

The role of media television to emerge patriotism during conflict: evidence from Palestine TV

*[Peranan televisyen sebagai media untuk menjanakan patriotisme semasa
konflik: bukti dari TV Palestin]*

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News, Media TV, Patriotism,
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ABSTRACT

Drawing upon observations regarding the crisis in Palestine, media is sometimes the only source of information consumed by society. This raises the critical question of how the Palestinian state media generates awareness of societal issues, such as the patriotism of citizens as a sense of devotion to one's country. This study examines whether the state media TV in Palestine contributes to existing patriotism because such a contribution should be explored separately. For this purpose, we first analyse the strategies employed by Palestine TV in delivering news during the period 2020–2021. Second, we examine whether the information framed in the state media effectively promotes Palestinian patriotism to the target audience. To discuss this issue, we use agenda-setting theories through the first level, wherein we describe the power of media to persuade viewers, influence public opinion and construct a hierarchy of being patriotic. The results revealed that the news portrayed on Palestine TV enhanced Palestinian patriotism. This finding implies that media can augment citizens' views on patriotism. This study provides insights into future investigations on the role of media in the time of crisis particularly related to the Israeli occupation in Palestine and the impacts of its occupation on Palestinians.

Kata Kunci:

Berita, TV Media,
Patriotisme, Palestin,
Pencerobohan

ABSTRAK

Berdasarkan pemerhatian krisis di Palestin, media kadangkala merupakan satu-satunya sumber maklumat yang digunakan oleh masyarakat. Ini menimbulkan persoalan kritikal tentang bagaimana media di negara Palestin dapat menjanakan kesedaran tentang isu-isu kemasyarakatan, seperti patriotisme, supaya rakyat akan rasa berbakti kepada negara. Kajian ini menyiasat sama ada TV negara di Palestin dapat menyumbang kepada patriotisme yang sedia ada kerana sumbangan tersebut harus diterokai secara berasingan. Untuk tujuan ini, suatu analisis telah dijalankan terlebih dahulu mengenai strategi yang digunakan oleh TV Palestin untuk menyampaikan berita sepanjang tempoh 2020–2021. Kedua, maklumat yang dirangka dalam media negara diteliti sama ada ia berkesan mempromosikan patriotisme Palestin kepada khalayak

sasaran. Untuk membicarakan isu ini, teori penetapan agenda telah digunakan pada peringkat pertama, di mana penerangan diberikan mengenai kuasa media untuk memujuk penonton, mempengaruhi pendapat umum dan membina hierarki patriotisme. Hasilnya mendedahkan bahawa berita yang dipaparkan di TV Palestin meningkatkan patriotisme rakyat Palestin. Dapatan ini membayangkan bahawa media boleh meningkatkan pandangan rakyat terhadap patriotisme. Kajian ini memberikan pandangan tentang penyiasatan masa hadapan mengenai peranan media sewaktu krisis, khususnya berkaitan dengan pendudukan Israel di Palestin dan kesan pendudukannya terhadap Palestin.

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1. Introduction

Television (TV) news is vital in disseminating information quickly, thereby dominating and influencing public perceptions of certain issues. TV news also plays a crucial role in creating and shaping public opinion, informing people about current events, protecting the public interest against negative elements, creating public awareness, and strengthening societies. Television, like other forms of mass media, has benefitted from the advancement of digital technologies. Today's technologies have vastly improved the audiovisual characteristics of television, opening up a world of possibilities for society's communication development (Yessenbekova, 2018). It also plays a significant role in how much and what kind of environmental information the public sees (McCallum et al., 1991), thus affecting public perceptions, changing public attitudes, and influencing subsequent public actions (Russill, 2008) embedded with power (Montgomery & Feng, 2016). Further, TV news has the power to filter available information, convey topics, and manipulate or focus public attention to a particular perspective (Hass, 2010). It has a profound influence on political, economic, information, and cultural processes (Yessenbekova, 2018). As a result, the way news is presented can influence the public's understanding and perceptions of certain issues and events (Boykoff & Rajan, 2007).

Different forms of media, such as TV, quickly deliver news to spread the information (Campbell et al., 2014). This has a tremendous effect on audiences as it operates among and through various mediating factors and influences (Klapper, 1960). Moreover, since the rise of TV and digital communication (Hass, 2010), information is now more visible and accessible (Browne et al., 2015). In this context, the media contributes not only by providing news or entertainment but also by functioning as agents of social change and national development (Schramm, 1964). For example, only a few media platforms presented information during Nakba in 1948, which led many Palestinians to seek refuge in different places due to the lack of knowledge and rampant rumours of murders and destruction of homes. In comparison, during the conflict in Sheikh Jarrah, Palestinians were not displaced despite the devastation and destruction of homes because more diverse media platforms provided comprehensive information.

Critical approaches to TV news, such as the news presentation and the role of media in economics, politics, education, and so on, have been widely studied for decades. At the same time, scholars and philosophers have debated the morality and value of patriotism (Al-Najjar, 2011). However, to our knowledge, only a few works have voiced the discourse on patriotism, particularly during a crisis, such as war or aggression, in a country. Furthermore, no study has examined the contribution of the Palestinian state media toward patriotism, which represents a range of emotions from weak to strong as well as a negative to the positive attachment to one's country (Tartakovsky, 2011). "Uncritical" or "blind" patriotism refers to a strong belief in the superiority and moral right of one's country without further investigation (Schatz et al., 1999). Patriotism motivates individuals to think critically about the future of their country, which is a positive aspect of the trait (Schatz et al., 1999). Therefore, we analyzed the ways in which state media TV presents news and how it influences public opinions.



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TV news often becomes a source of information that delivers the latest news and messages to society. However, most media tend to focus on violence, which, according to critics, only escalates conflicts (Hass, 2010). Besides, television news is a powerful tool in constructing realities through media sociologists and culturists seen from micro-perspective (Kasmani, 2014). Furthermore, TV news tends to concentrate on incidents, tragedies, and the futility of people hating one another. Notably, the media has the responsibility of managing, stabilizing, and preserving a country; it should also raise public awareness and gather opinions, information, and attitudes about a particular issue, such as patriotism, among the public during a conflict. In this manner, TV news plays a role in strengthening patriotism and increasing society's attention through behavioural control (Choe et al., 2020), thereby influencing audiences' media consumption. This brings us to the question, "How far can state media TV help social concerns like patriotism?"

Based on the Palestinian case, this study aims to explore how the state media TV in Palestine, such as Palestine TV, contributes to expounding patriotism in their news in an attempt to evoke the values of patriotism and peace among Palestinians. By examining the Palestinian case, we believe that this study can contribute significantly to the literature on state media, especially during situations such as aggression or war. The state media's agenda-setting role is a highly contested issue. Related to this, there are three main reasons why state media can nonetheless expose and portray patriotism. First, Palestine possesses civil and press freedoms that are generally considered prerequisites for the press to perform its watchdog and agenda-setting functions. This article examines whether the Palestinian state media can exploit these freedoms to promote Palestinian patriotism. Second, the Palestinian Press and Publications Law in 1995 stipulates that "published contents must not damage national unity" or "must not damage national morals". In other words, one of their responsibilities is to support national issues, such as patriotism, to strengthen national unity. However, because this study focuses on Palestinian state media, we also need to consider whether they can independently report the news. We also need to ask how they strengthen national moral issues, such as patriotism. To address these questions, this study draws on media agenda-setting theory, which encompasses social responsibility theory; therefore, we posit that state media should put the public agenda as an important place on the topics (agenda setting).

2. Agenda-setting Theory

Most individuals rely on the media for information (Zucker, 1978). The media has the ability to sift through information and present it to the public. In this regard, they act as gatekeepers, determining not only which information is chosen, but also the content and nature of messages such as news. As the gatekeeper, the media has the power to establish the public agenda (McCombs & Shaw, 1972; Shoemaker & Reese, 1996; White, 1950). Among the many potential stories, editors select those that must be published (White, 1950). Agenda-setting theory aims to determine how the media affects public opinion by setting their agenda. The basic premise of this theory is that there are reasons and consequences behind what is published in the news and how the public responds to the information presented to them (Griffin et al., 2019). Thus, it can be said that the ability of the media to shape the audience's perception of reality is at the core of agenda-setting. Basically, it aims to persuade the audience by capturing their attention on a particular issue (Fortner & Fackler, 2014).

According to Dotson et al. (2012), the media can influence public awareness by determining what is published, how often, and how it is presented. However, the news media does not always succeed in providing audiences with the right information (Carroll, 2011). Concerning the possibility of agenda-setting in the media, which might reflect the most critical issues in society, how news can be placed and presented to the public is considered essential. Thus, in agenda setting, all contemporary problems can be developed because the information obtained from the media can be conveyed quickly from one person to another.

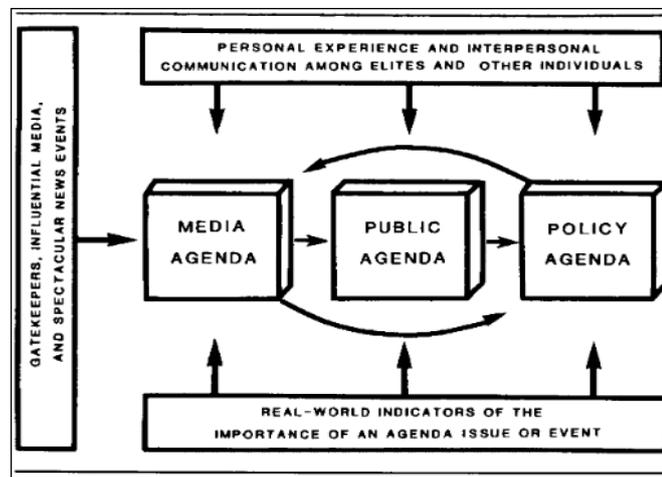


Figure 1: The Agenda-Setting Process (Mrogers & Wdearing, 1988)

Figure 1, which shows the agenda-setting process, aims to understand the role of the media in shaping public opinion. There are two levels of agenda-setting in the press. First, the media tells us what to think: the leading role of the media in agenda setting is to direct the audience's attention toward a few issues of news importance (Fortner & Fackler, 2014). The media's agenda-setting task reflects the need to consider the most critical issues. Therefore, one of the core functions of agenda-setting is to determine how news can be placed and presented to the public and whether it should be considered essential. Second, the media tells us which issue attributes are most important. Therefore, the assumption of agenda-setting theory at this level is the agenda's influence on the superiority of features in the public agenda (Fortner & Fackler, 2014).

2.1 Patriotism: The Spirit that Never Dies

Patriotism refers to a deep love of one's country. Patriotism is the love of one's country, not loyalty to it (Baron et al., 2020). Furthermore, it is a sense of personal identity with the state, concern for its welfare, and willingness to make a sacrifice for its sake (Nathanson, 1993). Thus far, only a few studies have taken a communicative approach to patriotism (Tsai, 2010). One study referred to it as "the degree of national pride" (Kosterman & Feshbach, 1989). Thus, patriotism is defined as a person's love for, identification with, and defence of their country. In other words, patriotism is an effort to preserve national heritage; thus, it has significant value in safeguarding the nation's history, culture, and civilization, where the nation's heritage can build a future for the country and society. Based on the Palestinian war, the Palestinian population has exerted various efforts to express the spirit of patriotism for their homeland and seize independence from the occupiers. They are willing to fight with their lives and blood without fear, even though they have to deal with Israeli weapons regularly.

Therefore, the immense love shown by the Palestinian population toward their country must be narrated and appreciated. Thus, patriotism can be defined in this study as an act of exposing aggression and preserving the nation's cultural and historical heritage. Given that this study focuses on patriotism in the press, such an act can be interpreted as follows: 1) the media's efforts to preserve the national heritage (history, culture, and civilization), 2) the media's presentation of the resistance of the Palestinians against colonialism, and 3) the media's struggles in presenting news while preserving diplomatic and international relations through negotiation and dialogue.

2.2 The Contexts of Palestinian TV

Regardless of various political issues, the discourse supports the Palestinians' struggle to live in freedom, wherein security is a critical element. In the case of the conflict between Israel and Palestine, it is expected that the media would present news and report facts to the audience. Presently, Palestine has several local media platforms that broadcast TV news, including 1) the Palestinian National Authority, 2) Palestinian National Liberation Movement (Fateh), 3) Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas), 4) Islamic Jihad Movement in



Palestine, 5) Popular Front for the Palestinian Liberation, and 6) Democratic Front Palestinian Liberation, among others.

The researchers of the present study focused only on Palestine TV, which is one of Palestine's state media agencies, apart from the Palestinian National Authority, and Palestinian Broadcasting Corporation (PBC). Only state-owned media outlets were explored in the current study as they enjoyed strong support from the national government (https://info.wafa.ps/ar_page.aspx?id=5134). In addition, Palestine TV was selected as a sample in this study for other reasons: it is not affiliated with any faction, and it is known to have had a national vision since its inception. For example, during the Al-Aqsa Intifada in 2000, Palestine TV had a prominent role in stirring up public opinion to increase the fighting spirit of the Palestinians in resisting the occupation of holy sites and places of worship in their country. Therefore, considering its critical role in conveying news through text and images, it is necessary to study how patriotism is presented and promoted in Palestine TV's news reporting.

Considering the role of media in presenting reliable news, knowledge, and insights to the community as well as its function of promoting patriotism in a country, the current study aims to address the following research questions: How does state media, such as Palestine TV, frame its news presentation to encourage the spirit of patriotism in Palestine? And what are the roles of Palestine TV in promoting patriotism among Palestinians?

3. Methodology

This study aims to deepen our understanding of whether the state media addresses patriotism in its contents. A qualitative study design was used as a methodological approach in this study. This project investigates the contributions of state media in promoting patriotism and is part of a more extensive case study, wherein agenda setting is incorporated as a theoretical lens. Case studies are a type of research design used in many fields in which the researcher conducts an in-depth analysis of a case, including program, event, activity, process, or one or more individuals constrained by time and activity and collected using a variety of data collection procedures over a long period of time (Stake, 1995; Yin, 2009, 2012, 2014). The object of this study is Palestine TV, which represents one of the most popular media outlets in Palestine. The data were derived from various evidence encompassing TV programs and news bulletins broadcasted in Palestine. Palestine TV is a state media channel in Palestine that works to present information and explore societal issues, such as patriotism, through its diverse contents.

3.1 Data Sources and Data Collection

The research questions presented previously seek to understand how Palestine TV frames patriotism in its news contents, as seen from the agenda-setting task of the media. First, the data were derived from the Palestine TV artefacts published on social media, such as Facebook, Instagram, and YouTube such as news, TV programs, and bulletin broadcasted from 2021 to 2022. Second, these data were observed and sorted through a thematic analysis approach through the process of reading verbatim transcripts; identifying possible themes, comparing and contrasting themes; identifying structure among them (Bernard and Ryan, 1998). In particular, the kinds of data related to news presented by Palestine TV were categorized into identity media and media agenda. Media identity consists of several vital points in the news report, such as the names, numbers of programs, positions, types, and themes. The news was broadcasted through different programs, including Filastin Haza al-Sabah, Sabah al-Khair ya Quds, Shawahed Tarikhia, Aish Al-Asemah, Leqa'a Khas, Television News, and Television Reports.

Using data from multiple sources can help qualitative researchers gain a better understanding of the particular phenomena in societies (Hepp et al., 2016; Creswell, 2013; Onwuegbuzie & Leech, 2007). Therefore, semi-structured interviews were conducted as part of this research. According to Mahat-Shamir et al. (2019), semi-structured interviews are essential to understand the other person's perspective. In the current study, such in-depth interviews probed individuals' viewpoints, experiences, and observations on the role of Palestine TV in presenting patriotism in their news. It aimed to identify audience perceptions regarding the contributions of Palestinian TV in promoting patriotism. During the pre-interviews, participants provided informed consent after reading a detailed form written in Arabic. They were asked to read and sign off on all items in the consent form and were assured that all data would be kept confidential.



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3.2 Research Participants

We used purposive sampling to choose the participants who might be interested in taking part in the study. Onwuegbuzie and Leech (2007) used this strategy to find people with the appropriate knowledge and experiences in a particular social phenomenon. This strategy worked well for the present study as well, which needed people who had sufficient information about the topic. Palestinians who were at least 18 years old and had sufficient knowledge and experience on the subject of this research were eligible to take part in this study. In qualitative research, it is essential to include different groups of people to capture and include as many voices as possible so that the researchers can gain a better understanding of the social phenomenon being studied (Creswell, 2013). In the present study, the participants included journalists and editors (2), politicians (2), activists (3), academics (5), and university students (5), all of whom were considered experts and had sufficient work experience in their respective fields. Specifically, they were chosen because they had a great deal of experience and knowledge about how the state media played a role in promoting Palestinian patriotism. The sample was a mix of pro-opposition and pro-government state media outlets and a few independent firms. We do concern about the ethical issues that may arise during this research because it involves collecting data from people about people (Punch, 2014). Therefore, in the process of gaining access to participants, developing trust with participants and promoting the integrity of research is significant. To address this issue, we identified and asked for local approvals which were identified as “gatekeepers” from the site and participants participated in this study to gain local permissions. Thus, the research information sheet was delivered and the consent form was signed firstly by participants before they were engaged voluntarily in this study.

3.3 Data Analysis

Thematic analysis was employed to carefully analyze interview transcripts, as described by Braun and Clarke (2006, 2013, 2019). This process employs a qualitative approach that emphasizes researcher subjectivity, organic and recursive coding, and extensive data engagement (Braun & Clarke, 2019), thereby focusing on the researcher’s reflective and deliberate interaction with their data. Thematic analyses focus on identifying and describing both implicit and explicit ideas within the data, or themes, rather than counting explicit words or phrases. The identified themes are then usually represented by codes, which are applied or linked to raw data as summary markers for later analysis. In this study, thematic analysis was used as an approach to analyzed raw data, or themes in this study both implicit and explicit including news, TV programs, and bulletin broadcasted from 2021 to 2022.

During the interviews, we took notes in order to remember all the important details. These notes and the theoretical lens of this study informed our probing questions. Therefore, more clarifications were needed. The transcription process in this stage familiarized us with the data. The data were transcribed, checked, and then rechecked to catch any errors that required corrections. Next, the data were transcribed and coded in Microsoft Word. Some notes were made and relevant sections were coloured in the interview transcripts. The data were developed into preliminary themes based on the theoretical lens, research questions, our interview notes, and transcriptions. These themes include the following: exposing aggression, agenda-setting, raising awareness of patriotism, and facilitating anti-aggression dialogues.

Additionally, the data exploration and analysis in the process of thematic analysis were conducted using the Atlas.ti software as a tool for analyzing the data. It incorporated the significance of the electronic interview transcripts and preliminary themes. The interview data were read and reread, and the coding process continued. The data analysis ended with a summary of the underpinning findings, which were then linked to the appropriate pre-existing Atlas.ti themes using just a few words captured during the previous coding process with a theoretical lens.

4. Results and Discussion

4.1 State Media’s Contributions to Strengthen Patriotism

In the case of the war in Palestine, Palestine TV has made various efforts to express the Palestinian people’s zeal for independence. The findings reveal that the Palestinians’ extraordinary passion for their country ought to be narrated and appreciated through the news because of the challenges they have faced to obtain freedom. The findings also indicate that Palestine TV, as a Palestinian state media agent, performs significant functions, including (1) exposing aggression, (2) advocating for aggression in the political agenda (agenda setting), and (3)

promoting awareness of patriotism (culture, history, and art), and (4) providing a platform through which updated news on anti-aggression dialogues can be delivered.

4.1.1 Exposing aggression

Overwhelmingly, those who took part in this research reported that the state mass television station, Palestine TV, served as a primary source of information and exposed instances of aggression in Palestine. One activist and one academic claimed that Palestine TV was one of the state media outlets that played a significant role in presenting national issues and instilling a sense of patriotism through its programming. They claimed that Palestine TV supported the resistance of the Palestinian people by broadcasting stories on how the families of martyrs and prisoners survived abuses and destruction of their homes during the occupation (interview with M-KH.S1, December 2021).

Further, Palestine TV represented patriotism by displaying the power of the Palestinians in facing the occupation and aggression during the conflict in Palestinian neighbourhoods and religious places, such as Islamic and Christian holy sites. That role is particularly prominent in their daily report broadcasts, including news bulletins, and in their TV reports. One respondent also stated that the manner in which Palestine TV formulated and portrayed its news programs was excellent (interview with AKT-Ma. A, December 2021).



Figure 2: “Nabil Alkurad,” one of the families who did not agree to leave Sheikh Jarrah
[\(https://www.facebook.com/PalestineTV/videos/3969733156469131/\)](https://www.facebook.com/PalestineTV/videos/3969733156469131/)

Jerusalem, one of the world's most conflicted cities, is the holy city and crucial for Palestinian media (Awais, 2020). Such as shown in Figure 2, portrays a picture of one of the residents in Sheikh Jarrah, Jerusalem, Nabil Alkurad, who remained firm and insisted on staying in his house in Sheikh Jarrah even though he had lost everything. According to an academic participant who shared a similar perspective, “the media plays a critical role in the fight against aggression.” He also cited many cases that were exposed through investigative journalism (interview with A-Wa.A, December 2021). One of these cases revealed the aggression in Sheikh Jarrah and the West Bank. Another issue noted was the release of prisoners from invaders’ jails. Some of these cases triggered investigations, prosecutions, and sanctions. The most recent undercover investigation revealed by Palestine TV exposed numerous facts and evidence about Israel’s ongoing aggression in Palestine.

As one of the state media in Palestine, Palestine TV fulfils its function of encouraging Palestinians’ patriotism through news presentations. This is in line with Al-Masry (2016), who reported that the Palestinian media have a significant influence in strengthening Palestinian national identity by enhancing their political awareness and interest in the issues and political situation in the country. These findings suggest that news articles can even be personalized to create political sensations (Bek, 2004).

4.1.2 Setting political agenda to promote patriotism

According to the agenda-setting theory, the media raises issues to increase social awareness about the ones that must be addressed, especially by the government (Asah-Asante & Brako 2014). The current study demonstrates that state mass media, particularly Palestine TV, plays an important role in setting such an agenda in Palestine.

The participating journalists, politicians, academics, students, and activists in this study all agreed that the media has the power to set the agenda. Palestine TV, as a state mass media platform, has helped evoke the spirit of patriotism, especially during acts of aggression from external forces. Moreover, private mass media has maintained this spirit by keeping audiences informed and facilitating their role in Palestinian society.

At the same time, the media has an essential role in revealing where the news originates. The importance of the place may become evident in clarifying the crucial values of the report and distinguishing the information from others. It is also possible to measure the degree of patriotism among the Palestinian people by identifying the news areas. There are many Palestinian cities highlighted in the study, such as Jerusalem, Gaza, the West Bank, Tulkarem, and Qalqilya, as well as foreign cities that had certain roles in recent news cycles, including Eskisehir, Geneva, and New York. News communicates two essential things: the Israeli aggression in Palestine does not include certain areas but occurs all across Palestinian cities. Palestinians are dead, wounded, and displaced due to Israeli aggression, and Palestinian nationalism has existed in all towns and even outside Palestine. Based on these results, it can be said that Palestine TV has highlighted these settings in all areas.

Furthermore, the results reveal that Palestine TV portrays news by highlighting several actors: the prisoner Majed Barber, Palestinian youths, and Mona Al-Kurd, among others. It is worth publishing news stories about individuals who have had a significant impact on the news. Based on this finding, the media highlighted the names of influential personalities during the war. It dramatically influences the perceptions of audiences and viewers and enables the media outfit to achieve the goals of its news editors. In particular, Palestine TV aims to present Palestinian patriotism through the people's efforts to defend themselves from occupation and challenge it with patience and peaceful resistance. For example, the news portrayed the wife of the prisoner Majd Barbar, who spent 20 years of her life at home with her young children until they reached university age. Her story represented the strong spirit and patriotism of a prisoner's wife, even though her husband was incarcerated due to the ongoing occupation, leaving her alone with her young children.

The news also focused on Palestinian activists, such as Mona Al-Kurd and her brother Mohamed from the Sheikh Jarrah neighbourhood in Jerusalem, whose struggles conveyed their neighbourhood's sufferings to the world through social media. The media investigated the person who had a substantial impact as the primary actor in the news. Furthermore, the news narration focused on the following information: 1) the case of Majed Barbaras, a prisoner in the occupation prison for 20 years; 2) the case of a general election plan in Palestine, and the right of Jerusalem to participate in general elections; 3) the destruction of Nayef Al-Jaabis' house; 4) the campaign to arrest 130 Palestinian youths in Jerusalem; 5) the Israeli attack in Bab-Alamud; 6) the arrest of Palestinian national activists in Jerusalem; 7) the ongoing Israeli aggression in Gaza; 8) the story of the Palestinian martyr Yassin Hamad; 9) the campaign of Nakba by Palestinian communities; 10) the village of Selwan, which presents the history, culture, and art of the city of Jerusalem; 11) Mona Al-Kurd's presentation at the Human Rights Council in Geneva; and so on. Most news focused on several cases representing patriotism during the Israeli aggression against Palestine in 2021.

For example, the case of the prisoner, Majd Barbar, was explored in the news through live dialogues. Palestine TV was interested in gaining in-depth information regarding his sacrifice of spending his life as a prisoner and aimed to explore how he survived while in jail. It is essential to know his experiences during detention as this narration was used as a strategy by Palestine TV to present a somewhat "palatable theme" to the audience. It also means that popular news can be presented in narrative forms. In addition, other figures, such as Palestinian activists, resistance fighters, cadres, and others, were also chosen as news objects. Those who defended their land showed greater patriotism and were presented in news reports because they were considered essential elements showing the attributes of patriotism, honesty, and trust.

Patriotism is a contentious concept frequently used in political campaigns to promote patriotic sentiments (Skrynnikova, et al., 2021). The media has provided and sought information for news through the majority of people present at certain events. Moreover, the media has provided more personal narratives by telling stories of the victims and people involved in the attacks, thereby aiding the consolidation of patriotism and paving the way for and justifying the "war on terror" (Ferrari, 2019).

4.1.3 Constructing awareness of loving homeland

Awareness of loving one's homeland is crucial, particularly for a country facing a crisis in the form of an ongoing conflict. Ninety percent of the participants in this study stated that Palestine TV greatly aided the promotion of public awareness and the people's feelings of love, devotion, and attachment to their homeland. As one of the students shared, "I watch Palestinian TV news every day. Their news is interesting, and they always present excellent programs about hot issues in our country. Watching their programs makes me feel prouder and

realize my country and love my homeland more than ever” (interview with A-Om H, December 2021). Other participants appreciated Palestine TV for its role in representing national interest issues such as highlighting Palestinian heritage, which encompasses the history of famous Palestinian historians and heritage places, such as Al-Aqsa Mosque and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre (interview with M-Na.S3, January 2022).



Figure 3: The Beauty of Al-Aqsa Mosque Architecture, Jerusalem
<https://www.facebook.com/PalestineTV/videos/1151096138666794/>

Most of the respondents stated that Palestine TV fostered awareness about patriotism and educated the public through culture, history, and art. In terms of Palestinian culture, most of the news on Palestine TV focused on various cultural contexts, including the Muslim culture in Jerusalem, the art of Palestinian cultural life, and historical places, such as Selwan Village in Jerusalem and the Memorial of Palestinian Nakba. Patriotism is an expression of national pride (Ariely, 2016) and has cognitive, political, and cultural roots (Nugent, 1994). Based on our findings, Palestine TV helped promote patriotism among Palestinians by linking their news with cultural and historical events and contexts in the country, thus highlighting positive perspectives that can be found in their homeland despite the conflict. Furthermore, as reported by Pfefferbaum et al. (2013), television has a positive correlation to a person’s emotional symptoms, such as patriotism. Various indicators of emotional and behavioural problems may be positively associated with media coverage, while the personal adjustment is found to be negatively associated with attention to media coverage (Pfefferbaum et al., 2013).

4.1.4 Creating a platform for anti-aggression dialogue

Palestine TV has provided opportunities for the masses to become attentive to anti-aggression dialogue. The study participants stated that Palestinian TV serves as a platform for representing national issues during aggression. According to an activist participant, Palestine TV draws attention to anti-aggression through live-broadcasted dialogues with the victims. As these examples demonstrate, the state mass media provides important platforms enabling people to participate in these programs and contribute to the anti-aggression discourse. One example was when Nabil Abu Rudeineh as presidential spokesman for the president of Palestine presented a press release denouncing Israel’s aggression on Palestinian land.

5. Conclusion

In patriotism studies, people achieve a significant ability to build their country. Many countries have gone through complex conflicts with enemies who wanted to occupy their lands to plunder their wealth. For some countries, the conflict has continued for decades. Threats and crises inspire people to “rally around the flag” (Ariely, 2016; Cook-Huffman, 2009; Mueller, 1973). However, no occupation has succeeded in eliminating the sense of patriotism among the local people.

In media studies on patriotism, Palestine TV, as a representative of Palestinian state media, achieved significant success in promoting Palestinian patriotism by presenting history, culture, and resistance to enhance the cohesion of the Palestinian people and encourage them to keep fighting for their homeland. Palestinians have strong feelings of love for their country. This study calls for more research and discussion on

this specific case study, which has been largely overlooked in patriotism studies. In a sense, patriotism appears out of place in a world where journalists must consider issues globally (Ward & Wasserman, 2010).

The current study adds to the literature in a unique way, but due to the small sample size, it also has several drawbacks. First, only two participating journalists highlighted the news presentation strategies of Palestine TV due to the limitations caused by political issues in the country. Further research may be required to expand on the debate over patriotism by emphasizing tangible patriotism that can capture more deeply the core value of patriotism in media (agenda setting). The media should be independent; therefore, the openness of the media toward the public in terms of providing data needed by researchers or scholars is recommended to achieve more significant results.

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