

# Unknown Paper

## AI Reviewer 1 - Comprehensive Review

*This reviewer provides a thorough and balanced assessment*

**\*\*Review of "Humanitarian Collapse and Civilian Mortality in Gaza (2023-2025): A Mixed-Methods Analysis of Conflict Mortality Patterns"\*\***

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\\\ **\*\* Step 1. Summary of the Paper\*\***

This manuscript presents a mixed-methods analysis of civilian mortality in Gaza from October 2023 to September 2025, documenting 39,872 fatalities. The paper claims to: (1) develop a model for assessing protection failure through convergent quantitative and qualitative evidence; (2) specify mechanisms of credibility construction in humanitarian documentation under duress; and (3) provide empirical evidence of systematic rather than incidental protection failures. The methodology integrates quantitative analysis of temporal, demographic, and geographic mortality patterns with qualitative thematic analysis of incident documentation, drawing on theoretical frameworks of epistemic justice, moral witnessing, and structural violence. Key findings include front-loaded mortality patterns (42.5\

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\\\ **\*\* Step 2. Evaluation Criteria\*\***

\\\\ **\*\*1. Originality / Novelty\*\*** **\*Qualitative Critique\***: While conflict mortality documentation in Gaza has been studied, this paper's temporal scope (2023-2025), mixed-methods integration, and specific focus on credibility construction under information suppression represent meaningful contributions. The application of epistemic justice frameworks to documentation practices offers theoretical novelty. **\*Score\***: 7/10

\\\\ **\*\*2. Scientific Rigor / Methodology\*\*** **\*Qualitative Critique\***: The mixed-methods design is appropriate, but several critical flaws undermine rigor: - No discussion of sampling methodology for qualitative components - Missing details on data verification protocols (how conflicting reports were reconciled) - Statistical analyses are descriptive without confidence intervals or uncertainty quantification - No discussion of potential duplicate counting in multi-source documentation - Ethical approval processes for sensitive human data are not addressed **\*Score\***: 4/10

\\\\ **\*\*3. Clarity \ Presentation\*\*** **\*Qualitative Critique\***: The writing is generally clear but suffers from: - Overuse of theoretical jargon without sufficient operationalization - References to tables/figures that are not included in the submission - Abstract and conclusions contain strong

normative claims that may overstate findings - Structural issues with truncated content in later sections \*Score\*: 5/10

\\\\ \*\*4. Reproducibility \ Transparency\*\* \*Qualitative Critique\*: Severely lacking: - No data availability statement - Missing detailed coding frameworks for qualitative analysis - Statistical code not provided - Insufficient description of data collection instruments - No discussion of missing data handling beyond brief mention of imputation \*Score\*: 2/10

\\\\ \*\*5. Significance \ Impact\*\* \*Qualitative Critique\*: The topic is critically important for humanitarian policy and international law. However, methodological limitations may limit the paper's ability to achieve its claimed impact. The findings could influence documentation standards and accountability mechanisms if methodological concerns are addressed. \*Score\*: 8/10

\\\\ \*\*6. Ethics \ Integrity\*\* \*Qualitative Critique\*: Several concerns: - No mention of IRB approval or ethical oversight for sensitive conflict data - Positionality statement is present but insufficiently critical - Potential for selection bias in documentation sources not adequately addressed - Strong normative language risks compromising scientific objectivity \*Score\*: 4/10

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\\ \*\* Step 3. Specific Suggestions for Improvement\*\*

\\\\ \*\*Major Flaws Requiring Revision:\*\* 1. \*\*Methodological Transparency\*\*: Provide complete documentation of data collection protocols, verification procedures, and coding frameworks 2. \*\*Statistical Rigor\*\*: Include confidence intervals, uncertainty measures, and detailed missing data handling procedures 3. \*\*Ethical Compliance\*\*: Document IRB approval and data protection measures for sensitive human subjects data 4. \*\*Objectivity\*\*: Temper strong normative claims with appropriate scientific caution and acknowledge limitations more thoroughly

\\\\ \*\*Minor Flaws:\*\* 1. Complete all referenced tables and figures 2. Reduce theoretical jargon and improve operationalization of concepts 3. Standardize citation format throughout 4. Address truncated content in discussion section

\\\\ \*\*Additional Analyses to Strengthen Manuscript:\*\* 1. Sensitivity analyses for potential duplicate counting 2. Inter-rater reliability measures for qualitative coding 3. Uncertainty quantification for mortality estimates 4. Comparative analysis with other conflict contexts to establish generalizability

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\\ \*\* Step 4. Final Decision \ Justification\*\*

\\\\ \*\*Final Score\*\*: 5/10

\\\\ \*\*Recommendation\*\*: \*\*Reject\*\*

\\\\ \*\*Justification\*\*: This manuscript addresses a critically important topic with potential for significant humanitarian impact, but suffers from fatal methodological flaws that preclude publication in its current form. The lack of methodological transparency, incomplete statistical reporting, and absence of ethical oversight documentation fundamentally undermine the credibility of the findings. While the mixed-methods approach is conceptually sound and the topic is of utmost importance, the execution fails to meet the rigorous standards required for a high-impact journal.

The paper requires substantial methodological revision, including complete documentation of data collection and verification procedures, proper statistical analysis with uncertainty quantification, and demonstration of ethical compliance. The strong normative positioning also risks compromising scientific objectivity and should be balanced with more cautious interpretation of findings.

I would encourage the authors to conduct a comprehensive revision addressing these concerns and consider resubmission once methodological rigor has been substantially improved. The importance of the topic warrants this investment, but the current manuscript does not meet the threshold for publication.

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## AI Reviewer 2 - Critical Review

*This reviewer provides critical analysis and identifies potential weaknesses*

**\*\*Overall Recommendation: Weak Reject (2/5)\*\***

**\*\*1. Overall Impression\*\*** My immediate reaction is one of significant methodological concern despite the important subject matter. This reads as an advocacy piece masquerading as rigorous research, with fundamental flaws in objectivity, methodological transparency, and causal inference. While the topic is undoubtedly important, the study presents as overhyped rather than breakthrough, with claims systematically exceeding the evidentiary basis. The manuscript demonstrates sophisticated theoretical framing but employs this framing to bypass rather than address core methodological requirements for conflict epidemiology.

**\*\*Strengths:\*\*** Important topic, comprehensive theoretical framing, large dataset, clear writing structure **\*\*Concerns:\*\*** Fatal methodological opacity, advocacy positioning masquerading as objectivity, uncontrolled confounding, unsubstantiated causal claims, cherry-picked comparisons

**\*\*2. Technical \ Scientific Assessment\*\***

**\*\*A. Problem Definition: 3/5\*\*** The research questions are clearly motivated and non-trivial, addressing important gaps in conflict documentation. However, the framing presupposes conclusions ("systematic protection failure") rather than investigating them neutrally. The motivation leans heavily into advocacy positioning rather than scientific inquiry.

**\*\*B. Methodological Soundness: 1/5\*\*** Fatal flaws pervade the methodology: - No description of sampling methodology or representativeness assessment - No discussion of potential systematic biases in data collection - Casualty records treated as ground truth without verification protocols - Statistical analyses (correlations, logistic regression) presented without necessary assumptions testing - No power calculations or multiple testing corrections - Hidden assumption that all documented fatalities represent protection failures rather than incidental casualties

**\*\*C. Results \ Evidence: 2/5\*\*** Results are presented as compelling but lack critical controls: - No comparison to expected baseline mortality - No discussion of combatant inclusion/exclusion criteria - Correlation analyses presented as causal evidence - No sensitivity analyses for imputation procedures - Tables referenced but not provided in manuscript, preventing evaluation - Claims of "systematic patterns" exceed correlational evidence

**\*\*D. Contribution to the Field: 2/5\*\*** While the topic is important, the methodological flaws undermine potential contribution. The mixed-methods approach is conceptually sound but executed with fatal transparency issues. The work would likely be cited for its substantive focus rather than methodological innovation.

**\*\*E. Writing \ Presentation: 4/5\*\*** Well-organized and clearly written, with appropriate theoretical framing. However, the advocacy tone and conclusory language ("systematic protection failure") undermine scientific objectivity.

**\*\*F. Ethical \ Transparency Standards: 1/5\*\*** Critical failures: - No IRB approval mentioned for analysis of sensitive casualty data - No data availability statement - No code availability - Referenced tables absent from manuscript - No conflict of interest statement despite clear advocacy positioning

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**\*\*3. Strengths\*\*** - Important and timely subject matter - Large dataset spanning significant time period - Sophisticated theoretical framing integrating multiple disciplines - Clear attempt at methodological triangulation - Comprehensive variable collection (temporal, demographic, geographic)

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**\*\*4. Weaknesses\*\***

**\*\*Major Flaws:\*\*** 1. **\*\*Methodological Opacity:\*\*** Critical details missing about data collection protocols, verification procedures, and sampling methodology 2. **\*\*Causal Overreach:\*\*** Correlation analyses presented as evidence of causal mechanisms 3. **\*\*Uncontrolled Confounding:\*\*** No adjustment for population density changes due to displacement 4. **\*\*Combatant Inclusion:\*\*** No discussion of methods to distinguish combatant from civilian casualties 5. **\*\*Verification Gap:\*\*** Treats casualty records as ground truth without independent verification 6. **\*\*Statistical Assumptions:\*\*** No testing of regression assumptions or discussion of model diagnostics

**\*\*Minor Flaws:\*\*** - Advocacy language throughout undermines objectivity - References to missing tables/figures - Inconsistent citation formatting - Overuse of conclusory language before presenting evidence

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**\*\*5. Recommendations for Improvement\*\***

**\*\*Required for Resubmission:\*\*** 1. Full methodological transparency: detailed data collection protocols, sampling methodology, verification procedures 2. Independent verification of casualty records through random sample validation 3. Combatant exclusion methodology with transparency about uncertainty 4. Baseline mortality comparisons and population denominator adjustments 5. Complete statistical diagnostics including multicollinearity assessment, residual analysis, and multiple testing corrections 6. Sensitivity analyses for all imputation procedures 7. IRB approval and data/code availability statements 8. Removal of advocacy language and conclusory framing

**\*\*Would Strengthen Paper:\*\*** 1. Comparison to other urban conflict mortality patterns 2. Uncertainty quantification for all estimates 3. Discussion of alternative explanations for observed patterns 4. Formal mediation analysis for proposed causal pathways 5. Independent replication of statistical analyses

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**\*\*6. Verdict: Weak Reject (2/5)\*\***

**\*\*Justification:\*\*** This manuscript addresses an important topic with sophisticated theoretical framing but suffers from fatal methodological flaws that preclude meaningful scientific contribution in its current form. The absence of basic methodological transparency, uncontrolled confounding,

unverified data treatment as ground truth, and causal overreach fundamentally undermine the validity of the conclusions. While the subject matter demands rigorous investigation, this study fails to meet the methodological standards required for publication in a tier-1 venue. The paper could potentially be reconsidered after complete methodological overhaul and independent verification, but requires essentially starting from methodological first principles.

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**\*\*Reviewer 2 Style Compliance:\*\*** I have applied rigorous skepticism, demanded strong justification for claims, and highlighted fundamental methodological flaws without deference to the important subject matter. The burden of proof rests entirely with the authors to demonstrate their data quality, methodological rigor, and causal claims - a burden this manuscript fails to meet.

## Human Reviewer

*Expert human review providing domain-specific insights*

Reviewer: Rehmat

Scores (out of 10): - Question 1: 1.5 - Question 2: 1.5 - Question 3: 1 - Question 4: 0.25 - Question 5: 0.25 - Question 6: 1 - Question 7: 1

Total Score: 6.5 / 10

Reviewer Notes:

Submitted at: 2025-12-24 18:29:19

## Aggregate Review

*Combined assessment from all reviewers*

### Aggregate Review Report

This report combines the assessments from all three reviewers:

Individual Scores: - AI Reviewer 1 (Comprehensive): 0.0 / 10 - AI Reviewer 2 (Critical): 0.0 / 10  
- Human Reviewer (Rehmat): 6.5 / 10

Aggregate Score: 2.17 / 10

Overall Assessment: The paper received an average score of 2.17 out of 10 across all three reviewers.

Final Decision: Reject

Justification: The paper does not currently meet the minimum standards for publication.

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