

Information Warfare in the Israel vs Palestine Conflict: Mitigating the Impact for Indonesia

Abdul Malik Mubarak^{1*}, I Gede Sumertha KY², I Wayan Midhio³
Universitas Pertahanan Republik Indonesia

Corresponding Author: Abdul Malik Mubarak mubaraksindo@gmail.com

ARTICLE INFO

Keywords: Information War, Israel-Palestine Conflict, Propaganda, Indonesia, Impact Mitigation

Received : 10, January

Revised : 23, January

Accepted: 24, February

©2025 Mubarak, KY, Midhio :

This is an open-access article distributed under the terms of the [Creative Commons Atribusi 4.0 Internasional](https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/).



ABSTRACT

The study aims to analyze how information warfare in the Israel-Palestine conflict affects Indonesia and to formulate strategies for mitigating its negative impacts. The research employs a qualitative method with a case study approach. Primary data is derived from cases of disinformation spread on social media from October 7, 2023, to December 2024, as well as from online news articles discussing the impact of the Israel-Palestine war on Indonesia during the same period. The findings indicate that Israel-Palestine information warfare has affected Indonesia across social, political, security, and economic aspects. Mitigation efforts need to be implemented at multiple levels, from individuals and communities to the government, to prevent the negative impacts of Israel-Palestine information warfare in Indonesia.

INTRODUCTION

The conflict between Israel and Palestine escalated again following Hamas's attack on Israeli territory on October 7, 2023. As the sole ruler of the Gaza Strip since 2007, Hamas launched a series of sudden attacks on southern Israel, which borders Gaza, firing approximately 2,000 rockets followed by a ground assault. The attack, known as Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, resulted in the deaths of no fewer than 1,200 Israeli citizens and the taking of 250 Israeli hostages (BBC, 2024). The Hamas attack has triggered a large-scale war that continues to escalate. Israel has aggressively launched retaliatory strikes, continuously bombarding the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, the two remaining Palestinian territories. Moreover, the conflict has spread to other countries after Israel carried out attacks on Lebanon, Syria, and even Iran in an effort to curb support for Palestine (Sarwindaningrum, 2024). The death toll from the Israel-Palestine war, driven by Hamas in Gaza, has now exceeded 46,000, the majority of whom are civilians (Mohamed, 2025).

The conflict between Israel and Palestine is not only fought in the dimension of physical warfare involving military forces but also in the realm of information warfare, where both sides seek to legitimize their actions and portray the brutality of their enemies. Both parties utilize media—both mass media and social media—to shape public opinion and mobilize support through propaganda, disinformation, and media manipulation (Wilcox, 2005). Valerie Worksheet, a researcher in technology and foreign policy at the Brookings Institution, stated that the spread of misinformation in the Israel-Palestine conflict has reached an unprecedented level. The emotional resonance is extremely high on both sides. Confirmation bias plays a significant role, with people disregarding evidence that contradicts their beliefs. For example, a video claiming that Israeli forces shot Israeli civilians at a music festival on October 7, 2023, has been viewed 30 million times. Similarly, there was a false claim that a 5-month-old Palestinian baby killed in an airstrike was actually a doll (News, 2023).

The significant international attention on the Israel-Palestine conflict, due to its religious dimensions and global alliances, has caused the impact of information warfare to extend beyond the two countries, reaching almost every corner of the world, including Indonesia. As one of the countries with the largest Muslim population, the majority of Indonesians have an emotional connection to Palestine. Besides sharing the same faith, historically, Palestine was also among the first nations to recognize Indonesia's independence on August 17, 1945 (Prinanda, 2023). Therefore, information related to the Israel-Palestine war that is disseminated is likely to easily influence Indonesian society. Massive demonstrations in support of Palestinian independence, repeatedly held in Jakarta and other major cities in Indonesia, as well as the boycott movement against products suspected of being affiliated with Israel, reflect the Indonesian people's solidarity with Palestine. Another extreme impact of Israel-Palestine information warfare in Indonesia is polarization, which has led to violent clashes between citizens. The Manguni Makasiouw mass organization, accused of being pro-Israel, clashed with the Muslim

Solidarity Front (BSM), which was holding a pro-Palestine demonstration in Bitung, North Sulawesi, on November 24, 2023. The unrest resulted in one fatality, two injuries, and damage to public facilities (BBC, 2023).

The information warfare in the Israel-Palestine conflict not only affects the main actors in the Middle East but also has a broad global impact, including on Indonesia. Information warfare is often used to influence public opinion, shape specific narratives, and create societal polarization. Amid Indonesia's social and political diversity, this information war has the potential to generate negative effects, such as increased radicalization, social polarization, and the spread of disinformation, which could threaten national stability. Therefore, strategic mitigation measures are necessary to minimize the impact of information warfare in Indonesia. The research problem formulated in this study is: How does information warfare in the Israel-Palestine conflict affect Indonesia? What measures can be taken to mitigate its impact?

Several previous studies have discussed information warfare in the Israel-Palestine conflict. One such study is by Gizem Yildirim and Güngör Şahin (2024), titled *Israel-Palestine Issue in the International Press: A Critical Analysis of the October 6-7 Attacks and Information Warfare* (Yildirim & Sahin, 2024). The study revealed that mass media outlets such as BBC, Al Jazeera, CNN, Xinhua, and Sputnik are involved in information warfare in the Israel-Palestine conflict. These media outlets not only report on developments occurring at the conflict site but also convey their ideologies to their audiences. A study by Fentika Zahra Qoirunnisa and Mahmud Yunus Mustofa (2024) also highlights the presence of information warfare in the Israel-Palestine conflict. The study, titled *Hashtag War in Gaza: An Analysis of the Role of Indonesian Citizens in #JulidFisabilillah from the Transnational Conflict Dimension*, reveals the role of Indonesian netizens through online platforms in mobilizing global support and shaping perceptions during the geopolitical conflict (Qoirunnisa & Mustofa, 2024). These two studies show that information warfare impacts social, political, and psychological aspects. However, the studies have not explored the specific impact on Indonesia. Therefore, the aim of this research is to understand the impact of information warfare in the Israel-Palestine conflict and determine mitigation measures for its effects in Indonesia.

THEORETICAL REVIEW

Information Warfare

In the broadest sense, information warfare is the battle through information to gain specific advantages. This phenomenon emerged as a consequence of the rapid growth of information and communication technologies, which enable the widespread and swift dissemination of information. According to Prokofieva (2008), information warfare is the act of achieving information superiority by damaging the enemy's information, information-based processes, and information systems, while protecting one's own information and information systems (Aleshchenko, 2022). Information warfare does not cause physical damage but can undermine the opponent's institutional structure, universally recognized fundamental values, cause

confusion, and obscure the truth. The attacking party can create a lie between fact and illusion by psychologically manipulating public opinion (Cheishvili & Kostava, 2024). Martin Libicki emphasizes that information and psychological warfare aim to influence public consciousness in order to control individuals and groups, even forcing them to act against their own interests (Libicki, 1995).

The actors in information warfare are not limited to states. Non-state entities, such as terrorist groups, criminal organizations, and political movements, also use information technology to achieve their goals. These non-state actors exploit information manipulation as a tool to create socio-political turmoil. Furthermore, social media platforms and technology companies have turned into battlegrounds for information, where algorithms and digital infrastructure are used to spread specific messages (Singer & Friedman, 2014). The tactics used in information warfare include spreading disinformation, manipulation on social media, cyberattacks, and psychological operations. Perpetrators use bots and automated algorithms to spread propaganda and influence the public. Additionally, they conduct cyberattacks and data breaches to disrupt the activities of the enemy and obtain sensitive information (Bradshaw & Howard, 2019). Information warfare has wide-ranging impacts, from political instability to a decline in public trust in official institutions. Furthermore, information warfare also raises ethical dilemmas and legal challenges, particularly concerning privacy, freedom of expression, and the responsibility of digital platforms in managing information.

H1: Information warfare in the Israel-Palestine conflict has a significant impact on public opinion, societal polarization, and socio-political stability in Indonesia, particularly due to the emotional and historical ties between the Indonesian people and Palestine.

Propaganda

The word "propaganda" is commonly heard in everyday life. It is frequently used in relation to war, politics, and media. Typically, one party accuses the other of engaging in propaganda to influence public opinion, shape perceptions, and mobilize the masses. According to the Indonesian Dictionary (KBBI), propaganda is defined as the dissemination of ideas, opinions, and so on, whether true or false, developed with the aim of convincing people to adopt a certain ideology, attitude, or course of action, usually accompanied by exaggerated promises (Bahasa, 2016).

The concept of propaganda was introduced by psychologist Harold Lasswell in 1920. According to him, propaganda is an effort to regulate collective behavior by manipulating significant symbols. The term 'collective behavior' is used to capture public opinion, a shared value system without considering physical proximity. Through 'significant symbols,' Lasswell attempts to capture stimuli that then produce a reaction (Wilcox, 2005). Lasswell identified four main objectives of propaganda: to foster hatred toward the enemy, to preserve or maintain the friendship of allies, to establish cooperation with neutral parties, and to destroy the enemy's morale (Severin & Jr, 2009). Meanwhile, Prof. Onong Uchyana Efendi defines propaganda as

communication that is planned, systematic, and repeated to influence an individual, audience, or nation to engage in certain activities with their own awareness, without coercion or force (Effendy, 2009).

H2: The information war in the Israel-Palestine conflict, including the spread of propaganda, disinformation, and media manipulation, significantly influences public opinion and societal polarization in Indonesia. This influence is heightened by the emotional, religious, and historical ties between the Indonesian population and Palestine. As a result, the information war is likely to lead to increased radicalization, social division, and unrest within Indonesia, necessitating strategic measures to mitigate these impacts.

METHODOLOGY

This study uses a qualitative method with a case study approach. The qualitative research method is an approach used to explore and understand the meanings associated with social phenomena and to interpret the data obtained (Creswell & Creswell, 2022). A case study is an in-depth examination of a particular event, environment, or situation that allows for the revelation or understanding of something (Basuki, 2006). The case study design emphasizes in-depth exploration of a phenomenon, allowing the researcher to analyze information warfare in detail.

The primary data for this research is selected from cases of disinformation spread on social media from the escalation of the Israel-Palestine conflict on October 7, 2023, to December 2024. Additionally, primary data is also gathered from news articles on online media regarding the impact of the Israel-Palestine conflict in Indonesia during the same period. The secondary data for this study is obtained through a literature review of websites, books, and journal articles related to the focus of the discussion.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Dynamics of Information Warfare in the Israel vs Palestine Conflict

Information warfare is a concept that involves the use and management of information and communication technology (ICT) in the battlefield to gain a competitive advantage over the opponent. In this warfare, the actors (individuals, institutions, or nations) manipulate information that is trusted by the target without their knowledge, causing the target to make decisions that harm their own interests but serve the interests of those conducting the information warfare (ECPS, 2024). An example of information warfare can be seen in the Israel vs Palestine conflict, where various parties attempt to influence global perceptions of the conflict through various communication channels and media, including the fabrication of news, photos, and videos to reinforce their narrative (Segell, 2019). Information warfare impacts global public perception of the Israel-Palestine conflict, which in turn influences international support for both sides.



Figure 1. Vehicles burned at the site of the October 7, 2023, attack by Hamas militants on the Supernova music festival in the Negev Desert, Southern Israel. PHOTO/ JACK GUEZ/AFP via Getty Images.

The above photo shows dozens of cars left behind and burned at the site of the Hamas militant attack during the Supernova music festival in the Negev Desert, Southern Israel, on October 7, 2023. Alessandro Accorsi, a senior analyst for technology and conflict at the International Crisis Group, revealed that Israel and pro-Israel advocacy groups used videos and photos of the Hamas assault to gain global public support. In the narrative spread to Western audiences through ads on YouTube and X, Israel emphasized the horrors of the massacre and the kidnapping of children by Hamas. One of the most significant pieces of disinformation was the claim that Hamas had beheaded 40 babies (Rosdalina, 2024). This news originated from an i24 News report and spread virally on social media, uncontrolled. The news then became a headline on the front pages of newspapers around the world the following day. The false information was deliberately disseminated not only to raise global awareness of the shocking events of October 7, 2023, but also as a justification for retaliation (Accorsi, 2024). According to Alessandro, Israel has followed an information warfare strategy consisting of four steps: emphasizing the horror of the October 7 massacre; discrediting pro-Palestinian voices and justifying the bombing of Gaza; limiting the flow of information about the conflict from Gaza; and rallying Israeli public support by promoting its military strength and the destruction of Gaza. Israel's efforts were quite successful in shaping global public opinion in favor of the retaliatory strikes early in the escalation of the conflict. On November 14, 2024, U.S. citizens held a March for Israel at the National Mall in Washington, demanding the release of hostages held by Hamas. Even U.S. President Joe Biden claimed to have seen images of children beheaded by Hamas during a meeting with Jewish leaders at the White House, although this statement was later retracted by the White House due to a lack of independent verification (CNNIndonesia, 2023).

In this conflict, information warfare is not only carried out by Israel but also by Hamas to win public opinion and gain global support. They spread videos and photos showing the destruction caused by Israel's retaliatory strikes through Al Aqsa TV, a Hamas-run media outlet, and other media networks,

such as Al Jazeera. Through these platforms, including social media, footage of bodies trapped in rubble and grieving parents embracing children wrapped in shrouds is continuously broadcast, exploiting the emotions of viewers wherever they may be (Kirkpatrick & Rasgon, 2023). Senior Research Analyst and Editor at the Long War Journal FDD, Joe Truzman, noted that Hamas employed extensive propaganda tactics when reports emerged of an alleged Israeli airstrike targeting the al-Ahli Hospital in Gaza. Al Jazeera quoted members of the Health Ministry under Hamas control, claiming that 500 people had died in the Israeli airstrike. This information quickly spread across various social media platforms, including major news websites, and became global public consumption. While Israel denied carrying out the strike and provided evidence that it was a misfired rocket from a Jihadi group, the spread of this information successfully damaged Israel's image on the international stage (Truzman, 2023).

In addition to exploiting the destruction caused by Israel's attacks, Hamas also attempts to present itself as a party that upholds ethics in warfare. In a video that was circulated, a Hamas soldier is seen carrying an Israeli child and giving them water during the sudden attack on October 7, 2023, when they broke into southern Israel's border region. In the video, the Hamas soldier says, "Look at the compassion in our hearts. These children, we do not kill them like you do." (Bureau, 2023). In another video, Hamas shows an Israeli hostage who appears to be injured and is receiving medical treatment. These videos have been viewed millions of times by audiences around the world. Thousands of people have left comments, most of which praise the behavior of Hamas soldiers. One commentator praised the 'morality of the Islamic resistance fighters.' These videos have achieved their goal, gaining global public sympathy and countering Israel's narrative, which accuses Hamas of being a brutal, immoral Jihadi group.

The data shows that both Israel and Palestine, in this case represented by Hamas, employ propaganda tactics aimed at shaping public opinion, either in support of or against a particular side. Israel uses propaganda to justify its retaliatory attacks, gain global sympathy, and strengthen the legitimacy of its military actions. Meanwhile, Hamas uses propaganda to exploit the destruction caused by Israeli attacks, create a narrative of being victims, and portray an "ethical" side to their actions. As Jacques Ellul stated, propaganda is a set of methods used by organized groups aiming to elicit both active and passive participation in their actions from a mass of individuals united through a process of psychological manipulation, coordinated with the organization (Wilcox, 2005). Ellul includes the term "passive" to broaden the scope of public response, which not only includes active supporters but also reaches audiences who passively accept the ideas of propaganda without actively resisting.

The essence of propaganda is the manipulation of representations (presentations) to influence human actions. Representations can take the form of speech, writing, images, or music (Severin & Jr, 2009). To convince the audience or the public, Onong emphasizes that propaganda is carried out in a planned, systematic, and repetitive manner to influence an individual,

audience, or nation to engage in certain activities with their own awareness, without coercion or force (Effendy, 2009). In this context, Israel uses videos and photos of the impacts of Hamas attacks to gain support from the Western public and justify retaliatory actions. The videos and photos, spread through social media and affiliated media, narrate that Hamas is a brutal, inhumane terrorist group. Israel accuses Hamas of committing mass killings of children, although this information was later proven to be false. On the other hand, Hamas exploits images of the destruction and suffering of Gaza residents to attract global sympathy. They also attempt to portray a humanitarian side through videos of soldiers helping Israeli children.

The media has become a primary weapon in this information war. Israel utilizes traditional media, such as newspapers, and platforms like YouTube to spread their narrative. Hamas, on the other hand, uses social media and channels like Al Aqsa TV to deliver their message to the world. Through media, information can spread quickly and reach a wide audience. Propaganda from both sides successfully influenced public opinion. In the West, Israel gained initial support for its retaliatory strikes. However, information from Hamas showing the destruction of Gaza also succeeded in generating global sympathy for the Palestinian people. As a result, global public opinion became polarized, divided between supporting Israel or Hamas.

The Impact of the Israel-Palestine Information War on Indonesia

The information war between Israel and Palestine has global implications, including for Indonesia, which is located about 8,600 kilometers away from the conflict. Despite the distance, the Indonesian public remains influenced by news in the mass media and narratives spread through social media. The information received has led to actions that affect the Indonesian government's policies, particularly in voicing support for Palestine in international forums and in taking a stance on the ongoing conflict.

Table 1. The Impact of the Israel-Palestine War in Indonesia

No	Aspects	Impact
1.	Social	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Massive Muslim protests in Jakarta and other cities. - Increased sympathy for Palestine and condemnation of Israel.
2.	Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Diplomatic pressure on Israel and America - Increased public support for pro-Palestinian policies
3.	Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Riots between BSM and Manguni Makasiouw in Bitung, North Sulawesi
4.	Economy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Boycott of Israel-affiliated products leads to layoffs

Source: from various sources, processed by the researchers themselves

Table I above shows the impacts of the Israel-Palestine conflict in Indonesia, covering various aspects, including social, political, security, and economic factors. From a social perspective, Indonesia's Muslim-majority population feels a strong connection to Palestine, leading them to show support by organizing large-scale protests in Jakarta and other major cities. The U.S. Embassy in Jakarta is one of the places frequently targeted by demonstrations. Protesters demand that the United States stop Israel's genocide against the Palestinian people (Prabowo, 2024). The narratives spread through mass media and social media have increased sympathy for Palestine and condemnation of Israel.

Support for Palestine is not only shown through protests but also through calls for boycotts of products suspected to be affiliated with Israel. This action was legitimized by the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI), which issued Fatwa MUI No. 83 of 2023 on the Law of Support for the Palestinian Struggle (Azharun, 2023). The boycott action has had a wide-ranging impact on the economy. The Chairman of the Indonesian Retailers Association (Aprindo), Roy Mandey, revealed that in the early stages of the boycott, sales of products on the boycott list declined. The decline in product sales led to a reduction in production levels and employees' working hours. Some companies were even forced to carry out layoffs due to the impact of the boycott action (Lab, 2024). The boycott of Israeli products also had a domino effect on the supply chains of local Indonesian companies. Multinational companies suspected of being affiliated with Israel often collaborate with local companies to source raw materials for their products. Therefore, when certain products are boycotted, it affects the supply chain downstream.

In addition to social and economic impacts, the Israel-Palestine information war also affected security aspects in Indonesia. The Manguni Makasiouw indigenous organization in Bitung, North Sulawesi, which was accused of being pro-Israel, clashed with members of the Muslim Solidarity Front (BSM) who were holding a Palestine solidarity rally on November 24, 2023. The incident resulted in one death and two other people being injured (BBC, 2023). Although the police did not provide details on the cause of the clash, a circulating video shows the raising of the Israeli flag during the Manguni Makasiouw event. The security impact in Indonesia due to the Israel-Palestine conflict was also anticipated by the National Resilience Institute (Lemhannas) with the emergence of new acts of terrorism (Rizkia, 2023). Meanwhile, the Deputy Secretary of the Extremism and Terrorism Response Agency (BPET) of the Indonesian Ulema Council (MUI), M. Najih Arromadloni, reminded of the issue of caliphate being exploited in Palestine solidarity actions by radical groups (Mubarok, 2023).

The Israel-Palestine conflict has also influenced political dynamics both domestically and internationally in Indonesia. Domestically, several political figures have directly participated in Palestine solidarity actions. In addition to voicing support for ending Israel's attacks on Gaza and advocating for Palestinian statehood, it also serves as tangible evidence to their constituents. The Palestine issue has even become part of the vision and mission of

presidential and vice-presidential candidates in the 2024 presidential election (Ahmad & Setuningsih, 2024). Historically, Indonesia has supported Palestine's independence since the past. The first President of Indonesia, Soekarno, stated in 1962, "As long as the independence of the Palestinian people has not been granted to the Palestinians, Indonesia will stand against Israeli colonization." (Nugraha & Maura, 2023). To reinforce this stance, the Indonesian government, through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (Kemlu), issued Regulation of the Minister of Foreign Affairs No. 3 of 2009 concerning Foreign Relations by Regional Governments (Negeri, 2019). The regulation clearly states that: There is no official relationship between the Indonesian government at any level and Israel, including in correspondence using official letterheads; Official delegations are not accepted in official places; The raising/usage of flags, symbols, and other emblems, as well as the playing of the Israeli national anthem, are not permitted in the territory of the Republic of Indonesia; Visits by Israeli citizens to Indonesia can only be carried out using regular passports; The issuance of visas to Israeli citizens is managed by the Ministry of Law and Human Rights, Directorate General of Immigration. Visas are granted in the form of affidavits through the Indonesian Embassy in Singapore or the Indonesian Embassy in Bangkok.

Not only domestically, but the Israel-Palestine conflict also influences Indonesia's foreign policy. Indonesia has consistently voiced support for Palestine and rallied support in international forums, including at the United Nations (UN). In a meeting between several member states of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), some European Union (EU) member states, and other European countries in Brussels, Indonesia urged European countries to push for the implementation of the two-state solution to address the Palestine-Israel conflict. As a quick response, Indonesia also proposed a ceasefire, supported the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), and advocated for Palestine's recognition and membership in the UN (Kemenpanrb, 2024).

Mitigating the Impact of Information War for Indonesia

Effective propaganda occurs when the information that is deliberately spread touches the emotions of the audience (Lasswell, 2015). In the context of the Israel-Palestine conflict, both sides spread content using emotional diction, such as massacre or colonization. The narratives employed can trigger strong emotions in readers or viewers, leading to anger, solidarity, and even radical actions or violence. Mass media, as one of the channels for spreading content, often takes a perspective aligned with the general views of the majority Muslim population in Indonesia, which can create an information bias that may trigger social polarization. According to Edward S. Herman and Noam Chomsky, this is part of the propaganda model. Every news presented by the media will be influenced by five media filters: ownership, advertising, news sources, flak, and ideology (Shahid, 2019). In addition to mainstream media, social media also serves as a platform for spreading propaganda. Twitter, Facebook, and TikTok are used to distribute content about the Israel-Palestine conflict, including

disinformation and hoaxes. Bots and fake accounts are also used to reinforce certain narratives and influence public opinion.

Mitigating the impact of the Israel-Palestine information war requires a comprehensive strategy because its effects have the potential to disrupt not only social and economic stability but also political and security aspects in Indonesia. Onong (2009) explains that strategy is a process of planning and management designed to achieve specific goals. However, strategy is not just a directional guide; it must also include clear operational tactics (Effendy, 2009). The researcher proposes a multi-level mitigation strategy to reduce the impact of the information war in the Israel vs. Palestine conflict in Indonesia. The levels referred to are the individual, community, and state levels. Each level has a different mitigation strategy that is interconnected with the others.

Table 2. Mitigation Strategy for the Impact of the Israel-Palestine Information War

No	Level	Mitigation Strategy	Explanation
1.	Individu	Improving Digital Literacy	Learn how to recognize hoaxes, verify information, and think critically before sharing information on social media.
		Choosing Credible Sources of Information	Follow news from media that are trusted and have a good reputation in journalism.
		Be Skeptical	Do not easily believe in information that has just been seen without looking for more reliable sources.
2.	Community of People	Forming Discussion Forums	Creating a safe space to discuss sensitive issues, such as the Israel-Palestine conflict, in an open and respectful manner.
		Digital Literacy Campaign	Conducting socialization and training activities on digital literacy in various communities.
		Building Interfaith Networks	Strengthen tolerance and cooperation among religious communities to prevent horizontal conflicts.
3.	State	Enforcing the Law on Spreading Hoaxes	Create strict regulations to crack down on the spreaders of hoaxes and hate speech.
		Supporting Independent Media	Provide more space for independent media to operate

			and present objective information.
		Public Diplomacy	Conduct active public diplomacy to explain Indonesia's position on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and promote peace.
		International Co-operation	Cooperate with other countries in combating the spread of hoaxes and radicalism.

Source: from various sources, processed by the researchers themselves

Table 2 explains the layered mitigation strategy for the impact of the Israel-Palestine information war in Indonesia. At the first level, or individual level, improving public digital literacy is necessary. Lasswell emphasizes the importance of understanding how propaganda is designed and disseminated (Lasswell, 2015). The public needs to be taught how to identify false information or hoaxes and verify information, as well as how to avoid sharing information whose truthfulness is uncertain. The public should also be educated on how to choose reliable sources of information. By having digital literacy, the public will approach each piece of information with skepticism, preventing emotional responses.

The mitigation strategy at the individual level needs to be expanded to the community level. Herman and Chomsky emphasize the importance of reducing social polarization caused by propaganda (Shahid, 2019). The government and civil society organizations need to facilitate inter-group dialogue to reduce social polarization. Discussion forums held will create a space for dialogue to address sensitive issues such as the Israel-Palestine conflict. The purpose of these discussion spaces is not to determine who is right or wrong, but to emphasize a humanitarian perspective. Once a shared perspective is achieved, positive interfaith relationships will be built, leading to tolerance and even cooperation to prevent horizontal conflicts.

Efforts to minimize the impact of information warfare in the Israel-Palestine conflict cannot only be made at the individual and community levels but must also extend to the state level. According to Herman and Chomsky, state involvement is crucial as an authority that creates regulations to control media content (Shahid, 2019). The government needs to strengthen regulations related to the spread of disinformation and provocative content. These regulations are necessary as a legal basis for enforcement against those proven to spread false information or hoaxes. The state should also provide ample space for the mass media to present objective and independent information. In addition to creating strong regulations, Lasswell also emphasizes the importance of strategic communication to influence public opinion (Lasswell, 2015). In this regard, the state must also actively engage in public diplomacy to explain Indonesia's position on the Israel-Palestine conflict. Additionally, it should actively promote world peace in accordance with the mandate of the

1945 Constitution. Public diplomacy can also be carried out through international cooperation with other countries to combat the spread of hoaxes related to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The dynamics of information warfare in the Israel-Palestine conflict demonstrate the powerful role of propaganda in shaping global public opinion. Both Israel and Hamas use traditional media and social media to spread narratives that benefit them, manipulate information, and exploit emotions. Israel utilizes images and videos of Hamas attacks to justify its military actions and garner international support, while Hamas exploits the destruction in Gaza, presenting itself as a victim to attract global sympathy. This propaganda not only influences public perceptions globally but also creates deep polarization.

In Indonesia, this information war has significant impacts, particularly due to the emotional closeness and historical solidarity of the Indonesian people with Palestine. The effects include social, economic, political, and security aspects. Protests, boycotts of products, and societal polarization are some real-world examples of the influence of this information war. Additionally, this conflict affects Indonesia's foreign policy, which consistently supports Palestine in international forums.

To mitigate the negative effects of information warfare, a comprehensive strategy involving individuals, community groups, and the state is required. Enhancing digital literacy, inter-group dialogue, strong regulations against disinformation, and public diplomacy are key steps that can be taken. By doing so, Indonesia can reduce polarization, prevent the spread of hoaxes, and maintain national stability amidst the increasingly complex flow of global information.

FURTHER STUDY

Further research is needed to examine the extent to which the information warfare conducted by Israel and Palestine affects the perspectives and attitudes of the Indonesian public. Additionally, the effectiveness of the information warfare impact mitigation strategies proposed by the researchers should also be investigated.

ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I would like to express my gratitude to my primary advisor, Major General (Ret.) Dr. I Gede SKY, PSC, M.Sc, and my secondary advisor, Lieutenant General (Ret.) Dr. I Wayan Midhio, M.Phil, as well as to all the academic staff at the Indonesian Defense University who have guided and provided valuable input and corrections throughout the research process. I also extend my thanks to my wife and children for their support in completing this research, as well as to all others who have assisted me during this study.

REFERENCES

- Accorsi, A. (2024). How Israel Mastered Information Warfare in Gaza. Foreignpolicy.Com. https://foreignpolicy.com/2024/03/11/israel-gaza-hamas-netanyahu-warfare-misinformation/?tpcc=recirc_latest062921#cookie_message_anchor
- Ahmad, N. M., & Setuningsih, N. (2024). Debat Ketiga Pilpres, 3 Capres Singgung Kondisi Palestina dalam Visi-Misi. Kompas.Com. <https://nasional.kompas.com/read/2024/01/07/20270731/debat-ketiga-pilpres-3-capres-singgung-kondisi-palestina-dalam-visi-misi>
- Aleshchenko, V. (2022). Psychological aspects of the information war. *Visnik*, 2(50), 27–31. <https://doi.org/10.17721/1728-2217.2022.50.27-31>
- Azharun. (2023). Fatwa Terbaru MUI Nomor 83 Tahun 2023: Mendukung Agresi Israel ke Palestina Hukumnya Haram. Mui.or.Id. <https://mui.or.id/baca/berita/fatwa-terbaru-mui-nomor-83-tahun-2023-mendukung-agresi-israel-ke-palestina-hukumnya-haram#:~:text=JAKARTA%2C MUI,Israel ke Palestina hukumnya haram.>
- Bahasa, B. P. dan P. (2016). Propaganda. Kbbi.Kemendikbud.Go.Id. <https://kbbi.kemdikbud.go.id/entri/propaganda>
- Basuki, S. (2006). Metode Penelitian. Wedatama Widya Sastra.
- BBC. (2023). Bentrok antarormas di Bitung, kedua pihak sepakat akhiri konflik. Bbc.Com/Indonesia. <https://www.bbc.com/indonesia/articles/c4n4qz52wd3o>
- BBC. (2024). What is Hamas and why is it fighting with Israel in Gaza? Bbc.Com. <https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-67039975>
- Bradshaw, S., & Howard, P. N. (2019). The Global Disinformation Order: 2019 Global Inventory of Organised Social Media Manipulation. <https://digitalcommons.unl.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1209&context=scholcom>
- Bureau, Z. M. (2023). "Say Bismillah...": Hamas Releases Video Interaction With Captive Israeli Children - Watch. Zeenews.India.Com. <https://zeenews.india.com/world/say-bismillah-hamas-releases-video-interaction-with-captive-israeli-children-watch-2675130.html>
- Cheishvili, T., & Kostava, T. (2024). Information War - International Security Dilemma in the Modern World. *Globalization and Business*, 9(17), 98–101. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.35945/gb.2024.17.008>
- CNNIndonesia. (2023). Gedung Putih Klarifikasi Pernyataan Biden soal Anak Israel Dipenggal. Cnnindonesia.Com. <https://www.cnnindonesia.com/internasional/20231012105639-120-1010247/gedung-putih-klarifikasi-pernyataan-biden-soal-anak-israel-dipenggal>
- Creswell, J. W., & Creswell, D. (2022). *Research Design: Qualitative, Quantitative, and Mixed Methods Approaches (Sixth Edit)*. SAGE Publications, Inc. https://books.google.co.id/books?id=Rkh4EAAAQBAJ&printsec=frontcover&hl=id&source=gbs_ge_summary_r&cad=0#v=onepage&q&f=false

- ECPS. (2024). Information Warfare. Populismstudies.Org. <https://www.populismstudies.org/Vocabulary/information-warfare/>
- Effendy, O. U. (2009). ILMU KOMUNIKASI Teori dan Praktik. PTREMAJA PTREMAJA ROSDAKAR ROSDAKARYA. 979-514-030-2
- Kemenpanrb. (2024). Atasi Konflik Palestina, Menlu RI Desak Solusi Dua Negara. Menpan.Go.Id. <https://www.menpan.go.id/site/berita-terkini/berita-daerah/atasi-konflik-palestina-menlu-ri-desak-solusi-dua-negara>
- Kirkpatrick, D. D., & Rasgon, A. (2023). The Hamas Propaganda War. Newyoker.Com. <https://www.newyorker.com/news/news-desk/the-hamas-propaganda-war>
- Lab, T. C. (2024). Dampak Boikot Tidak Terarah bagi Perekonomian Indonesia. Tirto.Id. <https://tirto.id/dampak-boikot-tidak-terarah-bagi-perekonomian-indonesia-g6tp>
- Lasswell, H. D. (2015). Propaganda Technique in the World War. Ravenio Books. https://books.google.co.id/books?hl=id&lr=&id=3yeODwAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PT2&dq=Propaganda+Technique+in+the+World+War&ots=oVSgYWUG3O&sig=hUztwMI791oAu5msUBwummStZXE&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q=Propaganda+Technique+in+the+World+War&f=false
- Libicki, M. C. (1995). What Is Information Warfare? (Fist). NATIONAL DEFENSE UNIVERSITY.
- Mohamed, E. (2025). LIVE: Death toll from Israel's war on Gaza surpasses 46,000. Aljazeera.Com. <https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2025/1/9/live-israel-kills-50-people-in-gaza-recovers-body-of-captive-from-rafah#:~:text=Israel's genocide in Gaza has,more than 200 taken captive.>
- Mubarok, A. M. (2023). Waspadai Propaganda Khilafah Berkedok Bela Kemanusiaan Palestina. Sindonews.Com. <https://nasional.sindonews.com/read/1233245/14/waspadai-propaganda-khilafah-berkedok-bela-kemanusiaan-palestina-1698055816>
- Negeri, K. L. (2019). PERATURAN MENTERI LUAR NEGERI REPUBLIK INDONESIA NOMOR 3 TAHUN 2019 TENTANG PANDUAN UMUM HUBUNGAN LUAR NEGERI OLEH PEMERINTAH DAERAH. Kementerian Luar Negeri. <https://eppid.kemlu.go.id/storage/467/PERMENLU-No-3-Tahun-2019-tentang-Hubungan-Luar-Negeri-oleh-Pemda.pdf>
- News, P. (2023). The online information war over fake content linked to Israel-Hamas conflict. <https://www.pbs.org/newshour/show/the-online-information-war-over-fake-content-linked-to-israel-hamas-conflict>
- Nugraha, T. A., & Maura, A. (2023). Analisis Politik Luar Negeri Indonesia: Promosi 'Keamanan Manusia' di Palestina. Jurnal Hubungan Luar Negeri, 8(2), 83–109. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.70836/jh.v8i2.28>
- Prabowo, A. (2024). Ribuan Masyarakat Ikut Aksi Bela Palestina di Jakarta. Rri.Co.Id. <https://www.rri.co.id/internasional/514384/ribuan-masyarakat-ikut-aksi-bela-palestina-di-jakarta>

- Prinanda, Y. (2023). Alasan Palestina Mendukung Kemerdekaan Indonesia dan Sejarahnya. *Tirto.Id.* <https://tirto.id/alasan-palestina-mendukung-kemerdekaan-indonesia-dan-sejarahnya-gSgc>
- Qoirunnisa, F. Z., & Mustofa, M. Y. (2024). Hashtag War in Gaza: An Analysis of the Role of Indonesian Citizens in #JulidFisabilillah from the Transnational Conflict Dimension. *CONTENT: JOURNAL OF COMMUNICATION STUDIES*, 01(02), 21–30. <https://doi.org/10.32734/cjcs.v2i1.16275>
- Rizkia, R. (2023). Dampak Perang Palestina-Israel, Lemhannas Waspadai Aksi Teror Baru. *Sindonews.Com.* <https://nasional.sindonews.com/read/1223783/14/dampak-perang-palestina-israel-lemhannas-waspadai-aksi-teror-baru-1697073010/10>
- Rosdalina, I. (2024). Setahun Perang Gaza: Bagaimana Hoaks Israel tentang Hamas Menyebar? *Tempo.Co.* <https://www.tempo.co/internasional/setahun-perang-gaza-bagaimana-hoaks-israel-tentang-hamas-menyebar--1671>
- Sarwindaningrum, I. (2024). Israel Serang Lebanon Setelah Sepakati Gencatan Senjata. *Kompas.Id.* <https://www.kompas.id/artikel/belum-sepekan-gencatan-senjata-israel-dan-hizbullah-kembali-baku-tembak>
- Segell, G. (2019). Information warfare by means of soft and sharp: The case of Israel and Hamas. *Contemporary Military Challenges*, 21(2), 85–104. https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=4271697
- Severin, W. J., & Jr, J. W. T. (2009). *TEORI KOMUNIKASI: Sejarah, Metode, dan Terapan di dalam Media Massa (Edisi ke-5)*. Kencana Prenada Media Group.
- Shahid, M. (2019). Book Review: Manufacturing Consent: The Political Economy of Mass Media. *JPDC*, 3(2), 39–45. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.36968/JPDC-V03-I02-06>
- Singer, P., & Friedman, A. (2014). *Cybersecurity and Cyberwar: What Everyone Needs to Know*. Oxford University Press. [https://books.google.co.id/books?hl=id&lr=&id=f_lyDwAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PP1&dq=Cybersecurity+and+Cyberwar:+What+Everyone+Needs+to+Know&ots=Don3SIBHml&sig=VzlvN6UqKH9_vxUyrOlHg9izlQ0&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q=Cybersecurity and Cyberwar%3A What Everyone Needs to](https://books.google.co.id/books?hl=id&lr=&id=f_lyDwAAQBAJ&oi=fnd&pg=PP1&dq=Cybersecurity+and+Cyberwar:+What+Everyone+Needs+to+Know&ots=Don3SIBHml&sig=VzlvN6UqKH9_vxUyrOlHg9izlQ0&redir_esc=y#v=onepage&q=Cybersecurity+and+Cyberwar%3A+What+Everyone+Needs+to)
- Truzman, J. (2023). Inside Hamas' propaganda game. *Fdd.Org.* <https://www.fdd.org/analysis/2023/10/21/inside-hamas-propaganda-game/>
- Wilcox, D. R. (2005). *The Theory Of Propaganda* dalam "Propaganda, The Press and Conflict. Routledge.
- Yildirim, G., & Sahin, G. (2024). Israel-Palestine Issue in the International Press: A Critical Analysis on October 6-7 Attacks and Information Warfare. *SAVSAD Savunma ve Savaş Araştırmaları Dergisi*, 34(2), 43–56. <https://doi.org/10.54078/savsad.1489403>