

## **Racial Hatred against Syrian Kurds in Opposition's both (Political and Media) Speeches**

**"I have decided to stick with love. Hatred is too great a burden to bear."**

**Martin Luther King, Jr.**

**"Give me a media without conscience; I will give you a nation without awareness."**

**Joseph Goebbels**

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During the funeral of a Kurdish fighter in the city of Kobani, north of Syria, photo credit: France press Agency (FPA)

## Introduction

Qualitative transformations on the political, economic and technical levels have caused a digital revolution into Media structure in terms of performance, function and means, as it was freed from the formats of imitation and rigidity to pluralism and live activism. It was based on two basic pillars: the first one; is the freedom from Legal restrictions that restricted the media work to limited spaces by serving the political decision-makers, and the second one; is the transformation of the public into an active and participant element of the communication process. Because of having been a one-sided communication, in which the sender views the receiver in a negative and superficial way.

As a result, media plays an important role in the life of societies and in making ideology and public opinion, and this role has become more and more important with each development in media technology. Specifically, in the context of the traditional transformation of the media thesis and processing mechanism into innovation the same phenomenon in terms of the tool, coverage, and news circulation of political, economic, and social events and facts.

But this media development, despite its positive effects on the public level, and its creation of Communication revolution into the information structure and visual communication, bridging the cognitive gap amongst the strata of society to some extent; by satisfying the needs of the individual for news, education and entertainment. However, it was accompanied by new media methods to mislead the public opinion and take the content out of its natural context based on the agendas of the powers and blocs. They use the media window to undermine each opinion opposing its orientations (an individual or a group), in order to portray it in a negative stereotype that harms both material and moral levels. It may sometimes result into systematic campaigns of extermination and displacement against certain races, sects and regions, as in the experiences of Islamic State (ISIS), an extremist religious group around the globe, after framing the picture, the news, and its ideologization of the content by an explanation that stimulates violence and excessive hatred.

News services were stripped of the parameters of the ethical and professional system; due to the implantation of extraneous beliefs and values, in which the recipient personality crystallizes in line with the agenda of those in charge with the media, and to be replaced instead of previously stored opinions. Moreover, the images and words that are being disseminated on television screens become the foundation of mental values and images about the real world. In other words, in a more significant sense, the targeted group will gain a mass culture based on the cumulative impact due to its consistency of its watching of the visual material. This is what we call in the media the theory of (implantation i.e. Cultivation Theory, in which the long-term quantitative

effect of visual material on a social category, which is subjected to three main stages (learning, construction, and dissemination). It dissolves the perceptions and concepts of society in a manner that is consistent with the sender's tendencies and orientations.

This is clear when the violence and bloody conflict are escalated, highly influential and important political facts float on the surface, in which the conflicting parties employ the media space as an outlet and a shelter for striking civil and societal peace among individuals of the same community. Accordingly, it can be said that the media crisis has gone beyond the concept of political polarization and entrenchment, and breaking down with human rights standards, often switching to a gun for rent, the catastrophic point is that the media are mobilizing against each other, permits people's killing, and justifying attacks and even slaughtering on them)

### **Racial Hatred in international laws**

There are many forms of negative exploitation of a profession that "hatred media" agents have been activated within it, and the grounds of racial discrimination expanded in favor of the emergence of the black media, led by the idea of transforming the media outlet from a tool of societal enlightenment and consciousness to a platform of incitement and hatred that dilutes sensitive and important issues, framing its selected social groups through the diversity of their sectarian, ideology, tribal, regional and clan-based within repulsive formats that suggest to the rest of the components of society the dangerous and negativity of its existence in the same place, therefore, with its existence a Hatred discourse in all its forms becomes a public and inherited trait and culture in both media and societal environments. They affect the collective consciousness, consciously or subconsciously, without giving it a chance to arrange its thoughts according to the order of the logical perception, and these methods have long-term dimensions that may have potentially disastrous effects, often causing later civil wars and a rift that loses confidence amongst the components of society, why not! Hatred is

a political tool that brings about the worst instincts and aggressive tendencies in society)

We must praise here what international standards have defined regarding the issue of "Hate speech" throughout the balance in Articles 11 and 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Article 19 defines restrictions that can be associated with the right to freedom of expression, including "respecting the rights of others or their reputations"

**Article 22 states:**

- Any propaganda of war is prohibited by law.
- Any advocacy of national, racial, or religious hatred, which constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility, or violence, is prohibited

Thus, in this part of the problem of manipulating the minds of the public, it is necessary to bring up a task the (Gatekeeper) for assessing the political media speech content in its various stages, and its release. In case the hatred was not functional from impurities of violent vocabulary and racial superiority speech that rejecting the other opinion, and re-filter its vocabulary to formulate an alternative discourse that promotes tolerance and peace, contrary to provoking violent reactions towards a particular community group. They push it to be introverted on itself, and adhering more to the option of fanaticism to its nationalism at the expense of the patriotic identity umbrella.

A state of mind characterized by intense and irrational emotions, from hostility, abhorrence, and contempt towards the group or person. According to Camden Principles, and in principle (12), paragraph (1), Camden Principle states that all states must adopt legislation that

prohibits any advocacy of hatred on national, racial or religious basis that constitutes incitement to discrimination or hostility or violence.

The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination of 22 November 1963 (General Assembly Resolution 1904- article 18). It also confirms officially the necessity to the rapid elimination of racial discrimination in all parts of the world, in all its forms and manifestations. The necessity of ensuring an understanding of the dignity of a human being and its respect. The discrimination amongst human beings because of race, color or ethnic origin; an obstacle to the friendly and peaceful relations between nations, and a reality that would disturb peace and security among peoples and disturb harmony between people living side by side; even within one country)

### **The Syrian Crisis and Hatred**

In Syria, as in most countries that have witnessed political and military complications, environments have become suitable for racial and sectarian intolerance under the conflict circumstances. This is why the pace of insults, defamation and slander has increased in media and political speeches, and all of them revolved around the infighting and rivalry sphere for various political, ethnic, and sectarian tendencies, which made the soft power, is a tool to gain, to overthrow the other. Some battered media content with hate speech took a sectarian direction (Sunni discourse against Shiites and Alawites, and vice versa), and others have been dealt with by the opposition politicians from racial point of view, promoting a bleak picture of some nationalities, seeking largely to incite and mobilize souls. In the end, inciting people's and pushing its individuals to carry out acts of violence and aggression that its consequences cannot be predicted; as in the Syrian Kurdish case; the subject of the study. The Kurds were stigmatized throughout the years of the war in their country, with a hail of accusations and nomenclatures that violating the function of the media. The task of thinkers and politicians was to abuse and underestimate the Kurds, instead of monitoring social abuses and shortcomings, and maintaining

community's cohesion, they accused them with claims of separatism and the U.S. proxies, or they are thieves who seize the resources of the country, using artificial news materials in this course. Prominent opposition figures mock the Kurdish character, and devise his/her history with invented information and facts. This is not connected with the objectivity of the scientific thesis in any form, but rather they have gone as far as to ideologize history and geography, denying the existence of the Kurds and tracing their origins to the Arabs, Persians and Turks, without any evidence or proof.

All of what has been mentioned comes in light of the lack of studies and methodological research related to the topic, this would be analyzed and documented according to an evidence-based scientific methodology. Irrefutable evidence, to be a starting point for the subject of the study on the marketing of "Racial hatred against the Syrian Kurds in both opposition's media and political speeches.

### **The Study's Methodological framework:**

#### **The Study's problematic nature**

Hate speech is one of the justifications for escalating tension and turmoil within one society, especially those that suffer from ethnic, sectarian, and sectarian divisions, and marginalization and the exclusion practiced by the liner in promoting hate speech between each other entities.

Hence, the problem of the study lies in monitoring the content of Racial hatred against the Kurds in TV programs, such as "Here is Syria" and "Details" that broadcast on "Orient" channel, and the satirical TV program called "How are you" on Al-Jisr channel, in addition to this, an analysis and description of selected statements that he had been made by prominent figures of the Syrian political opposition) Asaad Al-Zoubi, Ahmed Kamel, Atta Kamel Atta, Haitham Maleh, Musa Al-Omar, Maysara

Bakur, Omar Al-Habal), and specifically those that deals with related-topics to the Kurdish issue or North and East of Syria in general.

Therefore, the research problem can be summarized from the following question: What are the implications of racial hatred against the Syrian Kurds in both opposition's media and political speeches.

### **Related studies**

Media researcher "Baz Bakary" concluded in the study he prepared under the title "The dealing of the alternative Arab media and Syrian media with the Kurdish issue in Syria the alternative.", to a conclusion stating that the means the alternative Syrian media has been unable to present to the recipient the reality of the Kurds throughout the years of the crisis, rather, it was affected by the policy of financiers and those in charge of it and contributed to the mobilization against the Kurds, and it did not prove its effectiveness in carrying patriotic concern, and stripping away from previous positions towards an essential component of the Syrian society).

While the researcher "Walid Zahra" has come in his study; "the contents and forms of hate speech and incitement of sectarianism and discrimination in the Arab Spring media.", to a conclusion that the political conflict amongst countries has been transmitted to the battlefields of war and local confrontations in the Arab Spring countries. These countries remained main feeders for their conflicts and media speeches that serve those policies, in the Syrian, Egyptian, Yemeni and Bahraini states models, and this was evident in the Saudi Arabia support for the sectarian and doctrinal conflict in Syria and Yemen (...). This led to the transformation of the Syrian revolution into a strange mosaic of sectarian and doctrinal conflict, which did not stop at the point the Arab street divisiveness, but rather, turned the Arab media into a tool of pressure, directing and investigation in general.



Overall, both the studies of "Baz Bakary" and "Walid Zahra" meet with the current study in terms of their starting point from the angle of targeting (Hate speech) within the media of some social segments. It also shared with it some of the analytical tools for research purposes, and the research results were quite consistent regarding the negative reflection of Hate speech on the structure of society, and the nascent "sectarian and ethnic" conflict relations between its members, and the role of "arranging the political agenda." in mapping the media content.

### **The Study's Methodology**

The present study falls within the "descriptive" studies based on the "study of phenomena or scientific problems by scientifically doing the description and then concluding to logical explanations that have evidence and proves that give the researcher the ability to set specific frameworks to the problem, and this is used in defining the search results.

The researcher relied on conducting a media survey of the researched sample and using the tool of "content analysis", given that its contents are the most appropriate tool in media studies to result in good science and research conclusions, and expectations, as well as making available conclusions about the sender on the one hand, and on the other hand, about reasons or backgrounds of the communication message

The interview tool was also used to monitor and derive the position of some Kurdish journalists and analysts to find out the backgrounds of the Syrian opposition's directing inciting statements and news feeds on violence and hatred towards their nationalism.

### **The Study's Queries**

The current study attempts to answer the following questions:

1- What are the most prominent violent implications towards the Kurds in the researched content?

2- What are the images of the violation of the humanitarian values against the Kurds in the researched content?

3- What are the examples of rigging of events and the absencing of facts about the Kurds in the researched content?

4- What are the most prominent negative stereotypes that were being marketed about the Kurds during the research period?

5- What is the most period for broadcasting racial hate speech against the Kurds?

### **Study variables**

**Independent variable:** Opposition's media, statements of opposition's political figures.

**Dependent variable:** Racial Hate speech.

### **The Study's Importance**

#### **The theoretical importance**

1- Highlight the risks of promoting racial hate speech and in spreading societal violence and causing a state of tension and spasm amongst its components.

2- The study contributes to creating a state of awareness towards ethnic Hate speech against the Kurds.

3- Clarifying the reasons of the escalation of hate and racial speech by the media and the opposition's political figures towards the Kurds in recently.

4- Drawing the attention of human rights and legal authorities to the extent of hate speech that is being broadcasted towards Syria's Kurds and the importance of the role of relevant organizations to reduce this rhetoric.

### **The practical importance**

1- Monitoring and documenting the racial hate speech against the Kurds, so that the picture becomes clearer with compelling evidence away from stress and emotional hassle.

2- That the current research constitutes a modest addition to related media and political studies that can be used later.

3- Exposing the contradictions between the media and political discourse of the Syrian opposition, especially with regard to the Kurdish issue.

4- Providing human rights and legal authorities (local and international) with the necessary arguments and evidence, to hold the parties involved in spreading hatred accountable, many of which amount to a crime level and anti-ethnic identities.

5- Enabling journalists and political figures to enrich their conversations, after relying on the content and results of the study in the case of TV shows' s presentation of related issues.

6- Making recommendations to journalists and politicians to avoid getting involved in publishing what incites hate and racism.

7- Working to supply the media reality, to enrich the academic debate with information that contributes to preserving the values and traditions of societies, and to respect their ethnic, linguistic, and sectarian diversity.

### **The Study's objectives**

The researcher seeks through the study to achieve the following:

1- Description and analysis of the contents indicating violence against the Kurds in the researched content.

2- Displaying the images of the violation of the humanitarian values against the Kurds in the searched content.

3- Shedding light on prototypes of rigging and absencing facts about the Kurds in the content subject.

4- Studying and analyzing the negative stereotypes that were being promoted about the Kurds during the research period.

5- Knowing the most periods that broadcast racial Hate speech towards the Kurds

## **The Study's boundaries**

Spatial boundaries: represented in the framework of studying and analyzing the content of specific episodes of political programs (Details, Here is Syria, How are you) shown on "Orient" and "Al Jisr" channels, and searches in the Kurdish matter, in addition to describing and analyzing an intentional sample of the inciting statements made by prominent figures from the Syrian opposition against the Kurds, and these figures are, such as Asaad Al-Zoubi, Ahmed Kamel, Atta Kamel Atta, Haitham Al-Maleh, Musa Al-Omar, Maysara Bakur, Omar Al-Habbal.

Temporal boundaries: The study period extends from May 5, 2017, to June 18, 2020, and this period is considered the most critical period for the Syrian Kurds. After political and military crises that imposed itself on the public scene in north and east of Syria, the Turkish-backed Syrian opposition took control of Afrin and Sere kaniye (Ras al-Ain), (Gire Spi)Tal Abyad, and what brought about of using of the withdrawal of the American guarantor and Russian of a threat to the Kurds on the one hand, and on the other hand the Kurds enter into intra-Kurdish talks for unification their ranks and their political and military rhetoric, in its turn, resulted in the escalation of the language of inciting racial hatred against them on the opposition's media and its prominent political figures, especially those they are being supported from Turkey.

## **The community and sample of the study**

The study's community consists of two political TV programs (Here is Syria, Details) that is being broadcasted on the "Orient" channel , and the satirical "How are you" TV program that was displayed on "Al Jisr"

channel, adding to that statements of the opposition political figures who hold high-ranking positions in the Syrian opposition body by attacking the Kurds with inciting language, and the study community that had been worked on is characterized with the media and political importance and influence on beliefs and tendencies of a segment of the Syrian social sphere, especially the one who is opposed to the Syrian President Bashar al-Assad's Government, where it was monitored interactions and participation of commentators on the programs, and hosting of the Syrian opposition politicians, accordingly, it was chosen to be the subject of study.

The researcher chose the intentional (Deliberate) sample due to the availability of the descriptions and characteristics in the sample units, and it was more representative of the researched matter that the researcher seeks to analyze.

The sample was chosen within average of (40) recorded episodes from the aforementioned programs and statements. It held titles discussing the presence of the Kurds in Syria in general, and the duration of each episode varied within (12 to 45 minutes).

### **Research interview**

The researcher relied on asking open research questions to prominent researchers and journalists on Media platforms, based on several perspectives, including:

- The testimony of some of them concerning the broadcasting content of the media and figures of the Syrian opposition that is violated the ethical and career disciplines, often mislead public opinion and invests a language that incites hatred and racial discrimination against certain social groups.

- Having a comprehensive view of the backgrounds of the directed media speech of the opposition, and prospects for the ideological political dimension of the hatred towards the Kurds.

The importance of the research interview is: it enriches the research content with realistic models, and is one of the most important the most honest way to collect information, especially as it gives the researcher the ability to identify on the tendencies and emotions of the interviewee, as well as his tendencies and beliefs, it also gives the respondent the opportunity to express his thoughts and points of view freely and independently.

In this regard, the Syrian researcher and writer "Rustam Mahmoud" finds that hate speech towards the Kurds in opposition's media is the result of four basic dynamics:

1- A speech that seeks to be aligned with the Turkish foreign policy discourse towards the Kurdish issue. These institutions in general have a vision for their future as stable institutions in Turkey; therefore, they make the hatred of the Kurds as a tool to improve its position.

2- A clear majority of the owners and officials of these outlets do not have a true political and cultural project, thus, it works to make the Kurds as a functional enemy, and to create a fake case.

3- The mentality of those in charge of these institutions descends from the remnants of the Baath Party, although they are separated from the Syrian political regime, their mentality, culture and spirit still follows the same exclusionary approach.

4- The hatred of the Kurds also comes from some opposition's media linked to its armed groups, as an excuse to mobilize some of its grass roots to join its military effort.

While the Syrian Kurdish journalist and correspondent of Voice of America "Zana Omar" considers the most important the criteria abandoned by the opposition media in conveying the image of the Syrian Kurd to its audience, it is the lack of commitment to sufficiency "calling things with its names not its adjectives," and he used pictures that were circulated on the Kurds with negative stereotypes, regardless of their functional characteristic as a militant, politician, or supporter for a certain movement, it was branded, based on the agendas of those media outlets, as "the terrorist and gangsters..etc" Hence, Omar finds that opinion leaders and politicians in the opposition body must call things by their names, not their descriptions, and to move away from circulation and absolute judgments in their conversations.

As for the effects of spreading hate speech on civil peace and community stability, the Kurdish journalist anticipates great and profound effects of incitement and hatred on the future of social relations with the Kurds. In particular, in the areas under the control of the Syrian opposition, which receives support from Turkey, and he enriches his speech with one of the living witnesses, "during the recent displacement of the people of Idlib as a result of the Syrian regime's attack in February this year. What was accompanied by advancement and control of villages and towns in Idlib countryside, a few of the people of those areas were able on breaking the stereotype about the Kurds, and heading to the regions of Raqqa and Manbij, in which the administration that the Kurds form the main nerve of it. After hosting them, they reached a conviction about the size of disinformation and the negative role of the opposition's Media outlets in promoting a distorted image of the Kurds, which was a reason for some of them to lose their lives in the cold on the Turkish border, rather than going to eastern areas of the Euphrates. "



In general, samples of the research interview are agree on that broadcasting hate speech against the Kurds by Media and opposition figures is a systematic process linked to the policy and agenda of the funding parties;(mostly Turkey), and aims to create a rift between the segments of the Syrian society and the creation of a negative stereotype about the Kurds as "terrorists", with their investment of the imposed circulation to launch descriptions indicating on racism and ethnic and sectarian biased.

### **Analysis Units and Categories:**

#### **Violence incitement**

- 1- Physical violence (killing, beating).
- 2- Verbal violence (defamation, slander and cursing).
- 3- Psychological violence (mockery, threat).

#### **Violating human values**

- 1- Insulting the individual.
- 2- Devaluating the values of Kurdish women.
- 3-Inferiority view.

#### **Falsehood of the facts**

- 1-Historical facts.
- 2-demographic facts.
- 3- Racial facts.

## **Negative stereotype**

- 1- Immigrants.
- 2- Separatists.
- 3- Traitors and agents.
- 4- Mercenaries.
- 5- Thieves.
- 6- Racists.
- 7- Others (criminals, barbarians).

## **Duration (to broadcast hate speech against the Kurds)**

- 1- 2017
- 2- 2018
- 3- 2019
- 4- 2020

## **The Study's Conclusion**

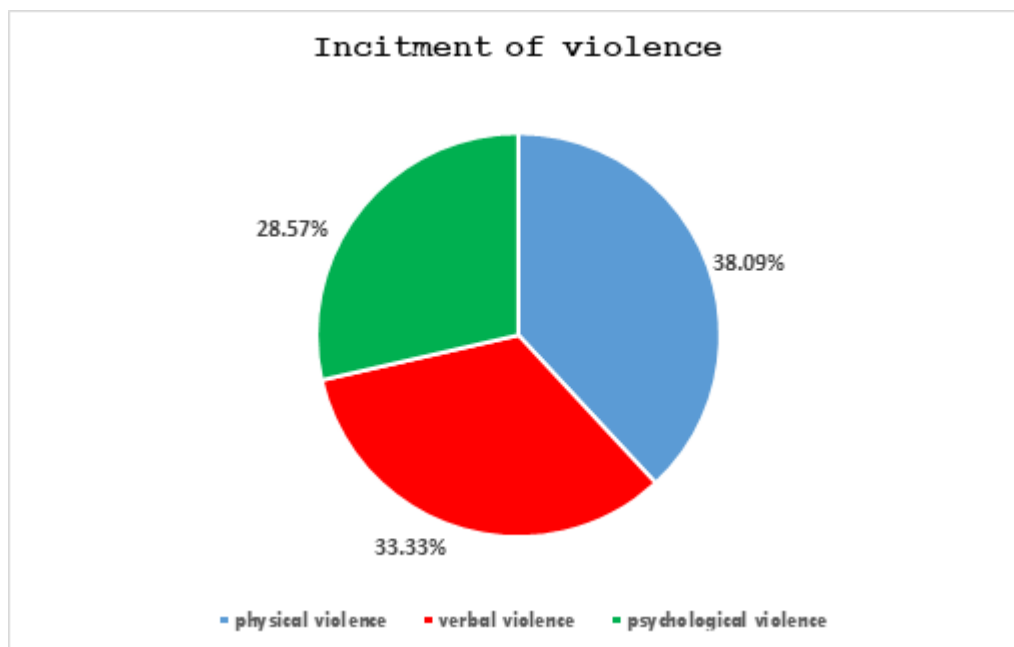
After the researcher conducted descriptive statistical studies by extracting the frequencies and percentage ratios of the study's variables, the results were presented as following:

### **1- The first question:**

**What are the most prominent violent implications towards the Kurds in the researched content?**

<b>Incitement of violence</b>	<b>Percentage out of 100</b>
<b>Physical violence</b>	<b>%38.09</b>
<b>Verbal violence</b>	<b>%33.33</b>
<b>Psychological violence</b>	<b>%28.57</b>

**Table Number (1)**



From Table No. (1) it is clear that incitement to physical violence may top the list of pictures indicating of violence with a percentage equal to (%38.09), and one of the forms of incitement to murder Syrian Kurds and their extermination, when the head of the Syrian opposition body (Former brigadier general in the Syrian army ), "Asaad Al-Zoubi" praised in the massacres of the former Iraqi president Saddam Hussein against the Iraqi Kurds, demanding that the "glories of Saddam" to be returned by using Chemical weapon again, and the extermination of the Kurds, saying: "There is no need to use pesticides for these insects, it is enough to spell the name of Saddam only, and they disappear quickly,

therefore, their appearance always makes us to feel mercy on him”: (the time: 16/8/2019, the outlet: Twitter tweet)

This is a clear indication of a high level of racial hatred towards the Kurds, and it is compatible to the content of one of the statements of the Syrian opposition’s journalist (of Palestinian origin) “Ahmad Kamel when he commented on the Syrian government's bombardment of opposition areas, saying:" there is no one bombing barrel on the Kurds even once”

He inquires why the Syrian army was so late in destroying and crush the Kurdish component, and calls for the elimination of their dream of building a national entity "on pieces of Al-Arab "as described by the opposition’s " Orient "channel, in an introduction to the program titled" Details ", (the Kurdish madness reaches its extent: preemptive Kurdification ...), (the time: 18/6/2020, the outlet: “Details” TV program, Orient Channel)

Most of these hosts witnessed a violation of the program’s broadcaster of career’s rules and the balance of its axes and the conduct of its managing, as he used to involve himself in the conversation and the axis of discussion and used to support any party’s point of view that is hostile to the Kurds, i.e. he did not stand at the same distance from all arguing parties, but often two or three guests were chosen to face the Kurdish guest. As for verbal violence, it ranked second, with a percentage 33.33. Its content came out top vocabulary characterized by abuse and loss of moral value, such as insulting and defaming the Kurds. Once their fate is in the "dustbin of history" according to the "Orient" TV vision or their defamation; Whenever most of the researched samples were agreed that the Kurds were practicing "ethnic cleansing operations against the Arabs, or as Orient TV called it, (the transfer of the Arab’s Fate from the reign of criminal sectarian minorities to be reigned by racist ethnic minorities who marginalizing other components), through broadcasting fabricated and unclear videos of some of those wearing uniforms the Syrian Democratic Forces(SDF) with their faces covered (attacking

defenseless civilians (women-young men), and they were carefully chosen to mobilize and overwhelm the clans against these forces, or to burn Arab crops by taking the topic out of its natural context and supporting it with videos of old Iraqi military factions burning psychological violence needed to be crops.

Alternatively, even sometimes, the opposition media used to turn violent arguments into a path, in which, conflict rages between a national minority (Kurdish) and a religious majority (Sunni Muslim), and thus mobilization of souls with a higher degree of spite and hatred towards each other. This is what in psychology is called "psychological projection," and it is a form of subconscious tricks that the party who is accused of aggression resorts to it, to raise its morale and protect itself from the accusation.

And since crises and wars are a fertile incubator for breeding violence and societal divisiveness, it was necessary for psychological violence to be possible (%28.57), and it was suggestive that its materials are marked by the mockery of the Kurdish character, and the mockery of his language and his pronunciation for Arabic vocabulary, and this is what seemed clear when it was embodied in satirical formats within "How are you" program, the episode of (SDF or we will burn the Country) (on "Al-Jisr"(bridge) channel), the Syrian version of the Turkish (bridge) channel.

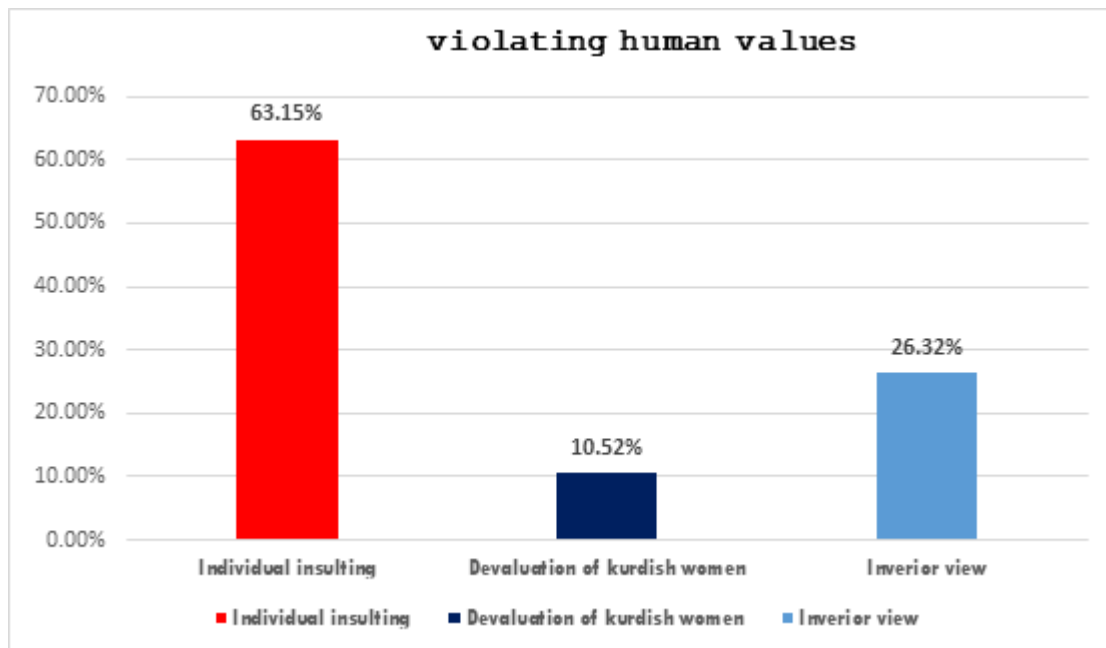
### **The second question**

**What are the images of violating the humanitarian values of the Kurds presented in the searched content?**

<b>violation of human values</b>	<b>Percentage out of 100</b>
<b>Individual insulting</b>	<b>%63.15</b>

<b>Devaluating the values of Kurdish women</b>	<b>%10.52</b>
<b>The inferior view</b>	<b>%26.32</b>

**Table No. (2)**



From Table No. (2) it becomes clear that insulting the Kurdish individual was one of the most prominent features of hatred which are violating human values, the percentage of which was estimated to be (%63.15), he described Kurdish individual with titles such as “dull” by inheritance, as in it had been said by political analyst Ata Kamel Atta, and "the insect", "donkeys", “cockroaches”, “rats,” and “worms,” as “Asaad Al-Zoubi” called them, and this is a sign of preconception. Moreover, it incites the hatred that violates the sanctity and dignity of the human being.

The inferior view and the devaluation of Kurdish women are also emphasized in the displayed content the first percentage was (percentage26.32), and the second one (percentage10.52). Inferiority models can be inducted to the Kurds by the opposition’s media, when "Orient" TV described them as "They are going to be brought like a sheep", they are "America's pawns," they a multipurpose tool, and so

many other descriptions of underestimating the value of the Kurds, while the "Al-Jisr" channel's public speech was equal to the "Orient" in terms of defamation and racial entrenchment when it embodied the Kurds in the form of cartoons on two mouse figures "Pink and Brian", and they are trying to take over the world, and they described the Kurdish fighter women as the agent who is recruited for the Syrian government and the American and Russian armies, they used profanity at her.

### **The third question**

**What are the models of falsifying facts and missing facts about the Kurds in the researched content?**

<b>Falsehood of the facts</b>	<b>Percentage out of 100</b>
<b>Historical facts</b>	<b>%25</b>
<b>Demographic facts</b>	<b>%41.66</b>
<b>Racial facts</b>	<b>%33.33</b>

**Table No. (3)**

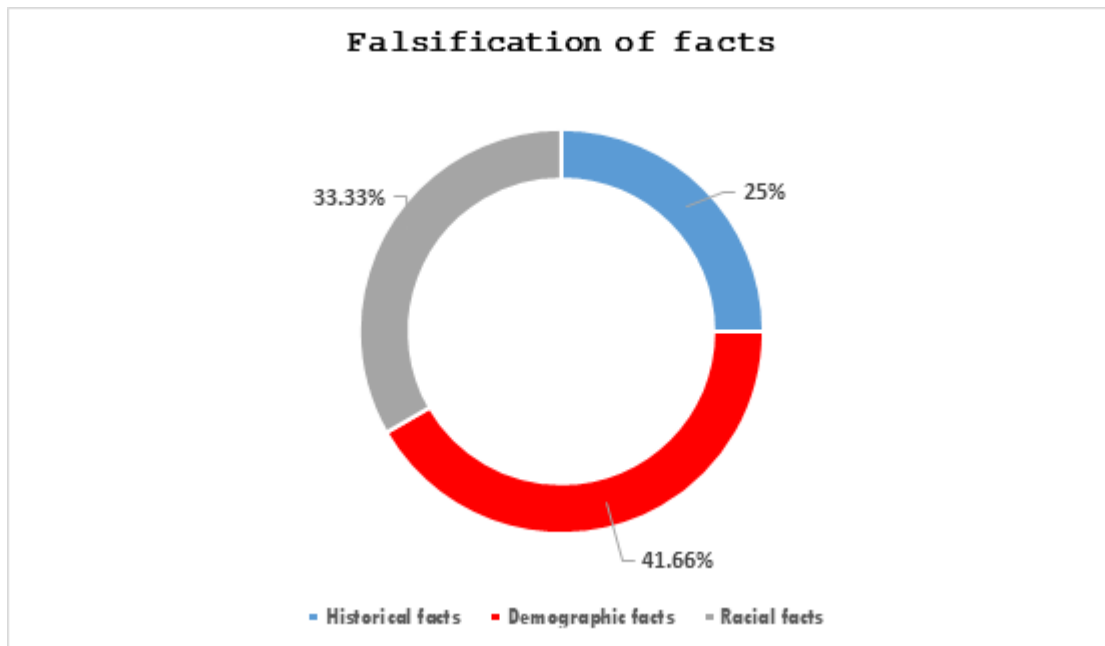


Table No. (3) shows playing on misleading public opinion and manipulating the minds of its individuals by blocking facts and creating false facts, it can be classified as one of the most methods to be dictated of (demographic, historical, and ethnic) false beliefs and visions about the Kurds. Patterning negative images of the victim in the mind of the public with artificial facts, as they reached

The percentage of broadcasting fabricated demographic information about the Kurds has reached up to (%41.66), and false ethnic information up to (%33.33), and misleading historical facts (%25). It was based on (Al-Masoudi), whose historical novels have a lot of controversy and suspicion, as a reference for navigating about the origins of the Kurds that their origins is back to Yemen as Arabs who were kurdified (expelled) two thousand years ago. They are descendants of the Turks, and the Persian Bedouins who inhabited the mountains, and came to Syria after Kemal Ataturk took over the rule of Turkey in the 20th of the last century. Their percentage is not estimated in the highest estimation only 1% of the total population of Syria, and they accused the Kurds of making fake Kurdish names for cities of which they constitute the majority. In this context the Syrian opposition journalist "Ahmed Kamel" attacked The French government for the introduction of the Kurdish issue in the 11th form French curriculum, in both (History and geography) subjects, and accused it of fabricating lies and exaggerating



the role of the Kurds in fighting the so-called Islamic State (ISIS) terrorist organization.

Thus, these techniques, which are based on reversing facts, can be considered an identity eradication, and it would have disastrous results in terms of ensuring the stability and constancy of the societal fabric, since, it will cause all parties to lose confidence in each other, and will put each party's presence before the crossfire of accusations and counter-violence.

The resort of opposition platforms and figures to tickle the feelings of the public with messages nourishing their affection, is a classic technique for jumping off the logical analysis and critical sense of individuals in general, using the emotional side opens the way for the subconscious mind to implant ideas, desires, fears, anxieties, urging to act in certain behaviors, and it is one of strategies of "silent weapons for fighting a quiet war", as the American thinker "Noam Chomsky" refers to it)

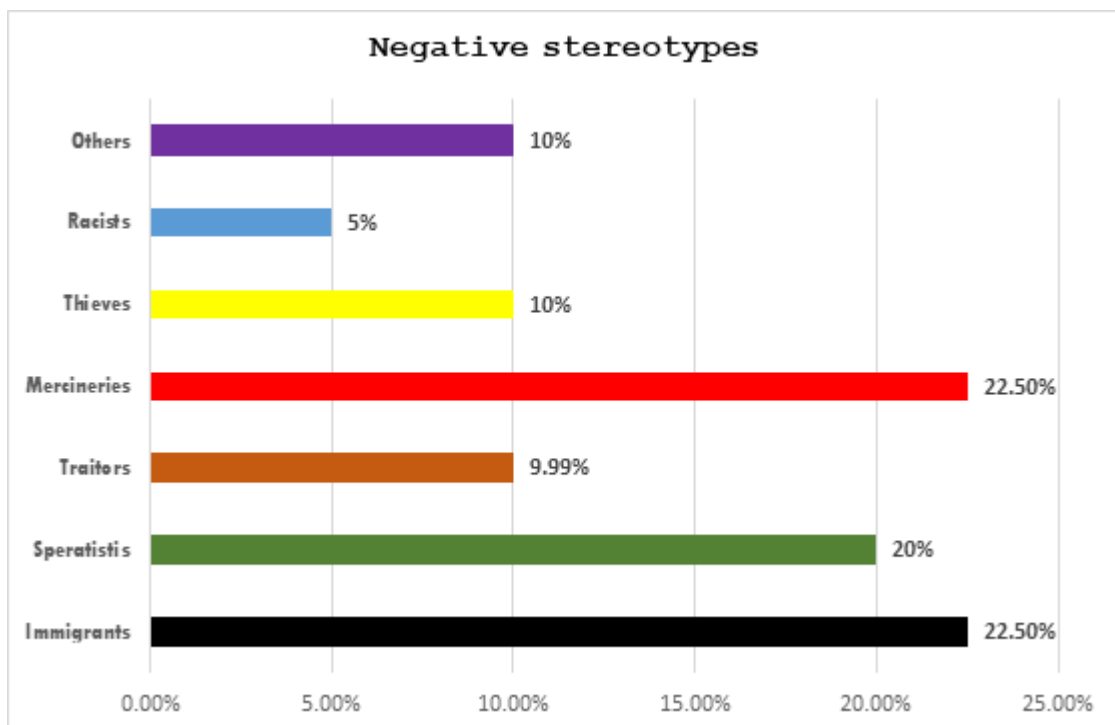
#### **The fourth question**

**What are the most prominent negative stereotypes that were promoted about the Kurds during the research period?**

<b>Negative stereotype</b>	<b>Percentage out of 100</b>
<b>Immigrants</b>	<b>%22.50</b>
<b>Separatists</b>	<b>%20</b>
<b>Traitors</b>	<b>%9.99</b>
<b>Mercenaries</b>	<b>%22.50</b>

<b>Thieves</b>	<b>%10</b>
<b>Racists</b>	<b>%5</b>
<b>Others</b>	<b>%10</b>

**Table No. (4)**



It is clear from Table (4) that the Kurds were being characterized with many hostile traits that would establish different mental perceptions of the reality of the Kurds through which the targeted public opinion is shaped, to exhibit violent behavior towards the Kurds, which may go up to the level of murder or at least a verbal abuse.

As the researcher mentioned previously, methods of reversing facts by the opposition's media and figures into service of agendas of funding resources and editorial policies that follow personal and regional interests. Here, the study proves once again the weaving of the same actors the terminology and negative stereotypes throughout TV shows, the portraying of the Kurds as "immigrants" were repeatedly topped

by (22.50), and a hired "mercenaries" on-demand to America and the West by (22.50), and they are "separatists" dreaming of "Kurdistan state" and building "a separatist entity in northeastern of Syria by (20), and they are "thieves and traitors" who control Syria's wealth and resources and they betrayed "the Syrian revolution", and they served the interests of the Syrian government and the Russian army by (12) for each one preceded, and racists (5), and gangsters and barbarians and barbarities (10), who are characterized by violence and ignorance, and are bullying with their "militias" they occupy Arab areas and impose a "de facto" policy.

Accordingly; Creating this negative mental image of the Kurds is classified as part of intellectual ideology propaganda charges the viewer's memory with images of hatred, and, it will certainly have long-term negative consequences, in which the negative characteristic towards the victim becomes a habit and a societal trait that generations are being raised on the same static image and it is resistant to change by a continuous repetition and on successive periods of time.

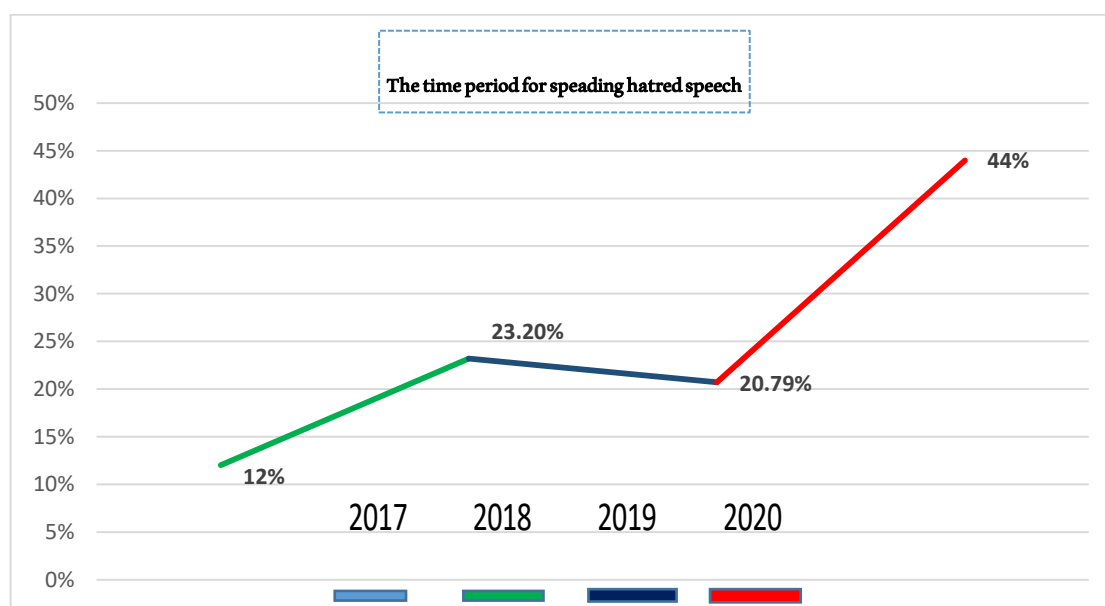
In keeping with the aforementioned idea, the American philosopher, Lee McIntyre composed the professor at Boston University a book on the phenomenon called "Post-Truth", considering that we have passed the point in time when we can obtain the "facts" and that we are living in Alternative facts' time, in which all facts are not only modified to serve specific purposes but are also they are being fought and eliminated.

### **The fifth question**

**What is the period for the most broadcast of hate speech against the Kurds?**

Duration	percentage out of 100
2017	%12
2018	%23.2
2019	%20.79
2020	%44

Table No. (5)



From Table No. (5) it is clear that the year 2020 carried the most severe forms of hatred and racial incitement against the Kurds by (44%), and most of the incitement vocabulary was focused around Kurdish forces who attempts to arrange their position and build a unified political and military body, although the Kurdish National Council(KNC) is a member of the Syrian Opposition's Coalition, it was not spared even of the opposition platforms and their figures who described it as gray, while the proportion was close between both years (2018) and (2019), with an average of (%23.2) for the first one and (%22.7) for the second one.

The media attack on the Kurds was accompanied by the launch of the "Olive Branch" and "Peace Spring" operations that resulted in Turkey's control and its Syrian opposition factions over the Kurdish-majority areas,

Besides, of demographic change and forced displacement of its residents, and the Turkish operation had been blessed by the opposition journalist, "Ahmed Kamel," who called for its continuation and neutralization along the entire Syrian Turkish border stripe (Kurdish-majority areas).

While the year (2017) had witnessed angry reactions towards the Kurds, most of them focused around the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG)'s declaration of a popular referendum on independence, and the media and the Syrian opposition figures have made analogy of the Kurdish region's model to the declaration of the State of Israel, and attacked any effort to establish any Kurdish administration in Syria.

### **General results of the study:**

Based on what was previously analyzed and described, the researcher reached the following conclusions:

- The incitement on physical violence topped the list of images indicative of violence.
  
- Insulting the Kurdish personality was one of the most prominent features of hatred that is disruptive to the respect for human values.
  
- The focus of the televised program hosts and their opposition politician guests has been on blocking these facts and creating falsehoods to consolidate false beliefs and visions about the Kurds, foremost among which is broadcasting fabricated demographic information about the Kurds, their origins and their linguist and social entity.

- The language of circulation was used to call them by descriptions that demean humanity. The Kurds were being described as immigrants and mercenaries.

- It turned out that this year (2020) carried the most severe forms of hatred and ethnic incitement against the Kurds.

- Turkey has embraced the majority of opposition figures and the anti-Kurdish media institutions, and its public discourse is paralleled with Turkish foreign policy.

- Most of the news introductions to the programs studied were inciting, in which the presenters have used content and body language that suggests nervous, and sometimes irony and mockery throughout employing the tone of voice and using the fingers to curb the Kurds.

- Orient TV has not committed itself to an objective balance, on more than one occasion in giving the Kurdish guests the legitimate time to respond to the guests of the opposition, and sometimes it confused the arrangement of his thoughts, either to cut off the audio or interrupt it under the pretext of bad Internet connection or by running out of time that has identified for him/her.

- Opposition figures and media did not have a political and cultural project that could address the Kurds by the friendliness and respected language as brothers and partners in the homeland.

- The emotional side was used more than the reflective and critical side of the news presentation.

- The outlets and figures of the opposition worked to sow strife and hatred, and to cause a rift between components of the Syrian society in the north and east of the country, by accusing the Kurds of conducting ethnic cleansing on Arab, Assyrian and Turkmen villages, and carrying out field executions against civilians throughout the display of blurry and fabricated videos and photos, some of them were taken out of its natural context or it was imported from outside of the Syrian border to install charges on Kurds, and pitting the Arab audience against them.

- Most of the opposition political figures, whose discourse was analyzed, were contradictory to themselves, once they would ignore the existence of a Kurdish nationalism in Syria, and another time they would consider them as true owners of the land.

- Opposition figures and media have targeted the symbols of Kurdish politics, classifying them as traitors, but they have reached the point of returning the origin of the former Iraqi president, "Jalal Talabani." and "Mustafa Barzani, the leader of the Kurdish movement in the Kurdistan region of Iraq" to Arab and Jewish families.

- Neither the opposition media, nor its political figures adhere to international covenants (Human Rights Principles) and ethical legislation that criminalizing hate speech.

## **Recommendations**

- The allocation of media programs and observatories (visual, audio, and written) that spread the culture of moderation and expose the methods of incitement and racism pursued by some media outlets.

- Audience's awareness and education; And alerting him/her to the danger of spreading racial hate speech on the stability and cohesion of societies, and its long-term negative effects on peaceful coexistence.
- Filing lawsuits against the TVs and personalities that incite racial discrimination and claim for material and moral compensation.
- Encouraging the Kurdish media outlets to present specific programs (popular, political, Historical), addressing the other Syrian components, to create a unified public window that strengthens Societal values within one society, to strengthen its internal front against incitement that coming from abroad.
- Including media education subject in school curricula and training journalists on it, for it provides the audience with a critical view of the targeted media content, and evaluates the flow of information, especially the criticism and exposure of the outlets that exploit the modest emotion and culture of the public to convince it of the colors of hatred against certain social identities.
- Considering human rights a basic subject in all educational levels, and briefing Media professionals with its materials to differentiate between freedom of expression and opinion and the promotion of hate speech.
- Spreading a culture of tolerance, pluralism and acceptance of others, and deepening the concept of citizenship to consolidate the Society against hate.
- Conducting media, psychological and social studies with a high scientific methodology to analyze forms of hate, and examines the reasons for its circulation.



- Raising the professional level of journalists, as independence and professionalism reduce the chances of broadcasting an extreme hate speech and blind stereotyping.

- Civil society committees concerned in issues of hate and racism can organize workshops and forums hosting responsible intellectual figures from all segments of society to promote the concepts of peaceful coexistence and to limit of hate speech.