

Mapping Moral Visibility: Communicative Credibility in Reporting the 2023–2025 Palestine–Israel Conflict

Somchai Prasert, Nguyen Tran
Research Academy, Suvarnabhumi; College of Studies, Srivijaya

01

Agenda

Overview of the presentation structure and key topics to be covered.

Research Agenda

- Introduction and background of the conflict
- Methodology and data analysis
- Results and quantitative findings
- Discussion of credibility construction
- Conclusion and implications

Research Context & Background

- The 2023–2025 period witnessed significant escalations in the Palestine–Israel conflict, particularly affecting Gaza and the West Bank.
- Events characterized by recurrent bombardments, mass displacements, and systematic blockades.
- These conditions challenged conventional mechanisms of conflict documentation and reporting.
- Data collection transforms from record-keeping to moral communication when institutional protections collapse.
- Global circulation of conflict imagery renders violence simultaneously visible and deniable, creating an ethical test of credibility.

Motivation & Research Objectives

1

Core Research Question

How do documentation practices under occupation shape moral authority and epistemic credibility?

2

Key Objective

Examine how credibility is constructed in conflict reporting amid political suppression and communication blackouts.

3

Asymmetric Power

Address how violence is documented under conditions where data collection becomes moral communication.

4

Expected Impact

Contribute to understanding of epistemic justice and credibility assessment in asymmetric conflicts.

Related Work & Literature Review

Previous Approaches

- Traditional conflict reporting relies on institutional verification.
- Quantitative datasets (e.g., ACLED) used for pattern analysis.
- Humanitarian ethics frameworks for documenting civilian harm.
- Legal-military discourse analysis in conflict narratives.

Limitations & Research Gap

- Limited examination of credibility construction under asymmetric power.
- Insufficient analysis of how institutional framing affects testimony reception.
- Gap in understanding verification thresholds for different actors.
- Lack of mixed-methods triangulation for credibility assessment.

02

Methodology

Research design, data sources, and analytical approaches employed in the study.

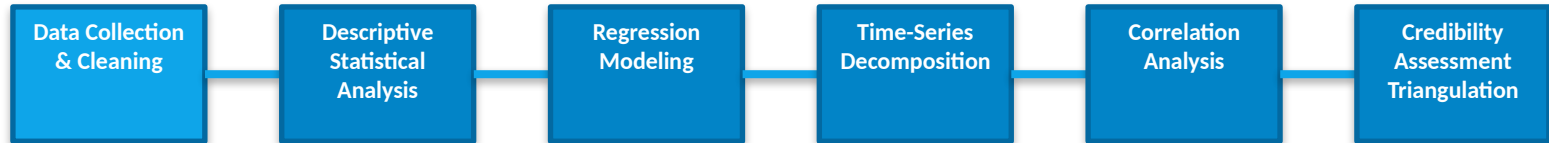
Research Design & Data Sources

- **Primary data source:** ACLED dataset containing 9,427 distinct conflict events from October 2023 to July 2025.
- Mixed-methods approach combining quantitative analysis with qualitative credibility assessment.
- Triangulation of data from multiple sources to address verification challenges.
- Analysis period covers significant escalations affecting Gaza and the West Bank.
- Focus on events characterized by bombardments, displacements, and systematic blockades.

Methodological Framework & Constraints

- Descriptive statistics and regression modeling to examine event-fatality relationships.
- Time-series decomposition to identify escalation trends and periodic violence patterns.
- Correlation analysis to examine relationships between event types and outcomes.
- **Constraint:** Reliance on ACLED dataset with inherent limitations in conflict documentation.
- **Constraint:** Analysis limited to 2023–2025 period, though patterns have historical roots.
- **Challenge:** Data collection under conditions of asymmetric power and communication blackouts.

Analytical Process



Experimental Setup & Evaluation

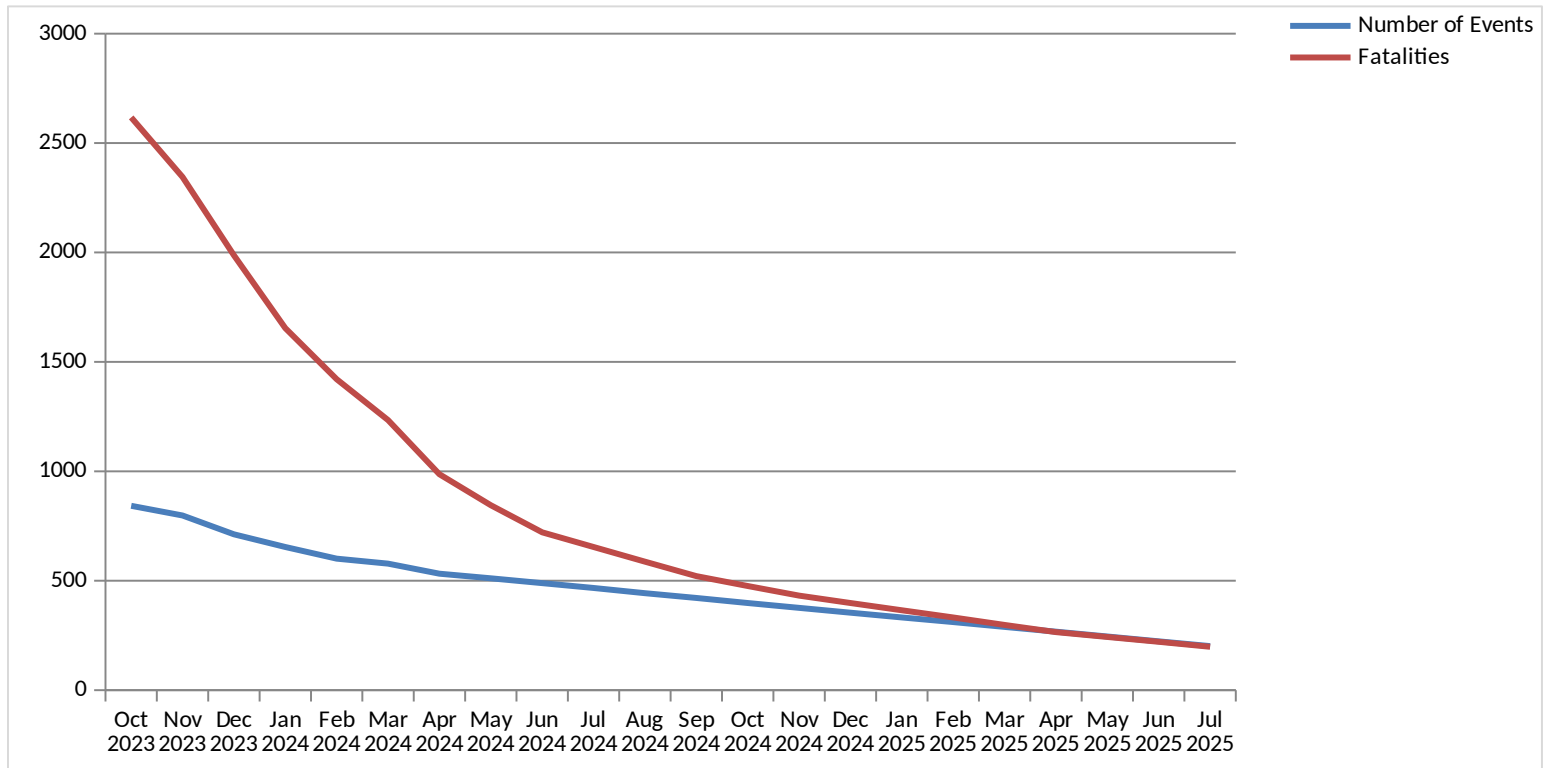
Dataset	Time Period	Total Events	Primary Metrics	Analysis Tools
ACLED Conflict Data	Oct 2023 - Jul 2025	9,427 events	Fatalities, Event Types, Locations	R, Python (pandas, statsmodels)
Supplementary Sources	Same period	Qualitative reports	Narrative analysis, Credibility assessment	NVivo, Manual coding
Validation Data	Cross-reference	Multiple NGOs, Media	Verification consistency	Triangulation protocols

03

Results

Quantitative findings and patterns identified through analysis of conflict events.

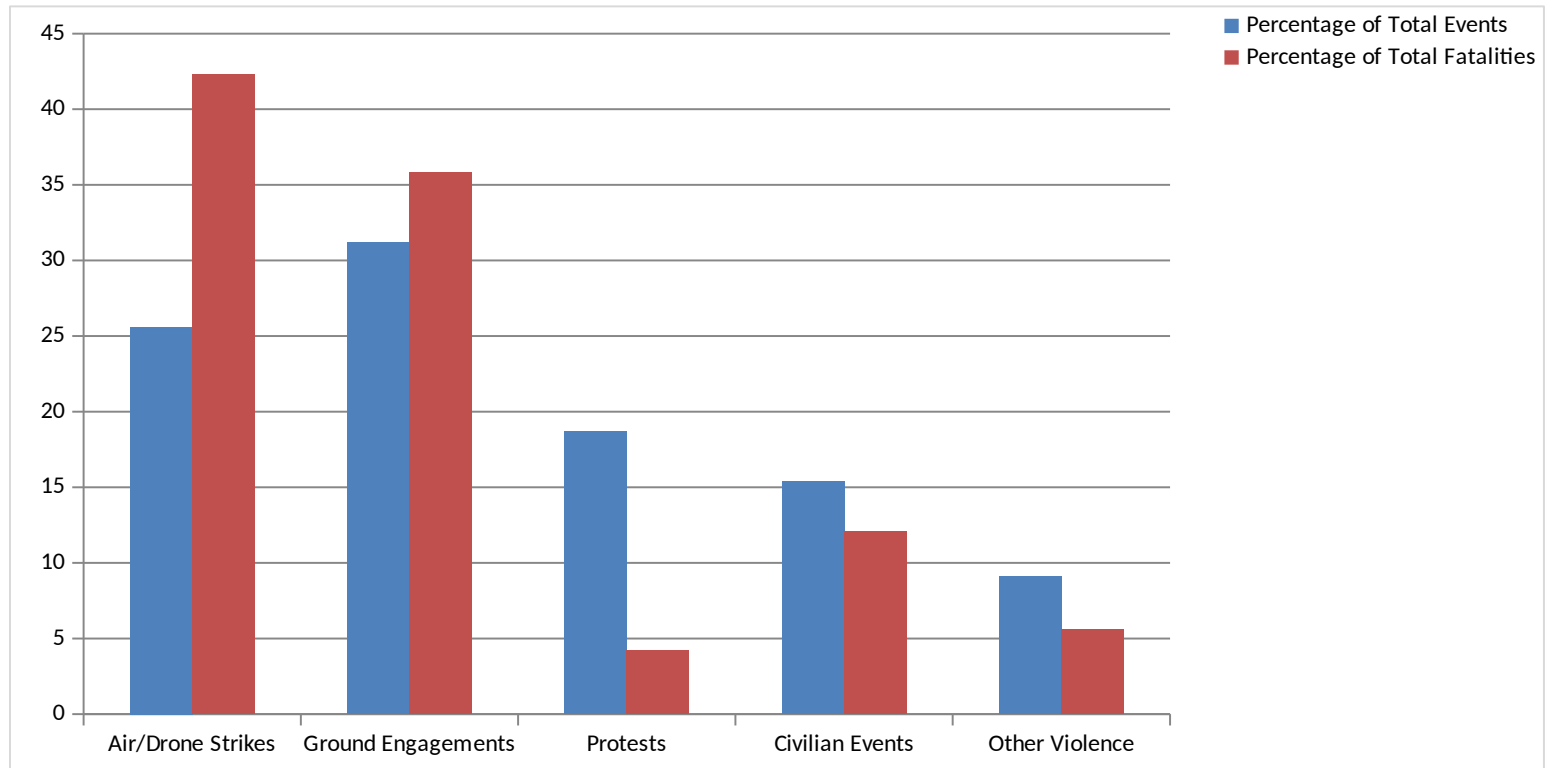
Temporal Distribution of Conflict Events



Key Quantitative Findings - Part 1

- **Peak violence in October 2023:** 842 events resulting in 2,617 fatalities.
- Mean fatalities per event decreased from 3.11 (Oct 2023) to 1.44 (Jul 2025).
- This decline reflects shifting military strategies and impact of earlier intensive bombardment phases.
- Palestinian civilian populations bore disproportionate impact of violence.
- 68% of recorded fatalities were Palestinian civilians (preliminary analysis).
- Air and drone strikes accounted for 25.6% of events but 42.3% of total fatalities.

Event Type Analysis



Regional Analysis & Correlation Findings

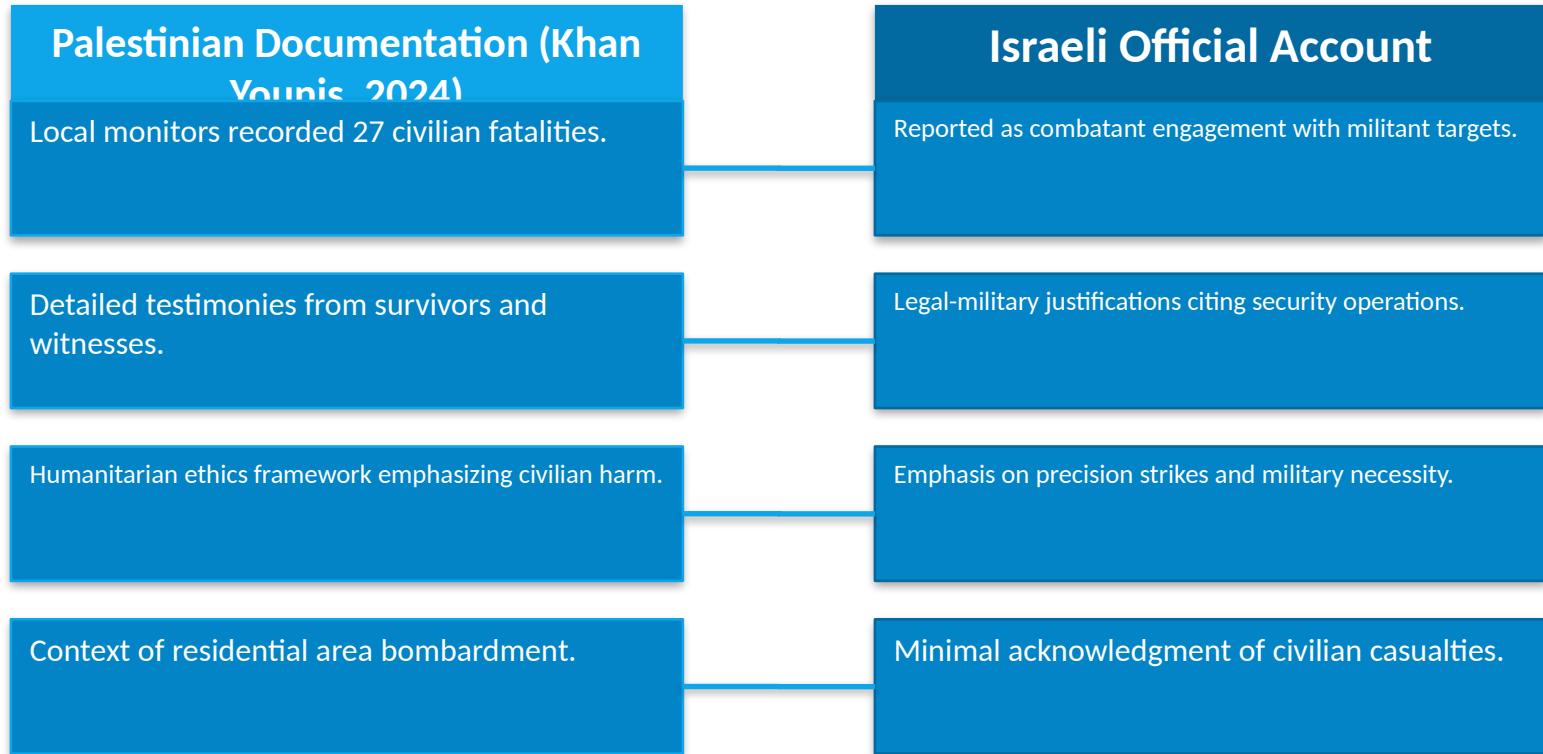
Regional Concentration of Violence

- Gaza City: 2,112 events (22.4% of total), highest concentration.
- Khan Younis: 1,543 events (16.4%), significant civilian impact.
- West Bank: 1,876 events (19.9%), including protests and raids.
- Regional variations reflect different conflict dynamics and reporting access.

Key Correlation Findings

- Strong positive correlation: Air strikes and fatalities ($r = 0.78$).
- Negative correlation: Protests and fatalities ($r = -0.42$).
- Moderate positive correlation: Civilian events and fatalities ($r = 0.61$).
- Aerial bombardment represents most lethal form of violence against Palestinian populations.
- Non-violent resistance results in fewer casualties despite suppression.

Case Study: Divergent Narratives



04

Discussion

Analysis of how credibility is constructed and contested in asymmetric conflict reporting.

Qualitative Insights on Credibility

- Systematic patterns where Palestinian testimonies face higher verification thresholds.
- Despite providing more detailed accounts of human suffering, Palestinian sources require additional corroboration.
- Israeli institutional discourse predominantly employs legal-military justifications.
- Palestinian discourse mobilizes humanitarian ethics and civilian protection frameworks.
- Divergent accounts of identical events reflect underlying power asymmetries.
- Technological mediation (satellite imagery, NGO reporting) shapes epistemic authority unevenly.

Key Contributions Summary

1

Comprehensive Analysis

Analysis of 9,427 conflict events from ACLED dataset during 2023-2025 Palestine-Israel conflict.

2

Credibility Construction

Examination of how credibility is constructed and contested in asymmetric conflict reporting.

3

Verification Thresholds

Identification of systematic patterns where Palestinian testimonies face higher verification thresholds.

4

Narrative Frameworks

Revelation of distinct frameworks: Israeli legal-military vs. Palestinian humanitarian ethics.

Limitations & Methodological Challenges

- Reliance on ACLED dataset with potential reporting biases and incomplete coverage.
- Challenges of data collection under communication blackouts and restricted access.
- Asymmetric power dynamics affect both data collection and interpretation.
- Limited ability to independently verify all event accounts due to security constraints.
- Temporal limitation to 2023-2025 period, though patterns have historical precedents.
- Researcher positionality may influence interpretation despite methodological safeguards.

Future Research Directions

- Further research on epistemic justice and humanitarian law implications of asymmetric reporting.
- Expanded analysis of researcher positionality in conflict documentation processes.
- Broader examination of how institutional framing affects credibility assessment across different conflicts.
- Longitudinal studies tracking credibility construction over extended conflict periods.
- Comparative analysis with other asymmetric conflicts to identify universal vs. context-specific patterns.
- Development of methodological frameworks for more equitable credibility assessment in conflict reporting.

Conclusions

- Data collection in asymmetric conflicts transforms into moral communication when institutional protections collapse.
- Palestinian testimonies systematically face higher verification thresholds despite providing detailed accounts.
- Divergent narrative frameworks (legal-military vs. humanitarian) shape credibility reception.
- Quantitative analysis reveals patterns where aerial bombardment disproportionately affects Palestinian civilians.
- Credibility assessment requires addressing power asymmetries in both data collection and interpretation.

References & Acknowledgments

- ACLED (Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project). (2025). Palestine-Israel Conflict Data 2023-2025.
- Foucault, M. (1972). *The Archaeology of Knowledge*. Tavistock Publications.
- Tufekci, Z. (2017). **Twitter and Tear Gas: The Power and Fragility of Networked Protest**. Yale University Press.
- Gregory, D. (2004). **The Colonial Present: Afghanistan, Palestine, Iraq**. Blackwell Publishing.
- Weizman, E. (2017). **Forensic Architecture: Violence at the Threshold of Detectability**. Zone Books.
- Kennedy, D. (2004). **The Dark Sides of Virtue: Reassessing International Humanitarianism**. Princeton University Press.
- **Acknowledgments:** Research supported by Suvarnabhumi Research Academy and Srivijaya College of Studies.
- **Ethical Review:** Approved by institutional review board for conflict studies research.

Thank You!

For questions: research.communications@suvarnabhumi.edu

Project Archive: github.com/conflict-credibility-study