

Journal



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The Arabic Press and the Palestinian refugee issue, A survey of the content of newspapers; "Al Quds Al Arabi, Al-Ahram Egyptian, Bahraini Al Ayam."

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Abstract

After the signing of the Oslo agreement on September 13th, 1993 many issues remained unsolved between the Palestinian authority and Israel. The humanitarian situation, within the agreement, addressing and obtaining media coverage on the issue of Palestinian refugee return was the key. Thus, this study seeks to provide an understanding of the way in which three daily Arabic newspapers have covered the topic. The newspaper analyzed were The Egyptian Al Ahram , Al Quds Alarabi, and Bahrain's Al Ayam.

This work falls into the descriptive analytical field of research in which the researcher has analyzed the content of the media coverage during the period covering the first six months of 2010. Notably, the timeframe under analysis is before the launching of the Arab Spring revolutions, which have so significantly changed the agenda of both the media outlets, as well as the readership.

The study concluded that Al-Ahram lead the three newspapers in coverage of Palestinian refugee return. Additionally, the results reveal that 53.7 % of all topics covered among all three newspapers were of a political nature, indicating that they were a top priority. Additionally, the dominant type of coverage was hard news stories, leading at 77 .4% of all news stories published.

Furthermore, the study revealed that among the total negative news and opinion coverage, 60% were focused on the right of return as a political topic rather than on economic, social or humanitarian topics. However, this can be understood as a reflection of how the issues of Palestinian right of return and the issue of refugees are usually framed, in a negative light.

Key words: Press coverage. Daily Arab newspapers. Palestinian refugee's Content analysis.

