

# Introduction & Overview

The world recently witnessed an unprecedented escalation of the war between Palestine and Israel which resulted in urgent and international media attention which is worthy of examination. In this shared task, our team's main duty is to put annotation guidelines that would result in a consistent annotation. In this document, a brief overview of our annotation process and a brief explanation of the team's logic of establishing the bias criteria would be given.

## Objective:

The purpose of this annotation task is to identify bias in the given content towards specific entities, particularly Palestine, Israel, or others. Related to the current war happening in Gaza, Palestine, and Israel.

## Task Description:

The task involves assigning one of seven in each article: Unbiased, Biased against Palestine, Biased against Israel, Biased against both Palestine and Israel, Biased against others, Unclear or Not Applicable.

## Identification of Bias

- **Emotive language, emphatic language, and non-neutral content**
  - Terms that incited emotion and/or empathy or portrayed a particular side in a better/worse light were taken as indicators of bias.
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- **Weasel words**
  - phrases that create an impression that something specific and meaningful has been said when only a vague or ambiguous claim has been communicated
  - E.g.: "it is widely believed"
- **Favorable repetition**
  - repetitive usage of words that in typical usage do not have prior polarity, but when used in a repetitive manner, create a favorable depiction of a sentence's topic and/or it eventually create a generalization about a certain group.
  - E.g.:
  - For instance, the repetitive usage of the word "terrorist".
- **Loaded comparisons**

- Use of selective vocabulary in order to create distinct connotations for different groups
- E.g.: Using 'Israeli hostages' and 'Palestinian prisoners' to imply the innocence of Israeli captives and the criminality of Palestinian detainees
- This should be considered in tandem with the functional use of terms i.e. the term 'hostage exchange' does not carry the same biased connotations.
- **Selective quotations**
  - Although clear attribution of opinions or quotes constitutes unbiased content, the team realized that certain content with excessively extreme one-sided quotes revealed an editorial bias by an omission of alternate perspectives and perceived legitimacy.
  - Understandably, this is a grey area; so edge cases were highlighted for discussion and the final decision was achieved by consensus.
- **Exercising Prudence**
  - In order to prevent inaccuracies and false attributions of bias, the team elected to treat edge cases with higher levels of scrutiny, choosing to opt for 'Unclear' when the text did not confidently meet our established thresholds for bias.
- **Facts Vs. Opinions**
  - In order to put objective criteria for bias identification, there was a need to distinguish between facts and opinions. For instance, providing something that contains false information would be categorized as biased. Opinions justifying genocide or a mass murder would be categorized as biased.
- **Rumors**
  - The mention of rumors or crimes committed without a piece of evidence is categorized as bias.
- **Quality Control**

The quality control is important to ensure a consistent annotation among the team members. The quality control was to create a random list and discuss a random samples to set the criteria.

## Criteria and Ground Truth for Annotation Labels:

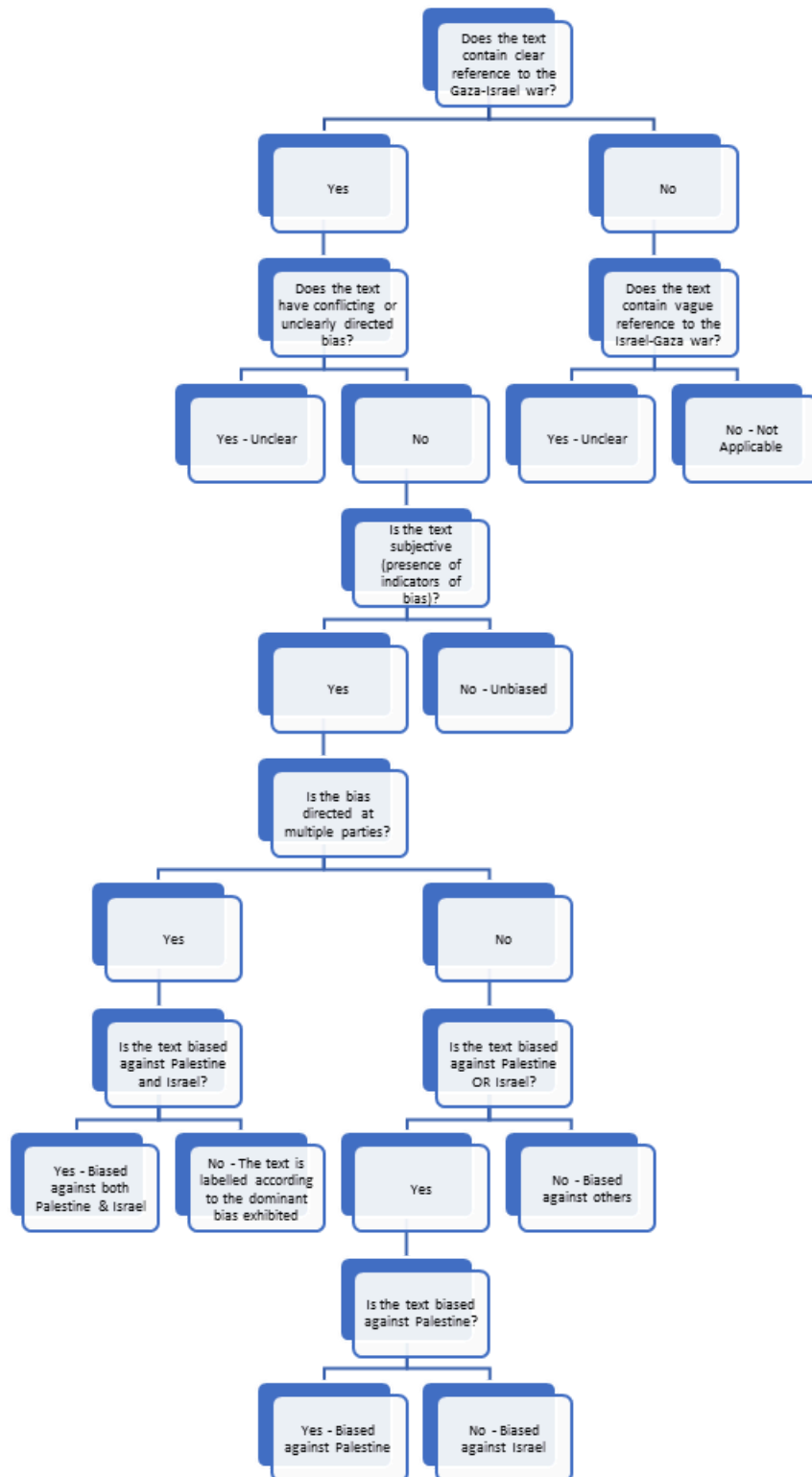
Label	Category Guidelines / Criteria	Example of Main Cases based on Ground Truth provided by FIGNEWS organisers
<b>Unbiased</b>  The content is relevant and does not exhibit bias	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● The content makes specific reference to the Gaza-Israel war and mentions the</li> </ul>	"In the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict, recent events have escalated tensions. Yesterday, Israeli

	<p>involvement of actors on both sides as well as external stakeholders from a neutral standpoint.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Content is not subjective. Absence of weasel words, favorable repetition, and words that explicitly convey opinion or emotions.</li> <li>• Subjective content is attributed to an external source or labeled as an opinion.</li> </ul>	<p>forces conducted operations in response to rocket attacks from Gaza. Both sides have reported casualties. International leaders are calling for restraint and a return to peace talks."</p>
<p><b>Biased against Palestine</b></p> <p>The content is relevant and exhibits bias against Palestine</p>	<p>The content makes specific reference to the Gaza-Israel war from a non-neutral (subjective) standpoint that disfavours Palestine - containing weasel words*, favorable repetition, and/or words that explicitly convey opinion or emotions.</p>	<p>"Once again, Palestinian aggression has disrupted peace in the region. Palestinian extremists, ignoring efforts for peace, launched unprovoked attacks on innocent Israeli civilians. Israel's response, though portrayed as harsh by some, is a justified measure to protect its citizens."</p>
<p><b>Biased against Israel</b></p> <p>The content is relevant and exhibits bias against Israel</p>	<p>The content makes specific reference to the Gaza-Israel war from a non-neutral (subjective) standpoint that disfavours Israel - containing weasel words*, favorable repetition, and/or words that explicitly convey opinion or emotions. Or it includes false information.</p> <p>**consider difference between factual and emphatic sentences</p>	<p><b>"In a typical display of excessive force, Israeli troops have yet again targeted Palestinian areas, causing numerous civilian casualties. This aggression, under the guise of self-defense, highlights the ongoing oppressive tactics Israel employs against Palestinians."</b></p>
<p><b>Biased against both Palestine and Israel</b></p> <p>The content is relevant and exhibits bias against Palestine and Israel</p>	<p>The content makes specific reference to the Gaza-Israel war from a non-neutral (subjective) standpoint that disfavours both Palestine and Israel - containing weasel words*, favorable repetition,</p>	<p>"In the latest chapter of their endless and futile conflict, Israeli and Palestinian forces have once again engaged in senseless violence. Both sides continue to commit atrocities, showing a</p>

	and/or words that explicitly convey opinion or emotions.	complete disregard for peace or human life."
<b>Biased against others</b>  The content is relevant and exhibits bias against other actors/stakeholders	The content makes specific reference to the Gaza-Israel war from a non-neutral (subjective) standpoint that disfavours actors apart from Palestine and Israel - containing weasel words*, favorable repetition, and/or words that explicitly convey opinion or emotions.	"In the shadow of the Israel-Palestine conflict, external actors, particularly Iran, are exacerbating tensions. Iran's covert support for extremist groups shows its intent to destabilize the region, disregarding the catastrophic impact on both Israeli and Palestinian civilians."
<b>Unclear</b>  The content is potentially relevant but does not offer sufficient specification to establish the presence or absence of bias	The content vaguely references the Gaza-Israel war without identifying specific moments, actors, or actions.	"Recent developments in the Middle East have seen an increase in hostilities. The situation in the region is complex, with various factors contributing to the current state of affairs. The international community remains divided on the issue."
<b>Not Applicable</b>  The content is not relevant or off-topic.	The content does not pertain to pivotal moments in the Gaza-Israel war and hence is not directly relevant to the corpus.	"In other news, the annual technology conference in Tel Aviv has unveiled groundbreaking advancements in cybersecurity. Industry leaders from around the globe gathered to showcase innovations that promise to shape the future of digital security."

# Annotation Scheme:

## Decision Tree



## Further Examples and Justifications

Label	Examples and Justification
Unbiased	<p>Ref 41 They Said We Were Hamas 'They said, "We'll kill you, you're Hamas. These Palestinian men, working in a factory in the West Bank, were arrested by Israeli forces, detained for 23 days, and subjected to torture and interrogation. Amnesty International reports a surge in Israeli authorities' use of administrative detention of Palestinians in the occupied West Bank since October 7th.</p> <p>Justification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of quotations and attributing subjective content to external sources (Palestinian detainees)</li> <li>• Identifying the source of information (Amnesty International)</li> </ul> <p>Ref 23 US President Joe Biden says both Hamas and Russia's Vladimir Putin "want to completely annihilate a neighboring democracy." <a href="https://trib.al/UAfb8eA=:https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-10-20/biden-casts-russia-hamas-as-parallel-threats-to-democracy">https://trib.al/UAfb8eA=:https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2023-10-20/biden-casts-russia-hamas-as-parallel-threats-to-democracy</a></p> <p>Justification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of quotations and attributing subjective content to external sources (Joe Biden)</li> </ul> <p>Ref 7 Protest in Aligarh Muslim University in support of Hamas. इज़रायल पर हमले से हाहाकार, AMU में क्यों हमास की जयकार? #aligarhmuslimuniversity #upnews #tv9upuk #breakingnews #cmयोगी #akhileshyadav #upgoverment #bjp #bsp #samajwadiparty #newsupdate #Israel vs palestine #Israel palestine war #israel palestine news #protest AMU israel consulate # Protest in AMU #israel palestine occupation #israel launches air strikes in gaza #AMU Protest For Hamas</p> <p>Justification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specifies relation to Israel-Palestine war (Hamas)</li> <li>• References objective events (motivation behind protest in AMU)</li> </ul> <p>Ref 66 Israel northern border heats up after Hezbollah rocket fire from Lebanon #LIVE #Israel #Palestine #Gaza #Hamas #Hezbollah #GolanHeights #Syria</p> <p>Justification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Specifies relation to Israel-Palestine war in accompanying text (#Palestine #Gaza)</li> <li>• References objective events (reaction to Hezbollah rockets in Israel)</li> </ul> <p>Ref 4785</p>

	<p>From 13 million dollars in donations, Spain increased to 54 million dollars to finance UNRWA. While around ten countries, including France, have decided to suspend funding on the basis of accusations of support for Hamas by the Israeli government, Spain has decided to triple its funding, to continue to come in aid of the 2 million Gazans for whom the need for support is vital in the midst of the genocide carried out by Israel</p> <p>Justification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-neutral language (highlighted) determined to be unbiased and objective based on larger context of events (<a href="#">ICJ recognition of plausibility of Israel violating genocide convention</a>)</li> </ul>
Biased Against Palestine	<p>Ref 21 SENDING A CLEAR MESSAGE: Americans joined together in DC for the 'March for Israel' to show their support in the fight against Hamas terrorists. <a href="https://trib.al/iZyroGg">https://trib.al/iZyroGg</a>:=<a href="https://www.foxnews.com/us/duty-demonstrators-pack-national-mall-solidarity-israel">https://www.foxnews.com/us/duty-demonstrators-pack-national-mall-solidarity-israel</a></p> <p>Justification: Non-neutral content not attributed to external source (highlighted) - Usage of term 'terrorists' to describe Hamas</p> <p>Ref 794 Hamas delays release of Israeli hostages on second day of its truce with Israel in dispute over aid and Palestinian prisoners. Follow live updates.</p> <p>Justification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Non-neutral content not attributed to external source (highlighted) - attribution of delay to Hamas</li> <li>Framing of Israeli captives as 'hostages' and Palestinian captives as 'prisoners'.</li> </ul>
Biased against Israel	<p>Ref 4040 Photos of the funeral ceremony of the martyrs of the Orthodox Church in Gaza bombed yesterday by the Israeli air force #GazaUnderAttack #Palestine</p> <p>Justification: Non-neutral content not attributed to an external source (highlighted) - Term 'martyrs' alludes to religious/ideological persecution that is unsubstantiated</p> <p>Ref 417 Hamas has invited Elon Musk to witness in person the scope of the violence and devastation heaped upon the Gaza Strip by Israel <a href="https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/11/29/hamas-invites-elon-musk-to-gaza-to-see-the-destruction-with-his-own-eyes">aje.io/nfbbk2</a>:=<a href="https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/11/29/hamas-invites-elon-musk-to-gaza-to-see-the-destruction-with-his-own-eyes">https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/11/29/hamas-invites-elon-musk-to-gaza-to-see-the-destruction-with-his-own-eyes</a></p> <p>Justification: Use of emotive language (highlighted)</p> <p>Ref 2946</p>

	<p>Since we witness the eradication of a people under the pretext of obeying the urgency of saving another, is it even possible to hope for a part of humanism, of respect for life? , in the face of this <b>savage persecution</b> which falls <b>every day, incessantly, without restraint, without conscience</b> on Gaza.... This song, still tragically relevant today, was composed by my friend Tewfik Benghabrit and sung in June 2022 in the town of Umm Qeis (Jordan), in fact almost at the gates of a Palestine that has been wandering for decades.... His words resonate more than ever with the <b>long suffering</b> of a people whose <b>only wrong would be to continue living, whose painful intensity of cry</b> is matched only by their determination to shout their right to exist. .</p> <p>Justification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of emotive language (highlighted)</li> <li>• Use of non-neutral content (highlighted)</li> </ul>
Biased against both Palestine & Israel	<p>Ref 31 Asla Abu Kadir, the lawyer and Israeli immigrant, who expressed support for the <b>Hamas terrorist attack</b> on social media, was arrested and brought today to a hearing on the extension of her detention at the High Court. In addition, the police appealed to the Bar Association to exhaust the disciplinary proceedings against her and revoke her law practice license alongside the criminal proceedings. <b>Israeli Immigrants They won't be able to be lawyers!</b> I don't know about you, I'm personally excited! I hope you are at least like me Raz Atia</p> <p>Justification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of non-neutral content directed at both Palestine (<b>Hamas terrorist attack</b>) and Israel (<b>Israeli immigrants</b>)</li> </ul> <p>Ref 128 Beaz Levy is my neighbor, married to my cousin and also enlisted in Order 8. A smart guy who wrote things that are <b>very important to me</b>. Give them a moment: life is complex. Yair Golan, <b>hated by the Israeli right</b>, <b>sacrificed</b> his soul to die to save Jews from slaughter. hero of Israel. Life is complex. Settlers, <b>hated by the Israeli left</b>, threw themselves into the inferno and fell by the dozens in the battles for the protection of the Otaf kibbutzim. Life is complex. <b>Netanyahu's term, Mr. Defense</b>, ends with the biggest security disaster in Israel's history. Life is complex. Biden, the <b>slandered American president</b> in Israel, the man perceived as <b>lame and lacking in personality</b>, turns out to be a true friend and support in times of need. Life is complex. Those who thought it was possible to have fun with the refusal and the cracking of the reserve formation, were forced to enlist with 150% commitment. Life is complex. Those who <b>fully trusted the right-wing government received a complete disaster</b>. Life is complex. Those who until yesterday did not even agree to <b>destroy terrorists' houses</b>, are today calling for the razing of Gaza. Life is complex. Whoever banished the ultra-Orthodox found out that they are here, volunteering for the most <b>terrible</b> civilian tasks. The one who declared that we are no longer brothers, discovered to his <b>horror</b> that we are brothers to the slaughter. Those who thought that the disengagement, those who trusted in intelligence, those who trusted cameras and smart fences, those who believed that the settlers, those who said that the leftists, those who estimated that the Arabs... life is</p>



	<p>complex. Concepts are broken. Fundamental beliefs are undermined. Worldviews evaporate. Everything changes in these moments, and the change goes down to the roots of the beliefs of Israeli society. World changes are coming. Who doesn't see it. Those who are still stuck on their previous perceptions as they are. Those who find in the events just another proof of their method. He who remains right as yesterday, knows everything as last year. Those whose views are not currently undergoing a version update. Who doesn't stop for a moment to think. Well, didn't understand anything. He is yesterday's man. Don't be yesterday's people! Don't go back to the old arguments like a dog back to Kio. Don't be too quick to jump to conclusions for the other party. Don't be happy for Id. Don't wear me out in a skirmish. Do not praise the sober ones, because you too will be forced to sober up. Do not announce the collapse of the right, do not announce the collapse of the left. We all collapsed. We all fell. <b>The right was wrong. The left was wrong.</b> We all failed. Time for far-reaching changes in Israeli society.</p> <p>Justification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of emotive language (highlighted)</li> <li>• Use of non-neutral content against both Israel and Palestine (highlighted)</li> </ul> <p>Ref 4775</p> <p>Tonight at 17:00, on the daily emergency broadcaster: * We will host Rabbi Uri Sharki and discuss the question - on the one hand, how do we preserve the spirit of the nation that is revealed in all its glory - and on the other hand, fearlessly warn against the <b>evil ways of the Israeli leadership</b>. * We will discuss the significance of President Biden's visit and the subordination of the decision-making process in Israel to the American interest. * We will try to understand how the decisions are made - how Netanyahu's "head works". Almost two weeks have passed since the <b>Gaza pogrom</b>. Our children are still in cages, our daughters are still in dormitories. No real and required response. All the <b>lazy</b> generals are already asking to attack - and <b>only Netanyahu is preventing</b> it. Why? We will discuss this on the daily emergency broadcaster - this evening at five.</p> <p>Justification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use of emotive language (highlighted)</li> <li>• Use of non-neutral content against both Israel and Palestine (highlighted)</li> </ul>
Biased against others	<p>Ref 948</p> <p>It's <b>amazing</b> to watch how some in the <b>Democratic Party</b> are <b>finally</b> waking up and <b>realizing that they belong to the party of hate and disinformation</b>. Rep. Ritchie Torres (D-NY) said Rep. Ilhan Omar's (D-MN) opposition to funding the Iron Dome "would have led to even more dead Israelis and more dead Palestinians" if she had prevailed. <b>He also stated</b> that the humanitarian crisis of the war was started by Hamas killing Israeli civilians.</p> <p>Justification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Non-neutral content not attributed to external source (highlighted)</li> <li>• Use of emotive language (highlighted)</li> <li>• Identifying external party as main subject of content (the Democratic Party)</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specific mention of Israel-Palestine, but not as the direct subject of main content</li> </ul> <p>Ref 114  LOUD AND CLEAR: Biden's refusal to call for a cease-fire in the Israel-Hamas conflict may cost him key voters.  <a href="https://trib.al/2hE3rL4=:https://www.foxnews.com/media/young-people-turn-genocide-joe-cess-fire-stance-biden-absolutely-sucks">https://trib.al/2hE3rL4=:https://www.foxnews.com/media/young-people-turn-genocide-joe-cess-fire-stance-biden-absolutely-sucks</a></p> <p>Justification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Identifying external party as main subject of content (Biden)</li> <li>Specific mention of Israel-Palestine, but not as the direct subject of main content</li> <li>Non-neutral accompanying context (highlighted)</li> </ul>
Unclear	<p>Ref 58  A Controversial Video Goes Viral on Social Media: Women Laugh and Take Selfies in the Background of a Kidnapping, Displaying Disrespectful Gestures. #Israel #HamasWar #IsraelUnderAttack #Gaza #Palestinians #IsraelPalestineWar #Gaza #IsraelFightsTerror #IndiaStandWithIsrael #telaviv #Hezbollah #FPJ</p> <p>Justification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Specific reference not in the main text but in accompanying context (hashtags #IsraelPalestineWar)</li> <li>Main text does not identify specific actors in a non-neutral way</li> <li>Accompanying context alludes to non-neutral framing (#IsraelFightsTerror, #IndiaStandWithIsrael)</li> </ul> <p>Ref 52  This Diwali, all the lamps of our family in #Gaza are in the name of love, peace, happiness, humanity and light ❤️ Show the world the path of love O Ram 🙏</p> <p>Justification:  Main subject of the text is about Diwali and The Hindu deity, Ram, but with tangential mention of Diwali</p> <p>Ref 782  After 49 days of war, Hamas is proving that it is still strong and that it controls the #Gaza Strip, and the Al-Qassam Brigades are able to impose a ceasefire in the south and north of the Strip as well, even on the battlefield where it was believed that the fighters there were alone, without the ability to contact their leaders. As for the process of liberating the detainees, it is being conducted as if it were a military operation in every sense of the word. Hamas is addressing the people in Gaza and asking them not to reveal any information about the detainees during the truce. All of this indicates that the moment when Hamas will kneel is not near. Source: Channel 12 Hebrew</p> <p>Justification:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Conflicting positive and negative descriptions of Hamas using favourable emotive language (highlighted) and unfavourable terms (highlighted)</li> </ul>

Not Applicable	<p>Ref 44 "And I crumpled to the ground and I said, 'They are in the midst of killing our son.'"</p> <p>Justification: No specification related to Gaza or Israel</p> <p>Ref 70 In Arabic for the residents of Gaza this time with a translation</p> <p>Justification: No specified content</p> <p>Ref 86 Multiple fatalities have been reported.</p> <p>Ref 86 unity!! For the first time in history, after the signature of 85 MKs, the way was paved for the removal of Ofer Kasif from the Israeli Knesset.</p> <p>Justification: No specified relation to the current events of Israel-Palestine war</p> <p>Justification: No specification related to Gaza or Israel</p>
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## Correct Application and Common Mistakes

- The conflation between fact and opinion
  - "Genocide"
    - Although the term genocide has very negative connotations and could be construed to imply bias, it is a term that objectively describes certain events of the Israel-Palestine war.
    - Since the plausibility of genocide has been affirmed both by relevant legal and scholarly experts, as well as the ICJ, as a team we decided that the term was factual.
- The delineation between 'Unclear' and 'Not Applicable'
  - Texts that were made vague references that *could* apply to the Israel-Palestine war, but did not contain specific signifiers were labeled 'Not Applicable'
    - E.g.: (Ref 44)"And I crumpled to the ground and I said, 'They are in the midst of killing our son.'"
    - E.g.: (Ref 86) Multiple fatalities have been reported.
  - Texts that had vague content but included implicit and/or tangential specific signifiers were labeled 'Unclear'

- E.g.: (Ref 142) In an interview with Mark Regev, Senior Adviser to Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu, Mehdi Hasan asks hard hitting questions, pointing out the various inaccuracies and disinformation promulgated by IDF on Twitter. #etribune #Israel #Hamas #Palestine #Calendar #IDF #Tweets #MehdiHasan #MarkRegev
- E.g.: (Ref 724) Maha Dakhil, a top agent at the Creative Artists Agency, whose clients include Tom Cruise, Natalie Portman and Ava DuVernay, stepped away from leadership roles after Israel-Hamas posts on social media.

## Annotation Process:

- Before beginning, read through the updated category guidelines.
- Read the text thoroughly to grasp the context and contents.
- Determine if the text is relevant to the Palestine-Israel war.
- If so, determine if the text is subjective or not subjective.
- If the former, determine if the subjectivity confers any bias.
- If there is bias, identify the source of the bias within the text and the targeted entity/entities.
- Document the justification for the annotation decision.
- Refer to the examples of edge and main cases to double-check before finalising the decision.
- If a decision cannot be reached with confidence, highlight the text and indicate the source of ambiguity for discussion during the next meeting.
- During the meeting, the team would take initial opinions of all members before discussing the areas of divergence until a consensus is reached.
- The final decision is then taken.

## Quality Assurance:

### Training and Support

- The team of annotators familiarize ourselves with the basics of annotation by [QCRI](#) and discussed the distinctions between objective versus subjective content to ensure consistent understanding
- The team members familiarize ourselves with key actors and stakeholders within the Israel-Palestine context

### Review and Update

- We created a random sample of all the batches and discussed the first 20 texts together

- Based on the discussion, we refined the category guidelines and identified some examples of main and edge cases.
- Ambiguous or confusing texts would be highlighted. Once a week, we would convene virtually to discuss edge cases we identified while asynchronously annotating the main texts. Existing annotations and the guidelines would be refined to reflect the outcomes of the discussion.
- To monitor source-language-related inconsistencies, we ensured that when annotating languages originating from non-Arabic/English sources, at least two different annotators would work in tandem, performing random cross-checks and highlighting any seeming inconsistencies.
- Weekly guideline reviews were scheduled with at least 2 annotators for updates based on feedback and new insights
- All annotators were reminded to review the updated guidelines before continuing with their annotation in order to maintain consistency
- The team member preferred that each language is annotated by more than one team member to ensure multipartiality and objectivity.

## Feedback Mechanism

- The team stayed in frequent communication via online groupchat and regular discussion via weekly virtual meet-ups.
- Comments and references were made directly in the relevant column in the sheets for easy review and discussion.

## Ethical Considerations & Disclaimers:

### Handling of Sensitive Data

- Due to the sensitive nature of the texts, the team regularly focused on wellness checks while performing the annotations.
- Team members were encouraged to work according to their cognitive and emotional capacity, and take breaks when needed.
- We frequently discussed how we felt about the war and offered emotional support, while establishing clear boundaries between personal sentiments and professional input.

### Reductive Interpretations

- In view of the widespread conflation of Palestinians with Hamas or other political figures, we chose to equate bias against Hamas and political leaders as bias against Palestinians. This was done in order to meaningfully assess the sentiments of the text in

accordance with existing views, and does not in any way reflect the team's opinions on the plurality or diversity of Palestinian people.

- In several media outlets, there is a clear absence of the word 'Palestine' whether it is something intentional or unintentional, the Palestinian identity is usually absent and it is replaced with the reference to "Gaza" or "The West Bank" and the team members put this into consideration while annotating the text.
- When texts seemed to fit into multiple categories, e.g. both exhibiting bias against Palestine, Israel, and others; we chose the label that reflected the most prominent bias in the text.

## Observations & Insights

Since this document pertains exclusively to the guidelines and process adopted for the annotation, we have omitted our qualitative observations and insights on the annotation experience. These are instead documented in the system paper submission.