



SENSIKA

STARVATION IN GAZA

This report analyzes how major online media outlets covered starvation in Gaza from January to June 2025. Based on headlines in nine languages from high-ranking sources, it explores the visibility, tone, and themes of coverage. While media attention was widespread, the ongoing crisis raises critical questions about the real impact of such awareness.

07.07.2025



Starvation in Gaza

Introduction

This report presents an analytical overview of online media coverage of starvation in Gaza during the period from January to June 2025. The analysis is based on a targeted search of headlines mentioning starvation, conducted in English, Arabic, Hebrew, Russian, French, Spanish, German, Farsi and Turkish. The focus was placed on prominent sources that hold high source rank and national relevance. Forums and content aggregators were deliberately excluded, as the goal was to assess how influential media outlets with significant reach are addressing the topic — sources that are more likely to shape public perception and policy discourse. While the volume of coverage points to widespread awareness, the persistence of the crisis raises critical questions about the effectiveness and depth of such media attention.

Overview of Media Coverage

- ▶ Volume of headlines focused on starvation in Gaza over the last 6 months

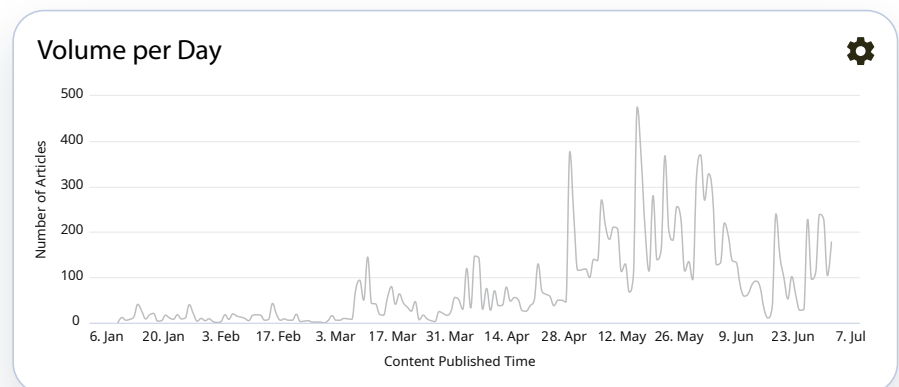


Figure 1: Volume Per Day

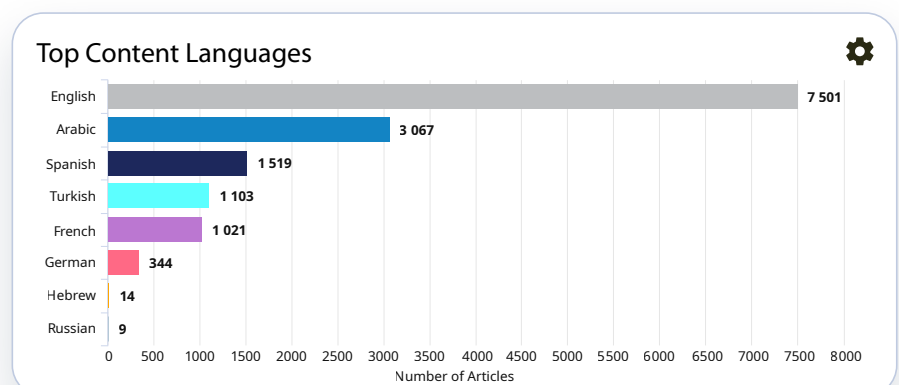


Figure 2: Top Content Languages



The strong presence of **English and Arabic** reflects both global media attention and regional urgency. The moderate engagement from **Spanish, Turkish, and French** sources suggests some cross-linguistic solidarity and international awareness. However, the **limited coverage in Hebrew and Russian** may point to media silences, political sensitivities, or editorial priorities in those languages.

Image credits: BBC

Media Sources Covering Starvation in Gaza

The analysis included only sources with high source rank and national or international relevance, to reflect outlets with significant public reach and influence.

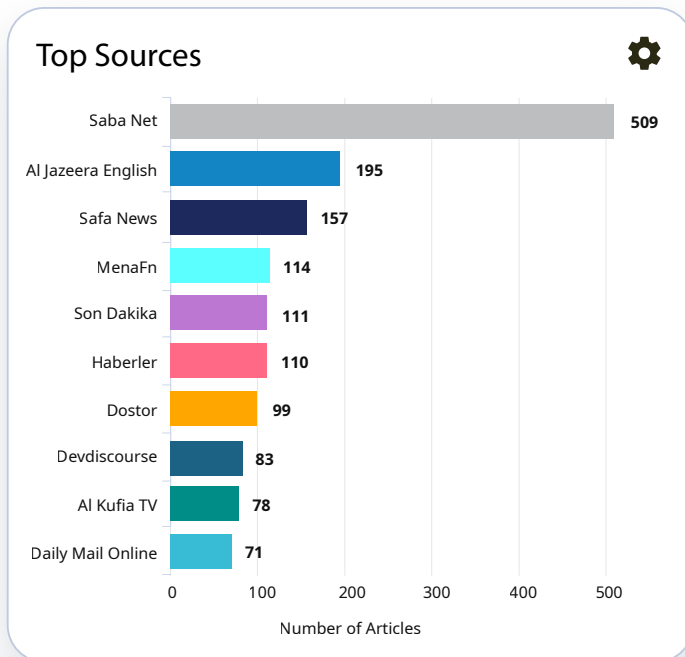


Figure 3: Top Sources

Media coverage of starvation in Gaza was heavily concentrated among a few key outlets, with Saba Net alone publishing 478 articles—more than double the output of the next source. Al Jazeera English followed with 201 articles, serving as the most prominent global outlet in English.

Regional Arabic-language sources—including Safa News, Dostor, and Al Kufia TV—accounted for a significant share of the overall coverage, indicating strong attention within Arabic-speaking media ecosystems. Turkish outlets such as Son Dakika and Haberler also featured prominently, reflecting high engagement from Turkey’s press.

Interestingly, the list lacks major Western mainstream media such as the BBC, CNN, or Le Monde, suggesting that while the crisis received substantial attention in regional and development-oriented media, it was less consistently headlined in leading Western outlets. This points to a regional concentration of media urgency, with global implications but uneven international amplification.

Top sources with Potential Reach above 1M

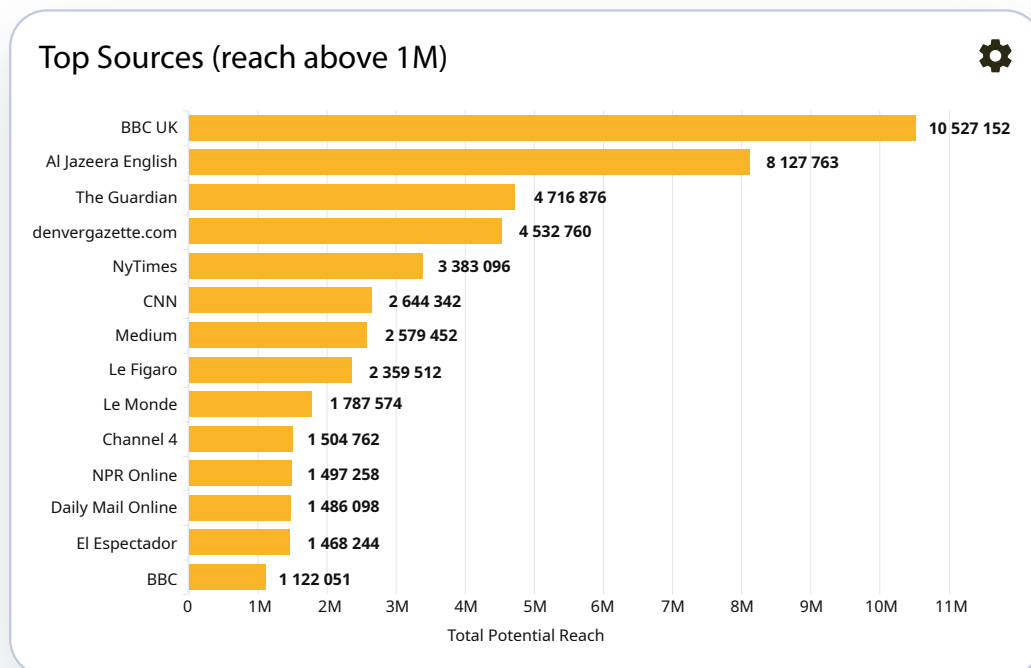


Figure 4: Top Sources with Potential Reach above 1M

The analysis identified top media sources with a potential reach above 1 million that published coverage on starvation in Gaza between January and June 2025. The results highlight a strong presence of **English-language international media**, with varying degrees of engagement from European, Latin American, and alternative platforms.

Top Contributors by Reach

- ▶ **BBC UK** led the coverage with a potential reach of nearly 10.5 million, showing the outlet's central role in shaping global narratives around the crisis.
- ▶ **Al Jazeera English** followed closely with a reach of 8.1 million, emphasizing the platform's consistent regional focus and global audience.
- ▶ **The Guardian** ranked third with 4.7 million, underlining its editorial commitment to humanitarian reporting.

Notable Regional Representation

- ▶ **French media** was represented by Le Figaro and Le Monde, with a combined reach of over **4 million**.
- ▶ **Latin America** appeared through **El Espectador (Colombia)**, demonstrating some cross-regional engagement beyond the dominant Anglophone media space.

Presence of U.S. Media

- ▶ **The New York Times**, **CNN**, and **NPR Online** all contributed significantly, collectively reaching over **6.8 million**. Their inclusion reflects U.S. public interest and policymaker exposure to the issue.

Alternative & Digital Platforms

- ▶ **Medium (2.6M reach)** shows the role of non-traditional platforms in sustaining attention on humanitarian crises.
- ▶ **denvergazette.com** appeared with **4.5 million reach**, marking a presence of a regional U.S. outlet with wide digital influence.

Interpretation

The dominance of high-reach, Western-based sources suggests that **public discourse around starvation in Gaza is largely shaped by English-language media with global visibility**. However, the presence of outlets like **Al Jazeera English, Le Figaro, and El Espectador** indicates that the narrative is also informed by **regional and linguistic diversity**.

Despite the wide coverage, it remains important to assess **how deeply these sources explore the causes, consequences, and international responses**, beyond surface-level reporting. The next section will explore these thematic angles in more detail.

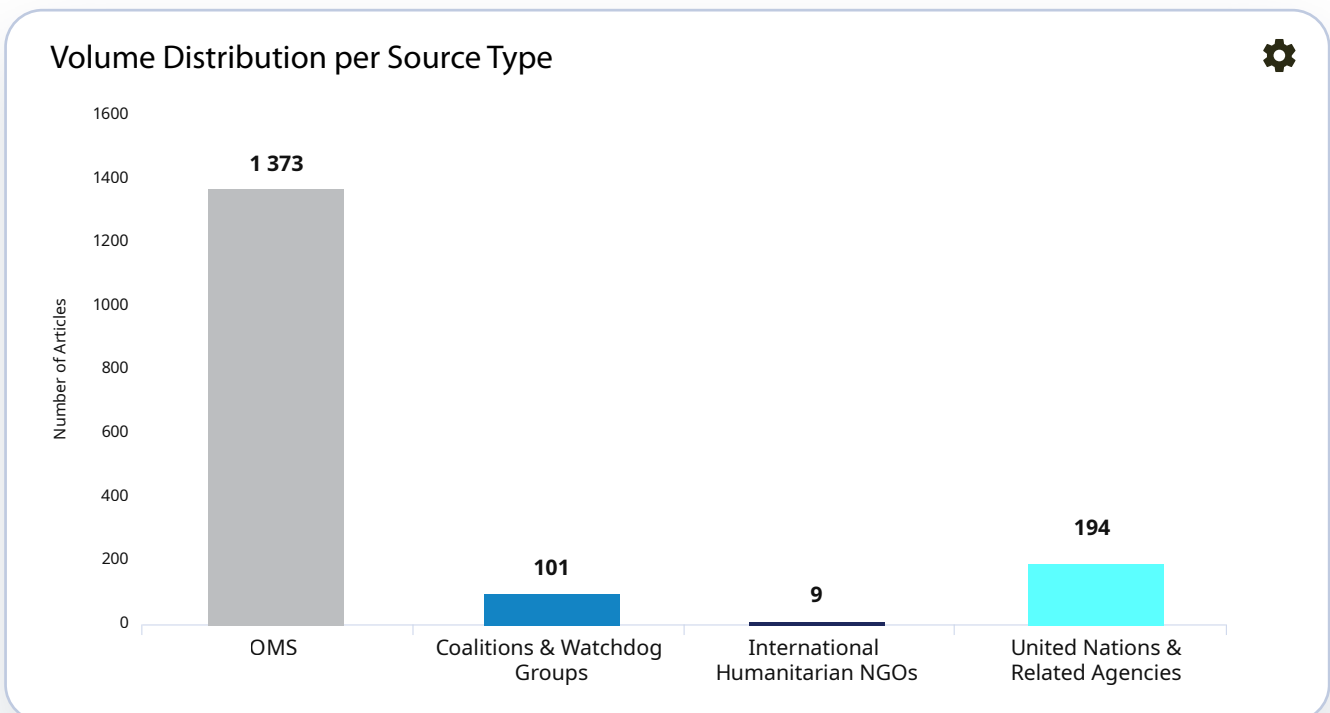


Figure 5: Volume Distribution per Source Type

Between January and June 2025, coverage of starvation in Gaza was overwhelmingly driven by **opinion-making sources (OMS)** accounting for over 80% of total volume. In contrast, **UN bodies, watchdog groups, and international NGOs** contributed far fewer articles. This imbalance suggests that while the crisis was highly visible, the dominant media framing was shaped more by **journalistic and political narratives** than by direct **humanitarian advocacy**, potentially influencing public perception and international policy response.

Common Themes in Headlines

To better understand how the media has been framing the issue of starvation in Gaza, we categorized 5,203 articles into three key thematic clusters based on headline keywords:

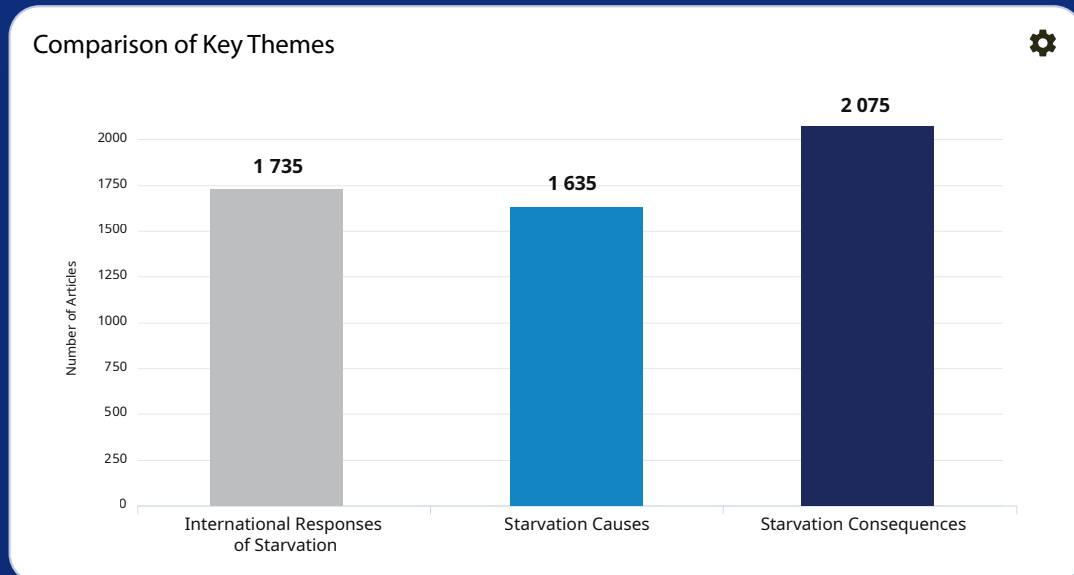


Figure 6: Comparison of Key Themes

The bar chart compares the number of articles falling into each of the three themes:

- ▶ **Starvation Consequences** received the highest volume of coverage. This suggests that media outlets are particularly focused on reporting the human cost of the crisis — including malnutrition, suffering, and deaths, especially among children.
- ▶ **International Responses** followed closely. This reflects a significant level of reporting on external interventions, humanitarian aid efforts, and diplomatic responses such as ceasefire appeals or UN-led statements.
- ▶ **Starvation Causes** were covered slightly less than the international response category. While still highly visible, this shows that slightly less attention was given to explaining the structural and political factors — such as blockades and conflict — that led to the starvation.

Interpretation

Although all three categories received substantial attention, the media gave slightly more weight to the **consequences**, emphasizing the crisis's human toll. However, the fact that **causes** received the least coverage among the three may suggest a potential gap in media efforts to contextualize the crisis. Without deep engagement with root causes, the public discourse may risk focusing only on symptoms rather than solutions.

Regional Differences in Coverage

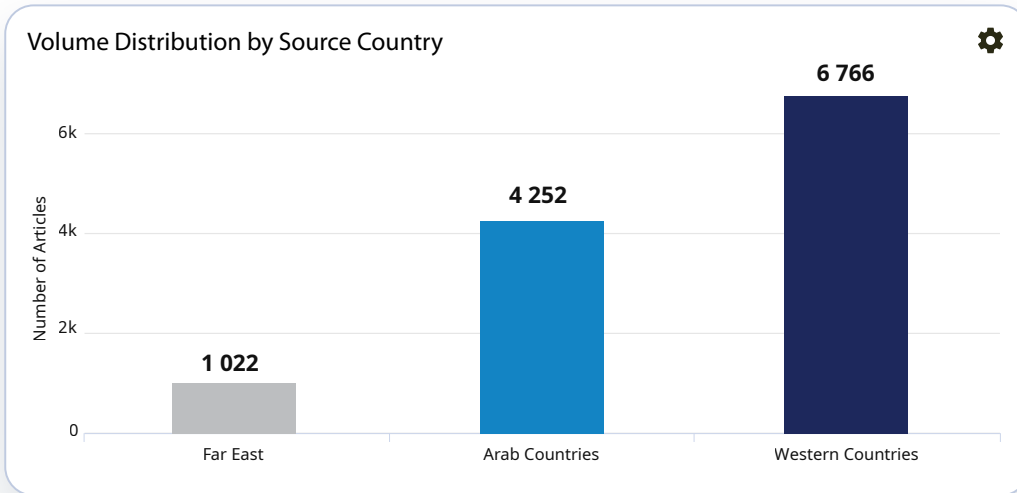


Figure 7: Volume Distribution by Source Country

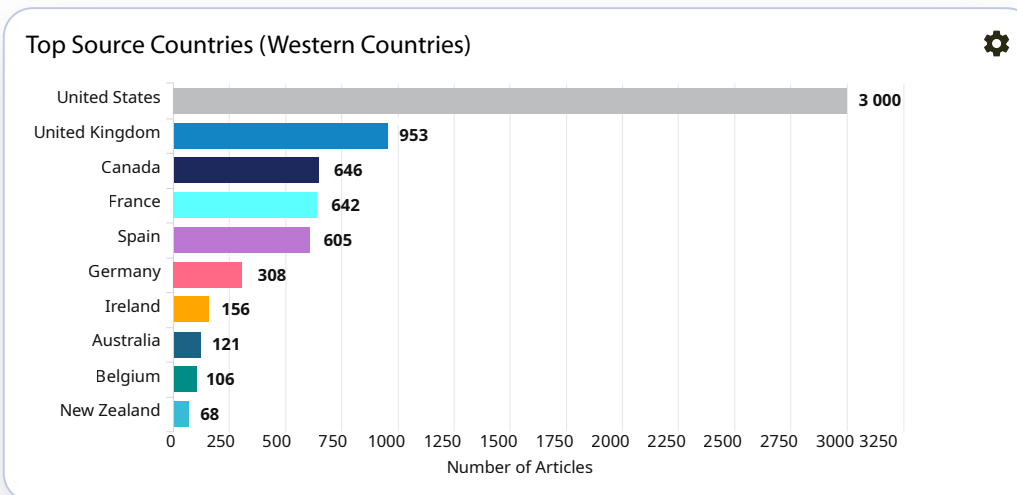


Figure 8: Top Source Countries (Western Countries)

Western Media as Global Agenda-Setters

The high volume of coverage from Western countries reflects their central role in setting global humanitarian narratives. Western outlets — often perceived as authoritative by international audiences — have the resources, editorial independence, and international reach to report extensively on foreign crises. As a result, they often shape how the rest of the world interprets and responds to conflicts like the one in Gaza.

However, while the volume is high, the framing of such coverage (e.g. cause vs. consequence vs. international response) would need deeper qualitative analysis to assess how the issue is presented.

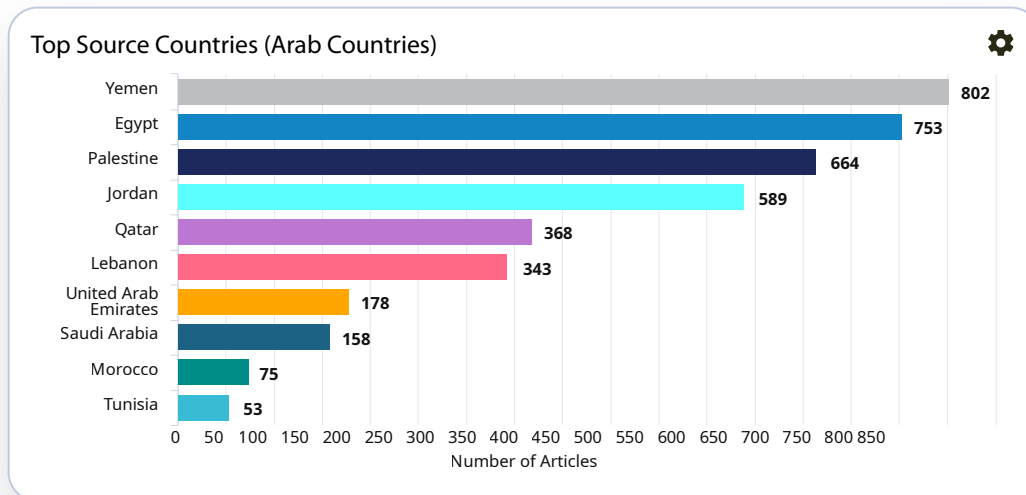


Figure 9: Top Source Countries (Arab Countries)

Arab Media's Uneven Engagement

The Arab world, despite being geographically and emotionally closer to Gaza, showed a fragmented media response. A few countries, like Yemen, Egypt, Palestine, Jordan, and Qatar, maintained strong engagement, likely due to a mix of political alignment, direct regional relevance, and media freedom levels.

In contrast, wealthy Gulf states such as Saudi Arabia and the UAE contributed far fewer articles. This discrepancy could be driven by several factors, such as:

- ▶ Political sensitivities around criticism of Israel or Western allies.
- ▶ Desire to maintain diplomatic neutrality or avoid inflaming tensions.

The result is a regionally inconsistent narrative where some Arab nations may be exposed to extensive coverage, while others receive very limited reporting on the crisis, despite shared cultural and religious connections.



Image Source: unocha.org

Conclusion

High Media Coverage and the Paradox of Awareness

The significant volume of online media headlines about starvation in Gaza indicates that the global community is well aware of the crisis. However, this raises important questions:

- ▶ **If awareness is high, why does starvation persist?**
Despite widespread reporting and international outcry, the humanitarian situation remains dire, suggesting gaps between awareness and effective action.
- ▶ **What role does media coverage play beyond informing?**
Is the media simply reporting events, or can it influence policy, humanitarian aid delivery, and diplomatic efforts to resolve the root causes?
- ▶ **Does constant coverage risk desensitizing audiences?**
When audiences see repetitive headlines without visible progress, empathy fatigue might reduce the urgency or willingness to engage.
- ▶ **Are some narratives overshadowed or politicized?**
Extensive coverage may sometimes focus more on political aspects rather than humanitarian needs, complicating public understanding and response.



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