




Amid Explosions in Gaza, The Silence from the Bioethics Community is Deafening

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Abstract Bioethicists, through their writings, have been known to represent the conscience of the times. Speaking up against injustices, they have acted as moral compasses in the past. The events of October 7, 2023 and the resulting armed onslaught of Israeli forces on Gaza has created a huge humanitarian crisis. However, response of the global bioethics community appears muffled. In order to gain an objective insight, we conducted a scoping review of articles published on the current conflict in the top ten bioethics journals, as classified by Google metrics. Broadening this search, we included relevant grey literature and selected medical and global health journals in our review. All types of articles published from the initiation of the conflict to the end of March 2024 were included. Findings from our exercise highlight the paucity of articles published on this crisis. This apparent indifference towards the Gaza crisis can be explained either by reluctance by bioethicists to write on this issue or perhaps due to editorial restraints. We argue that bioethicists, instead of focusing on esoteric issues, have a greater moral responsibility to speak out against injustices in Gaza. Their silence amounts

to complicity and erodes the very foundations of the discipline of bioethics.

Keywords Bioethics · Gaza · Israel · Conflict · War · Academia

In the wake of Russian invasion of Ukraine, writing in the Hastings Bioethics Forum, Moreno (March 2022) states that bioethics, a “now-mature field” has to “adapt to a new set of conditions as part of a new global framework.” This means that instead of focusing on the more dominant agenda which has been on “exotic and philosophical issues ...” the agenda should gear towards “the requirements of global public health.” After all, “bioethics values not only apply to clinical medicine and research” but they also have an impact on public health, economic development, and security such as through laws of armed conflict and the treatment of prisoners of war.

It is a pity that within the area of security, bioethical debates have lagged far behind. Henk Ten Have (2023) in his article “Bioethics and War” published in the Hastings Centre Report laments the same, “In bioethics, the issue of war has not been treated as a major concern” despite Van Rensselaer Potter, widely considered the founding father of bioethics, calling war at least fifty years ago “as one of the priority problems of the time, jeopardizing the survival of humanity” (1971, 150).

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For Potter, bioethics was a “new science of survival” with issues including population, peace, pollution, poverty, politics and progress crucial to ensure a livable future for humankind (Ten Have 2012). For many bioethicists, the unwavering focus of bioethics on the “exotic” as identified by Moreno, rather than the more pressing issues stressed by Potter, have been a source of growing concern.

This concern has grown exponentially in recent months. As the world witnesses with horror a huge humanitarian crisis as a result of the Israel– Hamas conflict, voices of the bioethics community have largely been silent, or at best muffled. This symposium in the *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry* is laudable for bringing Gaza to centerstage, giving it the attention it deserves. The article was written in response to an invitation to contribute to the symposium.

Academia, in general, appears to be reluctant to question the premise of this conflict. In the press, Newman (March, 2024) documents the silence of academia by saying “Universities, museums and archives that are silent during this onslaught are complicit in these genocidal acts” (§17).

We believe that members of the bioethics community ought not to be silent. It is, in fact, our moral duty to raise our voice and call out injustice when we see it happening.

In order to gain a view of the response of the bioethics community to the ongoing crisis, we performed a scoping exercise for this piece. We wanted an objective idea of the publications in peer reviewed bioethics journals and authentic blogs about the conflict. The timeframe for the search began from the beginning of the conflict in October 2023.

We recognize that academic articles are published generally after a long editorial and lengthy peer review process but that certain sections including commentaries and editorials may be published more quickly. Articles can also appear online before they go to print. Blogs do not require a peer review process and can appear in a more time-sensitive manner.

The bioethics journals we focused on included the first nine according to Google Metrics on Bioethics.¹ These then included *Nursing Ethics*, *Journal of Medical*

Ethics, *The American Journal of Bioethics*, *BMC Medical Ethics*, *Journal of Law, Medicine & Ethics*, *Bioethics*, *Hastings Centre Report*, *Medicine, HealthCare and Philosophy*, and *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry*. We also chose *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics* and *Developing World Bioethics* due to their focus on the Global South.

The bioethics blogs that we focused on included *The Hastings Bioethics Forum*, *BMJ Medical Ethics*, *BMJ Open*, and *Global Health* blogs. Bioedge.org that reports bioethics related news was also included in our search. Another website, *Bioethics Today* which “includes original blog authorship by world-renowned bioethicists” was also included. All of these are regarded as authentic sources providing coverage to bioethics discourse.

Selected peer reviewed medical journals were also included in our exercise since several articles in these journals circulated on social media related to the crisis. This included *The Lancet*, *JAMA*, and *New England Journal of Medicine* (NEJM).

There is a prominent social media-based exchange of opinions which we acknowledge. The authors had debated including social media platforms such as X (formerly Twitter), Instagram, TikTok, and others in the search strategy. However, it is well established that these social media platforms are designed to ensure maximum user engagement by selectively targeting, using algorithms, content that either resonates with the users’ web profile, or drastically conflicts with it. In other words, the content we would access would be tailored for us to some extent. The bias that this would potentially bring would not have been able to be eliminated. Hence, we decided exclude social media content from our review.

One of the authors (SS) screened the titles and abstracts (if available) for all the articles published between October 2023 and March 30, 2024. The screened articles were then read in full by both authors to determine their scope.

Findings from our Scoping Exercise

Figure 1 shows a snapshot of our scoping exercise.

Grey Literature

Of the twenty-four articles published in *The Hastings Bioethics Forum*, none focused on the on-going conflict. The *BMJ Open Blog* published fifteen

¹ We chose to exclude the *Journal of Empirical Research on Human Research Ethics* because of its focus on research ethics. https://scholar.google.com/citations?view_op=top_venues&hl=en&vq=med_bioethics

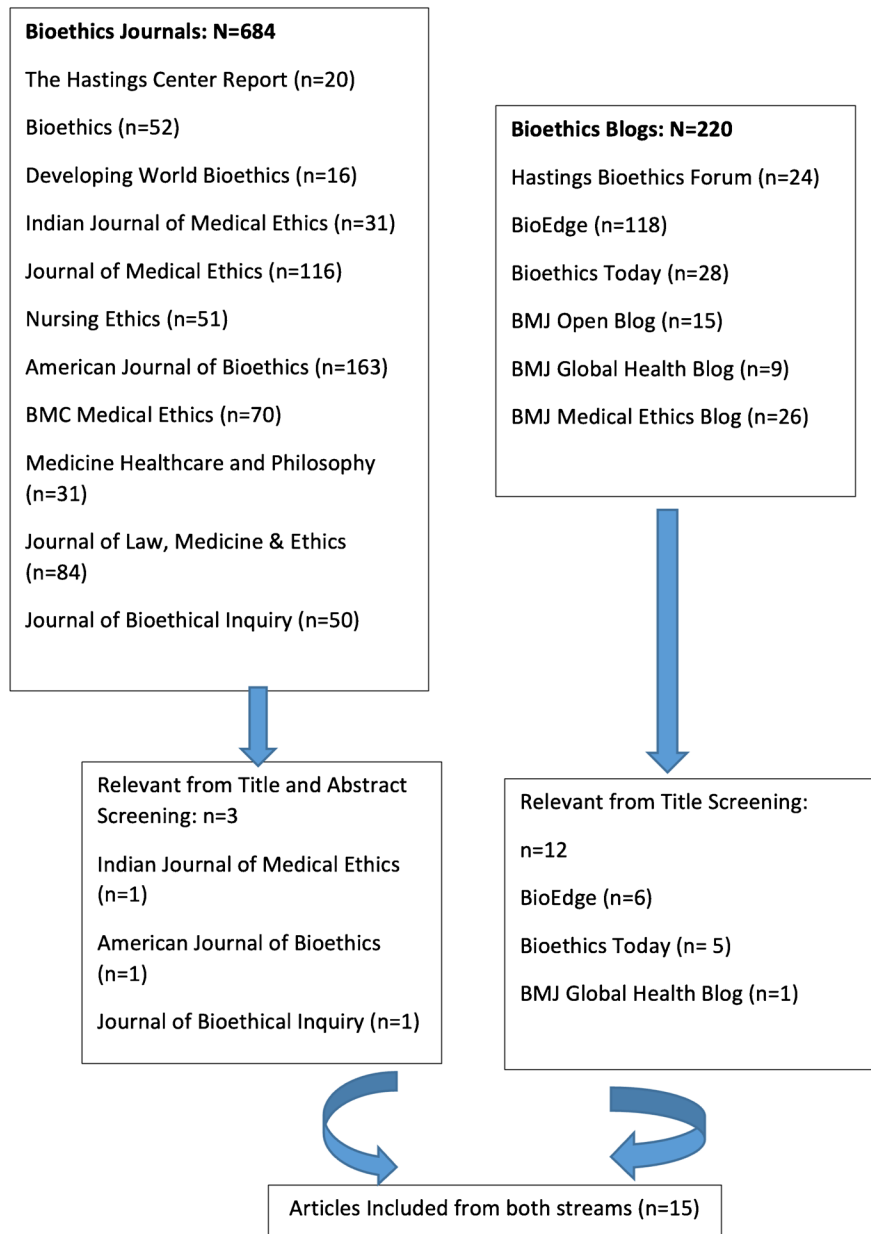


Fig. 1 Snapshot of Scoping Exercise- Focus on Bioethics Publications

articles but none on the conflict. The *BMJ Global Health Blog* featured nine articles, with one focused on the conflict (see Table 1 for article title and brief description). The *BMJ Medical Ethics* published articles, none of which concerned the conflict. *Bioethics Today Blog* carried twenty-two articles out of which five were related to the conflict. In bioedge.org, out of 108 bioethics reports, six concerned the conflict.

Bioethics Journals

The Hastings Centre Report has released two issues in our selected period. Owing perhaps to the long peer review process, no articles were related to the conflict in the November–December 2023 issues. *Journal of Medical Ethics* has had four issues but no articles related to the conflict were published. The *Journal of*

Table 1 Description of Included Articles Appearing in Bioethics Publications (peer reviewed and otherwise)

Sr. no.	Citation	Authors' Country of Origin/ Affiliation	Type of Article	Month/Year of Publication	Description
Journal Articles					
1	Komesaroff, P.A., 2024. It is not too late for reconciliation between Israel and Palestine, even in the darkest hour. <i>Journal of Bioethical Inquiry</i> , pp.1-17.	Australia	Original Research	March 22, 2024	The author argues that based on the rich partnerships that exist between Palestinians and Jews historically, these should be looked into as areas of reconciliation and thereby provide a glimmer of hope amidst the conflict.
2	Arawi T. 2024. War on healthcare services in Gaza. <i>Indian J Med Ethics</i> . Published online first on January 17, 2024. https://doi.org/10.20529/IJME.2024.004	Lebanon	Commentary	January 17, 2024	Discusses the impacts of the recent conflict on health systems, provides a background to the history of the conflict. The focus point of the article is war on health-care services which can be regarded as 'biopolitics' according to Foucault's description. The article also uses Butler's theory of "grievability" that considers each life as precious and therefore decisions to provide healthcare or terminate lives in conflict situations are socially constructed practices
3	Lederman, Z., Davidovitch, N. and Lederman, S., 2024. Making a Case for Appropriate and Humane Treatment of Hamas Belligerents in Israel. <i>The American Journal of Bioethics</i> , 24(2), pp.8-10.	Israel, Hong Kong	Guest Editorial	January 31, 2024	The article is a response to Israeli physicians who stated that the Hamas belligerents who attacked Israel on October 7 and were later captured should not be provided the same healthcare treatment. The authors argue that prisoners of war are worthy of respect and while it may be difficult to provide healthcare to them, it is important to do so in order to ensure that human beings preserve humanity as a whole.
Blogs					
4	Katz, N.T. et al. 2024. Blog - A timely review of ethical medical practice in Israel: A response to accusations of genocide, Bioethics Today. Available at: https://bioethicstoday.org/blog/a-timely-review-of-ethical-medical-practice-in-israel-a-response-to-accusations-of-genocide/	Israel, Australia and United States	Bioethics Today Blog	February 29, 2024	The authors discuss that Israel continues to provide medical care to thousands of Gazans before and even after the conflict.
5	Lederman, Z., Davidovitch, N. and Lederman, S. 2024 Blog - making a case for appropriate and humane treatment of Hamas belligerents in Israel, Bioethics Today. Available at: https://bioethicstoday.org/blog/making-a-case-for-appropriate-and-humane-treatment-of-hamas-belligerents-in-israel/ (Accessed: 04 March 2024).	Israel, Hong Kong	Bioethics Today Blog	February 6, 2024	Summary of the article published in American Journal of Bioethics (see no.2 in this table).

Table 1 (continued)

Sr. no.	Citation	Authors' Country of Origin/ Affiliation	Type of Article	Month/Year of Publication	Description
6	Kamin-Friedman, S., Raz, M. and Karako-Eyal, N. 2024. <i>Wartime Homefront Medical Ethics</i> . <i>Bioethics Today</i> . Available at: https://bioethicstoday.org/blog/wartime-homefront-medical-ethics/	Israel	Bioethics Today blog	January 22, 2024	The article discusses various ethical dilemmas that arose after Hamas attack including caring for terrorists in the same places where victims were being treated. The ethical debate surrounding posthumous sperm donation that had been an issue in Israel for a while has also re-emerged following the October 7 attacks.
7	Breswell, H. and Berger, Z. 2024. <i>Blog - bioethicists call for ceasefire in Gaza</i> . <i>Bioethics Today</i> . Available at: https://bioethicstoday.org/blog/bioethicists-call-for-ceasefire-in-gaza/	United States	Bioethics Today blog	November 17, 2023	The article describes the horrors of the war in Gaza following the Hamas attack. The authors urge bioethicists to call a ceasefire which will bring an end to healthcare casualties.
8	Fazal, A. 2023. <i>Every child deserves peace</i> . <i>Bioethics Today</i> . Available at: https://bioethicstoday.org/blog/every-child-deserves-peace/	United States	Bioethics Today Blog	November 2, 2023	The author argues that every child should be protected and then calls for an immediate ceasefire.
9	Cook, M. 2024b <i>Israel – hamas war: Medics are dying in Gaza</i> . BioEdge. Available at: https://bioedge.org/medical-practice/israel-hamas-war-medics-are-dying-in-gaza/ (Accessed: 04 March 2024).		Bioedge.org	February 1, 2024	This post states that hospitals in Gaza are being attacked and several people are being assassinated.
10	Cook, M. 2024 <i>Antisemitism hits sperm donation</i> . BioEdge. Available at: https://bioedge.org/beginning-of-life-issues/sperm-donation/antisemitism-hits-sperm-donation/ (Accessed: 04 March 2024).		Bioedge.org	February 1, 2024	This post concerns how the war has now started affecting sperm donation in other parts of the world. It narrates an incident where an Australian couple rejected sperm donation from a Jewish man.
11	Cook, M. 2023 <i>How should doctors approach the war in Gaza?</i> . <i>BioEdge</i> . Available at: https://bioedge.org/public-health/how-should-doctors-approach-the-war-in-gaza/		Bioedge.org	November 23, 2023	Quotes the JAMA op-ed regarding responsibilities of healthcare professionals to speak out against war, war crime and genocide. It ends with wisdom from Talmud about how all life is sacred.
12	Cook, M. 2023 <i>After Gaza, leading US bioethicist laments moral vacuum amongst students</i> . <i>BioEdge</i> . Available at: https://bioedge.org/bioethics-d75/after-gaza-leading-us-bioethicist-laments-moral-vacuum-amongst-students/		Bioedge.org	October 19, 2023	This post quotes Eziekiel's Emanuel's passionate Op-Ed in New York Times about how Gaza-Hamas conflict has exposed the moral vacuum among students in US universities. The students stated that they hold Israel responsible for all the depravities.
13	Cook, M. 2023. <i>How should doctors react to the war in Gaza?</i> . <i>BioEdge</i> . Available at: https://bioedge.org/medical-practice/how-should-doctors-react-to-the-war-in-gaza/		Bioedge.org	November 2, 2023.	The post refers an article published on MedPageToday by Joel Jovit about how physicians should treat soldiers and civilians alike.

Table 1 (continued)

Sr. no.	Citation	Authors' Country of Origin/ Affiliation	Type of Article	Month/Year of Publication	Description
14	Cook, M. 2023d <i>War and peace: Israeli physicians treating Palestinian patients</i> , <i>BioEdge</i> . Available at: https://bioedge.org/medical-practice/war-and-peace-israeli-physicians-treating-palestinian-patients/ (Accessed: 13 February 2024).		Bioedge.org	December 7, 2023	The post quotes an opinion published in <i>The Lancet</i> about how Israeli physicians are also treating Palestinians even after October 7, 2023.
15	Coutts, A. et al. 2023. 'pity the region* - gaza and the politics of health in the Middle East, <i>BMJ Global Health</i> blog. Available at: https://blogs.bmj.com/bmjgh/2023/11/10/pity-the-region-gaza-and-the-politics-of-health-in-the-middle-east/	UK, Palestine, Lebanon	Blog article	November 10, 2023	The article describes the precarious health-care situation in the Middle East with a focus on Gaza. In particular, the authors condemn the targeting of hospitals and civilians as an accepted tactic of doing war on the basis that non-state actors take shelter in such facilities. The articles ends with a call to ceasefire, lamenting that it remains a distant dream.

Bioethical Inquiry has published one article on this issue. Bioethics has had five issues but none carried anything on the Gaza conflict. *Developing World Bioethics* reflects the same trend. The *Indian Journal of Medical Ethics*, while publishing nothing in print, however, did publish one article focusing on the conflict in the “online first” edition (see Table 1 for article titles and descriptions).

Global Health and Medicine Journals

The Lancet has shown a consistent stream of articles related to Gaza conflict (See Table 2).

The *Journal of American Medical Association* (JAMA) published a total of 746 articles in this period. The first article on Gaza, on November 8, 2023, was titled, “Health Professionals and War in the Middle East” (Wynia 2013) which led to a series of responses. The author questioned whether healthcare professionals have any responsibility to speak out against the on-going crisis. The article mentioned Israel’s promise not to bomb healthcare facilities unless they act as an accessory in war. It ends with how healthcare professionals ought to concentrate on saving lives in war just like in peace times.

As a response, at least nine letters to editors appeared in JAMA. The first appeared on December 6 stated that a “political or military science degree” which Wynia had suggested, is not required to “know that bombing hospitals and disproportionately killing innocent civilians is unethical.” It went onto state, “We believe that putting this question up for debate in a peer-reviewed medical journal is abhorrent and harmful” (Alser, Gilbert, and Loubani 2024, 77). Three others took issue with, “its substantial omissions regarding the humanitarian crisis and war crimes occurring in Gaza” (Chaudhry and Berger 2023, 77; Ledermen 2023; Tsega 2023). Another spoke about Hamas conducting war crimes in Israel (Glatt 2023). A brief letter by the original author also appeared (Wynia 2024).

On December 18, three more letters appeared. Others from Israel wrote about the Hamas attack deliberately targeted healthcare facilities (Jaffe and Alpert 2023). Another one regretted how calling for a ceasefire in Gaza was automatically labelled anti-Semitism (Farid 2023). Another physician from the United States mentioned how healthcare professionals are

in a privileged position to “serve as a moral center in these sorts of conflicts.” (Gallagher 2023, 170).

Another article titled, “Wars in Gaza and Beyond: Why Protecting the Sacredness of Health Matters” talked about the sacredness of health. Characterizing health centres as sacred places, the authors stated “When health systems fall under siege or become decimated, physicians’ ethical obligations are fundamentally undermined” (Gostin and Goodwin 2023, pp. 192).

No articles appeared in the *New England Journal of Medicine* on the topic during the period under scrutiny.

Reflections from the Scoping Exercise

So far, only fifteen articles have been published in bioethics-related publications included in this scoping review related to the unfolding humanitarian crisis in Gaza. We are cognizant of the possibility of articles that may have appeared elsewhere.² These articles have generally been focused on the health impact resulting from disruption of healthcare services. While this impact is undoubtedly important, the fallout of relentless bombardment of Gaza strip has been much wider, with huge humanitarian consequences. These include the killing of innocent children, women, and men who have nothing to do with combat and the destruction of private and governmental infrastructures. Along with hospitals, educational institutions, powerplants, and homes have been decimated. Survivors have lost their livelihoods, as famine like situation on the ground has started to take its toll. These are just a few of the many fallouts that will be felt for decades to come.

While some of these issues have been mentioned in JAMA letters and in a few *The Lancet* writings, no serious contributions have appeared in peer reviewed bioethics journals, as per our scoping review. We consider discussions on such issues well within the domain of bioethics discourse. In fact, they ought to be considered a priority at the moment. Yet they remain elusive so far in peer reviewed literature.

Perhaps the peer review process may be contributing to the publication delay. While acknowledging the importance of maintaining a rigorous peer review system, if editors considered the unfolding Gaza crisis important enough, the process could be expedited, as was done during the recent pandemic. Most journals also now have an “Online First” section, and only one article on the subject was made available in this fashion.

In the special issue of *Bioethics* titled, “Bioethics Challenges in Times of War,” an article by Lederman and Lederman (November 2023) spoke about the responsibility of bioethicists, using Yemen as a case study. Penned most certainly before the October 2023 events that triggered the current Gaza conflict, the article also asks a question central to our line of argument “Should bioethics journals prioritize philosophical rigor above all, even at the cost of neglecting ongoing armed conflicts and major human rights violations?” (2; ¶7). They go on to ask “Or is there value in the mere description of such events (with a modicum of basic normative groundwork) aimed at increasing awareness in the field and paying our dues as privileged intellectuals?” (2; ¶ 7). We believe there is indeed a moral responsibility on the bioethics academic community to do just that.

Five months after the Russian invasion of Ukraine, Fins (2022) wrote, “Bioethics, Ukraine and the Peril of Silence” in the *Cambridge Quarterly of Healthcare Ethics*. Finns says, “If war is the ultimate public health crisis, then surely bioethics—and bioethicists—should have something to say about the tragedy in Ukraine” (1; ¶ 1). Replace Ukraine with Palestine, and you would have the same argument, yet not the same response.

The Ukraine invasion invoked a quick response from leading bioethicists such as Caplan (2022). Other examples also include Hastings Bioethics Forum publishing three articles within five months of the invasion (Moreno 2022; Eckenwiler and Wild 2022; Basarab 2022). *The Hastings Centre Report* also published one article in their June 2022 issue (Bloswick, et al. 2022). *BioEdge* also carried five items on the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The content of these articles are similar—unanimous support demonstrated towards Ukraine and complete denouncement of Russia by calling for academic boycott and restrict supply to medicines as well. Yet a similar response from the same community does not exist when it comes

² As an example, several articles appeared in the journal *Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics* (not included in our scoping exercise) as a preprint related to moral issues in war. Article on the current conflict: Lederman, Z. 2023. An unsettling affair. *Narrative Inquiry in Bioethics*.

Table 2 Articles published in The Lancet

Month/Year	Total articles	Conflict Related	Article Citation	Brief Description
30-Mar-24	30	0	N/A	N/A
23-Mar-24	30	0	N/A	N/A
16-Mar-24	32	0	N/A	N/A
9-Mar-24	31	2	Beyar, R., Blazer, S., Breuer, E., Carmi, R., Ciechanover, A., Clarfield, A.M., Glick, S., Magen, D., Manor, O., Paltiel, O. and Skorecki, K., 2024. Moral clarity at WHO needs to be clearer. <i>Lancet (London, England)</i> , pp.S0140-6736.	This is a response to Richard Horton's Offline in which he applauded the moral clarity of the WHO's Director-General. The authors state that WHO requires more moral clarity since they did not sufficiently denounce the Hamas attacks which caused unmeasurable pain to both Jews and Arabs. The authors also argue that demolishing the Israeli state is not a solution to the end of the current conflict.
2-Mar-24	35	2	Zafran, N., Baram, S. and Solt, I., 2024. Conflict-related sexual violence-time to stop Hamas. <i>Lancet</i> , 403(10430), pp.905-906.	The authors argue that sexual violence is a war crime which was used by Hamas during the October 7 attacks. However, UN Women took almost 2 months to condemn the brutal attack, which the authors regard as hypocritical of liberal women rights movements.
24-Feb-24	29	1	Khan, M.S. and Tinua, A.T., 2024. Israel–Palestine: dehumanisation and silencing. <i>The Lancet</i> .	The authors voice their concerns about the dehumanization of Palestinians not just by governments but by healthcare professionals and academics. They also argue that there has been silencing of academia in general on the Gaza issue, tied to funding concerns that have long-term impacts on achieving meaningful racial equities.
17-Feb-24	34	0	Albhai, S., 2024. The impossible mission: to save and support science in Gaza. <i>The Lancet</i> , 403(10429), p.806.	The author states that Palestinian academics and scientists have been sidelined, as exhibited by underrepresentation in global partnerships. The current Gaza crisis has worsened the situation after the two universities have been completely destroyed.
10-Feb-24	33	1	Al-Jadba, G., Zeidan, W., Spiegel, P. B., Shaer, T., Najjar, S., & Seita, A. 2024. UNRWA at the frontlines: managing health care in Gaza during catastrophe. <i>The Lancet</i> .	Individuals associated with UNRWA stress on the importance of agency's aid work in Gaza in preventing a humanitarian crisis.
3-Feb-24	31	0	Devi, S. 2024. Health and aid organisations give UNRWA warning. <i>The Lancet</i> , 403(10426), 517.	N/A Discusses the various statements regarding UNRWA's personnel complicity in the Hamas attacks and how suspending aid for UNRWA is unreasonable.

Table 2 (continued)

Month/Year	Total articles	Conflict Related	Article Citation	Brief Description
27-Jan-24	31	3	Dehghan, R., Smith, J., Shahid, H. J., Hadley, D., & Hopkinshaw, B. 2024. Medical duty and advocacy for Palestine. <i>The Lancet</i> , 403 189-98.	UK-based physicians argue that “a moral imperative exists for physicians to engage in political activism in the face of human rights violations and war crimes committed by Israel.” They also write about the deaths of healthcare workers in the on-going crisis.
			Coghlan, R., Smith, J., & Alser, O. 2024. Morphine for Gaza? Limits of care during genocidal violence. <i>The Lancet</i> .	Palliative care physicians, one of them from Palestine, talk about the role of social conscience in putting an end to suffering in Gaza, calling it ‘genocidal violence.’ The authors call for an end to the violence and state that it is important for those in the medical profession to “promote dignity, care, and compassion in death and dying.”
			Souza, L. E., Buss, P., & Alcázar, S. 2024. Wars are never necessary: Gaza is the best example. <i>The Lancet</i> .	A response to an earlier article by Teitel (2023). Teitel argued that the war in Gaza is necessary in wake of Hamas attack on Israel, but the authors argue that war is never necessary, and that the money spent on war can be dedicated towards public health efforts.
20-Jan-24	30	2	Elmakib, S., Fair, M., Mayrhofer, E., Afifi, M., & Jamaluddine, Z. 2024. Pregnant women in Gaza require urgent protection. <i>The Lancet</i> , 403(10423), 244.	Global health scholars write about pregnant woman and children deprived of healthcare facilities. The article concludes with authors urging the medical community to take care of women and children in war.
			Zivot, Joel B., Naomi T. Katz, Richard J. Deckelbaum, John D. Lantos, and Jerome M. Teitel. "Gaza and the complexity and context of suffering." 2024. <i>The Lancet</i> 403, no. 10423. 244-245.	Authors critique Richard Horton’s earlier piece published in <i>Lancet</i> by stating that he uses personal narratives to generalize suffering, and that is not the business of medical journals. They state explicitly, “ Israel tries (however imperfectly) to comply with these laws” The authors state their concern that medical academia is now using political language, and that “personal and political that are not backed by rigorous research do not have a place in peer-reviewed journals.”
13-Jan-24	32	2	Teitel, J. 2024. Israel and Gaza: a quick end to a tragic but necessary war. <i>The Lancet</i> , 403(10422), 143.	The author argues that Israel was forced to pursue this war to protect its citizens after an invasion by the explicitly genocidal regime (Hamas) at its border.
			Adler, N. R., Rakov, J. A., Adler, K. A., & Grant-Kels, J. M. 2024. All children pay the price for antisemitic bias. <i>The Lancet</i> , 403(10422), 143-144.	A response to an earlier commentary published in <i>The Lancet</i> about how children pay the price of war. The authors state that even Israeli children were victims of Hamas’s attacks.

Table 2 (continued)

Month/Year	Total articles	Conflict Related	Article Citation	Brief Description
06-Jan-24	29	5	<p>Huynh, B. Q., Chin, E. T., & Spiegel, P. B. 2024. No evidence of inflated mortality reporting from the Gaza Ministry of Health. <i>The Lancet</i>, 403(10421), 23–24.</p> <p>Homer, C. S. 2024. End humanitarian catastrophe in conflict settings. <i>The Lancet</i>, 403(10421), 24–25.</p> <p>Faddoul, A., Shannon, G., Asghar, K., Boukari, Y., Smith, J., & Neilson, A. 2024. The health dimensions of violence in Palestine: a call to prevent genocide. <i>The Lancet</i>, 403(10421), 25–26.</p> <p>There is no way to leave Gaza.</p> <p>Banerjee, A. 2024. The conflict in Gaza—are data ever enough?. <i>The Lancet</i>, 403(10421), 27.</p> <p>Fox, M. A., & Kollitz, T. 2023. Victims of gender-based violence on Oct 7 must be given a voice. <i>The Lancet</i>, 402(10419), 2290–2291.</p> <p>Musa, A., Crawley, J., Haj-Hassan, T., Inglis, R., & Maynard, N. 2023. Gaza, 9 years on: a humanitarian catastrophe. <i>The Lancet</i>, 402(10419), 2292–2293.</p> <p>Mahmoud, H., & Abuzerr, S. 2023. State of the health-care system in Gaza during the Israel–Hamas war. <i>The Lancet</i>, 402(10419), 2294.</p>	<p>This article is a response to an allegation that Palestine death counts were inflated which according to this article they were not.</p> <p>The authors are epidemiologists.</p> <p>Talks about humanitarian crisis in multiple conflict settings including Sudan and Gaza, and collapse of healthcare systems.</p> <p>The authors, mostly UK based, state Israel is at risk of committing genocide due to the health violence committed in the region. They end with a call for a cease-fire</p> <p>Personal narrative of an individual who is caring for his father with cancer and talks about restrictions in access to oncology treatments. The author name has been changed for protection.</p> <p>The UK-based author writes that there is sufficient data on the conditions in Gaza, but right dialogue and right policy is also essential.</p> <p>Israeli scholars state that gender-based violence committed by Hamas should not be taken lightly.</p> <p>UK based authors write about the duty of healthcare professionals in the face of humanitarian crises. This correspondence was also signed by 15 members of healthcare professionals.</p> <p>A Palestinian scholar along with a US based scholar write about the worsening state of healthcare in Gaza</p>
16-Dec-23	28	3		

Table 2 (continued)

Month/Year	Total articles	Conflict Related	Article Citation	Brief Description
09-Dec-23	28	4	Horton, R. (2023). Offline: "My brothers and sisters in Israel and Palestine". <i>The Lancet</i> , 402(10418), 2180. Jamaluddine, Z., Checchi, F., & Campbell, O. M. (2023). Excess mortality in Gaza: Oct 7–26, 2023. <i>The Lancet</i> , 402(10418), 2189–2190. Salmiya, M. A. (2023). Gaza hospitals: military siege and bombings. <i>The Lancet</i> , 402(10418), 2191.	Richard Horton, the editor in chief of <i>Lancet</i> shares a narrative about a phone call with his friend in Gaza. Epidemiologists from UK write that mortality data reported from Palestine is accurate. Palestinian physician, director of Al-Shifa Hospital writes about the situation in Gaza, and talks about violence against healthcare professionals.
02-Dec-23	31	7	Yang, Y. T. (2023). The need for medical sanctity in conflict zones. <i>The Lancet</i> , 402(10418), 2191–2192. Ohry, A. (2023). Recollections of war and captivity. <i>The Lancet</i> , 402(10417), 2069. Yaqub, S., Sparrelid, E., Sampaio-Neto, J., Lassen, K., & Wigmore, S. J. (2023). Israel and Gaza: the killing of civilians must stop. <i>The Lancet</i> , 402(10417), 2069–2070. Levany, S., Shahar, G., & Greenberg, D. (2023). Calling for an immediate release of captive children in Gaza. <i>The Lancet</i> , 402(10417), 2070–2071. Peleg, O., & Gendelman, L. (2023). Internally displaced people amidst war: the Israeli narrative. <i>The Lancet</i> , 402(10417), 2071–2072. Shellah, D. (2023). How much suffering is enough? A look at what is happening in Gaza. <i>The Lancet</i> , 402(10417), 2072. Bjertness, E., Bjertness, M. S., Nyquist, C. B., Kromberg, M., Elessi, K., & Lien, L. (2023). Save the remaining people of Gaza—save the children. <i>The Lancet</i> , 402(10417), 2072–2073. Ash, S., Zuckerman, T., & Rowe, J. M. (2023). War and peace: Israeli physicians treating Palestinian patients. <i>The Lancet</i> , 402(10417), 2073–2074.	The author writes that amidst violence, healthcare facilities suffer immensely mentioning other conflicts. The article concerns the suffering of Israeli hostages. Through this Correspondence, the authors from diverse countries and backgrounds, implore their colleagues around the world and the international medical community to condemn all and any violence against civilians. Academics from Israel write about the physical and emotional effects of being held hostage by Hamas, and that members of the medical community need to declare their support by calling for immediate release of hostages. Academics from Israel write about the damages to Israel's mental health due to Hamas attacks. Palestinian activist and doctor, urges people to listen to Palestinian voices. The article describes the situation in Gaza and implores people to think about the children living there. Written by physicians from Israel who state that they continue to provide healthcare to Palestinians despite the conflict.

Table 2 (continued)

Month/Year	Total articles	Conflict Related	Article Citation	Brief Description
25-Nov-23	29	5	Haar, R., Abbata, A., Rubenstein, L., Spiegel, P., & Alnahhas, H. 2023. Attacks on health care war crimes and a public health catastrophe. <i>The Lancet</i> , 402(10416), 1971. Hamama-Raz, Y., Ben-Ezra, M., & Levin, Y. 2023. The need for a national bereavement model: the Israeli case. <i>The Lancet</i> , 402(10416), 1971-1972. Moussally, K., Abu-Sittah, G., Gomez, F. G., Abou Fayad, A., & Farra, A. 2023. Antimicrobial resistance in the ongoing Gaza war: a silent threat. <i>The Lancet</i> , 402(10416), 1972-1973. Sternberg, S. A., & Breuer, E. 2023. The conflict in Gaza: a view from Israel. <i>The Lancet</i> , 402(10416), 1973-1974. Smith, J., Abdel-Mannan, O., Abuelalish, I., Kelly, B., & Maynard, N. 2023. Palestine and Israel: for an end to violence and the pursuit of justice. <i>The Lancet</i> , 402(10416), 1974-1975.	The authors write that on-going violence disrupts healthcare systems extending beyond end of war. In this article, authors from Israel emphasize that once released, Israeli hostages be provided long term support. Physicians from Lebanon write about the perils of antimicrobial resistance in Gaza. Authors from Israel write that the prior to October 7, Israel wanted to co-exist peacefully with the Palestinians but the Hamas attack instigated this current war. A critique on Richard Horton's Offline article that made unsubstantiated claims equating Palestine and Palestinians with terrorism. The authors end with an urge for peace.
18-Nov-23	28	0	N/A	N/A
11-Nov-23	30	4	Devi, S. 2023. Health care in Gaza continues to worsen under conflict. <i>The Lancet</i> , 402(10414), 1736. Seita, A., & Al-Jadba, G. 2023. Gaza is facing a humanitarian catastrophe. <i>The Lancet</i> , 402(10414), 1745. Kadir, A., & Kampalath, V. 2023. Children pay the price for our silence, again. <i>The Lancet</i> , 402(10414), 1745-1746. Alser, O., & Alser, M. 2023. Urgent call for protecting health-care workers in Palestine. <i>The Lancet</i> , 402(10414), 1746-1747.	The article considers the depleting healthcare situation in Gaza. Written by UNWRA representatives about health catastrophe in Gaza and imploring the world to take care of it Pediatricians from UK write about the impact of war on children's health and well-being. Authors from Middle Eastern governments write about how healthcare workers are being killed

Table 2 (continued)

Month/Year	Total articles	Conflict Related	Article Citation	Brief Description
04-Nov-23	29	3	Horton, R. 2023. Offline: Gaza's children—a responsibility to protect. <i>The Lancet</i> , 402(10413), 1609. Qassem-Hassan, L., & Walden, R. 2023. A Palestinian and an Israeli physician speak out for medical ethics. <i>The Lancet</i> , 402(10413), 1619-1620. Rasooly, A. 2023. Resilience amidst chaos: an Israeli physician's reflections. <i>The Lancet</i> , 402(10413), 1623.s	Richard Horton writes about Israel's mistake in dismissing United Nations. Physicians from Israel and Palestine write that it is important for the medical community to speak out against the conflict, keeping in line with the values of the profession. Israeli physician writes about the impact of the Hamas attack, and how everyone came together to provide healthcare, Arabs and Jews alike.
28-Oct-23	35	7	Paluch-Shimon, S., Popovtzer, A., & Leibowitz, R. 2023. An urgent call for the immediate release of Israeli hostages. <i>The Lancet</i> , 402(10412), 1521. Givaty, G., Ovadia, Y. S., & Saban, M. 2023. Insights from the nearest Israeli hospital to the Gaza Strip. <i>The Lancet</i> , 402(10412), 1521-1522. Elessi, K. 2023. Save Gaza residents from imminent catastrophe. <i>The Lancet</i> , 402(10412), 1522-1523. Salmiya, M. A. 2023. Urgent humanitarian call to save lives in Gaza. <i>The Lancet</i> , 402(10412), 1523-1524. Clarfield, A. M. 2023. "Never Again" loses all its meaning—can Holocaust survivors survive again? <i>The Lancet</i> , 402(10412), 1524. Ghosh, S., Sinha, J. K., Raghunath, M., Han, S. S., & Bhaskar, R. 2023. Accountability and protection for health care in conflict zones. <i>The Lancet</i> , 402(10412), 1524-1525.	In this article, physicians in Israel recount the events after the attack by Hamas. This letter is co-signed by 1500 Israeli health-care professionals. Physicians from Israel write about the operational strategy following Hamas attack of a hospital in Israel. Physicians from Palestine write about the health situation in Gaza. Physicians from Palestine deplore the bad health situation in Gaza. Physician from Israel writes about the Hamas attack and that the Holocaust survivors who came under attack. Authors from India and South Korea advise protection of healthcare workers working in Gaza.
			Horton, R. 2023. Offline: Israel-Gaza—what comes next? <i>The Lancet</i> , 402(10412), 1511.	Richard Horton talks about how Hamas attack was completely wrong and should be denounced completely. In his own words, "This disturbing asymmetry of outrage weakens the case of those calling for a ceasefire between Israel and Hamas."
Total	645	51		

to raising a voice against a one-sided war in which unarmed civilians in Gaza are the victims.

The November 2023 editorial of *Developing World Bioethics* (Diniz 2023) appeared about a month after the Gaza situation emerged. Titled, “Bioethics and Witnessing” the author stated, “doing bioethics means being an accompaniment-witness with the duty to speak the truth” (295). The editorial boldly said “we cannot be afraid of the political consequences of our academic work” (295). While the focus of the editorial was different, it is, in the author’s own words, “a matter of taking responsibility of being an academic writer and speaker” (295). It is ironic that despite the editorial position, even this journal has chosen silence when it comes to Gaza.

This silence could be attributed to two reasons: Either academics are choosing not to write, or this is not a high priority area for editors.

We broadened the scope of our search to include other prominent medical and/or global health journals. *The Lancet*, a weekly publication, has had forty-seven articles devoted to the issue of Gaza. The majority of the articles they carry focused on health conditions in Gaza, while very few have examined wider issues related to the regional politics having an impact on medical ethics and lived lives.

Perhaps Richard Horton, editor-in-chief of *The Lancet*, chose to devote the space in the journal to take a stand. As he stated in 2014 about an earlier episode of the Gaza conflict, “How can you separate politics and health? These two go hand-in-hand” (§31). More recently (February 2024) Horton reiterated, “We’re [at *The Lancet*] going to see health as political” (Cookson 2024, §3).

Similarly how can then we, as bioethicists, separate war from ethics? We believe if the bioethics community chooses silence over expression, ignoring our moral responsibilities, then we risk making the field meaningless. We echo the sentiments of the article by one of the co-authors, titled, “The meaninglessness of doing bioethics: Reality from a conflict zone.” As Jafarey (2019) wrote, “In the context of the West Bank and Gaza, bioethics looks more like an esoteric philosophical exercise for academics sitting in comfortable conference rooms in faraway luxury hotels, rather than an instrument to protect the vulnerable” (3).

In a particularly indicting essay, “The silence of the damned,” Hedges (2024) pointed out the silence from health professions globally with regards to Gaza. He complained “the American Medical

Association shut down a debate on a ceasefire resolution among its members and has called for ‘medical neutrality,’ although it abandoned ‘medical neutrality’ to denounce Russia’s invasion of Ukraine” (Hedges 2024, ¶16). However, for those who speak out, there are consequences. Hedges himself was labelled anti-Semitic. This systemic silencing of prominent academic leaders who positioned themselves in a manner contrary to the narrative being espoused by powers that be, may certainly be acting as a deterrent to write.³

A personal correspondence with an editor of a prominent bioethics journal revealed that the journal had approached five individuals to write about the current conflict. Only one accepted the invitation. The others either refused citing different reasons or did not respond at all. While it is not possible to comment on the exact cause of these refusals, we believe that bioethicists have a moral responsibility to speak out against injustices.

As we pen this piece, we are also aware of consequences due to our own positionality. As academics belonging to Global South, we face intersectional disadvantages due to our nationality, religious identity, socioeconomic and political status, and race. Consequences can include visa and travel challenges, with curtailed access to opportunities at the global stage and even academic isolation.

But, as Paulo Freire stated, “The educator has the duty of not being neutral,” we believe this duty is even more profound for bioethics educators. We can no longer sit “in comfortable conference rooms in faraway luxury hotels” pontificating on the esoteric, while humanity suffers.

We state our position clearly. War is abhorrent and its fallout never remains limited to combatants. In the case of Gaza, it is also one sided. Any kind of cooperation with war, silence or neutrality included, is morally objectionable. The global bioethics community has a larger moral duty to raise a voice against this ongoing injustice.

³ The silencing of academia about the Palestine and Israel issue through various strategies has occurred even prior to this conflict. See for example, Abraham, M. 2011. The question of Palestine and the subversion of academic freedom: DePaul’s denial of tenure to Norman G. Finkelstein. *Arab Studies Quarterly* 33(3/4): 179–203.

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