

ABC Misinformation Report

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Introduction

The ABC is a publicly funded national broadcaster and, as such, has a legal and ethical obligation to report impartially and objectively¹. This dossier demonstrates that the ABC has repeatedly failed to meet that obligation. The problem is not a handful of isolated errors, but **a pattern of systematic missteps that resulted in disinformation embedded across programs, desks, and editorial decisions. The ABC's witting or unwitting promotion of extremist narratives vilifies Israel and, by extension, Jews. This contributes to antisemitism within the Australian community, which in some instances has resulted in intimidation, doxxing, harassment, arson attacks, and the Bondi shooting.**

Executive Summary:

This dossier is based on open-source, publicly available material identified and analysed by independent researchers and other media outlets, and examined in direct comparison with ABC reporting. All claims are supported by evidence, with links to source material provided. Given the sheer volume of misleading and false reporting produced by the ABC, this dossier focuses on a representative selection of cases rather than an exhaustive catalogue, clearly illustrating a broader, systemic pattern of misinformation.

The dossier examines misinformation embedded in ABC news reporting, the lack of balance in commentary and analytical programming, and the individuals who provide information and interpretation to the audience.

It begins by analysing three central narratives repeatedly constructed, amplified, and normalised by the ABC. The “famine” narrative is characterised by the repeated use of distressing imagery of children with severe pre-existing genetic or medical conditions, falsely presented as victims of starvation caused by Israel, despite available medical explanations and the presence of healthy family members. The “baby killers” narrative includes the uncritical broadcast of a UN claim, promoted as “shocking news”, that 14,000 babies would die within 48 hours, a figure that is mathematically impossible, as well as demonstrably false claims that Israeli forces executed a ten-year-old boy, despite evidence held by the ABC that the child was alive. This narrative is further reinforced through the repeated emotional framing of casualty figures, with the ABC consistently asserting that most victims are women and children while systematically marginalising independent analyses and Israeli assessments indicating that the figures are manipulated and include combatants. The “genocide” narrative is illustrated by the declaration that Israel is “committing genocide” by an unvetted, pay-to-join activist group portrayed as “the world’s leading genocide scholars.” The cases presented in this dossier represent only a small, illustrative sample of a far broader and consistent pattern of false and damaging reporting.

The dossier then provides detailed examples of how ABC program formats reinforce and normalise distorted reporting. The ABC’s Q&A program is shown to use panel compositions that completely exclude representative Israeli perspectives, creating environments in which extreme and absurd claims go unchallenged. The dossier also examines so-called in-depth analyses produced by senior ABC presenters, demonstrating how these segments consistently omit critical facts and context that would materially support the Israeli narrative.

¹ <https://www.abc.net.au/edpols/objectivity-and-impartiality-abc/13645770>

The dossier then demonstrates that the ABC treats statements from the United Nations without applying the level of scrutiny ordinarily expected of a public broadcaster. It frequently platforms Francesca Albanese, a controversial and internationally discredited UN Special Rapporteur, while exhibiting a lack of meaningful critical examination of her claims and of previous controversies surrounding her public statements.

The dossier further shows that ABC journalists often lack the technical expertise required to report on high-density urban warfare and weapons effects, resulting in the uncritical repetition of Hamas-supplied propaganda. It also documents repeated reliance on sources affiliated with Hamas, frequently without disclosure.

Finally, sentiment analysis of ABC output in the first two weeks following the 7 October massacre shows that headlines were four to five times more sympathetic to Gaza than to Israel, even at the height of Israeli civilian trauma. Taken together, the evidence demonstrates a systemic pattern of narrative distortion.

In multiple cases examined in this dossier, the ABC subsequently acknowledged that its reporting was wrong or misleading following sustained external criticism. These admissions, however, were inadequate. Corrections were delayed, minimised, or buried in low-visibility formats that bore no relationship to the reach or impact of the original false reports. As a result, the ABC failed to repair the damage it had caused, allowing demonstrably false narratives to remain embedded in public discourse long after their inaccuracy was known to the broadcaster.

Fueling antisemitism:

The ABC has played a central role in constructing and amplifying false narratives of *genocide*, *famine*, and “*baby killers*” in relation to Israel. These allegations represent the most serious crimes in international law. The more serious the accusation, the higher the evidentiary threshold must be. That threshold has not merely gone unmet; the evidence repeatedly collapses under scrutiny. As documented here, claims have been exaggerated, distorted, or wholly fabricated, forming a modern blood libel in which Israel, the world’s only Jewish state, is cast as uniquely criminal, effectively functioning as the “collective Jew” within the international system.

Criticism of Israeli government policy is legitimate. However, the application of standards to Israel that are not applied to any other country is not legitimate criticism. The persistent use of such double standards, especially when framed in genocidal terms is antisemitism. This pattern moves beyond scrutiny of policy and into the delegitimation of Jewish right to self-determination. This approach is consistent with the *Working Definition of Antisemitism* adopted by the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA), which states that antisemitism can include “applying double standards by requiring of [Israel] a behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.”

For many Australian Jews, Israel is not an abstract foreign state but a core element of identity and family life. According to a Crossroads23² survey 88% of Australian Jews feel a high level of personal connectedness with Israel and 80% indicate a high level of concern for Israel’s safety prior to the 7

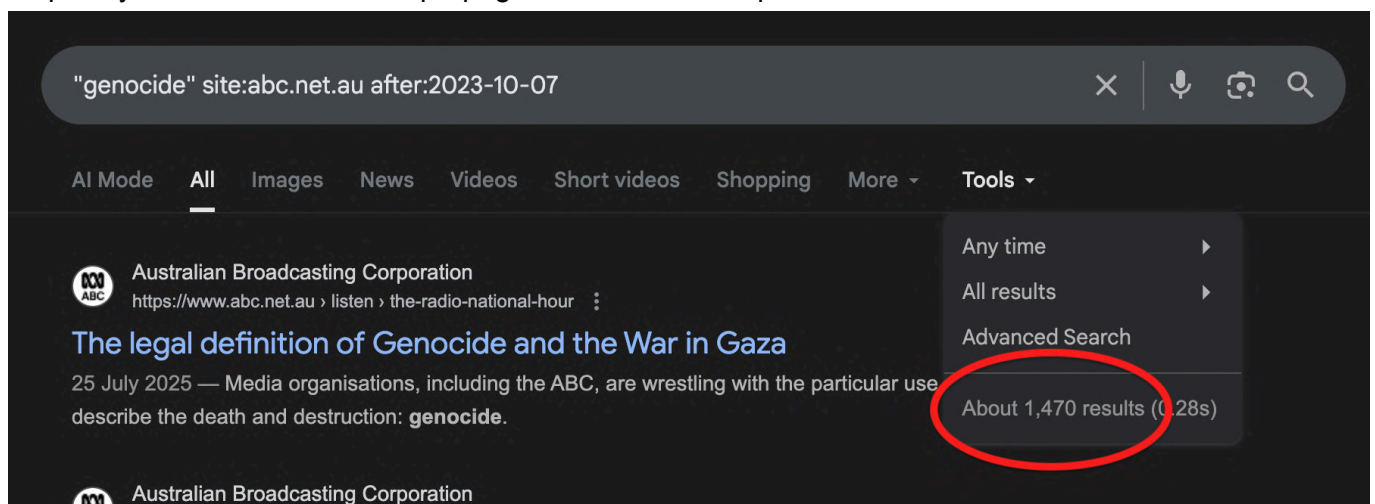
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https://jewishindependent.yourcreative.com.au/wp-content/uploads/2023/06/Crossroads23_Survey_Report_June_2023_2-1.pdf

October massacre. They support Israel in its existential fight against powerful countries and ideologies that seek to destroy it, and this is what Zionism means to them. By broadcasting high-volume, emotionally charged, and demonstrably false content, the ABC has materially contributed to the normalisation of anti-Israelism, into hostility toward a core element of Jewish identity and legitimacy.

The ABC itself published and broadcast multiple articles explicitly linking the war in Gaza to the rise of antisemitism in Australia and to the Bondi massacre itself.³ In doing so, it implicitly acknowledged that the conflict is a significant factor shaping domestic antisemitic attitudes and incidents. On this point, there appears to be broad agreement. The central question, therefore, is how it has been reported: whether the reporting accurately reflected reality or whether it was distorted in ways that encouraged or incited hostility and violence. As documented in this dossier, the ABC's coverage has been characterised by emotional manipulation, sensationalism, click-driven headlines, and the promotion of a predetermined narrative.

"A lie told once remains a lie but a lie told a thousand times becomes the truth." This phrase is frequently attributed to the Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels.



Searching the term "genocide" on the ABC website after 7 October 2023 returns more than a thousand results. As demonstrated in this dossier, these claims have no factual basis. However, the scale of this propaganda has created an environment that contributed to social radicalisation and the escalation of militant antisemitism across Australia. The normalisation of unproven genocide allegations has created an environment in which Jews who support Israel are routinely demonised and marginalised.

The ABC occupies a privileged position, entrusted with a taxpayer-funded national microphone. Instead of using that platform to inform responsibly and uphold social cohesion, it has amplified falsehoods and promoted a radical narrative with real-world consequences. This dossier documents that failure and sets out the evidence.

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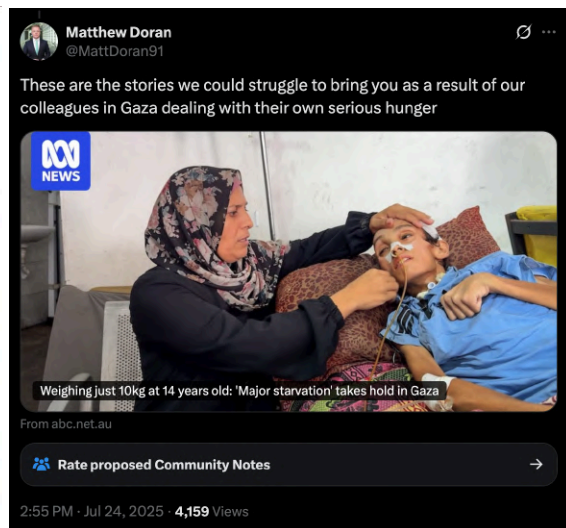
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-02-03/unprecedented-wave-antisemitism-australia-israel-gaza-war/104880800>
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-12-02/rise-in-islamophobia-antisemitism-amid-israel-gaza-war/103088666>
<https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/godforbid/antisemitism-israel-attacks-analysis/104845486>
<https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/pm/anti-semitism-becoming-more-common/104696202>
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-08-04/research-esafety-rise-antisemitism-islamophobia-police-training/104172854>
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-02-02/bondi-light-over-darkness-four-corners/106297366> (from 38:50)

1. Examples of ABC Misinformation

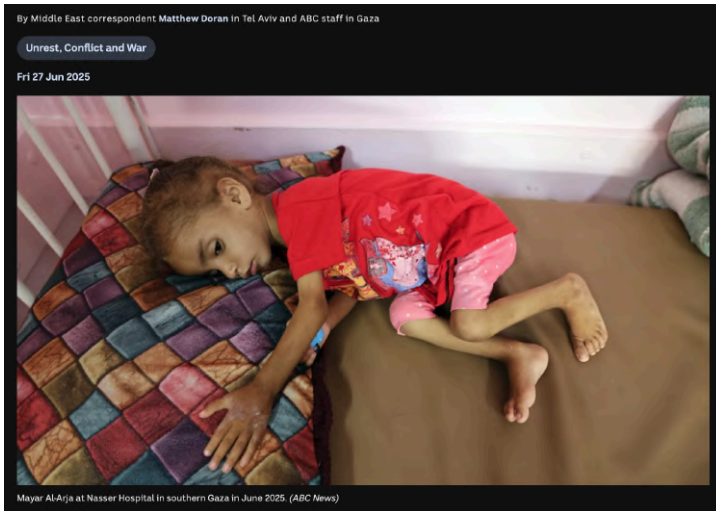
This section examines how the ABC constructed and amplified three alleged Gaza war narratives. Selected for their prominence and volume, these narratives played a central role in the demonisation of Israel. The analysis identifies a recurring failure of journalistic judgement, in which emotional manipulation, fabricated evidence, and activist allegations were presented as fact, amplifying distortion over scrutiny and contributing to a one-sided narrative and a hostile climate for Australian Jewish communities.

1.1. Children With Genetic Disease are Presented as Starving (Famine Hoax)

The ABC have indulged in and amplified a narrative of famine throughout the war in Gaza. In July 2025 alone, there were approximately 100 ABC News articles related to the theme of famine, often showing horrific images of supposedly "starving" children. In reality, the children were ill, usually with a genetic disease, and their appearance was not the result of a lack of food. Even the fact that parents or other people in the photos appeared healthy did not stop the ABC from claiming that the children were starving as a result of Israel's actions.



Despite the mother appearing healthy and showing no signs of malnutrition, Eric Tlozek and Matthew Doran claimed that the child was starving.



In a repeated pattern, the ABC's Matthew Doran highlighted Mayar Al-Arja's malnutrition⁴ while not informing viewers that she reportedly had coeliac disease, a condition affecting nutrient absorption⁵.

According to Allyson Horn, "Two-year-old Watin al-Aswad's body has been so badly ravaged by starvation that her bones are protruding on her skeletal frame."⁶ The report quotes the mother as saying, "She will die from malnutrition." The emotional framing is reinforced by the headline and main image, in which the mother is cut out of the frame. In the full image embedded within the article, the mother's appearance contradicts the implied starvation narrative, a contrast unlikely to be noticed by many readers.



The image of the mother contradicts the narrative. Was there an underlying medical condition that was not reported?

⁴ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-06-27/hundreds-killed-in-gaza-amid-israel-iran-war/105466200>

<https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/am/baby-formula-runs-low-in-gaza/105467316>

⁵ <https://apnews.com/article/malnutrition-hunger-starvation-gaza-f33432592d7143767ca3797b15c6777b>

⁶ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-03-20/children-slowly-starve-to-death-gaza/103599730>

Unlike in other examples, the image of Youssef Matar does note under the photograph that he has been diagnosed with cerebral palsy. However, in the context of an article titled “*Israel’s actions in Gaza put it at risk of becoming a global pariah*”, which describes the situation as “*man-made mass starvation*”, the inclusion of this image nevertheless functions as an illustration of alleged starvation.⁷ The omitted context, however, is that globally approximately 40% of children with cerebral palsy experience malnutrition due to feeding difficulties.



The ABC either intentionally misrepresented these images as examples of starvation, or failed to uphold the statutory duty to present news and information accurately. The ABC has pressured politicians across the political spectrum to react to these dramatic images and fake claims of starvation. One of the most noteworthy cases is that of Muhammad Zakariya Ayyoub al-Matouq, who was born with cerebral palsy, a serious genetic disorder. Despite this, his image was repeatedly presented as evidence of starvation caused by Israel, in a manner that clearly intensified the emotional impact of the coverage. On 27 July 2025, his image was shown during an interview with Anthony Albanese and framed as proof of starvation, with Albanese condemning Israel for “*breaching international law*”.



⁷ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-07-26/israel-starvation-aid-global-pressure-gaza/105555092>

By failing to show the cause of emaciation was genetic, the ABC broadcast a false claim. On the same day, 27 July 2025, UK investigative journalist David Collier⁸ published the factual background of the case⁹, including documents proving the child's medical condition. He also released a wider image showing the child's older brother, who had evidently been framed out, and who appears healthy and well-nourished, contradicting claims that the child's condition was caused by starvation.



Muhammad and his healthy brother

Well intentioned and professional journalists are duty bound to actively seek and report the truth. It appeared that they did not, in this case.

The original photo of Muhammad Zakariya Ayyoub al-Matouq was uploaded to Instagram by the photographer, Ahmed Al Arini in July 2025.¹⁰ Notably, a brief character check of Al Arini revealed that on October 7th, 2023, when 1200 Israelis were murdered, he posted: “the [sic] beautiful atmosphere of Gaza this evening.” Having publicly celebrated the brutal massacre and hostage taking actions of Hamas, a proscribed terrorist organisation by the Australian government, Al Arini’s prior post(s) would ordinarily disqualify him as an objective source of information.

⁸ <https://david-collier.com/>

⁹ <https://david-collier.com/the-truth-behind-the-viral-gaza-famine-photo/>

¹⁰ https://www.instagram.com/p/DMaxLVWtfdd/?img_index=1



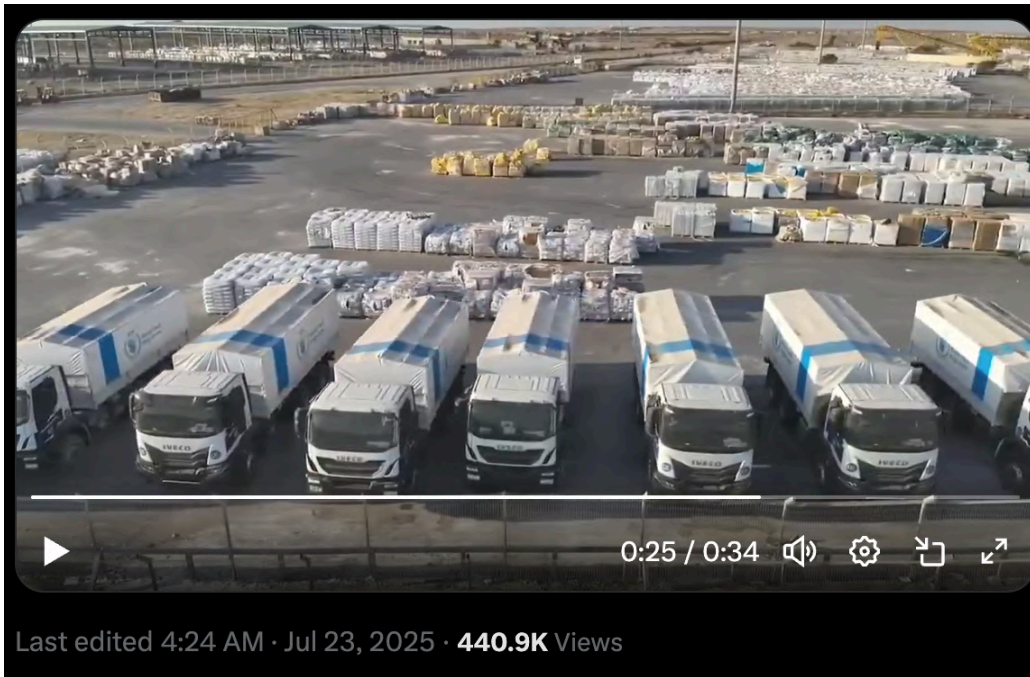
The photos of the children at the bottom were published just seven days before the image of the “starving” Muhammad above, by the same photographer.

Critically, just 7 days earlier, Al Arini had published images displaying children that did not demonstrate physical signs of undernutrition. They appeared healthy and within normal limits. The conflicting imagery reveals the implausibility of a selective starvation affecting some and not others during a contemporaneous timeframe. Herein, it becomes evident that the credibility of Al Arini was readily in grave doubt - and that the ABC either did not investigate his history, or intentionally did not include his other photos needed to offer a balanced representation of the counterfactual.¹¹

Israeli officials have consistently refuted false claims of starvation. On July 23, 2025 COGAT stated there is "NO LIMIT on the number of humanitarian aid trucks that can enter Gaza".¹² COGAT publicly provided evidence that hundreds of trucks were waiting in Gaza and identified the "collection bottleneck" as the primary obstacle to a consistent flow of humanitarian aid.

¹¹ https://www.instagram.com/p/DMlcSCgtPfw/?img_index=1

¹² <https://x.com/cogatonline/status/1948727164049760745>



Humanitarian aid waiting to be distributed in Gaza, while Australians are fed images of ‘starving babies’.

Several other world media outlets did not succumb to blindly promote Hamas propaganda. On the same day the ABC showed a picture of a “starving child”, other media reported that this child had genetic disorders:

NEWS METRO Long Island Politics **World News**

WORLD NEWS

Viral images of starving Gaza boy don't tell the whole story because he suffers from genetic disorders, critics say

By **Chris Nesi**

Published July 27, 2025, 7:05 p.m. ET

440 Comments

THE FREE PRESS

They Became Symbols for Gazan Starvation. But All 12 Suffer from Other Health Problems.

A Free Press investigation found that the viral photos lacked important context: The subjects have cystic fibrosis, rickets, or other serious ailments.

By **Olivia Reingold and Tanya Lukyanova**

08.18.25 — Israel

On 28 July, when other media had already reported the truth about this child, ABC Media Watch, the program specifically meant to critically examine the media and expose bias and fake news, pushed the agenda even further. On the program, Linton Besser expressed hope that the original story the ABC promoted and which he spot-lit “will change the world.”¹³ Indeed, the repeated misrepresentation of facts has fuelled the tsunami of antisemitism in Australia. Whether this pattern of misinformation was the result of deliberate intent can only be determined through a proper, independent investigation.

The ABC only later acknowledged that the child, Muhammad Zakariya Ayyoub al-Matouq, had a serious pre-existing medical condition a few days after this fact had already been reported by multiple other

¹³ <https://www.abc.net.au/mediawatch/episodes/ep-25/105582948>

international media outlets, in reputationally damaging retractions and corrections. For the ABC, this acknowledgement appeared in a limited and marginal way in an article, “*Why this image of an emaciated Gazan boy sparked controversy*”, published on 31 July 2025.¹⁴

The ABC clarification was not given prominence, nor was it communicated with anything approaching the scale, reach or intensity with which the original image and narrative had been promoted across ABC platforms. Instead, the admission was embedded within a broader article that largely reframed the issue away from being a critical factual correction.

Notably, the ABC’s acknowledgement was immediately followed by the statement: “*The clarification does not change the fact that children in Gaza are malnourished and starving...*” This was despite the fact that publicly accessible social media content posted by Gaza residents during the relevant period did not depict widespread visible signs consistent with mass starvation (see the pictures of the children above). Moreover, apart from images of children suffering from genetic illnesses, the ABC’s own published photographs from the same period did not display visible signs consistent with starvation.

This framing effectively neutralised the significance of the correction, discouraging readers from reassessing the earlier coverage. The article then proceeded to cite a range of additional “evidence” and commentary sourced from organisations and individuals widely recognised for their anti-Israel stance, many of whom had already been prominent advocates of the original narrative. In doing so, the ABC did not meaningfully engage with and take account for the implications of having circulated a highly emotive image that was knowingly and materially misleading, nor did it offer a correction proportionate to the original reach and impact of the claim. Instead, the clarification was subordinated to reaffirmation of the broader narrative, limiting its corrective effect.

1.2. Example of Obvious Lie Presented as a “Shocking News” (Famine, Baby Killers, and Genocide Hoaxes)

In May 2025, a UN humanitarian chief, Tom Fletcher, made the following claim: “There are 14,000 babies [in Gaza] that will die in the next 48 hours unless we can reach them.”

This claim is not only statistically impossible, but was quickly proven to be entirely false. Age based demographic distributions in Gaza would require one third of its entire baby population to die simultaneously to fulfil the above falsehood.

Instead of handling this as skilled and honest journalists are supposed to handle such an absurd claim, such as challenge, ignore or criticise, the ABC presented this as ‘shocking’, ‘a devastating warning’.¹⁵

¹⁴

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-07-31/why-this-image-of-an-emaciated-gazan-boy-sparked-controversy/105596198>

¹⁵ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-05-21/un-warns-babies-could-die-amid-gaza-blockade/105316914>

UN pressed for detail on shocking claim

Mr Fletcher issued a devastating warning for babies inside Gaza, saying 14,000 are at risk of dying in the next 48 hours alone unless life-saving food and supplements poured into the war-ravaged strip.

"We run the risk of looting, we run the risks of being hit as part of the Israeli military offensive, we run all sorts of risks trying to get that baby food through to those mothers who cannot feed their children right now because they're malnourished," he said.

He said the severity of the situation was "utterly chilling."

ABC repeatedly broadcast and amplified an absurd and harmful accusation from Tom Fletcher, presenting it as a factual reality. On multiple occasions, the ABC prominently aired the original video of Fletcher.

In some cases, the footage was followed by host commentary such as, "A devastating warning from the UN's humanitarian chief over the desperate need for more aid in Gaza", and "The United Nations aid chief has issued a warning about the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, saying 14,000 babies could die in the next two days if more aid isn't delivered to the Strip"¹⁶

Furthermore, the ABC continued to legitimise the story by asking politicians to comment on their reaction to Fletcher's fabrication.

As expected, the immediate pushback on this absurd allegation resulted in both the UN and ABC downplaying the claim and issuing a 'correction'. The claim was revised to state that the risk of 14,000 babies dying applied over 12 months, not 48 hours. This revised claim is also hyperbolic, but even this. It worth noting that ABC quietly changed Tom Fletcher's original quote to "14,000 are at risk of dying in the next 48 hours"¹⁷ instead of "14,000 babies that will die in the next 48 hours"¹⁸ to look less asinine. correction was issued too late and was inadequate to repair the damage already done.

It is humane and important to establish the number of babies that did in fact die as a result of famine in Gaza. According to the report published on 11 October 2025 by the Hamas-run Gaza Health Ministry (see pie Chart below), over two years of war, 475 people died from malnutrition, of whom 165 were children under 18¹⁹. Deaths attributed to malnutrition occur in all societies, including Australia, almost always in conjunction with underlying illness or disability, and do not in themselves constitute evidence of famine. In this case Hamas's numbers appear reasonable. The UN and the ABC reporting has reached a

¹⁶

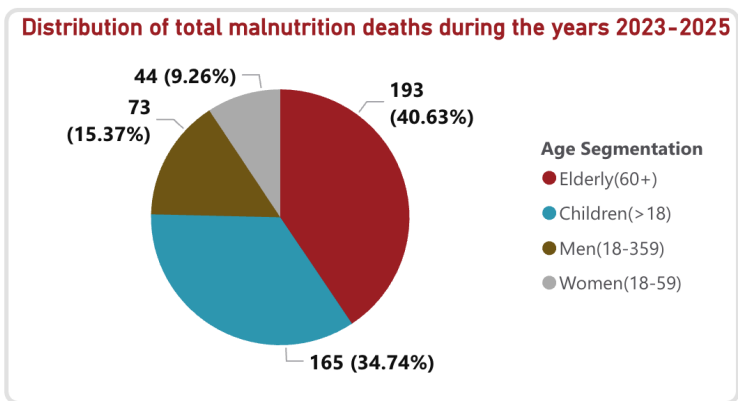
<https://www.abc.net.au/about/ombudsman/complaints/breach-findings/abc-news-various-14000-babies-in-gaza-21-may-2025-breach/105411006>

¹⁷ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-05-21/un-warns-babies-could-die-amid-gaza-blockade/105316914>

¹⁸ <https://www.facebook.com/reel/1058873052965391>

¹⁹ <https://www.sehatty.ps/public/>
<https://t.me/MOHMediaGaza/7063>

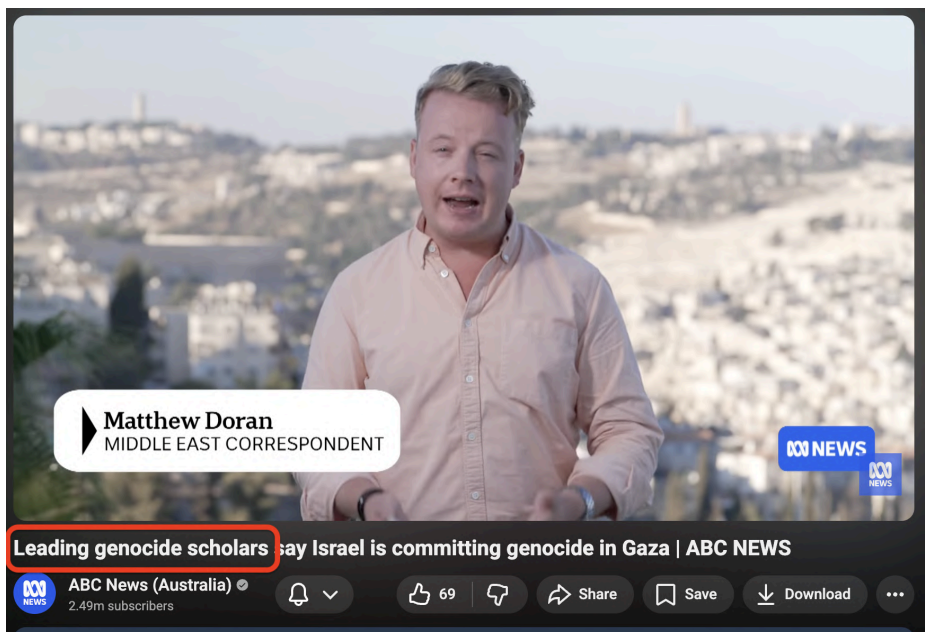
level of misinformation so extreme that even the Hamas terrorist organisation's numbers did not reach that magnitude.



Malnutrition deaths according to Hamas Ministry of Health

The ABC's failure to give context to malnutrition related deaths was intended to shock and create moral panic. The result of this was further sociopolitical delegitimisation of Israel and Zionism.

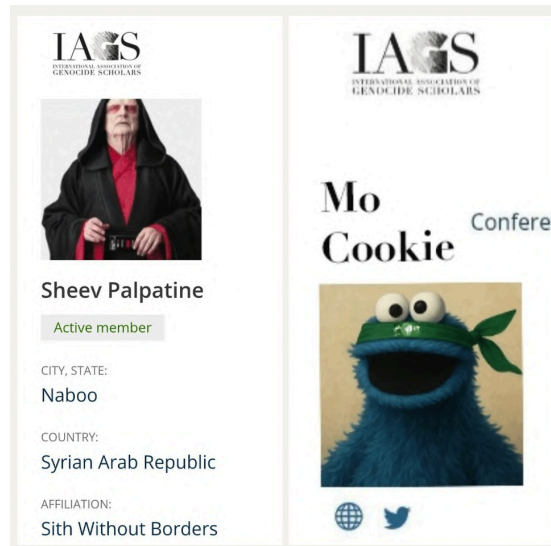
1.3. Anonymous Individuals with Questionable Motives Presented as “Leading Genocide Scholars” (Genocide Hoax)



On 2 September 2025, the ABC reported that “the world's leading genocide scholars” had declared that Israel is committing genocide in Gaza. For an entire day, this claim dominated headlines. The ABC misleadingly framed the resolution as a definitive “determination” by the premier global body of experts in the field.

That is how it was presented by the ABC's Middle East correspondent, Matthew Doran:

“As Israel's conduct in Gaza comes under greater and greater scrutiny, the world's leading association of genocide scholars has backed a resolution saying its conduct in the strip has met the legal criteria to be considered a genocide. Of the 500 members voting on the resolution, 86 per cent backed it, saying that the threshold has been met, meeting the criteria of the Geneva Convention.”



Examples of user profiles of the “Leading Genocide Experts”

The "Credibility Collapse"

Within a day, independent bloggers demonstrated how hollow this claim was:

- It costs US \$30 to become a “*leading genocide scholar*”. No vetting takes place.²⁰
- No academic credential, affiliation, publishing history is pre-requisite to membership.
- The IAGS membership system has no verification mechanism whatsoever.
- Since 7 October 2023, the number of “scholars” has increased by 3.5 times: On 2 October 2023, the IAGS only had approximately 144 members.²¹ Within a short period, that figure had ballooned to around 500.
- Approximately 15% of these “genocide scholars” reside in Iraq.
- Approximately only 20% of members participated in the vote. Total Membership: ~500–600 (est.) Total Votes Cast: 129. Votes "In Favour": 108. Total turnout: ~21%. The names of voters were never disclosed: Who, then, were the 108 individuals who voted in favour of the Gaza genocide resolution? Could the outcome have been dominated by disingenuous members with a vested interest?²²
- Activists successfully registered memberships under false names, including Adolf Hitler, Mo Cookie, and Sheev Palpatine, confirming that the “experts” cited by the ABC could be anyone with malicious intent and a credit card.

²⁰ <https://x.com/Aizenberg55/status/1963052824968716645>

²¹ <https://x.com/skorpi0n/status/1963284375954493474>

²² <https://x.com/Aizenberg55/status/1963119386509672850>

Further, these so-called “leading scholars” appear unable to understand even the most basic findings of the International Court of Justice. In their resolution, they asserted: “The International Court of Justice found ... that it is plausible that Israel is committing genocide in its attack in Gaza.”²³ This statement is false. The ICJ did not find that Israel was plausibly committing genocide. Rather, the Court held that Palestinians had a plausible right to be protected from genocide. The Court **did not** determine that the allegation of genocide itself was plausible. The President of the ICJ later explicitly clarified this point.²⁴

The ABC also repeated incorrect interpretations of the ICJ ruling multiple times. For example an incorrect assertion was made by the ABC presenter Sally Sara in an interview with Greens senator David Shoebridge on ABC Radio Breakfast (Sep 18 2025)²⁵, wherein she claimed that it is plausible that Israel has been committing genocide in Gaza.

Sara Brown, the author of *Gender and Genocide in Rwanda*, wrote on X: “I have been a member of *GenocideStudies* for over a decade and can confirm that the process was a disaster from start to finish. Those of us who opposed the resolution attempted to submit our concerns for discussion but were blocked by the leadership.”²⁶



The Free Press media outlet reported the same issue under the headline “*Another Reason Not to Trust the ‘Experts’*”.²⁷ This may be yet another reason to lose the trust in the ABC. The ABC showed no similar rigour. A 53 word correction was appended to an article of more than 1,140 words days after publication, unlikely to be seen by the original readers.

1.4. The Broadcast of a Fake Story About a Child Killed, Despite Being Told by His Mother That It Was False (Baby Killers Hoax)

An example of a fabricated story is the case of a Palestinian boy whom the ABC claimed had been shot dead by Israel, despite the ABC possessing information that he was alive. On August 5 & 6, 2025: ABC AM and The World Today broadcast allegations²⁸ by a contractor terminated for gross misconduct,

²³ <https://genocidescholars.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/08/IAGS-Resolution-on-Gaza-FINAL.pdf>

²⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bq9MB9t7WII>

²⁵ <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/radionational-breakfast/green-reax-shoebridge/105786238>

²⁶ <https://x.com/DrSaraEBrown/status/1962611572762910940>

²⁷ <https://www.thefp.com/p/another-reason-not-to-trust-the-experts>

²⁸ <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/worldtoday/whistleblower-accuses-israel-of-firing-at-civilians/105619866>

Resolved complaint:

<https://www.abc.net.au/about/ombudsman/complaints/resolved/resolved-complaint/105768084>

US-national Anthony Aguilar, who claimed he witnessed the execution of a 10-year-old Palestinian boy, "Amir," and other Gazan civilian aid recipients, by Israeli forces.

Aguilar had been dismissed for misconduct and poor performance. Prior to his dismissal, Aguilar had praised the Gaza Humanitarian Foundation and its operations; only after being fired did he reverse his position, made allegations, and issued threats. GHF further accused him of falsifying documents, including backdating a memo of concerns sent after his dismissal by the GHF (for serious misconduct) to make it appear as though it was written while he was still employed. GHF described Aguilar as a disgruntled former employee who, while seeking reinstatement and texting his former supervisor that he would be their "best friend or worst nightmare" depending on his rehirement.²⁹

Nicole Johnston introduced the dismissed and discredited "whistleblower" by stating that "what he saw forced him to resign and speak out", despite ABC staff having acknowledged that they had reviewed the detailed GHF response explaining his dismissal. Johnston further stated that "hundreds of people are crammed into cages", despite there being no cages at the aid sites, and that civilians were "crouching for cover while gunfire reigns around them", despite according to GHF, no incidents involving fire on civilians occurred at their distribution site on that day.

Obtained GHF-ABC Correspondence³⁰ reveals the ABC is guilty of flagrant negligence, gross recklessness and disinformation.

The leaked email chain between an ABC reporter and GHF testifies:

- Prior Knowledge: On the day of the broadcast, ABC reporters were told by the boy's step-mother that she believed he was alive. They omitted/suppressed this information.
- Ignored Public Record, Failure to Conduct Due Diligence: The ABC ignored publicly available incontrovertible evidence from The Times of Israel³¹ (published 11 days earlier) that categorically refuted claims made by the ABC, and a USA PBS Newshour³² report on August 1, 2025, 5 days before the ABC broadcast:

By broadcasting a false accusation of Jewish soldiers killing Arab children—already debunked and corrected, while knowingly withholding exculpatory evidence, the ABC effectively fueled rampant antisemitic sentiment in Australia, during a national crisis:³³ The impact of this is not unlike a "blood libel".

²⁹

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/ex-us-contractor-says-he-saw-idf-commit-war-crimes-at-aid-sites-ghf-rejects-false-claims/>
https://www.timesofisrael.com/liveblog_entry/ex-us-contractor-who-accused-idf-of-war-crimes-at-aid-sites-falsified-documents-to-spread-false-narrative-ghf-says-sharing-evidence/

³⁰ Obtained correspondence attached.

³¹

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/ex-us-contractor-says-he-saw-idf-commit-war-crimes-at-aid-sites-ghf-rejects-false-claims/>

³² <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/u-s-whistleblower-describes-chaos-and-reckless-force-at-gaza-aid-sites>

³³ <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/worldtoday/whistleblower-accuses-israel-of-firing-at-civilians/105619866>

Eleven days before being broadcast *The Times of Israel* had already published a report stating GHF had already investigated Aguilar's baseless and vindictive accusation, cross-referenced video evidence, and found them to be "false claims with no basis in reality."³⁴

PBS also concluded there was no truth in Aguilar's claims, and that was published on 1 August, 5 days before ABC aired these false accusations.

The ABC ignored these reports. They aired Aguilar's allegations as "Breaking News" without referencing that the specific claims had already been publicly debunked by video evidence multiple times in the 11 days preceding the publication.

What is even more significant is that, on the morning of the broadcast, an ABC reporter emailed the GHF. The contents of the leaked email reveals, prior to publication, ABC knew that Amir was alive and not executed. Despite this, Nicole Johnston proceeded to broadcast this fabricated story accusing the IDF of murdering a child seeking aid.

August 6 Inquiry

Reporter: Eric Tlozek

ABC:

Dear GHF media team,

My colleagues are working on a story about the young boy, known as Amir, who former Solutions contractor Anthony Aguilar alleges was shot by the IDF after attending a GHF site near the Morag Corridor on May 28.

We have the GHF's detailed response re: the context and alleged motive of Aguilar's allegations and I'm not asking about what Aguilar said. His allegations concern the IDF, not the GHF.

Rather, Amir's adoptive mother has told us she doesn't believe her son was killed. She told us she believes he was taken by American contractors and fed and cared for, because he was in a bad state when he attended the aid site. But she has not seen him since that date.

The boy's actual name is Abed al Rahim Jabarah and he is 10 years old.

Could you please tell me if GHF is aware of this boy and his whereabouts, or what happened to him after he attended the GHF site on May 28?

Is he the boy mentioned in the GHF press briefing on July 29?

"Then, he (Aguilar) said, alongside pictures of several smiling Palestinian civilians, including a young boy, he said, "With the addition of more teammates on their way and new SOPs (Standard Operating Procedures) being implemented, the schedule will become steady. I assure you, great job."

Do you have any more information about his case you can share?

Leaked email proves the ABC knew the child was alive.

Despite possessing this statement, the ABC omitted the mother's testimony that her son was alive. Instead, they aired Aguilar stating what was later revealed to be untrue -: "I got to talk to her... to tell her that her son is... most likely, you know, he was dead"³⁵

³⁴

<https://www.timesofisrael.com/ex-us-contractor-says-he-saw-idf-commit-war-crimes-at-aid-sites-ghf-rejects-false-claims/>

³⁵ <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/worldtoday/whistleblower-accuses-israel-of-firing-at-civilians/105619866>

The ABC framed a false and manipulatively emotive narrative of "grieving mother / dead child" while suppressing their own interview, where the mother claimed the child was alive. This amounts to a deliberate distortion of the facts is not only unethical and divisive, but it also represents a violation of accuracy standards stipulated by the ABC Editorial Policies.

Cover-Up: ABC Ombudsman Response (September 15)

The ABC Ombudsman attempted to dismiss the complaint by claiming that Aguilar “did not state definitively that Amir was killed”. In reality, the transcript shows that Aguilar stated this as a fact: “People were lying on that intersection, lying there dead. And Amir was amongst those who were dead.”

The Ombudsman admitted that "the denial by GHF... should have been included in the audio report", confirming a breach of impartiality standards. It also raises questions regarding the rigor and impartiality by which the ABC Ombudsman reviewed the matter - yet still failed to identify the aforementioned quote suggesting that Amir was dead.

Furthermore, the correction offered by the Ombudsman **amounted to no more than a written footnote placed on the page of a previously aired radio program**³⁶. This correction would be seen by almost nobody, compared with the large audience who listened to the broadcast live or on demand and would hear the audio without scrolling through the written text to discover that the interview was false from start to finish.

In a further example of careless correction practices, the ‘AM’ website did not include the critical fact that the boy reported as dead was later found to be alive. **Even when the ABC cannot dispute the falsity of its reporting, in a case as clear cut as a child not having been killed, its remediation and correction processes fail to meaningfully self correct.**

1.5. Emotional Manipulation Instead of Fatality Analysis (Baby Killers Hoax)

When reporting on casualties in the Gaza war, the ABC has repeatedly sacrificed objective truth in favour of emotionally charged, click-driven framing. Its coverage overwhelmingly privileges narratives designed to provoke outrage—most notably through the persistent emphasis on civilian and particularly child casualties—often without adequate context or verification.

According to international research conducted in 2024 by Fifty Global Research Group, examining reportage between February 2024 to May 2024,³⁷ a mere 8 per cent of ABC articles that mention Palestinian casualties clarify that the figures include combatants, while 28 per cent of ABC articles explicitly describe the dead as civilians. Moreover, **almost every reference to civilians is accompanied by mention of children**. Of those articles that discuss civilian casualties, 60 percent explicitly assert that the majority of victims are women and children. These assertions are false and constitute misinformation.

³⁶ <https://www.abc.net.au/about/ombudsman/complaints/resolved/resolved-complaint/105768084>

³⁷ <https://fifty.global/>

More than half of the victims in Gaza are women, children and the elderly

38

Analysis of fatalities in Gaza has been conducted by multiple researchers. In January 2024, just three months after the war began, the Washington Institute for Near East Policy published a paper titled “How Hamas Manipulates Gaza Fatality Numbers”. Authored by Gabriel Epstein, the paper argues that fatality data provided by the Gaza Ministry of Health (MoH) and the Government Media Office (GMO) are systematically manipulated to serve Hamas’s strategic goals, including halting Israeli military operations and inciting international outrage.³⁹

Another study by statistician Abraham Weiner, titled *How the Gaza Ministry of Health Fakes Casualty Numbers: The Evidence Is in Their Own Poorly Fabricated Figures*, analysed casualty data provided by the MoH and concluded that Hamas’s official civilian death toll is statistically impossible.⁴⁰

Andrew Fox reached similar conclusions in his paper “Questionable Counting: Analysing the Death Toll from the Hamas-run Ministry of Health in Gaza”, published by The Henry Jackson Society.⁴¹

Findings of these researchers support the proposal that the ABC’s reporting either lacked due diligence, or that it was consistently magnifying the narrative of extensive civilian deaths. **By systematically suppressing voices (third party researchers, IDF counter-claims) that contradict its preferred narrative, and by prioritising emotional resonance over factual precision, the ABC has abandoned impartial journalism and reportage in favour of activism, storytelling, partisan commentary, and opinion. The repeated use of children as the primary lens through which casualties are presented distorts reality, maximises emotional impact, and constructs a modern form of the historic ‘baby killers’ blood libel.**

The following breakdown is taken from an analysis by Salo Aizenberg. The full analysis and sources can be found in his article, ‘Gaza Fatality Analysis: The Truth Behind the 70,000 Number’.⁴²

As of December 4, 2025, the Hamas-run Ministry of Health (MoH) reported that 70,125 people⁴³ had been killed in Gaza since 7 October 2023. The MoH has removed obvious errors such as duplicates⁴⁴ or false IDs⁴⁵, yet the core problems remain that this list includes:

- Combatants of Hamas, PIJ, and other terror groups

³⁸ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-03-24/gaza-death-toll-50000-explained/105088110>

³⁹ <https://www.washingtoninstitute.org/media/7168?disposition=inline>

⁴⁰ <https://www.tabletmag.com/sections/news/articles/how-gaza-health-ministry-fakes-casualty-numbers>

⁴¹

<https://henryjacksonsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/HJS-Questionable-Counting-%E2%80%93-Hamas-Report-web-v2.pdf>

⁴² <https://x.com/Aizenberg55/article/1998044573860319333>

⁴³ <https://t.me/MOHMediaGaza/7167>

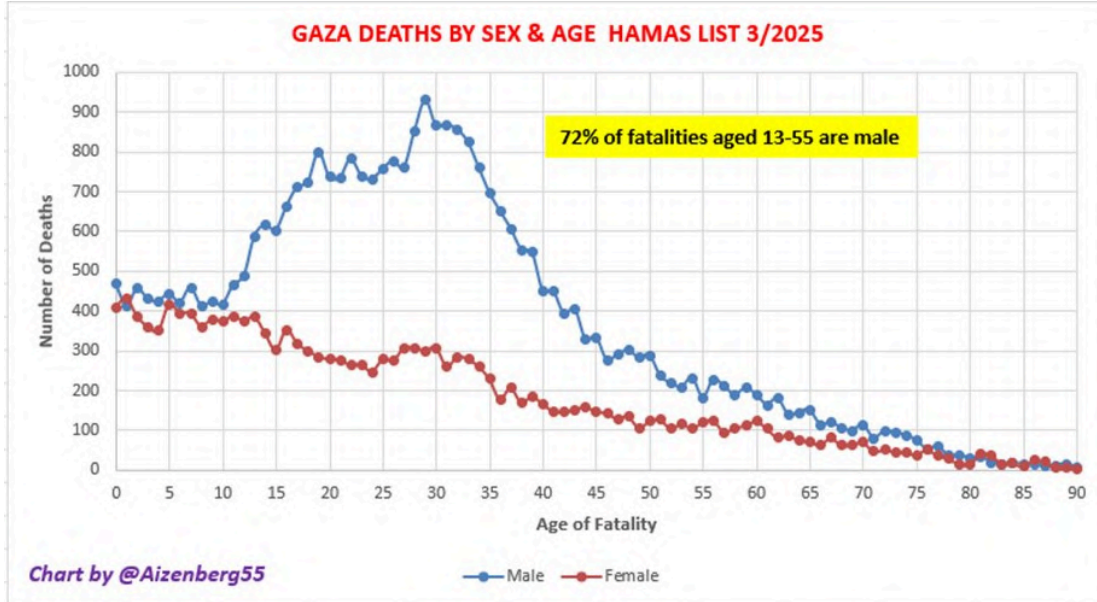
⁴⁴ <https://x.com/Aizenberg55/status/1792189647113667007>

⁴⁵ <https://x.com/Aizenberg55/status/1792189635486962155>

- Natural deaths
- Internal Killings by Hamas, Gangs & Rockets
- Errors The (Hamas list still shows people killed in previous wars⁴⁶, individuals misidentified, and cancer patients⁴⁷ who left Gaza but were subsequently listed as dead.)

Gaza Fatality Analysis December 2025		Fatality Numbers
Total fatalities per Hamas at 12/4/2025		70,125
Less: Natural deaths & infant mortality		(11,000)
Less: Errors and other data anomalies		(1,000)
Total war related deaths since 10/7		58,125
Less: Killed by Hamas or internal (rockets, gangs, etc.)		(4,000)
Adjusted war related deaths I		54,125
Add: Combatant fatalities not disclosed by Hamas		7,000
Adjusted war related deaths II		61,125
Combatants killed by the IDF		25,000
Civilian fatalities (collateral deaths)		36,125
Civilian/Combatant Ratio		1.45

Estimated Gaza Casualties by Attribution (10/7/2023 – 12/4/2025)⁴⁸



Gaza Deaths by Sex & Age (Hamas List)⁴⁹

⁴⁶ <https://x.com/Aizenberg55/status/1909981944714047948>

⁴⁷

<https://henryjacksonsociety.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/12/HJS-Questionable-Counting-%E2%80%93-Hamas-Report-web.pdf>

⁴⁸ <https://x.com/Aizenberg55/article/1998044573860319333>

⁴⁹ <https://x.com/Aizenberg55/status/1905249003291484566>

Aizenberg estimates that there are approximately 61,000 war-related deaths due to IDF action. They include approximately 25,000 combatants and approximately 36,000 civilians (plus the 4,000 deaths caused by Hamas and internal actors). The IDF statement that 25,000 Hamas fighters have been killed was also affirmed⁵⁰ by the US government. But even more important support of this statement is the visible collapse of Hamas’s military capabilities despite recruitment of 15,000 new fighters⁵¹.

Furthermore, child casualties cannot be honestly examined without addressing the well-documented use of minors by Palestinian armed groups. There is extensive open-source material demonstrating instances in which individuals under the age of 18 were directly involved in hostilities.

Much of this material is easily discoverable through publicly accessible social media accounts belonging to the minors themselves, their families, or affiliated terrorist groups, using widely adopted open-source intelligence (OSINT) techniques. These methods are standard tools for identifying and analysing publicly available information in the digital age. The failure to incorporate such basic 21st-century information-gathering tools raises serious questions: either the ABC has not adapted to contemporary investigative standards, or it has chosen not to present a complete and accurate picture to its audience.



Images of child soldiers.⁵² The youngest is just 12 years old.⁵³

To estimate the scale of the phenomenon, let us consider the example of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) and its military wing, the Omar al-Qasim Forces, which published a list of 67 members killed during the Gaza war.⁵⁴ (see the image below) Open-source analysis of that list indicates that at least 6 (9%) of those named, highlighted in red circles, were under the age of 18.⁵⁵

⁵⁰ <https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/115310630808491399>

⁵¹

<https://archive.is/20250822030656/https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/hamas-has-added-up-15000-fighters-since-start-war-us-figures-show-2025-01-24/>

⁵² <https://x.com/MiddleEastBuka/status/1948448901792477362>

<https://x.com/MiddleEastBuka/status/1943200137452675138>

<https://x.com/MiddleEastBuka/status/1916480695398027388>

⁵³ <https://x.com/GabrielEpsteinX/status/2003579067241746637>

⁵⁴ <https://x.com/DFLP1969/status/2021211382482436440>

⁵⁵ <https://x.com/MiddleEastBuka/status/2021572848402284833>



Child casualties also cannot be honestly covered without addressing the widespread use of human shields and the extensive network of Hamas tunnels constructed beneath residential buildings. These factors are directly relevant to understanding how and where civilian harm occurs. However, they do not receive nearly adequate coverage, particularly when compared to the volume and prominence of unqualified casualty claims, despite being critically relevant to any balanced assessment.⁵⁶



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FEB 13, 2024 10:00 PM AET

Hamas Built Tunnels Beneath My Family's Home in Gaza. Now It Lies in Ruin

IDEAS ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

ADD TIME ON GOOGLE

by Jehad al-Saftawi

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Examples of embedding terror tunnels beneath homes and children's rooms.

A civilian-to-combatant ratio in Gaza was remarkably low by the standards of modern urban warfare. A quote below, by the leading expert on urban warfare John Spencer:⁵⁹

⁵⁶

<https://nypost.com/2024/01/31/opinion/unwra-has-been-teaching-palestinian-kids-to-hate-and-fight-israel-for-decades/>

<https://x.com/MiddleEastBuka/status/1868265578798219488>

<https://x.com/Osint613/status/1869715431621349662>

⁵⁷ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZVUIQ8dwQJg>

⁵⁸ <https://time.com/6693896/hamas-tunnels-gaza-home-ruin>

⁵⁹ <https://x.com/SpencerGuard/status/2012920981472551266>

“In the Gaza war, Israel has demonstrated a historically low combatant-to-civilian casualty ratio (1:1.5 or 1:1) when compared to any urban warfare history with even remotely similar conditions, especially urban-centric wars, not isolated battles.

Wars such as the Korean War (approximately 1:4, with roughly 2 million civilians killed), the Iraq War (approximately 1:2 to 1:4, with conservative civilian death estimates of 200,000–350,000), and even battles with more refined data such as Manila (approximately 1:6, with around 100,000 civilians killed) illustrate this clearly. Mosul likewise reflects a modest ratio of approximately 1:2, despite it taking more than a year after the battle for credible civilian casualty figures to begin to emerge. Numerous battles and wars show the historic low ratio achieved by Israel. “

Despite the controversy surrounding casualty data, the ABC did not attempt to analyse combatant-to-civilian ratios, nor to compare Gaza casualty patterns with those of other comparable conflicts, thereby failing to provide viewers with a realistic and contextualised picture of the war. Instead, it adopted a monocular approach, relying on figures supplied by the Hamas Ministry of Health and constructed the false “mostly women and children” narrative. This narrative is one of the pillars of the genocide blood libel.

2. Balance Abandoned, Propaganda Enabled

This section examines ABC’s opinionated and interpretive content presented as analysis, characterised by unchallenged propaganda, manipulation of facts, and advocacy-style framing that replaces evidence-based inquiry with guided narrative.

2.1. Discussion about Gaza without the Israeli Side Being Presented

This subsection shows how ABC programs discussed the Gaza war in a way that appeared balanced while excluding Israeli perspectives. Panels were constructed so that all invited participants advanced broadly similar views, creating the impression of debate without genuine challenge. As a result, contested or extreme claims were aired without scrutiny.

This approach is not unique to the ABC. A common feature of propaganda-driven media is the use of panel discussions that simulate diversity of opinion while excluding meaningful opposition. In 2023, the ABC itself identified this technique in its reporting on Russian state media. Writing for the ABC, Eric Campbell described *Evening with Vladimir Solovyov*—Vladimir Putin’s flagship propaganda program—as an exercise in manipulation, noting that “Russian media propaganda used to be extreme; now it’s verging on insane.”⁶⁰

The irony is striking. In May 2024, ABC’s Q&A employed a structurally similar format when discussing the war in Gaza⁶¹, devoting a substantial portion of the program to the conflict while excluding any representative Israeli perspective. The comparison below illustrates these parallels and how panel structuring produces a damaging holistic impact controlled by the organisation.

⁶⁰ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-02-23/russia-information-war-latvia-exiled-media-tv-rain/101956932>

⁶¹ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KDj-aDbbQb0>

Evening with Vladimir Solovyov

Russian media propaganda show



ABC Q&A



A group of “experts” is brought in to discuss news and politics. One of the most frequent topics is Ukraine. However, none of the invited experts represents Ukraine. All the “experts” attack it from different angles.

The ABC programme brought in five “experts”. They discussed Israel, Zionism, the War in Gaza, and Middle East Politics. However, none of the invited experts represented Israel. All the “experts” attacked it from different angles.

The “experts” make absurd claims about the war and Ukrainian politics. Yet there is no one on the show to challenge these claims. When no one is defending Ukraine, even the most insane statements begin to sound like the truth.

The “experts” made absurd claims about the War in Gaza and Israel politics. Yet there was no one on the show to challenge these claims. When no one is defending Israel, even the most insane statements begin to sound like the truth.

To appear more credible, the programme sometimes invites people of Ukrainian origin who, “as Ukrainians”, express anti-Ukrainian views. Obviously, these people represent a fringe minority, but on the show they are presented as a valid and representative voice.

To appear more credible, some of the invitees were anti-Israel Jews. Obviously, these people represent a fringe minority, but on the show they were presented as a valid and representative voice.

Result: The show pretends to be a discussion, but in fact it is hidden brainwashing aimed at pushing Russians to support the war in Ukraine.

Result: The show pretends to be a discussion, but in fact it is a hidden anti-Israel agenda aimed to push anti-Zionist sentiment in Australia

In both cases, the format presents itself as open discussion while excluding the perspective of the party under attack, allowing any implausible claims to go unchallenged and take on the appearance of credibility.

2.2. A Guided Narrative, Not a Deep Dive



Narrative control is exercised not only through discussion formats, but also through explainer content presented as so called “in-depth” analysis.

For example, in the ABC series “If You’re Listening”, journalist Matt Bevan presents a set of videos described as “ABC News In-depth” examining why a Palestinian state was not created⁶². Across these episodes, Bevan advances a consistent narrative built around several core claims.

He begins the story in 1967, framing the Israeli occupation of territory as the central cause of the conflict. He points out the suffering of Palestinian refugees, attributes the failure of the Oslo peace process largely to Benjamin Netanyahu, and draws parallels with East Timor, presenting it as a comparable case. These elements lead the audience toward a clear conclusion: that ending the occupation would automatically result in peace, a two-state solution, and a democratic Palestinian state. One of the videos is explicitly titled *How to build a democratic state in Palestine*.

For viewers unfamiliar with the history of the conflict and the region, this presentation may appear convincing. On closer examination, however, the series relies on major omissions, false equivalence, and selective framing that undermine its claim to be “in-depth” analysis.

Examining the missing and distorted facts:

A first and fundamental omission concerns the historical record prior to 1967. Beginning in 1948, Palestinians were offered statehood on multiple occasions, starting with the UN partition plan, the first two-state proposal, which was accepted by Jewish leaders and rejected by Palestinian Arab leadership. That rejection was followed by a coordinated military assault by Arab nations’ armies on the newly declared State of Israel. As a result of this war, until 1967, Gaza and the West Bank were under Egyptian and Jordanian control. If the absence of Arab self-determination were the primary driver of violence, one would wonder why peace did not emerge during this period. Furthermore, The Palestine Liberation Organisation itself was established in 1964, before the 1967 “occupation” which Bevan presents as the conflict’s origin, raising the question of what territory it sought to “liberate”. Moreover, two Israeli prime ministers, Ehud Barak (2000) and Ehud Olmert (2008), offered Palestinian statehood on approximately

⁶² <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PSX8Fk6gFRw>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aLDH7XbP29g>

94 per cent of the West Bank and all of Gaza. In Olmert's case, the proposal included 1:1 land swaps to compensate for major settlement blocs, bringing the total territorial equivalence to nearly 100 per cent of the West Bank and Gaza combined. Both proposals were rejected. These facts are absent from Bevan's account, and their inclusion would fundamentally change the causal narrative he advances.

The series also assumes that Palestinian statehood would automatically result in freedom and democracy. This assumption is presented as self-evident, despite the regional context. With the exception of Israel, surrounding states are authoritarian regimes marked by repression and varying degrees of Islamist radicalism and brutality. Gaza itself offers a relevant case: Israel fully withdrew in 2005, effectively creating a Palestinian state on this territory. The result was not democracy, but the Hamas jihadist regime.

One episode features a professor of international law asserting that Australia and its partners would work to ensure "free and fair elections and good outcomes that Australia and its like-minded partners are happy with" in a future Palestinian state. The claim is absurd. It ignores an uncontested fact: elections have already been held. In the 2005, presidential election for the Palestinian authority (both the West Bank and Gaza) won by Abu Mazen (Mahmoud Abbas) of Fatah. In 2006, a separate parliamentary election was held and was won by Hamas, and neither election has been repeated in more than twenty years. In both territories, authority has been maintained not through renewed electoral mandates but through entrenched control backed by military capability. Power was not relinquished, re-tested, or transferred through subsequent democratic processes. In real Palestine, rather than the idealised fantasy presented in ABC commentary, governance has not been determined by electoral outcomes but by the continued dominance of those who secured power and retained it through force. The professor's idealised vision reflects a consequence-free perspective: Australia and distant commentators will not face the security, political, or human costs of failure, but Israel and Palestinians will. That such assertions were made by a professor of international law, and presented unchallenged as analysis, illustrates how implausible assumptions were treated as expertise rather than subjected to scrutiny.

Another distortion involves moral inversion, reversing agency and power by presenting East Timor as an analogue for "Palestine". In reality, the situation is the reverse: East Timor never denied Indonesia's right to exist; it was Indonesia that denied the right of existence for East Timor. In the Israel–Arab context, the situation is the reverse: since 1948, Israel's right to exist has been repeatedly denied by surrounding Arab actors. The imbalance in size and power further exposes the flaw in the comparison: East Timor is a small state adjacent to a vastly larger Indonesia of roughly 300 million people, whereas Israel is a small state surrounded by Arab countries with a combined population of 500 million. The power dynamics and ideological context are therefore fundamentally opposite than suggested by ABC. This is not a case of imperfect analogy but of complete inversion, a common technique in pro-Palestinian discourse that turns reality on its head by reversing victim and aggressor.

Another distorted claim reflects reality-blind solutionism. The series proposes international peacekeeping forces and US-led guarantees as a remedy, despite the fact that international forces are already deployed in the region and have demonstrably failed. International peacekeepers have long operated in Lebanon without preventing repeated conflict, and US forces were previously stationed there as well; in 1983, 241 American and 58 French soldiers were killed by Islamic Jihad and Hezbollah, the same organisations Israel confronts today. Presenting these mechanisms as solutions, while ignoring their existing and past presence and documented failure, reveals a striking detachment from reality

The treatment of Palestinian refugees further illustrates selective framing through the omission of decisive historical and institutional context. Bevan refers to “millions of Palestinians” fleeing into refugee camps in 1967, explicitly noting that many of those camps already housed refugees from 1948. The critical question, why those displaced in 1948 remained refugees nearly two decades later, is left unexplored. Following the Second World War and the collapse of empires, hundreds of millions of refugees worldwide were resettled. A particularly relevant comparison is the 1948 partition of India and Pakistan, which followed British withdrawal under similar conditions. That partition alone produced around 15 million refugees, none of whom retained refugee status by 1967. Palestinians are unique in this regard because they are the only group worldwide with a dedicated refugee agency, UNRWA, which applies its own definition of refugee status. By international standards, around 95 per cent of those classified as Palestinian refugees would not qualify, as most hold other citizenship or live within Palestinian territories. UNRWA does not have a mandate to resolve refugee status, a fact stated explicitly on its own website, and instead preserves that status indefinitely, including for descendants. This contrast is directly relevant to understanding the role of UNRWA in perpetuating the Israeli–Arab conflict.⁶³

Taken together, Bevan’s videos present arguments common among pro-Palestinian advocates while neglecting Palestinian agency, repeated rejections of statehood, internal political violence, and breaches of peace agreements. The episode on the Oslo Accords does not mention Palestinian violations, maximalist negotiating positions, or the extensive campaign of terrorism conducted not only by Hamas but also by Fatah, Arafat’s own faction. Responsibility is assigned almost exclusively to Israel, Netanyahu, and Israel’s supporters, while Hamas, the elected government of Gaza, is stripped of agency altogether.

This series is not “News In-depth”. It is a guided narrative. The issue is not that a pro-Palestinian perspective is presented, but that the Israeli perspective and critical counter-arguments are omitted entirely. An impartial analysis would have engaged with all of the above. The absence of such engagement helps explain why Bevan’s later video on the Bondi terror attack focused on gun laws rather than the rise of antisemitism.⁶⁴

3. Using the UN as “proof” to Whitewash Misinformation.

The ABC consistently treats the United Nations as an impartial authority, frequently citing UN bodies, officials, and reports as neutral and credible sources when covering the Gaza war, thereby creating the impression that UN statements constitute objective fact rather than politically influenced positions requiring independent verification.

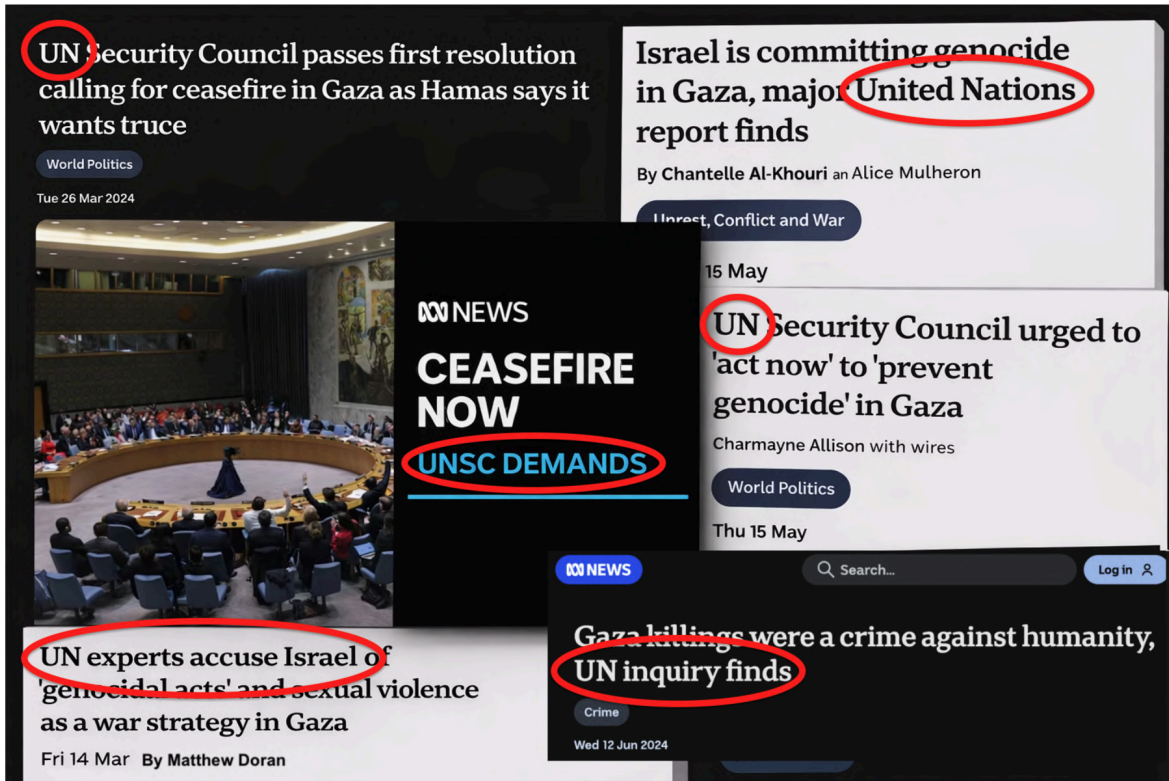
This section shows why treating the UN as proof is fundamentally unsound and how reliance on a demonstrably biased and compromised institution - rather than verified evidence - actively promotes misinformation.

⁶³ tinyurl.com/case-UNRWA

⁶⁴ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-WSf_vAL2WE

3.1. Omitted Context: Historical Politicisation of UN Narratives on Israel

The ABC consistently treats the United Nations as an impartial authority, frequently citing UN bodies, officials, and reports as neutral and credible sources when covering the Gaza war, thereby creating the impression that UN statements constitute objective fact rather than politically influenced positions requiring independent verification.



Claims that Israel is committing genocide did not begin with the current war in Gaza but can be traced back more than two decades to a UN-organised conference in Durban, South Africa, in 2001. That conference produced in a declaration accusing Israel of genocide, apartheid and ethnic cleansing.

Notably, these accusations were made in the absence of war. In January 2001, at the Taba Summit, Israel proposed the creation of a Palestinian state on about 94% of the West Bank and all of Gaza, with land swaps. The Palestinian leadership rejected the offer. Instead, 2001 was marked by an escalation of the Second Intifada, including suicide bombings and shootings targeting Israeli civilians. Yet at the same time, UN-linked forums accused Israel of “genocide.”

The Durban conference also became notorious for overt antisemitism. Among the distributed items were Nazi comparisons, calls for the elimination of Israel, and copies of “*The Protocols of the Elders of Zion*”, a tsarist-era antisemitic forgery.⁶⁵

The Durban conference thus marked the first large-scale institutionalisation of the genocide accusation against Israel — a narrative that continues to reappear in UN-linked forums today⁶⁶, long before and

⁶⁵ <https://www.adl.org/resources/backgrounders/durban-conference-and-process>

⁶⁶ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-03-14/un-accuses-israel-of-genocidal-acts/105050458>

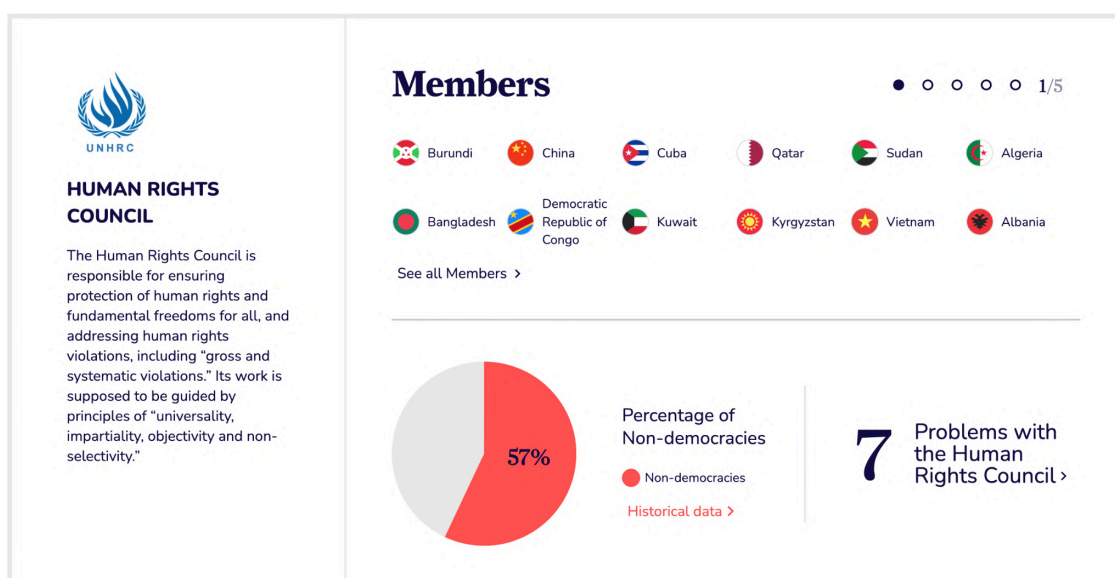
independently of the current Gaza war. Owing to this record, many Western countries, including Australia, boycotted subsequent Durban conferences.

This conference set the framework by which the UN perpetuated a systematic double standard in denouncing and delegitimising Israel. From 2015 to 2023, the General Assembly of the UN adopted 154 resolutions against Israel - compared to 71 resolutions on all other nations combined. Additionally, Israel is solely subject to a regularly recurring agenda item in their Human Rights Council.

When the ABC cites UN genocide rhetoric today as authoritative, it imports a narrative with a documented ideological origin rather than a finding grounded in law or evidence.

3.2. Omitted Context: Structural Bias Within the UN.

Bias against Israel within the UN is not incidental; it is embedded in institutional structures. The UN is dominated by countries with notorious human rights records. Ideological, political and ethno-religious interests become apparent when examining the proportion of resources dedicated inconsistently to comparable conflicts, war and matters concerning international law.



The UN is dominated by countries with notorious human rights records.⁶⁷:

The bias and demonisation against Israel by the UN Human Rights Council is summarised through the following considerations:

- **Since the UNHRC's creation in 2006 there have been more resolutions against Israel than against all other countries combined.**

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-05-15/un-aid-chief-urges-security-council-to-prevent-genocide-in-gaza/105293790>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-09-16/israel-committing-genocide-in-gaza-un-report-says/105780230>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-03-26/un-security-council-calls-for-ceasefire-in-gaza/103631944>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-06-12/gaza-killings-crime-against-humanity-un-inquiry-finds/103970464>

⁶⁷ <https://unwatch.org/database/problems/unhrc/>

<https://unwatch.org/database/>

- Membership includes serial human-rights abusers. These states vote as a bloc against Israel while shielding each other. Members have included China, Cuba, Egypt, Eritrea, Libya, Mauritania, Nigeria, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Qatar, and Venezuela⁶⁸.
- The UN Human Rights Council has a standing agenda item dedicated to a single country Israel: Agenda Item 7: “Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories” No other country — including China, Iran, North Korea, Russia, Syria, or Myanmar — has a permanent agenda item.
- Discriminatory UN mandate. The UN human rights expert on Palestine is mandated only to investigate “Israel’s violations” of international law, and not violations by the Palestinian Authority or Hamas.
- The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) frequently cites NGOs that active in BDS campaigns, receive funding from politically motivated donors, use unverifiable casualty figures sourced from Hamas-controlled bodies⁶⁹
- Adopting zero resolutions on gross human rights abuses perpetrated in, among others, Algeria, China, Cuba, Egypt, Gaza, Iraq, Pakistan, Turkey, and Zimbabwe.
- Appoints anti-Western and pro-dictatorship figures as human rights experts.
- Appoints dictatorships to leadership positions on key human rights panels.
- Allows repressive regimes like China, Cuba, Iran, and Venezuela to cheat their regular human rights reviews (known as Universal Periodic Review) by arranging for fake NGO submissions praising their governments’ human rights records.

The image below demonstrates the quantity and distribution of condemnatory resolutions from 2015 until present day. The disproportionate attention of the UNHRC targeting Israel represents 68% of all matters globally. Indeed, this imbalance was also true prior to the war breaking out on October 7, 2023.



The unreliability of the UN is best encapsulated by Israel’s Foreign Minister and Ambassador to the United Nations, Mr. Abba Eban. He facetiously asserted that *"If Algeria introduced a resolution declaring that the earth was flat and that Israel had flattened it, it would pass by a vote of 164 to 13, with 26 abstentions."* The ABC has repeatedly referenced the UN as its primary source in framing allegations levied against Israel. Notably, statistics demonstrating this double standard against Israel amongst the

⁶⁸ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/10/1155736>

⁶⁹ <https://ngo-monitor.org/reports/anti-israel-bias-and-ngo-links-of-unhrcs-gaza-committee-of-inquiry-members/>

UNHRC has never formed part of ABC's structured reporting or editorial output. It is most likely that if the UN passed Eban's hypothetical resolution, the ABC would report it unchallenged.

These structures ensure that outcomes condemning Israel are produced by design. ABC reporting that treats UN resolutions and statements as neutral assessments ignores the political machinery that generates them.

3.3. Omitted Context: Operational Failure and Moral Corruption

Beyond structural bias, the UN's credibility as a moral authority is undermined by repeated operational failures.

UN is involved in sex trafficking and rape.⁷⁰

Multiple UN peacekeeping missions have been engulfed in grave sexual-abuse scandals involving children: in the Central African Republic (2014–2015), peacekeepers were accused of raping at least 98 underage girls; in the Democratic Republic of Congo (2004–2005), a MONUC scandal revealed widespread sexual exploitation and abuse of minors by peacekeepers; in Bosnia (late 1990s), UN-mandated personnel and contractors were implicated in human trafficking and forced prostitution networks; in Cambodia (1992–1993), the UN mission UNTAC coincided with a surge in prostitution from approximately 6,000 to over 25,000 people within two years, including extensive child prostitution, with victims held in conditions described as sexual slavery; and in Haiti under MINUSTAH (2004–2017), UN peacekeepers were linked to hundreds of allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse, including cases involving minors as young as 11, with investigations documenting transactional sex for food or money and peacekeeper-fathered children abandoned without support. Across these cases, there were effectively zero criminal prosecutions, because UN personnel and peacekeepers benefit from immunity from host-state jurisdiction.

The UN is a diplomatic shield for terrorists.

The UN not only protects sex predators, it also protects terrorists. The United Nations Relief Works Agency for Palestine (UNRWA) has sought immunity for its employees that have been implicated in the Hamas October 7 attack.⁷¹ Furthermore, the UN obstructed a U.S. investigation into UNRWA's ties to Hamas. The Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS)—the UN body charged with investigating misconduct within its agencies, including UNRWA staff involvement in the 7 October attacks—redacted the names of employees under investigation before handing documents to American auditors. According to a USAID Inspector General report⁷², those redactions rendered the materials “unusable” for the U.S. probe, effectively shielding the suspects from external scrutiny.

The UN assists dictators fighting the dissidents.⁷³

The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights shared the names and details of dissidents and human rights activists with the Chinese government. This disclosure enabled Chinese authorities to intimidate and punish activists and their families, including through detention, torture, disappearance, and other forms of transnational repression. When the practice was exposed, the UN

⁷⁰ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=j4-2iw5zjls>

⁷¹ <https://m.jpost.com/israel-hamas-war/article-821221>

⁷² <https://oig.usaid.gov/node/7597>

⁷³ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5tjQl8MFM0>

retaliated against the whistleblowers who reported it, subjecting them to harassment, false accusations, pressure to remain silent, and ultimately terminating their employment.

Political Pressure Determines UN Careers

Throughout 2024, several Palestinian organisations and advocacy groups campaigned against Alice Wairimu Nderitu, the UN Special Adviser on the Prevention of Genocide, accusing her of failing to characterise Israel's conduct in Gaza as genocide. Nderitu stated that the situation in Gaza had not been determined to meet the definition of genocide under the Genocide Convention.⁷⁴ In November 2024, António Guterres declined to renew her contract upon its expiration. The United Nations denied the connection between the decision and political pressure. However, the sequence of events, coordinated lobbying for her removal followed by the non-renewal of her mandate, raises legitimate questions about whether principled legal caution was effectively penalised. Such concerns are not hypothetical. The UN system has a documented history of contentious treatment of internal critics and whistleblowers, including, but not limited to, cases such as Peter Gallo⁷⁵ and Emma Reilly⁷⁶. Against that background, the non-renewal of Nderitu's mandate inevitably invites scrutiny.

In her own words, Nderitu described the pressure she faced as follows:⁷⁷

“This push that I should say that there’s a genocide going on in Gaza? They knew that I’m not a court of law, and it’s only a court of law that can determine whether a genocide has happened, ... but I was hounded, day in, day out. Bullied, hounded, with protection from nobody.”

“It’s instructive that this never happened for any other war. Not for Ukraine, not for Sudan, not for DRC, not for Myanmar, the focus was always Israel.”

“This was a war... It needs to be treated like other wars. In other wars, we don’t run and take one side and then keep going on and on about that one side... By taking one side, condemning it every day, you completely lose the essence of what the UN was created for.”

These failures matter because they demonstrate that UN branding does not guarantee integrity, accountability, or truthfulness—yet ABC reporting routinely treats UN institutions as unimpeachable sources.

3.4. UNRWA and the Normalisation of Extremist Narratives.

In Gaza, UN operations are deeply entangled with Hamas. UNRWA has approximately 15,000 staff, most of them teachers. Many of these employees including school principals and union leaders are known Hamas members. The association between UNRWA and Hamas and other terrorist organisations has been proven and well-documented by multiple investigators⁷⁸, but **never reported by ABC**. Instead ABC reported that “UNRWA has robust neutrality” and reported killed Hamas members as being innocent UN workers. ABC's failure to identify the partiality of the UN when reporting on the Gaza

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<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/feb/08/palestinian-groups-accuse-un-adviser-of-failing-to-warn-about-potential-genocide>

<https://www.wsj.com/opinion/the-u-ns-anti-israel-genocide-purge-c8feef1a>

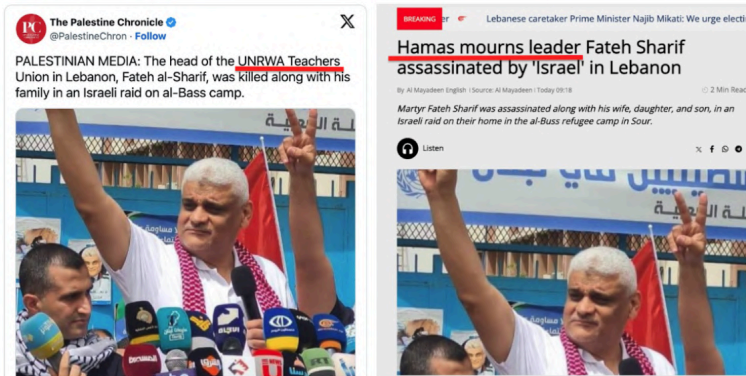
⁷⁵ https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c9321_h7Wpc

⁷⁶ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=x5tjQI8MFM0>

⁷⁷ <https://www.thefp.com/p/johanna-berkman-alice-nderitu-fired-from-un-israel-hamas-gaza-genocide>

⁷⁸ <https://unwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Schools-in-the-Grip-of-Terror-UNRWA-Report.pdf>

war and the evidence-based cooperation between UNRWA and Hamas - has espoused deceptive conclusions to its audience.



Fathi Al Sharif was a UNRWA union official and a Hamas leader in Lebanon. Both UNRWA and Hamas mourned him following his assassination...⁷⁹

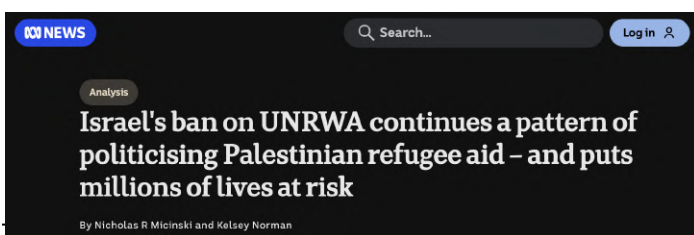


But, according to the ABC, there is “no evidence for Israeli claims of terrorist infiltration”.



Suhail Al-Hindi as a Hamas leader in Gaza (top) and Suhail Al-Hindi as an UNRWA union leader (bottom).⁸⁰

UNRWA employees protest, with Hamas logos appearing on every banner...



Yet, according to the ABC, Israel’s ban on UNRWA politicises Palestinian refugee aid.

⁷⁹ <https://x.com/HillelNeuer/status/1840733017855123945>

⁸⁰ <https://unwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/09/Schools-in-the-Grip-of-Terror-UNRWA-Report.pdf>

UN Education Promotes Terrorism.

Most schools in Gaza are UN educational facilities run by UNRWA. There is well documented, incontrovertible evidence that highlights the anti-Zionist and antisemitic themes found ubiquitously across the UNRWA curriculum. UNRWA textbooks justify of violence, praising terrorists and terror attacks, denying the Jewish past in Palestine and Jerusalem, erasing Israel and Jewish cities from the maps, referring to Israel as “Zionist Entity”, referring to pre-1967 Israeli territory as occupied land.⁸¹ UNRWA education is an “education to hate”.

Example 1: History Studies, Grade 11, Part 2 (2017) p.54


♦ "...7. The fighting against the Jews and the victory over them: The Messenger [Muhammad] announced the end of the Jews' oppression upon this holy land and the removal of their corruption and occupation there. [It is told] by Abu Hurayrah [one of Muhammad's Companions] that the Prophet said: 'The End of Days will not come until the Muslims fight the Jews, and the Muslims will kill them, and even if a Jew would hide behind a rock or a tree – the rock or the tree will say: 'O Muslim, O God's servant, there is a Jew behind me, so come and kill him!' – except the salt bush [Gharqad], for it is one of the Jews' trees."

سابعاً: مقاتلة اليهود والانتصار عليهم: فقد بشر الرسول ﷺ بنهاية ظلم اليهود على هذه الأرض المقدسة، وإزالة فسادهم واحتلالهم لها؛ عن أبي هريرة رضي الله عنه أن النبي ﷺ قال: «لا تقوم الساعة حتى يقاتل المسلمون اليهود، فيقتلهم المسلمون، حتى يختبئ اليهودي من وراء الحجر أو الشجر، فيقول الحجر أو الشجر: يا مسلم، يا عبد الله، هذا يهودي خلفي فتعال فاقته إلا الغرقد، فإنه من شجر اليهود»^(١).

Example 2: Islamic Education, Grade 5, Part 2 (2017) p.65

♦ "Let us watch a video clip from the attached CD about the Jews' attempt to kill God's Messenger [Muhammad]."

هيا بنا نشاهد مقطع فيديو من القرص المرفق، لمحاولة قتل اليهود رسول الله ﷺ.



Example 4: Arabic Language, Vol. 2, Grade 5, 2020, pp. 51–61.

Dalal al-Mughrabi, the perpetrator of the 1978 Coastal Road massacre, is celebrated in a detailed 10-page Arabic reading comprehension which exalts her and the terror act as “heroism”. Fifth-graders are invited to follow in her footsteps and view her as a role model. In this massacre a total of 38 Israelis, including 13 children, were killed and 72 were wounded.¹⁰

دلال المغرّبي

(عزيرى التاليف)

بَيِّنْ بَدِي النَّصِّ

تخفل تاريخنا الفيلسطيني بكثير من أسماء الشهداء الذين قدموا أرواحهم فداءً للوطن، منهم الشهيدة دلال المغرّبي التي سنطرح بفضائلها صورة من صور التضحية والتطوُّع، ما جعل وثقها حليماً في قلوبنا وعقولنا. والشخص الذي تبين أيديها بتحدث عن طريف من نسوة بفضائلها.




It is worth noting that for the UN, Hamas is not classified as a terrorist organisation. In most cases, any information provided by the “Gaza authorities” is simply redistributed by the UN under UN branding. It is

⁸¹ https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/app/uploads/2023/08/E_157_23.pdf
https://www.terrorism-info.org.il/app/uploads/2018/12/E_311_18.pdf
<https://www.impact-se.org/wp-content/uploads/UNRWA-Produced-Study-Materials-in-the-Palestinian-Territories%E2%80%9494Jan-2021.pdf>
https://www.impact-se.org/wp-content/uploads/PA-Reports_-Updated-Selected-Examples_May-2021.pdf
<https://www.impact-se.org/wp-content/uploads/UNRWA-Education-Textbooks-and-Terror-Nov-2023.pdf>
https://www.impact-se.org/wp-content/uploads/UNRWA_Report_2023_IMPACT-se_And_UN-Watch.pdf
<https://www.impact-se.org/wp-content/uploads/Gazas-Educational-Frameworks.pdf>

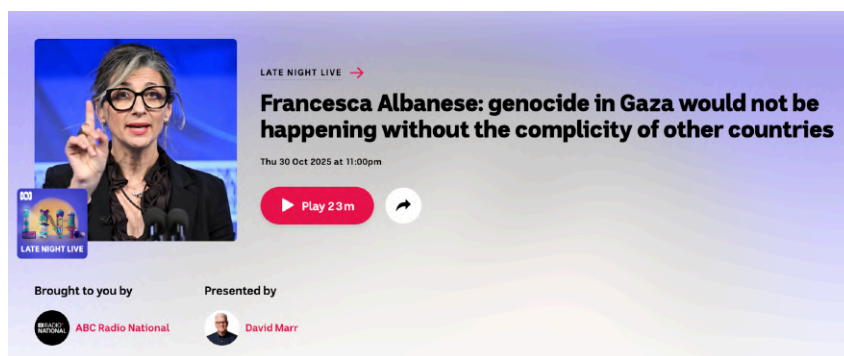
then subsequently circulated by media outlets with vast audience capture as being impartial and verified. This is indeed the case for the ABC.

Given the aforementioned, the United Nations cannot be considered to be a neutral arbitrator or reliable source of information regarding the Israel-Gaza war. The patterns of politicisation and misconduct should be considered seriously when appraising the reliability of the legal and ethical determinations of the UN.

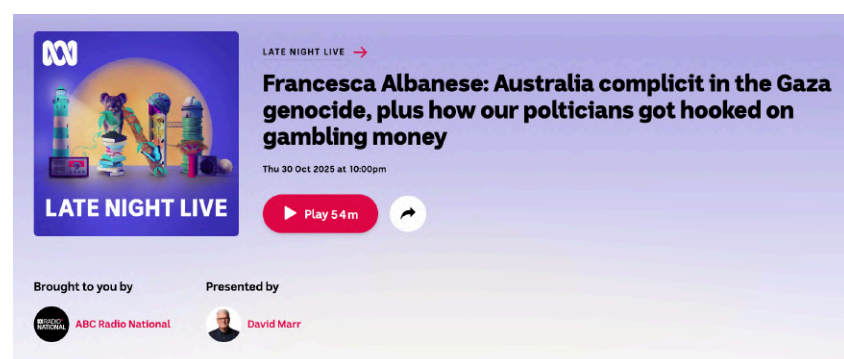
Claims cannot be treated as credible merely because they carry a UN logo. To rely on the UN as proof is not journalism; it is an abdication of responsibility. UN claims, just like any other, must always be subject to independent verification. The United Nations is not an impartial judge of conflicts or human rights. It is a political actor, and it must be assessed, challenged, and treated as such.

3.5. Francesca Albanese and Credential Laundering

The ABC's reliance on UN authority is most clearly illustrated by its repeated platforming of Francesca Albanese, the UN Special Rapporteur on the Palestinian Territories. The ABC has presented Albanese as a senior UN official commenting authoritatively on the Gaza war, allowing her to advance sweeping legal and moral claims of genocide, apartheid, and global complicity directly to Australian audiences.



82



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⁸² <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/latenightlive/francesca-albanese-global-complicity-in-gaza-/105948956>

⁸³ <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/latenightlive/late-night-live-francesca-albanese-quenton-beresford-/105871350>

Notably, the ABC has continued to invite and quote Albanese despite extensive international controversy and formal complaints regarding her conduct and statements. In doing so, the ABC has amplified her profile and legitimised her as a default authority on Israel and Gaza, instead of clearly identifying her as a highly contested and polarising figure whose credibility is widely disputed.

This is the ABC's trusted source of information: Francesca Albanese

- At the time of her appearance on ABC after 7 October 2023, Albanese was travelling on a trip funded by the Australia Palestine Advocacy Network (APAN), a radical organisation with a direct political interest.⁸⁴ Despite this, Albanese claimed that the UN had paid for the trip. This was proven to be false.
- In December 2022 she spoke at a Hamas-organized conference in Gaza. Senior members of Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) were among those in attendance. "You have a right to resist," she told them.⁸⁵
- Since October 7 she has systematically whitewashed Hamas atrocities. For example, just 4 days after the horror she wrote: "Caution! Numerous claims are circulating, repeated by US officials & amplified by mainstream media re Hamas' crimes including beheadings/rape. ISR military did not confirm such claims. Divulging unverified information risks to escalate tensions & endanger lives in a volative (sic) context."⁸⁶ Consistent with her approach, another quote from her states: "People say 'But Hamas, Hamas, Hamas' — I don't think people have any idea what Hamas is. Hamas built schools, public facilities, hospitals. It's critical you understand, when you think of Hamas, do not think of throat cutters, armed to the teeth, fighters. It's not like that..."⁸⁷
- She blamed the October 7 massacre on victims (translated from French): "The 'biggest antisemitic massacre of our century'? No, Mr. Emmanuel Macron. The victims of 10/7 were not killed because of their Judaism, but in reaction to Israel's oppression. France & the int'l community did nothing to prevent it. My respects to the victims."⁸⁸
- She posted that America is "subjugated by the Jewish lobby."⁸⁹
- She routinely compares Israel to Nazis and Netanyahu to Hitler.⁹⁰
- Francesca Albanese lied about being a lawyer!⁹¹ This was repeated by the ABC, which stated: "The US has placed sanctions on human rights lawyer Francesca Albanese..."⁹² After the claim was challenged, she denied she ever claimed to be a lawyer.⁹³
- Francesca Albanese says that Egypt, Italy, Spain, Tunisia, Algeria, and France should send their navies to break the naval blockade of Gaza.⁹⁴
- Albanese claimed that 680,000 Palestinians had been killed in Gaza, a figure ten times higher than even Hamas's own casualty claims. She further asserted that this total included 380,000 children under the age of five, despite the fact that the total population of children under five in Gaza is significantly lower than that number.⁹⁵

⁸⁴ <https://unwatch.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/Complaint-Against-Francesca-Albanese-3-june-2024.pdf>

⁸⁵ <https://www.jns.org/un-envoy-to-hamas-you-have-the-right-to-fight-israel/>

⁸⁶ <https://x.com/FranceskAlbs/status/1712059782029328580>

⁸⁷ <https://x.com/HillelNeuer/status/2023416520240701698>

⁸⁸ <https://x.com/FranceskAlbs/status/1756351236909965591>

⁸⁹ <https://x.com/HillelNeuer/status/1772792100372852893>

⁹⁰ <https://x.com/IsraelMFA/status/1816526508493799615>

⁹¹ <https://x.com/HamasAtrocities/status/1927652629921800656>

<https://x.com/EFischberger/status/1932420534010298444>

⁹² <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2025-07-10/francesca-albanese-marco-rubio-sanctions-israel-gaza/105514754>

⁹³ <https://x.com/EFischberger/status/1932848623613546890>

⁹⁴ <https://x.com/EFischberger/status/1932153141916565918>

⁹⁵ <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/press-briefing-francesca-albanese-16sep25/>

- For her antisemitism, she was condemned by many governments and politicians from US, Canada, Germany, France, UK, Netherlands, Italy, EU, Hungary, Argentina, Albania.⁹⁶ Her home country Italy blasted her for: “Entirely devoid of credibility and impartiality”

By repeatedly featuring Albanese without disclosing this context, the ABC laundered ideologically driven accusations through the prestige of a UN title. Albanese is not an impartial authority; she is a political extremist and activist operating under institutional cover. Treating her claims as authoritative reporting constitutes a serious failure of editorial judgement.

The handling of Albanese is illustrative rather than exceptional, exposing a broader editorial practice in which UN affiliation is treated as a proxy for credibility.

All of the foregoing demonstrates that the ABC’s use of the UN as a source of proof is not journalism but authority substitution. Reliance on the UN as proof is not responsible journalism. The UN is a political actor with a long record of bias, institutional failure, and politicised mandates. Its statements and officials cannot be treated as neutral arbiters of truth. When the ABC substitutes UN branding for independent verification, it abandons scrutiny in favour of credential-laundering. Claims do not become credible because they carry a UN logo. Journalism demands evidence, context, and challenge, especially when the source itself is deeply contested.

4. Lack of military expertise

In this section, we show that the people assigned to cover armed conflict lack relevant knowledge and experience.

According to publicly available information, the journalists sent to cover the war in Gaza have no military experience. As a result, they are not capable of properly understanding or analysing the events. This is one of the reasons why even the most absurd propaganda can be so successful.

Covering a war requires military knowledge and relevant qualifications. A journalist covering armed conflict should be able to:

- Understand the nuances of military operations in high-density urban areas and other types of terrain where relevant
- Understand the differences between types of ammunition and assess the kind of damage each can cause
- Have a basic understanding of modern OSINT techniques
- Understand the challenges faced by a military fighting terrorist groups that do not wear uniforms and deliberately use civilians as human shields
- Understand when collateral damage is excessive and when it is unavoidable
- Be able to distinguish staged footage from genuine material

ABC journalists sent to the Gaza border have consistently shown an inability to meet these basic requirements.

⁹⁶ <https://unwatch.org/condemnations-against-antisemitic-un-rapporteur-francesca-albanese/>

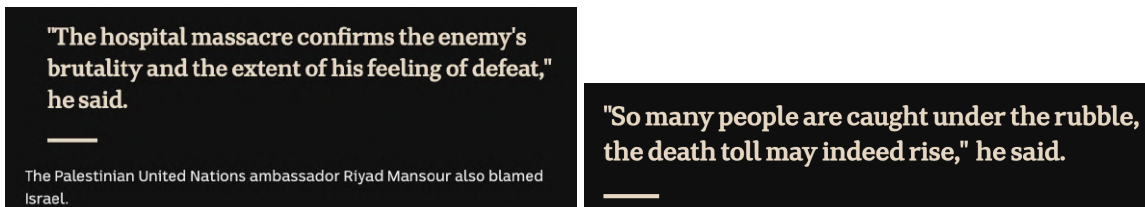
4.1. Reports of Unrealistic Casualty Numbers. Example of Al-Ahli Arab Hospital

A Gaza civil defence chief said **300 people** were killed and a health ministry official said **500 were killed**.

Immediately after an explosion in the car park of al-Ahli Arab Hospital, the ABC reported: "Hundreds of Palestinians are believed to have been killed in a blast at a Gaza hospital crammed with patients and displaced people. The blast could be the bloodiest single incident in Gaza since Israel launched an unrelenting bombing campaign."

Whilst the ABC was quick to assert that hundreds of people had been killed in the blast, professional military journalists cannot responsibly report such definitive findings prior to formal investigations appraising the actual scope of damage and loss of life. The investigative rigor required to substantiate the alleged 500 deaths and the liability for the explosion was demonstrably not undertaken. The accusation was once again accepted without scrutiny - and further portrayed Israel in an inculpatory and unsympathetic light. This exposes that the ABC is either unwilling or unable to assess munition damage. A single rocket, realistically, is unlikely to kill 300 to 500 people. Furthermore, assessing damage on that scale would take a long time, likely several days. Any professional military journalist would immediately flag such claims as highly unreliable.

Not only did the ABC fail to treat this report with caution, the article instead wrapped these figures in emotional language, amplifying the falsehood. Quotes containing misinformation were selectively extracted and prominently featured in large fonts⁹⁷.



The article was written by Tessa Flemming, with reporting by Nick Dole. Notably, neither of them appear to have depth of military knowledge.

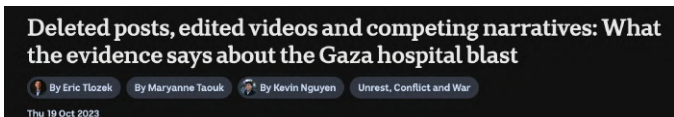
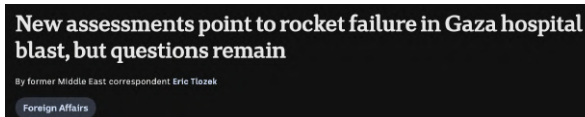
⁹⁷ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-10-18/what-we-know-about-al-ahli-hospital-blast-in-gaza/102990176>



The tiny crater from the explosion in the hospital car park.

The rocket that hit the hospital area was randomly captured on video, and it was later proven and confirmed by many news agencies to be an Islamic Jihad rocket. Despite the groundswell of military experts, world leaders and independent investigative bodies concluding that the rocket was not an Israeli strike, the ABC claimed that “it was too difficult to determine responsibility.” Regardless of what transpired, the illusory truth effect of this incident, amplified by the ABC, had already inculcated its audience with sentiments of IDF culpability and disregard for Palestinian life.⁹⁸

The PIJ rocket may have killed only a few people. However, subsequent reporting suggests that a billion-dollar media organisation does not have anyone capable of assessing relevant video evidence. Despite the fact that military experts and world leaders overwhelmingly agreed that it was not an Israeli strike, the ABC continued to claim that it was too difficult to determine responsibility.



The al-Ahli Arab Hospital incident is not an isolated case. By uncritically repeating Hamas propaganda, the ABC regularly presents inflated and unrealistic casualty figures. Whether describing air strikes or ground fighting, the majority of kinetic incidents are portrayed as involving dozens, if not hundreds of deaths. It is apparent that these figures are neither verified, viable or trustworthy.

For every person killed, several more would be injured, meaning the scale of destruction would be clearly visible. In today’s world, where almost everyone has a smartphone and many buildings are equipped with security cameras, events of this magnitude would generate a large amount of visual evidence online. Yet the ABC continued to repeat exaggerated casualty numbers provided by a terrorist organisation, without proof, and without questioning their credibility.

⁹⁸ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-10-26/gaza-al-ahli-hospital-blast-new-assessments/103015066>
<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-10-19/gaza-hospital-blast-evidence-israel-palestinian-islamic-jihad/102995432>

The article below, claiming over 700 Palestinians killed in 24 hours, was published just one week after the al-Ahli Hospital claim had already been exposed as disinformation.⁹⁹ This indicates that the ABC did not learn from its mistakes and continued to participate in the Hamas disinformation campaign by repeating unverified claims.



4.2. ABC Editors Do Not Understand That the Video They Published Actually Proves Israeli Claims.

The ABC video¹⁰⁰ about the Israeli airstrike on Gaza's Islamic University, states: "The Israeli military claims the campus was being used by Hamas for military intelligence and weapons production." The ABC disposition against Israel becomes evident in its thematic framing of Israel in a sceptical light, portraying the Israeli position as "The Israeli military claims". The ABC thus immediately reduces the overall credibility of this information for the general public. A competent military expert could explain that the footage clearly shows multiple secondary explosions, which indicates the presence of significant quantities of ammunition at the site at the time of the strike. This is compelling evidence that the university was being used for military purposes and therefore constituted a legitimate military target. The ABC provided an imbalanced presentation of facts which served to cast doubt on the Israeli assessment.

⁹⁹ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-10-25/gazans-face-deadliest-night-of-bombing/103017820>

¹⁰⁰ www.abc.net.au/news/2023-10-11/idf-released-vision-of-gaza-islamic-university-air-strike/102965880

VIDEO: IDF releases vision of Gaza Islamic University air strike

Wed 11 Oct 2023



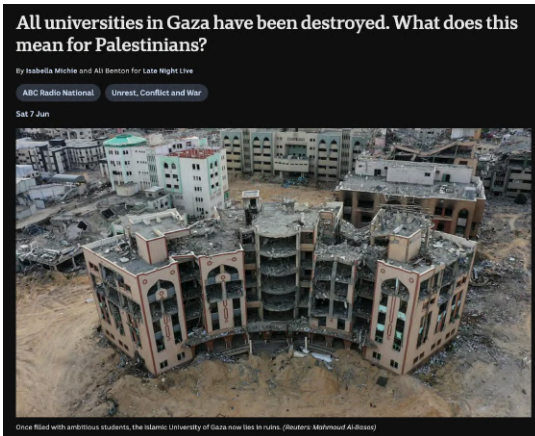
The Israeli military claims the campus was being used by Hamas for military intelligence and weapons production.



The Israeli military claims the campus was being used by Hamas for military intelligence and weapons production.

Occupied Palestinian Territories Israel Unrest, Conflict and War

The emotional exploitation of this incident was further advanced when the ABC continued to publish a series of reports focussing on how Israel “destroyed the education system” for Gazans - a claim that eventually grew into allegations of scholasticide amongst Palestinian advocacy groups.¹⁰¹



¹⁰¹ www.abc.net.au/news/2025-06-07/gaza-lost-generation-of-students-academic-say/105379150
www.abc.net.au/news/2025-04-08/living-in-the-ruins-of-the-gazan-university/105153826

4.3. What Experts Say

The ABC used Mick Ryan, a retired Australian Army Major General who served in East Timor, Iraq, and Afghanistan, to comment on events in Gaza. In December 2023 he said:

“The war in Gaza would be significantly shortened if Hamas released the hostages. This would also save the lives of many Palestinians. But now that they have their war and the opportunity to conduct a global information campaign against Israel, Hamas is unlikely to take a backward step.”¹⁰²

Despite continuing to appear on the ABC in relation to other topics, he has not appeared on the network to comment on the war in Gaza since December 2023. Whether this is because his views may contradict the ABC’s preferred narrative, or for some other reason, is unknown.

What would ABC reporting look like if it actually engaged military experts to cover the war? Below are examples of expert opinions that would inform audiences, yet are absent from ABC coverage.

1. Mike Kelly, a former Labor MP, holds a PhD in International Law, specialising in the law of armed conflict. He went on to serve in Somalia, East Timor, Bosnia and Iraq. He was among senior Australian military personnel during the Iraq War.

“If the Hamas figure of 70,000 killed is taken at face value this would mean that around half of that number would be civilian collateral casualties. That would be the best ratio of civilian deaths to combatant deaths ever achieved in the history of urban warfare.”¹⁰³

2. Glenn Kolomeitz, an international lawyer with 20 years’ experience and a defence analyst with 30 years’ military service, reaching the rank of Major in the Australian Defence Force.

“Israel is compliant and transparent with international law. It is fighting in a very complex battle space. Allegations of genocide are completely nonsense.”¹⁰⁴

3. Mark Binskin, former Chief of the Australian Defence Force, was appointed as Australia’s Special Adviser on Israel’s air strikes and sent to Israel to investigate the tragic strike that killed Australian aid worker Zomi Frankcom and her colleagues. In his official report to the Australian Government, he concluded:

“The IDF’s view of the material issues in respect of targeting law relevant to this incident – particularly precautions in attack, including identification criteria and classification of people in terms of liability to lethal targeting – are the same as the Australian Defence Force (ADF) would likewise be concerned with in such a situation. Similarly, the IDF’s view of the role of Rules of Engagement and Standard Operating Procedures in respect of where delegations to engage are held, also appears similar to that of the ADF. The IDF’s view on which targeting rules and control mechanisms are relevant and applicable to this incident is similar to what Australia’s would be in a like situation.”¹⁰⁵

¹⁰² <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-12-19/recovering-israeli-hostages-objectives-israel-hamas-war-long-one/103241820>

¹⁰³ <https://www.ecaj.org.au/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/Mike-Kelly-Debunking-the-Gaza-Genocide-Myth.pdf>

¹⁰⁴ <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=floHQmMZYIk>

¹⁰⁵ <https://www.dfat.gov.au/sites/default/files/special-advisers-public-report-israels-response-wck-strikes-august-2024.pdf>

“In respect of post-incident investigation, the IDF system is similar to the Australian system.”

4. John Spencer, The leading expert on urban warfare at West Point, the top US military academy.
“Israel Has Created a New Standard for Urban Warfare. Why Will No One Admit It?”¹⁰⁶

5. British General Sir John McColl, former Deputy Commander of NATO Forces.

“Firstly let me say that what we, military observers with decades of combined experience in leading Nato armies, were told and saw was the most complex and demanding operational environment any of us had come across, including in Afghanistan and Iraq.”

“I came away from the trip satisfied that the IDF’s operations and rules of engagement were rigorous compared to the British Army and our western allies. War is terrible, but sometimes necessary. And Israeli soldiers are fighting in conditions of extraordinary complexity and risk. It’s time for the world to have its eyes opened to that.”¹⁰⁷

6. Major Andrew Fox, served in the UK Army (2005–2021) and lectured at Sandhurst, the UK’s top military academy. Fox has spent considerable time on the ground in Gaza and with IDF leadership.

“One takeaway is that the “genocide” screechers are going to look embarrassingly silly when all this is over. Utterly detached from reality.”¹⁰⁸

“Ignore the idiots. It is vital we learn from the IDF.”¹⁰⁹

7. Colonel Richard Kemp, former commander of British forces in Afghanistan, who has also spent extensive time in Gaza with the IDF.

“No army takes more precaution than the Israel Defense Forces in order to prevent civil casualties while their enemy, terrorist organization Hamas, does the exact opposite,”¹¹⁰

8. Italian general Vincenzo Camporini, former Chief of the Defence General Staff of Italy.

“The Israeli army’s procedures, actions taken, corrective measures, and incident management in Gaza meet acceptable standards, typical of Western democracies. If they were sanctioned, they would cause harm to Western armed forces.” (translated from Italian)¹¹¹

9. Group of seven retired US generals and admirals

“The IDF has carried out its mission to eliminate the Hamas threat with operational and tactical excellence and in overall compliance with the Law of Armed Conflict (LOAC). This occurred

¹⁰⁶ <https://www.newsweek.com/israel-has-created-new-standard-urban-warfare-why-will-no-one-admit-it-opinion-1883286>

¹⁰⁷ <https://www.thetimes.com/uk/defence/article/i-fought-in-iraq-i-know-israels-doing-all-it-can-to-save-civilians-23r2j3snm>

¹⁰⁸ https://x.com/Mr_Andrew_Fox/status/1830539106587156733

¹⁰⁹ https://x.com/Mr_Andrew_Fox/status/2007084718362341641

¹¹⁰ <https://ejpress.org/col-richard-kemp-no-army-takes-more-precaution-than-the-idf-in-order-to-prevent-civil-casualties>

¹¹¹ <https://moked.it/blog/2024/11/18/roma-lex-capo-di-stato-maggiore-camporini-israele-opera-nel-rispetto-delle-regole/>

*despite encountering a complex urban and subterranean battlefield in which almost the entirety of Gaza, including civilian infrastructure including schools, hospitals, and places of worship, had been prepared and repurposed by Hamas as fortified fighting positions. The U.S. military would benefit from studying how the IDF fought effectively in this highly complex, multi-domain environment.*¹¹²

10. General Mark Milley, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

*“Israel has every right to defend itself. War is a horrible thing. I had a lot of years of combat, been shot at, blown up, the whole nine yards, right? It’s a horrible, brutal, vicious thing. And unfortunately, because the character of war is going to be in dense urban areas, that the very conduct of war is going to have very high levels of collateral damage. There’s almost no way around it. But if there’s any morality at all, you need to get into it, achieve your political objectives, get it done, get it done fast, and get it over with.”*¹¹³

11. Jeff Blackett, judge Advocate General, UK Armed Forces for 16 years, recently visited Israel/Gaza.

*“The cumulative number may be relevant in the court of public opinion, but the real test is the ratio of military to civilian deaths. About 70,000 people have been killed in Gaza (a figure provided by Hamas, which should be taken with caution). That includes about 25,000 Hamas fighters (all legitimate targets), so the ratio is at most about 2:1 – two civilians killed for every one fighter. By any rational measure, that is proportionate in an armed conflict with an enemy that is embedded in the civilian community.”*¹¹⁴

It remains unclear whether experts were excluded from the war coverage because their assessments were likely to contradict the ABC’s prevailing narrative. That question can only be resolved through proper examination of editorial decision-making. However, it is important to note that **people without military knowledge and experience are not capable of accurately covering armed conflicts.**

The difference between the professional assessments of a broad range of military experts and the narrative promoted by the ABC is stark. Where such a gap exists, there are limited explanations. **If this pattern cannot be explained by a lack of expertise, it leaves only one alternative possibility, that the reporting was not merely uninformed, but deliberately distorted.**

¹¹² https://jinsa.org/jinsa_report/gaza-war-observations-2023-2024/

¹¹³ <https://www.cnn.com/video/2024/05/08/gen-mark-milley-on-israel-hamas-war-israel-has-every-right-to-defend-itself.html>

¹¹⁴ <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/opinion/2026/01/18/letters-government-trampling-democratic-rights-citizens/>

5. Presenting Activists and Combatants as Journalists.

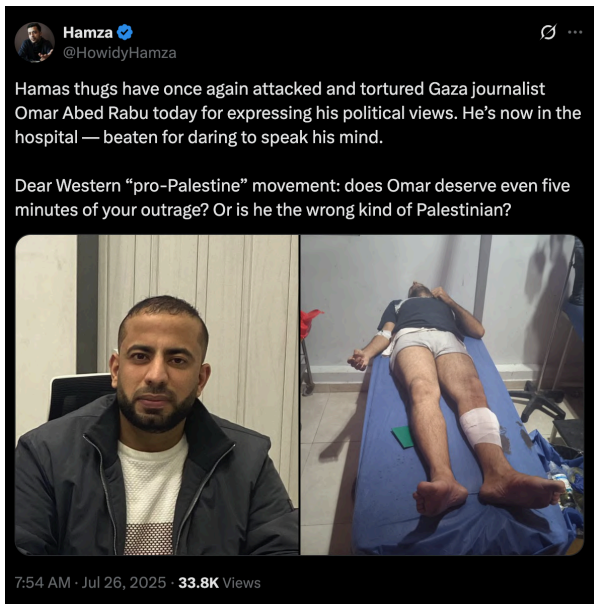
In this section, we demonstrate that independent journalism in Gaza is impossible. The ABC relies on Gaza-based “journalists” operating under Hamas control, many of whom are affiliated with the organisation, and in doing so amplifies coerced or propagandistic narratives.

ABC use staff and contributors based in Gaza as sources of information, who are controlled by Hamas



The ABC relies heavily on local Gazans presented as “journalists”, despite Gaza being a territory controlled by jihadist groups where free journalism is impossible. No serious media organisation would claim to have independent journalists operating under ISIS, al-Qaeda, in North Korea, or in Taliban-ruled Afghanistan. Yet when it comes to Hamas-controlled Gaza, all standards are completely abandoned.

In Gaza, journalists who attempt to express independent political views that are contrary to Hamas ideology are subjected to brutal punishment. For example, Hamas operatives have attacked and tortured journalist Omar Abed Rabu, leaving him hospitalised¹¹⁵, while Mahmoud El-Shafei has received explicit threats for criticising the terrorist organisation¹¹⁶.



¹¹⁵ <https://x.com/HowidyHamza/status/1948864488003776933>

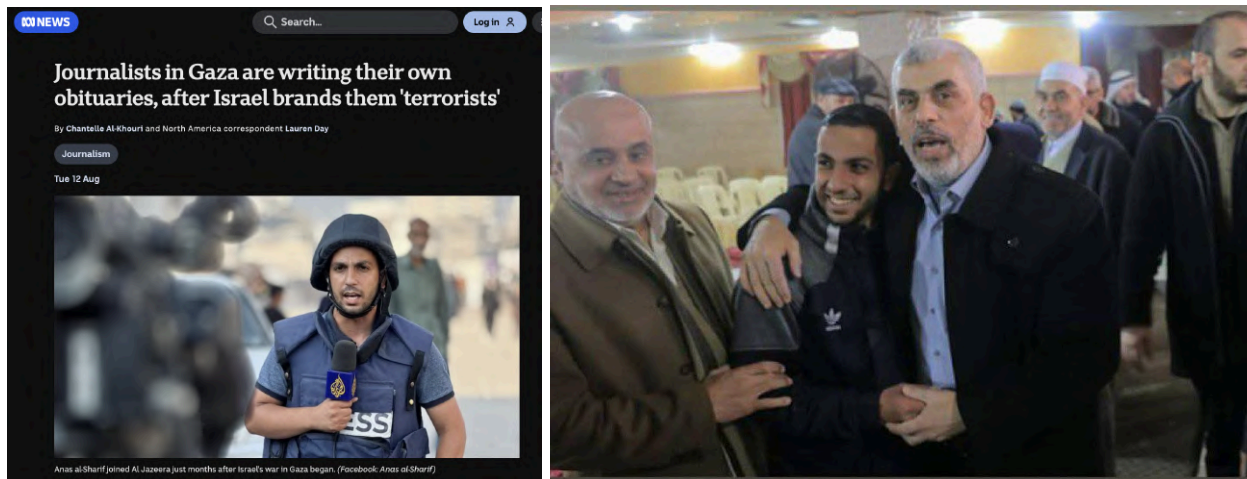
<https://x.com/omarabdrabou/status/1953912584878313890>

¹¹⁶ <https://x.com/HowidyHamza/status/1810752964686139615>

In such an environment, independent reporters are silenced, imprisoned, tortured, or killed. Those who continue to operate do so under coercion and inevitably serve up Hamas propaganda, which is then amplified by the ABC.

Elevating voices tied to Hamas

There are no articles on the ABC dedicated to Omar Abed Rabu or Mahmoud El-Shafei. In contrast, the ABC has published numerous articles about Anas Al-Sharif. In this coverage, the ABC presented him as an innocent journalist allegedly by Israelis as a “terrorist”.



An emotional title about Anas Al-Sharif being “branded” a terrorist, alongside an image of him embracing Anas Sharif, the architect of the 7 October massacre.



Anas Al-Sharif celebrated on 7 October on his social media.

Anas Al-Sharif’s social media includes contemporaneous content glorifying the events of 7 October, along with numerous posts that promote violence.¹¹⁷ The IDF provided evidence that Al Sharif was a

¹¹⁷ <https://x.com/Osint613/status/1954865948369854873>
<https://x.com/Osint613/status/1954685194176549106>

largest media platform to so-called journalists, allowing them to say whatever they want. Yet it does not represent or promote intelligence shared by Israel with balance sufficient to satisfy the requirements of impartiality.

ABC contributor Hind El Khoudary.

ABC's Ryma Tchier has presented El Khoudary as a Palestinian journalist in Gaza and relied on her to provide information about World Central Kitchen.¹²⁰ Hind El Khoudary is also known for using her platform to publicly call on Hamas to arrest Rami Aman, a Gazan peace activist, following his participation in a video conference with Israelis. Khoudary tagged Hamas leaders on Facebook to prompt his arrest, which occurred just one day later.¹²¹ She has also clearly and repeatedly expressed her opposition to any normalisation with Israel.

The image shows two screenshots. The top one is from the ABC Listen website, featuring a podcast episode titled "Foreign aid workers deaths will have 'consequences' in Gaza" presented by Ryma Tchier. A red circle highlights a line of text in the episode description: "Hind El Khoudary is a Palestinian journalist in Gaza, and was reporting on the World Central Kitchen shipments arriving in the territory." The bottom screenshot is a Facebook post from Hind Khoudary, dated April 9 at 12:12 PM. The post text reads: "I hope that calling rami aman and his group is not just a call, All the activities of normalization must stop and don't forget more. I also hope that there will be an illustration of the actions that will be required to stop these activities. And the government in Gaza proves that it doesn't agree to the activities that is organized by aman and his friends 😊". The post has 59 likes, 3 comments, and 1 share.

Since this article Ryma Tchier moved from ABC to a platform that more openly supports Islamism and denounces Zionism - that is, Al-Jazeera - a known Qatari ideological mouthpiece.

ABC contributor Abubaker Abed.

Abed openly glorified Yahya Sinwar, while celebrating the October 7 massacre. The material is publicly available on his social media profiles. His highly controversial views showing solidarity with the proscribed terrorist organisation, Hamas.

The ABC presents him as a writer and reporter, attributions that elevate his status to the viewers and readers. However, they do this without referring to his explicit ideological positions and do not question his reliability.

¹²⁰ <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/worldtoday/foreign-aid-workers-deaths-will-have-consequences-in-gaza/103657988>

¹²¹ <https://unwatch.org/from-gazas-prison-to-a-global-voice-for-peace-rami-aman-speaks-out/>

VIDEO: Gaza resident on the displaced people of Gaza

Tue 7 May 2024



Abubaker Abed is a Palestinian reporter and writer in Gaza, who has been covering Israel's latest war.



Abubaker Abed is a Palestinian **reporter and writer** in Gaza, who has been covering Israel's latest war.

Abubaker Abed @AbubakerAbedW · Oct 7, 2023
Allah is with us; that's enough to say...

1 comment 2 retweets 342 likes

Abubaker Abed @AbubakerAbedW · Oct 7, 2023
Replying to @AbubakerAbedW
Dynamite is so smelly outside in Gaza; it's an unprecedented reaction of Ezzedeem Al-Qassam Brigades, which Insha'Allah will bode well for the long-awaited liberation.

#Gaza

3 retweets 680 likes

Abubaker Abed @AbubakerAbedW · Oct 7, 2023
It's been three hours since the first attack launched. Israel are still silent...Gaza are lighting up the sky, and a state of unmatched chaos inside Israel...

Unbelievable! The world is stunned!

#Gaza #Israel

1 comment 3 retweets 1.4K likes

Abubaker Abed @AbubakerAbedW
Follow

Yahiya Al-Sinwar's footage walking in the battlefield to face Israeli soldiers is insane, man. I can't believe what I am seeing.

The love of resistance and land is seen very clearly. The indigenous people to the land are obviously Palestinians.

9:51 PM · 24 Jan 25 · 143K Views

Abubaker Abed @AbubakerAbedW
Follow

Go out and shut down the streets, mass boycott and protest, go on a huge global strike, and attack your governments and their weapon manufacturers.

Do it, so you pass your humanity test. Save what is left of it.

6:14 AM · 05 Apr 25 · 59.7K Views

Abubaker Abed @AbubakerAbedW · Oct 24, 2023
Exclusive photos from the IDF.

A photograph showing a doll with blonde hair and a baby doll lying on a wooden floor. In the background, there is a blue sofa.

6. Sentiment Analysis

(This section is a synopsis of a more detailed sentiment analysis which may be provided in addition to this report.)

The Hamas-led invasion of Israeli communities under the cover of intense missile barrage, may be compared to other historically noteworthy events with similar elements of:

- Mass killings
- Rape
- Looting
- Hostage taking
- Timing (sometimes linked to religious festivals)

Some of the comparable events are:

Medieval Feudal wars, the Nanjing massacre (1937), Nazi Einsatzgruppen (WWII), ISIS massacres (Yazidi genocide included) (2014-2017).

Following the Hamas-led attacks, entire Israeli villages (“kibbutzim”) were sacked and destroyed, families were shot dead in front of one another and burned to death. Rapes took place in full view of other victims and perpetrators - the evidence live-streamed by the perpetrators and corroborated by survivor testimony. An entire music festival was attacked, and recorded on ample body-cam footage of Hamas assailants. First-responder body-cam footage bore witness to masses of bodies across the festival site, in porta-loos and under bushes. Surviving families were displaced for months, indiscriminate and unguided rocket fire from Gaza to Israeli towns continued as Israeli defences mobilised to try to recover hostages aged from under one year old to a Holocaust survivor octogenarian. The families of those killed, maimed or taken hostage were impacted in profound ways.

The geographic spread of corpses, the conditions under and from which hostages were taken, mean that a rapid assessment of who was dead, who was taken and who was alive but missing, was impossible. To resolve this, Israeli citizens mobilized to cross-check footage with social media and photographs to try to trace the condition of victims. This exercise took weeks. Rocket fire from Lebanon’s -Hizbollah commenced in the north of Israel. This caused mass displacement from towns including Rosh Pinah, Qiryat Shemona and surrounding kibbutzim.

Did the ABC deal properly and impartially with these facts? One of many tools available for media analysis is sentiment analysis, and to this end, sympathy as a proxy for bias is one technique applied to ABC reportage.

By adopting methodology similar to that used in the RIME¹²² and “Asserson Report¹²³” on the BBC, ABC’s text-based output over the first two weeks was subjected to six questions as posed to the Chat-Gpt4 Large Language Model. Since many readers only consume headlines, and form their opinion on the subject matter via the headline, analysis of the main text was conducted separately to the headline.

A. Pair one – the primary and ‘main’ prompt of the analysis:

1) Does this text create sympathy for Israel?

2) Does this text create sympathy for Gaza?

¹²² <https://campaignformediastandards.org.uk/rime-ai.pdf>

¹²³ <https://asserson.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/asserson-report.pdf>

To enhance the distinction between the various aspects of Israeli and Palestinian entities, two further pairs of 'secondary' prompts are included:

B. Pair two – comparing peoples:

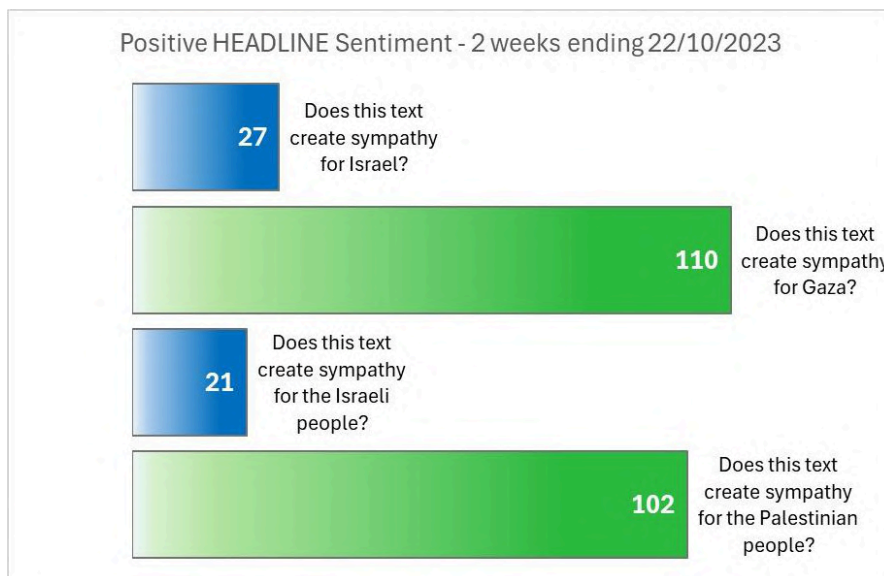
- 3) Does this text create sympathy for the Israeli people?
- 4) Does this text create sympathy for the Palestinian people?

C. Pair three – comparing military entities:

- 5) Does this text create sympathy for the IDF/Israeli military?
- 6) Does this text create sympathy for Hamas?

This has the effect that each score could reflect sympathy to one side independently to another, i.e. an article could carry sympathy for both Israelis and Palestinians in different parts of the same article.

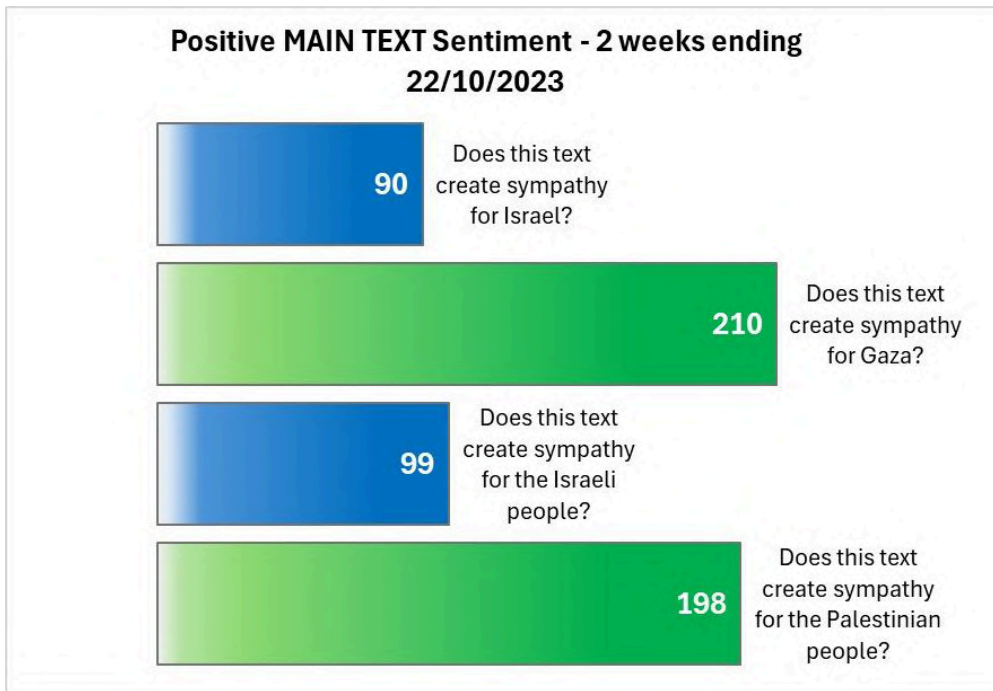
The outcome of these tests showed that in the first two weeks of the war, prior to the commencement of an Israeli ground-based counter-offensive, ABC sentiment skewed significantly in favour of Gaza and away from the Israeli situation. This may be indicative of an endemic dismissiveness of the Israeli communal condition, or an unwitting systemic adoption of the global advocacy of the Palestinian narrative¹²⁴.



Gaza:Israel = 110:27=4.1

Palestinian People:Israeli People = 102:21 = 4.9

¹²⁴ "Political Mobilization and Advocacy Strategies of Palestinian Groups amid Genocide Allegations in the Gaza Conflict, 2023-2024" Osuchukwu, N.C. et al. Int. J. of Research Publication and Reviews. V. 6(8) pp. 4601-4624. August 2025.



Gaza:Israel = 210:90=2.3

Palestinian People:Israeli People = 198:99 = 2.0

These results suggest that even in the first 2 weeks after the Hamas-led attack, ABC headlines were 4-5 times less sympathetic to the impact on the Israeli population. Main texts were approximately twice as sympathetic to the plight of Gazans even though both sides were yet suffering the reverberations of the initial attack and the ground war in Gaza had not begun.

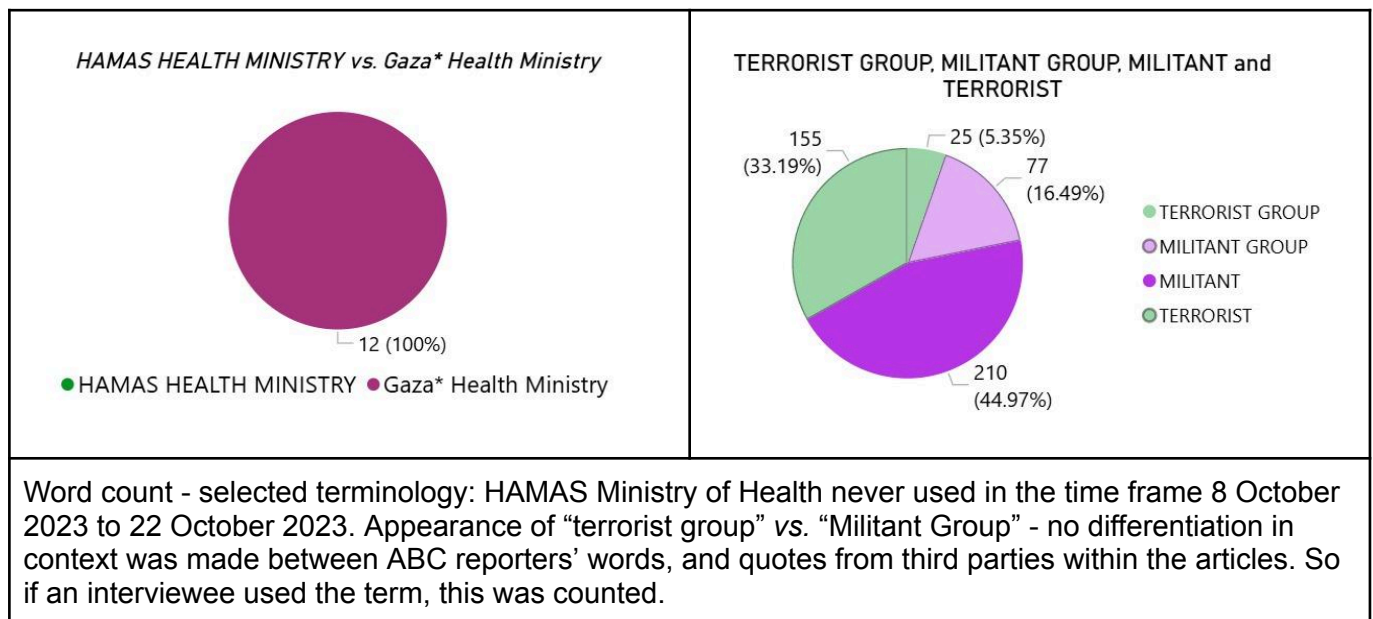
The higher ratio in the headlines analysis suggests an editorial bias, since headlines are frequently the work of editorial staff, whereas the main text is the work of the journalist.

In this way the ABC sentiment was set from the outset of the war to frame the narrative in favour of the side that initiated the war crossing the border by foot, by vehicle and by paraglider at dawn on Saturday 7 October 2023. Tone and narrative setting at such an early stage of the war most certainly influences the public discourse, political decisions of government, and may even serve to provide succour and intransigence to the holders of hostages. When National Broadcasters of G20 / OECD member countries serve the propaganda cause of a terrorist organization, that organization gains credibility and legitimacy.

In addition to the narrative magnification by sentiment framing, the ABC adopted legally inconsistent terminology.

The ABC fastidiously avoided calling Hamas a terrorist organization, even though in Australia, that would be legally accurate and in keeping with government level designation. Rather, the ABC used euphemistic attributions "Militant Group", or just "militants". This is magnified by the reference used by the ABC to the Gaza/Hamas department responsible for and relied upon for daily mortality counts - the so-called "Gaza Ministry of Health". Whereas it is an indisputable fact that Hamas has controlled, run, spoken for and acted out of Gaza for the last 20 years as a government, and on this basis the ABC trusts and lends credence to their "Ministry" in the context of civil matters, in the context of battle they are a "Group". The use of the term "group" diminishes the importance, influence and reach of the Hamas apparatus in Gaza

when it is involved in military offensives, but elevates the same group in all other matters. Paradoxically, the ABC consistently referred to Gaza, the Golan Heights and Judea/Samaria as “occupied territories” (they are contested, Israel had withdrawn in total from Gaza twenty years before the outbreak of this war and the Golan Heights was annexed by Israel after they won a defensive war in 1973. The so-called “West Bank” has large areas under political and security control of the Palestinian Authority). Thus the implication that all these areas are occupied, is from a legal standpoint somewhere on the spectrum of misleading to inaccurate. The ABC’s position is that these terms are consistent with the Official Australian position. It remains to be understood why the ABC adopts official terminology of occupation, but not terrorism. This paradox leads to narrative framing



The ABC bias as measured by sympathy was set within the first 14 days of the war, before hostages had been named, bodies retrieved from the remote locations in which they had died and identified by forensic dental or genetic methods. Certainly, war had come to Gaza, and the Gazans were facing an unknown period of trauma. Even though much of the agency to end the war rested in the hands of Hamas, media organisations like the ABC and BBC diminished this agency in the way they framed their reporting. By setting the narrative in this way the impact of the attack on Israel was not only diminished, but it was also for all intents and purposes, buried.

7. The incitement continued after Bondi

Following the Bondi attack, the ABC’s pattern of hostility, selective framing, and misinformation did not slow down or self-correct. On the contrary, it continued across multiple areas of reporting, reinforcing false narratives. Through selective framing, omission of context, and the privileging of ideologically aligned voices, the ABC shapes domestic public discourse in a manner that adversely affects Australian Jews and undermines social cohesion. This dynamic is visible in the broadcaster’s handling of both domestic controversies and its coverage of events in the Middle East.

In the domestic sphere, coverage of the uninvitation of Randa Abdel-Fattah from Adelaide Writers' Week exemplified this approach. Reporting focused on claims of silencing and exclusion while failing to address the factual basis for concern. The ABC did not meaningfully inform audiences that Abdel-Fattah had publicly glorified or justified the 7 October attacks, refused to condemn Hamas, and had previously promoted boycott campaigns and doxing directed at Jewish individuals and organisations. By omitting these facts, the ABC framed the controversy as one of cultural intolerance rather than a legitimate response to documented extremist rhetoric.

In parallel, the ABC promoted critics of the Australian Government's invitation to Israeli President Isaac Herzog by hosting activists and commentators presented as experts, without adequate disclosure of their records or ideological positions. Individuals with well-documented histories of hostility toward Israel and the Jewish community were allowed to frame the debate, while their controversial backgrounds were left unexamined, giving audiences the false impression of neutral or representative opposition.

More broadly, the ABC continues to ignore far-left antisemitism and associated intimidation and violence in Australia. Incidents targeting Jewish institutions, events, and individuals are routinely downplayed or completely omitted, despite being reported by other outlets, documented by community organisations, and widely circulated on social media. This selective blindness contrasts sharply with the ABC's treatment of other forms of racism and reflects a consistent editorial imbalance. Critical context on the Gaza situation also remains consistently absent from the ABC's reporting to keep the anti-Israel narrative alive.

The ABC has also continued to amplify and normalise the "genocide" narrative, relying on ideologically aligned sources and presenting distorted or selectively framed facts while omitting crucial context.¹²⁵ By repeatedly using the term in a manner that functions as an inciting and inflammatory label, without rigorous scrutiny or balanced analysis, the ABC contributes to reinforcing hostility and division rather than facilitating informed and responsible public understanding.

The ABC has continued to cherry-pick ideologically aligned experts who emphasise Palestinian suffering while minimising or ignoring Israeli victims and security concerns.¹²⁶ ABC strips Palestinians of agency, portraying them solely as passive victims rather than as actors within a war that was initiated by the 7 October massacre. The ABC promoted UNRWA narratives without adequate scrutiny or context. It adopted terminology derived from Palestinian nationalist discourse and presented it as universally accepted language while key historical facts continue to be omitted or distorted. These omissions, selective emphases, and distortions resulted in analysis that serves a one-sided propaganda narrative that fuels hostility rather than informed understanding.

The ABC continues to cherry-pick developments that support its preferred framing while omitting material that strengthens Israel's arguments. In February 2026, the ABC prominently reported that Israel had "banned" Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) from operating in Gaza¹²⁷. The restriction arose after the organisation refused to provide the names of its local employees for standard security vetting, a requirement intended to ensure that individuals affiliated with terrorist organisations were not embedded within humanitarian operations. However, later that same month, when MSF ceased operations at

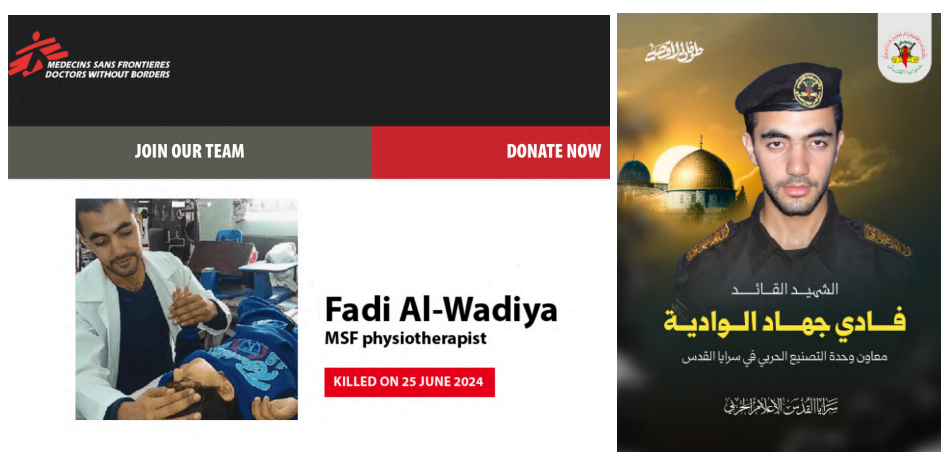
¹²⁵ <https://x.com/VoteLewko/status/2021322823797784937>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-02-10/grace-tame-criticised-for-sydney-protest-intifada-chant/106326896>

¹²⁶ <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/latenightlive/late-night-live-julie-norman-history-of-gaza-/106273194>

¹²⁷ <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2026-02-03/wa-nurse-in-gaza-says-msf-ban-abandons-vulnerable/106300002>

Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis due to the presence of armed gunmen operating within the facility¹²⁸, the ABC was conspicuously silent. Reporting that development would have reinforced the IDF's longstanding position that hospitals have been exploited for military purposes and would have directly contradicted the ABC's prevailing narrative, which consistently minimises or dismisses evidence of such misuse. Additionally, during the war, the ABC repeatedly published statements from MSF and its employees with no critical scrutiny. Among them were calls for investigations into aid worker deaths in Gaza, including its own staff allegedly killed "while providing aid". Recently, Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) released a list of high-ranking commanders killed during the war¹²⁹. One of the names was Fadi al-Wadiyya. MSF had previously described him as a physiotherapist working for the organisation. This apparent overlap between a humanitarian role and membership in an armed group raises serious questions that warrant examination.



Fadi al-Wadiyya, an MSF physiotherapist and, at the same time, a Palestinian Islamic Jihad commander.

After Fadi al-Wadiyya's dual role was publicly confirmed, the ABC's Samantha Donovan conducted an interview with Tom Roth, Executive Director of MSF Australia and New Zealand.¹³⁰ An honest and professional journalist would have invited an IDF spokesperson and directly confronted the claims of both organisations. Instead, Mr Roth was given a free platform to advance a one-sided and unchallenged narrative, and the documented infiltration of hospitals or the confirmed involvement of members of armed groups within his own organisation was not mentioned even once. The ABC, which has consistently relied on MSF statements to criticise Israel's conduct, has shown no comparable interest in reporting on the infiltration of humanitarian organisations by armed groups and examining how such cases may affect the credibility of claims presented during the conflict.

No event in the West Bank appears too minor to attract ABC attention. In one video report about a football pitch, the IDF stated that it had been constructed without permits and that its demolition was required for security reasons. Australian audiences were presented with the emotional narrative of children losing a place to play. Apparently, the ABC considers this issue important enough to the Australian public, despite its occurring more than 10,000 kilometres away. By contrast, the long-standing need for armed security at Jewish schools in Australia due to persistent antisemitic threats receives nearly no coverage. The disparity in editorial priorities is difficult to ignore. In the same report, Bridget

¹²⁸

<https://www.foxnews.com/world/medical-ngo-slammed-israels-anti-terror-raid-now-quits-gaza-hospital-over-armed-operatives>

¹²⁹ <https://x.com/GabrielEpsteinX/status/2026329849942487128>

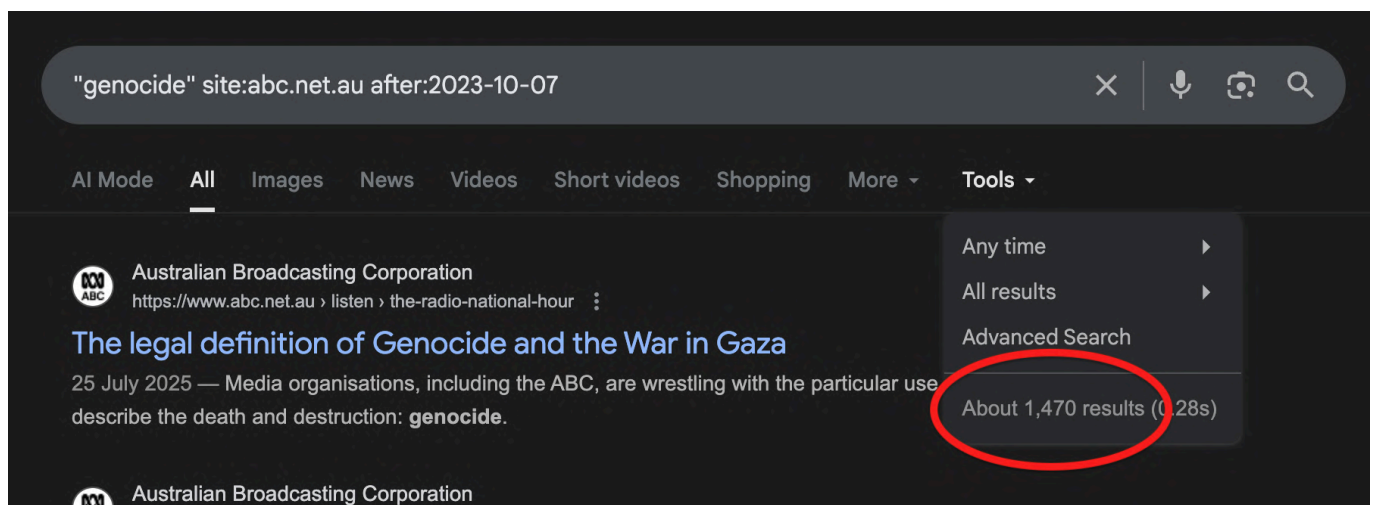
¹³⁰ <https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/pm/msf-warns-gaza-situation-to-worsen/106398912>

Rollason delivered her piece to camera with Gilo, a Jewish suburb of Jerusalem, visible behind her. During the Intifada, Palestinian gunmen fired at residential buildings in Gilo from near the very area where she was standing, using automatic weapons. Residents whose windows faced that direction installed sandbags to prevent bullets from entering their apartments. That history, and the security considerations flowing from it, were not mentioned.¹³¹

The scale and frequency of misleading reporting align with Brandolini's principle: the effort required to correct misinformation is exponentially greater than the effort required to produce it. The ABC's output has created a sustained tsunami of taxpayer-funded misinformation about Israel and Jews, in which false or distorted claims are broadcast rapidly and repeatedly, making comprehensive debunking practically impossible. This imbalance has contributed to social polarisation, increased hostility toward Jewish Australians, and a serious erosion of trust in public broadcasting. It has to stop and be replaced by balanced journalism.

8. Conclusion

"A lie told once remains a lie but a lie told a thousand times becomes the truth." This phrase is frequently attributed to the Nazi propaganda minister Joseph Goebbels. Searching the term "genocide" on the ABC website after 7 October 2023 returns more than a thousand results. The ABC perfectly demonstrated the power of this claim by repeating the false narratives, producing an alternative reality where Jews in Australia were subjected to intimidation, harassment and violent attacks.



The case studies in this dossier demonstrate that the ABC's deeply rooted, anti-Israel (anti-Zionist) position plausibly vilified the IDF, Israel and, by extension, Jews. This framed legitimate political positions as moral crimes and fuelled hostility towards all those who support Israel. The effect was to legitimise hate against Jewish Australians who feel a deep personal connection to the country and its right to exist as a peaceful and pluralistic Jewish homeland.

Hamas and its proxies have conducted an extensive global disinformation campaign against Israel. The ABC's editorial approach appeared wilfully blind to this and repeatedly amplified harmful and unverified

¹³¹ <https://www.instagram.com/reel/DU2ma-JDkWI/>

content without proportional evidentiary scrutiny. As documented throughout the dossier, this occurred through several recurring mechanisms:

- Publication of demonstrably false or highly contested claims as established facts.
- Emotional framing replacing factual analysis and operational context.
- Using sensational or accusatory headlines, with contextual qualifications buried deep in the article, limiting their corrective impact.
- Presenting one-sided storytelling, in which Israeli perspectives, military context and security considerations were marginalised or omitted.
- Relying on politicised or structurally biased sources without adequate critical examination.
- Elevating ideologically committed commentators as neutral “experts.”
- The daily repeating terms such as “genocide”, “famine” and “starvation” without meeting the rigorous legal and evidentiary thresholds such allegations require.

The cumulative effect of daily exposure to such framing is not public information but a form of indoctrination, normalising the perception of Israel as a pariah state and rendering suspicion or hostility toward its supporters socially acceptable. When extreme characterisations are normalised through daily repetition, they influence public discourse and narrow the boundaries of acceptable opinion. The result has been an environment in which Jewish Australians who openly support Israel are increasingly portrayed as perpetrators of alleged crimes against humanity. In such a climate, hostility becomes easier to justify and antisemitic sentiment more readily rationalised.



Examples of protest material adopting ABC-promoted narratives, demonstrating the downstream impact of repeated misinformation on public activism and street-level discourse.

Even if it was not the intention of the ABC, their mis-steps had a damaging *impact* on Australian social dynamics. To argue otherwise would be to negate completely the relevance of the ABC.

The sheer scale of the journalistic failures and demonstrated bias - as the journalistic failures on the Gaza war always went one way, namely against Israel - contributed directly to radicalisation in society and intensified militant antisemitism across Australia.

Sajid and Naveed Akram pulled the trigger. But the ideological climate that enables such violence is shaped over years by persistent narratives, repetition, misinformation and delegitimisation.

It is imperative that the public broadcaster recognises that it has a profound “Israel problem” if it’s ever to chart a course back to professional reporting on the Jewish state and by extension the Jewish community, which has paid a heavy price for the capture of one of the nation’s most trusted institutions.



Reactions to the Bondi massacre reveal the extent to which ABC-amplified narratives have radicalised segments of the audience

¹³² <https://x.com/booksandlooks83/status/2007334820670746736>

<https://mattchun.substack.com/p/we-dont-mourn-fascists>

¹³³ <https://x.com/DrewPavlou/status/2003333896549896671>