

Highlights from 2009: key events and analysis from Just Journalism

JANUARY Operation Cast Lead	<p>Israel's offensive against Hamas rocket fire from the Gaza strip (27 Dec '08 - 18 Jan '09)</p> <p>'Gaza Conflict: A Media Analysis' - Our comprehensive analysis of how the conflict was covered in the UK included analysis of key editorial messages, depictions of Israel and Hamas, the provision of context and the implications of Israel's media restrictions.</p>
FEBRUARY Elections in Israel	<p>General elections in Israel result in no clear winner (10 Feb)</p> <p>'Taking exception to making exceptions', published on The Guardian's Comment is free website, questioned the reporting of the election result in Israel, and compared it to coverage of Hamas' election in 2006.</p>
MARCH New government formed	<p>New government formed in Israel under Benjamin Netanyahu (31 Mar)</p> <p>Following the intense reporting of Operation Cast Lead and Israel's elections, Just Journalism convened a panel discussion featuring Channel 4 News anchor Jon Snow and other eminent journalists to address the question: 'Do the British media have an obsession with Israel?'</p>
APRIL Durban II	<p>Iranian President Ahmadinejad's speech at the UN Conference Against Racism (20 Apr)</p> <p>'Durban II: A Media Analysis' analysed the UK media response to President Ahmadinejad's speech, with particular emphasis on reactions to his inflammatory rhetoric against Israel.</p>
MAY War crimes allegations	<p>Goldstone commission convened in Geneva to investigate allegations of war crimes in Gaza (4 May)</p> <p>'Israel and Sri Lanka: a media analysis of war crimes allegations' demonstrated the markedly different approach the British press took to reporting war crimes allegations in relation to conflict in Gaza and in Sri Lanka.</p>
JUNE Protests in Iran, Obama Cairo speech	<p>Disputed election in Iran provokes mass protests and media limitations (12 Jun)</p> <p>'Viewpoints: Media access to conflict zones and citizen journalism' collected the views of journalists, media experts and journalism advocates on the rise of new technologies like Twitter and their impact on conflict reporting. The reporting of President Obama's Cairo speech was analysed in 'Obama's seven tensions in five editorials' revealing that the UK press prioritised the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, over Obama's six other key 'tensions'.</p>
JULY Gaza soldier testimonies	<p>'Breaking the Silence' soldier testimonies published (17 Jul)</p> <p>'Problematic quotation of Israeli soldiers' analysed misquotations of soldiers in The Independent and on the BBC relating to the publication of soldiers' testimonies by the 'Breaking The Silence' group. These findings were subsequently reported by Ha'aretz.</p>

AUGUST |
East Jerusalem
evictions

Controversy over the eviction of Palestinians from homes in east Jerusalem (2 Aug)

[‘Erasing facts from Israel eviction story’](#), published on The Guardian’s Comment is free website, threw light on the two evicted families’ refusal to pay rent – a key fact that was widely omitted in UK media reports about the story. [‘Comment is free gives differing perspectives on east Jerusalem clashes’](#) demonstrated how the selective use of known facts in this story could portray events in markedly different lights.

SEPTEMBER |
Peace talks
with Obama

Palestinian President Abbas and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu meet to discuss peace process (22 Sep)

[‘Trilateral talks and allocating blame for failure’](#) examined how the Israeli and Palestinian positions were portrayed by UK news outlets following the summit meeting convened by President Obama in New York. The analysis highlighted the media’s emphasis on the inability of George Mitchell to secure a shift in Israel’s position on settlements.

OCTOBER |
Goldstone
Report
endorsed

UN Human Rights Council endorses the Goldstone Report (16 Oct)

[‘International law as reported in the media’](#) summarised key observations from a roundtable discussion hosted by Just Journalism in Westminster, convening journalists and legal specialists. It focused on the problems of reporting international law for both news producers and consumers, especially in light of the UN endorsement of the Goldstone Report.

NOVEMBER |
Tensions with
Iran

Iran begins war games simulating an attack on its nuclear facilities (22 Nov)

[‘BBC inversion on Iran’s military exercises’](#) highlighted the need to provide context in a series of reports on a given story, by showing how Iran’s regional belligerency has been omitted over a period of time on the BBC news website. The reporting of tensions with Iran were further analysed in [‘BBC on implications of weapons cache seizure’](#), which explored the implications of Israel’s seizure of the ‘Francop’ arms ship from Iran bound for Hizbollah, as seen by the BBC.

DECEMBER |
Livni arrest
warrant

British court issues arrest warrant for former Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni (12 Dec)

[‘Guardian misleads on profile of pro-Palestinian lawyer’](#) focused on the problem of misrepresenting quoted sources in news reports. The newspaper had failed to disclose a quoted lawyer’s longstanding involvement in legal action against Israeli officials in UK courts.

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Just Journalism is an independent research organisation focused on how Israel and Middle East issues are reported in the UK media.

We produce analysis of print, broadcast and online media and regularly publish research on trends in the media’s coverage.

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