



## European Media Propaganda in Support of Israeli Genocide in Palestine 2024

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### Abstract

*Israel's genocidal actions today are increasingly massive in Palestine, which are supported by European media that have the same vision as Israeli Jews. This research aims to analyze how these European media support the Israeli genocide through propaganda disseminated in the form of news. To answer this research question, a descriptive qualitative approach is used to analyze the form of propaganda in European media. The findings of this study show that European media support the genocide by Israel through propaganda, such as deceiving facts about the Israeli genocide and the use of manipulative rhetoric to construct the diction of terrorism that is considered a Hamas group. From these two findings, it can be illustrated that European media not only spread news of conflict in the Middle East but also contributed to spreading propaganda to support genocide by Israel. This study's findings aim to further dialogue in communication science and media propaganda, serving as a reference for identifying and analyzing propaganda patterns used by countries. In other words, understanding the forms of media propaganda worldwide can minimize media bias or hidden agendas targeted at the international community.*

**Keywords:** media propaganda, european media, framing genocide, israeli-palestinian conflict.

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## **INTRODUCTION**

European media have carried out propaganda in support of Israel's genocide in the 2024 Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Klaehn (2009) also states that victims considered unfriendly and hostile parties by many countries involved in the conflict tend to get more attention from the media by presenting in-depth news and portraying them more humanely. Meanwhile, "undeserving victims" or victims who are perceived as perpetrators of conflict, the media tend not to pay attention to these perpetrators and ignore or dehumanize them. In addition to influencing public discourse and opinion, propaganda through the media c also change public attitudes in responding to ongoing conflicts. Moreover, propaganda by utilizing disinformation in the media is a powerful weapon for groups with violent agendas (Marigliano, Ng, and Carley 2024; Rusu and Herman 2018; Schumann and Barton 2024). This context can be seen in the genocide by Israel in Palestine, which was normalized by European media as part of self-defense against Hamas terrorism (Eglin 2024; Wafi, Arif, and Chatra 2024). Therefore, European media propaganda in support of the Israeli genocide in 2024 is a critical issue to explain in order to find out the patterns and forms of propaganda that have been made.

Propaganda is a complex concept in media and communication practices because there is a deliberate manipulation of information that is more than just its message (Enoch 2020). Propaganda is also conceptualized as news discourse that is constructed in media texts through headlines and leads as well as the overall news presentation, focusing on the choice of emphasis and overall tone (Rusu and Herman 2018) such as manipulation for political, religious, or military purposes (Enoch 2020). Usually, propaganda is delivered through international mass media channels such as television, radio, newspapers, magazines, books, and cinemas, as well as social media such as WhatsApp, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter, and video games (Gutiérrez et al. 2025; de la Cruz, Cortés Gómez, and Lacasa 2025; Marigliano et al. 2024; Rusu and Herman 2018; Vhanmore and Mane 2025). Therefore, the pattern of propaganda in the media to support conflict and genocide needs to be known in order to find the accommodating solution in reducing victims of propaganda from groups with violent agendas (Ahammad 2023; Cichopek-Gajraj 2024; Coutts 2024; De Gregorio and Stremlau 2021; Kiper 2024; Mazov 2021; Polukhina and Tarasiuk 2024; Tolz and Hutchings 2023).

The Israel-Hamas conflict that occurred in Gaza on October 7, 2023, represents a form of genocide that is still ongoing. Conceptually, what is happening in Gaza goes beyond ordinary genocide. Wolfe offers a broader definition of genocide, stating that the actions occurring in the Israel-Palestine region constitute structural genocide, as evidenced by killings at the borders (Levine, Cheyfitz, and Levine 2025). In line with this, Levine et al (2025) Also, state that Israel's latest war in Gaza meets the definition proposed by the 1948 Convention. This convention addresses the punishment of the crime of genocide. It also affirms the definition of genocide as a crime that can occur during both wartime and peacetime. Article II of the Convention further defines genocide as a deliberate act intended to destroy a national, ethnic, racial, or religious group (Melvern 2024).

European media propaganda to support genocide in the context of the 2024 Israeli-Palestinian conflict has highly contextualized characteristics that are important to explain. However, in the previous three years, research that discussed media propaganda and genocide only focused on three primary contexts. First, the research discusses media propaganda and genocide in information warfare (Abdo 2023; Altınalan 2022; Boriak 2023; Dougan and Hillion 2022; Tolz and Hutchings 2023). Second, the research discusses media propaganda and genocide in the context of spreading hate speech (Badar 2016; De Gregorio and Stremlau 2021; Kennedy et al. 2023; Sulzhytski 2022). Third, the research discusses media propaganda and genocide in the context of normalizing genocide (Basic and Delić 2024; Mårtonova 2021). From the research that has been done before, research that discusses media propaganda and genocide only focuses on the context of information warfare, spreading hate speech, and normalizing genocide, so the research that has been done has not been done comprehensively, especially research that discusses European media propaganda in supporting Israeli genocide in Palestine.

Genocide in media propaganda is often normalized using language that is difficult for lay readers to identify. This context is also in line with Badar (2016) who said that the international community has seen firsthand the impact of massive genocide propaganda through publications such as *Der Stürmer* in Nazi Germany and *Kangura* in Rwanda with various forms of explicit and implicit incitement that caused the death of millions of innocent people. However, research that discusses media propaganda in support of genocide has not been conducted comprehensively, especially in European media that supported the Israeli genocide in Palestine in

2024. In addition to filling the void of research that has been done, this study also explains and analyzes the patterns and forms of European media support in supporting Israeli genocide in Palestine during 2024 because, according to (Badar 2016) propaganda to support genocide like this needs to be identified as direct incitement to the public to commit genocide.

The genocide committed by Israel during the Palestinian conflict has encouraged European media to support it through various genocidal propaganda in their media. Therefore, the pattern and form of European media propaganda in supporting the Israeli genocide in Palestine is an important context that needs to be explained and analyzed. In explaining and analyzing this context, this research focuses on two questions. First, how do European media form narratives that support Israel's genocidal actions? Secondly, how is the rhetoric of European media used to construct a legitimate 'terrorism' to be destroyed in the context of genocide? In line with that, this research is also based on the argument that Israel is increasingly daring to legitimize genocide in Palestine and other Middle Eastern countries because European media support it in its reporting, so Israel's actions are considered fair.

## **METHODS**

This research was conducted amid the massive genocide carried out by Israel in Palestine, which has spread to several other Middle Eastern countries, such as Lebanon and Syria. This research, however, only focuses on European media support for the Israeli genocide through propaganda in the news that has been constructed to serve their interests. Adeyanju (2019) also said that mass media has become a vital weapon in warfare since the start of the Cold War, which has also changed the landscape regarding reach and influence. In line with that, this research is also based on two considerations. First, issues that address media support for genocide through propaganda are issues that have not been done comprehensively in communication and media research. Secondly, issues that discuss media support for genocide through propaganda have message characteristics that are very important to explain.

This descriptive qualitative research is based on primary and secondary data. Primary data in this research was obtained from the investigation process of 835 news articles spread across four European media, including news, Dagens Nyheter (Sweden) 16 news, Le Figaro (France) 439 news, Le Monde (France) 263 news, and Der Spiegel

(Germany) 117 news. Searching and reading news on each media was carried out from November 1 to 20, 2024, using the search keyword "Israel Genocide." The data that has been obtained is then selected and scanned, focusing on the title and content of the news. The reading of the news also focuses on two contexts. First, the reading of the European media formed a narrative of support for Israel's genocide against Palestine in November 2024, totaling 563 news articles. Second, the reading of the rhetoric of European media in constructing 'terrorism' that is legitimate to destroy as many as 272 news articles. Meanwhile, secondary data in this research comes from books, websites, and journal articles that are relevant to the focus of discussion in this research.

Data analysis in this study uses the Miles and Huberman stages, carried out by (Wafi et al. 2024) First, data reduction is the stage of reorganizing data into a more systematic form based on the classification of data that has been collected. Second, data verification is the stage of summarizing the reduced data according to the research questions that have been asked. Third, data description is the stage of presenting the data that has been obtained, which is then presented in the form of a table containing a description of a collection of news texts from various European media that are verified according to and related to the arguments put forward. Through these three processes, all data is then analyzed inductively by researchers as a basis for interpreting the data that has been collected. From the inductive analysis, conclusions can be drawn about European media propaganda issues in supporting Israel's genocide against Palestine.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The genocide committed by Israel in Palestine has received support from European media through various forms of propaganda. This context can be seen and analyzed through two findings in this study.

### **Fudging the Facts of Israel's Genocidal Act**

European media have not least propagandized support for Israel's genocide against Palestinians by obfuscating the facts of the genocide. Prade-Weiss et al.(2023) also mentioned that mass violence is often considered a justification that becomes a tool to excuse and distract from the facts in politics, media, and research. This obfuscation of the facts is also not widely recognized by the public as to how they spread and have long-term impacts. This context can be seen in Table 1 below.

**Table 1.**  
**Forms of European Media deceiving the facts of genocide by Israel**

| Forms of Propaganda      | Media       | Context                                     | Case  |
|--------------------------|-------------|---|---|
| Denial of responsibility | Le Figaro   | Israeli soccer fans attack pro-Palestinians | While the war between Israel and Hamas has been ongoing since October 7, 2023, the sporting event has generated a wave of protests among pro-Palestinian demonstrators. On November 7 last year, a match between Maccabi Tel Aviv and Ajax Amsterdam ended tragically in the Dutch capital. Fans of the Israeli club were viciously attacked, and some had to be hospitalized (Ghazal 2024)   |
| Negative framing         | France 24   | Pro-Palestinians attack Israeli soccer fans | The protest comes days after tensions rose in Paris and Amsterdam over the conflict in the Middle East. A large "Free Palestine" banner was displayed during Paris Saint-Germain's Champions League match against Atletico Madrid, while violence broke out in Amsterdam last week targeting fans of an Israeli soccer club (Coutansais-Pervinquiere 2024)  |
| Denial of responsibility | Der Spiegel | Hamas attack October 7                      | Israel vehemently denies the accusations of genocide. It exercised its right to self-defense after terrorists from Hamas and other extremist groups attacked southern Israel on October 7, killing 1,200 people. The International Court of Justice decides on genocide charges through a lengthy process that can take years (Der Spiegel 2024)  |
| Scapegoating             | Le Figaro   | Anti-Semitism support                       | These modern manifestations of anti-Semitism are all the more dangerous because, as in every era, they can be supported by the highest contemporary authorities, international organizations – both governmental and nongovernmental, such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and sometimes even the UN, its Human Rights Council, and who knows, right now, the International Court of Justice? (Rodan-Benzaquen 2024)  |
| Playing the victim       | Der Spiegel | History of the Holocaust                    | However, the existence of the state of Israel is not debatable. Jews have been persecuted for centuries. Moreover, six million of them were murdered in the Holocaust. Those who, like Thunberg, ignore the suffering of Israeli women whom Hamas terrorists raped in front of their children on October 7 and the suffering of parents whose children were murdered before their eyes – simply because the victims were Israeli Jews – are indirectly aligning themselves with the views of anti-Semitism, at least to some extent (Beyer et al. 2023) |

*Source: Author process, 2024*

Table 1 shows the form of European media propaganda in order to support Israel's genocidal actions in Palestine, which can be seen through the European media's efforts to deceive the facts of genocide by Israel. However, the circumvention of facts by the media is a fatal form of blunder that impacts public trust in consuming the media. Strömbäck et al. (2020) also said that public trust in the media is a form of credibility that is very important to understand how far people can trust them. In line with that, the display in Table 1 also shows three trends regarding the circumvention of facts by the European media in support of the Israeli genocide.

First, Israel's evasion of the facts of genocide in the European media shows news stories of denial of responsibility. The context can be seen through the media *Der Spiegel* and *Le Figaro*, which conveyed that Israeli soccer fans had carried out cruel attacks on pro-Palestinians who then accused them of being the perpetrators, and Israel denied the accusation of genocide against them, which was considered as part of the right of self-defense. Elias (2024) calls denial a refusal of the media to acknowledge the truth or unpleasant reality. In line with that, Altanian (2021) Also, it is said that genocide denial is rarely considered a result of the last stage after the genocide, but this denial has been carried out before and during the genocide process. Furthermore, Altanian (2021) said that the concept of denial refers to the efforts of perpetrators of genocide to justify their actions and, as a defense mechanism, either through ideological reasons or through the spread of narratives that obscure reality (Safak 2024). Therefore, denial not only occurs after genocide but also before genocide to justify and perpetuate mass crimes (Altanian 2021; Beloff 2021).

Secondly, the evasion of the facts of the Israeli genocide in the European media shows scapegoating news. The context can be seen through *Le Figaro's* news that the manifestation of anti-Semitism against Israel has been supported by the world's highest authorities, such as Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, the United Nations (UN), the Human Rights Council, and the International Court of Justice. *Le Figaro's* media efforts to scapegoat international organizations are in no small part to cover up the mistakes made by Israel as the perpetrator of genocide. In line with that, Burke also said that a scapegoat is a receptacle for an unwanted crime or something identified as a crime, although, in reality, it is not the leading cause. The focus on the 'victim' of this scapegoat also diverts the focus from those who should be responsible for the injustice they have committed. Therefore, scapegoat sentences in the media can manipulate public perception by placing the blame on unrelated parties (Kang 2020).

Third, the Israeli genocide in the European media shows a negative framing of the pro-Palestinian side. The context can be seen through *France24* media, which conveyed that pro-Palestinian groups held protests in Paris and Amsterdam related to the Middle East

conflict, targeting fans of Israeli soccer clubs. This context shows that France24 media understands how to gain public support for genocide by Israel through negative news about pro-Palestinian parties. This is because negative framing of news is more robust in getting a public response than positive framing, and in this way, the media also hinders the realization of peace (Sheafer and Dvir-Gvirsman 2010).

### **Manipulative Rhetoric of European Media**

European media have not least propagated support for Israeli genocide against Palestinians by constructing a narrative of 'terrorism' in the context of genocide by presenting manipulative rhetoric. Sargsyan and Zimina (2022) mentioned that journalists often use manipulative techniques in the media to change values, beliefs, and social and political attitudes. The context can be seen in Table 2 below.

**Table 2.**

**Manipulative rhetoric of European media**

| <b>Construction</b>        | <b>Media</b>   | <b>Context</b>                          | <b>Case</b>  |
|----------------------------|----------------|---|--|
| <b>Terrorist act</b>       | Le Figaro      | October 7, 2023 Attack                  | A day after the first anniversary of October 7, Mathilde Panot, president of the LFI group in the National Assembly, described the Hamas attacks on Israel as a "terrorist act ." This week, we commemorate the 1,200 victims of the October 7 terrorist act, including 800 civilians, including 42 of our colleagues," the rebel lawmaker told a press conference on Tuesday (Coutansais-Pervinquiere 2024) |
| <b>Measures of justice</b> | France24       | Killing civilians                       | US President Joe Biden on Saturday called Nasrallah's killing a "measure of justice" for the many victims of his actions and stated that the United States fully supports Israel's right to defend itself against Iranian-backed groups (France24 2024)  |
| <b>Anti-Semitism</b>       | Le Monde       | Increase in the number of Israel haters | Since the Hamas terrorist attack in Israel on October 7, 2023, the number of anti-Semitic acts in France reached levels not seen since 1945: Jews, who represent 1% of the French population, were the target of 57% of racist and anti-religious attacks (Monde 2024)   |
| <b>State threats</b>       | Dagens Nyheter | Maintaining the security of the country | Maintaining the security of the country Now Migration Minister Johan Forssell (L) wants people who fly the Hamas flag to be deported from Sweden if they are not Swedish citizens (Letmark 2024)   |

*Source: Author process, 2024*



Table 2 shows how European media propaganda in support of Israel's genocidal actions in Palestine can be seen through the use of manipulative rhetoric. News media are often seen as enablers of more worrying trends such as audience fragmentation, the emergence of fake news, manipulation, partisanship, and declining levels of trust. It is, therefore, essential to include media discussions in broader diversity debates (Ihlebak et al. 2022). Correspondingly, Table 2 also shows three trends regarding the form of European media propaganda in order to support Israeli genocide in Palestine using hostile rhetoric, including:

First, the use of manipulative rhetoric about Israeli genocide in European media shows news that constructs the diction of terrorism as a terrorist act. The context can be seen through Le Figaro media, which conveyed that after the October 7, 2023 attack by Hamas, the president of the LFI Group in the National Assembly was considered a terrorist act that had killed 800 civilians. The construction of terrorist acts in the Le Figaro media is the result of the extension of existing organizations in Europe, many of which consider the act disgraceful. In the EU's general understanding, terrorism is understood as an act of violence to create terror among the population. These terrorist acts are not least shown to intimidate populations, force international organizations to practice specific actions unnaturally, and destroy political, constitutional, and economic structures or social life (Rothenberger, Müller, and Elmezeny 2016). Many scholars believe that there is a symbiotic relationship between terrorism and the media. Therefore, Harold Lasswell reflected on terrorism as propaganda of action, a practice to influence social attitudes (Rothenberger et al. 2016).

Second, the use of manipulative rhetoric regarding the Israeli genocide in European media shows news that constructs the diction of terrorism as anti-Semitism. The context can be seen through Le Monde media, which conveyed that the Hamas terrorist attack in Israel on October 7, 2023, was one of the causes of anti-Semitic acts in France, which had never been seen before since 1945. Mentioned that terms condemning prejudice, such as anti-Semitism, are often used in media originating from 124 popular news media in 36 countries, one of which is Continental Europe. In line with that, Gillis, (2017) said that the mainstream news media that spread anti-Semitism is called the liberal news media to brainwash the public through lies and distortions of Jewish influence. In other words, the mainstream media has been under the control of Jews to distort the truth in order to serve their interests. Third, the use of manipulative rhetoric about Israeli genocide in European media shows news that constructs the diction of terrorism as a state threat. The context can be seen through the Dagens Nyheter media, which conveyed that Swedish Migration Minister

Johan Forssell wanted Palestinian supporters who raised the Hamas flag to be deported from Sweden. News about Hamas and Palestine as a threat to the state in the Dagens Nyheter media indicates how this media gets many readers and supports their agenda to claim Hamas and Palestine as a threat to countries in the world. Tergembay et al. (2024) also said that discussing this topic in the mass media is lovely to the public in the information space. Moreover, Dagens Nyheter media is a liberal media that in the 1940s became one of the largest media in Sweden, with a circulation of 210,000 copies, and is owned by the Bonnier family of Swedish Jewish descent (Pollack 2020). Therefore, constructing the diction of terrorism as a state threat is a strategy of the European media to gain support from the international community in supporting the Israeli genocide.

### **European Media Propaganda in Support of Genocide by Israel**

The genocide committed by Israel has sparked European media to support and normalize their brutal actions. This context can be seen through two critical findings in this research. First, deceiving the facts of Israel's genocidal actions is a form of propaganda by European media to support Israel's genocidal mission. Second, conveying manipulative rhetoric is a form of construction of terrorism diction in European media to support the Israeli genocide. From these two findings, it can be explained that European media propaganda supports Israeli genocide by spreading false news and cornering the Hamas group.

This research illustrates that European media support for the Israeli genocide appears in the form of deceiving the facts and cornering the Hamas group with manipulative rhetoric. European media coverage of Israel does not eliminate the use of genocide diction. However, the use of genocidal diction is to argue that Israel is far from such brutal acts. Saparov (2024) also said that this approach can result in the normalization of conflict for the international community, namely creating conflict as normalcy, even though there is potential for genocide (Chambers and Wahutu 2024). In addition, cornering the Hamas group using manipulative rhetoric is also a form of European media propaganda in supporting Israel's genocidal actions. Stopfner (2024) also said that the media gives certain actors access to voice their opinions and manipulate public perceptions to avoid their mistakes and accuse certain groups of being scapegoats.

Various propaganda in European media aims to legitimize the genocide committed by Israel against Palestine. In other words, European media use strategic narratives to justify Israel's actions, especially in the conditions of information warfare. These narratives change in response to developments in the international political situation and reflect the strategic adaptation of Israel's supporters to political realities and growing international

demands (Macedonia 2022). These strategic narratives are not least commanded by leaders of the state of Israel, such as their Prime Minister, Benjamin Netanyahu. Zavershinskaia (2024) also says that state actors often deploy strategic narratives to legitimize violence framed as national heroism from their side and the nation's violation from the side of their perceived enemies.

The findings in this study differ from existing research. Studies that discuss media propaganda only focus on information warfare, spreading hate speech, and normalizing genocide. However, the findings in this study show that European media support genocide by Israel against Palestine through organized propaganda. Not only do state actors use the media, but they also provide opinions legitimizing genocide by Israel. In other words, European media provide broad access to state actors to express their anxiety regarding accusations of genocide against Israel, which, in their view, is part of self-defense against terrorist attacks by the Hamas group.

### **Historical Trauma Narratives in European Media Framing**

In the reporting of European media, there is also framing that shapes the narrative of the genocide committed by Israel. Media outlets that mostly side with Israel frame Israel as a victim of the Holocaust in the past. This context can be seen in European media reports, which state that Jewish people have been persecuted for centuries and that six million Jews were killed during the Holocaust. This context is also in line with the opinion of Wafi et al. (2025), who stated that media supporting Israel has been used as a form of *Noopolitik*, meaning that it not only functions as a channel of information for the public but also serves as a political tool for the Israeli government to gain international legitimacy as a collective victim.

The narrative of historical trauma and media framing has become a unified force that can influence social life, particularly in the context of the Israeli genocide. The narrative of historical trauma represents an important role in shaping identity (Hassans 2024). Moreover, Hassans (2024) also states that analyzing history through the lens of memory and trauma can reflect that trauma not only persists in the past but also actively influences present-day perceptions and reactions. Therefore, the narrative of Israel's trauma during the Holocaust is framed by European media to legitimize Israel's genocide in the Palestinian territories.

### **CONCLUSION**

European media reports have generated various forms of propaganda in support of the genocide committed by Israel against Palestine in 2024. This context can be seen through two main findings in this research. First, European media deceives the facts about the genocide by Israel. Second, the massive manipulative rhetoric of European media in

constructing the diction of terrorism aimed at the Hamas group. From these two findings, it can be illustrated that European media not only spread news of conflicts in the Middle East but also contributed to propagating news to support genocide by Israel. The findings in this study differ from the findings of previous studies. Previous studies that discussed media propaganda only focused on discussing information warfare, spreading hate speech, and normalizing genocide. However, the findings in this study show that the genocide by Israel was supported by European media by propagating the news according to their agenda. The findings in this study are not only expected to be the basis for the continuation of dialogue for the study of communication science and media propaganda but also can be a preference in identifying and determining the patterns and forms of propaganda carried out by countries. In other words, understanding the forms of media propaganda that exist in the world can minimize the bias or hidden agenda of the media targeting the international community. This research also needs to improve the data collection process, obtained only from investigating news in European media spread on Google. Therefore, the data obtained and presented in this study are only based on archival descriptions of news texts in online media. However, the weaknesses in this study are expected to be a foundation or reference for future research, especially research that wants to explain the form of information warfare between Middle Eastern media and European media through propaganda strategies in the context of the 2024 Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

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