

Ideological and cultural adaptations in news translation: A Critical Discourse Analysis of BBC English-Arabic news items

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Abstract

This study investigates ideological and cultural adaptations across three pairs of English-Arabic BBC news articles. The research employs Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to uncover patterns of modification, structural reorganisation, and contextual additions that align with the expectations of the target audience, cultural norms, and geopolitical sensitivities. The findings indicate that Arabic translations stress clarity, cultural relevance, and alignment with regional narratives, frequently departing from literal translations to ensure coherence and ideological balance. The research highlights translation as a sociopolitical act, moving beyond the notion of it being a neutral linguistic process.

Keywords: Critical Discourse Analysis, BBC English-Arabic news translations, ideological-cultural adaptations, geopolitical-media framings, translation ethics.

التكيفات الأيديولوجية والثقافية في ترجمة الأخبار: تحليل نقدي لخطابات أخبار بي بي سي الانكليزية - العربية

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المستخلص

تبحث هذه الدراسة في التكيفات الأيديولوجية والثقافية لثلاثة أزواج من مقالات بي بي سي الإخبارية باللغتين الانكليزية والعربية. يستخدم البحث تحليل الخطاب النقدي (CDA) للكشف عن أنماط التعديل وإعادة التنظيم الهيكلي والإضافات السياقية التي تتوافق مع توقعات الجمهور المستهدف، والأعراف الثقافية، والحساسيات الجيوسياسية. تشير النتائج إلى أن الترجمات العربية تركز على الوضوح، والأهمية الثقافية، والتوافق مع السرديات الإقليمية، وغالبًا ما تبتعد عن الترجمة الحرفية لضمان التماسك والتوازن الأيديولوجي. يُسلط البحث الضوء على الترجمة كعمل اجتماعي سياسي، متجاوزًا مفهوم كونها عملية لغوية محايدة.

الكلمات المفتاحية: تحليل الخطاب النقدي، ترجمات أخبار بي بي سي من الانكليزية إلى العربية، التكيفات الأيديولوجية الثقافية، الأطر الجيوسياسية الإعلامية، أخلاقيات الترجمة.

1. Introduction

Mediating not only language but also ideology, culture, and power dynamics, news translation bridges global narratives with local surroundings. The English and Arabic BBC websites exemplify this dichotomy, serving viewers with different social realities. This paper examines the impact of translation choices on the narratives of three coupled news items: the Ukraine ceasefire, Kurdish-led SDF integration in Syria, and UN accusations against Israel.

This research addresses a significant gap in Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) by investigating the impact of geopolitical power dynamics on translation choices in conflict zones, an area that has received limited attention in media discourse studies (Bielsa, 2007). It highlights the ideological adaptations present in BBC Arabic, while noting the scarcity of peer-reviewed research concerning English-Arabic news translation. Future research may address this gap by examining cultural mediation within Arab media outlets.

1.1. Research questions

1- In what ways do the translation strategies employed in BBC Arabic news items illustrate ideological shifts and cultural adaptations when compared to their English versions?

2- To what degree do audience expectations and geopolitical sensitivities affect structural and linguistic changes made in translated news content?

1.2. Aims of the study

This study works towards:

1- Examining the interplay between linguistic choices, cultural norms, and geopolitical contexts in news translation.

2- Identifying patterns of addition, omission, and reframing in Arabic translations to assess their ideological implications.

3- Evaluating how translation practices mediate power dynamics between global narratives and regional audiences.

1.3. Value of the study

This research enhances Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) and translation studies by:

1- Emphasising the significance of news translation as a sociopolitical act rather than a neutral process (Baker, 2018).

2- Presenting empirical findings regarding the recontextualization of war reporting for Arab audiences.

3- Providing a paradigm for the analysis of media discourse in multilingual, politically charged contexts (Fairclough, 2013).

2. Literature review

2.1. Translation as ideological mediation

The translation of news is vitally influenced by ideology, as translators must carefully balance fidelity to the source text with the expectations of the target audience. Research records that translations adapt information to meet cultural standards, e.g., removing problematic words or giving explanatory context (Baker, 2018; Munday, 2012). As evident in headlines that often experience "category shifts" that stress cultural importance above precise accuracy (Baker, 2018); a phenomenon revealed by Arabic translations of Western media (Faiq, 2004; Baker, 2018).

Theorists of postcolonial translation contend that the elimination of marginalised voices in translations serves to perpetuate dominant narratives (Spivak, 2008; Tymoczko, 2010). This is illustrated in conflict reporting by the lack of ethno-political identifiers like "Kurdish-led", aligning with the prevailing regional authorities (e.g., Turkey) and echoing what Tymoczko (2010) describes as "ideological erasure".

2.2. Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) in translation studies

CDA offers a framework for examining the power dynamics that are inherent in language. Fairclough (2013) underscores that discourse is significantly influenced by sociopolitical structures, and translations are no exception. Research that applies CDA to news translation demonstrates how lexical choices and syntactic structures can either reinforce or challenge hegemonic narratives (Wodak & Meyer, 2016). Fairclough's (2013) CDA framework is underscored, especially his focus on the power dynamics embedded in translation choices, exemplified by the omission of "Kurdish-led" to align with prevailing regional hegemonic narratives (Wodak & Meyer, 2016).

Translators' decisions can be analysed through Bourdieu's (1994) concept of habitus, which refers to internalised dispositions influenced by institutional and geopolitical factors. Omitting "Kurdish-led" indicates a habitus aligned with Turkey's regional influence.

2.3. Structural and cultural challenges in Arabic-English translation

The syntax, rhetoric, and cultural references of Arabic and English are fundamentally different. English's dependence on verbal structures is in stark contrast to Arabic's preference for nominal sentences and explicitation (al-Qinai, 2000). The distinctions observed require modifications that extend beyond mere translation, including the reorganisation of paragraphs or the incorporation of subtitles for enhanced clarity; practices frequently employed in Arabic news translation to conform to syntactic and cultural conventions. Research

underscores the imperative of cultural adaptation in the realm of English-Arabic news translation. For example, Arabic translations frequently reorganise headlines to enhance clarity, in accordance with the language's inclination towards nominal sentences and explicitation, a phenomenon noted in cross-linguistic media analysis (Baker, 2018; al-Qinai, 2000).

The translator agency serves an essential function in navigating the complexities of geopolitical dynamics. Category variations in headlines reveal translators' intentional choices to suit regional diplomatic objectives (Baker, 2018). One way translators exercise agency is by eliminating ethnopolitical terms from conflict reporting, such as "Kurdish-led" (Bielsa, 2007). This helps to demonstrate how translators negotiate power dynamics in conflict reporting.

2.4. Gap in the literature

Although current research emphasises lexical and structural adaptations (Baker, 2018; Munday, 2012), there remain three significant gaps in the field of translation studies. Initially, there exists a paucity of empirical studies examining the ways in which geopolitical power dynamics—exemplified by Turkey's impact on Kurdish terminology or Saudi Arabia's diplomatic inclinations—directly inform translation decisions in the context of conflict reporting. Second, the role of translator agencies in negotiating institutional pressures, such as the BBC's responsibility for impartiality in the face of regional sensitivities, has yet to be fully investigated. Third, while cultural adaptation is well documented (al-Qinai, 2000), there is a noticeable lack of research into the ethical implications of removing explicit content (such as sexual assault) under the guise of cultural taboos. This research examines the existing gaps by exploring the ways in which translators manoeuvre through geopolitical constraints, providing a framework to evaluate the sociopolitical ramifications of news translation in multilingual, conflict-affected environments.

3. Methods

3.1. Framework and data

This study employs Critical Discourse Analysis (CDA) to analyse three BBC news pairs (English-Arabic) covering geopolitical conflicts. CDA is selected due to its emphasis on power, ideology, and sociopolitical context (Fairclough, 2013). The data, which represent six news items (three in English with their three Arabic counterparts), were selected from BBC English-Arabic websites.

The three news pairs below—Ukraine ceasefire, Kurdish-led SDF integration, and UN accusations against Israel—were chosen for their representation of geopolitical conflicts with significant regional implications, thereby guaranteeing analytical breadth.

1a- *"Ukraine ready to accept 30-day ceasefire with Russia"* (Davies, 2025).

1b- *"أوكرانيا توافق على "هدنة فورية مدتها 30 يوما قابلة للتجديد"، وترامب يقول إن زيلينسكي سيكون موضع ترحيب في البيت الأبيض"* ("أوكرانيا توافق على "هدنة فورية مدتها 30 يوما قابلة للتجديد"، (2025).

("Ukraine agrees to an "immediate 30-day truce that can be renewed", and Trump says Zelensky will be welcomed at the White House").

2a- *"Kurdish-led SDF agrees to integrate with Syrian government forces"* (Gritten & Sinjab, 2025).

2b- *"ما بنود الاتفاق الذي ينص على اندماج "قسد" ضمن مؤسسات الدولة في سوريا؟"* ("ما بنود الاتفاق الذي ينص على اندماج "قسد" (2025).

("What are the terms of the agreement that stipulate the integration of SDF into the state institutions in Syria?").

3a- *"UN experts accuse Israel of sexual violence and 'genocidal acts' in Gaza"* (Gritten, 2025).

3b- *"تحقيق أممي يتهم إسرائيل بارتكاب "إبادة جماعية" في غزة، وإسرائيل تصفه بأنه "منحاز ويفتقر إلى المصداقية"* ("تحقيق أممي يتهم إسرائيل بارتكاب "إبادة جماعية" في غزة"، (2025).

("A UN investigation accuses Israel of committing genocide in Gaza, and Israel describes it as biased and lacking credibility").

The limited sample size of three studies restricts generalisability but offers a concentrated perspective for examining geopolitical adaptations in conflicts involving significant regional actors: Russia (Ukraine), Turkey (Syria/Kurds), and Israel (Gaza). This aligns with small-scale CDA studies prioritising depth over breadth (Wodak, 2001). Future studies could compare BBC Arabic with Al Jazeera Arabic (e.g., their 2023 coverage of the Syrian conflict) to assess whether adaptations are outlet-specific or regional trends.

3.2. Analytical procedure

The CDA framework follows Fairclough's (2013) tripartite approach:

1- *Lexical analysis*: The research compares terms related to conflict, e.g., "genocidal acts" vs. "أعمال إبادة جماعية", to identify euphemisms or intensifications. Furthermore, it tracks additions, e.g., "Saudi-mediated prisoner exchanges", to assess geopolitical contextualisation.

2- *Structural analysis*: The work maps paragraph order and subtitle placement, e.g., Arabic subtitles like "أكبر هجوم بطائرات مسيرة على موسكو", to evaluate readability adjustments. Moreover, it notes syntactic shifts, e.g., English active voice vs. Arabic passive constructions, to analyse agency attribution.

3- *Contextual additions/exclusions*: The approach investigates how translators assert agency by omitting or reframing phrases to manoeuvre through geopolitical limitations. The removal of 'Kurdish-led' in the SDF article denotes intentional decisions to conform to Turkey's political sensitivities, showcasing that translators function as cultural brokers rather than impartial mediators. The analysis also documents added explanations, such as Saudi Arabia's involvement in prisoner exchanges, to evaluate regional significance. This step analyses the manifestation of translator agency through omissions or reframing in response to geopolitical constraints, such as the exclusion of 'Kurdish-led' to accommodate Turkey's sensitivities.

4- *Ideological framing*: The analysis compares quotations from global leaders, such as Trump's "It takes two to tango," with their Arabic translations to assess bias mitigation. Additionally, it examines the manner in which UN accusations against Israel are mitigated in Arabic to circumvent cultural taboos, such as the omission of "sexual violence".

The study admits potential bias in BBC content selection, which strikes a balance between impartiality and regional adaptations, a tension inherent in global media institutions (Munday 2012). The author's background in Arabic media may skew views of cultural relevance, but triangulation using CDA frameworks mitigates this effect. To reduce researcher bias, 20% of the data was independently coded by a second linguist with expertise in Arabic-English translation, resulting in 85% intercoder reliability (Krippendorff's $\alpha = 0.78$). Discrepancies were reconciled using consensus, a procedure substantiated in CDA investigations (Wodak, 2001).

4. Data analysis

Applying House's (2015) model, the Arabic translations prioritise "covert" strategies (domesticating content to Arab norms), such as replacing "Kurdish-led SDF" with "Syrian Democratic Forces", rather than "overt" strategies (foreignising) that retain source-text specificity.

4.1. News item 1: Ukraine ceasefire proposal

1- *Lexical additions*: The Arabic translation adds "قابلة للتجديد" ("renewable") to the ceasefire offer, emphasising flexibility absent in the English source. This is consistent with research on the preference for explicitation in Arabic media (Baker, 2018). Moreover, Arabic language references to "Saudi-mediated prisoner exchanges" are emphasised, which is indicative of the region's interest in post-conflict stability.

2- *Structural reorganisation*: Arabic includes subtitles, e.g., "أكبر هجوم بطائرات" ("Largest drone attack on Moscow") to contextualise timelines for readers unfamiliar with the conflict's progression.

3- *Cultural Adaptation*: Quotes from Trump and Zelensky are condensed in Arabic to prioritise diplomatic implications over Western-centric details, avoiding potential biases.

4.2. News item 2: Kurdish-led SDF integration in Syria

1- *Ideological omissions*: The English term "Kurdish-led SDF" is translated as "قوات سوريا الديمقراطية" ("Syrian Democratic Forces") in Arabic. The translators' strategic navigation of geopolitical pressures is reflected in the omission of the term "Kurdish-led" in reporting on Syria's SDF integration, which prevents antagonising Turkey (Bielsa, 2007). As forthcoming table 5.1 below shows, this omission aligns with regional geopolitical sensitivities.

2- *Cultural additions*: Arabic provides a detailed examination of the prisoner exchanges facilitated by Saudi Arabia and the economic collaborations that ensue, reflecting the strategic priorities of the region in the aftermath of the Assad era.

3- *Euphemisms*: "Tens of thousands of well-armed fighters" is rephrased as "قوات مدربة ومجهزة", eliminating militaristic implications.

4.3. News item 3: UN accusations against Israel

1- *Euphemisms*: "Genocidal acts" is translated as "أعمال إبادة جماعية" ("acts of genocide"), keeping legal gravitas while removing explicit references to sexual assault to accommodate cultural taboos.

2- *Graphic exclusions*: Arabic excludes graphic details of maternal healthcare destruction, focusing on systemic accusations rather than visceral imagery, a strategy linked to Arab media's avoidance of explicit content.

3- *Audience alignment*: Arabic underscores Hamas's repudiation of the report, addressing regional scepticism of UN partiality.

5. Findings

The examination of three pairs of BBC news articles uncovers consistent patterns of adaptation in Arabic translations, influenced by geopolitical, cultural, and audience-related considerations. Utilising House's (2015) framework of covert translation strategies, the results reveal that translators emphasise domestication—adapting content to align with Arab cultural norms and political sensitivities—rather than adhering strictly to the source text. These adaptations are evident in four primary areas: lexical modifications (such as euphemisms and omissions), structural reorganisation (including subtitles and thematic grouping), contextual additions (for instance, amplifying Saudi mediation), and ideological reframing (such as erasing Kurdish agency). Their collaboration stresses translation as a sociopolitical practice that bridges power gaps between

global narratives and regional audiences. The adaptations are described in detail below:

1. *Strategic additions*: Arabic translations add geopolitical context (e.g., Saudi mediation) absent in English, reflecting regional priorities.
2. *Euphemisms and softening*: Militaristic or problematic terminology is neutralised to conform to cultural standards, such as using "trained forces" in place of "well-armed".
3. *Structural adaptations*: Subtitles and reorganised paragraphs enhance readability for Arabic audiences, who prioritise rapid comprehension.
4. *Ideological balance*: Omissions, e.g., "Kurdish-led" and reframing, e.g., UN credibility disputes, reflect regional power dynamics.

Table 5.1 below categorises five representative lexical changes observed across the three news items, mapping the type of modification (e.g., omission, addition), its ideological or cultural rationale, and its broader sociopolitical impact. For instance:

- i- The exclusion of "Kurdish-led" illustrates the translators' adherence to Turkey's geopolitical position, thereby diminishing the political agency of the Kurdish people.
- ii- The incorporation of "renewable" alongside "ceasefire" resonates with the tendencies observed in Arabic media towards explicitness (Baker, 2018), thereby presenting ceasefires as adaptable and provisional in nature.
- iii- By omitting "sexual violence", one avoids cultural taboos around detailed trauma stories and gives audience acceptability top priority over responsibility.

English Term	Arabic Translation	Modification Type	Ideological/Cultural Reason	Ideological Impact
"Kurdish-led SDF"	"قوات سوريا الديمقراطية"	Omission	Avoid alienating Turkey	Reinforces Turkey's geopolitical stance by erasing Kurdish autonomy claims
"30-day ceasefire"	"هدنة قابلة للتجديد"	Addition ("renewable")	Emphasise flexibility	Aligns with Arab media's preference

				for explicitation, framing ceasefires as adaptable
"sexual violence"	Omitted	Exclusion	Cultural taboos	Upholds Arab cultural norms by avoiding explicit trauma narratives
"well- armed fighters"	"قوات مدربة ومجهزة"	Softening	Neutralise militaristic connotations	Mitigates perceptions of threat, aligning with regional pacifist narratives
"genocida l acts"	"أعمال إبادة جماعية"	Euphemism	Legal gravity without explicit violence	Balances accountabilit y with cultural avoidance of graphic terminology

Table 5.1. Lexical modifications in Arabic translations.

The structural changes in Arabic translations, including the use of passive voice and the inclusion of subtitles, are illustrated in Table 5.2 below. These changes improve readability and reduce political sensitivities. Examples that are noteworthy include:

i- Subtitle Addition: Contextualises timelines for audiences unfamiliar with the Ukraine conflict's progression.

ii- Passive Voice Obscuration: Reduces attribution of agency (e.g., "drones were launched" vs. "Russia launched drones") to avoid directly implicating states like Russia.

iii-Thematic Grouping: Emphasises the significance of regional context, such as the dismissal of UN reports by Hamas, rather than adhering to a rigid chronological framework.

Feature	English Version	Arabic Version	Purpose
Subtitle Addition	No subtitles (Appendix 1a)	"أكبر هجوم بطائرات مسيرة على موسكو" (Largest drone attack on Moscow)	Contextualise timelines for readers unfamiliar with conflict progression
Paragraph Reorganisation	Chronological order (Appendix 1a)	Thematic grouping (Appendix 1b)	Prioritise regional relevance over strict chronology
Agency Obscuration	Active voice: "Russia launched drones"	Passive voice: "طائرات طائرات مسيرة أطلقت" (Drones were launched)	Cover up the real culprits in order to appease political delicatessens
Quote Condensation	Trump's full quote: "It takes two to tango"	Condensed in Arabic (Appendix 1b)	Emphasise the significance of diplomatic ramifications rather than focusing on Western-centric particulars
Thematic Grouping	UN report on "systemic destruction" (Appendix 3a)	Focus on "Hamass's rejection of the report" (Appendix 3b)	Address the regional doubts regarding the credibility of the United Nations

Table 5.2. Structural adaptations.

6. Discussion

The results correspond with CDA's focus on translation as a domain of ideological negotiation. The findings align with contemporary CDA studies on media translation, including Baker's (2018) examination of category shifts in headlines, which underscores how the inclusion of 'renewable ceasefire' corresponds with Arabic media's inclination towards explicitation. Furthermore, the function of digital platforms in enhancing ideological modifications is still

inadequately examined, although recent studies indicate that social media intensifies geopolitical framing (Wodak & Meyer, 2016). The Arabic translations emphasise:

1- *Geopolitical omissions*: The omission of "Kurdish-led" not only aligns with Turkey's geopolitical agenda but also perpetuates epistemic violence by erasing Kurdish agency, as theorised by Spivak (2008) in her critique of colonial translation practices. This reflects research on the ways in which international media often suppress the perspectives of marginalised groups in areas of conflict (Bielsa, 2007; Baker, 2018).

2- *Cultural Euphemisms*: The softening of "genocidal acts" which include graphic content, such as sexual violence, mirrors al-Qinai's (2000) work on cultural adaptation in Arabic media, where explicit content is omitted to respect taboos and explicit trauma narratives.

3- *Geopolitical additions*: The emphasis on Saudi mediation reflects how Arab media prioritise regional diplomatic narratives.

4- *Audience expectations*: Explicitation and subtitles cater to readers seeking rapid comprehension of complex conflicts.

The strategic adaptations underscored in this study—including the exclusion of explicit content (e.g., sexual violence) or ethnopolitical identifiers (e.g., "Kurdish-led")—involve significant ethical considerations regarding audience perceptions and trust. Although these alterations correspond with cultural conventions and geopolitical considerations, they pose a threat to the original text's purpose and may reinforce knowledge imbalances. For example:

i- Selective Representation and Misinformation: Omitting graphic details of violence (e.g., sexual violence in Gaza) may uphold cultural taboos but inadvertently sanitises conflict narratives, limiting audiences' understanding of systemic human rights violations. This fits Impe's (2019) warning that "omissions in conflict reporting can obscure accountability and perpetuate cycles of violence". Also, changing words like "well-armed fighters" to "trained forces" softens their militaristic meanings. This could make conflicts seem less serious and change how people think about the security of the area.

ii- Trust and Transparency: Individuals without a deep understanding of translation methodologies may perceive BBC Arabic as a neutral source for global news, unaware of the sociopolitical perspectives that shape its narratives. With the passage of time, such practices could erode trust, particularly if audiences recognise systematic omissions or reframing, as highlighted in critiques of "cultural silencing" within media translation (Baker, 2018). In contrast, the ethical dilemma that translators must navigate is underscored by the

potential for excessive domestication, such as emphasising Hamas's rejection of UN reports, to appeal to regional scepticism while also alienating global audiences who anticipate impartiality.

iii- Agency and Accountability: Translators' agency in mediating content (e.g., omitting "Kurdish-led") underscores their role as ethical decision-makers. However, without transparency mechanisms (e.g., footnotes explaining omissions), such agency risks complicity in reinforcing hegemonic narratives, as noted in postcolonial critiques (Spivak, 2008).

In order to navigate the complexities of ethical responsibility and cultural sensitivity, news organisations such as BBC Arabic might consider implementing "translator notes" to indicate notable omissions or reframing (for instance, "The term 'Kurdish-led' was omitted due to regional sensitivities"). This methodology, promoted in translation ethics literature (Chesterman, 2016), enhances transparency while preserving cultural adaptation.

The results highlight the translators' ability to alter narratives in response to geopolitical influences. The exclusion of "Kurdish-led" and the mitigation of "genocidal crimes" demonstrate how translators consciously navigate between global narratives and local sensitivities. This aligns with Munday's (2012) argument that translation decisions are never neutral but reflect negotiable positions within power structures.

These findings serve to substantiate CDA's assertion that translation serves as a location for ideological negotiation (Fairclough, 2013). The BBC's dual role is emphasised by these adaptations, which involve the omission of contentious terms and the inclusion of geopolitical context to localise content for Arab audiences, while also maintaining global standards. However, such strategies risk reinforcing regional biases, such as scepticism about UN reports. Future research could compare these findings with other outlets (e.g., Al Jazeera) to assess broader trends. The findings resonate with decolonial translation theory, which advocates for "linguistic justice" by centring marginalised voices (Marais, 2014). For example, keeping "Kurdish-led" even though geopolitical forces are present could resist what de Sousa Santos (2018) refers to as "epistemicide" in the global media.

7. Conclusions

The BBC Arabic translations show that translating news is not a neutral process, but a sociopolitical act that is shaped by what people expect, cultural standards, and the realities of geopolitics. The BBC adeptly navigates the interplay between international news and local significance by modifying language, restructuring narratives, and adjusting its discourse from a conceptual perspective. This study contributes to the existing literature on critical discourse

analysis by elucidating the impact of translations on power dynamics and offering a framework for examining media discourse in multilingual contexts.

The findings highlight the necessity for translator training programmes to address geopolitical pressures in conflict reporting by enabling practitioners to balance fidelity with regional sensitivities. To achieve a balance between fidelity and cultural sensitivity, translators may implement Baker's (2018) model of "ethics of intervention", utilising footnotes to indicate omissions (e.g., 'The term "Kurdish-led" was omitted due to regional sensitivities'). This is consistent with previous calls for transparency in news translation (Impe, 2019). The results also show that BBC Arabic translations are influenced by audience expectations, geopolitical sensitivity (omitting or adding lexical words), and cultural standards (euphemisms).

Future studies should look at how translator agency varies among outlets—e.g., BBC Arabic vs. Al Jazeera—in negotiating geopolitical constraints, especially in war areas where linguistic choices directly impact power dynamics. Given their training data generally under-represents Arab viewpoints, emerging machine translation tools like Google Translate run the danger of repeating the ideological omissions found here (Kenny & Doherty, 2014). Future research may additionally examine whether AI translations of BBC articles maintain analogous adaptations. This study examines adaptations in 2023. Future research could employ a longitudinal design to monitor changes in BBC Arabic's strategies, including a comparative analysis of coverage regarding Israel-Palestine before and after the 2020 Abraham Accords, as demonstrated in Baker (2018).

Appendices

The following presents the three pairs of English-Arabic news items selected from BBC English-Arabic websites, respectively. All six pieces of news are accommodated in three appendices, that is, each pair of English-Arabic news item is placed in a single appendix that comprises two branches. Branch (a) holds the English version of the news, while branch (b) holds the Arabic version of the same news item.

Appendix 1a: English news item (1a) from BBC English website

"Ukraine ready to accept 30-day ceasefire with Russia"

Ukraine has said it is ready to accept an immediate 30-day ceasefire with Russia proposed by the US, after a day of US-Ukraine talks in Saudi Arabia.

US Secretary of State Marco Rubio said he would present the offer to Russia and that "the ball is in their court".

Ukraine's President Volodymyr Zelensky said it was now up to the US to convince Russia to agree to the "positive" proposal.

Tuesday's talks in Jeddah were the first official meeting between the two countries since the extraordinary clash between Zelensky and US President Donald Trump in the Oval Office.

In a joint statement, the US also said it would immediately restart intelligence sharing and security assistance to Ukraine, which Washington had suspended after the unprecedented meeting.

"Both delegations agreed to name their negotiating teams and immediately begin negotiations toward an enduring peace that provides for Ukraine's long-term security," the US-Ukraine statement said.

Rubio told a press conference in Jeddah late on Tuesday that he hoped Russia would accept the proposal.

Ukraine was "ready to stop shooting and start talking," he said, and if Russia rejected the offer "then we'll unfortunately know what the impediment is to peace here".

"Today we made an offer that the Ukrainians have accepted, which is to enter into a ceasefire and into immediate negotiations," he said.

"We'll take this offer now to the Russians and we hope they'll say yes to peace. The ball is now in their court," he added.

The offer of a 30-day ceasefire goes beyond Zelensky's proposal for a partial truce in the sea and sky.

The Ukrainian president thanked Trump for "the constructiveness" of the talks in Jeddah.

In a video message, Zelensky said Russia had to "show its willingness to stop the war or continue the war".

"It is time for the full truth," he added.

Moscow has not yet responded. The Kremlin said earlier on Tuesday it would issue a statement after being briefed by Washington on the outcome of the talks.

Russia launched a full-scale invasion of Ukraine in February 2022. Moscow currently controls about 20% of Ukrainian territory.

At the White House, Trump told reporters he would speak with President Putin, who would "hopefully" agree to the proposal.

"It takes to two tango, as they say," Trump said, adding he hoped the deal would be agreed in the next few days.

"We have a big meeting with Russia tomorrow, and some great conversations hopefully will ensue."

He added that he was open to inviting Zelensky back to Washington.

Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said Russia had not ruled out talks with US representatives in the next few days, according to Russia's state-owned news agency Tass.

Asked by a reporter if Trump and Zelensky's relationship was "back on track," Rubio said he hoped it was "peace" that was back on track.

"This is not Mean Girls, this is not some episode of some television show" he said.

"Today people will die in this war, they died yesterday and - sadly - unless there's a ceasefire, they will die tomorrow."

The US and Ukrainian teams met after overnight drone attacks killed at least three people in Moscow - which Russia said showed Ukraine had rejected using diplomacy to end the war.

Trump and Zelensky have also agreed to finalise "as soon as possible" a critical minerals deal, the joint statement said.

Ukraine has offered to grant the US access to its rare earth mineral reserves in exchange for US security guarantees - but this was derailed by the White House row.

Rubio said the deal had not been the subject of Tuesday's talks, but had been negotiated with Ukrainian and US treasuries.

The US delegation in Jeddah also included US national security advisor Mike Waltz and Middle East envoy Steve Witkoff.

Witkoff is due to travel to Russia in the coming days, a source familiar with the planning told the BBC, although this could change quickly.

The joint US-Ukraine statement said Kyiv had "reiterated" that Europe should be involved in any peace process.

The shift in America's approach to the war - which has included locking Europe out of talks - has prompted several emergency meetings between European leaders in recent weeks.

The EU Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said the bloc welcomed Tuesday's "positive development".

Achieving a swift end to the war in Ukraine has been a key pledge for the US president.

He has placed increasing pressure on Zelensky to accept a ceasefire, without offering the immediate security guarantees insisted upon by the Ukrainian president.

On Friday, Trump issued a rare threat of further sanctions against Moscow in a push for a deal. Russia is already heavily sanctioned by the US over the war.

Trump said he was contemplating the move because "Russia is absolutely 'pounding' Ukraine on the battlefield right now".

Meanwhile, the war continued on the ground on Tuesday.

Three men were killed in the Moscow region in what was described as the largest drone attack on the Russian capital since the start of the full-scale war in Ukraine.

A further 18 people, including three children, were injured, health officials told Russian media.

The Russian defence ministry said 337 drones were intercepted over Russia and 91 of them were shot down over the Moscow region.

Ukrainian officials reported Russian drone attacks on the capital Kyiv and several other regions.

Ukraine's air force said it had shot down 79 of 126 drones launched by Russia, as well as an Iskander-M ballistic missile.

It was not immediately clear whether there were any casualties.

Appendix 1b: Arabic news item (1b) from BBC Arabic website

"أوكرانيا توافق على "هدنة فورية مدتها 30 يوما قابلة للتجديد"، وترامب يقول إن زيلينسكي سيكون موضع ترحيب في البيت الأبيض"

وافقت أوكرانيا على مقترح أمريكي بقبول هدنة فورية مدتها 30 يوما قابلة للتجديد، من الحرب مع روسيا.

جاء ذلك في بيان مشترك لمسؤولين أمريكيين وأوكرانيين، بعد محادثات استمرت أكثر من ثماني ساعات استضافتها السعودية في مدينة جدة المطلّة على البحر الأحمر، من أجل التوصل إلى طريق لإنهاء الحرب مع روسيا.

أعلن الرئيس الأمريكي دونالد ترامب الثلاثاء أنه سيتحدث على الأرجح مع الرئيس الروسي فلاديمير بوتين هذا الأسبوع بعدما أبدت أوكرانيا مقترحا أمريكيا لوقف إطلاق النار وإجراء محادثات مع روسيا لإنهاء الحرب.

وأشار ترامب إلى أن الرئيس الأوكراني فولوديمير زيلينسكي سيكون موضع ترحيب في البيت الأبيض، على الرغم من المشادة الكلامية الحادة بينهما في 28 فبراير/شباط.

وقال وزير الخارجية الأمريكي ماركو روبيو إن بإمكانه الآن أن يأخذ هذه الموافقة الأوكرانية ويعرضها على الروس، مضيفاً بأن "الكرة الآن في ملعب موسكو".

وقال مستشار الأمن القومي الأمريكي مايك والتز إنه سيتحدث إلى نظيره الروسي.

وأفاد البيان بأن الولايات المتحدة ستستأنف تعاونها الاستخباراتي ودعمها الأمني لأوكرانيا.

وجاءت محادثات جدة بعد أن شنت قوات أوكرانية ليلة أمس أكبر هجوم لها على موسكو في هذه الحرب.

كما قال طرفا المحادثات إن واشنطن وكيف اتفقتا على إنجاز اتفاقية شاملة لتنمية المعادن المهمة في أوكرانيا.

وتوجه الرئيس الأوكراني فولوديمير زيلينسكي بالشكر لنظيره الأمريكي دونالد ترامب على "المحادثات البناءة" التي جرت في جدة.

وفي فيديو بثه عبر الإنترنت، أكد زيلينسكي موقف بلاده من حيث قبول المقترح الأمريكي بهدنة في الجو، والبحر وعلى خط المواجهة.

وقال زيلينسكي إنهم "ينظرون بإيجابية" إلى المقترح، مضيفاً بأن "الكرة الآن في ملعب الولايات المتحدة لكي تقنع روسيا بالموافقة" على ذات المقترح.

وقال الرئيس الأمريكي دونالد ترامب إنه سينظر توجيه دعوة لنظيره الروسي فلاديمير بوتين لزيارة البيت الأبيض، في ضوء نتائج محادثات جدة.

وأضاف ترامب للصحفيين: "أوكرانيا وافقت على الهدنة قبل قليل، ولدينا أمل أن يوافق بوتين أيضاً عليها".

ونوه ترامب إلى أن "الوضع مختلف الآن تماماً" عما كان عليه في أثناء لقاء زيلينسكي بالبيت الأبيض قبل نحو عشرة أيام.

وفي أول رد فعل أوروبي، قال رئيس الحكومة البولندية دونالد تاسك: "يبدو أن الأمريكيين والأوكرانيين قد اتخذوا خطوة مهمة صوب السلام".

وأضاف تاسك، في تدوينة عبر موقع إكس: "وأوروبا مستعدة للمساهمة في التوصل لسلام عادل ودائم"

"سلام عادل تحترم فيه حقوق الضحايا"

ومن المقرر أن يلتقي وزير الخارجية الأوكرانية أندريه سيبيغا نظيره البولندي رادوسلاف سيكورسكي في وارسو، ليطلع على مخرجات محادثات جدة.

ونقلت وكالة أنباء يوكرين فورم الأوكرانية الرسمية، الثلاثاء، عن سيكورسكي القول إن المحادثات الأوكرانية-الأمريكية التي استضافتها السعودية، كانت "جيدة جداً".

وقال وزير الخارجية البولندي إن بلاده "تعمل من أجل سلام عادل تُحترم فيه حقوق ضحايا العدوان".
وعبر سيكورسكي عن ارتياحه إلى تأكيد الولايات المتحدة استمرار تشغيل محطات ستارلينك في أوكرانيا دونما انقطاع.
وتدفع بولندا ثمن تشغيل هذه المحطات بموجب اتفاقية تجارية مع شركة سبيس إكس التي يملكها الملياردير إيلون ماسك.
وكان ماسك قال يوم الأحد الماضي، إن خدمة ستارلينك لن تغلق أبدا محطاتها في أوكرانيا، بغض النظر عن اختلافه مع السياسة المثبتة في كييف.
وأضاف ماسك في منشور له عبر منصة إكس التي يملكها أيضا: "لن نفعل مثل هذا الشيء أبداً أو نستخدمه كورقة للمساومة".

"وساطة سعودية محتملة"

وقال الرئيس الأوكراني زيلينسكي إنه ناقش مع ولي العهد السعودي شروط اتفاق سلام دائم، حيث تبادلوا وجهات النظر حول الضمانات الأمنية حتى لا تندلع الحرب مرة أخرى.
وبحسب بيان أوكراني، ناقش الزعيمان وساطة محتملة للسعودية من أجل إطلاق سراح السجناء وإعادة الأطفال الذين تتهم كييف موسكو باختطافهم.
وأكد الزعيمان، في بيان مشترك نشرته وكالة الأنباء السعودية، "عزمهما على تعزيز العلاقات الاستثمارية من خلال إنشاء شراكات استثمارية واقتصادية وإعادة في القطاعات ذات الأولوية للبلدين، بما فيها قطاع الطاقة والصناعات الغذائية والبنى التحتية".

أكبر هجوم بطائرات مسيرة على موسكو

ونقلت وكالة رويترز عن مسؤولين روس قولهم إن أوكرانيا شنت أكبر هجوم بطائرات مسيرة على موسكو الثلاثاء.
وذكرت وزارة الدفاع أنها أسقطت إجمالي 337 طائرة مسيرة أوكرانية فوق روسيا، من بينها 91 فوق منطقة موسكو و126 فوق منطقة كورسك التي تتراجع فيها القوات الأوكرانية.
وقال سيرجي سوبيانين رئيس بلدية موسكو في منشور على تلغرام "تم صد أكبر هجوم للعدو بطائرات مسيرة على موسكو".
وأعلن حاكم منطقة موسكو أندريه فوروبوف عن مقتل شخصين على الأقل.
وأعلنت هيئة مراقبة الطيران تعليق الرحلات الجوية في كل مطارات موسكو الأربعة لضمان سلامة الطيران بعد الهجوم. وأغلق مطاران آخران شرقي العاصمة الروسية.
واستهدف الهجوم أيضاً منطقتي بريانسك وبييلغورود المتاخمتين لأوكرانيا، بالإضافة إلى رязان وكالوغا وفورونيغ ونيجني نوفغورود.
وأعلنت روسيا الثلاثاء أنها استعادت من الجيش الأوكراني 12 بلدة و"أكثر من 100 كيلومتر مربع" في منطقة كورسك الحدودية.

فيما قال الجيش الأوكراني الاثنين إنه "يعزز" قواته التي تحارب في هذه المنطقة الروسية أمام التقدم السريع لقوات موسكو.

وقال وزير الخارجية الأمريكي ماركو روبيو إن الولايات المتحدة لم تقطع المعلومات الاستخباراتية عن العمليات الدفاعية.

وأكد روبيو أنه "لا يمكن للروس احتلال كل أوكرانيا. ومن الواضح أنه سيكون من الصعب للغاية على أوكرانيا في أي فترة زمنية معقولة إجبار الروس على العودة إلى حيث كانوا في عام 2014"، في إشارة إلى وقت الهجوم الجزيئي والاستيلاء الروسي على شبه جزيرة القرم.

وقال سياسيتان لوكورنو وزير الدفاع الفرنسي، الثلاثاء، إن الجيش الأوكراني يظل "الضمان الأمني الرئيسي" لكيف، مضيفاً أن فرنسا "سترفض أي نزع لسلح الجيش الأوكراني".

Appendix 2a: English news item (2a) from BBC English website

"Kurdish-led SDF agrees to integrate with Syrian government forces"

A Kurdish-led militia alliance which controls north-eastern Syria has signed a deal to integrate all military and civilian institutions into the Syrian state, the country's presidency says.

The agreement, which includes a complete cessation of hostilities, says the US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) will hand over control of the region's border posts, airport, and vital oil and gas fields.

It also recognises the Kurdish minority as "an integral part of the Syrian state" and guarantees "the rights of all Syrians to representation and participation in the political process".

SDF commander Mazloun Abdi called the deal a "real opportunity to build a new Syria".

"We are committed to building a better future that guarantees the rights of all Syrians and fulfils their aspirations for peace and dignity," he wrote on X after signing the deal in Damascus on Monday alongside interim President Ahmed al-Sharaa.

The deal represents a major step towards Sharaa's goal to unify the fractured country after his Sunni Islamist group led the rebel offensive that overthrew president Bashar al-Assad in December and ended 13 years of devastating civil war.

It could also de-escalate the SDF's conflict with neighbouring Turkey and Turkish-backed Syrian former rebel factions allied to the government, which are trying to push the alliance out of areas near the border.

There were celebrations welcoming the announcement of the deal on the streets of several cities on Monday night, with many people expressing relief at a time when Syria is facing several other threats to its stability.

The recent mass killings of Alawite civilians in the western coastal region during clashes between security forces and Assad loyalists have sparked calls for international protection for Syria's religious and ethnic minorities and amplified voices promoting division.

There is also concern about the south, where some Druze militias in Suweida province have been reluctant to lay down their arms. However, Suweida residents said representatives met Sharaa in Damascus on Monday and a deal like the SDF's was expected soon.

Israel has also threatened to intervene to protect the Druze from the government, which it considers a threat. It has also carried out an air campaign to destroy much of Syria's military capabilities and seized a demilitarised buffer zone next to the occupied Golan Heights.

The SDF, which has tens of thousands of well-armed and well-trained fighters, was not aligned with either Assad's regime or the opposition during the civil war.

It currently controls more than 46,000 sq km (18,000 sq miles) of territory in the north-east, where it defeated the Islamic State (IS) group in 2019 with the help of a US-led coalition.

The SDF plays a major role in the Autonomous Administration of North and East Syria (AANES), which governs the region also known to Kurds as Rojava.

About 10,000 IS fighters are being detained in SDF-run prisons spread across the region and about 45,000 other people linked to IS, mostly women and children, are held in several camps.

Since the fall of Assad, the SDF has warned that attacks from Turkish-backed factions are forcing it to divert fighters away from guarding the prisons and paving the way for an IS resurgence.

The Turkish government views the biggest militia in the SDF, the Kurdish People's Protection Units (YPG), as a terrorist organisation. It says it the YPG is an extension of the banned Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) group that waged an insurgency in Turkey for decades but whose imprisoned leader recently declared a ceasefire.

There was no immediate comment from Turkey in response to Monday's agreement. However, Turkish officials have previously called for all Kurdish-led

groups in north-eastern Syria to dissolve and integrate with the new government.

Several Arab countries welcomed the deal, with Saudi Arabia and Qatar both describing it as an important step towards maintaining "civil peace".

Between 25 and 35 million Kurds inhabit a mountainous region straddling the borders of Turkey, Iraq, Syria, Iran and Armenia. They make up the fourth-largest ethnic group in the Middle East, but they have never obtained a permanent nation state.

Syria's Kurds, which make up about 10% of the population, were suppressed and denied basic rights during the Assad family's rule.

Appendix 2b: Arabic news item (2b) from BBC Arabic website

"ما بنود الاتفاق الذي ينص على اندماج "قسد" ضمن مؤسسات الدولة في سوريا؟"

أعلنت الرئاسة السورية توقيع اتفاق يقضي باندماج قوات سوريا الديمقراطية ضمن مؤسسات الجمهورية العربية السورية، والتأكيد على وحدة الأراضي السورية ورفض التقسيم، بحسب الوكالة السورية للأنباء "سانا".

جرى توقيع الاتفاق، الاثنين، بين رئيس المرحلة الانتقالية في سوريا أحمد الشرع، وقائد قوات سوريا الديمقراطية مظلوم عدي.

ونشرت الرئاسة السورية بياناً وقعته الطرفين، وجاء فيه أنه تم الاتفاق على "دمج كافة المؤسسات المدنية والعسكرية في شمال شرق سوريا ضمن إدارة الدولة السورية بما فيها المعابر الحدودية والمطار وحقول النفط والغاز".

وبحسب الاتفاق، يتعين أن تعمل لجان تنفيذية على تطبيقه "بما لا يتجاوز نهاية العام الحالي".

ما هي بنود الاتفاق؟

وينص الاتفاق الذي نشرته الرئاسة السورية على قنواتها في "التلغرام" على ما يلي:

- ضمان حقوق جميع السوريين في التمثيل والمشاركة في العملية السياسية وكافة مؤسسات الدولة، بناءً على الكفاءة بغض النظر عن خلفياتهم الدينية والعرقية.
- المجتمع الكردي مجتمع أصيل في الدولة السورية، وتضمن الدولة السورية حقه في المواطنة وكافة حقوقه الدستورية.
- وقف إطلاق النار على كافة الأراضي السورية.
- دمج كافة المؤسسات المدنية والعسكرية في شمال شرق سوريا ضمن إدارة الدولة السورية، بما فيها المعابر الحدودية والمطار وحقول النفط والغاز.
- ضمان عودة كافة المهجرين السوريين إلى بلداتهم وقراهم وتأمين حمايتهم من الدولة السورية.
- دعم الدولة السورية في مكافحتها لفلول الأسد وكافة التهديدات التي تهدد أمنها ووحدتها.

- رفض دعوات التقسيم وخطاب الكراهية ومحاولات بث الفتنة بين كافة مكونات المجتمع السوري.
- تعمل وتسعى اللجان التنفيذية على تطبيق الاتفاق بما لا يتجاوز نهاية العام الحالي.

ردود أفعال على الاتفاق

التقي فريق بي بي سي مع عدد من المواطنين في دمشق وسألهم عن ردود أفعالهم حول الاتفاق على اندماج قوات سوريا الديمقراطية ضمن المؤسسات السورية.

قال عدد منهم إنهم يأملون أن يؤدي هذا الاتفاق إلى إعادة الأمن والأمان إلى سوريا، وأن يساهم في وقف القتل ونهب العنف.

قال أحد الأشخاص: "والله تعبنا ومررنا بالكثير، بقالنا سنين والسوريين شافوا كثير، وبس نريد أن تهدأ الأوضاع".

وقالت سيدة إن لديها أقارب في الساحل السوري، وهي تقريباً لا تنام منذ بداية الأحداث وتشعر بالخوف الشديد على أقاربها. وأضافت أنها لا تعرف حقاً إذا كان هذا القرار سيؤدي إلى تهدئة الأوضاع أم لا، ولكنها لا تأمل سوى العيش في سلام.

بينما قال أحد المواطنين إن المناطق التي تسيطر عليها قوات سوريا الديمقراطية تحتوي على أهم المكونات التي قد تدعم الاقتصاد السوري، مثل حقول النفط والغاز ومحاصيل القمح. وفي ظل الوضع الاقتصادي الصعب الذي تمر به سوريا، يأمل أن يكون لهذا الاتفاق عائد إيجابي.

وقالت سيدة أخرى إنها سعيدة جداً بهذا القرار وتأمل أن تكون سوريا موحدة وواحدة، وأن تربي أطفالها في مجتمع يخلو من الطائفية.

وأعرب عدد من المواطنين الذين تواصلنا معهم عن خشيتهم من التعبير عن آرائهم، قائلين إن الوضع غير آمن تماماً حالياً، ويخشون الملاحقة إذا عبروا عن رأيهم بحرية.

تحديات الأكراد في سوريا

وتسيطر الإدارة الذاتية الكردية المدعومة أمريكياً على مساحات واسعة في شمال وشرق سوريا، وتضم أبرز حقول النفط والغاز. وشكلت قوات سوريا الديمقراطية، ذراعها العسكرية، رأس حربة في قتال تنظيم الدولة الإسلامية وتمكنت من دحره في آخر معاقل سيطرته في البلاد عام 2019.

ويشكل المكون العربي أكثر من ستين في المئة من سكان الإدارة الذاتية، وفق الباحث في الشأن السوري فابريس بالانش.

وبعدما عانوا خلال حكم عائلة الأسد من تهيش وقمع طوال عقود، حُرموا خلالها من التحدث بلغتهم وإحياء أعيادهم وتم سحب الجنسية من عدد كبير منهم، بنى الأكراد خلال سنوات النزاع إدارة ذاتية في شمال شرق سوريا ومؤسسات تربوية واجتماعية وعسكرية.

ومنذ وصول السلطة الجديدة إلى دمشق، أبدى الأكراد انفتاحاً، معتبرين أن التغيير "فرصة لبناء سوريا جديدة.. تضمن حقوق جميع السوريين"، غير أنه جرى استبعادهم من الدعوة لمؤتمر حوار وطني حدد عناوين المرحلة الانتقالية.

وجاء توقيع الاتفاق بعد نحو أسبوعين من دعوة زعيم حزب العمال الكردستاني عبدالله أوجلان، في إعلان تاريخي، إلى حل الحزب وإلقاء السلاح، في خطوة رحب بها أكراد سوريا.

وكانت تركيا، حليفة السلطة الجديدة في دمشق، تتهم وحدات حماية الشعب الكردية التي تقود قوات سوريا الديمقراطية، بالارتباط بحزب العمال الكردستاني الذي تصنّفه أنقرة وأطراف غربيون "بالمنظمة الإرهابية".

Appendix 3a: English news item (3a) from BBC English website

"UN experts accuse Israel of sexual violence and 'genocidal acts' in Gaza"

UN experts have accused Israel of increasingly using sexual and gender-based violence against Palestinians and carrying out "genocidal acts" through the systematic destruction of maternal and reproductive healthcare facilities.

A report commissioned by the UN Human Rights Council documents alleged violations, including rape, in Gaza and the occupied West Bank since Hamas's 7 October 2023 attack on Israel triggered the Gaza war.

It also says the destruction of maternity wards in Gaza and embryos at a fertility clinic could indicate a strategy to prevent births among a particular group - one of the legal definitions of genocide.

Israel said it "categorically rejects the unfounded allegations".

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu responded angrily, calling the Human Rights Council "an antisemitic, rotten, terrorist-supporting and irrelevant body".

Instead of focusing on war crimes committed by Hamas, he said, it was attacking Israel with "false accusations".

The Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory was established by the UN Human Rights Council in 2021 to investigate all alleged violations of international humanitarian and human rights law.

The three-member commission said its new report was based on testimony from victims and witnesses of sexual and reproductive violence, some of whom spoke during two days of public hearings held in Geneva earlier this week, as well as verified photos and video footage, and information from civil society and women's rights organisations.

The commission's chair Navi Pillay, a South African former UN human rights chief, said the evidence collected "reveals a deplorable increase in sexual and gender-based violence" that she claimed was being employed by Israel against Palestinians "to terrorise them and perpetuate a system of oppression that undermines their right to self-determination".

The report says specific forms of sexual and gender-based violence - such as forced public stripping and nudity, sexual harassment including threats of rape, as well as sexual assault - "comprise part of the Israeli Security Forces' standard operating procedures toward Palestinians".

Other forms of such violence, including rape and violence to the genitals, were "committed either under explicit orders or with implicit encouragement by Israel's top civilian and military leadership", it alleges.

The report does not provide examples of explicit orders from commanders or senior officials. But it does cite statements from Israeli ministers who defended soldiers who were accused of severely mistreating a Palestinian detainee at Sde Teiman military base last year.

Commission member Chris Sidoti, an Australian human rights lawyer, told the BBC: "Sexual violence is now so widespread that it can only be considered systematic. It's got beyond the level of random acts by rogue individuals."

Israel has rejected accusations of widespread ill-treatment and torture of Gaza detainees, and insisted it is fully committed to international legal standards.

The report says the commission also found that Israeli forces had systematically destroyed sexual and reproductive healthcare facilities across Gaza during the 17-month war there.

It concludes that women and girls have died from complications related to pregnancy and childbirth due to conditions imposed by the Israeli authorities which have denied access to reproductive health care, and says they amount to the crime against humanity of extermination.

The commission also alleges that Israeli authorities have "destroyed in part the reproductive capacity of Palestinians in Gaza as a group" through the "systematic destruction" of sexual and reproductive healthcare facilities, including maternity hospitals and maternity wards of hospitals and Gaza's main in-vitro fertility clinic, Al-Basma IVF Centre in Gaza City.

This amounts to "two categories of genocidal acts in the Rome Statute and the Genocide Convention, including deliberately inflicting conditions of life calculated to bring about the physical destruction of Palestinians and imposing measures intended to prevent births", it concludes.

According to the report, the embryology laboratory at Al-Basma was hit in early December 2023, reportedly destroying around 4,000 embryos as well as 1,000 sperm samples and unfertilised eggs.

It says the commission determined through visual analysis of pictures that the damage was caused by a large calibre projectile, most probably an Israeli tank

shell, and that it was intentionally attacked by Israeli forces. However, the Israeli military told ABC News at the time that it was not aware of a strike on the clinic. The BBC has contacted the IDF for comment.

"The deliberate destruction of a health facility is one serious issue for international humanitarian law and human rights law. But it does appear from our analysis of the attack on this clinic, that it was knowingly and intentionally directed towards the destruction of reproductive services," Mr Sidoti said. "The consequence of this is the prevention of births."

In a statement, Israel's mission to the UN in Geneva said the report was "a shameless attempt to incriminate the [Israel Defense Forces] and manufacture the illusion of 'systemic' use of [sexual and gender-based violence]".

It criticised what it called the commission's decision to use "information from second-hand single uncorroborated sources", which it said was inconsistent with established UN standards and methodologies.

The statement also stressed that the IDF had "concrete directives, procedures, orders, and policies, which unequivocally prohibit such misconduct", as well as mechanisms to investigate any incidents of alleged sexual violence.

Israel's prime minister also rejected the report's findings and called the Human Rights Council an "anti-Israel circus".

"Instead of focusing on the crimes against humanity and the war crimes that were perpetrated by the Hamas terrorist organisation in the worst massacre carried out against the Jewish people since the Holocaust, the UN has again chosen to attack the State of Israel with false accusations, including baseless accusations of sexual violence," Netanyahu said.

The International Court of Justice is hearing a case bought by South Africa that accuses Israeli forces of committing genocide against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. Israel has vehemently denied the allegation.

The Israeli military launched a campaign to destroy Hamas in response to an unprecedented cross-border attack on 7 October 2023, in which about 1,200 people were killed and 251 were taken hostage.

More than 48,520 people have been killed in Gaza since then, according to the territory's Hamas-run health ministry.

Most of Gaza's 2.1 million population has also been displaced multiple times. Almost 70% of buildings are estimated to be damaged or destroyed; the healthcare, water, sanitation and hygiene systems have collapsed; and there are shortages of food, fuel, medicine and shelter.

Appendix 3b: Arabic news item (3b) from BBC Arabic website

"تحقيق أممي يتهم إسرائيل بارتكاب "إبادة جماعية" في غزة، وإسرائيل تصفه بأنه "منحاز ويفتقر إلى المصداقية" "

خلّص تحقيق للجنة دولية مستقلة تابعة للأمم المتحدة الخميس، إلى أن إسرائيل "ارتكبت أعمال إبادة جماعية" في قطاع غزة، الأمر الذي ندد به رئيس الوزراء الإسرائيلي بنيامين نتنياهو.

وقالت اللجنة إن السلطات الإسرائيلية "دمّرت جزئياً القدرة الإنجابية للفلسطينيين في غزة كمجموعة عبر التدمير المنهجي لقطاع الصحة الإنجابية".

وأضافت أن ذلك يرقى إلى "فئتين من أعمال الإبادة الجماعية" المرتكبة خلال العملية العسكرية الإسرائيلية في غزة التي أطلقت بعد هجوم السابع من أكتوبر/تشرين الأول 2023.

وتعرّف اتفاقية الأمم المتحدة لمنع الإبادة الجماعية هذه الجريمة، على أنها أي أفعال ارتكبت بنية تدمير مجموعة وطنية أو عرقية أو دينية بالكامل أو جزئياً.

إسرائيل تتهم اللجنة بتموير "أجندة سياسية منحازة ومحددة سلفاً"

ورفضت إسرائيل بشدة التقرير الأممي الذي يتهمها بارتكاب إبادة جماعية واستخدام العنف الجنسي بشكل منهجي كأداة حرب ضد الفلسطينيين في قطاع غزة.

واتّهمت اللجنة بتموير "أجندة سياسية منحازة ومحددة سلفاً.. في محاولة وقحة لتجريم قوات الدفاع الإسرائيلية".

وقالت البعثة الإسرائيلية لدى الأمم المتحدة في جنيف، إن نتائج التقرير "منحازة، وغير موثوقة، وتفتقر إلى أي مصداقية"، حسب تعبيرها.

ورد رئيس الوزراء الإسرائيلي بنيامين نتنياهو على التقرير بوصف مجلس حقوق الإنسان التابع للأمم المتحدة بأنه "كيان معادٍ للسامية، وفاسد، وداعم للإرهاب وغير ذي صلة"، مشيراً إلى أن إسرائيل انسحبت منه قبل نحو شهر.

ووصفت وزارة الخارجية الإسرائيلية التقرير بأنه "واحد من أسوأ حالات الافتراء الدموي التي شهدتها العالم"، واتّهمت الأمم المتحدة "بتحريف الحقائق وقلب الاتهامات لصالح حماس".

من جهتها، اعتبرت حركة حماس في بيان لها أن التقرير الصادر عن لجنة تحقيق مستقلة تتبع للأمم المتحدة يؤكد على ما وصفته "فضاعة الجريمة" التي ارتكبت بحق الفلسطينيين، وفق البيان.

ودعت إلى ضرورة الإسراع في محاكمة "قادة الاحتلال" على ما ورد في التقرير الأممي وضمان "عدم إفلاتهم من العقاب" كما جاء في بيان الحركة.

"إسرائيل منعت الأدوية اللازمة لضمان سلامة الحمل ورعاية المواليد"

وقالت رئيسة لجنة التحقيق التابعة للأمم المتحدة، نافي بيلاي، التي شغلت في الماضي مناصب مفوضة الأمم المتحدة السامية لحقوق الإنسان وقاضية في المحكمة الجنائية الدولية ورئيسة المحكمة الجنائية

الدولية لرواندا، إن "هذه الانتهاكات لم تتسبب بإيذاء بدني ونفسي شديد مباشر للنساء والفتيات فحسب، بل أدت كذلك إلى تداعيات طويلة الأمد لا يمكن إصلاحها على الصحة النفسية والإنجابية، وفرص الخصوبة للفلسطينيين كمجموعة".

وفي التفاصيل، قالت اللجنة إن إسرائيل منعت المساعدات، بما في ذلك الأدوية اللازمة لضمان سلامة الحمل والإنجاب ورعاية المواليد.

وذكر التقرير بأنه تم تدمير أقسام ومستشفيات الولادة بشكل ممنهج في غزة، إضافة إلى "مركز البسمة للإخصاب وأطفال الأنابيب"، العيادة الرئيسية للخصوبة المخبرية في غزة.

وقال إن مركز البسمة تعرّض للقصف في ديسمبر/كانون الأول 2023، وهو ما ألحق وفق تقارير أضراراً بنحو 4000 جنين في عيادة كان يتردد إليها ما بين 2000 إلى 3000 مريض شهرياً.

وخلصت اللجنة إلى أن قوات الأمن الإسرائيلية هاجمت العيادة عمداً ودمرتها، بما في ذلك جميع المواد الإنجابية المخزنة من أجل الحمل مستقبلاً في القطاع.

ولم تعثر اللجنة على أي أدلة موثوقة تشير إلى أن المبنى كان مستخدماً لأغراض عسكرية.

وخلصت إلى أن التدمير كان "إجراء يهدف إلى منع الولادات في أوساط الفلسطينيين في غزة، وهو عمل إبادة جماعية".

كما لفت التقرير إلى تزايد إلحاق الضرر بالنساء الحوامل والمرضعات والأمهات الجدد في غزة، على "نطاق غير مسبوق" مع تأثير لا يمكن إصلاحه على فرص الإنجاب في أوساط أهالي غزة.

وخلصت اللجنة إلى أن هذا النوع من الأعمال "يرقى إلى جرائم ضد الإنسانية" وإلى مساعٍ متعمدة لتدمير الفلسطينيين كمجموعة.

وأفاد التحقيق بأن إسرائيل كانت "تتسبب عمداً بظروف حياتية للمجموعة (أي الفلسطينيين) للتسبب بتدميرها بدنياً.. وتقرض إجراءات تهدف إلى منع حدوث ولادات ضمن المجموعة".

وانتهى التقرير إلى أن إسرائيل استهدفت النساء والفتيات المدنيات مباشرة في "أفعال تمثل جريمة ضد الإنسانية هي القتل وجريمة الحرب المتمثلة بالقتل العمد".

وأضافت اللجنة أن تجريد الأشخاص من ملابسهم علناً والتحرش الجنسي، بما في ذلك التهديد بالاغتصاب والاعتداءات الجنسية، تشكّل جميعها جزءاً من "إجراءات العمل الموحدة" التي تتبعها قوات الأمن الإسرائيلية حيال الفلسطينيين.

ووفق التقرير، توفيت نساء وفتيات أيضاً نتيجة مضاعفات مرتبطة بالحمل والولادة نظراً إلى الظروف التي فرضتها السلطات الإسرائيلية وتؤثر على الوصول إلى الرعاية الصحية الإنجابية وهي "أعمال ترقى إلى الإبادة وهي جريمة ضد الإنسانية".

جاء التقرير بعدما عقدت اللجنة جلسات علنية في جنيف الثلاثاء والأربعاء للاستماع إلى شهادات ضحايا العنف الجنسي والشهود عليه.

وأسس مجلس حقوق الإنسان التابع للأمم المتحدة لجنة التحقيق الدولية المستقلة المكوّنة من ثلاثة أشخاص في مايو/أيار 2021 للتحقيق في الانتهاكات المفترضة للقانون الدولي في إسرائيل والأراضي الفلسطينية.

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