



Representation of Indonesian Protests in Aljazeera.net and Alaraby.com News Coverage: A Framing Analysis Robert N. Entman Model

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Abstrak

Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk menganalisis perbedaan pola framing yang digunakan oleh Aljazeera.net dan Alaraby.com dalam memberitakan aksi protes Indonesia pada September 2025. Aksi protes yang dipicu oleh penolakan terhadap tunjangan finansial berlebihan bagi anggota parlemen telah menewaskan enam orang dan menarik perhatian media internasional. Penelitian ini menggunakan pendekatan kualitatif dengan metode analisis framing model Robert N. Entman yang terdiri dari empat elemen: define problems, diagnose causes, make moral judgements, dan treatment recommendation. Data primer berupa teks berita dari Aljazeera.net dan Alaraby.com, sedangkan data sekunder diperoleh dari literatur relevan tentang teori framing dan studi media internasional. Hasil penelitian menunjukkan bahwa Alaraby.com membingkai peristiwa dengan pendekatan kritis terhadap pemerintah, menekankan aspek korban jiwa dan tindakan represif aparat keamanan, serta memberikan ruang lebih besar pada suara demonstran. Sebaliknya, Aljazeera.net menggunakan pendekatan yang lebih berimbang dengan memberikan konteks ekonomi yang detail, menghadirkan perspektif pemerintah dan demonstran secara proporsional, serta menekankan pentingnya dialog dan solusi damai. Perbedaan pembingkai ini mencerminkan orientasi ideologis dan kepentingan redaksional masing-masing media dalam mengonstruksi realitas peristiwa politik Indonesia untuk konsumsi audiens global berbahasa Arab.

Kata kunci: Aksi Protes, Analisis Framing, Aljazeera, Alaraby, Robert Entman

Abstract

This study aims to analyze the differences in framing patterns used by Aljazeera.net and Alaraby.com in reporting Indonesia's protest actions in September 2025. The protests, triggered by rejection of excessive financial allowances for parliamentary members, resulted in six deaths and attracted international media attention. This study employs a qualitative approach with Robert N. Entman's framing analysis model consisting of four elements: define problems, diagnose causes, make moral judgements, and treatment recommendation. Primary data consists of news texts from Aljazeera.net and Alaraby.com, while secondary data was obtained from relevant literature on framing theory and international media studies. The results show that Alaraby.com frames the events with a critical approach toward the government, emphasizing casualties and repressive actions by security forces, and providing greater space for protesters' voices. Conversely, Aljazeera.net employs a more balanced approach by providing detailed economic context, presenting government and protester perspectives proportionally, and emphasizing the importance of dialogue and peaceful solutions. These framing differences reflect the ideological orientation and editorial interests of each media in constructing the reality of Indonesian political events for global Arabic-speaking audiences.

Key words: Protest Actions, Framing Analysis, Aljazeera, Alaraby, Robert Entman.



INTRODUCTION

Political dynamics in Indonesia at the end of August 2025 were marked by a wave of mass demonstrations in various cities in response to government policies regarding financial allowances for state officials. Protests that initially opposed housing allowances for members of parliament amounting to Rp 50 million per month quickly developed into a broader social movement demanding political reform and transparency in the management of the state budget. The situation escalated after a tragic incident involving a young online motorcycle taxi driver who was killed after being hit by a police vehicle during a demonstration, sparking greater public outrage and resulting in six deaths in various violent incidents. This event not only attracted the attention of the national media, but also attracted the attention of the international media in covering and presenting news about Indonesia's contemporary socio-political dynamics (Alaraby.com, 2025; Aljazeera.net, 2025).

International media, particularly Aljazeera and Alaraby.com, have paid special attention to developments in Indonesia from different perspectives and frames. As Arabic-language media with global reach, these two media outlets have different editorial characteristics and audiences, making the way they frame the protests in Indonesia interesting to study. The importance of framing analysis in this context is supported by various studies showing that media framing has a significant influence on public perception and socio-political dynamics. According to Karimah et al. (2025), online media, as part of today's digital media, has the ability to disseminate information quickly and reach a wide audience. This condition makes the framing process in news reporting even more powerful in influencing public opinion, especially on socio-political issues that are sensitive to the public, such as demonstrations (Karimah et al., 2025). Efendi et al. (2023) also mention that the media has the ability to select certain issues and highlight certain aspects of an event before presenting them to the audience, so that each media outlet tends to present information with different emphases on issues according to their respective perspectives (Efendi et al., 2023). Framing analysis is relevant in this context because the media does not merely convey facts, but also frames reality through the selection of certain aspects, emphasis, and omission of information that can influence global public perception of Indonesia (Agustian et al., 2024)

Various mass communication experts have diverse views on the role of the media in framing political and social reality. Robert N. Entman (1993), a leading figure in framing studies, asserts that "to frame is to select some aspects of a perceived reality and make them more salient in a communicating text, in such a way as to promote a particular problem definition, causal interpretation, moral evaluation, and/or treatment recommendation." This view emphasizes that the media is never neutral, but rather actively constructs reality through the process of selecting and highlighting information (Entman, 1993). In line with this, Eriyanto (2015) explains that framing is a method of presenting reality in which the truth about a reality is not completely denied, but is subtly distorted by emphasizing certain aspects, using terms that have specific connotations, and leading the audience to a particular interpretation (Eriyanto, 2015). On the other hand, Shoemaker and Reese (1996) offer a more critical perspective, stating that framing in the mass media is influenced by various factors ranging from journalists' ideologies, editorial policies, media owners' interests, to market and advertising pressures (Shoemaker & Reese, 1996). Meanwhile, Gamson and Modigliani (1989) add that media frames not only reflect social reality, but also actively shape and define that reality in the context of public discourse (Gamson & Modigliani, 1989). These views affirm the importance of framing studies in understanding how power and ideology work through the mass media.

A number of previous studies have applied the framing approach to analyze media coverage of various strategic issues and controversial events. Fauzulhaq and Harwinda (2025) examined the differences in media framing of Indonesia's participation as a full member of BRICS by analyzing reports on *Antaranews.com* and *Tempo.co*. The study revealed two fundamentally different constructions of reality, whereby *Antaranews.com*, as a government media outlet, constructed a diplomatic narrative framing BRICS membership as a constructive and responsible step, while *Tempo.co*, as an independent media outlet, presented a pragmatic realist frame defining

the move as a strategy to achieve economic independence (Fauzulhaq & Harwinda, 2025). Ali et al. (2024) examined the role of mass media in shaping public perceptions of poverty alleviation programs in Aceh, using framing analysis based on Robert N. Entman's theory to understand how the media chooses its focus, perspective, and emphasis in presenting information about poverty issues. The study shows that Aceh still faces serious challenges in overcoming poverty, and the mass media plays an important role in shaping public perceptions of this issue. (Ali et al., 2024). Pinontoan dan Wahid (2020) analyzed the construction of news coverage of the January 2020 Jakarta floods in the daily newspapers Kompas.com and Jawapos.com using Robert N. Entman's framing analysis model, Urs Dahinden's frame basis, and Shanto Iyengar's framing grouping. The findings show that Kompas.com demanded, questioned, and challenged the local government's helplessness by using a moral and ethical frame, while Jawapos.com constructed its news coverage to build a positive image of the local government's performance through the use of a personalization frame (Pinontoan & Wahid, 2020). Sinaga et al.(2025) analyzed reports on Kompas.com and Detik.com regarding the conflict surrounding the rejection of the construction of the HKBP Maranatha Cilegon Church, which showed that Detik.com highlighted the perspective of the group that rejected the construction of the church by using diction that could form negative opinions about minority groups, while Kompas.com tended to be more balanced in its presentation of the news (Sinaga et al., 2025). Finally, research by Hafidli et al. (2023) analyzed the framing of the Kanjuruhan tragedy in Detikcom and BBC News using Robert Entman's model, finding differences in framing between local media, which was more emotional, and foreign media, which was more analytical (Hafidli et al., 2023).

Although many studies have been conducted on media framing of issues in Indonesia, there are still significant gaps in research on how events in Indonesia are represented by international media, particularly Arabic-language media. Previous studies have generally focused on comparing framing between national media in Indonesia or between Indonesian and Western media, while the perspective of Arab media in reporting Indonesian issues has been relatively unexplored. In fact, Arab media such as Aljazeera.net and Alaraby.com have a wide global audience reach and a strategic role in shaping international public opinion, especially in regions with a muslim majority.

The novelty of this research lies in its focus on analyzing the framing used by two Arabic-language media outlets, Aljazeera.net and Alaraby.com, in reporting on protests in Indonesia. This focus presents a different perspective on how events in Indonesia are constructed, interpreted, and circulated by Middle Eastern international media. The main difference in this study lies in its object of study, which is Arabic-language international media, and its focus on social protests in Indonesia that are laden with dimensions of human rights, state power relations, and demands for economic justice. Another difference is that previous studies have mostly examined national media or compared Indonesian media with Western media, because this study specifically examines the representation of Arab media, which has a different ideological background, political orientation, and audience characteristics. The similarity with previous studies lies in the use of Robert N. Entman's framing analysis theory, which covers four main elements, namely defining problems, diagnose causes, make moral judgments, and treatment recommendations (Entman, 1993).

Based on this context, this study aims to identify and analyze the differences in framing patterns used by Aljazeera.net and Alaraby.com in reporting protests in Indonesia in September 2025. More specifically, this study seeks to reveal how the two media outlets define the issue, determine the causes, construct moral judgments, and formulate recommendations for resolving the protests that occurred (Entman, 1993). By applying a descriptive qualitative approach and Robert N. Entman's framing model analysis, this study aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the construction of international media narratives, particularly Arab media, regarding events occurring in Indonesia and their implications for the formation of Indonesia's image at the global level.



METHOD

This study uses a qualitative approach with Robert N. Entman's framing model analysis method. A qualitative approach was chosen because this study aims to deeply understand the news framing process by Arabic-language international media in covering protests in Indonesia (Creswell, 2009). The framing analysis method is used to identify and analyze how Aljazeera.net and Alaraby.com select, emphasize, and package certain aspects of the reality of Indonesian protests in their news construction. The object of this study is the coverage of Indonesian protests that occurred in September 2025 in two Arabic-language online media outlets, namely Aljazeera.net and Alaraby.com. The selection of these two media outlets is based on several considerations: first, both are reputable international media outlets with wide reach in the Middle East and the Islamic world; second, both media outlets actively cover international events, including those occurring in Indonesia; and third, Aljazeera.net and Alaraby.com have different characteristics and editorial orientations, allowing for in-depth comparative analysis.

Data collection began by searching for news articles published by both media outlets between August and September 2025. The researcher used the keywords Indonesia, demonstration, and protest in the search panels of each website. The search results yielded six articles discussing protests in Indonesia, four from Aljazeera.net and two from Alaraby.com. From these six articles, the researchers then selected two articles that were most relevant to the research needs using purposive sampling techniques. The selection criteria included: articles published at the peak of the event, having a complete news structure, containing detailed information about the background and chronology of events, and being the main news on the website's front page. Based on these criteria, the selected articles were from Aljazeera.net entitled "استنفار أمني في إندونيسيا بعد مقتل 6 أشخاص خلال احتجاجات" and from Alaraby.com entitled "6 آلاف يتظاهرون في إندونيسيا والسلطات تشدد إجراءاتها". These two articles were chosen because they were the most comprehensive in describing the framing of each media outlet and had sufficient information to be analyzed using Entman's model.

The primary data for this study consists of news texts published by Aljazeera.net and Alaraby.com related to Indonesian protests in September 2025. Secondary data was obtained from various literature, scientific articles, journals, and relevant books discussing framing theory, media analysis, and studies on international media coverage. Data collection techniques were carried out using the documentation method by downloading, reading, and systematically recording news items from both Alaraby.com and Aljazeera.net, which both reported on demonstrations in Indonesia. The researcher then conducted an in-depth reading of each news text to identify the framing elements contained therein. Data analysis in this study used Robert N. Entman's framing analysis model, which consists of four main elements (Entman, 1993; Eriyanto, 2012): (1) define problems, which is identifying how the media defines or describes the issues or problems that are the focus of the news coverage, (2) diagnose causes, which is analyzing how the media explains the causes of the problems or who are considered responsible, (3) make moral judgment, which is examining how the media makes moral judgments about the issues reported and the parties involved, and (4) treatment recommendation, which is identifying the solutions or recommendations for resolving the issues offered or highlighted by the media. These four elements are used as analytical instruments to dissect each news text from Aljazeera.net and Alaraby.com.

The data analysis process follows the Miles and Huberman (1994) model, which consists of three stages, namely (1) data reduction, which is the process of sorting, focusing, simplifying, and transforming raw data obtained from news texts (Miles & Huberman, 1994). At this stage, researchers identify and categorize text sections relevant to Entman's four framing elements. (2) Data presentation, which involves compiling information that has been reduced into tables or framing analysis matrices to facilitate drawing conclusions. At this stage, researchers present the results of framing analysis from each media outlet in a systematic and structured manner; and (3) drawing conclusions, which is the final stage where researchers make interpretations and generalizations based on the findings of framing analysis from both media outlets. At this stage, the researcher also conducts a comparative analysis to identify similarities and differences in framing

between Aljazeera.net and Alaraby.com in reporting on the Indonesian protests. To ensure the validity and reliability of the data, this study uses data source triangulation techniques by comparing the results of the framing analysis of both media and relating them to the context of the actual events that occurred. In addition, the researcher also conducted repeated readings of the news texts to ensure the accuracy of the interpretation and consistency of the analysis.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Framing analysis is necessary to understand how the mass media, especially the international media, frames and constructs the reality of political events occurring in a country (Entman, 1993). In the context of reporting on the Indonesian protests that took place in September 2025, two Arabic-language international media outlets, Aljazeera.net and Alaraby.com, presented different news constructions in framing the same event. These differences in framing are not only technical aspects of news writing, but also reflect how the media select certain facts, highlight certain aspects, and ignore others in accordance with the ideological orientation and editorial interests of each media outlet (Eriyanto, 2002). This study uses Robert N. Entman's framing model, which consists of four main elements of analysis, namely defining problems, diagnose causes, make moral judgments, and treatment recommendations, to analyze the reporting of both media outlets (Entman, 1993).

Table 1.

Sample News Reports on Indonesian Protests on Alaraby.com and Aljazeera.net

| No. | Media | Title | Framing |
|-----|---------------|--|---|
| 1. | Alaraby.com | بعد مقتل ستة أشخاص، الآلاف يتظاهرون في إندونيسيا والسلطات تشدد إجراءاتها "After six people were killed, thousands protested in Indonesia, and authorities tightened their measures" | Alaraby.com framed the issue of protests by focusing on the death toll and the harsh response from security forces. The headline emphasizes the number of fatalities (six people) and the government's repressive actions, which indicates a critical frame towards the government's handling of the situation. This media outlet highlights the violence committed by the authorities, such as the deployment of soldiers, snipers, and the UN's statement on human rights violations. This framing tends to side with the protesters and criticize the government's handling of the protests. |
| 2. | Aljazeera.net | استنفار أمني في إندونيسيا بعد مقتل 6 أشخاص خلال احتجاجات "Security alert in Indonesia after six people killed during protests" | Aljazeera.net framed the issue with a more balanced approach between the perspectives of the protesters and the government. This media outlet focuses on the government's efforts to respond to demands by canceling official allowances and President Prabowo's commitment to listen to the people. This framing explains the economic context behind the protests (the 50 million rupiah allowance is equivalent to 10 times the minimum wage in Jakarta) and emphasizes the importance of dialogue to resolve conflicts peacefully. |

Framing Indonesian protests on Alaraby.com with the headline “بعد مقتل ستة أشخاص.. آلاف “ يتظاهرون في إندونيسيا والسلطات تشدد إجراءاتها

a. Define Problems



The problem definition stage in Entman's framing model relates to how the media defines and explains the issues or problems that are the focus of news coverage (Entman, 1993). According to Eriyanto (2002), defining the problem is the most fundamental element in framing because this is where the entire news narrative will be constructed (Eriyanto, 2002). Based on the Alaraby.com headline, the main issue defined is the loss of life during protests and the government's harsh response by tightening security. This media outlet explicitly mentions the number of fatalities at the beginning of the news: "Thousands of people demonstrated in several cities in Indonesia on Monday as authorities tightened security and deployed troops in the capital amid riots that have killed six people" (Alaraby.com, 2025). Defining the problem by emphasizing the loss of life from the outset shows that the media framed the events as a humanitarian tragedy and a serious social conflict.

Alaraby.com also defined the problem by highlighting the increase in violence occurring in various cities, as mentioned: "In Gorontalo on the island of Sulawesi, clashes broke out between protesters and police, who responded by using tear gas and water cannons" (Alaraby.com, 2025). This kind of framing shows that the media positioned the protests as events that had developed into mass riots threatening national security. Furthermore, the media also emphasized the spread of protests to various regions: "In Palembang on the island of Sumatra, thousands of people took to the streets in protest, while hundreds participated in demonstrations on the island of Kalimantan and in the city of Yogyakarta." By defining the issue as a geographically widespread protest movement involving violence, Alaraby.com constructs a narrative that Indonesia is facing a significant socio-political crisis.

The pattern of problem definition used by Alaraby.com is in line with the statement by Arjang et al. (2024), who analyzed political cases such as elections, political scandals, or government policies, where they found that the media can influence public perception and reaction by defining problems with an emphasis on certain aspects (Arjang et al., 2024). In this context, the emphasis on casualties and violence reflects a framing strategy that aims to shape the perception that Indonesia is in a critical situation.

b. Diagnose Causes

This stage relates to how the media frames the causes of an event/issue or who the actors involved in an event are (D'Angelo, 2002). In Alaraby.com's report, the main cause of the protests was described as opposition to financial privileges for officials: "The protests, which began last Monday as a form of opposition to financial privileges for officials, particularly housing allowances for members of parliament, forced the president to cancel several demonstrations" (Alaraby.com, 2025). This framing shows that the media identifies government policies related to official allowances as the root cause of public dissatisfaction.

However, Alaraby.com also highlighted the trigger for the violence, namely the death of a motorcycle taxi driver who was hit by a police vehicle: "Violence erupted after a video circulated showing a police vehicle hitting a motorcycle taxi in Jakarta, running over its young driver, during a demonstration against low wages and high allowances for officials." By framing this incident as the trigger for the violence, the media suggests that the actions of the security forces contributed to the escalation of the conflict. The media also quoted a student who participated in the protests: "Our main goal is to reform parliament. We hope (the members of parliament) will come and meet with us. We want to talk to them directly." This statement shows that the media is trying to give a voice to the protesters to explain their motivations and goals, while also criticizing the parliament's lack of responsiveness (Alaraby.com, 2025).

Alaraby.com's critical diagnosis of the government cannot be separated from the structural background of this media outlet. Alaraby.com is part of the Qatari media ecosystem owned by Fadaat Media. Although initially based in London, this media outlet moved its operations to Qatar in 2021, marking a change in its editorial strategy and geographical reach. According to Eriyanto (2012), media ownership structures greatly influence ideological orientation and how the media frames events, including in determining who is considered responsible for a problem (Eriyanto, 2012). In this context, Alaraby.com shows a more assertive stance in highlighting government

policies while providing greater space for the perspectives of demonstrators, reflecting the media's editorial direction that emphasizes democratic values and respect for human rights. As explained by Sobur (2006), the media always selects and emphasizes certain aspects of reality in accordance with its ideology and editorial interests (Sobur, 2006). In this case, by placing government policies and repressive actions by the authorities as the main causes of the conflict, Alaraby.com constructed a narrative that placed the government as the party responsible for the increase in violence, while the demonstrators were framed as a party with legitimate demands that were not heard by the government.

c. Make Moral Judgments

This element relates to the moral judgment given by the media to actors or actions involved in an event (Entman, 1993). According to Eriyanto (2002), moral judgment in news can be seen from the use of diction, source quotations, and the context in which information is presented (Eriyanto, 2002). In Alaraby.com's report, critical moral judgment of the government is evident in the quote from a snack vendor: "The Indonesian government is a disaster. The cabinet and parliament do not listen to the people's requests" (Alaraby.com, 2025). By quoting this statement without providing any balancing context or clarification from the government, the media demonstrated its bias toward a critical perspective of the government.

The media also provided a moral assessment of the government's security measures, stating that police set up roadblocks throughout Jakarta on Monday after a spokesperson said on Sunday that officers were patrolling to protect citizens. Soldiers also patrolled the city, and snipers were deployed. The use of the phrase "snipers were deployed" implies excessive use of force by the government, which can be perceived as repressive. This moral judgment criticizing the government's repressive actions is in line with the findings of Sinaga et al. (2025), who analyzed news coverage of social conflicts and found that the use of certain diction can shape negative opinions about the parties being criticized (Sinaga et al., 2025). Furthermore, the media highlighted a statement from the UN Human Rights Office: "We are closely monitoring the wave of violence in Indonesia against the backdrop of demonstrations against parliamentary allocations and the disproportionate use of force by security forces." By including the perspective of international institutions that criticize the government's actions, Alaraby.com reinforces the framing that the Indonesian government has acted excessively in handling the protests (Alaraby.com, 2025).

d. Treatment Recommendation

The treatment recommendation element in Entman's model relates to the solutions or recommendations offered or highlighted by the media to resolve the issues reported (Entman, 1993). In Alaraby.com's coverage, the recommended solution highlighted was for the government to respond by listening to the aspirations of the people and reforming its policies. The media reported that President Prabowo had taken concrete steps. On Sunday, the president attempted to respond to the protesters' demands by announcing the cancellation of some of the allowances given to members of parliament, which had been strongly oppose (Alaraby.com, 2025). By placing this information, the media shows that the expected solution is a more equitable and pro-people policy change.

However, the media also highlighted President Prabowo's warning emphasizing the importance of order: "The law stipulates that if you want to demonstrate, you must request permission, and demonstrations must end at 6 p.m." This framing shows the tension between the civil right to demonstrate and the government's need to maintain order. In addition, the media quoted a call from the UN Human Rights Office urging "a prompt, thorough, and transparent investigation into all alleged human rights violations, including those related to the use of force" (Alaraby.com, 2025). By incorporating recommendations from international institutions, Alaraby.com emphasizes that resolving the issue requires not only policy changes, but also accountability for the actions of officials.

Framing Indonesian protests on Aljazeera.net with the headline “ استنفار أمني في إندونيسيا بعد مقتل 6 أشخاص خلال احتجاجات ”

a. Define Problems

Aljazeera.net defines the issue of demonstrations in Indonesia with a more contextual and balanced approach than Alaraby.com. Based on the news headline and narrative content, Aljazeera.net defines the main issue as a conflict between the economic demands of the people and government policies that are considered unfair, which then led to violence. This media outlet begins the news by stating that “Indonesian authorities tightened security on Monday after six people were killed in riots triggered by increasing protests across the country against low wages and increased allowances for officials”(Aljazeera.net, 2025). This definition of the problem places the root of the conflict in the issue of economic injustice, not solely on physical violence. By emphasizing that the demonstrations were triggered by unfair economic policies, Aljazeera.net provides a broader context for why the demonstrations occurred. The media outlet also provides specific details about the economic context, mentioning that “all 580 members of parliament receive a monthly housing allowance of 50 million rupiah, in addition to their salaries. This allowance is equivalent to nearly 10 times the minimum wage in Jakarta.

Aljazeera.net also defines the issue from the protesters’ perspective by explaining that “the protesters argue that these new benefits are not only excessive, but also come from the state budget at a time when most people are suffering from high living costs, taxes, and high unemployment rates.” This definition places the demonstrations within the context of a broader economic crisis that affects people’s daily lives. However, unlike Alaraby.com, which focuses on the repressive aspects of the government, Aljazeera.net also defines the issue from the perspective of security and order by reporting that “the protests spread and became more severe after the death of 21-year-old online motorcycle taxi driver Afan Kurniawan” and that there was “looting targeting the homes of several members of parliament and Finance Minister Sri Mulyani Indrawati.” By mentioning the looting, Aljazeera.net provides a stronger definition of the problem, acknowledging that there were aspects of violence and lawlessness in the protests, while still providing context as to why this happened. In line with this, Pinontoan & Wahid (2020) also found in their research that media outlets with a balanced approach tend to present the perspectives of the government and the demonstrators proportionally in defining the problem (Pinontoan & Wahid, 2020).

b. Diagnose Cause

In diagnosing the causes, Aljazeera.net identified both structural and situational factors that triggered the conflict. The structural factor identified was the official allowance policy, which was considered unfair in the context of the people’s economic difficulties. This media outlet explains that “a week ago, protests erupted in Jakarta following reports that all 580 members of parliament received monthly housing allowances of 50 million rupiah.” This diagnosis places parliamentary policy as the initial trigger for public dissatisfaction. However, Aljazeera.net does not stop at identifying policy as the cause, but also diagnoses the government’s failure to respond quickly. This media outlet reports that although President Subianto promised to abolish privileges for members of parliament, this response came too late. This kind of diagnosis reflects the way the media identifies the causes of conflict as explained in the framing analysis framework, particularly in the element of diagnosing causes (Sobur, 2006).

The situational factors that triggered the increase in violence were identified in detail, namely the death of Afan Kurniawan. Aljazeera.net reported that “protests spread and became more violent after the death of 21-year-old online motorcycle taxi driver Afan Kurniawan” and explained that “a video uploaded on social media shocked the country and sparked widespread hatred towards the security forces.” This media outlet also provided details about the incident based on testimony that “an armored vehicle belonging to the police suddenly sped through the crowd of protesters and hit Affan Kurniawan, running him over.” The diagnosis of the cause of the increase in violence places the responsibility on the actions of the authorities, as does Alaraby.com. However, Aljazeera.net also diagnosed another factor contributing to the tension, namely looting by some demonstrators, although this was not emphasized as the main cause (Aljazeera.net, 2025). This diagnostic element supports the findings of Pinontoan and Wahid (2020), who state that media with a balanced reporting orientation do not limit their analysis to a single cause, but



rather consider various interrelated factors in an event (Pinontoan & Wahid, 2020).

Aljazeera.net's more balanced approach in diagnosing the causes of conflict reflects the important position of this media outlet as an international news network funded by the Qatari government but striving to maintain global journalistic credibility. As a media outlet that receives funding from the state, Aljazeera faces the challenge of balancing Qatar's political interests with international journalistic standards of professionalism. According to Eriyanto (2012), in the context of media political economy, funding sources and ownership structures are important factors that influence media editorial policies and ideological orientation (Eriyanto, 2012). This is reflected in the way Aljazeera.net diagnoses the causes of conflict by not only blaming one party, but identifying various contributing factors, ranging from government policies, delayed responses, actions by the authorities, to the behavior of demonstrators.

In the context of international relations, Qatar has a strategic interest in maintaining good diplomatic relations with Indonesia as the country with the largest Muslim population in the world. According to Shoemaker and Reese (1996), extramedia factors such as the political and economic interests of media owners can influence the content of the news produced (Shoemaker & Reese, 1996). In this case, Aljazeera.net's balanced diagnosis of the causes can be understood as a strategy to present credible information without overly criticizing the Indonesian government, thereby maintaining Qatar's good relations with Indonesia. This approach differs from Alaraby.com, which is more critical, and reflects how the structural background and diplomatic interests of the media's country of origin shape the way the media diagnoses the causes of a political conflict.

c. Make Moral Judgments

Aljazeera.net provides a more balanced moral assessment than Alaraby.com, presenting perspectives from various parties without being overly biased towards one side. From the demonstrator's point of view, Aljazeera.net gives moral recognition to their demands by explaining the context of economic injustice they face. This media outlet states that officials' allowances "are not only excessive, but also come from the state budget at a time when most people are suffering from high living costs." By presenting the demonstrators' arguments in detail, Aljazeera.net assesses that their demands have a strong moral basis (Aljazeera.net, 2025).

However, unlike Alaraby.com, which is more critical of the government, Aljazeera.net also provides space for the government's perspective by quoting President Prabowo Subianto's statement in full. Aljazeera.net quoted Prabowo's statement emphasizing that his administration respects freedom of expression, which is guaranteed by the Indonesian Constitution and international agreements, but also stated that "when demonstrations turn violent, damage public facilities, and endanger lives, it is a serious violation of the law." By quoting this statement, Aljazeera.net provides a moral assessment that acknowledges that there are certain limits to freedom of expression, especially when it involves violence. The media outlet also quotes Prabowo's warning that such violence "could turn into treason and terrorism" (Aljazeera.net, 2025). However, Aljazeera.net also provided a critical moral assessment of the authorities' actions by reporting on the death of Affan Kurniawan and its impact, which shocked the country and sparked widespread hatred. This balanced moral assessment reflects Aljazeera.net's efforts to present various perspectives without openly delegitimizing either side.

d. Treatment Recommendation

Aljazeera.net provides recommendations for a more open resolution and is more oriented towards concrete solutions than Alaraby.com. The main recommendation highlighted is the government's response to the protesters' demands. This media outlet reports in detail that "President Prabowo Subianto has promised to abolish special privileges for members of parliament, including the controversial Rp 50 million housing allowance, in an effort to appease public anger." More specifically, Aljazeera.net explained that in a televised press conference attended by the leaders of eight Indonesian political parties, they had agreed to reduce housing allowances and suspend overseas travel for members of parliament. By reporting these concrete steps, Aljazeera.net recommended that dialogue and compromise between the government and demonstrators was the appropriate path to resolution (Aljazeera.net, 2025).



The second recommendation relates to the need to maintain order while respecting the right to demonstrate. This media outlet quoted Prabowo's statement emphasizing the importance of peaceful demonstrations that follow the law. Aljazeera.net also reported Prabowo's appeal to the public to "convey their aspirations peacefully and constructively" and his assurance that these aspirations would be heard. By quoting this appeal, Aljazeera.net recommends that conflict resolution requires commitment from both sides. The government needs to be responsive to the demands of the people, and demonstrators need to express their aspirations peacefully. Aljazeera.net's overall recommendations emphasize the importance of dialogue, compromise, government responsiveness, and a proportional security approach as the keys to conflict resolution. This approach to conflict resolution, which emphasizes dialogue and peaceful solutions, is in line with the findings of Fauzulhaq & Harwinda (2025), who analyzed the framing of BRICS news coverage, where balanced media tend to emphasize the importance of dialogue and peaceful solutions in resolving conflicts (Fauzulhaq & Harwinda, 2025).

The difference in framing patterns between Aljazeera.net and Alaraby.com in reporting on protests in Indonesia is not limited to the level of news construction on each platform, but also has broader implications in the context of the dissemination and reproduction of narratives on social media. In today's digital age, news published by major media outlets such as Aljazeera.net and Alaraby.com is no longer consumed passively by audiences, but is actively shared, commented on, and discussed on various social media platforms such as Twitter (X), Facebook, Instagram, and TikTok. According to Suhendra & Pratiwi (2024), social media has become an important tool in digital communication that influences public opinion, where information can be disseminated quickly and widely, which significantly affects the views and attitudes of the public (Suhendra & Pratiwi, 2024). In the context of news coverage about Indonesia, the framing carried out by these two media outlets is then reinforced or even modified through the process of interaction on social media, creating a layered effect in shaping the perceptions of the general public.

Furthermore, social media algorithms that regulate content selection and distribution also play a role in strengthening or weakening the influence of certain framing. Ardhana et al. (2025) explain that in the digital age, factors such as digital literacy, political identity, and the influence of algorithms and framing greatly affect how individuals create and respond to public opinion on social media (Ardhana et al., 2025). Content personalization algorithms on platforms such as Instagram, TikTok, Facebook, and Twitter tend to display information that matches users' preferences and interaction history, which can create an echo chamber phenomenon where users are exposed to narratives that reinforce their existing views. In this context, Alaraby.com's critical framing of the Indonesian government may appear more frequently on the timelines of users who tend to criticize the government, while Aljazeera.net's balanced framing may be consumed more by audiences seeking a more moderate perspective. Thus, media framing not only shapes the audience's initial perceptions, but also undergoes a process of reproduction and reinforcement through the mechanisms of digital platform algorithms, which ultimately contributes to the formation of a more complex and fragmented international public opinion regarding Indonesia's political dynamics.

These findings confirm that in the digital age, the study of media framing cannot be separated from the way news circulates and is reproduced on digital platforms. The speed of dissemination and the wide reach of social media accelerate the distribution of narratives, while algorithms and user interaction patterns also influence how these narratives are received, interpreted, and redistributed by global audiences. Thus, a comprehensive understanding of the formation of international public opinion on Indonesia requires an approach that not only focuses on news analysis but also pays attention to the dynamics of digital information circulation and the role of social media in reinforcing or shifting the framing constructed by international media.

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This study successfully revealed differences between Aljazeera.net and Alaraby.com in their coverage of the Indonesian protests in September 2025, where Alaraby.com tended to be more critical of the government by highlighting casualties and harsh actions by security forces and giving



more voice to the demonstrators, while Aljazeera.net was more balanced by explaining the economic context in detail and giving equal weight to the perspectives of the government and the demonstrators, while emphasizing the importance of dialogue to resolve the issue. This difference shows that each media outlet has its own perspective, which is influenced by the ownership background and diplomatic interests of its country of origin, which in turn affects how Indonesia is perceived by the international public, especially when the news is widely circulated on social media and reinforced by digital platform algorithms. These findings confirm that the media is never neutral in reporting an event, but always actively constructs reality in accordance with its ideological orientation and editorial interests. For further research, it is recommended to expand the object of study by analyzing more Arab media or comparing it with media from other regions such as Asia and Europe in order to obtain a more complete picture of how Indonesia is constructed in the eyes of the world, extend the analysis period to see changes in reporting patterns over time, and combine the framing method with critical discourse analysis or studies of how audiences receive and interpret the news. Practically speaking, the Indonesian government and public relations practitioners need to develop better communication strategies in dealing with crisis situations, particularly by building strong relationships with international media well before a crisis occurs, providing clear and open information in various languages, including Arabic, to reduce misinterpretation, maximizing the use of social and digital media platforms to disseminate official information that can counterbalance international media coverage, and forming a special team that understands the characteristics and style of international media coverage in various regions so that the messages conveyed are more targeted and ensure that Indonesia is reported more fairly and proportionally in the eyes of the world.

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