The News Media in Raising Conflicts Tension: A Critical Study Toward News Conflict Between Israel and Palestine

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Abstract: This study analyzes the news about conflict between Israel and Palestine in online news media Foxnews.com on May 2021. The characteristics of news from these news media have quite specific characteristics, which is a strong tone, using open visualization, inviting debate, and succeeding in getting thousands of comments from the audience. In this point, even though the news is read by many people, it is also has the potential to exacerbate conflict in the field. This study adopts Teun A. van Dijk's Critical Discourse Analysis method which develops analysis from the microstructure, superstructure, and macrostructure levels. The micro structure level looks at the local meaning of the news text from the choice of diction, sentence structure, and rhetoric. Then, the super structure level examines the news scheme, consisting of introduction, content and conclusion. Furthermore, macro structural analysis tries to see the global meaning of news texts by looking at news topics and the surrounding social context. The results of the study show that the Israel and Palestine conflict is not only due to the conflict of one of the group carrying out the attack. But at the same time it was also caused by hard conflict news, there was trauma to the victims in the conflict, as well as the global security conditions still not stable until now.

Keywords: conflict; news; online news media; Israel; Palestine; critical discourse analysis

Introduction

The conflict between Israel and Palestine that has occurred until now, is not only because of the conflict, but also because of the emergence of harsh conflict news, then the trauma of victims in the conflict, as well as because global security conditions are still unstable (Schoemaker & Stremlau, 2014). In addition, the existence of the media as a source of information is not always neutral, but tends to be influenced by economic and political forces (McQuail & Windahl, 2013). Therefore, to understand the meaning of conflict news that appears in online news media, actually requires a holistic and sufficient analysis.

Studies on the relationship between media and conflict that have been carried out so far tend to look at conflict and media propaganda in conflict (Boyd-Barrett, 2017); Media framing of conflict (Elmasry, Shamy, Manning, Mills, & Auter, 2013); Diplomacy through social media in conflict (Awais, Awais, & Alhossary, 2022); Perception to the bullets in conflict (Tasseron, 2021); Visual rhetoric in conflict reporting (Richardson & Barkho, 2009); Culture of violence in conflict (Brockhill & Cordell, 2019). However, there have not been many studies that

evaluate the implications of the power of conflict discourse generated by the media on an international scale.

This article aims to "complement the shortcomings" of previous studies by examining why international media tends to activate discourse on the conflict between Israel and Palestine. A number of studies show that in reporting activities there are several specific factors that can influence media attitudes, starting from internal factors in the media such as political economic factors (Mosco, 2009), ideological factors (Christian, Glasser, McQuail, Nordenstreng, & White, 2009). Apart from that, there are several external factors that can influence the media, especially market factors (McChesney, 2015) and global politics (Street, 2001). Meanwhile, there is a classic perspective on agenda setting in the media that in the process of creating news in the newsroom, editors and news agency staff also play a role in shaping reality (McCombs & Shaw, 1972). This means that when the media pays greater attention to an issue, so the more greater the audience's attention to the issue chosen by the media (Coleman, McCombs, Shaw & Weaver, 2009; Kosicki, 1993; Hawkins, 2002). So when the media is too harsh in reporting on a conflict, the conflict in the field can also become louder.

This study is based on the argument that conflict in news texts presented by the news media are not born from a vacuum of interests (Hamad, 2002). But there are several factors that can influence it. For example, internal factors such as ideology (Manzella, 2000), as well as external media factors such as economics (Mosco, 2009) which condition the media as a market for ideas (Arno, 2009), a propaganda tool (Tasseron, 2021; Curran, Fenton & Freedman, 2012) in particular in reporting on the conflict between Israel and Palestine (Handley & Ismail, 2010; Elmasry, Shamy, Manning, Mills, & Auter, 2013). In other words, external and internal dynamics in the media have structured the media into a machine of knowledge that produces conflict messages, in the form of news texts, images and videos (Richardson & Barkho, 2009) which continue to intensively flow to the public.

Literature Review

This study analyzes news about the conflict between Israel and Palestine in the online news media. There is an assumption that the Israeli and Palestinian conflict occurred, not only because one of the parties carried out the attack. But it is also caused by hard of tone in some of conflict news, then there is the trauma of victims in the conflict, as well as global security conditions which are still unstable until now. To reveal this, this study develops a theoretical framework consisting of: (1) society in the era of mediation, (2) the role of the media in a conflict, and (3) characteristics of conflict news in online news media. To a more complete explanations is provided below.

Society in the Mediated Era

The mediation era is an era that places the media in a very central position in society. The media is a bridge of information between government organizations and society, and vice versa (McNair, 2003). The problem is that in this central position, the media covers whatever the public considers interesting, starting from issues of race, class, gender, ethnicity, lifestyle, including conflict events (Howley, 2010).

Along with the large amount of information it contents, the media is also vulnerable to becoming a tool of political propaganda (Freedman, 2014), commodification of conflict (Langegger, 2016), as well as becoming a space for information that is not based on facts, and many important issues or events are ignored by the media (Hawkins, 2002). So that under certain conditions, the media becomes incomplete as a place for public debate.

In such conditions, people need media literacy skills, which is being able to understand, access, analyze, evaluate and produce content for print media, electronic media and the internet (O'Neill, 2010). In essence, people should be understand, careful, and be able to choose quality information to read. The mediation era places society as one of the actors who actively uses the media. Under ideal conditions, society should use the media positively. New media in these conditions brings situations and conditions that require the audience to be active because: control is in the audience, nonlinear, messages are stored and can be searched again, unlimited space, fast, and multimedia capabilities (Foust, 2009).

In this condition, if society does not utilize the media optimally, the risk is that society will become the target of exposure to new media information. One of the risks in the mediation era is that the media also becomes a channel of information for a number of organizations such as political organizations, political parties, pressure groups, terrorist organizations, and also the government (McNair, 2003). This phenomenon occurs in line with the increasing development of information and communication technology. Society as an institution has opened up and anyone can enter the public space via the internet (Curran, Fenton & Freedman, 2012). In this context, the people have independently been able to spread their own messages. The messages displayed by the media can be in the form of news, editorials, comments, or analysis (McNair, 2003). The point is that it cannot be denied that currently, people often find out about conflict events not directly, but learn about them through the media.

The Role of the Media in a Conflict

In simple terms, conflict is a clash of interests between people or groups (Littlejohn & Domenici, 2001). When these differences in understanding become physical, they become real clashes, threats to identity or physicality (Arno, 2009), which can take the form of disputes, fights, even big wars. International scale conflicts are very dynamic and develop gradually (Gilboa, 2009: 93). An important issue that needs to be considered is that conflict can be spread and transmitted through communication (Lee, Gelfand, & Kashima, 2014). In the current era of mediation, media and information and communication technology play a central role in a conflict (Lazzolino & Stremlau, 2017). The media in a conflict can act as: (1) a sharpening party in a conflict or intensifier, (2) a conflict reducer or diminisher, and (3) as a third party (Arno & Dissanayake, 2019).

First, the media plays the role of sharpening the conflict when the news media takes a position on one of the parties to the conflict (Prajarto, 1993). This takes the form of giving a larger portion of the news to one party, interviewing one of the parties in conflict and ignoring sources from other parties. However, it needs to be understood that the position of the media as a sharpener of conflict is not always bad. Media, with an intensifying role, can be a good thing if it improves people's lives, by criticizing authoritarian and corrupt governments.

Second, the role of the media as a conflict reducer (*diminisher*) when the media's reporting seems cursory and unsustainable. This concise reporting keeps the public's attention low, so that the conflict can quickly subside. As long as the form does not deceive the reader, then this role formulation is quite ideal (Prajarto, 1993). In practice, when the media does not pay much attention to the conflict, the public's attention to the conflict will also decrease. In the context of conflict and peace, the role of the media is essential (Gilboa, Jumbert, Miklian & Robinson, 2016). Media is not only a medium of information, but also a tool for promoting and developing a particular agenda or strategy.

Third, the role of the media as a neutral party (*third party*) is by reporting the conflict as it is, not adding to or reducing it. This means that in reporting conflict events, the news media is not influenced by anyone, the media is able to escape from the power or influence of the conflicting parties in the conflict. In essence, each role the media takes in reporting a conflict has its own consequences. Active media reporting can escalate the conflict (Lazzolino & Stremlau, 2017). Meanwhile, the low level of conflict coverage in the media actually makes the conflict subside more quickly, this happens when the media plays the role of conflict diminisher. The media plays a neutral role when it becomes a third party, namely when the media reports the conflict sufficiently.

Characteristics of Conflict News in Online News Media

Rapid technological developments have also made online news media increasingly attractive. The character and appearance are different from news in traditional news media. News that appears in new media has a number of specific characteristics, namely: (1) wide communication modality, (2) hypermedia, (3) audience involvement, (4) dynamic content, and (5) customization (Pavlik, 2001). For this point, a more complete explanation is presented below.

First, wide communication modalities. This means that the news that appears in online news media has the advantage of having wide capital. This means that information in media in the form of text, audio, video, graphics and animation can be displayed simultaneously. Second, hypermedia. This means that news when mediated online can create easy and integrative relationships. For example, there are hyperlinks in news that make one news connected to other news. One news is connected to other related news. Third, high audience engagement. This means that with the emergence of online news on the internet, wide opportunities have been opened for audiences to comment on the news. By displaying attractive photos and news titles, the audience will become more interested in conflict news. Fourth, dynamic content. The meaning of dynamic content in this case is that online news has the characteristics of speed and immediacy. When an event occurs, the news immediately appears on online media. Fifth, customization. The purpose of customization in this case is that the appearance or form of online news can be displayed according to needs. News can be displayed in a context that is closer to the reader. Not only the text display, but also images, graphics or videos can be displayed according to needs.

The combination of these five online news characters makes online news appear interactive and very different from news that appears in conventional media.ews also becomes of great interest to readers when it combines various forms of information and data such as

writing, photos, graphics, sound and audio-visual images which are displayed in an integrative manner so that information can be displayed in a form that is very interesting.

Methodology

This study is qualitative research that addresses news as a phenomenon (Tuchman, 2002). The emergence of international scale news media reporting on conflict needs to receive attention because the conflict information it contains can influence the reality on the ground. The research stages in this study follow the logic of qualitative research, starting from recognizing the problem context, adopting a perspective, designing research, collecting data, analyzing data, interpreting data, and disseminating research results to the public (Neuman, 2014).

This study follows the Teun A. van Dijk model of critical discourse analysis (CDA) framework which was developed starting from analysis at the micro structure, superstructure and macro structure levels (van Dijk, 1988; van Dijk, 2011; van Dijk, 2014). The conflict news about Israel and Palestine published on the online news media Foxnews.com was used as a data source. This study examines and evaluates conflict news, as well as main topics, raised by the media that emerged in May 2021. This topic is considered important to research because various international scale conflicts are still prone to occur in various countries.

In this study, the conflict news is understood as news that has online characteristics: wide communication modalities, hypermedia, audience involvement, dynamic content, and customization (Pavlik, 2001). When these characteristics relate to the topic of the conflict between Israel and Palestine, the news becomes sensitive and attracts attention both at the level of the news text and the broad social context of the conflict.

In this context, the analytical framework at the micro structure, super structure and macro structure levels becomes relevant (van Dijk, 2014). The application of critical discourse analysis is used in this study as a multilevel analytical framework. Analysis at the micro-structural level attempts to see the local meaning of the news text which can be seen from the choice of diction, sentence structure and also the rhetoric displayed in the news text. Analysis at the super structure level examines and analyzes the news scheme, consisting of introduction, content and conclusion. Then, the macro structure analysis tries to see the global meaning that emerges from the text which can be analyzed by looking at the topics and themes that appear in the news text.

Data collection carried out periodically from 2022 to 2023, by observing the news that appears, collecting it, and sorting it sequentially. Analysis is carried out in some levels, at micro, meso and macro levels. The combination of analysis at these three levels is expected to provide comprehensive analysis results regarding the phenomenon of reporting on the conflict between Israel and Palestine which is still vulnerable to occurring again.

Results and Discussion

As mentioned above, conflict news that appears online has a fast character and immediately spreads to the public. A problem related to news that is rarely paid attention to is that the nature of the news has the potential to activate a conflict that is still vulnerable to happening again. The potential conflict between Israel and Palestine that has occurred until now

is not only because of the conflict on the ground, but also because of the news that describes the severity of the conflict that is occurring. This kind of situation can be seen at least from 11 news reported by the online news media Foxnews.com from 10 May 2021 to 21 May 2021.

Table 1. List of Israel and Palestine Conflict News

Number	Title	Date
1	*Rep. Ilhan Omar accuses Israel of 'terrorism' amid clash with Hamas*	10/5/2021
2	*Israeli ambassador accuses Tlaib of 'stoking tensions' over Al-Aqsa mosque*	11/5/2021
3	*Gal Gadot slammed after calling for unity for Israel and 'neighbors' in Gaza amid ongoing conflict*	12/5/2021
4	*Kamala Harris' niece says those who are neutral on Israel-Gaza have 'chosen the side of the oppressor'*	13/5/2021
5	*Trevor Noah slammed for suggesting Israel not defend itself: 'You're downplaying the trauma of millions'*	14/5/2021
6	*'Free Palestine' demonstrators block traffic in Los Angeles: 'Long live intifada'*	15/5/2021
7	*Israeli strikes kill 26, topple buildings in Gaza City*	16/5/2021
8	*Israel-Palestinian conflict: White House defends not publicly calling for cease-fire, says approach is 'quiet'*	17/5/2021
9	*Israel-Palestinian conflict traumatic for children in the region*	20/5/2021
10	*Israel officials approve cease-fire with Hamas following 11 days of Gaza violence*	20/5/2021
11	*Hamas leader thanks Iran for supplying weapons to Gaza*	21/5/2021

This study shows that qualitatively, the news above has implications for several quite specific things, namely: (1) the media is able to activate conflict in the field, (2) conflict can increasingly exist because of media coverage, (3) the global audience is increasingly involved active in conflict due to media coverage. A more complete explanation is as follows.

The Media Able To Activate Conflict in the Field

In 2021 the conflict between Israel and Palestine occured again for 11 days. To be precise, starting from 10/5/2021 to 21/5/2021. The conflict that occurred during the month of Ramadan occurred as a result of plans to expel Palestinians living in the Sheikh Jarrah area, Jerusalem. Previously, as a result of conflict tensions that had occurred since 2014, Israeli police attacked the Aqsa mosque, one of the holy places of Islam, in response Palestinians launched rockets into Israeli territory and resulted in 2 Israelis being killed and dozens of others injured. Israel then responded with air strikes which resulted in 26 Palestinians being killed and hundreds of people being injured, including women and children.

In this conflict event, various news media covered and made this conflict event as the main news headlines. One of the international media that actively reports on this conflict is the

online news media Foxnews.com. Various reports on this conflict made this conflict event spread quickly and was witnessed by the international public. In that 11 day period, news about the Israel and Palestine conflict appeared very intensive. Several news headlines show the severity of the conflict, as well as criticism of the conflict, for example the news entitled: *Rep. Ilhan Omar accuses Israel of 'terrorism' amid clash with Hamas* (10/5/2021); *Israeli ambassador accuses Tlaib of 'stoking tensions' over Al-Aqsa mosque* (11/5/2021); *Kamala Harris' niece says those who are neutral on Israel-Gaza have 'chosen the side of the oppressor'*(13/5/2021); and so forth.

On a micro level, the words used in these news stories specifically describe violent conflicts. There are acts of terrorism, deadly air attacks, there are also a number of photos of rockets being fired, and video clips depicting Palestinians attacking Israeli soldiers using stones.

Figure 1. Palestinians threw stones at Israeli soldiers
Source: Foxnews.com

News about the conflict is attracting more attention, when figures who are news sources as well as government officials, politicians, comedians and artists also provide comments. Figures who appear in the news, for example American President Joe Biden, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, Hamas Leader Yahya Sinwar, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, US Member of Parliament Ilhan Omar, US Member of Parliament Rashida Tlaib, US Member of Parliament Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez, Ambassador Israeli Gilad Erdan, Leader of the Palestinian Movement Ismail Haniyeh, Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and a number of other public figures.

The reporting technique displayed by foxnews.com also attracts attention because it uses news sources originating from Twitter. For example, Ilhan Omar in the news entitled: *Rep.*

Ilhan Omar accuses Israel of 'terrorism' amid clash with Hamas (10/5/2021) he called the Israeli attack as an act of terrorism: *Israeli air strikes killing civilians in Gaza is an act of terrorism. Palestinians deserve protection... It's unconscionable to not condemn these attacks on the week of Eid.*

Figure 2. Ilhan Omar's tweet became a news source
Source: Foxnews.com

Furthermore, another member of the United States parliament, Rashida Tlaib, also made similar comments: *I was 7 years old when I first prayed at the Al Aqsa with my sity [sic]. It's a sacred site for Muslims. This is equivalent to attacking the Church of the Holy Sepulchre for Christians, or the Temple Mount for Jews. Israel attacks it during Ramadan.*

The conflict between Israel and Palestine also received political attention. A number of figures such as Ilhan Omar, Rashida Tlaib, Ayanna Pressley, expressed views that considered the Israeli attack negative. Meanwhile, on the other hand, the Israeli Ambassador, Gilad Erdan, considered that Tlaib's statement could cause further tension: *Congresswoman @RashidaTlaib maybe you should open your eyes to the whole picture? Islam's 3rd holiest site is being used to stockpile Molotov cocktails and rocks that are being lobbed at the police and at Jewish worshippers praying at the Western Wall, below the Temple Mount.*

In line with the news displayed, Foxnews.com tends to be the party that intensifies the conflict. This role was taken when Foxnews.com appeared problematical or hard in displaying images related to the conflict that occurred, as seen in the news: *Israeli strikes kill 26, topple buildings in Gaza City* (16/5/2021). A number of quite specific vocabulary is used in this news such as: Israeli strikes kill 26, Additional people were wounded, 181 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza, including 52 children and 31 women, with 1,225 wounded. Eight Israelis have been killed, including a 5 year old boy and a soldier. This news also depicts destroyed buildings and the process of evacuating people from the ruins of buildings destroyed by Israeli rocket attacks.

Palestinian rescuers pull the body of a woman from under the rubble of a destroyed residential building following deadly Israeli airstrikes on Gaza City that flattened three buildings and killed at least 26 people, in Gaza City, Sunday, May 16, 2021. (AP Photo/Khalil Hamra) (AP Photo/Khalil Hamra)

Workers clear the rubble of a building that was destroyed by an Israeli airstrike on Saturday, that housed The Associated Press, broadcaster Al-Jazeera and other media outlets, in Gaza City, Sunday, May 16, 2021. (AP Photo/Adel Hana) (AP Photo/Adel Hana)
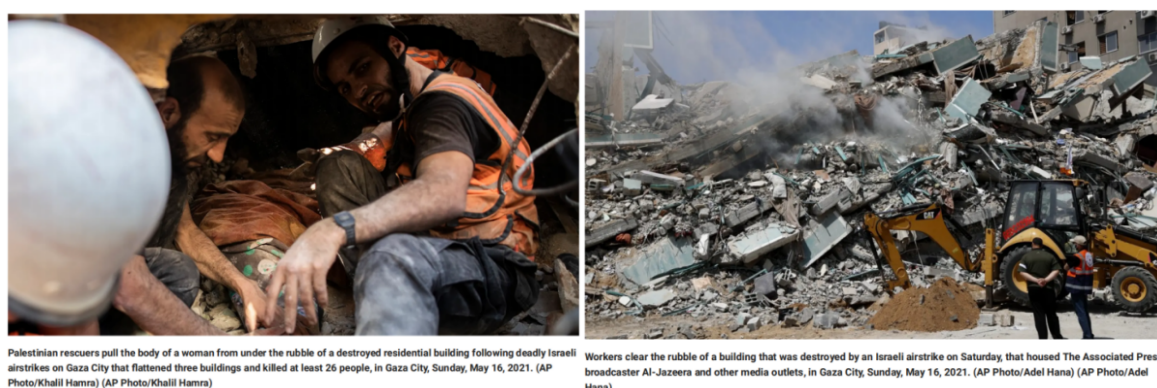
Figure 3. The destructive impact of the Israeli and Palestinian conflict
Source: Foxnews.com

Furthermore, reporting on the Israeli conflict has also become more dynamic with the emergence of several news stories about citizen demonstrations, such as in the news: *'Free Palestine' demonstrators block traffic in Los Angeles: 'Long live intifada'* (15/5/2021). This news conveys information about thousands of people demonstrating in support of Palestine. Some who support Israel blocked it, and police separated it. There is data that the Israeli attack killed at least 10 Palestinians, most of them children. While in Gaza 139 people were killed.

In this photo taken by a drone, thousands of demonstrators protest outside the Federal Building against Israel and in support of Palestinians during the current conflict in the Middle East, Saturday, May 15, 2021, in the Westwood section of Los Angeles. (AP Photo/Ringo H.W. Chiu)
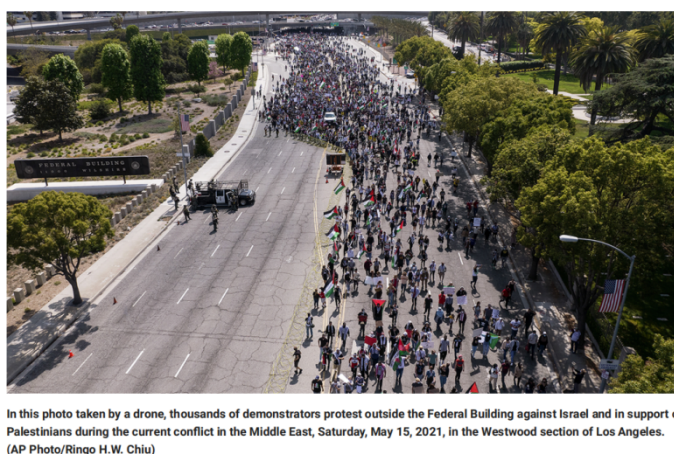
Figure 4. Demonstration movement in support of Palestinians
Source: Foxnews.com

The study show that the presence of the Israeli and Palestinian conflict depict several things: (1) the media never misses reporting on conflicts; (2) conflict events become legitimized because of comments from international figures such as the president, vice president, politicians, and even artists who can actually sharpen the conflict; (3) the various conflict information displayed makes the media an actor who plays a role in the conflict with a role as a storyteller of the conflict with a specific pattern.

Conflict Can Increasingly Exist Because of Media Coverage

Furthermore, for analysis at the meso level in this section, we look at the news scheme which consists of introduction, content and conclusion. Analysis at this level shows several specific things: (1) foxnews.com appears vulgar in reporting the conflict, (2) the news media is very dynamic in reporting conflicts, (3) Conflict news is present excessively. Issues that are not related to the Israeli and Palestinian conflict also become news material.

First, Foxnews.com's vulgarness in reporting on the Israeli and Palestinian conflict can be seen from the hard introduction, content and conclusion of the news. For example, there is an introduction or news lead:

- *Social media users accused the 'Wonder Woman' star of being a 'propaganda' tool for Israel*. This news lead appeared in a news entitled: *Gal Gadot slammed after calling for unity for Israel and 'neighbors' in Gaza amid ongoing conflict.*
- *Bari Weiss blasts 'Daily Show' host: 'A country should accept a terrorist group launching deadly rockets at its civilian population because a comedian thinks that the terror group won't win?'* This news lead appeared in a news entitled: *Trevor Noah slammed for suggesting Israel not defend itself: 'You're downplaying the trauma of millions'*
- *Some pro-Israel counter-protesters showed up, and police worked to keep the two factions apart*. This news lead appeared in a news entitled: *'Free Palestine' demonstrators block traffic in Los Angeles: 'Long live intifada'*
- *An additional 50 people were wounded from the attack*. This news lead appeared in a news entitled: *Israeli strikes kill 26, topple buildings in Gaza City.*
- *Israel has established a network of emotional support built on years of experience of siege*. This news lead appeared in a news entitled: *Israel-Palestinian conflict traumatic for children in the region.*

Several images of the news leads on the Israeli and Palestinian conflict that appeared on Foxnews.com depict in a vulgar and open manner to the public, that the artist Wonder Woman is also a tool of Israeli propaganda, the terrorist group will not win, thousands of people are demonstrating, dozens of people are injured in attacks, the emergence of trauma due to the severity of the conflict that occurred. Some of the leads from the news that has appeared show how thorough the reporting of this conflict is so that it can make the conflict in the field even more existing.

In addition, in terms of news content, the conflict between Israel and Palestine also looks increasingly dynamic with quite controversial information, such as comments from artists such

as Gal Gadot: *Gal Gadot slammed after calling for unity for Israel and 'neighbors' in Gaza amid ongoing conflict* (12/5/2021). Then also news about comments from comedian Trevor Noah such as: *Trevor Noah slammed for suggesting Israel not defend itself: 'You're downplaying the trauma of millions'* (14/5/2021).

Trevor Noah even said that the conflict between Israel and Palestine was an unequal conflict: "*If you were in a fight where the other person cannot beat you, how hard should you retaliate when they try to hurt you?*"

Noah's statement received a reply from the CEO of the American Jewish Committee, David Harris: "*Sorry, but your younger siblings were not plotting murder and wreaking societal havoc. You're ignoring the true nature of Hamas, the fact that it's been firing 1000s of missiles over the years, building cross-border terror tunnels, kidnapping Israelis, and foregoing development in Gaza to focus on damaging Israel,*" Harris wrote while responding to Noah.

Several debates about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict above show that conflict events occurred very dynamically. There are controversies and debates between public figures, artists and politicians that seem to have no end. It's just that this dynamic reporting has also activated conflict in the longer term. The impression that appears from conflict is that the media does not control information about the Israeli and Palestinian conflict. The implication is that the chances of the conflict ending are getting smaller, because the news about the conflict is very active.

Not only that, news about the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is also present in excessive. This can be seen when a peace agreement between Israel and Palestine already exists, but news of the conflict is reproduced. Related to this, for example, there was news about aid from Iran which America then responded to by continuing to impose sanctions on Iran, and in other words it could actually prolong the conflict between Israel and Palestine, and possibly expand the conflict with Iran, because this news also revealed that there were still some the same feeling of dissatisfaction after the ceasefire between the Israelis and the Palestinians. This is seen in the news: *Hamas leader thanks Iran for supplying weapons to Gaza (*21/5/2021).

Hamas Leaderthanks Iran for Supplying Weapons to Gaza

Former Secretary of State Pompeo pointed to the remarks as a reason why the US should not lift Iranian sanctions.

The head of the Palestinian resistance movement thanked Iran for supplying military support and financial backing during the recent conflict with Israel in a televised address Friday.

Just hours after Israel and Palestinian authorities agreed to a ceasefire, Ismail Haniyeh, a chief figure in Hamas, gave a warning that it will continue to "defend" Jerusalem.

"Jerusalem remains the center of the conflict," he said according to a report by the Jerusalem Post, suggesting fighting in the region will continue.

Haniyeh thanked "the Islamic Republic of Iran; who did not hold back with money, weapons and technical support."

"We will use the aid of other Arab countries as well," he added.

Former Secretary of State Mike Pompeo pointed to Friday's remarks as a reason why the U.S. should not lift Iranian sanctions as the Biden administration attempts to re-enter a nuclear deal.

Haniyeh's comments coincided with remarks made by Iranian Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei Friday, who called on Muslim nations to take up arms in support of Palestinians.

"Muslim states must sincerely support the Palestinian people, through military...or financial support...or in rebuilding Gaza's infrastructure," Khamenei said in a statement, first reported Reuters.

The Iranian leader urged Muslims to demand their government support Palestinians and called for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to be "prosecuted by international and independent courts."

Khamenei's comments followed reports of unrest in other Gulf nations as the violent exchange between Israel and the Palestinian territories persisted for 11 days.

Muslim nations newly tied to Israel under the Trump-era Abraham Accords, including the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco, felt new pressure to help stop the fighting. Civil society groups urged the Bahrain government to expel its Israeli ambassador and protests in support of Palestinian rights were held in the UAE, Qatar, and Kuwait. Iran's Foreign Ministry claimed the Palestinians had won a "historic victory" over Israel.

"Congratulations to our Palestinian sisters and brothers for the historic victory. Your resistance forced the aggressor to retreat," ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said in a tweet.

Iran also showed off an Iranian-made drone that reportedly has a range of over 1,200 miles and named it "Gaza," reported Reuters Friday.

Related to this news, if looked more complete, actually one day before this news appeared there had been a ceasefire between Israel and Palestine. This can be seen from the news entitled: *Israel officials approve cease-fire with Hamas following 11 days of Gaza violence (*20/5/2021). However, when this news appeared, it was clear that several parties were not satisfied with the situation of the conflict that had occurred. This means that strategically there is no need for news like this to appear. The reason is because when news about conflict is present excessively, the conflict that occurs can become longer dan exist.

Media Audiences are Increasingly Active in the Conflict Issue

Then the analysis at the macro level in this study tries to see the global meaning of reporting on the Israeli and Palestinian conflict. The step is to look at the news topics being developed and relate them to the broader social context related to what is happening now. The dominant themes that appear in the news generally describe comments from various background figures showing the controversy over the Israeli and Palestinian conflict, several political figures condemning the Israeli attack, but the US government supports Israel secretly.

More specifically, news topics about the Israeli and Palestinian conflict are around: (1) Comments from political figures that Israel's attacks are like acts of terrorism, (2) Israeli officials comments that politicians accusations are causing Israeli and Palestinian tensions, (3) Artist comments on the need for unity, (4) The character's comment that neutrality means being on the side of the oppressor, (5) Comments from comedians who disagree with the Israeli and Palestinian conflict, (6) There were demonstrations supporting Palestine, (7) Deadly and destructive Israeli airstrikes, (8) US support for Israel and calls for intensifying diplomacy, (9)

The events of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict bring trauma to children, (10) The Israeli government agrees to a ceasefire, and (11) Hamas leaders are grateful for weapons assistance from Iran. Several of these topics indicate that the Israeli and Palestinian conflict occurs dynamically and contains complex conflict dimensions. Starting from deaths, injuries, destroyed buildings, to trauma attached to children. Apart from that, the picture of several parties who are not satisfied indicates that even though there has been a ceasefire, there is still the possibility of conflict and even big war in the future.

Moreover the form of the news also attracts attention, various reporting techniques are used by the online news media Foxnews.com to attract the attention of international news readers. In fact, news about the Israeli and Palestinian conflict has combined text, photos, videos, as well as sharp Twitter posts from various political figures, thereby successfully attracting the attention of thousands of audiences.

The emergence of conflict news on Foxnews.com between Israel and Palestine has apparently succeeded in attracting thousands of readers comments on conflict news. This shows high audience involvement in news about the conflict between Israel and Palestine. For example: (1) News with title *Rep. Ilhan Omar accuses Israel of 'terrorism' amid clash with Hamas,* got 5700 comments, (2) News with title *Trevor Noah slammed for suggesting Israel not defend itself: 'You're downplaying the trauma of millions'* got 4200 comments, (3) News with title *Israeli strikes kill 26, topple buildings in Gaza City* got 3200 commments, (4) News with title *Israel officials approve cease-fire with Hamas following 11 days of Gaza violence* got 10.000 comments from audiences.

In general, the emergence of audience comments on conflict news shows high audience involvement in the Israeli and Palestinian conflict. Thousands of people have commented on the conflict, showing that the conflict is very active. The problem is that if comments and audience involvement are not controlled, it can also cause further, greater conflict.

This study contextually shows that the conflict between Israel and Palestine was caused not only by the conflict, but was also driven by media reports, then there was the trauma of victims in the conflict, as well as by unstable global security conditions. Analysis of news about the Israeli and Palestinian conflict published on the online news media Foxnews.com shows a complex international scale conflict.

The conflict between Israel and Palestine is a conflict that has been going on for a long time so the scope of the conflict is not single. In it there are interrelated political, economic, psychological trauma and religious problems. It is not easy to resolve this conflict problem in a short time. A competent and fair mediator is needed to pave the way for peace between Israel and Palestine. Apart from that, from this study it is clearer that excessive media coverage can actually prolong conflict. Therefore, the news media, as carriers of conflict news to the general public, should ideally report conflicts in a balanced manner and according to needs.

For long-term peace, participation from all parties involved is needed. Global stability will only be realized by the collective awareness of all world citizens to restrain themselves and their emotions when involved in a conflict. Of course, political propaganda, military and religious sentiments also need to be reduced.

This study has attempted to evaluate the power of discourse generated by online news media on a global scale. This study also complements studies on conflict which so far mostly

focus on actors and conflict events. To further develop this study, field studies are needed, especially those that focus on the importance of protecting human rights which are often marginalized in conflict arenas. So far, the dominant group as a source of news is the party with strong resources, while the group with little resources tends to be marginalized in the conflict. This means that marginalized groups need to be given a place for their aspirations.

Conclusion

From the discussion and analysis above, it can be concluded that the conflict between Israel and Palestine can continue to occur and develop when the news media is very active in reporting on the conflict. The choice of words, images and videos can attract people's attention to reading the news, but it can also attract readers attention to continue to be involved in the conflict, so that the conflict becomes ruthless.

Therefore, journalists awareness and sensitivity are very important when reporting on the Israeli and Palestinian conflict, which is sensitive from a political and religious perspective. Journalists need to be careful in choosing words, images and videos related to conflict, so as not to trigger the conflict to a more severe level.

From this study, it is quite clear that there are several quite specific conditions First, in the mediation era like now, all information is very easy for the public to find out from the internet. Conflict information becomes very easy to spread and very easily accessible to the public. The positive side is that the conflict event is known to the public, but if the news is not controlled it can also have a negative impact, which is that the conflict that occurs can become longer and exist.

Second, the news media tends to take the position of activating conflict because of political economic interests. In the reality, conflict news is very interesting to read, when there are many readers, it is crowd and busy, then advertisements will also be easily obtained by media companies. This means that conflict news also has a fairly close relationship with the potential for capital accumulation.

Third, the characteristics of online news are sophisticated, providing a place for active audiences to comment on conflict news. The appearance of three quite specific conditions related to the Israeli and Palestinian conflict above has enabled researchers to see the conflict in a more complete framework, that the conflict occurred not only because there was an attack by an aggressor but also because there were parties who perpetuated the conflict with flow of conflict information.

This research has limitations in the use of textual research methods. Therefore, to develop this study, further field studies are needed, both qualitative and quantitative, to complement existing findings regarding the Israeli and Palestinian conflict, which currently still has the potential to happen again.

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