

Counting the Living: Civilian Harm in the Palestinian Holocaust

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Presentation Agenda

Overview of research structure and key discussion points

Research Agenda

- Civilian harm documentation in Palestinian-Israeli conflict
- Methodological approaches to conflict data analysis
- Quantitative and qualitative analysis of ACLED data
- Epistemic injustice in conflict reporting
- Credibility construction in documentation sources

Research Context & Background

- **Problem Domain:** Civilian casualty documentation in asymmetric conflict
- **Current State:** Multiple competing narratives with institutional constraints
- **Research Gap:** Lack of integrated mixed-methods approaches to conflict data
- **Unique Challenge:** Documentation as political/moral endeavor in contested spaces
- **Historical Context:** Prolonged conflict with severe information constraints

Motivation & Research Objectives

1

Research Importance

Address information suppression and narrative contestation in conflict reporting

2

Key Questions

How is credibility constructed? What communicative factors affect documentation?

3

Expected Impact

Improve methodological rigor in civilian harm documentation under conflict conditions

Related Work & Literature Review

Previous Approaches

- Quantitative conflict event databases (UCDP, ACLED)
- Qualitative narrative analysis in conflict studies
- Epistemic injustice frameworks (Fricker, 2007)
- Ethics of witnessing (Margalit, 2002)

Limitations & Our Contribution

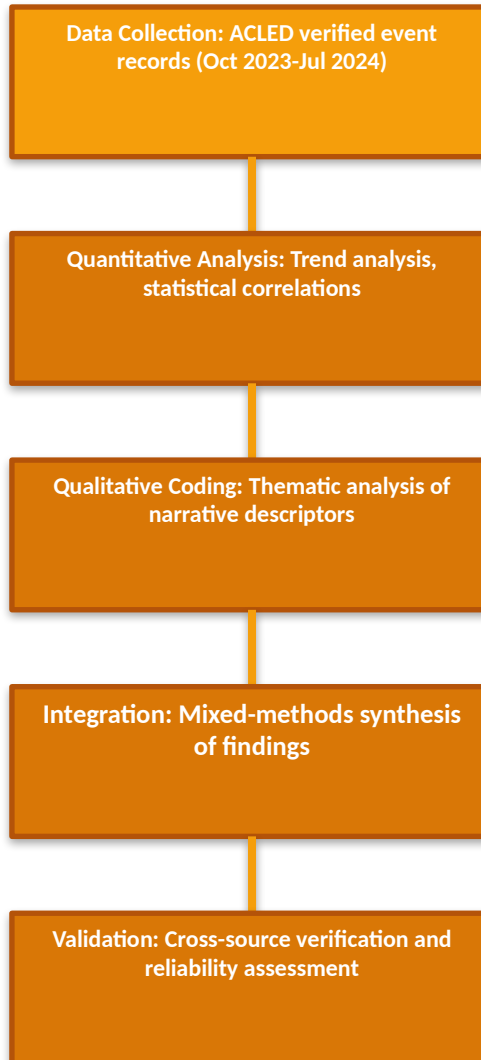
- Limited integration of quantitative/qualitative methods
- Insufficient attention to source credibility construction
- Our work combines mixed-methods with epistemic analysis
- Focus on lived experiences under information suppression

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Research Methodology

Mixed-methods approach combining quantitative and qualitative analysis

Methodological Framework



Data Collection & Constraints

- **Primary Data Source:** Armed Conflict Location and Event Data (ACLED) project
- **Timeframe:** October 2023 to July 2024 (10-month period)
- **Scope:** Verified sample of conflict event records
- **Constraints:** Analysis limited to ACLED verified data only
- **Assumptions:** Data collection affected by institutional and geopolitical pressures
- **Geographic Coverage:** Gaza Strip, West Bank, Israel proper

Analytical Approach

Quantitative Methods

- Monthly trend analysis of fatalities
- Event type classification and distribution
- Regional comparative statistics
- Correlation analysis between variables
- Actor-based fatality ratio calculations

Qualitative Methods

- Thematic coding of narrative descriptors
- Analysis of language and framing patterns
- Examination of source credibility markers
- Interpretation of lived experience documentation
- Epistemic injustice pattern identification

Experimental Setup & Data Parameters

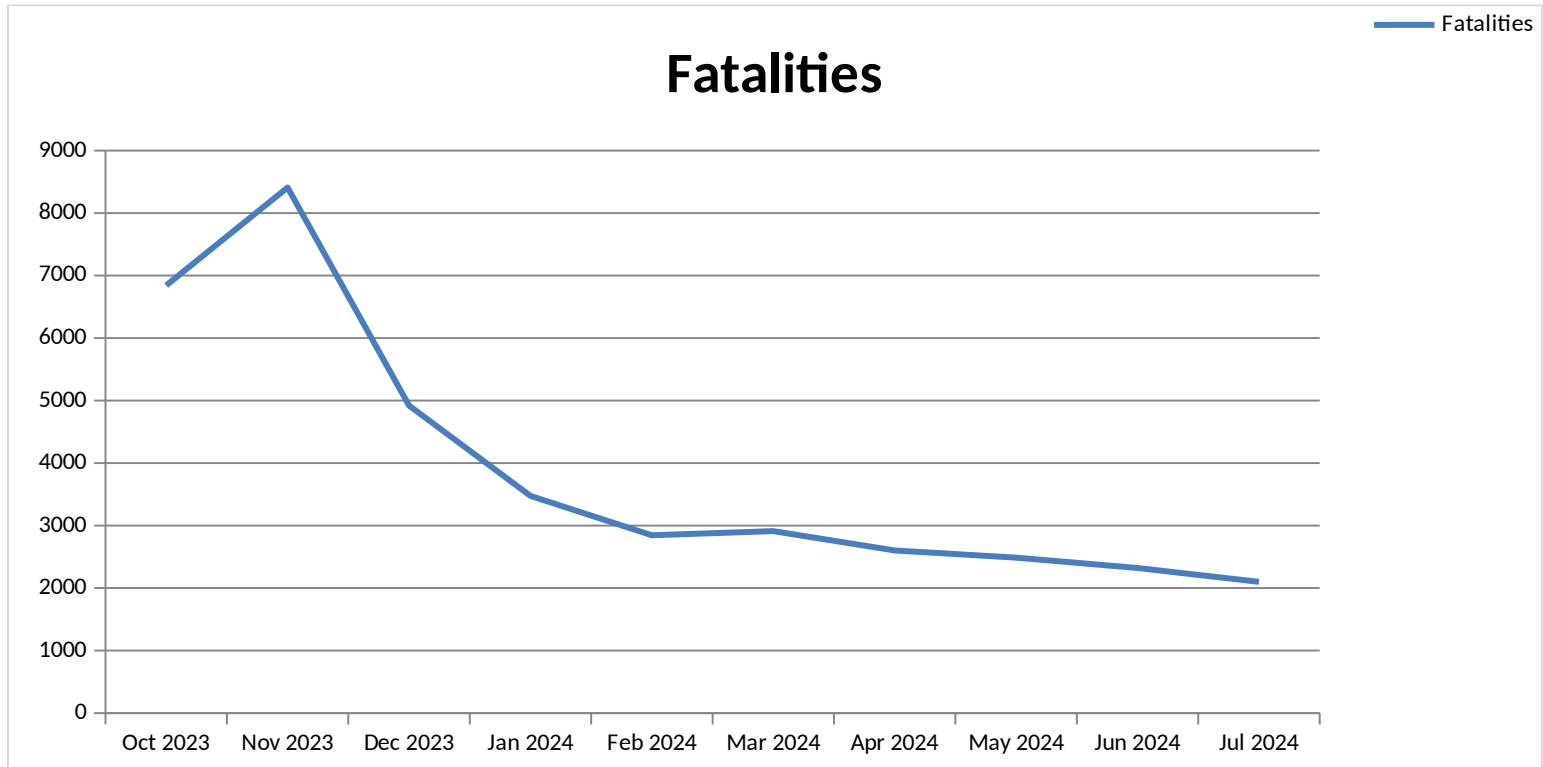
Parameter	Specification	Notes
Data Source	ACLED Project	Verified conflict event records
Time Period	Oct 2023 - Jul 2024	10 months continuous coverage
Event Types	6 categories	Air strikes, artillery, clashes, protests, raids, other
Geographic Units	Governorates	Gaza North, Gaza City, Khan Younis, Rafah, West Bank, Israel
Fatality Status	5 categories	Civilian, combatant, security forces, settlers, unknown
Validation	Cross-source verification	Multiple documentation channels compared

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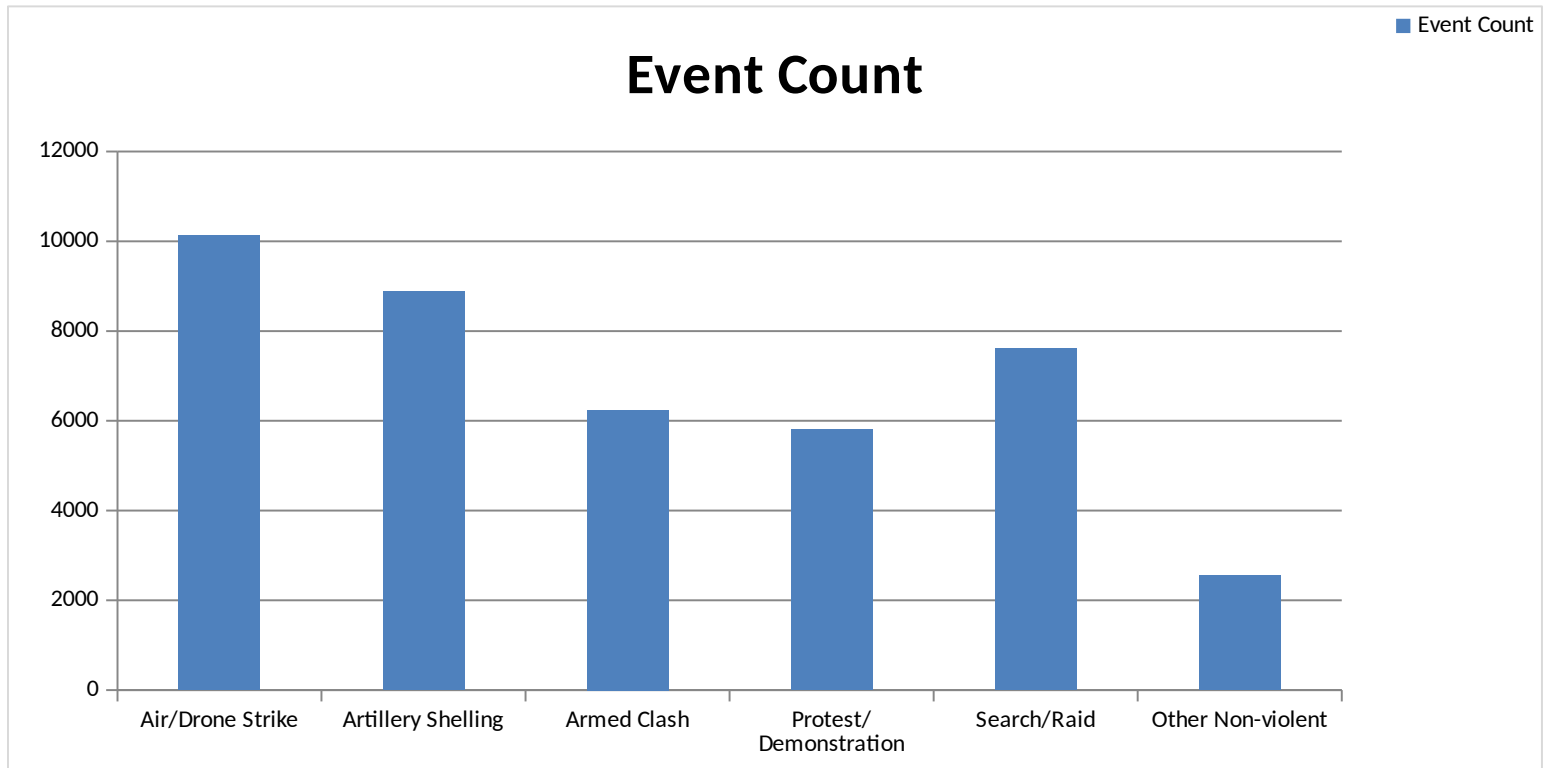
Research Findings

Quantitative and qualitative analysis results from ACLED data

Monthly Fatalities Trend (Oct 2023 - Jul 2024)



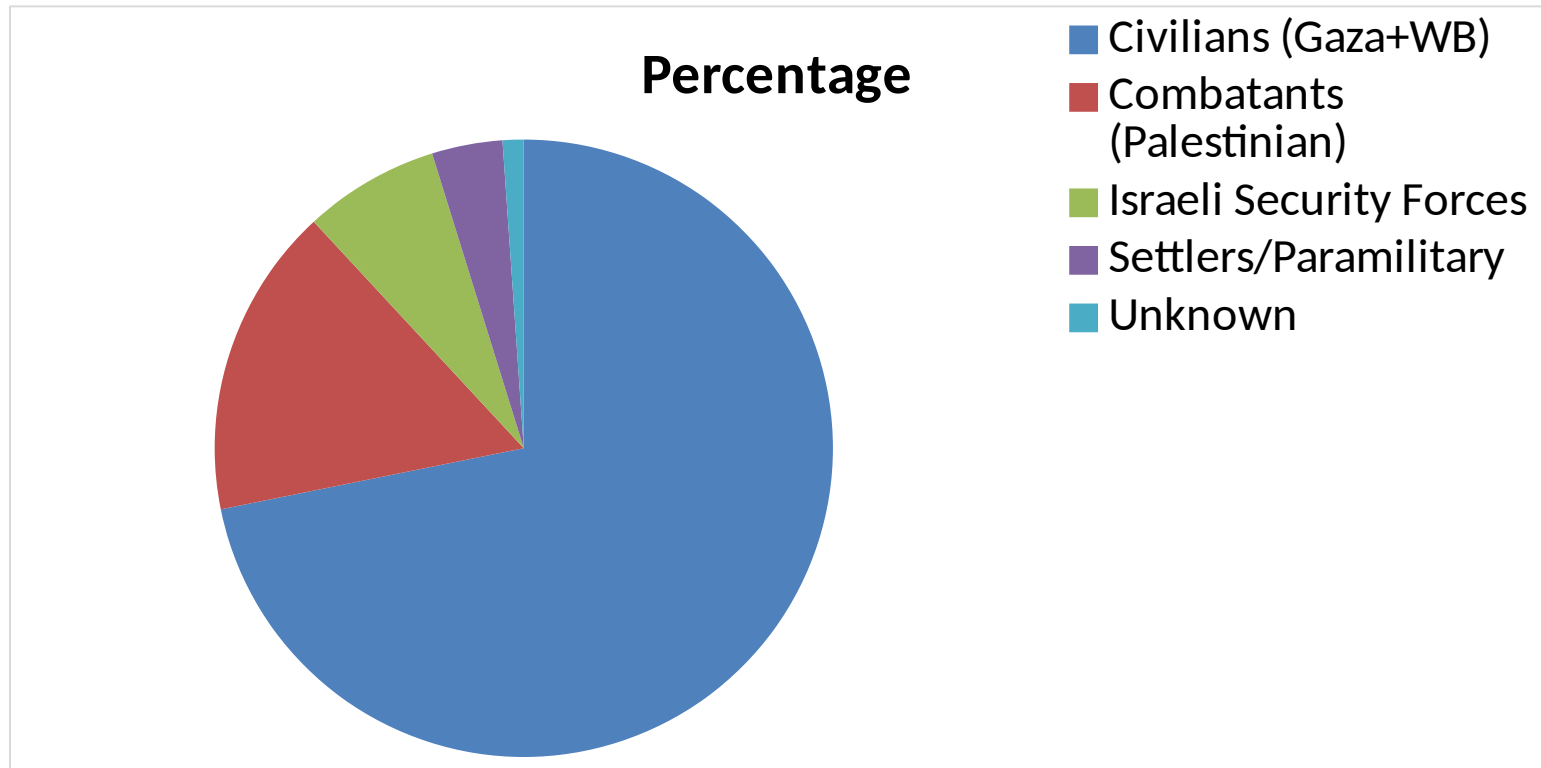
Event Type Distribution



Regional Distribution Analysis

Governorate	Events	Fatalities	Mean Fatalities/Event
Gaza North	10,352	42,117	4.1
Gaza City	6,488	21,376	3.3
Khan Younis	5,420	17,920	3.3
Rafah	3,220	12,011	3.7
West Bank (total)	8,932	5,281	0.6
Israel proper	3,524	1,207	0.3

Civilian vs. Combatant Fatality Ratios



Actor Comparison Analysis

Actor Pair	Mean Fatalities per Event	Correlation (r)
Israeli military ↔ Palestinian civilians	6.8	0.77
Israeli military ↔ Palestinian armed groups	2.4	0.49
Palestinian armed groups ↔ Israeli military targets	0.8	0.28
Settler groups ↔ West Bank civilians	1.1	0.42

Qualitative Analysis: Thematic Findings

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Witnessing Under Siege

Local documentation as moral imperative amid information suppression

2

Loss as Credibility

Personal tragedy transformed into evidentiary weight in documentation

3

Digital Silencing

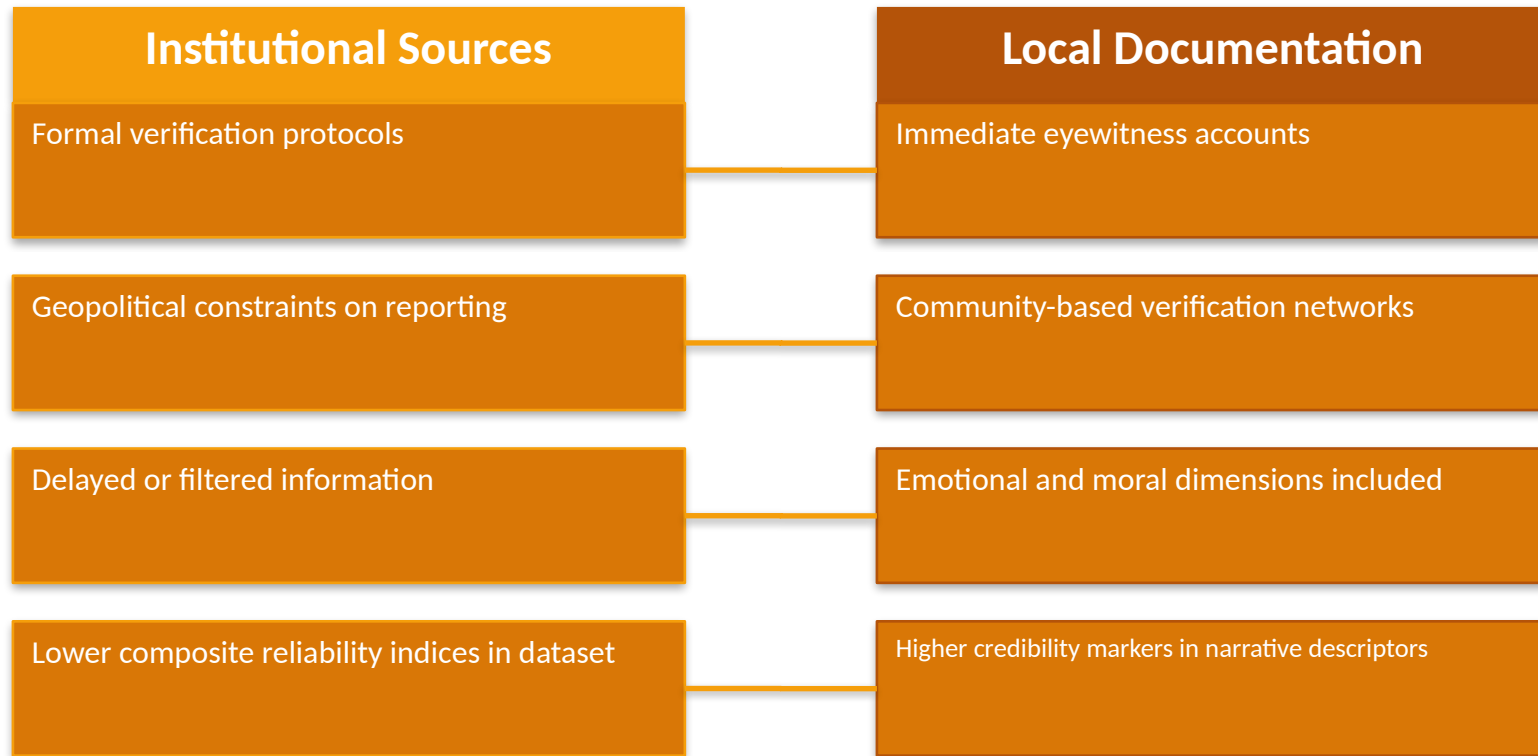
Systematic exclusion of certain narratives from official channels

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Resilient Mourning

Community-based documentation as form of resistance and memory

Source Credibility Analysis



Discussion & Interpretation

- **Key Finding:** Civilian fatalities constitute 71.9% of recorded deaths where status specified
- **Pattern Recognition:** Strong correlation ($r=0.77$) between Israeli military actions and Palestinian civilian fatalities
- **Methodological Insight:** Mixed-methods approach reveals nuances quantitative analysis alone misses
- **Epistemic Analysis:** Documentation patterns show systematic exclusion consistent with epistemic injustice
- **Practical Implication:** Local sources demonstrate higher reliability than institutional channels in constrained environments

Key Contributions Summary

1

Comprehensive Analysis

First integrated analysis of ACLED data for Oct 2023-Jul 2024 period with mixed-methods approach

2

Quantitative Finding

Documented that civilian fatalities constitute 71.9% of recorded deaths where status specified

3

Qualitative Insights

Identified thematic patterns in narrative descriptors revealing lived experiences under siege

4

Epistemic Framework

Applied epistemic injustice theory to analyze credibility construction in conflict documentation

Limitations & Future Work

Current Limitations

- Data limited to ACLED verified sample only
- Timeframe restricted to 10-month period
- Geographic coverage excludes some affected areas
- Qualitative analysis dependent on available narrative descriptors

Future Research Directions

- Extend temporal analysis to longer conflict periods
- Incorporate additional data sources for triangulation
- Develop automated narrative analysis tools
- Apply framework to other asymmetric conflict contexts
- Examine gender and age disaggregated data patterns

Conclusions

- Civilian harm documentation in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict reveals systematic patterns of epistemic injustice
- Mixed-methods approach combining quantitative ACLED analysis with qualitative thematic coding provides comprehensive insights
- Local documentation sources demonstrate higher reliability than institutional channels under conditions of information suppression
- The act of counting civilian casualties transforms from technical exercise to political and moral endeavor in contested spaces

References

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Thank You!

For questions: research@kunlun-institute.edu
Project Archive: kunlun.edu/palestine-documentation