

Palestinian Civil and Political Rights Content in the British Media Speech for the Main News Websites

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Abstract

The study aims to identify the Palestinian civil and political rights content in the press speech of the main media websites in the United Kingdom between March 2022 and August 2022. A tool was developed with the civil and political rights as per the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights approved by the United Nations General Assembly on December 16th 1966 and effected on March 23rd 1976. To obtain the results; frequencies, averages, and percentages were used. The results show that the right to equality has the highest percentage (22.82%); followed by the right to life (18.96%); then –in a very close percentage- came *other rights*: economic, cultural, social, and cultural rights (18.94). the following right was the right to free expression (11.65%) and the freedom of movement (09.73%). All except *other rights* are essential civil rights. On the other hand, the rights: elections and right to be elected, freedom to protest and hold peaceful demonstration, and right to work in public jobs received (0.50%), (0.90%), and (1.10%) respectively. This shows that these political rights received the lowest percentages.

Keywords: Palestinian Rights Content, Electronic Media Websites, Civil Rights, Political Rights, United Kingdom.

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1. Introduction

Online media and social networks have earned increasing status during the past decade at the expense of the traditional visual and printed media. The traditional media in the European countries in general and the United Kingdom in particular has greatly contributed to steering the public opinion for decades. However, the ability of the traditional media to form the public opinion in the free world countries has deteriorated in the face of digital media, social networks, and online news websites. The European youth now obtains information on many causes, including those addressing civil and political rights, from live streaming of influencers on social media networks including TikTok, Facebook, and Instagram. This had an important impact on changing the traditional stereotype of the civil and political rights.¹

Online media is a new form of media that is active in the virtual space and applies online means as tools used by countries, organizations, and individuals with varying capacities and capabilities. This form is characterized with rapid spread, low costs, and high influence.²

Online media has several characteristics that contributed to its rapid spread and to the development of its content based on scientific principles, thus increasing its positive and negative effects according to its objectives. Among these characteristics are the rapid spread of information, thus reaching the largest national and international audience; the instant delivery of news and information; and the possibility of continuous follow up and modification of news and texts at any time. In addition, online media has given the chance to the youth and all other groups to share their ideas and innovations, thus increasing the competitiveness among the various websites, forums, and online magazines through their articles and shows.³

Regarding the regression of traditional forms of press in favor of online press or what is known as “the digital invasion that is not subject to geographical borders”⁴ an official British report states that the distribution

¹ Barak Silaa, *American Zionism Is Almost Disappearing and Israel Has Become the Most Divisive Term in the Jewish Community!* trans. Hisham Nafaa (Ramallah: Palestinian Center for Israeli Studies "Madar", 2021), 3-4.

² Fat'hy Hussein Amer, *Online Journalism: Present and Future* (Cairo: Al-Araby Publishing and Distribution, 2018), 169.

³ Ali Qader, “Technology and Interactive Media,” *Modern Discussion Journal*, no. 4412 (2014): 07-25.

⁴ “Report on the British Media: Urging Need to Support Local Newspapers to Fight the One Voice,” *Asharq Al-Awsat*, February 11, 2019, <https://aawsat.com/home/article/1595796/%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D8%AD%D8%A7%D9%84-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A5%D8%B9%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%85-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A8%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B7%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%8A-%D8%B6%D8%B1%D9%88%D8%B1%D8%A9-%D9%85%D9%84%D8%AD%D8%A9-%D9%84%D8%AF%D8%B9%D9%85-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B5%D8%AD%D9%81-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AD%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AD%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%A8%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B5%D9%88%D8%AA-%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%88%D8%A7%D8%AD%D8%AF>.

of newspapers has decreased in half between 2007 and 2017. The number of full-time journalists in Britain has dropped from 23 thousand in 2007 to 17 thousand in 2017. On the other hand, the printed advertising material has decreased to one third by 2017. The report also indicates that the distribution of national newspapers in the UK has decreased from 11.5 million copies in 2008 to 5.8 million copies in 2018. The weekly distribution of local newspapers has degraded from 63.4 million copies in 2007 to 31.4 million copies in 2017.⁵

Europe is considered the origin of modern democracy and the home of liberated thought and human rights principles in their modern definitions. The human rights system has greatly developed after the Second World War and the failure of Nazism and fascism. As such, the European system of protecting human rights has been one of the most developed regional systems, being based on many European covenants approved by the Council of Europe; the first European organization established after the Second World War and headquartered in Strasbourg, France. The organization brings together 47 countries.⁶

Human rights represent a principal part of the United Kingdom's constitution, as human rights are based on legislations and regulations that have been effective for centuries and taken from the Magna Carta, the Bill of Rights of 1689, the Human Rights Act of 1998, and the Kingdom's membership of the European Union before its official exit in 2020.

Freedom of media, including the official and unofficial media outlets, in the United Kingdom has been characterized with independence and freedom from political pressures. Therefore, the media has practiced this right in light of the basic civil, political, economic, social and cultural human rights to reflect the European values relevant to human rights in line with the rights priorities, especially civil rights. The question remains on the degree of attention of the British media to these rights outside the Kingdom, especially in the Palestinian scene that witnesses daily blatant violations of the civil and political rights by the Israeli occupation supported by the consecutive Israeli governments that run the Israeli entity to serve the interests of the west in general and the United Kingdom in particular.

2. Research Design: Questions, Hypothesis, and Methodology

2.1. Study Questions:

2.1.1. Main Question

“What is the nature of the Palestinian civil and political rights content on the main media websites in the United Kingdom?”

2.1.2. Sub-Questions:

⁵ “Report on the British Media.”

⁶ Amin Al Madany, “European System for Human Rights Protection,” Arab Center for International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Education, accessed August 08, 2022, https://aci.hl.org/publications.htm?article_id=40&lang=en-GB.

1. What are the main civil rights issues in the Palestinian content addressed by the famous websites?
2. What are the main political rights issues in the Palestinian content addressed by the famous news websites?
3. What is the order of the civil and political rights issues in the media and news websites under study?
4. What are the main media frameworks in which the civil and political rights were portrayed in the media and news websites under study?
5. What is the location of the civil and political human rights material in the media and news websites under study (on the main page or an inside page)?
6. What is the journalistic form that discusses the civil and political rights in the Palestinian content?

2.2. Study Hypothesis

The researchers hypothesize that “the most popular news websites of the UK media have increasing interest in the Palestinian content and its civil and political rights component”.

2.3. Study Procedures

2.3.1. Study Approach

The content analysis approach is used, as it is in line with the objectives of this study, which includes the analysis of the content of several media outlets with humanitarian and rights-related aspects.

Content analysis indicates using a research method that objectively describes the apparent content both qualitatively and quantitatively. It aims to collect information about a certain phenomenon or problem through reviewing relevant references including books, audio and visual recordings, and records.⁷ The content analysis approach requires applying the quantitative method in collecting information, so that they can be compared with other samples. Content analysis provides the reader with an objective qualitative and quantitative description of the content under study.⁸

2.3.2. Study Population:

The study population includes all the daily, biweekly, and weekly news websites of the democratic currents in the UK.

2.3.3. Study Sample:

The sample includes the online pages of the most popular media and news websites: The Guardian, BBC, Reuters, Edinburgh News, The Independent, The Economist, and INews.

2.3.4. Study Tool

⁷ Huseen Al-Darini, *Research curricula in educational and psychological sciences* (Cairo: Anglo-Egyptian Library, 2000), 184.

⁸ Mohamed Abdel Hamid, *Content Analysis in Media Research from Quantitative Analysis to Analysis in Qualitative Studies and Analysis of the Content of Media Sites* (Cairo: Alam al-Kotob, 2010), 209.

The researchers prepared a study tool for content analysis in line with the study objectives. The tool was designed to collect the data and detect the frequencies of the phenomena in the material whose content is to be analyzed. The aim is using the tool in describing this content and categorizing it objectively and comprehensively to facilitate the analysis and get the results easily. The tool includes content and form categories.⁹

2.3.4.1. Content Categories:

These categories include a description of the content to be analyzed; thus addressing the denotations of the material published by the organizations, news websites, and social media platforms of the study sample.

The content category includes (the civil and political rights component of the Palestinian content) as published by the newspapers, social media networks, and organizations of the civil rights currents.

2.3.4.2. The Form Category

a. General form: includes discussing the civil and political rights in their abstract form.

b. Special form: includes discussing certain events or situations related to the civil and political rights in certain contexts.

2.3.4.3. Picture Category: This category is related to the presence or absence of a picture.

2.3.4.4. The Journalistic Form Category: refers to the journalistic form (news piece, article, investigative report, interview, informative story, or caricature).

3. Method and Procedures:

3.1 Study Methodology

The study follows the descriptive, analytical approach, which relies on identifying the characteristics of the phenomenon under study and describing its nature and the types of relationships among its variables, causes, and directions. The content analysis approach is a branch of the descriptive, analytical approach. It is applied by researchers to describe the apparent content and the explicit component of the material under study in terms of form and content to answer the research question or address its principal assumptions. The condition is that the analysis process be conducted in a systematic manner with objective standards and that the researcher relies mainly on the quantitative method when collecting, categorizing, and analyzing the data.¹⁰

3.2. The Study Tool

The researchers developed a tool to analyze the content of the sample, which was chosen to serve the study objectives to explore the civil and political

⁹ Zuhair Abedo and Marwan Al-Saleh, "The press treatment of the Sixth War and its implications for the Palestinian issue: Content Analysis of the Newspapers," *Al-Aqsa University Magazine*, March 12, 2008.

¹⁰ Mohammed Hussein Samir, *Content Analysis*, 1st ed. (Cairo, 1983), 73.

rights component in the British media. The preparation of the tool has gone through several steps, as follows:

3.2.1. Reviewing studies that applied content analysis tools and overlap in one way or the other with the study subject. Among these are tools used to analyze human rights and civil and political rights.

3.2.2. Identifying the objective of the content analysis to be carried out. The study aims to examine the civil and political rights components in a sample of the British media, unions, and research institutions.

3.2.3. Reviewing the International Covenant on the civil and Political Rights, which was signed, approved, and effected by virtue of the UNGA decision in December 1966.¹¹

3.2.4. The aim was to determine the civil and political rights that the study aims to identify.

3.2.5. Consulting with experts in the field of civil and political rights to get their opinions on the best tool to achieve the study objective.

3.2.6. Determining the content analysis categories in the civil and political rights as per the International Covenant on the Civil and Political Rights approved by the UNGA in 1966 with some additions and omissions to match the nature and objectives of the current study. Therefore, the following rights are included:

3.2.6.1. Civil Rights

1. Right to life: includes organized assassination; extrajudicial killing; random killing; and killing for political, racist, religious, or any other reason.
2. Equality: refers to granting equal opportunities to all members of the society to enable them to make utmost benefit of their skills and their lives in general. It indicates that all people receive the same opportunities; treatment; and support regardless of their race, origin, beliefs, or physical ability or disability. It also ensures people's right to fair hearing, right to be presumed innocent, and right to defend themselves before the courts of law.
3. Freedom of movement: indicates the individuals' right to move freely in their country without any restrictions unless imposed by the law. It also includes the right to travel and return home without complications such as military barriers and checkpoints that hinder individuals' movement, shutting down main streets permanently or temporarily, or forcing the citizens to take long difficult roads as is the case in the West Bank and Al-Quds.
4. Freedom of religion: refers to the individual's right to freedom of thought, faith, and belief and the right to, individually or in community,

¹¹ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, A/RES/2200(XXI) [1999 UNTS 171], New York, 1966.

- manifest his religion or belief in worship, observance, practice and teaching.
5. Right to freedom of expression: includes the individual's freedom to express opinions and positions individually and before traditional and modern media.
 6. Unlawful arrest: no one can be arrested except for reasons and according to procedures stated by the law. Anyone who is arrested shall be informed, at the time of arrest, of the reasons for his arrest and shall be promptly informed of any charges against him. Anyone accused of criminal charges shall be brought promptly before a judge or other officer authorized by law to exercise judicial power and has the right to be on trial within a reasonable time or to be released.
 7. Prohibition of torture: it means that no one can be subjected to torture including any cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment; physical and psychological assault; and violation of dignity.
 8. Other rights: include economic, cultural, and social rights.

3.2.6.2. Political Rights

1. Political participation: includes the freedom to form parties or join any existing party, and the freedom of these parties to exercise their political activity and participate in elections.
2. Elections: refers to the individuals' freedom to vote or be elected and ensures room for elections publicity without restrictions.
3. Public jobs: indicates the citizens' right to work in public jobs, ensuring the right of transparent competition under the law without favoritism. It also ensures preventing unfair dismissal or dismissal for personal interests.
4. Formation of Association: indicates the right of any group of individuals to form an assembly to achieve a common interest or defend a collective cause. It ensures the right of individuals to join any official or unofficial group. This right also indicates forbidding any form of coercion to join any group. An *assembly* may refer to the civil society institutions, nongovernmental organizations, all forms of associations, cooperatives, clubs, religious associations, political parties, and unions.
5. Freedom of Assembly: means that the individuals have the right to peaceful assembly at any time and for any purpose to express their position in the way they find best.
6. Right to fight occupation: this right is specific for the countries under occupation and includes undertaking boycott campaigns, exposing the occupation's crimes, mobilizing the international public opinion, and referring to international courts.

4. Measurement and Analysis Units:

Unit of Analysis: indicates the idea or topic in addition to the nature of the material under study, as the elements of civil and political human rights can

be present in a phrase, paragraph, or the whole topic. They may be explicit or implicit, whether the text is a piece of news, article, report, analysis or research. The analysis limits are the civil and political rights elements as per the procedural definition of these rights.

The Numeral Unit: refers to the frequencies of the civil and political human rights elements and their categories and variables present in the text and recorded quantitatively to be turned into numbers that can be interpreted statistically.

Analysis Categories: these are the categories added by the researchers to the content to serve the study objectives and expand the analysis space such that it would ensure better accuracy, objectivity, and comprehensiveness. The categories include the topic (civil and political human rights), the framework: general framework (abstract discussion of civil and political human rights) and special or specific framework (violation of human rights), the geographical region (inside the UK, other countries, Palestine), the presence or absence of a picture, and the journalistic form (news piece, report, article, investigative report, or interview).

5. Tool Development Procedures:

5.1. Designing the content analysis tool for the civil and political rights and determining the analysis categories according to the study objectives and nature, while making a list of the terms that refer directly or indirectly to the civil and political rights to facilitate the analysis process and make it as accurate as possible.

5.2. Determining the analysis units, measurement and numeration, and choice of convenient analysis categories to serve the study objectives. The four analysis units are topic, framework, geographical dimension, journalistic form, and presence of pictures.

5.3. Applying the tool in a primary manner to analyze the content of four online issues to get a primary impression on the tool, the analysis outcomes, and the degree of convenience of the categories to analyze the press material.¹²

5.4. Presenting the tool to a group of arbitrators who have experience in the study subject. Therefore, the selected arbitrators included a media person, an expert in human rights, and an academic specialized in qualitative scientific research.

5.5. Making the necessary modifications including the omission and addition of some civil and political rights and the addition of categories to best serve the study objectives. A group of key words and phrases that express civil and political rights were added.

6. Study Limitations

¹² Mahmood Allam, *Educational and Psychological Tests and Standards* (Amman: Dar al-Fitr, 2006), 83.

6.1. The timeline of the content analysis was four months (04/2022 – 08/2022)

6.2. The analysis is exclusive to the most popular online news websites in the UK.

6.3. The content of the civil and political rights analysis was based on their description in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, approved by the UNGA in 1976.

7. Results

7.1. Results Related to the Sample Characteristics

The researchers chose the online content of the most popular British media: Guardian - BBC - INews- Reuters - Edinburgh News - Independent - Economist

Table 1. Characteristics of the Sample

	Newspaper	No. of Followers	No. of Analysis Units	Percentage %
1.	Guardian	(118.1 million)	31	30.4
2.	BBC	(7.8 million)	19	18.6
3.	Reuters	(12.8 million)	16	15.7
4.	INews	(944.1 thousand)	12	11.7
5.	Edinburgh News	(1.1 million)	10	09.9
6.	Independent	(49.2 million)	9	08.8
7.	Economist	(10.9 million)	5	08.9
	Total	-	102	100.0

7.2. Frequency of the Geographical Location Variable (in Europe, Outside Europe, Palestine)

The results show that the speech about civil and political rights was most frequent in the media, outside the UK (54.16%), followed by the media inside the UK (30.75%), and finally in Palestine with a percentage of only (15.09%).

Table 2. Frequencies of the Civil and Political Rights Terms and Their Percentages According to the Geographical Region Variable

Geographical Region	No.	Percentage
Internal	8170	30.75%
External	14472	54.16%
Palestine	3637	15.09%
Total	26227	100%

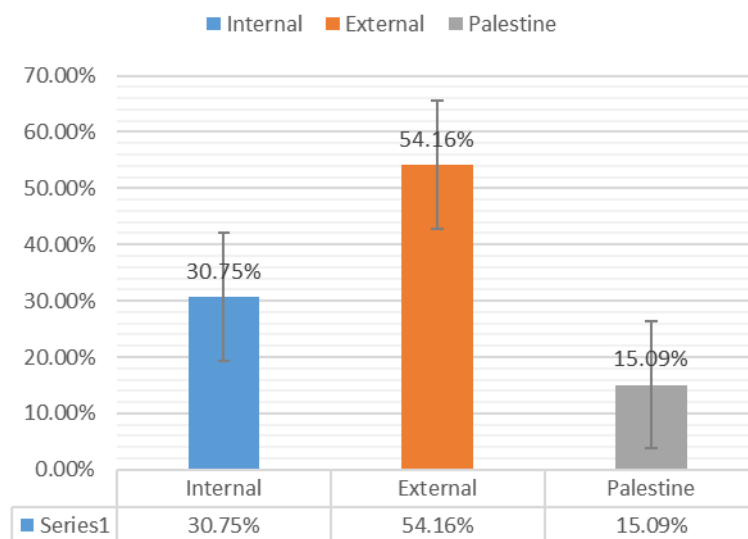


Figure 1: Frequencies of Civil and Political Rights Terms and Their Percentages According to the Geographical Region Variable

7.3. Frequencies of the Civil and Political Rights Terms in the Palestinian Content and Their Percentages:

To determine the most commonly used terms on civil and political rights in the Palestinian content, frequencies and their percentage were calculated. Results show that equality had the highest percentage (22.82%); followed by the right to life (18.96%); then –very closely- the other rights, which include the economic, social, and cultural rights (18.94%); freedom of expression (11.65%), and freedom of residence and movement (09.73%). All except other rights are essential civil rights. On the other hand, the rights: elections and right to be elected, freedom to protest and hold peaceful demonstrations, and right to work in public jobs received (0.50%), (0.90%), and (1.10%) respectively. This shows that these political rights received the lowest percentages.

Table 3. Frequencies of the Civil, Political, and Other Rights and Their Percentages Relevant to the Palestinian Content

Axis	Paragraphs	Number	%Percentage
Civil Rights	Right to Life	736	18.96
	Equality	889	22.82
	Freedom of Residence and Movement	380	09.73
	Freedom of Expression	454	11.65
	Freedom of Belief	63	01.62
	Torture	119	03.05
	Arrest	171	04.39

		2812	72.22%
Political Rights	Political Participation	176	4.52
	Elections and Right to Be Elected	20	0.50
	Freedom to Form Associations	71	01.82
	Freedom to Protest and Hold Peaceful Demonstrations	35	0.90
	Freedom of Working in Public Jobs	43	01.10
			345
Other Rights	Economic Rights	449	11.50
	Social Rights	206	05.29
	Cultural Rights	69	01.77
	Others	15	00.38
		739	18.94%
Total		3896	%100

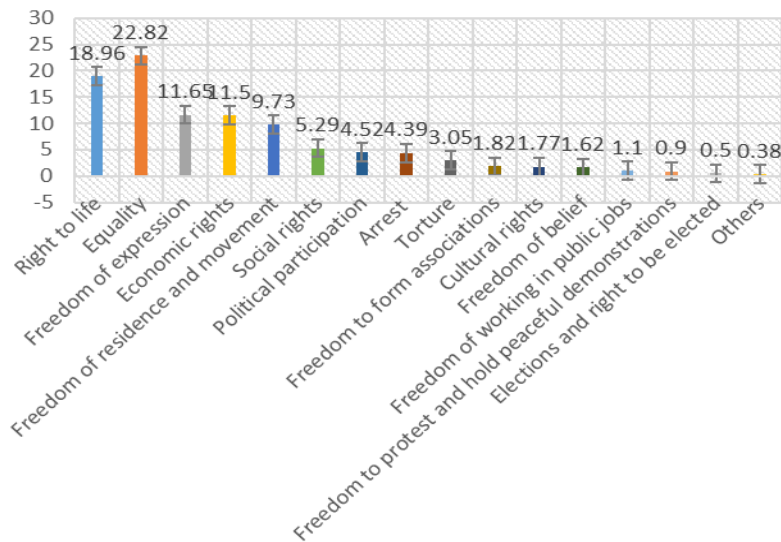


Figure 2: Frequencies of the Civil, Political, and Other Rights and Their Percentages Relevant to the Palestinian Content

7.4.1. Frequencies of the Civil, Political, and Other Rights and Their Individual Percentages Relevant to the Palestinian Content

To determine the most commonly used civil and political terms in the Palestinian content individually, the frequencies and their percentages of the total percentage for each axis were calculated.

The right to equality received the highest percentage (31.62%) among the seven civil rights under study, followed by the right to life (26.17%), freedom of expression (16.15%), and unlawful arrestment (06.08%).

The right to political participation received the highest percentage (51.02%) among all political rights, followed by the freedom to form associations (20.60%), right to work in public jobs (12.45%), and freedom to protest and hold peaceful demonstrations (10.13%).

In general, the percentage of the civil rights axis was much higher than those of other axes. For instance, the percentage of the civil rights axis was 72.18% of the total axes, while that of other rights was 18.97% and that of political rights was only 08.85%.

Table 4. Individual Frequencies of the Civil and Political Rights and Their Percentages in the Palestinian Content

Axis	Items	Number	%Percentage
Civil Rights	Right to Life	736	26.17
	Equality	889	31.62
	Freedom of Residence and Movement	380	13.51
	Freedom of Expression	454	16.15
	Freedom of Belief	63	02.24
	Torture	119	04.23
	Arrestment	171	6.08
		2812	%100
Political Rights	Political Participation	176	51.02
	Elections and the Right to Be Elected	20	5.80
	Freedom to Form Associations	71	20.60
	Freedom to Protest and Hold Peaceful Demonstrations	35	10.13
	Right to Work in Public Jobs	43	12.45
		345	%100
Other Rights	Economic Rights	449	60.75
	Social Rights	206	27.87
	Cultural Rights	69	9.35
	Other Rights	15	02.03
		739	%100

7.4.2. Frequencies of the Location Where the Civil and Political Rights in the Palestinian Content Were Addressed (Main Page or Inside Page)

The frequencies show that the percentage of civil and political rights terms in inside pages were much higher than those in the main pages, as the percentage

of terms in inside pages was 58.77%, while that in the main pages was only 41.23%.

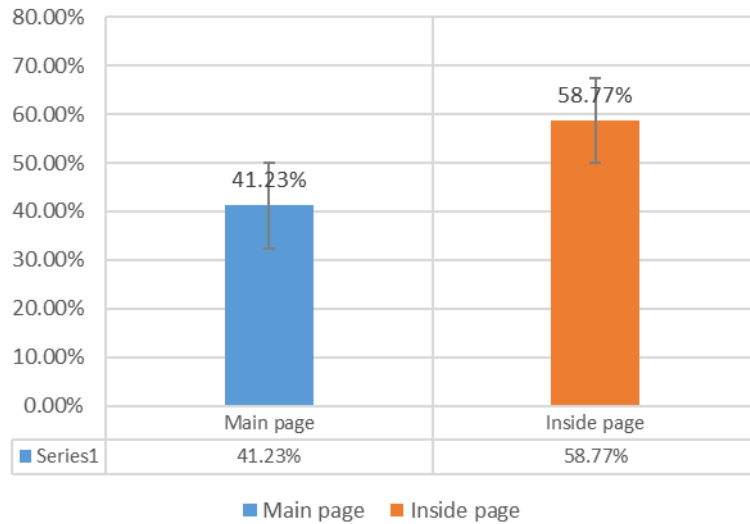


Figure 3. Civil and Political Rights Terms in the Palestinian Content and Their Percentages According to the Location Variable (main or inside page)

Table 5. Frequencies of the Civil and Political Rights Terms in the Palestinian Content and Their Percentages According to the Location Variable (Main or Inside Page)

	Number	%Percentage
Main Page	1601	41.23
Inside Page	2282	58.77
Total	3883	100

7.4.3. Frequencies of Pictures in the Palestinian Content

Results show that the number of pictures in the analyzed content of articles, researches, reports, and tweets of the Palestinian content was 159, with an average of 1.29 for each analysis unit.

Table 6. Frequencies of Pictures in the Palestinian Content Analysis Units

	Number	Average for Each Analysis Unit	Standard Deviation (SD)
Pictures	159	1.29	1.10

7.5. Distribution of Civil and Political Rights in the Palestinian Content to Journalistic Forms

The civil and political rights in the Palestinian content were variably distributed to the different journalistic forms. For instance, they most commonly appeared in reports (43.1%), then news (26.0%), tweets (20.3%), articles (08.1%), and stories (01.6%); while the percentage of investigative reports addressing the civil and political rights in the Palestinian content was only 0.8%.

Table 7. Distribution of Civil and Political Rights in the Palestinian Content to the Journalistic Forms

Journalistic form	Total	Percentage
News	32	% 26.0
Reports	53	% 43.1
Articles	10	% 08.1
Investigations	1	% 00.8
Stories	2	% 01.6
Tweets	25	% 20.3
Total	123	100%

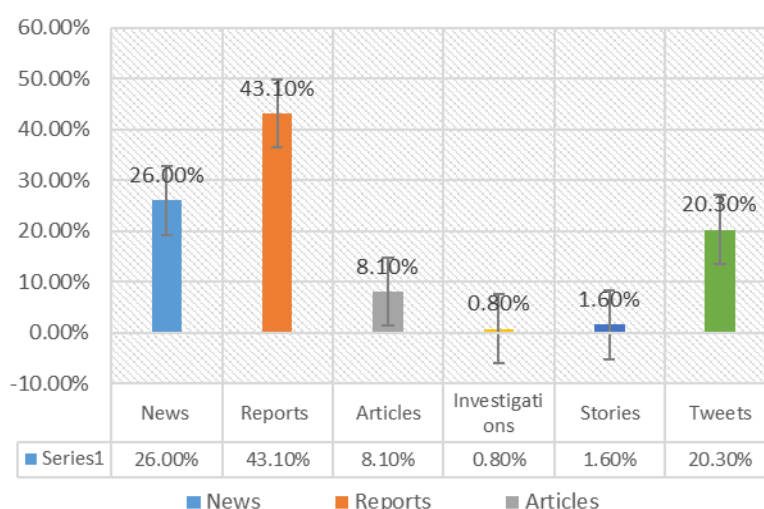


Figure 4: Distribution of Civil and Political Rights in the Palestinian Content to the Journalistic Forms

8. Discussion of the Results

8.1. Discussion of the Distribution of Rights to Geographical Locations (Inside the UK, Outside the UK, Palestine)

The results show that the percentage of speech on rights in relevance to the Palestinian issue was 15.09% in the media under study, while the percentage of speech on civil and political rights in contexts outside the United Kingdom was as high as 54.16%, closely followed by that in contexts inside the United Kingdom (30.75%). A percentage of 15.09% of the total media speech on civil and political rights is considered high, especially with the presence of many tension and conflict regions around the world. However, the repetition of the occupation's atrocious crimes forces the international media, including the most popular British media of the democratic or politically neutral currents, to discuss them.

8.2. Discussion of the Analysis Units Percentages in the Media Sample

The chosen sample included the most popular and most followed news agencies in the United Kingdom that most react to civil and political human rights issues inside and outside the Kingdom: The Guardian, BBC, Reuters, Edinburgh News, The Independent, The Economist, and INews. The number of analysis units depended on the daily published material that has rights-related content. Therefore, the percentages varied among the various media, as follows: The Guardian (30.4%), BBC (18.6%), Reuters (15.7%), INews (11.7%), Edinburgh News (9.9%), The Independent (8.8%), and The Economist (4.9%).

The sample was chosen from among the most active media, to allow the maximum content analysis in a short time period. The sample is not perfect, due to the large study population and the variety in visions and orientations, as the European community is characterized with religious, ethnic, and cultural variation. However as indicated in the study limitations, the target media is the media attributed to the democratic current, which advocate civil and political rights and fight oppression and racial discrimination.

8.3. Discussion of the Distribution of the Civil and Political Rights Frequencies

Results show that equality had the highest percentage (22.82%); followed by the right to life (18.96%); then –very closely- the other rights, which include the economic, social, and cultural rights (18.94%); freedom of expression (11.65%), and freedom of residence and movement (09.73%). All except other rights are essential civil rights. On the other hand, the rights: elections and right to be elected, freedom to protest and hold peaceful demonstration, and right to work in public jobs received (0.50%), (0.90%), and (1.10%) respectively. This shows that these political rights received the lowest percentages.

The right to equality had the highest percentage (22.82%) among all rights, which reflects the status of this right at least among the European elite. The Charter of Fundamental Rights of the European Union of 2000 elaborated on the right to equality. Article 20 of the Charter stated that the right to equality means basically that all people are equal before the law. Article 21 of the same Charter is titled Non-Discrimination and states that “any discrimination based on any ground such as sex, race, colour, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, political or any other opinion, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age or sexual orientation shall be prohibited. Within the scope of application of the Treaties and without prejudice to any of their specific provisions, any discrimination on grounds of nationality shall be prohibited.”

The Israeli occupation’s violations of the right to equality have established an inevitable presence in the democratic states’ media including the media attributed to neutral currents and currents that advocate civil and political rights. The Israeli apartheid imposed by the occupation blatantly violates the

principle of equality, according to Amnesty International report, which accuses the occupation of imposing apartheid against the Palestinian people. The report states, “Since the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948, successive governments have created and maintained a system of laws, policies, and practices designed to oppress and dominate Palestinians. This system plays out in different ways across the different areas where Israel exercises control over Palestinians’ rights, but the intent is always the same: to privilege Jewish Israelis at the expense of Palestinians. Israeli authorities have done this through four main strategies: fragmentation into domains of control, dispossession of land and property, segregation and control, and deprivation of social and economic rights.”¹³

The report adds, “Palestinians across all areas under Israel’s control, especially in the West Bank and Al-Quds, have fewer opportunities to earn a living and engage in business than Jewish Israelis. They experience discriminatory limitations on access to and use of farmland, water, gas and oil amongst other natural resources, as well as restrictions on the provision of health, education and basic services.”¹⁴

The right to life came second with a percentage of 18.96%. This right is an inherent human right that is the basis for all other rights. No other right can be meaningful unless accompanied by the right to life, therefore, it is always the first right to be stated in international human rights charters and covenants. Humans’ right to life is the supreme right, as one cannot consider exercising any other right without sufficient protection of this right. This is evident in the International Human Rights Law, whose articles state the sacredness of this right and the need to protect it.¹⁵

The right to life has also been introduced in precedence of all rights in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which was approved in 1966. Article 6 of Part III states that “Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life.”¹⁶

The reason that the right to life has an advanced status in the most popular British media is the relatively large media coverage imposed by the daily killings in the occupied lands and the massive violations by the settlers and the occupation army against Palestinian cities and villages. For instance, the number of Palestinian martyrs in the West Bank (including Al-Quds) and the Gaza Strip between the beginning of the year and December 5th, 2022 is 212; killed by Israeli bullets, in aggressions by Jewish settlers, or due to medical

¹³ Amnesty International, *Israeli Apartheid against the Palestinians* (London: Amnesty International, 2022), 4-5.

¹⁴ Amnesty International, *Israeli Apartheid*, 4-5.

¹⁵ Mohamed Basheer Shafei, *Human Rights Law: National and International Sources and Application* (Alexandria: Knowledge Facility, 2004), 143.

¹⁶ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, Art. 6.

negligence in the occupation prisons, according to an official Palestinian report.¹⁷

The past October has been the bloodiest since Intifada Al-Aqsa about 18 months ago, as 30 Palestinians, nine of which were children, were shot dead across the West Bank. The Defence for Children International – Palestine has documented the murder of 29 children by the occupation military in the West Bank, including Al-Quds, since the beginning of this year until the end of this month. Ten of these children were from Jenin District alone.¹⁸

The status of freedom of expression, which came in the fourth place at a percentage of 11.65%, among all rights under study shows the significance of this right for the United Kingdom. The freedom of expression was also listed early in the European Convention on Human Rights of 1950. Article 10 of the Charter states that “Everyone has the right to freedom of expression. This right shall include freedom to hold opinions and to receive and impart information and ideas without interference by public authority and regardless of frontiers... The exercise of these freedoms, since it carries with it duties and responsibilities, may be subject to such formalities, conditions, restrictions or penalties as are prescribed by law and are necessary in a democratic society, in the interests of national security, territorial integrity or public safety, for the prevention of disorder or crime, for the protection of health or morals, for the protection of the reputation or rights of others, for preventing the disclosure of information received in confidence, or for maintaining the authority and impartiality of the judiciary.”¹⁹

The freedom of opinion and expression was mostly addressed in the context of the occupation’s violation of freedom of press. The Palestinian Center for Human Rights located in Gaza made a statement on the World Press Freedom Day, and stated that the year of 2022 “witnessed more than 150 incidents of aggression against journalists and media staff working in the occupied Palestinian territories. These aggressions included gunshots, beating, pushing, and detention and arrest of journalists.” Among these criminal acts was the assassination of the Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu

¹⁷ *Our Martyrs, Our Beloved Ones Now Live in Heaven... Martyrs of 2022*, season 2, episode 4, Aired April 19, 2022, on Palestine TV, <https://www.pbc.ps/46292#:~:text=%D8%B4%D9%87%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%A1%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%85%202022,-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A3%D8%AE%D8%A8%D8%A7%D8%B1%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AD%D9%84%D9%8A%D8%A9&text=%D9%85%D9%86%D8%B0%20%D8%A8%D8%AF%D8%A7%D9%8A%D8%A9%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B9%D8%A7%D9%85%202022%20%D8%A7%D8%B1%D8%AA%D9%82%D9%89,%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%82%D8%AF%D8%B3%20%D9%88%D9%82%D8%B7%D8%A7%D8%B9%20%D8%BA%D8%B2%D8%A9%20%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AF%D8%A7%D8%AE%D9%84%20%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%85%D8%AD%D8%AA%D9%84>.

¹⁸ “Defense for Children International to Wattan: Two Thirds of Palestinian Child Martyrs in 2022 were from Jenin,” *Wattan Agency*, October 30, 2022, <https://www.wattan.net/ar/video/387363.html>.

¹⁹ Mahmoud Sharif Bassiouni, *International Covenants on Human Rights* (Cairo: Dar Al-Shorooq, 2003), 78.

Aqleh on May 11th 2022 in Jenin, “The occupation also systematically targeted the media and press institutions with acts that included willfully murdering them, targeting them with live and rubber bullets, assaulting them with beating, seizing their equipment, threatening them, bombarding their institutions and shutting them down, and banning their travels and movement.”²⁰

The remaining rights are mostly political and they received percentages less than 10%, ranging from 8.91% for the freedom of residence and movement (civil right) to 1.39% and 0.33% for the freedom to protest and hold peaceful demonstration and other rights, respectively.

8.4. Discussion of the Results of the Location Variable of Civil and Political Rights Discussion (Main or Inside Page)

The results show a clear discrepancy in the location where the civil and political rights were discussed in favor of the inside page with a percentage of (58.77%), while the discussion of civil and political rights on the main page received 41.23%. This indicates that the civil and political rights were more commonly discussed on inside pages. This is because the priority was given to internal events or events related to the war in the east of Europe. Only prominent events in the occupied Palestinian territories were addressed on the main pages.

8.5. Discussion of the Results of the Picture Frequency in the Material Discussing Civil and Political Rights

The results show that the total of number of pictures in the analyzed news, articles, reports, investigative reports, researches, and tweets on civil and political rights was 159, with an average of 1.29 per analysis unit. This indicates that there is more than one picture for each news piece, article, research, media material, or tweet. This reflects the importance of the picture for any material published online, including the materials addressing the civil and political rights in the Palestinian content.

The Picture has become an essential component when addressing others, as it represents one of the main cultural, economic, and media tools in today’s world. The picture is important because human’s sight is the most used sense in acquiring information. In addition, the picture can address all humans, regardless of their age, educational level, or social background. It overcomes the language barrier. While pictures provide something tangible and specific,

²⁰ “A Human Rights Center: Occupation and Division Compromising the Freedom of Journalism and Expression in Palestine,” *al-Ayyam*, May 3, 2022, <https://www.al-ayyam.ps/ar/Article/375228/%D9%85%D8%B1%D9%83%D8%B2-%D8%AD%D9%82%D9%88%D9%82%D9%8A-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D8%AD%D8%AA%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%84-%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A7%D9%86%D9%82%D8%B3%D8%A7%D9%85-%D9%82%D9%88%D9%91%D8%B6%D8%A7-%D8%AD%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%A9-%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%B5%D8%AD%D8%A7%D9%81%D8%A9-%D9%88%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%A%D8%B9%D8%A8%D9%8A%D8%B1-%D9%81%D9%8A-%D9%81%D9%84%D8%B3%D8%B7%D9%8A%D9%86>.

words are abstract, intangible and general. A picture does not require breaking down the relationships between words, as is the case in written texts. It rather delivers the message all at once. Pictures are more easily received and perceived, unlike texts that need mental effort and thinking.²¹

8.6. Discussion of the Results of the Frequencies of Journalistic Forms

The results reveal the distribution of civil and political rights terms in the Palestinian content to the various journalistic forms. For instance, the reports received the highest percentage (43.1%), followed by news (26.0%), tweets (20.3%), articles (08.1%) and stories (01.6%). Meanwhile, the investigative reports covering the civil and political rights in the Palestinian content had a very low percentage of (0.8%).

This percentage is reasonable, as it is in line with the distribution of journalistic forms in general in the serious and sophisticated media. For instance, a study conducted by the website Tarbia News found that reports received the highest percentage (49.5%) among all forms, followed by news pieces (27.7%), articles (10.3%), investigative reports (6.2%), and finally interviews (2.6%).²²

9. Conclusions

1. There is a pattern for the human rights relevant to the Palestinian content in the British media. This pattern has one cultural and cognitive implication in various expressions across the media, institutions, and personalities.
2. The United Kingdom is characterized by the large diversity in ethnicities, religious backgrounds, beliefs and opinions. This reflects in the British stances on humanitarian and rights issues, racism, and on fighting injustice and oppression.
3. Speech on the civil and political rights was mostly in the context of certain facts and events in occupied Palestine, while there was very little speech that addressed the civil and political rights in their abstract definition.

²¹ Fahd Abdul Rahman Al-Shumaimari, *Media Education, How to Deal with the Media* (Riyadh: Fahd National Library, 2010), 78.

²² Hatem Alawneh, and Anaser Tareq, "Specialized electronic journalism and its role in shaping the knowledge of Jordanian university youth," *Journal of Studies, Humanities and Social Sciences* 34, no. 2 (2016): 815 – 840.

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