



Media Monitoring of Palestinian women's image and representation in news related to peace and security

During the period of May to July 2017



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INTRODUCTION

Palestinian women share a certain particularity among themselves, which makes them different from other women around the world. This particularity is evident in their active participation in the Palestinian struggle against the Israeli occupation for over 70 years. Palestinian women constantly face violations and inhumane occupational policies such as murdering, oppression, displacement, imprisonment, land confiscation, home demolitions and invasions, restrictions of freedom, family dispersion, prevention from travelling and many other forms of physical and psychological torture.

However, their dramatic suffering did not qualify them for equal and active participation in the different spheres or life, nor led to changing their cultural and stereotypical image in the Media. On the contrary, they are being presented as weak and victims; being symbolized only by their tender and humane traits rather than focusing on their skills, capacities, knowledge and experiences. Palestinian women are often being neglected as active patriots against the occupation, and regularly casted away from diplomatic missions, as well as negotiations regarding peace and conciliation and national unity.

Despite the fact that Palestine has ratified the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325, which abides all UN member states to ensure full, equal and effective participation of women in conflict resolution and peace sustainability.

The on-going conflict in Palestine affects both the lives of men and women, yet its effects on women are more dramatic and different than those on men. However, the Palestinian Media does not reflect these effects fairly for women, but dedicates a stereotypical image and representation, through different traditional roles and very limited topics. Such absence of women in the Media and news keeps their voices unheard and their opinions unshared through the most important topics watched and followed in the Media and news.

Why it is important to include women in the Media and news?

Active, effective and equal participation of women in the different spheres is crucial to achieving community development and sustainable peace.

Excluding women and marginalizing their cases, appearance, talking about them or interviewing them in the media, especially in politics and making peace and security, is an exclusion of the expertise, knowledge, skills and needs of half the society. This in turn has a negative impact on the achievement and the attainment of sustainable social development and lasting peace.



This Media Monitoring report depicts the results and sheds the lights on how the Palestinian Media handles women's appearance and participation in news related to politics, peace and security, as well as the violations of the Israeli Occupation. The Media Monitoring process focused on nine different media outlets in Palestine (Newspapers, TV Stations and News Agencies Websites)

PROBLEM STATEMENT

Palestinian women are underrepresented in news related to peace, security and the violations of the Israeli occupation. Despite the fact that they make up 50% of the Palestinian population, yet they are significantly underrepresented in most of the Palestinian media outlets. It is significantly noted that the Palestinian Media is dominated by men and the "male culture", which re-enforces and spreads stereotypical images of women and promotes gender inequality.

METHODOLOGY

This report follows the Global Media Monitoring Methodology for monitoring Media outlets; quantitative and qualitative analysis have been conducted to analyze the representation of women in the news for a period of nine days through May 2017 to July 2017, and by filling questionnaires and analyzing collected data.

The Media Monitoring sample included nine Palestinian Media Outlets as following: (1) Media Monitoring of three local newspapers (Al Quds Newspaper, Al Ayyam Newspaper and AL-Hayat AL-Jadida Newspaper). (2) Media Monitoring of news in three Palestinian satellite TV stations; Palestine TV, Ma'an TV and Al Aqsa TV. (3) Media monitoring of three websites of local news agencies; Wafa Agency, Dunia Al Watan and Ma'an News Agency). The media monitoring were conducted for 9 days, 3 per month during the period of May to July 2017.

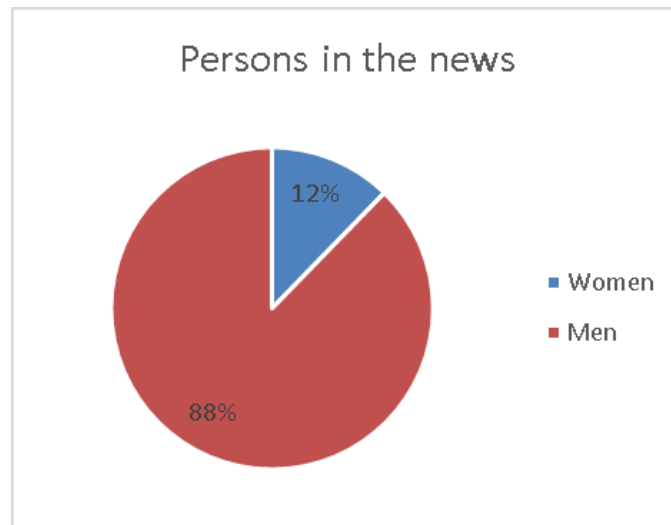
The above-mentioned outlets were chosen based on their popularity and for being followed by the Palestinian audience. Moreover, they are owned by different parties; such as the Palestinian Authority, Hamas movement and some are independent outlets.

RESULTS

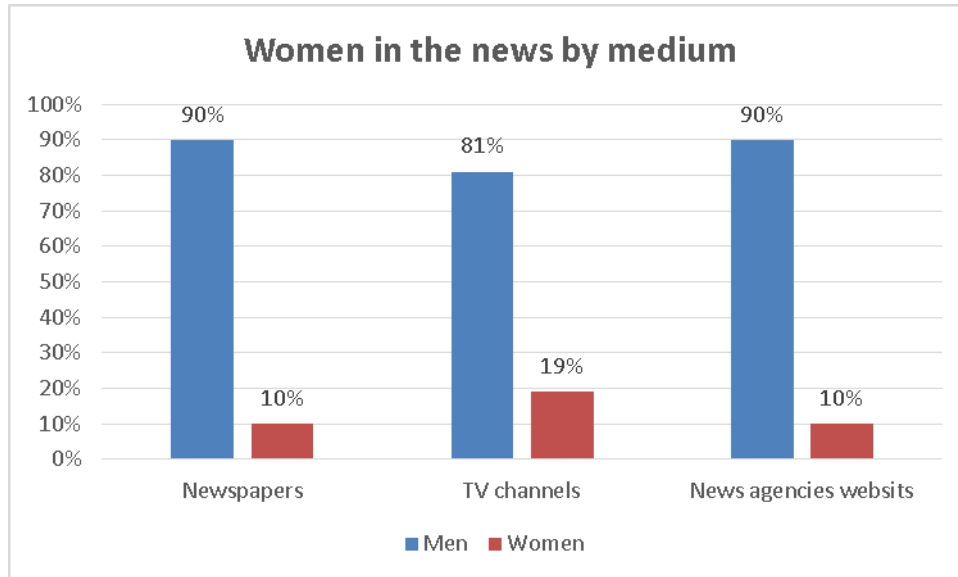
The media monitoring of the targeted Palestinian outlets, showed that women merely made up only 12%, while men 88%, of the people who were interviewed, or talked about in news related to (1)

decision-making processes, (2) creating and achieving peace and security, (3) as well as reflecting the violations of the Israeli Occupation.

Despite the fact that Palestinian women make up 50% of the population, yet their roles are still marginalized, and their perspectives are un-integrated in the political spheres, as well as in the peace and security processes. Thus, causing the exclusion of half of the knowledge and expertise of an entire society.



Women accounted for 19% of the news related to peace, security and the Israeli violations against women in the monitored TV stations, and accounted for 10% in the monitored newspapers and news agencies websites. This clearly proves the dominance of men and the “male culture” in the Palestinian media outlets.



The Palestinian media outlets mainly focus on the violations of the Israeli occupation against the Palestinian people; due to the on-going conflict, constant murdering, imprisonment, home demolitions, displacement as well as the daily oppression of the Palestinian people when crossing checkpoint and the repression that prisoners suffer from inside the Israeli jails.

The monitored news showed a significant gap in men to women representation in the News, as well as the dominance of men on main topics and headlines as following:

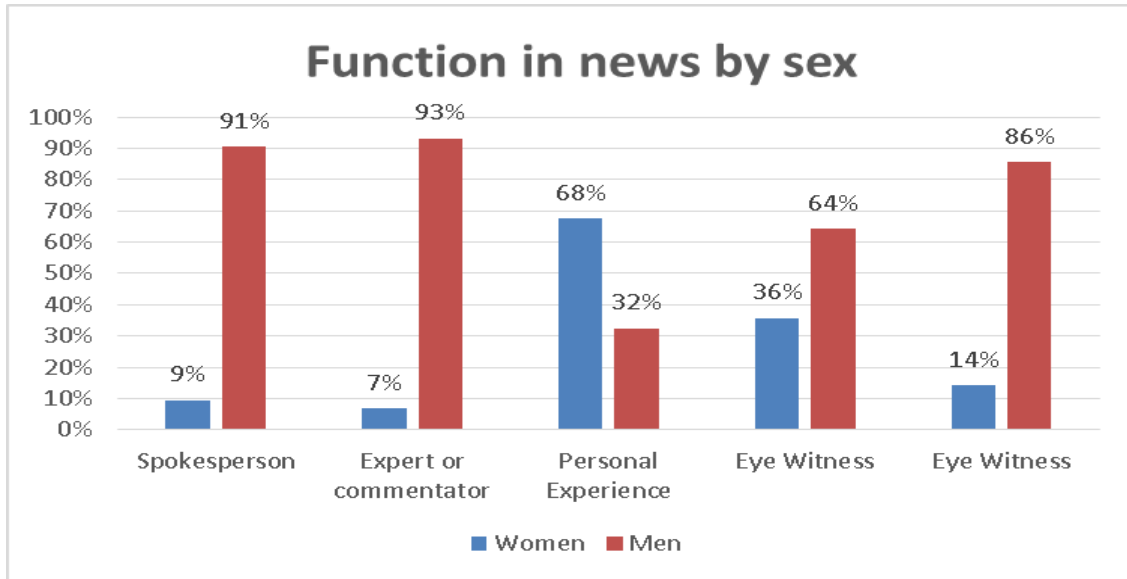
- 52% of monitored news were about the violations and crimes of the Israeli occupations; only 7% represented women while 46% represented men.
- 18% of the news discussed the Palestinian case and relationship such as; meetings, conferences at the regional level, efforts to conflict resolution and peace reconciliation. Women appeared by 2% in the mentioned topics, while men accounted for 16%.
- 13% of the monitored news focused on international agreements and relationships, women were represented by 1%, while men were represented by 12% in the mentioned topics
- 6% of the monitored news discussed the Nakba and its' related stories, were women were represented by 1% and men were represented by 5%.
- The monitored news showed significant absence and negligence of women in news related to peace negotiations, Palestinian national division, the siege and reconstruction of Gaza Strip, despite of the fact that women bear the responsibilities of this patriot status. This is attributed to neither of showing up

the role of women in media, nor to minor representation of women in the reconciliation committees.

The table below clarifies the above mentioned percentages:

News Topic	Percentage for the topic in overall news	Percentage for women by the topic	Percentage for Man by the topic
peace negotiations	2%	0%	2%
International agreements and diplomacy	13%	1%	12%
Dimensions of peacekeeping and relations on the Palestinian issue	18%	2%	16%
The invasion and reconstruction of Gaza Strip	1%	0%	1%
Memory of Al Nakba and its related stories	6%	1%	5%
Palestinian national division	7%	0%	7%
violations of the Israeli occupation	52%	7%	46%

As an individual being conversed in media related to peace, security and violations, women remain at the normal sector of society, while men are shown up as experts. 68% of women represented those who reported personal experiences, 36% as a witness, 9% as official speakers and 7% as experts. In contrast, men represented 93% as experts and 91% as speakers.

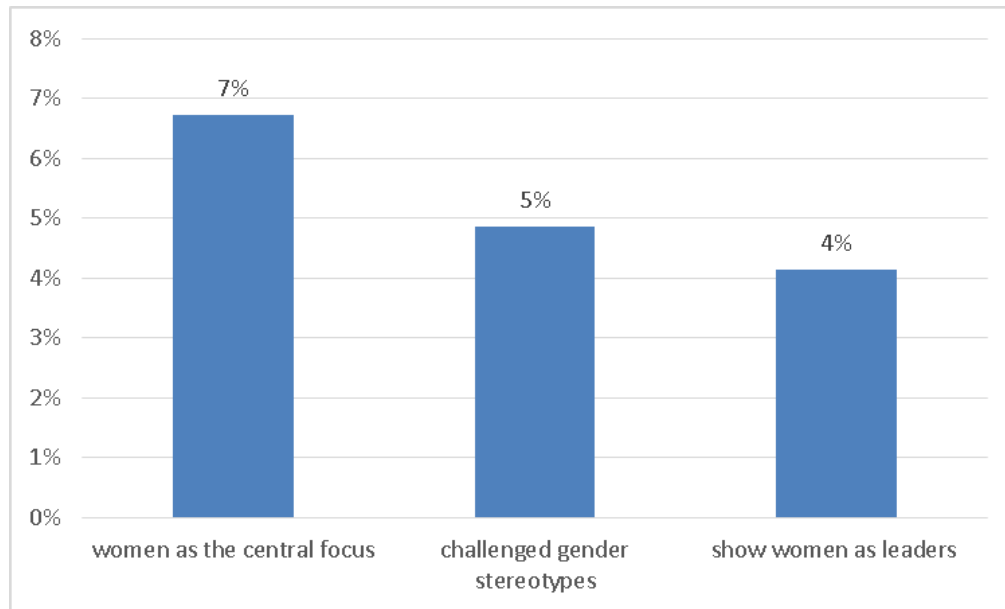


Out of 25 occupational categories, news presented women in the following occupation: 26% as a young female or citizen, 22% as a housewife or a parent, while men are shown in more specialized occupation.

Occupation	Men	Women
Not stated	17%	15%
.Royalty, monarch, deposed monarch, et	6%	1%
Government, politician, minister, spokesperson...	33%	15%
Government employee, public servant, etc.	4%	9%
Police, military, para-military, militia, fire officer	3%	2%
Media professional, journalist, film-maker, etc.	3%	3%
Lawyer, judge, magistrate, legal advocate, etc.	5%	4%
Agriculture, mining, fishing, forestry	1%	0%
Religious figure, priest, monk, rabbi, mullah, nun	2%	0%
Office or service worker, non-management worker	1%	2%
Activist or worker in civil society org., NGO, trade union	5%	3%
Homemaker, parent (male or female)	9%	22%
young person, Villager or resident	14%	26%

The data shows minimal percentage of news focusing on women, which is only 7% of total news. It is rarely that women are the focus of subjects which forms news. Only

4% of news show women as leaders and decision makers. 5% of news challenge traditional images of women, and mostly reinforces the traditional modelling news between sexes, or being neutral about this issue. In addition to the absence of subjects related to inequality between sexes.



Recommendations

- Modify editorial policies of Palestinian Media Outlets
- The Palestinian Media Outlets to adopt a women database, to be used in all media productions
- Building the capacities of journalists, media specialists and decision-makers in the Palestinian Media organizations, in gender equality and UNSCR 1325

References

Global Media Monitoring Project (GMMP)

