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	<p>Bendjaghoulou Adel</p> <p>PhD Student Al-Zaytuna University, Faculty of Media Libya Email: adelanis11@yahoo.com</p> <p>Ghezal Abderazzek</p> <p>Prof. Dr. Mohamed Boudiaf University of M'Sila Algeria Email: abderrazzek.ghezal@univ-msila.dz</p>
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Keywords	War Correspondents; War Journalism; Humanitarian Coverage; Armed Conflicts; Content Analysis; Field Reporting; Civilian Suffering; Media Ethics
<p>Abstract</p> <p>This study examines the humanitarian role of war correspondents in covering armed conflicts and documenting the impacts of war on civilian populations. Using a qualitative content analysis approach, the research analyzes selected video reports produced by war correspondents Anas Al-Sharif and Wissam Abu Zeid as representative field models of contemporary war journalism. The study seeks to identify the dominant humanitarian themes addressed in their coverage, the narrative and documentary techniques employed, and the significance of direct field presence in conveying the realities of armed conflict. The findings indicate that modern war correspondence has evolved beyond the mere transmission of military developments to focus extensively on human suffering and civilian vulnerability. Coverage predominantly highlights airstrikes, civilian casualties, displacement, shortages of food and medical supplies, and the collapse of health and service infrastructures. The study further reveals that war correspondents increasingly rely on direct testimonies, eyewitness accounts, and on-site interviews, which enhance the credibility, immediacy, and emotional impact of media content. Moreover, the research demonstrates that field presence plays a decisive role in enabling correspondents to act as firsthand witnesses to humanitarian violations, thereby countering official narratives and exposing realities that are often obscured in traditional or remote reporting. The experiences of Anas Al-Sharif—who lost his life while covering the conflict—and Wissam Abu Zeid—who was injured and whose workplace was targeted—underscore the extreme professional and personal risks associated with war reporting. The study concludes that war correspondents have become central humanitarian actors whose work significantly contributes to shaping public awareness, documenting violations against civilians, and preserving historical truth in times of conflict.</p>	
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Introduction

In recent decades, the world has witnessed a noticeable escalation in the intensity of armed conflicts and an increase in manifestations of occupation and oppression, which has produced complex humanitarian crises. The

development of modern warfare tools has made the situation more complex and extensive, particularly regarding its effects on people and society. In these circumstances, the media is no longer merely a means of conveying news, but has become a central actor in shaping public awareness and presenting reality to both local and international audiences.

The war correspondent in conflict zones emerges as one of the most important links in the media system, assuming the mission of reporting events from the heart of the field and documenting what civilians are exposed to—bombardment, displacement, and deprivation—with all the professional, humanitarian, and ethical dimensions this carries. Through their direct presence behind the lines of fire, correspondents transform into witnesses to the details of daily suffering in highly dangerous environments, amid challenges that go beyond the traditional professional dimension to touch the essence of the humanitarian function of media.

In this context, the importance of addressing the role of war correspondents in covering armed conflicts and humanitarian crises emerges through studying contemporary field models that represent the depth of experience and embody its dangers. The experience of the late correspondent Anas Al-Sharif comes at the forefront of these models, carrying profound professional and humanitarian significance, as he paid with his life for his commitment to conveying the truth from the heart of targeted locations, despite the direct and repeated threats he faced during his war coverage. His martyrdom represents a stark example of the heavy price paid by war correspondents while seeking to provide an accurate account of civilian suffering under bombardment.

The experience of correspondent Wissam Abu Zeid also stands out as another model reflecting the magnitude of risks associated with journalistic work in conflict zones, as he was injured during his field coverage, in addition to the bombing of the office from which he worked, which reinforces awareness of the real threats surrounding correspondents as they perform their role in conveying facts and highlighting the humanitarian dimensions of events.

Through these two models, it becomes clear that field coverage of wars is not merely transient journalistic work, but a risky professional practice in which ethical duty intertwines with commitment to representing the voice of humanity, preserving truth, and revealing the effects of conflict on civilian lives. From here, the problem of this study is determined in the following main question:

How does the war correspondent contribute to documenting civilian suffering during armed conflicts, what is the nature of humanitarian topics they focus on in their coverage, and what is the importance of their field presence in conveying facts related to the war's impacts on civilians?

This main question branches into several sub-questions that help detail the theoretical and field aspects of the research:

1. What is the nature of the humanitarian role performed by correspondents in documenting civilian suffering during wars?
2. What is the nature of humanitarian topics that war correspondents focus on during wartime?
3. What is the importance of field presence for war correspondents in conveying facts related to the war's impacts on civilians?

Study Significance

This study derives its importance from a set of theoretical and field considerations that make it contribute to enriching media knowledge and shedding light on one of the most important roles of contemporary journalism in times of wars and conflicts. This importance can be identified in the following points:

1. Highlighting the media's role in covering wars and armed conflicts, as a means of enlightening public opinion, conveying facts, and exposing humanitarian violations away from misinformation and propaganda.
2. Shedding light on the role of the war correspondent as a central element in the media process, through their presence at the heart of events and their pursuit of conveying the real picture from the field.
3. Identifying the professional risks facing war correspondents during their coverage of conflicts, including security, psychological, and physical threats that may reach the point of losing their lives.

Study Objectives

1. Highlighting the humanitarian role performed by correspondents in documenting civilian suffering during wars
2. Highlighting the nature of humanitarian topics that war correspondents focus on during wartime
3. Highlighting the importance of field presence for war correspondents in conveying facts related to the war's impacts on civilians.

Previous Studies

1- Study by JihanAwad Elias, Sudan University of Science and Technology

Title: Attitudes of Academic Elites Toward the Reality of Television Correspondents

The study aimed to identify the reality of television correspondents in general, and the extent to which correspondents adhere to professional ethics and provide comprehensive news material. The researcher used the

survey method, identifying academic elites from humanities faculties as a sample of specialists with doctorates in humanitarian studies residing in (UAE - Egypt - Sudan) during the 2021-2022 academic year.

The study concluded with several results, most notably that 94.9% of the study population strongly agree that most television correspondents are exposed to harassment and detention, 41.2% of respondents believe that television correspondents do not enjoy security and peace of mind, and 58.8% of sample members see a lack of freedom of expression in the absence of information. The study also confirmed that the political line followed by the institution may cause difficulty or loss in obtaining information. The study recommended the necessity of providing necessary protection for correspondents so they can deliver information without restriction.

2- Study by Sujoud Ibrahim Omar Abdullah, Hassan Mohammed Zein, Sudan University of Science and Technology

Title: The Television Correspondent and Their Role in Covering Armed Conflicts - A Comparative Study Between Al Jazeera and Al Arabiya Satellite Channels

Research Problem: Understanding the role of television correspondents in covering armed conflicts

Methodology: The study used the descriptive analytical method, taking a sample of 50 experts and specialists in media from Sudan and the Emirates.

Results: The study confirmed the importance of television correspondents in news coverage, noting that Al Jazeera and Al Arabiya channels rely on their own correspondent networks.

Recommendations: The necessity of activating laws and mechanisms to protect correspondents, and focusing on specialized cadres in coverage.

3- Study by Amira Abdel Rahman Mohammed Abdul Mutajalli: Title: Factors Affecting the Professional Performance of Television Correspondents in Light of Social Networks

Study Objectives: Monitoring, interpreting, and analyzing factors affecting the professional performance of television correspondents in light of social networks.

Research Problem: What are the factors affecting the professional performance of television correspondents in light of social networks?

Method and Tool: Descriptive method using structured interviews.

Study Sample: 21 correspondents from television channels.

Key Results:

- The most influential professional pressures on media coverage are news sources, censorship from media institutions, psychological and administrative pressures, and limited time space.
- Professional factors affecting television correspondent work include media institution ownership, state and institutional media policy, and training.
- The main challenges facing correspondents include challenges in accessing information, existential danger related to targeting the work team, hostility from conflicting parties, and difficulty in movement.

Research Methodology

The methodology used for our study is the descriptive method, "which is based on describing a phenomenon to reach its causes and controlling factors, or which is based on careful monitoring and follow-up of a phenomenon or specific event quantitatively in a specific time period or several periods in order to understand the phenomenon or event in terms of content" (Al-Mashhadani, 2017).

Study Tool: The appropriate study tool is content analysis, defined by Bernard Berelson as "a research method aimed at quantitative, objective, and systematic description of the apparent content of communication" (Abdel Hamid, 1983, p.18).

Section One: Theoretical Framework

First Requirement: Media - Concept and Humanitarian Dimension of Its Function

1-1 Concept of Media

ZahirIhdaden points to media as: "The concept of media is linguistically linked to its original source, which is 'knowledge' (ilm). In Arabic, it is said: he asked him for news and informed him of it, meaning he conveyed information to him so that he would know it after being ignorant of it. From here, it is understood that media means conveying news or information from one person to another. As for the terminological aspect, Dr. Abdel Latif Hamza defines media as providing people with correct news, information, and established facts. FermanTerrou defines it as 'publishing facts and opinions in an appropriate form using words, sounds, or images, and generally using all signs understood by the public'" (Ahdadan, 2009, pp. 13-14).

Media is a contemporary concept fundamentally associated with the communication process that relies on modern means such as press, radio, and television, while this term was not used in ancient times; rather, close concepts such as communication and advocacy were used in Islamic thought, which express the essence of the media process in its modern concept (Ahdadan, 2014, p. 14).

Media is one of the communicative activities, as Dr. Rahima Issani points out: Media is considered one of the most important forms of communicative activity based on fundamental elements that constitute its structure and function, including the source of information, the media message, the conveying medium, and the receiving audience, in addition to the effect resulting from the communicative process. These combined components contribute to achieving the communicative goal of media through effectively conveying messages and content to the audience (Issani, undated, p. 25).

Media is characterized by essential characteristics, most importantly: honesty, accuracy, and frankness in conveying established facts and correct news without distortion or exaggeration, whether in audio, visual, or written form, as it is based on realism in covering and presenting events to the public (Issani, undated, p. 25).

Media also seeks to achieve general understanding of facts and phenomena through explanation, simplification, and clarification, making it a fundamental tool in developing social and cultural awareness. The importance of media increases in modern societies with increasing complexity, development of institutions, and rising education and cultural levels among individuals, which doubles the need for objective professional media that contributes to directing public opinion and building societal knowledge (Issani, undated, p. 25).

1-2 The Humanitarian Dimension of Media Function:

Media is considered one of the most prominent human and communicative activities in which the value and ethical dimensions of professional practice are manifested, as it carries a clear humanitarian dimension embodied in defending human rights and preserving human dignity. It forms one of the fundamental pillars in building human awareness through objectively and credibly conveying media messages and highlighting various violations affecting humans, especially during wars and crises, where media responsibility doubles in conveying truth, revealing aspects of suffering, and mobilizing human sympathy with victims.

Media institutions are among the most prominent actors in spreading and promoting human rights culture within modern societies, as their role is manifested in continuous interest in conveying daily news and events related to human rights through various media outlets, contributing to public awareness of rights issues and positively influencing the performance of associations and organizations concerned with protecting these rights (Sultani and Mousaoui, 2020, p. 215).

Free media effectively contributes to establishing human rights culture by publishing international agreements and declarations related to them, and presenting reports from international organizations working to promote and protect human rights worldwide. The role of media institutions is not limited to spreading rights culture alone but extends to exposing violations of individual rights and denouncing unethical or inhumane practices they are exposed to. They also contribute to building popular awareness and formulating public opinion—legal, political, and cultural—especially among educated groups and the middle class, which forms a fundamental link in transferring knowledge and shaping attitudes toward human rights issues (Sultani and Mousaoui, 2020, p. 217).

Second Requirement: The War Correspondent - Concept and Challenges

2-1 Concept of War Correspondent

The war correspondent is a journalist who practices journalism—spoken, written, or heard. As Ali Kanaan points out: "He is the person who practices journalism—spoken or written, and the journalist's work is to collect and publish information about current events, trends, and people's issues, and to prepare reports. The journalist's profession is to prepare reports for broadcast or publication in various media such as newspapers, television, radio, and magazines" (Kanaan, 2013, p. 34).

"The television correspondent is a journalist working within satellite channels, whether inside the country where the media institution is located or abroad in other countries, and their main mission is to cover events in the locations where they are present and send news and media materials to the institution they belong to" (Al-Mutajalli, undated, p. 718).

"The correspondent is the communicator who undertakes the implementation of roles and responsibilities and bears the burden of carrying out their requests and facing various circumstances and challenges resulting from successive developments in the media world in general, which have become characterized by increasing speed continuously since the mid-20th century" (Abdullah and Zein, 2020, p.101).

Dr. Zayed Fawwari defined correspondents during wartime according to the International Red Cross Protocol, which classifies them with independent journalists, unlike military journalists appointed by armed forces:

"Independent journalists are defined as journalists who work independently and are not formally subject to penalties imposed by the military or government because they work away from them. They are all reporters, press informants, photographers, television cameramen, and their technical assistants in cinema, radio, and television who regularly practice this activity as their main profession" (Zayed Al-Fawwari, 2022, p. 413).

According to Article 79 of the First Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions of 1947: "The term 'journalist' refers to all media delegates, especially those engaged in the process of gathering, processing, and publishing news

and information, including photographers and cameramen, and support team such as drivers and translators. The article indicates that journalists, while practicing their profession, should be treated as civilians as long as they do not act otherwise" (Zayed Al-Fawwari, 2022, p. 413).

Accordingly, the war correspondent can be defined as any journalist employed by or assigned by a media institution to work outside the institution's headquarters, to collect news and information from the event site and send them to their institution in the form of messages and news reports, according to the geographical division adopted for correspondent work, and is protected under international agreements and laws.

2-2 Challenges Facing War Correspondents During Wartime:

War correspondents face several challenges while covering complex wars, where some have been injured leaving permanent disabilities, and many have lost their lives as a result of covering these dangerous events. In this requirement, we will point to some challenges and risks faced by war correspondents:

1- Physical Dangers. Journalists are exposed to assassination, kidnapping, arbitrary detention, torture, and direct targeting despite clear indications in international regulations and laws for journalist protection.

"Despite the guarantees provided by international humanitarian law to protect journalists during armed conflicts, reports from most media organizations continue to indicate their persistent targeting remarkably, reflecting a clear gap between the legal framework and field implementation of this protection" (Mazouz, 2017, p. 226).

Perhaps journalist Hisham Raqoud conveys part of the danger correspondents face in the recent Gaza war: "When talking about professional safety, you're talking about something missing. In Gaza, there was no safe place; rather, occupation forces crossed all red lines, bombing hospitals, places of worship, and all vital institutions whether civil or journalistic, targeting medical teams, civil defense, and journalists. The vest and helmet became mere symbols representing no protection for journalists; rather, experience showed that wearing them might pose more danger than protection" (Zaqout, 2025, p. 16).

2- Psychological Pressures: Journalists face a range of psychological pressures during war coverage, ranging from anxiety, sadness, and trauma due to harsh work nature that puts them in direct contact with scenes of losing colleagues and victims, especially civilians. Therefore, journalists cannot detach from their humanity; they are affected by these events like any other human and bear multiple psychological consequences imposed by the conflict environment. One correspondent from Asharq Al-Awsat newspaper expressed the magnitude of psychological pressures experienced by war journalists, saying: "I bid farewell to my children every day before leaving home, convinced that I won't see them again... I even fear for my children and relatives from targeting or assassinations," describing this as extremely difficult and painful (Al-Zaid, 2021).

3- Technical Difficulties: War correspondents in conflict times face many technical and field difficulties that may hinder their ability to convey events accurately and safely. "Among the most prominent difficulties is the lack of necessary protective equipment such as helmets, bulletproof vests, and body armor, which are often expensive and unavailable to many journalists, especially local and independent ones" (Council of Europe, 2022).

Circumstances surrounding correspondents during war make it necessary to possess technical skills and great flexibility in conveying news using limited available resources, with the ability to adapt to an extremely dangerous work environment lacking minimum technical support and appropriate equipment. This is what journalist Hisham Zaqout pointed to when talking about the necessity of adapting to war conditions:

"The destruction of offices and electricity and internet cuts formed a fundamental obstacle to coverage, and the mobile phone became the integrated newsroom. For two years, I haven't touched paper, and most of the time my reports, filming, and editing are done with this mobile. But this requires prior preparation; the rule is there's no time for experimentation in the field, so camera settings must be adjusted beforehand. You must also download an editing app and train on it; in crisis time, there's no time for learning. You must be able to cut, merge, add voice commentary, and export your report in minutes..." (Zaqout, 2025, p.19).

4- Ethical Challenges: During conflict and war periods, correspondents face major ethical challenges, including accurate verification of information and its source, and avoiding being dragged into war propaganda that may distort facts. As Khudari Hussein emphasizes in his article on Al Jazeera Media Institute's page: 'Fact-checking is not just technical work... but an ethical practice that ensures journalism's credibility and public trust" (Khudari, 2025).

On the other hand, Dr. Abdel Nasser bin Ahmed bin Abdullah Al-Abri sees in his study on "War Journalism" that journalist coverage of war is subject to major professional and ethical pressures, especially when part of what he called the "Embedded Journalist" program. The war correspondent is not merely a conveyor of events but has an ethical mission of balancing journalistic reporting and professional loyalty, placing them in conflict between media purposes and military narrative (Al-Abri, 2021, pp. 40-42).

Therefore, journalist commitment to these principles—verification, neutrality, credibility—is not only a professional requirement but an ethical duty, because negligence may lead to promoting misleading information or information

attributed to one conflict party, placing journalists at the heart of a battle that is not only media but ethical and value-based.

Section Two: Applied Study - The Experience of Anas Al-Sharif and Wissam Abu Zeid

First Requirement: Introduction to Journalists Anas Al-Sharif and Wissam Abu Zeid

2-1: Journalist Anas Al-Sharif

Birth and Upbringing. Journalist Anas Jamal Mahmoud Al-Sharif was born on December 3, 1996, and grew up in Jabalia camp in northeastern Gaza Strip.

Education and Scientific Training. Al-Sharif received his education in UNRWA schools and Palestinian Ministry of Education institutions. He joined the Department of Journalism and Media at Al-Aqsa University in 2014, studying Radio and Television specialization.

Professional Experience. Journalist Anas Al-Sharif began his work as a volunteer at the Northern Media Network, preparing reports on conditions in Gaza Strip for numerous networks.

Al-Sharif was injured on September 23, 2018, by shrapnel from a bullet in the abdomen while covering a march organized east of Abu Safia hill northeast of Jabalia camp.

He moved to work as a correspondent for Al Jazeera Network after the start of Israeli aggression on Gaza Strip following the "Al-Aqsa Flood" operation launched by Palestinian resistance on October 7, 2023, on Gaza envelope settlements.

Al-Sharif worked daily preparing reports on massacres committed by the Israeli occupation army and social conditions in the Strip, and was threatened by occupation forces due to his coverage of the aggression.

On December 11 of the same year, Israeli occupation aircraft bombed journalist Al-Sharif's home, resulting in his father's martyrdom.

His Assassination. The Israeli occupation army assassinated journalist Anas Al-Sharif and five others late Sunday evening, August 10, 2025, after targeting a tent for journalists near Al-Shifa Hospital in Gaza City (Al Jazeera, 2025).

2-2: Journalist Wissam Abu Zeid

Palestinian field correspondent working as a correspondent for Algerian Television (ENTV) from Gaza Strip.

Graduated from the Faculty of Media and Communication (audio-visual specialization) at the University of Algiers. Joined Algerian Television in 2006 to work as a correspondent from occupied Palestinian territories, specifically Gaza.

Survived targeting of his office by occupation in Gaza Strip on August 28, 2025.

In March 2024, his family was evacuated to Algeria as part of evacuation operations for Palestinian families affected by the aggression, a step that showed the humanitarian dimensions of what the journalist and his family experience.

Second Requirement: Content Analysis of Anas Al-Sharif and Wissam Abu Zeid's Coverage

Content analysis is one of the most important scientific tools used in studying media coverage, as it is considered one of the appropriate tools for such studies, as Mohammed Abdel Hamid points out: "It is a set of methodological steps seeking to discover meanings inherent in content and correlational relationships with these meanings through quantitative, objective, and systematic research of apparent features in this content" (Abdel Hamid, 2000, p. 220). Based on this research's goal of exploring the war correspondent's role in conveying humanitarian events during war, the coverage of correspondents Anas Al-Sharif and Wissam Abu Zeid was chosen as models for analysis, as they are accredited correspondents for Al Jazeera Network and Algerian Television, and their coverage of the war on Gaza Strip during the period from 2023 to 2025 was distinguished by intensive field presence and live transmission of civilian suffering.

To achieve the objectives of this analysis, four videos from their field reports were selected as representing an expressive model of their style in covering humanitarian crises. This requirement aims to analyze the content of these reports, reveal the nature of messages they focused on, and how they employed journalistic tools to highlight war effects on civilians.

2-1 Defining Research Population and Study Sample

The sample is one of the pillars of scientific research as it represents part of the study population selected to facilitate data collection and analysis: "a subset of elements from a specific research population" (Angers, 2004, p.301).

Purposive samples were selected, focusing on coverage by correspondents Wissam Abu Zeid and Anas Al-Sharif during the war period from 2023 to 2025 according to the following table:

Correspondent	Coverage Title	Coverage Duration	Publication Date	Publishing Entity
Anas Al-Sharif	They Haven't Got a Loaf of Bread for Days	02:50 minutes	06/08/2025	Al Jazeera YouTube Channel

Anas Al-Sharif	Anas Cries on Air After a Woman Falls from Hunger	02:33 minutes	20/07/2025	Al Jazeera YouTube Channel
Wissam Abu Zeid	Palestine/Gaza: Algerian Television Correspondent - Wissam Abu Zeid	02:25 minutes	17/02/2024	Algerian Television YouTube Channel
Wissam Abu Zeid	Gaza Strip...Algerian Television Correspondent	01:20 minutes	11/10/2023	Algerian Television YouTube Channel

2-2:Analysis Categories

1. Humanitarian Categories:

- Description of civiliansuffering
- Displacement and forced migration
- Injuries and casualties
- Food and medicineshortages
- Targeting life facilities (hospitals, schools...)

2-2: Analysis Units

Two main analysis units were identified:

1. Thematic Unit: Including humanitarian topics addressed in reports: (bombardment - displacement - health - testimonies/interviews...)

2. Linguistic/Rhetorical Unit: Including vocabulary used to describe events (such as: bombardment, destruction, catastrophe, displacement, tragedy...).

2-3 Thematic Unit Analysis

Table No. 01: Shows Wissam Abu Zeid's Coverage Topics

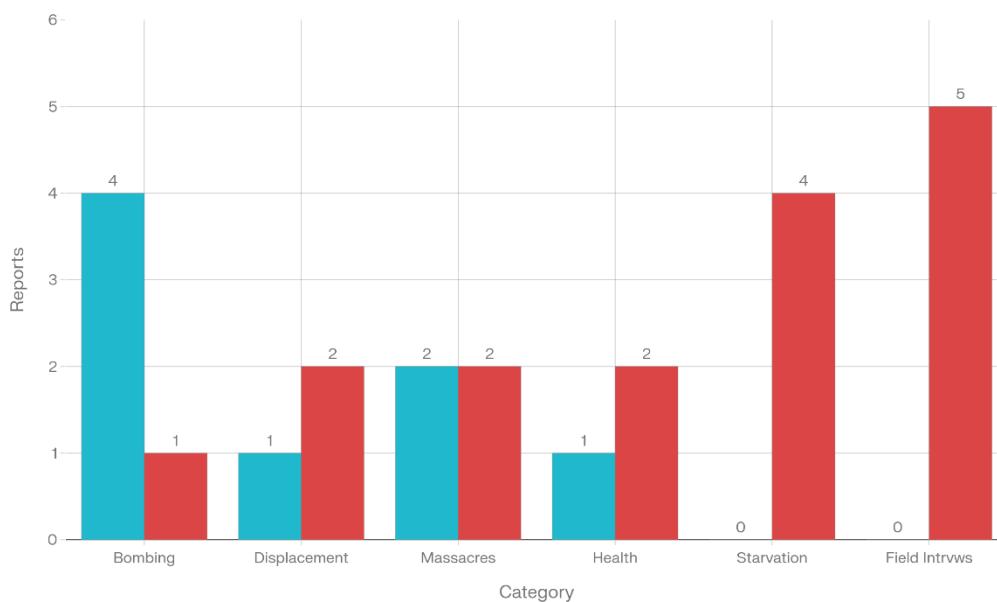
Coverage Topic	Frequency	Percentage
Bombardment and Destruction	4	50%
Displacement	1	12.5%
Massacres	2	25%
Health	1	12.5%
Total	8	100%

Table No. 02: Shows Anas Al-Sharif's Coverage Topics

Coverage Topic	Frequency	Percentage
Starvation	4	28.57%
Health	2	14.28%
Displacement	2	14.28%
Bombardment and Destruction	1	7.14%
Field Interviews	5	35.71%
Total	14	100%

Journalist Coverage Varies Across Story Types

Abu Zaid focuses on destruction, Alsharif on interviews
■ Wissam Abu Zaid ■ Anas Alsharif



- Quantitative Analysis of Results from Tables 1 and 2

First - Quantitative Analysis of Table 01 for Wissam Abu Zeid's Coverage (War Beginning 2023-2024)

1. Bombardment is the dominant topic at 50%, reflecting the nature of the war's first phase characterized by intense military operations; therefore, it was natural for bombardment to occupy the center of coverage.
2. Displacement appeared at 25%, directly related to the initial bombardment's impact on population movement and area evacuation.
3. Starvation and health topics appeared at 12.5% each, a low appearance consistent with these crises typically intensifying gradually with difficulty accessing hospitals.

Second: Quantitative Analysis of Table 02 for Anas Al-Sharif's Coverage (War's Second Year - 2024/2025)

1. Starvation is the leading topic at 35.71%, reflecting advanced war stages where siege and food shortage begin transforming into a central humanitarian crisis.
2. Displacement occupied second place at 28.57%, resulting from accumulated strikes and continued operations.
3. Bombardment and destruction appeared at 7.14% each, indicating that coverage contexts focused on humanitarian tragedies.
4. Health appeared at 14.28%, due to difficulty accessing hospitals besieged by Israeli occupation forces.
5. Field interviews constituted 35.71% of correspondent Anas Al-Sharif's report content, reflecting wide reliance on direct testimonies from civilians inside bombardment and displacement areas. This style gave coverage a direct humanitarian character, as the correspondent conveyed population suffering from hunger and displacement as actually lived in streets and shelters, expressing reality through victims' own voices, enhancing the humanitarian dimension's presence within field coverage.

2-4 Vocabulary Unit Analysis Used in Journalists' Coverage

Table No. 03: Vocabulary Unit Analysis Used in Wissam Abu Zeid's Coverage

Vocabulary	Frequency	Percentage
Airstrikes	6	14.63%
Martyrdom	9	21.95%
Injury	5	12.19%
Hospitals	6	14.63%
Detainees	1	2.43%
Medicine	3	7.13%
Food	2	4.87%
Appeal	2	4.87%

Famine	2	4.87%
Missing	1	2.43%
Displacement	1	2.43%
Crimes	3	7.13%
Total	41	100%

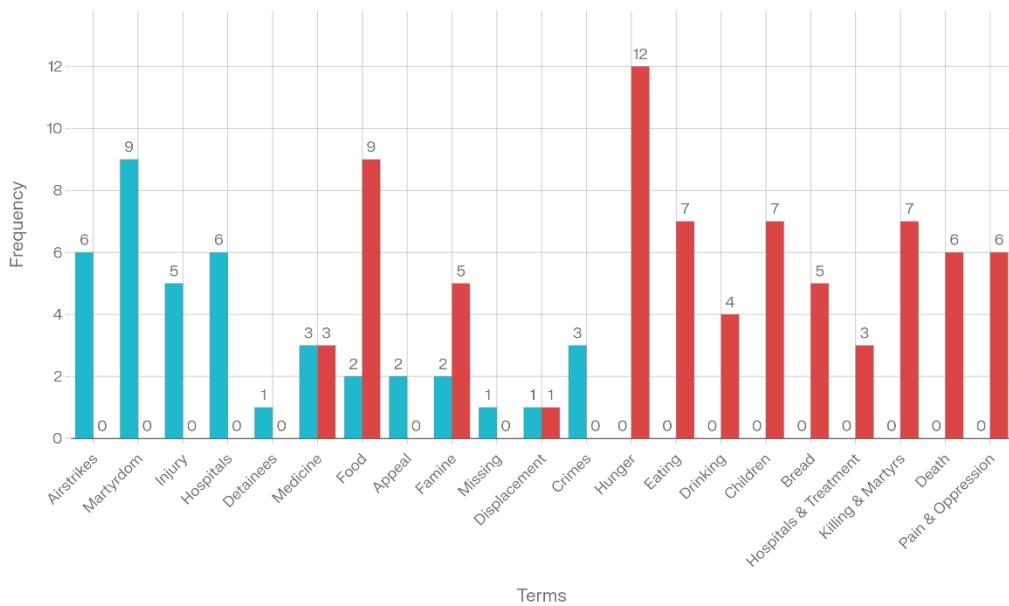
Table No. 04: Vocabulary Unit Analysis Used in Anas Al-Sharif's Coverage

Vocabulary	Frequency	Percentage
Hunger	12	16%
Food/Eating	7	9.33%
Drinking	4	5.33%
Famine	5	6.66%
Food	9	12%
Children	7	9.33%
Bread	5	6.66%
Medicine	3	4%
Hospitals and Treatment	3	4%
Displacement	1	1.33%
Killing and Martyrs	7	9.33%
Death	6	8%
Pain and Oppression	6	8%
Total	75	14.63%

Frequency of Terms Used by Journalists

Comparing coverage patterns in conflict reporting

■ Wissam Abouzeid ■ Anas Al-Sharif



- Quantitative Analysis of Results from Tables 3 and 4

First: Quantitative Analysis of Table 3 for Wissam Abu Zeid (War Beginning 2023-2024)

1. Most present vocabulary in Wissam Abu Zeid's coverage:

"Bombardment" ranked first at 21.95% with 9 instances, indicating correspondent focus on direct field incidents of military nature due to fierce bombardment at Gaza war's beginning.

2. Followed by vocabulary:

Airstrikes: 14.63% (6 times)

Hospitals: 14.63% (6 times)

This reflects dual interest between describing military operations and their humanitarian effects.

3. Then followed by vocabulary with percentages ranging 7-12%, such as:

Martyrdom: 12.19% (5 times)

Displacement: 7.13% (3 times)

Detainees: 7.13% (3 times)

This category expresses direct humanitarian consequences of war, enhancing humanitarian character in coverage.

Second: Quantitative Analysis of Table 4 for Anas Al-Sharif's Coverage (War's Second Year 2024-2025)

Anas Al-Sharif's vocabulary featured:

Hunger (16%), Children (12%), Families (9.33%), Feeding (9.33%), Hospitals (9.33%), Death (9.33%), Killing and Martyrs, Bread 6.66%

These are vocabulary related to humanitarian dimensions, indicating correspondent focus on war's direct impact on civilians and intensifying famine crisis as an inevitable war consequence that didn't distinguish between civilians and others.

Followed by vocabulary:

Missing (6.66%), Medicine (6.66%)

Reflecting concern with health and medical issues, plus following disconnection and humanitarian danger cases.

Then vocabulary:

Displacement (4%), Medicine 4%, Hospitals and Treatment 4%

Reflecting no neglect of war's second phase acute humanitarian character, where Anas Al-Sharif focuses on conveying forced population movement reality and resulting acute humanitarian suffering, especially regarding medicine and treatment shortages.

- Qualitative Analysis of Results Obtained Between Vocabulary Unit and Thematic Unit for Correspondents Wissam Abu Zeid and Anas Al-Sharif

Quantitative analysis results of vocabulary used in Anas Al-Sharif's reports during war's second year (2023-2024) reveal intensive presence of vocabulary directly related to human suffering such as: bombardment, destruction, displacement, famine, hospitals, martyrs, children, missing, injuries. This vocabulary aligns with thematic units that formed central framework for journalistic coverage in Gaza, where four major topics dominated humanitarian topics such as bombardment and military operations, mass displacement, and live testimonies.

At the humanitarian topic level, clear focus on collective pain and human suffering due to war is repeated in Anas Al-Sharif's discourse, matching his testimony confirming that "the tragedy spared no one... we lived danger in all its details, displacement, siege, and hunger" (Al-Sharif, 2024, p. 61). The intensive presence of this vocabulary in Anas Al-Sharif's quantitative analysis perfectly aligns with this thematic dimension reflecting the war correspondent's experience of victims' suffering.

Regarding bombardment and military operations topic, it appeared in discourse through vocabulary related to killing, targeting, martyrs, wounded, confirmed by correspondent Hisham Zaqqout's testimony describing coverage as "closer to death... and among the most dangerous missions" because journalists are "directly targeted" (Zaqqout, 2025, p. 12). This confirms that rising bombardment and destruction vocabulary is not event reflection but expression of dangerous professional reality.

Concerning mass displacement topic, Sharif's discourse clearly shows intensive use of vocabulary such as displacement, medicine, treatment, pain—vocabulary reflecting displacement experience suffering described by journalist Amira Nassar when she said: "a displaced journey... carrying a backpack containing identification papers and much pain" (Nassar, 2025, p. 73). This testimony gives displacement's thematic dimension deeper significance, explaining its lexical density in Sharif's discourse.

Live testimonies and documentation topic emerges as a central thematic unit in war's second year, where Zaqqout points to transformation from "what happened today?" to "how will I document what's happening to be evidence for condemnation?" (Zaqqout, 2025, p. 16). This is reflected in Sharif's vocabulary tending toward detailed description of massacres and painful human scenes, especially regarding famine intensifying in war's second year, making coverage discourse closer to historical testimony than news report.

Comparing this with Wissam Abu Zeid's coverage content analysis results in war's first year, vocabulary related to targeting, bombardment, injuries, detention, food and medicine shortages also align with the same thematic units. Abu Zeid's discourse was also dominated by humanitarian character, as his coverage focused on presenting civilian suffering, forming a common base between correspondents in Gaza despite different coverage periods and institutions they belong to.

These results—by combining vocabulary unit and thematic unit—reveal that correspondents' discourse in Gaza (Sharif, Abu Zeid...) was not familiar journalistic discourse but transformed into humanitarian-documentary discourse created by daily field experience. Vocabulary is not merely repeated words but objective indicators of

coverage nature dominated by danger, hunger, displacement, and targeting, making quantitative and qualitative analyses complementary in explaining field journalistic work nature during wars.

Study Results

The study reached a set of results reflecting the war correspondent's central role in documenting human tragedy during armed conflicts. The most prominent can be summarized as follows:

1. **Highlighting Humanitarian Dimension in War Coverage.** Analysis results showed that war correspondents direct significant attention toward documenting civilian suffering resulting from war by focusing on topics of airstrikes, injuries, targeting civilians, hospital conditions, medicine and food shortages, and displacement conditions.
2. **Diversity of Humanitarian Topics Addressed.** The study showed that war coverage is not limited to the military aspect but includes a wide spectrum of humanitarian issues such as children's suffering, missing persons, detainees, distress calls, famine, and service infrastructure collapse, reflecting the correspondent's expanded role in depicting humanitarian catastrophe dimensions.
3. **Importance of Field Presence in Conveying Truth.** The study showed that correspondent field presence in event arenas is a fundamental factor in providing accurate and honest coverage of war impacts on civilians, allowing direct monitoring of tragedy from its sources and conveying a realistic picture of humanitarian catastrophe magnitude.
4. **Correspondent Performing Eyewitness Role to Tragedy.** Results revealed that war correspondents don't merely convey information but perform the role of "direct witness" to violations and crimes against civilians, giving their coverage high documentary value and making it part of events' historical record.
5. **Reliance on Direct Testimonies and Field Interviews.** The study showed that war coverage clearly relies on direct testimonies and field interviews with victims, their families, health and service institution workers, and eyewitnesses.
6. **Transformation of Correspondent Role from News Conveyer to Humanitarian Reality Conveyer.** Results clarify that contemporary war correspondents' role is not limited to narrating facts but undertaking the mission of highlighting events' humanitarian picture by tracing war effects on population's daily life and standing at individuals' and societies' experienced tragedy.
7. **Humanitarian Coverage Contributing to Shaping Public Opinion.** The study confirmed that humanitarian content included in war coverage contributes to drawing Arab and international audience attention to tragedy magnitude, enhancing victim sympathy and helping build collective awareness toward humanitarian issues.

Conclusion

In conclusion, this study highlights the vital role performed by war correspondents in documenting human tragedy during armed conflicts through content analysis of media coverage addressing civilian reality under war burden. Results showed that modern war coverage transcended military event reporting boundaries to transform into deep monitoring of human suffering, including documenting airstrike effects, health and nutritional conditions deterioration, and displacement and famine cases escalation.

The study also showed that war correspondents' field presence in conflict zones constitutes a decisive factor in building reliable coverage, enabling them to perform eyewitness role to violations against civilians. Analysis results also showed that reliance on direct testimonies and field interviews with victims and field workers contributes to enhancing media material credibility and reveals humanitarian details unreachable through traditional news narration.

The study confirms that war correspondents' humanitarian role has become an authentic part of contemporary war media practices, contributing to building media discourse highlighting humanitarian catastrophe depth and contributing to shaping public awareness toward what civilians face in conflict hotspots. Thus, these results highlight the importance of supporting journalists working in dangerous environments and providing professional and security conditions allowing them to perform their roles in documenting truth and serving humanitarian causes.

Based on this, the study recommends the necessity of enhancing specialized training and education in humanitarian coverage, encouraging media institutions to adopt work standards ensuring correspondents' safety and content credibility, consolidating humanitarian media presence as one of the most important elements of contemporary war coverage.

Ethical Considerations

This study is based on the analysis of publicly available media content and does not involve direct interaction with human participants. All analyzed materials were produced and disseminated by professional journalists and media organizations. The research adheres to ethical standards of academic integrity, objectivity, and respect for human

dignity, avoiding sensationalism and ensuring that the analysis does not distort or misrepresent the original media content.

Author Contributions

- **Bendaghoulou Adel:** Conceptualization of the study, data collection, content analysis, drafting of the manuscript, and interpretation of findings.
- **Prof. Dr. Ghezal Abderazek:** Academic supervision, methodological guidance, critical review of the manuscript, and validation of theoretical and analytical frameworks.

All authors have read and approved the final version of the manuscript.

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Conflict of Interest

The authors declare that there is no conflict of interest regarding the publication of this article.

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