

# ANTI-PALESTINIAN RACISM IN MEDIA

## MANUFACTURING CONSENT FOR GENOCIDE AND OCCUPATION

News media can hold the powerful to account. Instead, many mainstream outlets perpetuate anti-Palestinian racism. They frequently **dehumanize** Palestinians, **justify** Israeli violence, **discredit** and **exclude** Palestinian voices, **cancel** rights-based language, and more.

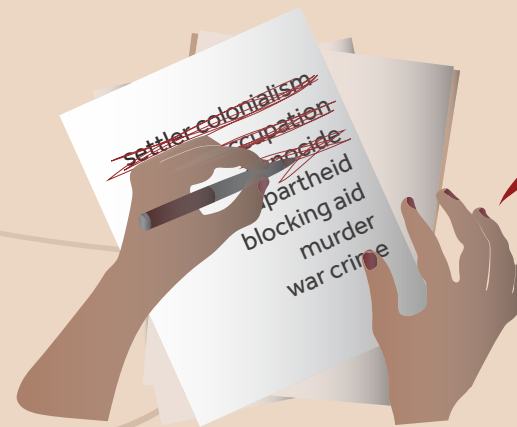
### Silence critical voices

More than 100 media workers faced **retaliation for criticizing Israel's assault on Gaza**, in the form of canceled events, restricted assignments, rescinded awards, termination, or pressure to resign, between Oct. 2023–Feb. 2024, according to the National Writers Union.



### Censor these words

Some news outlets **remove words and phrases** widely used to describe Israeli violations against Palestinians. A New York Times memo instructed journalists to avoid the terms "genocide," "ethnic cleansing," "occupied territory," and "refugee camps" when covering Palestine.



### Discredit Palestinian sources

Information from Palestinian sources or human rights organizations is routinely treated with **skepticism**, while information from Israeli or "Western" official sources is often treated as **established fact**. Palestinians are interviewed less frequently than Israeli or U.S. guests.



### Hide war crimes

Reporting often uses the **passive voice** to discuss war crimes committed by Israeli forces. For example, one *Washington Post* headline initially omitted that the Israeli military caused the deaths of premature babies at a hospital in Gaza: "Four fragile lives found ended."

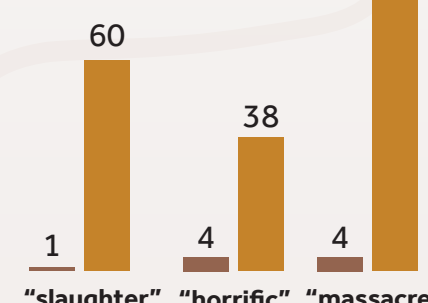


### Don't question dominant narratives

Some journalists amplify Israeli claims **without verifying them**, such as claims that Palestinian militants hide in Gaza hospitals. An official from the International Criminal Court called these claims "grossly exaggerated" and said "I think we've been misled about that in the press."



Disproportionate use of words describing the deaths of **Israelis** vs deaths of **Palestinians** by three U.S. news outlets, Oct. 7–Nov. 25, 2023



### Empathize selectively

News outlets frequently use **emotive language** like "massacre," "slaughter," and "horrific" to describe the killings of Israelis, but not Palestinians. For decades, studies of reporting from *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *LA Times*, among others, have shown that mainstream media **disproportionately covers Israeli deaths**.

## FROM CENSORING THE STORY TO KILLING THE STORY

### Protect journalists

Israeli forces **killed 195 journalists and media workers** in Gaza and bombed at least 50 media offices (Oct. 7, 2023–Jan. 14, 2025).



### Stop the media blackout

The Israeli government **barred foreign journalists** from entering Gaza, imposed **communications blackouts**, arbitrarily **arrested and tortured** Palestinian journalists, and **banned** Al Jazeera.

