Media malpractice: Blanking out genocide and disenfranchising Palestinian pain

written by Zack Kaldveer and Fatin
March 11, 2024

Now more than ever, Americans deserve objective, diverse, trustworthy, and contextualized coverage

of Gaza.

America's corporate media serves as a [key cog in the machinery of genocide](#).

Rather than providing the kind of objective, fact-based reporting integral to an informed citizenry, our mainstream press bombards us with explicit and implicit biases, false narratives, dehumanization, and misdirection, serving to stifle public dissent and justify, rationalize, and conceal the systematic oppression and [extermination of the people of Gaza.](#)

As [dependable propaganda tools](#) for Israel's aggression, our news censors truth not only by what they choose to cover and how they spin it—but what they deliberately omit. This orchestrated disinformation campaign helps ensure the ongoing and unconditional support of the [U.S. government](#) and its continued role as Israel's dutiful [genocidal benefactor](#).

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How does a Palestinian-American with family in the region reconcile the disconnect between "reality" and the "story" our press is "telling"?

Consider a day in the life in [Gaza](#): Palestinian schools, [hospitals, universities](#), [places of worship, and heritage sites](#) are being systematically destroyed. Civilians, nearly half children, are being murdered on a [mass scale](#) (over 30,000 dead, nearly half children). The [calculated deprivation](#) of [food and water](#) is [literally starving families to death](#). Babies are being born into a living hell, with screams of terror, the ear-piercing explosions of limb-searing U.S.-made bombs, and the painful moans of their parents among the first sounds they hear. The electricity powering the oxygen machines keeping sick patients alive cut off, leaving them to struggle to gulp each of their final breaths. Amputations of children's limbs without anesthesia with [barbed](#)

wire have become obscenely routine. Broken but alive, Palestinian bodies riddled with shrapnel require each piece to be pulled from their flesh. Hungry children are found dead with single Israeli sniper shots to the head because they made the mistake of seeking out food from an aid truck. The deliberate decimation of Gaza's telecommunications infrastructure has left families unable to communicate with one another or with the world, allowing daily atrocities to become increasingly invisible and unreported.

For those fighting for survival in Gaza, there is nowhere left to run, nowhere to turn, and no one to turn to. This isn't war. It's mass murder. But this isn't what most Americans are watching, reading, and hearing on the news.

U.S. media's Israel bias and censoring journalists

Quantitative analyses conducted by *The Intercept*, Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting, and an independent collective of U.S. journalists, writers, and media makers of coverage in The *York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *Los Angeles Times* lay bare our news media's dramatic pro-Israel bias. The litany of press failings are disturbing in their sheer scope and intention. Findings included the systematic undermining of Palestinian, Arab, and Muslim perspectives and the invocation of inflammatory language that reinforces Islamophobic and racist tropes. Misinformation spread by Israeli officials is commonly printed along with consistent failures to scrutinize Israel's indiscriminate killing of civilians in Gaza. Israeli deaths are disproportionately emphasized, and more humanizing language is used to describe them than Palestinians. This is to name just a few.

Case-in-point: In what's now being called the Flour Massacre, at least 112 Palestinians in Gaza were killed and hundreds more injured after Israeli forces opened fire on civilians while waiting for food from desperately needed aid trucks. Leading news media descriptions referred to the slaughter as "food aid deaths," "food aid-related deaths," "chaotic incident," and "reported killed in crowd near

Gaza aid convoy."

Do these headlines properly convey the massacre of starving civilians?

The New York Times: "[As Hungry Gazans Crowd a Convoy, a Crush of Bodies, Israeli Gunshots and a Deadly Toll](#)"

The Washington Post: "[Chaotic Aid Delivery Turns Deadly as Israeli, Gazan Officials Trade Blame](#)"

The Guardian: "[Biden Says Gaza Food Aid-Related Deaths Complicate Cease-Fire Talks](#)"

BBC: "[More Than 100 Killed as Crowd Waits for Aid, Hamas-Run Health Ministry Says](#)"

Sadly, censored journalists who speak out are [paying the price](#). The *Los Angeles Times* recently banned 38 journalists from [covering Gaza](#) for at least three months after they signed an [open letter](#) criticizing Western newsrooms for their biased reporting on Israel and their role in dehumanizing rhetoric that has served to justify the ethnic cleansing of Palestinians.

But it's not just print that is to blame. *The Guardian* reported the [accounts of six CNN staffers](#) from multiple newsrooms, including more than a dozen internal memos and emails, finding that daily news decisions are shaped by a flow of directives from CNN headquarters in Atlanta, which has set strict pro-Israel guidelines on coverage. Every story on the conflict must be [cleared by the Jerusalem bureau](#)—which has close ties with Israel's military—before broadcast or publication.

In light of these exposés it's no wonder, then, that after four months of some of the most [indiscriminate and brutal attacks](#) on civilians in human history, a [global public outcry](#), and [overwhelming support for a cease-fire in the United Nations](#), the U.S.

continues to fund the slaughter and block international efforts to end it.

Holding media accountable, supporting journalists, and promoting independent news

There is no shortage of ways people can help [bring this nightmare to an end](#). Among them should include pressure campaigns on the corporate media to commit to journalistic integrity and truth. Outlets like *CNN* and *The New York Times* have a unique opportunity to educate millions by providing rigorous, evidence-based reporting that could serve to end the ongoing genocide—rather than enable it.

Petitions to [hold *CNN*](#) and [*The New York Times*](#) accountable deserve support. But petitions aren't enough. [Direct actions](#) (including protests, boycotts, and sit-ins) and strategies that [target these institutions'](#) advertisers, revenues, and reputational interests are also required.

Israel's ongoing genocidal annihilation of Palestinians in Gaza will be reviled by history—rendering the once solemn rallying cry "Never again!" cruelly hollow.

[Over 122 journalists](#), more than any war in history, [have been killed in Gaza](#). Journalists seeking to put their own lives at risk to report the truth [must be protected](#). And journalists who have stories to tell about the censorship they have endured must be encouraged to tell them [anonymously if necessary.](#)

Finally, independent, non-corporate news serves as dependable sources of fact-based information and a powerful check on the official narratives of their corporate counterparts. Now more than ever, Americans deserve objective, diverse, trustworthy, and contextualized coverage of Gaza. Thankfully, these alternatives exist, and need our support, from [*Pacifica* radio](#) to a long list of independent [news sites](#).

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history—rendering the once solemn rallying cry "Never again!" cruelly hollow. "Never again" is not meant to be a phrase of remembrance but a call to action. Let's not let the corporate media forget it.

Zack Kaldveer is an elected director on the Pacifica National Board as well as the KPFA Local Station Board.

Fatin is a Palestinian-American and an educator with family in the West Bank.

Source: [Common Dreams](#)