analysis elements in the data code book. Noting that the coding results have been verified according to the analysis elements in the data index.

Results and Discussion

Topics

Topics dealt with by the websites of the newspapers of the study sample related to the events of the Sheikh Jarrah

neighborhood in East Jerusalem (supplement No. 1)

Supplement No. (1) presents the most important topics covered on the Al-Ghad newspaper website regarding events in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood. It was found that "the topic of solidarity, electronic interaction, and sit-ins by the Jordanian people to stand with the people of Sheikh Jarrah" came in first place with a percentage of (16.9%), and in second place came the topic of "Jordan's standing with the Palestinians and government demands to stop the crimes of the occupation in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood and protect Al-Aqsa Mosque" with a percentage of (15.4%), and the topic of "the steadfastness of the people of Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in the face of the occupation forces and settlers" came in third place with a percentage of (12.3%). In contrast, the condemnations by the United Nations, the European Union, and the Arab Parliament ranked last, with equal percentages of 0.8%.

This result is attributed to Jordanian online interaction across various social media networks, its support for its brothers in the occupied territories, the demographic composition of Jordanian society, and the complete alignment between the government's positions and popular and partisan activities. As for the Palestinian newspaper Al-Ayyam, the results showed that the steadfastness of the residents of Sheikh Jarrah in the face of the occupation forces and settlers ranked first, with a percentage of 27.8%. The raids by Israeli forces and settlers on Sheikh Jarrah and Al-Aqsa Mosque came in second place, with a percentage of 18.1%. The arrests and attacks by the Israeli army on those who stood in solidarity with the residents of Sheikh Jarrah came in third place, with a percentage of 16.7%. The firing of Qassam rockets against Israel in solidarity with the Jerusalemites in Sheikh Jarrah and Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the

condemnations of the United Nations, came in last place, with equal percentages of 1.4%. According to the Times of Israel website, the results showed that the Israeli police retreated and announced a change in the route of the flag march from Damascus Gate and strengthened its forces in the Old City of Jerusalem. The reopening of the Al-Aqsa Mosque to Jewish visitors after the ceasefire in Gaza ranked first, with 11.6% each.

The firing of Qassam rockets from Gaza at Jerusalem came in second place with 10.1%. The Israeli police arresting Palestinians following clashes at the Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Israeli raids on the Gaza Strip in response to rocket attacks from the Strip came in third place with equal percentages of 8.7%. The investigation of police personnel regarding the shooting of Jana al-Kiswani in Sheikh Jarrah came in last place with the lowest percentage of 2.9%. Recent findings align with those of Al-Koua et al.(2023), who reported that the resilience of the residents of Sheikh Jarrah was the most prominent theme on Instagram (18.7%), while condemnation of Israeli practices, such as ethnic cleansing, settlement expansion, and forced displacement, dominated discussions on Twitter. Their study also showed that calls for participation and expressions of solidarity with the residents of Sheikh Jarrah ranked first among circulating themes. Similarly, Al-Madhoun (2018) found that attacks on Al-Aqsa Mosque topped the list of attack-related topics, and news websites displayed a comparable level of interest in issues related to holy sites, with no statistically significant differences across platforms. They also align with the study by Al-Koua *et al*. (2023), which concluded that calls for participation and solidarity with the residents of Sheikh Jarrah ranked first among the analyzed themes.

As for the Al-Ayyam newspaper website, it was found that it focuses on internal Israeli

issues and the suffering of the Israeli people, at the expense of topics related to the Palestinians.

The study revealed a clear divergence between the editorial agendas and the actual news coverage on the analyzed newspaper websites, particularly regarding topics related to the Sheikh Jarrah events. This imbalance appears linked to the nature of the newspapers examined, which are daily outlets that prioritize reporting ongoing developments and rapidly unfolding events. The Al-Ghad newspaper website ranked first in its coverage of Sheikh Jarrah, consistently foregrounding the issue on the public agenda and reflecting a deliberate editorial commitment to addressing timely, high-priority matters.

In contrast, The Times website was found to emphasize internal Israeli affairs and narratives centered on the suffering of the Israeli public, while systematically marginalizing topics related to Palestinians. This pattern reflects a distinctly different media agenda—one that intentionally sidelines the Sheikh Jarrah events as a political and legal issue in favor of domestic Israeli concerns.

Importantly, the discrepancy between the websites cannot be explained solely by differences in outlet type or target audience (popular versus partisan). Rather, it stems from the underlying editorial ideologies and political orientations that guide each outlet's agenda-setting practices. The findings underscore that newspaper websites are far from uniform in their treatment of the Sheikh Jarrah events. This diversity is essential for understanding which outlets elevate the issue within the media agenda, thereby offering valuable insights into agenda dynamics in the contemporary digital media environment.

Journalistic styles

Table (1): Journalistic styles are most used on newspaper websites to cover events in Sheikh Jarrah, East Jerusalem.

Newspaper website	Press styles used	frequency	%
The website of the Jordanian newspaper Al-Ghad	News	95	73.1
	Reports	26	20.0
	Investigations	6	4.6
	essays	3	2.3
Palestinian Al-Ayyam Newspaper Website	News	25	34.7
	Investigations	28	38.9
	essays	19	26.4
The Israeli Times website	News	50	72.5
	Reports	14	20.3
	Investigations	2	2.9
	essays	3	4.3

Table 1 presents the most prominent journalistic styles used on newspaper websites to cover events in Sheikh Jarrah, East Jerusalem. It was found that the news style ranked first on the Al-Ghad newspaper website, with 73.1%; reports ranked second, with 20%; and articles ranked last, with 2.3%. As for the Palestinian Al-Ayyam newspaper website, investigations had the highest percentage (38.9%), while articles accounted for 26.4%. As for the Israeli Times newspaper website, news ranked first with 72.5%, while investigations ranked last with 2.9%. This result is consistent with a study by Adel (2024), which concluded that the sample websites were eager to provide interpretive news material on the issue. It is also consistent with a study by Saqr (2021), which concluded that "news" ranked first among the newspaper websites studied, with a 55.07% share. However, it differs from the results of a study by Schones (2024), which concluded that Al Jazeera English focused extensively on the conflict in its reporting, while CNN balanced its coverage with other news stories and articles.

The results revealed variation in the use of journalistic styles across the study sample's newspaper websites, with some covering the events in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood as news reports and others as news. The study

found that the study's newspaper websites focused more on news that covered only the main aspects of the event than on investigations that sought to describe the time, place, and circumstances surrounding it. It also revealed the absence of other journalistic styles, such as articles and reports, covering events in Sheikh Jarrah in East Jerusalem, which are among the most important for presenting information and data on fateful issues.

Highlight elements

Table (2): The elements of highlighting used by the websites of the newspapers of the study sample in dealing with the events of the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood.

Newspaper Website	Highlight elements	frequency	Ratio
The website of the Jordanian newspaper Al-Ghad	Headlines	122	93.8
	Subtitles	37	28.5
	Thematic images	87	66.9
	Personal photos	35	27.0
Palestinian Al-Ayyam Newspaper Website	Headlines	69	95.8
	Subtitles	1	1.4
	Personal photos	2	2.8
The Israeli Times website	Headlines	87	53.1
	Subtitles	37	19.1
	Thematic images	19	25.5
	Personal photos	2	2.3

Table 2 shows that the headlines were the most prominent on the website of Al-Ghad newspaper in first place by (93.8%), objective photos came in second place by (66.9%), and sub-headlines and personal photos came in last place with similar percentages of (28.5%) and (27%). Regarding the website of the Palestinian newspaper Al-Ayyam, headlines ranked first (95.8%), personal photos ranked second (2.8%), and sub-headlines ranked last (1.4%). Regarding the website of the Israeli newspaper The Times, the results revealed that headlines ranked first (53.1%), followed by objective photos (25.5%). In contrast, sub-headlines ranked third with 19.1%, and personal photos ranked last with 2.9%.

The findings indicate that headlines were the most prominent highlighting element across the websites of the newspapers under study, due to their implicit significance and their ability to convey the intended meaning of the events in Sheikh Jarrah to the public. This prominence is influenced by several factors, most notably the issue's public interest and political significance, as well as its coincidence with other high-profile events, particularly those related to Al-Aqsa Mosque. Objective images ranked second as a visual support mechanism that enhances headline salience and reinforces the reality of events on the ground, compared to personal images associated with public figures. These findings reveal clear differences among the news websites in their use of highlighting elements that shape the news framing of events.

Focusing on headlines represents a straightforward application of the emphasis mechanism in framing theory, ensuring that the message is quickly conveyed based on the initial interpretation of the event. Meanwhile, excluding subheadings and portraits exemplifies the exclusion mechanism embedded in highlighting mechanisms, which explains that the frames used focus on the essence of the urgent event and downplay the importance of analytical details or in-depth treatment. Furthermore, the absence of portraits, which often appear in articles and analyses, and of images of leaders and officials demonstrates that the coverage focuses on the event rather than on the opinions of leaders or figures. These patterns of emphasis create a fast-paced, politically concentrated way of doing journalism. Websites use these mechanisms to emphasize editorial aspects (excitement, speed) and exclude aspects that require depth and discussion, which affects how the public interprets the Sheikh Jarrah events. Media framing theory explains how events are depicted and emphasized. They are the tools the framer uses to highlight certain

aspects of the event more prominently and influentially, employing both the event selection mechanism and the emphasis mechanism, which emphasizes the importance of certain elements and neglects others.

Selecting elements

Table (3): Selection of elements used by newspaper websites to address the events in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood.

Website Newspaper	Selecting elements	frequency	%
The website of the Jordanian newspaper Al-Ghad	Overemphasizing	53	40.8
	Repetition of words	63	48.4
	Duplicate images	67	51.6
	Be underestimated	7	5.4
Palestinian Al-Ayyam Newspaper Website	Overemphasizing	17	23.6
	Repetition of words	36	50.0
The Israeli Times website	Overemphasizing	21	30.4
	Repetition of words	55	79.7
	Duplicate images	28	40.6

Table 3 shows that image repetition ranked first on the website of the Jordanian newspaper Al-Ghad, accounting for 51.6%, followed by word repetition, which accounted for 48.4%. In comparison, emphasis exaggeration ranked third at 40.8%, and the least trivialization ranked last at 5.4%. As for the website of the Palestinian newspaper Al-Ayyam, repetition of words ranked first (50.0%) and last place in terms of exaggeration (23.6%). While the repetition of words on the website of the Israeli newspaper The Times ranked first at 79.7%, the repetition of images ranked second at 40.6%, and confirmation ranked last at 30.4%. These results differed from those of the study (Al-Janabi, 2022), which found that the pen material was the most prominent framing mechanism adopted by the CNN Arabic website, followed by the initiation category.

The results revealed differences in the selection mechanisms used by the newspaper websites in the study to cover events in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, given the stark contrast between Palestinian and Israeli narratives. The selection mechanisms dictate the audience's focus and framing of reality. The websites select events with the highest news value, which the Arab websites exploited by focusing on live images that covered confrontations between residents, extremists, and the Israeli occupation police. Meanwhile, the Israeli Times emphasized language that enhanced the security value of the news by discussing popular actions, the company's resistance, and its effects on the safety of extremist settlers. This is attributed to the fact that the essence of determining the frame lies in the selection mechanism for size, through the exaggeration or downplaying of elements depicting reality, which leads to greater or lesser clarity among the audience regarding events in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood.

The active forces that newspaper websites focused on in dealing with the events of Sheikh Jarrah in East Jerusalem

Supplement No. (2) showed that the website of the Jordanian newspaper Al-Ghad focused on unions and popular events, which came with the highest percentage among the forces that were used in first place by (18.5%), and the Jordanian government and the occupation court came in second place by (10.8), followed by the Israeli police with a percentage of (7.7%), and in last place came the United States of America, parliamentarians, and the European Union the lowest percentage (0.8%). As for the website of the Palestinian newspaper Al-Ayyam, the Israeli police came in first place with a high percentage of 25.0%, while the Palestinian presidency and non-governmental organizations came the least frequently, which reached 1) with a percentage of 1.4%. As for the website of the Israeli Newspaper the Times, we note that Palestinian factions and Hamas are the most frequent (14) (20.3%), while Israeli extremists are the least frequent (4) (5.8%). These results agreed with what was stated in by

Al-Hatamleh (2022) that the websites of the three newspapers relied on Palestinian parties as active forces in their coverage of the war on the Gaza Strip by (31.7%), followed by official international bodies, while they disagreed with the study (Tukura, Tino Nashuka2024), which found that the United States contributed to the imbalance of power that fueled the violence and hindered efforts to reach a peaceful solution to the war between Israel and Hamas in Gaza.

The results revealed a discrepancy in the active forces the newspaper websites focused on in their coverage of events in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, due to the different topics they covered. The Arab websites (Al-Ghad—Jordanian, Al-Ayyam—Palestinian) focused on the Palestinian narrative, highlighting the issue within the framework of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict and establishing legal and human rights that frame the events as part of the occupation and forced displacement of the residents of the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood. They also internationalized the issue, issued official statements condemning the Israeli occupation and extremists, and mobilized Arab public opinion to support the residents of Sheikh Jarrah. Meanwhile, most of the active forces highlighted by the Israeli Times website concentrated on issues within Israel. They presented the official Israeli narrative, which frames the problem as a legal dispute over land ownership and court decisions that support the claims of extremists in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood.

Conclusion

The websites of the newspapers studied focused on events in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of East Jerusalem, prioritizing topics aligned with their editorial policies and their countries' positions on the issue. The websites of the newspapers studied differed in their coverage of the events in East Jerusalem. Both Al-Ghad and Al-Ayyam agreed on some topics, while these Arabic websites differed from the Israeli newspaper Al-Akhbar, which did not adequately address topics affecting Jerusalemites. It deliberately omitted news related to the other party, the Palestinians, although this website considers itself neutral, focusing on internal Israeli issues and the suffering of the Israeli people.

News was the most prominent journalistic format used to cover events in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood of East Jerusalem on newspapers' websites, focusing primarily on the event's main aspects. Reports came in second place, while these websites neglected to use other journalistic formats, such as reports, articles, and investigations, which focus on the details of events — both in time and space — and on crucial issues, including those in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood. The study newspapers' websites differed in their use of highlighting elements that frame the news, based on their policies and orientations. Headlines were the most common highlighting mechanism used to cover the events in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood on these websites, with varying topics. They also differed in their reliance on other highlighting elements. Both the Jordanian newspaper Al-Ghad and the Israeli Newspaper the Times relied on objective images to varying degrees. In contrast, the Palestinian newspaper Al-Ayyam relied more heavily on portrait images. These images are sometimes more influential than words, or they enhance this influence. They also draw readers' attention to the topics covered on newspaper websites about events in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood. The newspapers' websites differed in their selection priorities.

The Jordanian newspaper Al-Ghad focused on repeating images and then repeating words to emphasize the conditions experienced by Jerusalemites in East Jerusalem. The Palestinian newspaper Al-Ayyam's website employed the most prominent selection

elements, however, which were repetition of words and then exaggeration of the violations, attacks, and arrests the neighborhood is experiencing. The most prominent selection element on the Israeli Newspaper the Times website was the repetition of words, which differed from those on Arabic newspaper websites, which focused on words such as "investigation," "events," and "arrests" to substantiate Israeli allegations. They then repeated objective images to highlight the issue and demonstrate their interest and impartiality. The active actors featured in the study's coverage of the events in Sheikh Jarrah on the newspaper websites varied. Unions, popular movements, the Jordanian government, and the Israeli court appeared on the Jordanian newspaper Al-Ghad's website, while the Israeli police, the Palestinian presidency, and non-governmental organizations were the most prominent actors focused on in its coverage of the events in the Palestinian newspaper Al-Ayyam. The most prominent actors on the Israeli Newspaper the Times website, however, featured the Israeli court, Palestinian factions, and Hamas as the most prominent actors. The newspaper supported issues within Israel and addressed the firing of Qassam rockets at Israel.

Recommendations

In light of the above findings, the study recommends the following proposals:

1. Conduct more studies on the press coverage of the crises and violations to which the Palestinian people are exposed in the occupied territories.

2. The need to conduct more studies to expose the falsity of the Israeli side's claims, which are promoted in times of crisis to which Jerusalemites are exposed, such as the events in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood and beyond Silwan and others.

3. Develop targeted training programs for journalists and correspondents focusing on

the legal and historical foundations of the narrative related to other issues confronting the Palestinian population across the remaining occupied territories.

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