

REPRESENTATION OF PALESTINE SOLIDARITY IN SOCIAL MEDIA: A SEMIOTIC APPROACH TO SYMBOLS OF RESISTANCE

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Abstract

Social media plays an important role in voicing support for Palestine in the current Palestinian-Israeli conflict. The prolonged conflict between Palestine and Israel has triggered emotional reactions among netizens around the world. Support for Palestine can be seen through various posts, hashtags, social media campaigns, and symbols as a form of support and solidarity with Palestine. One of the symbols used as a symbol of resistance is the watermelon. However, the symbol of Palestinian resistance is not only watermelon. There are many other symbols of Palestinian resistance besides watermelon, such as Jaffa orange, map of Palestine, olive, thyme, cactus, dove, etc. These symbols have contextual meaning characteristics that make them attractive to research. This research aims to describe the representation of Palestinian solidarity symbols on social media from a semiotic perspective. This research uses a descriptive qualitative approach with semiotic analysis techniques of Charles Sanders Peirce's sign, object, and interpretant theory. The results showed that symbols have meaning, and each symbol represents Palestinian struggle, culture, identity, and hope.

Keywords: Palestine; semiotics; symbol; solidarity.

INTRODUCTION

The Israel-Palestine conflict, which has lasted for seven decades, reignited on October 7, 2023. As of October 2024, the conflict continues, marking one year. Israel continues to launch attacks on Gaza, Palestine, while the Hamas group also retaliates with attacks on Israel. These attacks have further lengthened the list of casualties in the Israel-Palestine conflict. According to data from the Gaza Strip Health Authority, more than 41,000 Palestinians have died since the October 7, 2023, attacks, with half of the victims being women and children.

Support for Palestine come from various parts of the world, ranging from rallies against the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, donations, logistics and medicines, and diplomatic support. Netizens from all over the world are competing to show their concern and solidarity with the Palestinian people. Public support and solidarity through social media can be seen through various posts, online petitions, hashtags, and calls to boycott products affiliated with Israel. The overwhelming support echoed through social media has made some social media platforms block content that contains support for Palestine.

To continue providing support for Palestine, netizens try to make posts without explicitly mentioning Palestine by using symbols such as the Palestinian flag, watermelon, and so on. People post watermelon symbols in comments, story posts, and photos on Facebook and Instagram. Facebook and Instagram users upload watermelon symbols and sentences such as 'From River to the Sea' or the hashtag #freepalestine or the Palestinian

flag. However, some upload the watermelon symbol without any explanation to avoid shadowban.

Social media is used as a means to spread support for Palestine through the use of symbols. According to a report by *We Are Social*, which conducted a survey on applications used by Indonesians aged 16-64, it was found that the most widely used application among this age group is WhatsApp, ranking first with a user percentage of 90.9%, followed by Instagram in second place with a user percentage of 85.3% (Rika Anggraeni, 2024). Instagram users worldwide have reached 1.45 billion, with Indonesia ranking as the fourth-largest user base after India, the United States, and Brazil. In this study, the researcher has chosen Instagram as the object of research because it is the second most popular application widely used by Indonesians, and there is a prevalent use of symbols supporting Palestine on this platform.

Symbols are part of signs that are conventionally used in society. In the semiotic approach, a symbol is understood as a sign with a conventional and arbitrary relationship between 'signifier' and 'signified.' Symbols do not have a direct or natural relationship with the object they represent but rather depend on the social or cultural agreement that gives meaning to the symbol.

Ferdinand de Saussure, one of the founders of modern semiotic theory, defined symbol as a type of sign in which the relationship between signifier and signified is arbitrary or conventional. In Saussure's view, a symbol is a socially determined sign and has no direct connection to the object it represents. For example, the word 'table' in Indonesian only means table because we have agreed on that meaning in the language system, and there is no natural relationship between the word 'table' and the physical object of the table itself (Saussure, 1916).

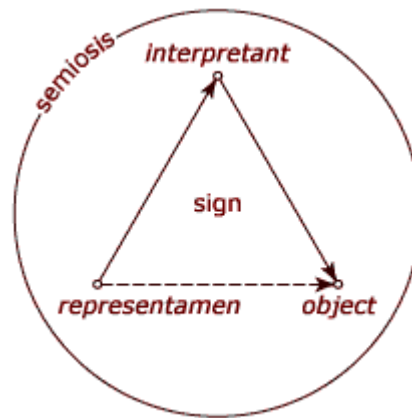
Symbols can be analyzed using the semiotics. Semiotics can be understood as the study of a wide array of objects, events, and entire cultures as signs. (Wibowo, 2013). Semiotics is a discipline that studies the signs used in various cultures to construct meaning (Chandler, 2007). In addition, semiotics also studies the systems, rules, and conventions that allow signs to have meaning. (Kriyantono, 2014) Based on the definition of semiotics, semiotics is the study of how symbolic forms are interpreted.

Charles Sanders Peirce defines semiotics as the study of signs and all that relates to them. (Rusmana, 2005). He states that semiotics is based on logic because logic studies how humans reason. Through signs, we think, relate, and give meaning to what the universe displays. Through semiotics, Peirce focuses on the function of signs in general. According to him, signs are related to objects that resemble them, and their existence has a causal relationship or is because of conventional ties to the sign.

Charles Sanders Peirce developed a semiotic view that divides signs into three categories: icons, indeks, and symbols. A symbol, in Peirce's perspective, is a sign whose meaning is not directly related to its object, but is understood through rules or conventions that have been mutually accepted by society. (Peirce, 1931) In other words, symbols depend on the knowledge or understanding that people have to interpret them.

According to Charles Sanders Peirce, a sign stands to somebody for something in some respect or capacity. Peirce analyzed the sign into a triangle, meaning it is a

sign/representamen, object, and interpretant. The sign for Peirce is always related to the triangle meaning; this is what makes Peirce famous for his triadic or trichotomy concept/theory, which is representative. When these three meanings interact in a person's mind, a meaning emerges about something represented by the sign (Nawiroh, 2014).



Picture 1. Charles Sanders Peirce's Trichotomy

The basic principle is that a sign is representative; that is, a sign represents something else. The process of sign meaning in Peirce follows the relationship between three points, namely Representamen (R) - Object (O) - Interpretant (I). The representamen is the part of the sign that can be perceived physically or mentally, which refers to something represented by it (Object). Then, the interpretant is part of the process that interprets the relationship between the representamen and the object. (Sartini, 2007.) This triangle theory is very closely related to getting answers to the problem of finding meaning in signs. Each term can only be understood if the three are connected.

Symbols in semiotics are arbitrary, conventional, and interpretive. Arbitrary means that a symbol has no intrinsic or natural relationship with what it represents. For example, there is no natural relationship between the word 'red' and the color red it refers to, except by linguistic agreement (Saussure, 1916). The conventional meaning is that the symbol's meaning is determined by social agreement. For example, the symbol of the cross has a crucial religious meaning in Christianity, but its meaning may be different in other contexts or cultures (Peirce, 1931). Symbols are also interpretive in that the meaning of symbols depends on interpretation and can only be understood by people who share the same cultural code or interpretive agreement. Therefore, a symbol may be understood differently in different cultures or contexts.

About the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, the dissemination of Palestinian-Israeli conflict issues in social media using symbols is not just a symbolic expression. It also contains a complex and contextual orientation of meaning. The dissemination of political issues and conflicts in the social media space, in addition to representing an informative fact, also contains the characteristics of symbols and meanings that are very important to

explain and reflect in the context of culture and media because symbols are not only a symbolic expression but also inseparable from meaning and context.

In the long history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, several symbols are used as a form of resistance, such as watermelon, Jaffa orange, cactus, olive tree, kaffiyeh, key, and other symbols. These symbols are not only understood in a local context but also adapted and spread globally through social media, art, and international activism. Social media allows these symbols to circulate across borders, creating resonance among global publics who may not be directly involved in the conflict but support Palestinian resistance through visual signs and symbolic narratives. According to (Stuart Hall, 1997), the media functions as a mechanism that produces meaning and ideology through symbolic representation. Thus, every symbol associated with Palestine not only expresses national identity but also builds global solidarity against colonialism. Therefore, symbols within a semiotic framework are essential to study to understand how meaning is constructed and communicated in an international context.

METHOD

This research is classified as descriptive qualitative research. Descriptive qualitative research aims to describe the phenomenon being studied, reveal the context, meaning, and processes behind the phenomenon, and present the research findings comprehensively (Lambert, 2012). Research with the same methodology has been widely used by previous researchers such as Syamsuar, et al. (2024); Mulia, et al. (2024); Syamsuar and Rizki (2023). The data sources used in this study are divided into primary and secondary data. The primary data in this study consists of symbols used to show support or solidarity for Palestine. Meanwhile, the secondary data includes journal articles, books, media articles, and other scholarly works related to the research problem. The data collection method is conducted through document analysis by identifying symbols of solidarity used on platform Instagram. Data collection is carried out by searching through the hashtags #Palestine and #freePalestine. The data analysis method employs Charles Sanders Peirce's semiotic analysis. Data is analyzed using Charles Sanders Peirce's triadic theory and it is connected with document studies on the historical emergence of each symbol.

FINDINGS

The Israel-Palestine conflict has spanned seven decades, and in 1967, Israel launched the Six-Day War in response to the rejection of a UN resolution. Within six days, Israel defeated the combined forces of Egypt, Syria, and Jordan. Israel successfully seized extensive territories, including the West Bank, Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, the Sinai Peninsula, and the Golan Heights. This victory radically altered the region's geopolitics and brought the issue of territorial occupation to the forefront of regional tensions (CE Noticias Financieras, 2024).

Israel's victory in the Six-Day War became a pivotal point in the political and military dynamics of the Middle East, also leading to a rise in symbols of resistance throughout the Arab and Islamic world. The use of symbols that show support for Palestine is a


manifestation of community resistance. Resistance is an attitude that relates to behaviour that rejects, refuses, or resists under certain conditions. (Komorina, 2017) According to Barnard and Jonathan in (Komorina, 2017), resistance is a refusal to protest changes that occur or are not appropriate. Resistance is an action taken by weak people to fight against strong parties.

According to (Scoot, 2000) resistance can be divided into two categories: resistance that occurs due to direct causes and indirect causes. The direct cause of community resistance is oppression, threats, pressure, and coercion. The indirect cause of resistance is resistance that is carried out secretly.

Concerning the Palestinian struggle, symbols are used as a form of resistance, and the power of these symbols goes beyond the borders of Palestine. The use of Palestinian resistance symbols in its current form manifests continuity and innovation. The concept of Palestinian resistance, which uses symbols, is considered more dynamic and adaptive.(Valensi, 2021)

A symbol is a sign whose meaning is not directly related to its object but is understood through rules or conventions that are commonly accepted by society. (Peirce, 1931) In this study, various symbols of resistance used on the social media platform Instagram include the Palestinian flag, watermelon, map of Palestine, kaffiyeh, olive, tatreez (Palestinian embroidery pattern), poppy flower, cactus, thyme, Al-Aqsa Mosque, Jaffa orange, slingshot, key, and dove. The following is a presentation of symbol analysis based on Charles Sanders Peirce's semiotic analysis.

Table 1. Symbol Analysis Based on Charles Sanders Peirce's Semiotic

No	Symbol
1	<div> <div>Palestinian Flag Symbol</div>  </div>
Category	Sign
Representamen	Palestinian flag with the color's red, green, white and black
Object	The Palestinian flag represents resistance, national identity, and the aspirations of the Palestinian people for independence.
Interpretant	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meaning of the black color on the Palestinian flag is that it symbolizes the banner of the Prophet Muhammad's fighting troops. • The red flag was used by Arab tribes as a symbol of Islamic rulers in Andalusia (756-1355). In modern times, the color red symbolizes the Ashraf tribe of Hijaz and the Hashem tribe, descendants of the Prophet Muhammad. • The white color comes from the flag of the Umayyad Dynasty (661-750) who ruled Damascus for 90 years. The white color became a symbol of their reminder of the Battle of Badr, which was the prophet's first battle at Badr. • The green color in the Palestinian flag was previously also used when the Fatimid Dynasty ruled in North Africa. The meaning of the green color on the Palestinian flag is also to

	symbolize loyalty to Ali ibn Abi Thalib, the cousin of the Prophet Muhammad who was once wrapped in a green blanket to thwart an assassination attempt.
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2 Watermelon symbol



Category	Sign
Representamen	Watermelon
Object	The watermelon represents Palestinian national identity, resistance against restrictions, and an expression of solidarity.
Interpretant	The colors red, black, white, green is interpreted as the Palestinian flag and is used to protest Israel's suppression of Palestinian flags and identity. The interpretant of the watermelon symbol is the understanding that this fruit reflects the spirit of resistance of the Palestinian people and pride in national identity.

3 Map of Palestine Symbol



Category	Sign
Representamen	Map of Palestine
Object	The map of Palestine symbolizes national identity, the right to the land, and the struggle to reclaim occupied or lost territories.
Interpretant	The historical outline map of Palestine represents the geographic area associated with the region before the establishment of the state of Israel in 1948. The map serves as a visual representation of Palestinian claims to their land and self-determination. The interpretant of the map of Palestine symbol is the understanding that this map reflects the resilience, nostalgia, and determination of the Palestinian people to uphold their rights to the land. The map serves as a symbol of resistance and self-recognition amid boundaries continuously contested or obscured by conflict. For the Palestinian people, the map is not merely a geographic representation but also a symbol of the ideals of freedom and rights that they continue to fight for.

4 Kaffiyeh symbol



Category	Sign
Representamen	Kaffiyeh (square-shaped cotton headdress)
Object	The kaffiyeh symbolizes the Palestinian national struggle, solidarity, and resilience in the face of oppression.
Interpretant	The kaffiyeh is a square-shaped cotton headdress with a distinctive checkered pattern worn in many Arab regions. The black-and-white variant, worn by Palestinian men and women, symbolizes the Palestinian struggle for self-determination, justice, and freedom. The interpretant of the kaffiyeh symbol is the understanding that this scarf reflects the spirit of struggle, solidarity with the Palestinian people, and pride in national identity. For the Palestinian community and their supporters, the kaffiyeh is a sign that signifies moral support and a sense of brotherhood that transcends territorial boundaries. As a symbol of struggle, the kaffiyeh is also worn by international supporters as a form of solidarity.

5 Olive Tree Symbol



Category	Sign
Representamen	Olive Tree
Object	The olive tree symbolizes the sustainability of life, resilience, and attachment to the land of Palestine. Olives have been a primary source of income and culture for Palestinian families for centuries. This tree also represents endurance, as it can survive harsh weather conditions and has a long lifespan. The destruction of olive trees during the conflict is often seen as an attempt to sever the Palestinian people's connection to their land, reinforcing the olive tree as a symbol of resistance against oppression.
Interpretant	The interpretant of the olive symbol is the understanding that this tree reflects peaceful resistance, resilience, and emotional attachment to the land of Palestine. This tree symbolizes the endurance of the Palestinian people who continue to survive and thrive despite facing prolonged conflict. For the Palestinian community, the olive tree is a symbol of unity and perseverance in the face of oppression, as well as a reminder of their rights and national identity.

6 Tatreez (Palestine embroidery)



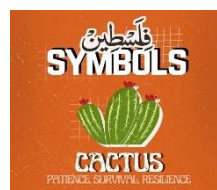
Category	Sign
Representamen	Tatreez (traditional Palestinian embroidery motif)
Object	Tatreez symbolizes the cultural identity, history, and heritage of Palestine that is fought for amid the conflict and efforts to erase their national identity.
Interpretant	The interpretant of the tatreez symbol is the understanding that tatreez is not just decoration, but also a form of Palestinian cultural resistance that preserves their identity in the face of colonization and cultural erasure. Through tatreez, the Palestinian people can express their spirit to preserve tradition, demonstrate their attachment to their homeland, and resist oppression through peaceful and creative means.

7 Red Poppy Flower Symbol



Category	Sign
Representamen	Red Poppy Flower
Object	The red poppy flower represents resilience, sorrow, and a remembrance of the lives lost in the conflict, as well as the Palestinian struggle against colonization. The red poppy is often associated with memorials for those who have fallen in the struggle, symbolizing the blood shed and the losses experienced by the Palestinian people amid the ongoing conflict.
Interpretant	The interpretant of the red poppy flower is the understanding that this flower reflects respect for the victims of the conflict, solidarity in the struggle, and the determination to uphold their rights to their homeland. Through this flower, the Palestinian people express their connection to their homeland and their commitment to continue fighting for their rights even in difficult circumstances.

8 Cactus Symbol



Category	Sign
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Representamen	Cactus
Object	The cactus symbolizes resilience, adaptability, and the fighting spirit of the Palestinian people in the face of oppression. As a plant that grows in harsh environments with little water, the cactus reflects the struggle of the Palestinian people who continue to fight for survival even in very difficult conditions. Additionally, the cactus can also represent Palestinian identity and heritage, as its presence is often associated with the local landscape and culture.
Interpretant	The interpretant of the cactus symbol is the understanding that this plant reflects the strength and resilience of the Palestinian people. The cactus, as a symbol of resistance, expresses that despite being in challenging situations, the Palestinian people remain able to endure and adapt. The cactus is also often used in the context of art and protest as a sign of solidarity and resistance against the injustices faced.

9 Thyme Symbol



Category	Sign
Representamen	Thyme
Object	Thyme symbolizes the cultural heritage, identity, and resilience of the Palestinian people. This plant is not only a food ingredient but also a symbol of the revival of traditions and culture threatened by colonization and conflict. The presence of thyme in cuisine and daily life reflects the deep attachment of the Palestinian people to their land and the enduring influence of local culture despite the challenges they face.
Interpretant	<p>Thyme plants grow in the mountains and can be found in areas of rock plates. The resilience of this plant is quite high because it can go through various types of weather. Palestinian refugees consider this plant as a representative of their land and a symbol of hope to return home. The various characteristics of the thyme plant such as being tough and challenging represent the Palestinian people. They will challenge and survive in any condition, weather, or climate. (Tirto.id)</p> <p>The interpretant of the thyme symbol is the understanding that this plant reflects the resilience, identity, and solidarity of the Palestinian people. By incorporating thyme into their daily lives, the Palestinian community demonstrates their commitment to preserving their cultural heritage and identity. This plant is often associated with a sense of solidarity among communities, both within Palestinian territories and in the</p>

diaspora, serving as a symbol of collective strength in the face of oppression.

10 Al Aqsa Mosque Symbol





Category	Sign
Representamen	Al Aqsa Mosque
Object	Al-Aqsa Mosque represents national identity, spirituality, and the rights of the Palestinian people to their land.
Interpretant	<p>The Al-Aqsa Mosque compound is situated in Jerusalem, a city at the epicenter of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, often regarded as a contested capital. Muslims hold that it was from Al-Aqsa that the Prophet Muhammad ascended to heaven during the Night Journey (Isra' and Mi'raj), thereby bestowing upon it a significant status as one of Islam's holiest sites, following the Kaaba in Mecca and the Prophet's Mosque in Medina. The compound is referred to by Muslims as al-Haram ash-Sharif and is known to Jews as the Temple Mount. This site has historically been a flashpoint for tensions, as Israeli forces frequently conduct raids and impose closures and restrictions on Muslim worshippers.</p> <p>The interpretant of the Al-Aqsa Mosque symbolizes resilience, identity, and hope for the Palestinian people. It transcends its role as merely a place of worship; it stands as a central hub in the struggle for justice and recognition of Palestinian rights. When the mosque faces threats or becomes a focal point of conflict, it ignites feelings of solidarity among Palestinians and their international supporters, underscoring the critical importance of safeguarding sacred places in the broader struggle for freedom. The complexities surrounding Al-Aqsa are emblematic of the intricate relationship between faith, politics, and identity in the region, illustrating how sacred spaces can serve as powerful symbols in socio-political movements.</p>

11 Jaffa Orange Symbol



Category	Sign
Representamen	Jaffa Orange
Object	Jaffa oranges symbolize the agricultural heritage, national identity, and rich history of Palestine. This orange once served as one of Palestine's main export commodities, reflecting the wealth and agricultural capabilities of the region. However, with the occupation and land confiscation, Jaffa oranges also

	represent loss, separation, and the struggle of the Palestinian people to maintain their rights to their land and local products. Palestinian novelist and journalist Ghassan Kanafani used oranges to symbolise loss in his 1958 short story about the Nakba, called The Land of Sad Oranges. (Aljazeera.com). Orange symbolizes wealth, prosperity, and abundance. Jaffa oranges also symbolize lost land and cherished memories.
Interpretant	The interpretant of the Jaffa orange symbolizes the resilience, cultural identity, and spirit of resistance of the Palestinian people. In the context of the conflict, Jaffa oranges become a symbol of hope for a return to the homeland and the restoration of lost heritage. The use of Jaffa oranges in various protest movements and campaigns helps educate the public about the importance of land rights and Palestinian identity.
12 Slingshot Symbol	
	
Category	Sign
Representamen	Slingshot
Object	The slingshot symbolizes the relentless and small-scale resistance of the Palestinian people against a large and heavily armed force.
Interpretant	The interpretant of the slingshot symbolizes that the Palestinian people resist in a simple yet spirited and courageous manner, despite facing a far greater and more modern force.
13 Key Symbol	
	
Category	Sign
Representamen	Key
Object	The key symbolizes the right to return, loss of homes, and the national identity of the Palestinian people. This key is not just a tool for opening doors; it also serves as a reminder of the lost homes and the grief experienced by Palestinian families. The key functions as a symbol of hope and resilience, demonstrating that although their physical homes may be gone, the memories and desire to return remain.
Interpretant	Many Palestinians still hold the keys to their original homes as a symbol of their hope and determination to return one day. These keys have been passed down through generations and

are kept as a symbol of the Palestinian right to return – a principle enshrined in international law that gives individuals the right to return to their original homes.

The interpretant of the key symbolizes the understanding that this key reflects the hope, resilience, and desire of the Palestinian people to return to their homes. The key becomes a symbol of identity and pride, affirming that even though many have been displaced and separated from their land, the hope for return remains alive in the collective memory of the Palestinian community. This symbol also evokes solidarity among international communities that support the rights of the Palestinian people.

14 Dove Symbol



Category	Sign
Representamen	Dove
Object	The dove represents the concepts of freedom, resistance, and the resilience of the Palestinian people against oppression. Doves are often associated with the symbol of hope for Palestinian independence from colonialism, implying the freedom desired by the Palestinian people, as well as their aspirations to be liberated from all forms of oppression.
Interpretant	The interpretant of the dove symbolizes the understanding that the dove reflects the spirit of the Palestinian people's struggle to attain their rights. The dove, often associated with freedom, is interpreted as a reflection of the Palestinian people's determination to preserve their identity and rights despite being in a situation filled with pressure and conflict.

DISCUSSION

The long history of the Palestinian conflict with Israel has given rise to various symbols of resistance that represent the identity, struggle, and solidarity of the Palestinian people. These symbols have undergone transformations in both meaning and usage as times, media, and geopolitical contexts have evolved. The evolution of Palestinian resistance symbols reflects the dynamics of the Palestinian people's struggle, which continues to develop over time, from a local issue to a global phenomenon.

Before the Nakba (1948), the identity and symbols of Palestinian resistance had not yet materialised in a clear form. When the British mandate controlled Palestine, prominent symbols were more likely related to general Arab symbols, such as pan-Arab flags and Islamic icons. Resistance to European colonialism, particularly against the British, was not yet focussed on national symbols specific to Palestine. However, towards the end of this period, Arab nationalist sentiments began to shape a more purposeful spirit

of resistance, and gradually, symbols representing Palestine as an independent entity began to emerge. George Antonius, in *The Arab Awakening* (1938), wrote that the rise of Arab nationalism also started to expand its influence in Palestine, which later became the initial foundation for Palestinian resistance symbols.

The Nakba event that occurred in 1948 marked a significant turning point in the evolution of Palestinian resistance symbols. The massive expulsion of more than 700,000 Palestinians from their land due to the Arab-Israeli war created a collective trauma that continues to be remembered through symbols such as house keys. The key symbolizes the hope of returning to the homes left behind during the forced expulsion.

In addition, during this period, the Palestinian flag, derived from the design of the Arab Movement flag, began to be adopted as a symbol of resistance and national identity. It incorporated the colors red, green, white, and black, each of which had historical significance in the Arab struggle and became the primary visual representation of Palestinian independence aspirations. The flag further emphasized Palestinian national identity. (Khalidi, 1997)

In 1987, during the First Intifada, symbols of Palestinian resistance became increasingly codified in the discourse of global resistance. The Keffiyeh, a black-and-white scarf previously the daily attire of Palestinian peasants, transformed into a symbol of resistance. Yasser Arafat, leader of the Palestinian Authority and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), introduced the keffiyeh as a symbol that reflected the Palestinian people's struggle against the occupation. (Sayigh, 1998). In Roland Barthes' semiotic approach, keffiyeh can be understood as a sign that initially has a denotative meaning as clothing. Still, its connotative meaning becomes a symbol of resistance and a solid national identity. (Barthes, 1972).

In the early 2000s until now, Palestinian resistance adapted to technological advances. In this era, symbols of Palestinian resistance were increasingly disseminated through social media, providing a new space for visual resistance and political narratives. Social media became the leading platform for spreading symbols such as keffiyeh, the Palestinian flag, and others. According to (Rose, 2016), this kind of visibility in public spaces is a form of visual resistance that disrupts dominant narratives of power. Over time, the keffiyeh was not only worn by Palestinians but also by international activists around the world as a symbol of global solidarity. This expanded the meaning of keffiyeh from a symbol of local identity to a symbol of international resistance. (Erakat, 2019)

The relevance of symbols supporting Palestine in the context of the Palestinian struggle is highly significant, as these symbols not only reflect the identity and hopes of the Palestinian people but also serve as tools to spread awareness and build solidarity among the international community.

1. Representation of Identity and Rights

Symbols such as the key, the dove, and the Jaffa orange carry deep meanings related to Palestinian national identity and the right of return. These symbols depict the collective experiences, history, and aspirations of the Palestinian people. When these symbols are used in campaigns or protests, they can help those outside

of Palestine understand the history and current conditions faced by the Palestinian people, thereby raising awareness about human rights issues.

2. Evoking Empathy and Support

These symbols connect the emotional experiences and struggles of the Palestinian people with an international audience, creating bonds of empathy. When people around the world see these symbols, they can feel the same pain, loss, and hope, which encourages them to show support, whether through direct action or social media campaigns.

3. Tools for Activism and Education

Symbols supporting Palestine serve as effective educational tools for explaining the Palestinian situation. For example, the use of the key as a symbol of the right to return becomes a means to educate the public about the issue of Palestinian refugees. Activism that highlights these symbols can attract media and public attention, creating space for further discussion about solutions to the ongoing conflict.

4. Promoting Social and Political Change

Symbols supporting Palestine function as powerful reminders of the importance of justice and the recognition of Palestinian rights in global discourse. Through the use of these symbols, the international community can collaborate to create policy changes, support international resolutions, and urge world leaders to take actions that uphold Palestinian rights.

5. Raising Global Awareness

Support symbols provide a clear and memorable way to convey the message of the Palestinian struggle and to address the political complexities that often surround this issue. By associating these symbols with the broader struggle for freedom and human rights, they can help garner support from various communities around the world.

Symbols supporting Palestine play a crucial role in reinforcing collective identity and affirming the rights of the Palestinian people. Through these symbols, awareness and solidarity among the international community can be awakened, prompting greater action in support of justice and freedom for Palestine. In this way, these symbols become a bridge between local experiences and global attention, as well as effective tools for promoting positive change.

CONCLUSION

Through this research, it can be concluded that symbols are not merely decorations or ornaments; they also serve as a form of non-verbal communication. Symbols such as the Palestinian flag, watermelon, and others function as representations of national identity and collective resistance in the digital space. In semiotics, these symbols construct meaning as signs of solidarity with the Palestinian struggle, allowing the international audience to engage and feel emotionally and politically connected.

Resistance symbols have been used in various ways to demonstrate solidarity with Palestine. These symbols act as signs indicating support for the Palestinian struggle and resistance against the oppression experienced. The use of resistance symbols as signs of solidarity with Palestine reflects a collective agreement among individuals and groups that support this issue.

The symbols representing Palestine on social media are complex semiotic signs that have the power to convey messages of solidarity, resistance, and identity through dynamic meanings and evolving socio-political contexts. Social media serves as a space for these symbols to be understood, interpreted, and widely adapted, thereby strengthening global awareness and support for Palestine.

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