Mainstream media narratives position Israel as the victim to Palestinian violence, and as a result Palestinians are viewed by the West as inhibiting peace in the region. Extensive research has proven this narrative false, yet with extreme US media bias in favor of Israel this fallacy often goes unchallenged by mainstream consumers. I argue that when photographs from the Palestinian unarmed popular struggle against the Israeli Apartheid Wall are read through the visual injustice symbol framework they re-frame the false media narratives. By exposing the visual elements of Israeli violence onto the indigenous Palestinian people, and adding context, once apathetic audiences begin to transform their understanding of who the main perpetrator of violence is.

I demonstrate this by using the case study of the Palestinian unarmed resistance against the Wall movement from 2003-2006 to model how photographs are strategically used by activists and scholars for awareness purposes. For my research, I applied mixed qualitative research methods to obtain various types of data from 2002-2013. As a participant observer, I immersed myself in the popular struggle as a solidarity activist from 2003-2006. From 2007-2013, I conducted in-depth interviews with various Palestinian individuals who resisted the construction of the Wall to provide more first-hand data of the injustices occurring in the Occupied Palestinian Territory of the West Bank. During this time, I photographed the Palestinian movement against the Wall through a visual ethnography; utilizing photographs as data to provide evidence of Israeli violence onto unarmed Palestinians.

My paper analyzes several photographs taken during the resistance to the Wall through the visual injustice symbol framework; juxtaposition, identification, universalization, innocence and moral/legal corruption, providing more context and evoking an emotional response from the viewer. This collection of images show unarmed Palestinians violated by the Israeli state, by way of the Israeli Defense Forces, for the establishment of the Wall. Overall, these photographs of the Palestinian unarmed resistance movement visually combat false media narratives, in turn re-framing the narrative from “Palestinian as terrorist perpetrating the violence”, to one of "Palestinian as victim of Israeli violence."

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