

# Israel

Paul Eames

Media Literacy Strategies-Analysis of National Media System



The media system in the country of Israel can be viewed from its political system, its geographic elements, its ethnic composition, the religious composition, the educational system and the system of media ethics the country of Israel contains.

The political system of Israel is defined by the CIA factbooks web page as parliamentary democracy. The political system of Israel affect its media system with the conflict between Palestine and Israel, most of the newspapers in Israel are biased towards the Israeli side. By nature the political system in Israel tends to be some what liberal due to the idea of being democracy, but still edicts are being passed against foreign and especially Palestinian reporters. An example of this is denying Palestinian reporters the Israeli press cards which are needed to report in Israel, especially during the attack and invasion of Ramallah in 2002, when Arafat was under house arrest. By this time Israel made a law or passed an edict that no foreign reporter would report under this invasion, which is a way the government can affect the media system in Israel, especially with the Israeli press cards the government can decide who reports and who doesn't which favors them quite a lot. The government influences the flow of information by selecting its reporters and giving the people a biased of view of what Israel does in the West Bank. Also by using words like terrorist for the Palestinians, instead of using a more neutral word, the use of such words gives the Israeli public a sense that the Palestinians are the enemy. Which is linked with the government because it is a way of controlling people and showing them what the government want the people to believe in, and they want the people to believe that the Palestinians are terrorists as well as the enemy. They also manipulate the media by focusing only on the side of the Palestinians, showing only how

the Palestinians use car bombs and blow themselves up, but they don't show how many houses the Israeli army bulldozes down each day, and how many Palestinian's the Israeli army kills each day, or even how Palestinian reporters are injured every day by Israeli troops. The kinds of information permitted is only what benefits Israel, and puts down the Palestine's, or the Arabs. The international media is permitted especially what the U.S. does and what is currently doing in Iraq, since the politics of Israel is very close with the politics of Israel. The type of information that is prohibited is information that the Israeli troops do against the Palestine's. For example in 2002 when the Israeli troops invaded Ramallah it was prohibited to report from Ramallah and the Israeli troops bombarded Arab news centers along with Al-Jazeera, and did not let any foreign reporter in through out the invasion.

The government affects the countries freedom of press in many ways especially in ways that are negative for Israel. Again the example of Israel's government issuing and charging the reporters for Israeli press cards, for them to report. Most of the limitations are against the Palestine reporters and there have been many cases when Palestine reporters are injured or killed by the Israeli army, especially during the invasion of Palestine territories. An example is when a cameraman from the channel France 2, Talal Hassan Abu Rahma who filmed the killing of a Palestine boy by the Israeli army and the video was shown around the world, and later the correspondent of Franc 2 in Jerusalem was threatened to be killed many times. Which shows that there is not a lot of freedom of press, especially when the information or the press is showing things against the Israeli government. The business community, in terms of private press is diverse because there is press from all the countries in Israel especially covering the subject on Palestine and

Israel, and that is why the government tries to impose rules on these international reporters. The ethnic groups in Israel consist of 80 percent Jewish and the 20 percent mostly Arabic, religious wise it is 80 percent Jewish, 15 percent Muslim and a two percent Christian. The audience in this respect influences the freedom of press quite a lot, since most of the population is Jewish they favor the Israeli side. As well as something wont be covered that is against any of the main religions in Israel simply because of the historical place and background, especially Judaism because 80 percent of the people are Jewish.

The countries media system reflects a countries political system because if there is a large freedom of press then the political system will most likely be democratic or favors freedom of speech. A countries media system can also show us what a country views of certain political issues, by seeing what they cover the most. For example we can see how Israel feels about the Palestine's, by seeing that they only cover the negative aspects of the Palestine's. In Israel the fact that most of the people are Jewish the will tend to take more priority on the Jewish news and on what favors Israel. Where as in the international sector people tend to focus more on the international news rather than just the Israeli news which tend to be biased. Since the geographical location of Israel is between Arab countries, there tends to be a big influence of Arab culture and lots of Arab media, especially the Palestine media. But since the majority of the population in Israel is Jewish then, most of what is accepted by the public in Israel is in favor of Israel and the Jewish community, disfavoring the Arab community and Palestinians.

In conclusion the country of Israel is Democratic Nation but it has many restrictions on the freedom of press, through the legal system, by passing laws against

reporters, or simply denying some reporters jobs. The fact that the majority of the population is Jewish creates a tendency to favor media that is pro-Israel and not anti-Israeli media, and finally there won't be found any media that is against the main religions in the areas due to the historical context Israel contains, and the audience in general.