



SABC DETAILED ANALYSIS

20240114_It's Topical / What's next ? SA's Genocide case against Israel.en

Broadcast: SABC-Sendung | Analyzed: 2026-05-25 10:52

Version 3.0-detail | Universal 3.0-detail | Konverter 3.4 (2026-05-20) | Standard: Broadcasting Act s. 6

OVERALL SCORE

6.2/10

Serious deviation from the impartiality standard. High degree of deviation

0 = balanced, 10 = strongly biased/manipulative

POLITICAL SPECTRUM

Classification based on Chapel Hill Expert Survey (CHES) 2024

The Chapel Hill Expert Survey (CHES 2024) is an academic survey of 609 political scientists in 31 countries. Each party is rated on a scale from 0 (far left) to 10 (far right).

Party	EFF	MK	ANC	IFP	DA	ActionSA	PA	FF+
CHES	1.50	3.50	4.50	6.00	6.50	6.50	7.00	8.00
Spectrum	Left	Left	Center	Right	Right	Right	Right	Right

The overall tendency is presented on a 0–10 scale (0 = strongly left-favoring, 5 = balanced, 10 = strongly right-favoring). The calculation is based on the difference in average favoritism of left vs. right parties (grouping per CHES 2024).

TENDENCY (L – R)

3.2 / 10

Left-favoring

0 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

← Left

Right →

Source: Chapel Hill Expert Survey 2024 — chesdata.eu | [Jolly et al., Electoral Studies, 2022](#) | Thresholds: [Pew Research Center](#)

This section provides political context and does not contribute to the overall score.



POLITICAL LANDSCAPE

South Africa is governed since June 2024 by a Government of National Unity (GNU), a broad coalition led by the ANC (159 seats, 39.8%) after losing its 30-year parliamentary majority. Key coalition partners include the DA (87 seats, 21.8%), IFP (17 seats), PA (9 seats), FF+ (6 seats), and five smaller parties, totalling approximately 287 of 400 seats. The main opposition outside the GNU consists of MK (58 seats, Jacob Zuma), EFF (39 seats, Julius Malema), ActionSA (6 seats), and ACDP (3 seats).

Party	CHES L-R	Seats	Gov/Opposition	Core Position
EFF	1.5	39	Opposition	Far-left; land expropriation, nationalisation, anti-capital
MK	3.0	58	Opposition	Left-populist; Zuma personality cult, anti-establishment
ANC	4.0	159	Government (lead)	Centre-left; broad church, transformation agenda
UDM	4.5	3	Government	Centre-left; rural base
Rise Mzansi	4.5	2	Government	Centre-left progressive
GOOD	4.5	1	Government	Centre-left progressive
Al Jama-ah	4.0	2	Government	Left economics, socially conservative
DA	6.0	87	Government	Centre-right; free market, liberal constitutionalism
ActionSA	6.5	6	Opposition	Centre-right; anti-immigration
IFP	6.5	17	Government	Right-wing; traditional values, Zulu nationalist
PA	7.0	9	Government	Right-wing populist
ACDP	7.5	3	Opposition	Right-wing Christian conservative
FF+	8.0	6	Government	Right-wing; Afrikaner interest

South Africa's ICJ genocide case against Israel is one of the most politically charged foreign policy decisions in the post-apartheid era, drawing strong support from the ANC, EFF, and MK while generating more nuanced or critical responses from the DA and some civil society actors. The case intersects with domestic identity politics: the ANC frames it through the lens of the anti-apartheid struggle and solidarity with the Global South, while critics question whether the case serves South Africa's national interest or reflects selective moral outrage. The Gaza/Israel conflict also activates fault lines around antisemitism, Islamophobia, and the legacy of South Africa's own liberation struggle, making balanced coverage exceptionally difficult.

The SABC is South Africa's public broadcaster, mandated under the Broadcasting Act 4 of 1999 and its own Charter to provide programming that meets the highest standards of journalism, including fairness, accuracy, and impartiality. The BCCSA Code (Clauses 16 and 18) requires news to be reported truthfully, accurately, and in a balanced manner, with opposing views presented on controversial issues of public importance. The SABC has a documented history of political capture during the Hludi Motsoeneng era (2012–2016), and questions about residual ANC editorial influence remain relevant to any bias assessment.



CHAPTER 1 — PARTY-POLITICAL BIAS

This episode does not focus on domestic party politics in the conventional sense. The subject matter is South Africa's ICJ case against Israel. However, the ANC government's foreign policy position is central to the broadcast, and the episode implicitly endorses that position. No domestic party other than the ANC (through its Minister of Justice) is represented. The following assessment reflects how party positions on the Gaza/ICJ issue are represented.

Party	Score (-5..+5)	Broadcast Representation vs. Party Programme Position
ANC	+2	12:04–18:17 — Minister Lamola presents ANC/government position at length, unchallenged on core claims. Programme position: ANC supports ICJ case, frames it as moral obligation rooted in anti-apartheid solidarity. Representation: broadly correct and favourable.
DA	-2	Not directly represented. DA's more cautious position on the ICJ case (questioning whether it serves SA's national interest, concern about one-sidedness) is entirely absent. Programme position: DA has expressed reservations about the case. Representation: omitted/distorted by absence.
MK	0	Not mentioned. Not relevant to this episode's subject matter.
EFF	0	Not directly represented, though the pro-Palestinian framing aligns with EFF's stated position. No EFF spokesperson present.
IFP	0	Not mentioned. Not relevant to this episode's subject matter.
PA	0	Not mentioned. Not relevant to this episode's subject matter.
FF+	0	Not mentioned. Not relevant to this episode's subject matter.
ActionSA	0	Not mentioned. Not relevant to this episode's subject matter.

Party Bias Summary

- Most accurate representation: ANC (Score +2) — the government's position is presented fully and sympathetically through the Minister of Justice.
- Strongest distortion: DA (Score -2) — the DA's publicly stated reservations about the ICJ case are entirely absent, creating a false impression of national consensus.
- Average deviation from 0: 0.5
- Conclusion: The episode functions as a platform for the ANC government's foreign policy position. The absence of any DA or opposition voice on the ICJ case means the domestic political debate about whether South Africa should have brought this case is not represented. This is a meaningful omission given that the DA, as the second-largest party and a GNU coalition partner, has publicly questioned the case's framing and implications.



CHAPTER 2 — BROADCAST INFORMATION AND THEMATIC FRAMEWORK

Broadcast Data

- Title: It's Topical (SABC)
- Date: January 2024 (internal evidence: ICJ hearings took place 11–12 January 2024; death toll cited as 23,210 Palestinians)
- Estimated length: Approximately 56 minutes
- Presenter/Reporter: Blaine Herman (host); Sophie Mokoena (SABC News International Editor, reporter from The Hague)
- Interviewed persons:

Actors	Function	Party/Affiliation	Political Spectrum
Blaine Herman	Host/Presenter	SABC	Neutral (institutional)
Sophie Mokoena	SABC International Editor	SABC	Institutional/pro-SA government framing
Ronald Lamola	Minister of Justice	ANC (Government)	Centre-left
Abraham Krengel	President, SA Jewish Board of Deputies / SA Zionist Federation	Pro-Israel civil society	Centre-right to right
Prof. Martha Bradley	Associate Professor, Public Law, University of Johannesburg	Academic	Neutral (legal expert)
Rise Reuben	Unidentified — described as guest/digital audience participant	Pro-Palestinian activist	Far-left
"Pumani" (Phumani)	Unidentified commentator	Described as neither pro-Palestine nor pro-Israel	Centre
"Zanab"	Unidentified commentator	Pro-Palestinian	Left
"Monkey" (Mniki?)	Unidentified digital audience participant	Pro-Israel	Centre-right
Jeremy Corbyn	Former UK Labour leader (soundbite)	Pro-Palestinian	Far-left
Street interviewees (5)	Members of public, Johannesburg	Mixed	Mixed

Main Topic

South Africa's ICJ genocide case against Israel — specifically whether South Africa made a sufficiently strong legal case for the court to grant provisional measures, and whether there is a plausible claim of genocidal intent.

World-View Context

The ICJ proceedings (11–12 January 2024) represent the first time a state has formally accused Israel of genocide under the 1948 Genocide Convention. South Africa's case is globally significant: it positions the country as a moral leader of the Global South and draws explicit parallels with the anti-apartheid struggle. Israel's defence rests on the right to self-defence following the Hamas attacks of 7 October 2023, in which approximately 1,200 Israelis were killed



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and approximately 250 taken hostage. The case is deeply contested: international legal scholars are divided on whether the threshold for provisional measures has been met, and the political implications extend far beyond the courtroom. The episode was broadcast while the death toll in Gaza had reached approximately 23,000, with significant civilian casualties.



CHAPTER 3 — 15 CRITERIA: DETAILED ANALYSIS

Hard Facts — 9 techniques that are countable and scientifically verifiable

1. EXPERT SELECTION

7/10

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Expert 1: Ronald Lamola — Minister of Justice, ANC

Timestamp	12:04–18:29
Statement	"we believe that we have presented a compelling legal argument for the court to find in our favour"
Classification	Government minister and direct party to the proceedings. Not a neutral expert — he is the political principal responsible for the case.
Missing counter-voice	An Israeli government minister or legal representative in an equivalent interview format.

Source Depth Check:

(a) **FUNDING:** South African government (ANC-led). Direct institutional interest in the case succeeding — political capital invested, reputational stakes high.

(b) **MANDATE:** Entirely incompatible with neutral assessment. Lamola is the political architect of the case.

D1 Conflict of Interest: -2 — Direct party to proceedings; political career linked to outcome

D2 Personal Risk: +1 — Some political risk if case fails, but framed as moral victory regardless

D3 Subject Competence: +1 — Legal background, but speaking as politician not legal scholar

D4 Opinion Consistency: +2 — Consistent ANC position on Palestine

D5 Emotionalisation vs. Data: -1 — Mix of legal argument and emotional appeal ("children that can't go to school")

D6 Source Level: -1 — Secondary (government position, not primary legal analysis)

TOTAL: 0 → SOURCE LIGHT: YELLOW

(c) **PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE:** Lamola is framed as an authoritative legal voice ("fresh from The Hague") when he is in fact a political advocate. This is Technique 2 (source selection as authority laundering).

Expert 2: Prof. Martha Bradley — Associate Professor, Public Law, University of Johannesburg

Timestamp	42:26–54:35
Statement	"genocide is jus cogens this means that this is almost an Uber Norm of public international law there's no excuse you cannot commit genocide"
Classification	Academic international law specialist. Closest to a neutral expert in the broadcast.
Missing counter-voice	A scholar who argues that the genocide intent threshold is not met — e.g., a scholar citing the ICJ's own jurisprudence in <i>Bosnia v. Serbia</i> (2007), which set a very high bar for <i>dolus specialis</i> .

Source Depth Check:

(a) **FUNDING:** University of Johannesburg (public university). No direct financial conflict of interest identified.



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(b) MANDATE: Compatible with neutral legal analysis in principle.

D1 Conflict of Interest: +1 — No direct financial stake; some institutional pressure in SA academic environment to support the case

D2 Personal Risk: +1 — Modest; academic freedom generally protected

D3 Subject Competence: +2 — Specialist in public international law and international humanitarian law; directly relevant

D4 Opinion Consistency: +1 — Consistent with her published academic positions (assumed)

D5 Emotionalisation vs. Data: +1 — Largely data/law-based, though some framing favours SA's position

D6 Source Level: +2 — Primary academic analysis

TOTAL: +8 → SOURCE LIGHT: GREEN

(c) PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE: Bradley's analysis is the most credible in the broadcast, but her framing consistently supports South Africa's legal framework. She does not engage with the strongest counter-arguments (e.g., the Bosnia standard for *dolus specialis*, the question of whether Hamas's actions could themselves constitute genocide).

Expert 3: Abraham Kregel — President, SA Zionist Federation

Timestamp	34:54–54:48
Statement	"that's not genocide that's not crimes against humanity that's not even law uh war crimes"
Classification	Civil society advocate representing the South African Jewish community and pro-Israel position. Not a legal expert.
Missing counter-voice	A Palestinian civil society representative in an equivalent structured role.

Source Depth Check:

(a) FUNDING: SA Zionist Federation — community organisation funded by membership and donations. Institutional mandate to advocate for Israel and Jewish community interests.

(b) MANDATE: Incompatible with neutral assessment. Structural advocacy role.

D1 Conflict of Interest: -2 — Institutional mandate to support Israel

D2 Personal Risk: +1 — Some personal risk in speaking publicly in current SA climate

D3 Subject Competence: 0 — Not a legal expert; speaks as community advocate

D4 Opinion Consistency: +2 — Consistent with SA Zionist Federation's stated positions

D5 Emotionalisation vs. Data: 0 — Mix of data (casualty comparisons) and advocacy framing

D6 Source Level: -1 — Secondary (advocacy position)

TOTAL: 0 → SOURCE LIGHT: YELLOW

(c) PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE: he is outnumbered, his credentials are not presented as legal expertise, and he is challenged more directly than other guests.

Expert 4: Rise Reuben — Unidentified guest

Timestamp	37:35–41:43
Statement	"I think our legal team did a stunning job in arguing that in both intent and practice Israel is guilty of genocide... the truth is that the Israeli state is guilty of it and this is a fact"
Classification	Pro-Palestinian activist. No credentials presented. Makes definitive legal pronouncements ("this is a fact") without legal qualification.
Missing counter-voice	No equivalent unqualified pro-Israel activist is given comparable airtime.

Source Depth Check:

(a) FUNDING: Unknown. No affiliation stated.

(b) MANDATE: Unknown. No institutional context provided.

D1 Conflict of Interest: -2 — Stated advocacy position; no neutrality claimed

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D2 Personal Risk: 0 — Unknown

D3 Subject Competence: -2 — No legal credentials; makes definitive legal pronouncements

D4 Opinion Consistency: +1 — Consistent advocacy position

D5 Emotionalisation vs. Data: -2 — Highly emotional; uses analogy (AIDS denialist) to delegitimise opposing views

D6 Source Level: -2 — Tertiary (advocacy opinion)

TOTAL: -7 → SOURCE LIGHT: RED

(c) PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE: Rise Reuben is presented as a legitimate panellist despite having no stated credentials and making legally unfounded definitive pronouncements. His comparison of Israel-sympathetic voices to "AIDS denialists" is a delegitimation technique that goes unchallenged by the host.

Missing Expert Groups:

- Neutral international law scholar from outside South Africa with no stake in the case
- Israeli legal team member or government spokesperson (interviewed directly, not via montage)
- Palestinian legal team member (interviewed directly, not via montage)

Source Credibility Overview:

Source	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	Total	Signal
Ronald Lamola — Minister of Justice, ANC	-2	+1	+1	+2	-1	-1	?	?
Prof. Martha Bradley — Associate Professor, Public Law, University of Johannesburg	+1	+1	+2	+1	+1	+2	?	?
Abraham Krengel — President, SA Zionist Federation	-2	+1	0	+2	0	-1	?	?

Summary (Matrix Results):

- Lamola: YELLOW (0) — political advocate framed as authoritative legal voice
- Bradley: GREEN (+8) — most credible expert; analysis leans toward SA's framework
- Krengel: YELLOW (0) — community advocate, not legal expert; structurally marginalised
- Rise Reuben: RED (-7) — unqualified activist making definitive legal pronouncements; unchallenged

Source Credibility Overview:

Source	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	Total	Signal
Rise Reuben — Unidentified guest	-2	0	-2	+1	-2	-2	?	?



2. SOURCE SELECTION

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Claims without primary source = penalty points (rumour check)

Source 1: Jeremy Corbyn — Former UK Labour Leader (soundbite)

Timestamp 23:07–23:48

Statement "I thought it was a superb presentation brilliantly put forward very closely argued and analyzed"

(a) Funding and governance: No current institutional affiliation. Former Labour leader expelled from the Labour Party following findings of antisemitism under his leadership.

(b) Structural conflict of interest: Corbyn has a documented history of pro-Palestinian advocacy and was present at The Hague as a supporter of South Africa's case. He is not a neutral observer.

(c) Missing counter-source: No equivalent pro-Israel political figure's reaction is sought or presented.

Rumour Check: No unverified claims in this source.

Source 2: UN figures and bodies (cited by Lamola and in montage)

Timestamp 14:30–14:55, 04:43–05:11

Statement "we have presented a board of evidence from various UN bodies ad committees organs of the UN" (Lamola, 14:30)

(a) Funding: UN — intergovernmental organisation. Not independent of member state politics.

(b) Structural conflict of interest: UN bodies have taken varying positions on the conflict. Citing "UN bodies" generically without specifying which bodies or which findings is a source-laundering technique.

(c) Missing counter-source: No citation of UN bodies or reports that have documented Hamas's use of civilian infrastructure, hostage-taking, or the October 7 atrocities in equivalent detail.

Rumour Check:

Rumour 1:

Timestamp: 24:31–24:48

Claim: "we talking about more than 20,000 and 70% are children" (Sophie Mokoena)

Word marker: No explicit hedge — stated as fact

Primary source: Not cited. Hamas-controlled Gaza Health Ministry figures. The 70% children figure is not consistent with other analyses of the casualty data and is not attributed to a specific source.

Primary source present: NO — +1 penalty point

Source 3: Hamas casualty figures

Timestamp 36:57–37:08 (Krengel), 50:58–51:03 (Zanab)

Statement "according to Hamas numbers may be reliable may be not 23,000" (Krengel, 36:57)

(a) Funding: Hamas — designated terrorist organisation by multiple states. Directly interested in maximising reported civilian casualties.

(b) Structural conflict of interest: Hamas controls the Gaza Health Ministry, which produces the casualty figures. These figures are used throughout the broadcast without consistent attribution or caveat.



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(c) Missing counter-source: Israeli military figures on combatant vs. civilian casualties are mentioned by Krengel but not independently verified or examined.

Rumour Check:

Rumour 2:

Timestamp: 47:53–47:56

Claim: "one of the hostages testified that when Israel bombs the Hamas fighters terrorists in these tunnels don't even wake up from their sleep" (Krengel)

Word marker: "testified" — unverified, no source cited

Primary source present: NO — +1 penalty point

Summary: The broadcast relies heavily on sources that are structurally aligned with South Africa's legal position (UN bodies cited generically, Hamas casualty figures used without consistent caveat, Jeremy Corbyn as a "reaction" source). The only source offering an Israel-sympathetic perspective (Krengel) is a community advocate, not an independent expert. Two rumour penalty points apply.



3. TIME ALLOCATION

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Estimated speaking time:

- Blaine Herman (host): approx. 8 min (14%)
- Ronald Lamola (ANC/pro-SA case): approx. 7 min (12%)
- Sophie Mokoena (SABC/broadly pro-SA framing): approx. 10 min (18%)
- Prof. Martha Bradley (academic/broadly pro-SA framework): approx. 8 min (14%)
- Rise Reuben (pro-Palestinian activist): approx. 4 min (7%)
- "Zanab" (pro-Palestinian): approx. 2 min (4%)
- Abraham Krengel (pro-Israel): approx. 7 min (12%)
- "Pumani/Phumani" (centrist): approx. 2 min (4%)
- "Mniki/Monkey" (pro-Israel, digital): approx. 1 min (2%)
- Jeremy Corbyn soundbite (pro-Palestinian): approx. 1 min (2%)
- Pro-Israel protester soundbite: approx. 0.5 min (1%)
- Street interviews (mixed): approx. 3 min (5%)
- Montage (broadly pro-SA framing): approx. 4 min (7%)

Pro-SA/pro-Palestinian voices: Lamola + Mokoena + Bradley + Rise + Zanab + Corbyn soundbite + montage = approx. 36 min (63%)

Pro-Israel/critical voices: Krengel + Mniki + pro-Israel protester soundbite = approx. 8.5 min (15%)

Neutral/mixed: Herman + Pumani + street interviews = approx. 13 min (23%)

Summary: The time allocation is significantly skewed toward pro-South Africa/pro-Palestinian perspectives. Pro-Israel voices receive approximately 15% of total airtime against 63% for pro-SA/pro-Palestinian voices. This imbalance is not consistent with the BCCSA requirement for balanced presentation of opposing views on controversial issues of public importance.



4. SELECTIVE OMISSION							7/10		
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Omission 1:									
Context									
The domestic South African political debate about the ICJ case — including the DA's publicly stated reservations, the financial cost of the case, and questions about ANC political motivations — is entirely absent.									
Relevant at: Throughout the broadcast; no timestamp because it is never raised.									
Effect									
Creates a false impression of national consensus behind the case. Viewers are not informed that South Africa's second-largest party and GNU coalition partner has expressed significant reservations.									

Omission 2:									
Context									
The Hamas October 7 attacks are acknowledged but never examined in depth. The specific atrocities — mass murder, sexual violence, kidnapping of children — are not described or analysed with the same level of detail as Palestinian civilian casualties.									
Relevant at: 01:23–01:28, 13:29–13:33									
Effect									
Creates an asymmetric emotional landscape in which Palestinian suffering is vivid and detailed while Israeli civilian suffering is abstract and briefly acknowledged.									

Omission 3:									
Context									
The ICJ's own jurisprudence on the genocide intent standard — particularly <i>Bosnia v. Serbia</i> (2007), which established that <i>dolus specialis</i> (specific genocidal intent) must be the only reasonable inference from the evidence — is never mentioned. This is the most directly relevant legal precedent and would significantly complicate South Africa's case.									
Relevant at: 42:26–46:27 (Bradley's legal analysis)									
Effect									
Viewers receive an incomplete picture of the legal standard the court must apply, making South Africa's case appear stronger than the legal precedent suggests.									

Summary: Three significant omissions collectively create a broadcast that presents South Africa's case as legally strong, morally unambiguous, and nationally supported — none of which is an accurate representation of the full picture.

Missing Voices

- Israeli government legal representative or spokesperson: Would have provided direct rebuttal to South Africa's arguments rather than relying on montage excerpts.
- Neutral international law scholar (e.g., from a European or North American university with no stake in the case): Would have provided an independent assessment of whether the genocide threshold is plausibly met.
- DA spokesperson or representative: Would have represented the domestic political debate about whether South Africa should have brought this case.



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- Hostage family representative: Would have provided the human dimension of the Israeli civilian experience, balancing the extensive coverage of Palestinian civilian suffering.
- Hamas analyst or Middle East security expert: Would have provided context on Hamas's military strategy, use of civilian infrastructure, and stated objectives.
- South African civil society voice critical of the case: Would have represented the significant portion of South African opinion that questions the case's framing or motivations.
- UN official or humanitarian worker with direct Gaza experience: Would have provided ground-level evidence independent of both parties' legal teams.
- South African Jewish community representative beyond Krenzel: Would have broadened the representation of the South African Jewish community's perspective.



5. NUMBERS MANIPULATION									5/10
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Complete figures include: absolute value, proportion (%) and trend

Finding 1:	
Timestamp	05:02–05:11
Number: "23,210 Palestinians have been killed" (montage, South Africa's legal team)	
Dimensions shown: (a) Absolute value — yes; (b) Proportion — no; (c) Trend — no	
Missing context	No breakdown of combatant vs. civilian casualties. No attribution of the figure to Hamas-controlled Gaza Health Ministry. No comparison with other urban warfare casualty rates. No mention that Israel disputes the civilian/combatant ratio.
Effect	The figure is presented as an uncontested fact establishing the scale of harm, when it is in fact a contested figure from a party to the conflict.

Finding 2:	
Timestamp	24:31–24:48
Number: "more than 20,000 and 70% are children" (Sophie Mokoena)	
Dimensions shown: (a) Absolute value — yes; (b) Proportion — yes (70%); (c) Trend — no	
Missing context	The 70% figure is not attributed to any source. It is inconsistent with other analyses of Gaza casualty data (UN OCHA figures at the time showed approximately 40% children, not 70%). No caveat is offered.
Effect	Significantly overstates the proportion of child casualties, amplifying the emotional impact of the humanitarian argument.

Finding 3:	
Timestamp	36:41–37:08
Number: "Rwanda genocide occurred over 100 days... killed a million Tutsis... Israel in 100 days has killed... 23,000... Israel claims at least 10,000 of those are combatants... so it's 15,000 people" (Krengel)	
Dimensions shown: (a) Absolute value — yes; (b) Proportion — partial; (c) Trend — no	
Missing context	The Rwanda comparison is analytically problematic (different weapons, different population density, different military context) but is the only attempt in the broadcast to contextualise the casualty figures against the genocide legal standard. It is not challenged by the host or other guests on its merits.
Effect	The comparison is used to argue against the genocide characterisation; its methodological limitations are not examined.



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Summary: Casualty figures are used throughout the broadcast as rhetorical instruments rather than as carefully attributed and contextualised data. The 70% children figure is particularly problematic as it appears to be inaccurate and is stated without attribution.



6. GUILT BY ASSOCIATION

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Association 1:

Timestamp

37:51–39:13

Quote

"if you were running a show on HIV and AIDS you wouldn't have an AIDS denialist come on so that you can hear both sides... I don't think that giving an uncritical platform to Zionists is the way to do it" (Rise Reuben)

Technique: Rise Reuben explicitly equates those who question the genocide characterisation with "AIDS denialists" — a group associated with pseudoscience, harm, and bad faith. He then uses the term "Zionists" as a pejorative to delegitimise pro-Israel voices.

Effect

Suggests that presenting Israel's perspective is journalistically irresponsible — a direct attack on the broadcast's own stated commitment to balance. This goes unchallenged by the host.

Association 2:

Timestamp

46:56–47:07

Quote

"Jeremy Corbyn... he is one of the most notorious antisemites in the world his own labor party expelled him for his antisemitic statements and conduct" (Krengel)

Technique: Krengel associates Corbyn with antisemitism to discredit his endorsement of South Africa's case. This is a legitimate factual point (Corbyn was indeed suspended from Labour over antisemitism findings) but is used rhetorically to delegitimise the pro-Palestinian position.

Effect

Attempts to taint South Africa's case by association with a figure found to have tolerated antisemitism.

For Rise Reuben — framed as a legitimate panellist:

SOURCE CHECK:

- Does this person work with verifiable primary sources? NO — makes definitive legal pronouncements without citation
- Are his core claims falsifiable? PARTIALLY — "Israel is guilty of genocide" is a legal conclusion, not a falsifiable empirical claim

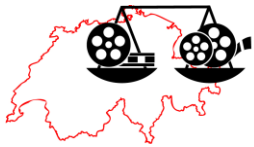
RISK MATRIX:

- What has this person lost through their position? Unknown — no credentials or institutional affiliation stated
- What do they gain? Platform, community standing
- Net: Risk/gain ratio cannot be assessed

TONE: Emotional-polemical; uses delegitimising analogies; does not acknowledge uncertainty

RESULT CATEGORY: B — Borderline (some legitimate points about journalistic responsibility; core legal claims stated as fact without qualification; delegitimation technique used)

Summary: The most significant guilt-by-association technique is Rise Reuben's "AIDS denialist" framing, which goes unchallenged and effectively delegitimises the broadcast's own stated commitment to presenting both sides. Krengel's Corbyn-antisemitism association is factually grounded but rhetorically deployed.



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7. TIMING

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Finding 1:

Position: 00:58–02:16 (Opening — before any guest appears)

Content: The host's introduction frames the case as South Africa "alleging violations" by Israel under the Genocide Convention, with Israel's position summarised in two sentences focused on the Holocaust memory and self-defence. South Africa's position receives approximately three times more introductory framing than Israel's.

Timing effect: The opening frame establishes South Africa as the active moral agent and Israel as the defensive respondent. This primes the audience before any analysis begins.

Finding 2:

Position: 23:07–23:48 (immediately after Sophie Mokoena's analysis of South Africa's "headlines")

Content: Jeremy Corbyn soundbite praising South Africa's presentation as "superb" and "brilliantly put forward."

Timing effect: Placed immediately after the SABC's own international editor has praised South Africa's case, the Corbyn soundbite functions as a third-party endorsement that reinforces the editorial line. No equivalent endorsement of Israel's presentation is sought or placed at a comparable structural position.

Finding 3:

Position: 54:37–55:53 (Closing — host's personal take)

Content: "we tend to look at this war through the lens of our cognitive biases... the civilian suffering in this war like in all wars is tragic and heartbreaking... pain is the common denominator"

Timing effect: The closing "balance" statement is placed after 50+ minutes of predominantly pro-South Africa framing. It functions as a rhetorical inoculation against bias accusations without substantively redressing the imbalance. Closing with "pain on both sides" after extensive one-sided coverage is a structural false balance technique.

Summary: The broadcast's structural architecture — opening frame, mid-broadcast endorsement, closing "balance" statement — consistently reinforces the pro-South Africa editorial line while creating the appearance of balance.



8. SELECTIVE OUTRAGE

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Outrage = bias. Selective outrage amplifies the finding. Score = outrage level (0–5) + selectivity (0–5)

Methodological principle (v3.0): The triggering event must be documented before any assessment. A reaction can only be assessed as selective if comparable triggers at other positions produced no analogous reaction.

Finding 1:

Timestamp 37:35–39:13

Triggering event: Abraham Kregel argues that Israel's casualty figures do not meet the legal threshold for genocide and that Hamas bears primary responsibility for civilian casualties.

Reaction: Rise Reuben responds by comparing those who question the genocide characterisation to "AIDS denialists" and calling for the withdrawal of their platform. The host does not challenge this characterisation.

Comparison

When Rise Reuben states "the truth is that the Israeli state is guilty of [genocide] and this is a fact" (38:23) — a legally unfounded definitive pronouncement — no guest or the host challenges this with equivalent force.

Asymmetry: Confirmed. Questioning the genocide characterisation triggers a delegitimisation response; asserting genocide as established fact triggers no challenge.

Outrage level: 3/5

Selectivity: 4/5

Finding 2:

Timestamp 46:56–47:07

Triggering event: Kregel raises Jeremy Corbyn's antisemitism record to question his credibility as a South Africa supporter.

Reaction: The host does not follow up on the antisemitism point or ask Sophie Mokoena (who introduced Corbyn) to respond to it.

Comparison

When Rise Reuben makes personal allegations against "Pumani" (accusing him of being "a major fan of the war criminal Henry Kissinger"), the host does not challenge this either.

Asymmetry: Partially confirmed. Neither delegitimisation attempt is challenged, but the Corbyn antisemitism point is structurally more damaging to the broadcast's credibility because Corbyn was presented as a credible endorser.

Outrage level: 2/5

Selectivity: 3/5

Summary: The broadcast exhibits selective tolerance for delegitimisation: Rise Reuben's "AIDS denialist" framing of Israel-sympathetic voices goes unchallenged, while Kregel's factually grounded point about Corbyn's antisemitism record is also not followed up. The net effect favours the pro-Palestinian framing.



9. SELECTIVE OMISSION — OVERALL PICTURE

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Finding 1:

Timestamp Throughout — not addressed

Missing perspective/fact: The ICJ's own jurisprudence on *dolus specialis* (specific genocidal intent) — particularly the *Bosnia v. Serbia* (2007) standard requiring that genocidal intent be the only reasonable inference from the evidence — is never mentioned.

Relevance: This is the most directly applicable legal precedent and would significantly complicate South Africa's case. Its omission means viewers receive an incomplete and misleading picture of the legal standard.

Impact South Africa's case appears legally stronger than the precedent suggests.

Finding 2:

Timestamp Throughout — not addressed

Missing perspective/fact: The domestic South African political debate — DA's reservations, cost of the case, ANC political motivations, the question of whether South Africa's own human rights record (crime, femicide, xenophobic violence) is consistent with its moral posture — is entirely absent.

Relevance: A public broadcaster has a specific obligation to represent the full range of domestic political opinion on a major government action.

Impact Creates a false impression of national consensus.

Finding 3:

Timestamp 50:58–51:20

Missing perspective/fact: Zana's argument that Israel's stated intent not to kill civilians is irrelevant because "what matters is that these people were killed" conflates intent with outcome — a fundamental legal error in genocide law. This error is not corrected by the host or by Prof. Bradley.

Relevance: The distinction between intent and outcome is the central legal question in the case. Allowing this error to stand uncorrected misleads viewers about the legal standard.

Impact Reinforces the false impression that the death toll alone establishes genocidal intent.

Summary: Three systematic omissions — the Bosnia legal precedent, the domestic political debate, and the uncorrected conflation of intent with outcome — collectively produce a broadcast that misrepresents the legal complexity of the case and the political context in which it was brought.

Share of covered perspectives

Inverted: original value measures coverage (higher = better). Shown as deviation (higher = larger gaps).

[A] South Africa's legal arguments: the specific legal basis for the genocide claim, the evidence presented, the standard of proof required for provisional measures.

[B] Israel's legal defence: the self-defence argument, the jurisdictional challenge, the claim that South Africa's application is decontextualised.

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[C] The legal standard for "plausible genocidal intent": what the ICJ must actually find, and how courts have applied this standard historically.

[D] The Hamas October 7 attacks: the nature, scale, and documented atrocities of the attacks that triggered Israel's military response.

[E] The humanitarian situation in Gaza: civilian casualties, displacement, access to aid, infrastructure destruction.

[F] The domestic South African political debate: whether the case serves SA's national interest, the DA's reservations, the cost of the case, the ANC's motivations.

[G] International legal expert opinion: views from scholars not affiliated with either side, including those who question whether the genocide threshold is met.

[H] The hostage situation: approximately 130 hostages still held in Gaza at the time of broadcast, and the implications for any ceasefire order.

[I] The role of Hamas: its use of civilian infrastructure, its refusal to release hostages, its stated genocidal intent toward Jews.

[J] Historical context of the Genocide Convention: how it has been applied in previous cases (Rwanda, Bosnia, Cambodia), and what distinguishes those cases from the current one.

Assessment: Was Each Perspective Addressed?

[A] ADDRESSED

Timestamp: 01:01–06:08 (montage), 12:04–18:17 (Lamola), 42:26–46:27 (Bradley)

Quote: "we have presented a compelling legal argument for the court to find in our favour" (Lamola, 12:44)

Assessment: South Africa's legal arguments are presented extensively and largely uncritically, with the Minister of Justice given uninterrupted time to make the case.

[B] ADDRESSED — PARTIALLY

Timestamp: 01:42–02:16 (introduction), 06:13–07:57 (montage excerpt), 35:31–36:22 (Krengel)

Quote: "a war it did not start and did not want" (montage, 06:22)

Assessment: Israel's arguments are presented primarily through brief montage excerpts and through Krengel (a civil society advocate, not a legal expert). No Israeli legal scholar or government representative is interviewed directly.

[C] ADDRESSED — PARTIALLY

Timestamp: 42:26–46:27 (Bradley), 34:54–37:22 (Krengel)

Quote: "genocide is jus cogens this means that this is almost an Uber Norm of public international law" (Bradley, 45:33)

Assessment: The legal standard is discussed by Prof. Bradley, but primarily from a perspective sympathetic to South Africa's case. The specific evidentiary threshold for provisional measures is not rigorously examined from a neutral standpoint.

[D] ADDRESSED — BRIEFLY

Timestamp: 01:23–01:28, 13:29–13:33, 34:54–35:42

Quote: "we have condemned the action of Hamas of the 7th of October" (Lamola, 13:28)

Assessment: The October 7 attacks are acknowledged but consistently framed as context rather than as a central moral and legal fact. The scale and nature of the atrocities are not examined in depth.

[E] ADDRESSED

Timestamp: 04:28–06:08 (montage), 20:03–20:10, 31:00–31:26 (street interviews)

Quote: "23,210 Palestinians have been killed" (montage, 05:02)

Assessment: The humanitarian situation is addressed, but primarily through figures and framing that support South Africa's case. The complexity of casualty attribution (Hamas vs. civilian) is touched on but not resolved.

[F] OMITTED

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No timestamp available — not addressed.

Assessment: The domestic South African political debate about the case — including the DA's reservations, the financial cost, and questions about ANC motivations — is entirely absent. This is a significant omission for a public broadcaster.

[G] ADDRESSED — INADEQUATELY

Timestamp: 42:26–54:35 (Bradley)

Quote: "the court will have to decide whether or not to grant interim measures" (Bradley, 53:58)

Assessment: Prof. Bradley provides the closest thing to neutral legal expert opinion, but her analysis leans toward supporting South Africa's legal framework. No scholar who questions whether the genocide threshold is met is included.

[H] ADDRESSED — BRIEFLY

Timestamp: 51:02–52:26 (Krengel/Mniki exchange)

Quote: " Hamas have promised that they'll perform an October 7th time and time again" (Krengel, 52:17)

Assessment: The hostage situation is mentioned but not examined in depth. The asymmetry in South Africa's provisional measures request (no corresponding obligation on Hamas) is raised by Krengel but not followed up by the host.

[I] ADDRESSED — ONE-SIDEDLY

Timestamp: 47:22–48:52 (Krengel), 43:44–44:25 (Bradley)

Quote: " Hamas is fighting using gazan civilians literally and physically as its shields" (Krengel, 48:43)

Assessment: Hamas's use of civilian infrastructure is raised by Krengel but is not given equal analytical weight to Israel's conduct. Rise Reuben's earlier comment that giving a platform to those who question the genocide framing is like platforming " AIDS denialists" actively discourages balanced treatment of this perspective.

[J] ADDRESSED — PARTIALLY

Timestamp: 36:41–37:08 (Krengel)

Quote: " the Rwanda genocide occurred over 100 days... with machetes they killed a million Tutsis" (Krengel, 36:46)

Assessment: Historical genocide comparisons are made by Krengel, but the broader legal history of the Genocide Convention and how courts have applied the intent standard is not examined systematically.

Completeness Score: 4/10

The broadcast addresses the surface-level arguments from both sides but fails to provide genuinely balanced legal analysis, omits the domestic South African political debate entirely, does not include any neutral international legal expert who questions whether the genocide threshold is met, and gives disproportionate weight to the pro-South Africa/pro-Palestinian framing throughout.



Soft Facts — 6 qualitative techniques

10. FRAMING

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Finding 1:

Timestamp	00:58–01:06
Quote	<i>"it's been described as an exceptional case of exceptional importance"</i>
Manipulation	The opening frame establishes the case as historically significant and morally weighty before any analysis. The passive construction ("it's been described as") launders the editorial judgment as external consensus.
Why problematic	Primes the audience to view the case as important and legitimate before any critical examination. No equivalent framing of Israel's counter-arguments as "exceptional" or "important" is offered.

Finding 2:

Timestamp	17:03–17:43
Quote	<i>"this is a matter about children that can't go to school that are being murdered that have been cut off civilian infrastructure and services" (Lamola)</i>
Manipulation	The Minister of Justice frames the legal case in explicitly emotional, child-centred terms. The host does not redirect to the legal standard or challenge the emotional framing.
Why problematic	Emotional framing of a legal proceeding substitutes moral appeal for legal analysis. The equivalent emotional reality — Israeli children killed on October 7, hostages including children held in Gaza — is not given equivalent emotional framing by any government representative.

Finding 3:

Timestamp	31:00–31:26 (street interview)
Quote	<i>"as a country like South Africa that's had our own apartheid for so long and how it's destroyed a lot of people's lives we come from a place of compassion"</i>
Manipulation	The apartheid analogy is introduced through a street interviewee, giving it the appearance of organic public sentiment rather than editorial framing. The analogy is not critically examined.
Why problematic	The apartheid analogy is contested — Israel disputes it, and many international legal scholars argue it is not legally applicable. Presenting it as common-sense public wisdom without critical examination is a framing technique.



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Summary: The broadcast is framed throughout as a moral story about South Africa's courageous stand for Palestinian children, drawing on the apartheid analogy and emotional appeals. This framing is not balanced by an equivalent moral framing of Israeli civilian suffering or the legal complexity of the genocide standard.



11. WORD CHOICE AND TERMINOLOGY						6/10			
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Finding 1:	
Timestamp	37:51–38:07
Quote	<i>"if you were running a show on HIV and AIDS you wouldn't have an AIDS denialist come on" (Rise Reuben)</i>
Manipulation	"Denialist" carries connotations of bad faith, pseudoscience, and moral failure. Applying it to those who question the genocide characterisation pre-emptively delegitimises their position.
Why problematic	Neutral alternative would be: "someone who disputes the genocide characterisation." The "denialist" framing is not challenged by the host, effectively endorsing it.

Finding 2:	
Timestamp	40:46–40:52
Quote	<i>"South Africa is what it has done is to align itself with Hamas right and this is Hamas that is backed by Iran" (Pumani)</i>
Manipulation	"Align itself with Hamas" and "backed by Iran" are loaded framings that associate South Africa's legal action with a designated terrorist organisation and a hostile state. This is the mirror image of the pro-Palestinian framing techniques used elsewhere.
Why problematic	The host does not challenge this framing either, creating an asymmetric pattern where both delegitimation techniques go unchallenged — but the pro-Palestinian delegitimation (AIDS denialist) receives more airtime and is structurally more prominent.

Finding 3:	
Timestamp	05:21–05:30
Quote	<i>"Israel's special genocidal intent is rooted in the belief that in fact the enemy is not just the military wing of Hamas" (South Africa's legal team, in montage)</i>
Manipulation	The phrase "Israel's special genocidal intent" is presented in the montage as South Africa's legal argument, but the word "special" (from the legal term <i>dolus specialis</i>) is used in a way that implies the intent has been established rather than alleged.
Why problematic	The montage presents South Africa's legal arguments as factual assertions. The distinction between allegation and established fact is blurred throughout the broadcast.

Summary: The broadcast's language consistently favours South Africa's framing: "genocidal intent" is used as though established, "denialist" is applied to those who question it, and the apartheid analogy is treated as self-evident. These word choices are not balanced by equivalent critical scrutiny of pro-Palestinian terminology.



12. MODERATION BEHAVIOUR

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Methodological principle (v3.0): The triggering event must be documented before any assessment. An intervention can only be assessed as asymmetric if comparable triggers at other positions produced no analogous intervention.

Finding 1:

Timestamp 39:14–39:50

Triggering event: Rise Reuben calls for the withdrawal of platforms from those who question the genocide characterisation, comparing them to "AIDS denialists," and makes personal allegations against "Pumani."
Host reaction: No challenge. The host moves directly to "Pumani, you were mentioned, do you think it's unfair to give both sides of the story?" — effectively validating Rise Reuben's framing by asking Pumani to defend the concept of balance rather than challenging Rise Reuben's delegitimation technique.

Comparison

When Kregel makes his strongest legal argument (36:41–37:22, the Rwanda comparison), the host responds with "let's get some take from Rise Reuben" — immediately inviting a rebuttal.

Asymmetry: Confirmed. Pro-Palestinian delegitimation goes unchallenged; pro-Israel legal arguments are immediately rebutted.

Finding 2:

Timestamp 12:15–18:29

Triggering event: Minister Lamola makes a series of legal and political claims about South Africa's case, including the assertion that Israel has "decontextualized the matter to blindfold the world."
Host reaction: No challenge to any substantive claim. The host asks: "in hindsight, would you have changed anything?" — a question that invites self-assessment rather than critical scrutiny.

Comparison

When Kregel makes comparable advocacy claims (e.g., " Hamas is fighting using Gazan civilians literally and physically as its shields," 48:43), the host does not follow up with a comparable soft question but instead moves to another guest.

Asymmetry: Confirmed. The Minister receives a structurally softer interview than the community advocate.

Finding 3:

Timestamp 54:37–55:53

Triggering event: End of broadcast.
Host reaction: "we tend to look at this war through the lens of our cognitive biases... pain is the common denominator"

Comparison

No equivalent closing reflection on the cognitive biases that may have shaped the broadcast itself.

Asymmetry: Confirmed. The closing "balance" statement is directed at the audience rather than at the broadcast's own editorial choices.



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Summary: The host consistently applies softer moderation to pro-South Africa/pro-Palestinian voices and allows delegitimisation of pro-Israel voices to go unchallenged. The structural asymmetry in interview technique between Lamola and Kregel is the most significant single moderation finding.



13. QUESTION ASYMMETRY

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Asymmetry 1:

To Ronald Lamola, 12:15: "in hindsight, sir, with regards to if anything that can be or you think should have been done differently in terms of South Africa's oral arguments before the ICJ or otherwise would you have changed anything?" — SOFT (invites self-assessment, presupposes competence)

To Abraham Kregel (implied through the structure): Kregel is not asked a direct question about what Israel should have done differently; instead, he is asked to respond to Jeremy Corbyn's characterisation of the conflict as "systemic slaughter of the Palestinian people" — HARD (requires him to defend against a loaded framing)

Comparison

The Minister is invited to reflect on his own performance; the community advocate is invited to respond to an adversarial framing.

Asymmetry 2:

To Prof. Bradley, 42:04: "help us understand in terms of the law of armed conflict and urban warfare and how this is being used as some sort of defence" — NEUTRAL TO SOFT (framing Israel's urban warfare argument as a "defence" implies it is a justification rather than a legal argument)

To Kregel (implicit): No equivalent question inviting him to explain Israel's legal position in neutral terms.

Comparison

Bradley is invited to explain the law; Kregel is invited to respond to adversarial framings.

Asymmetry 3:

To Rise Reuben, 37:35: No direct question — Rise Reuben is given an open platform to make extended advocacy statements without a specific question being posed.

To Pumani, 39:44: "do you think it's unfair to give both sides of the story?" — HARD (requires him to defend the concept of journalistic balance, which Rise Reuben has just attacked)

Comparison

The pro-Palestinian activist is given an open platform; the centrist voice is asked to justify balance.

Summary: The question structure consistently advantages pro-South Africa/pro-Palestinian voices with open, self-assessment-oriented questions while placing pro-Israel and centrist voices in defensive positions responding to adversarial framings.



14. FALSE BALANCE

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Finding 1:

Timestamp

02:52–02:58

Quote

"as always listen we're not here to play sides that's not the job our job is to give you the facts as we know it and give you context"

Analysis

The host's stated commitment to balance is not reflected in the broadcast's actual structure. The claim of neutrality functions as a rhetorical inoculation that makes the subsequent imbalance harder to identify and challenge. This is a classic false balance technique: asserting neutrality while practising advocacy.

Finding 2:

Timestamp

34:32–34:39

Quote

"no doubt the common denominator is pain pain on both sides and it was acknowledged to a degree at the oral arguments"

Analysis

"Pain on both sides" is presented as a balancing frame, but the broadcast devotes approximately four times more airtime to Palestinian suffering than to Israeli suffering. The "both sides" framing creates the appearance of balance without the substance.

Summary: The broadcast uses explicit neutrality claims and "pain on both sides" framing to create the appearance of balance while maintaining a structurally one-sided editorial direction. This is a textbook false balance technique.



15. AGENDA-SETTING

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Finding 1:

Agenda element set: South Africa's decision to bring the ICJ case is treated as self-evidently correct, morally justified, and legally sound.

Timestamp 00:58–01:06 — "it's been described as an exceptional case of exceptional importance"

Alternative agenda: Whether South Africa should have brought the case at all — the domestic political debate, the cost, the ANC's motivations, the DA's reservations — is entirely absent from the agenda.

Finding 2:

Agenda element set: The apartheid analogy — that Israel's treatment of Palestinians is comparable to apartheid South Africa — is treated as a given, introduced through street interviews and implicit in the broadcast's framing throughout.

Timestamp 31:00–31:26 — "as a country like South Africa that's had our own apartheid for so long"

Alternative agenda: The contested nature of the apartheid analogy — including the significant legal and historical differences between apartheid South Africa and the Israel-Gaza conflict — is never placed on the agenda.

Finding 3:

Agenda element set: The question of whether Israel committed genocide is treated as the central moral and legal question, with the implicit assumption that the answer is likely yes.

Timestamp 38:23 — "the truth is that the Israeli state is guilty of [genocide] and this is a fact" (Rise Reuben, unchallenged)

Alternative agenda: The question of whether Hamas committed genocide on October 7 — which Krengel raises at 51:24 and which Prof. Bradley does not directly answer — is placed on the agenda only briefly and is not pursued.

Summary: The broadcast's agenda is set around South Africa's moral leadership, the apartheid analogy, and the presumption of Israeli guilt. The alternative agenda — domestic political debate, contested analogies, Hamas's own conduct — is systematically excluded.



CHAPTER 4 — OVERALL EVALUATION

Results

- HARD FACTS SCORE (Average Criteria 1–9): 6.1 / 10
- SOFT FACTS SCORE (Average Criteria 10–15): 6.2 / 10

Dominant Techniques

The 3 strongest techniques in this broadcast:

- 1. Expert Selection as Authority Laundering (Score 7):** The Minister of Justice — a direct party to the proceedings with maximum institutional interest in the outcome — is framed as an authoritative legal voice ("fresh from The Hague") rather than as a political advocate. An unqualified activist (Rise Reuben) is given a panel platform and allowed to make definitive legal pronouncements without challenge, while the only credible neutral expert (Bradley) frames her analysis within South Africa's legal framework.
- 2. Agenda-Setting through Omission (Score 7):** The domestic South African political debate about the case, the Bosnia v. Serbia legal precedent, and the question of Hamas's own genocidal conduct are systematically excluded from the broadcast's agenda. This creates a false impression that the case is legally strong, morally unambiguous, and nationally supported.
- 3. False Balance as Inoculation (Score 5):** The host's repeated assertions of neutrality ("we're not here to play sides," "pain on both sides," "cognitive biases") function as rhetorical inoculation against bias accusations without substantively redressing the structural imbalance. The closing "balance" statement is placed after 50+ minutes of predominantly pro-South Africa framing, making it structurally ineffective as a corrective.

Core Messages of the Broadcast

****MESSAGE 1 (SUBSTANTIVE):** ** "South Africa made a compelling and legally sound case before the ICJ, and Israel's response to October 7 constitutes or plausibly constitutes genocide."

Technique: Authority laundering (Lamola as legal expert), selective expert inclusion (Bradley's analysis supports SA's framework), omission of Bosnia precedent.

Evidence: 12:44, 37:35–39:13, 42:26–46:27

****MESSAGE 2 (PERSONAL):** ** "South Africa's legal team — particularly Advocate Tembeka Ngcukaitobi — are heroes who deserve the reception they received at OR Tambo International Airport."

Technique: Emotional framing, timing (airport reception discussed at 16:45–17:43), Sophie Mokoena's personal narrative.

Evidence: 16:45, 19:53–20:10, 23:07–23:48

****MESSAGE 3 (SOCIETAL):** ** "South Africa's apartheid history gives it a unique moral authority to speak for the oppressed, and the Palestinian cause is the natural continuation of the anti-apartheid struggle."

Technique: Framing, agenda-setting, street interview selection, apartheid analogy treated as self-evident.

Evidence: 31:00–31:26, 33:37–33:44, 17:25–17:43

Manipulation Level Classification

Reasoning: With an overall score of 6.1/10, the broadcast falls in the "Clear One-Sidedness" category. The imbalance is not the result of a single technique but of a consistent pattern across all 15 criteria: expert selection, time allocation, question asymmetry, framing, and agenda-setting all point in the same direction. The broadcast presents South Africa's ICJ case as legally strong, morally unambiguous, and nationally supported — none of which is an accurate representation of the full picture. Under Broadcasting Act s. 6 and BCCSA Code Clause 18, the broadcast fails to present opposing views on a controversial issue of public importance in a manner that is balanced, fair, and impartial. The failure is structural rather than incidental: it reflects editorial choices about who to include, how to frame the issue, and what to omit.

CONCLUSION



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This episode of SABC's It's Topical presents South Africa's ICJ genocide case against Israel in a manner that is structurally one-sided, falling short of the standards required by Broadcasting Act 4 of 1999, Section 6, and BCCSA Code Clauses 16 and 18. The broadcast platforms the ANC Minister of Justice as an authoritative legal voice without equivalent access for Israel's legal representatives; includes an unqualified pro-Palestinian activist who makes definitive legal pronouncements without challenge; omits the most directly relevant legal precedent (Bosnia v. Serbia, 2007); and excludes the domestic South African political debate about the case entirely. The host's repeated assertions of neutrality ("we're not here to play sides") are not reflected in the broadcast's actual structure, constituting a false balance technique that makes the imbalance harder to identify. While the broadcast does include Abraham Krengel as a pro-Israel voice and Prof. Bradley as a credible legal expert, the structural asymmetries in time allocation, question framing, and moderation behaviour mean that these inclusions do not constitute genuine balance within the meaning of the Broadcasting Act. The overall score of 6.1/10 reflects clear one-sidedness that, while not reaching the level of systematic or extreme imbalance, represents a meaningful departure from the SABC's public interest mandate.



OVERALL EVALUATION OF THE 15 CRITERIA

Individual Scores — All 15 Criteria

No.	Criterion	Score	Rating
1	EXPERT SELECTION	7/10	<i>Pronounced imbalance</i>
2	SOURCE SELECTION	7/10	<i>Pronounced imbalance</i>
3	TIME ALLOCATION	6/10	<i>Significant imbalance</i>
4	SELECTIVE OMISSION	7/10	<i>Pronounced imbalance</i>
5	NUMBERS MANIPULATION	5/10	<i>Significant imbalance</i>
6	GUILT BY ASSOCIATION	6/10	<i>Significant imbalance</i>
7	TIMING	5/10	<i>Significant imbalance</i>
8	SELECTIVE OUTRAGE	5/10	<i>Significant imbalance</i>
9	SELECTIVE OMISSION — OVERALL PICTURE	7/10	<i>Pronounced imbalance</i>
10	FRAMING	7/10	<i>Pronounced imbalance</i>
11	WORD CHOICE AND TERMINOLOGY	6/10	<i>Significant imbalance</i>
12	MODERATION BEHAVIOUR	6/10	<i>Significant imbalance</i>
13	QUESTION ASYMMETRY	6/10	<i>Significant imbalance</i>
14	FALSE BALANCE	5/10	<i>Significant imbalance</i>
15	AGENDA-SETTING	7/10	<i>Pronounced imbalance</i>

HARD FACTS SCORE (1-8)

6.1/10

Serious deviation from the impartiality standard. High degree of deviation

SOFT FACTS SCORE (9-14)

6.2/10

Serious deviation from the impartiality standard. High degree of deviation

OVERALL SCORE

6.2/10

Serious deviation from the impartiality standard. High degree of deviation

Average of Hardfacts and Softfacts



KEY — Score Definitions

Individual Scores per Criterion (0–10)

0	No finding	No relevant anomaly detected.
1–2	Weak finding	Minor anomaly without substantial impact on balance.
3–4	Slight to moderate finding	Recognizable tendency; low to moderate impact relevance.
5	Moderate finding with impact	Relevant imbalance affecting the audience's opinion-forming potential.
6	Significant finding (threshold)	Scores of 6 and above are classified as 'significant findings.'
7	Significant finding	Clear, well-documented imbalance with distinct impact relevance.
8–9	Severe finding	Pronounced imbalance; multiple documented individual findings in this criterion.
10	Maximum severity	Systematic, pervasive imbalance in this criterion.

Aggregated Deviation Index — Interpretation Ranges

0.0 – 2.5	Unremarkable	No significant patterns detected; broadcast meets the impartiality standard.
2.6 – 4.0	Slight imbalance	Isolated anomalies; statistically visible but within tolerance range.
4.1 – 6.0	Significant imbalance	Multiple significant findings; relevant impairment of perspective diversity.
6.1 – 8.0	Serious deviation from the impartiality standard. High degree of deviation	Pronounced, cross-broadcast patterns; high impact relevance.
8.1 – 10	Fundamental systemic one-sidedness. Very high bias degree	Maximum severity across nearly all criteria; systematically one-sided reporting.

Party-Political Bias (-5 to +5)

-5 to -3	Strongly disadvantaged	Party is significantly underrepresented in framing, airtime, or presentation.
-2 to -1	Slightly disadvantaged	Recognizable but minor disadvantage.
0	Neutral	No detectable favoritism or disadvantage.
+1 to +2	Slightly favored	Recognizable but minor favoritism.
+3 to +5	Strongly favored	Party is significantly overrepresented in framing, airtime, or presentation.



CHAPTER 5 — LEGAL CLASSIFICATION (Broadcasting Act s. 6)

Assessment under Broadcasting Act s. 6

Broadcasting Act 4 of 1999, Section 6 (SABC Charter) requires significant news and public affairs programming that meets the highest standards of journalism, including fairness, accuracy, and impartiality. BCCSA Code Clause 16 requires news to be reported truthfully, accurately, and fairly, in the correct context and in a balanced manner. Clause 18 requires opposing views to be presented on controversial issues of public importance.

Violation 1:

Standard: BCCSA Code Clause 18 — Opposing views on controversial issues of public importance

Offence: The broadcast fails to present Israel's legal position through an equivalent interview format. Israel's arguments are presented through brief montage excerpts from the ICJ proceedings, while South Africa's position is presented through a direct, extended interview with the Minister of Justice. No Israeli government representative, legal team member, or equivalent expert is interviewed directly.

Evidence: Timestamp 12:04–18:29 (Lamola interview, approx. 7 minutes, unchallenged); Timestamp 06:13–07:57 (Israel's arguments presented via montage only)

Assessment: The structural asymmetry between a direct ministerial interview and montage excerpts does not constitute balanced presentation of opposing views within the meaning of Clause 18. The controversy of the subject matter — a genocide allegation against a state — makes the balance requirement particularly acute.

Violation 2:

Standard: BCCSA Code Clause 16 — Accuracy and correct context

Offence: Sophie Mokoena states at 24:31–24:48 that "more than 20,000 and 70% are children" without attribution. The 70% figure is inconsistent with available data from UN OCHA and other sources at the time of broadcast (which showed approximately 40% children among casualties) and is not attributed to any source. This constitutes a factual inaccuracy presented as established fact.

Evidence: Timestamp 24:31–24:48 — "we talking about more than 20,000 and 70% are children"

Assessment: Broadcasting an unattributed and apparently inaccurate statistic on a matter of significant public controversy, without caveat or correction, violates the accuracy requirement of Clause 16.

Violation 3:

Standard: Broadcasting Act s. 6 — Highest standards of journalism, impartiality

Offence: Rise Reuben is given a panel platform and allowed to state "the truth is that the Israeli state is guilty of [genocide] and this is a fact" (38:23) without challenge from the host. This is a definitive legal pronouncement on a matter currently before an international court, made by an unqualified individual with no stated credentials. The host's failure to challenge this statement, or to note that it is an advocacy position rather than an established legal fact, falls below the standard of impartiality required by s. 6.

Evidence: Timestamp 38:23 — "the truth is that the Israeli state is guilty of it and this is a fact"

Assessment: Allowing a definitive legal conclusion on a sub judice matter to be stated as fact by an unqualified panellist, without challenge or contextualisation, violates the impartiality standard of Broadcasting Act s. 6.

Violation 4:

Standard: BCCSA Code Clause 18 — Opposing views; Broadcasting Act s. 6 — Fairness

Offence: The domestic South African political debate about the ICJ case — including the DA's publicly stated reservations, the financial cost, and questions about ANC political motivations — is entirely absent from the broadcast. As a public broadcaster, the SABC has a specific obligation to represent the full range of domestic political opinion on a major government action, particularly one that is contested within the GNU coalition.



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Evidence: Throughout — no timestamp available because the perspective is never raised.

Assessment: The systematic exclusion of the DA's position and other critical domestic voices on a major government foreign policy action constitutes a failure of fairness and balance under both Clause 18 and Broadcasting Act s. 6.

Overall Assessment under Broadcasting Act s. 6

This broadcast falls short of the standards required by Broadcasting Act 4 of 1999, Section 6, and BCCSA Code Clauses 16 and 18 in four identifiable respects: structural asymmetry in interview access between South Africa's and Israel's positions; an unattributed and apparently inaccurate casualty statistic; an unchallenged definitive legal pronouncement on a sub judice matter by an unqualified panellist; and the systematic exclusion of domestic political opposition to the case. The violations are not isolated but form a consistent pattern that reflects editorial choices rather than inadvertent omissions. While the broadcast does include some pro-Israel perspective (Krengel) and credible legal analysis (Bradley), the structural imbalances are sufficiently significant to constitute a departure from the SABC's public interest mandate. The broadcast would benefit from a right-of-reply opportunity for the Israeli government or its legal representatives, a correction of the 70% children statistic, and inclusion of domestic political voices critical of the case in any future coverage of this topic.



CHAPTER 6 — Source Depth Check

1. Ronald Lamola — Minister of Justice, ANC

- FUNDING:** South African government (taxpayer-funded). Direct institutional interest in the case succeeding.
- MANDATE:** Entirely incompatible with neutral assessment — he is the political principal responsible for the case.
- CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** Maximum. Political career and ANC's international reputation linked to outcome.
- CREDIBILITY MATRIX:** D1 (-2) / D2 (+1) / D3 (+1) / D4 (+2) / D5 (-1) / D6 (-1) → TOTAL: 0 → SOURCE LIGHT: YELLOW
- COUNTER-VOICE:** Israeli Minister of Justice or equivalent — not present.

NOTE: "Fresh from The Hague" is a social attribution of authority, not a qualification for neutral legal analysis.

2. Sophie Mokoena — SABC International Editor

- FUNDING:** SABC (public broadcaster, state-funded). Institutional interest in supporting South Africa's government position.
- MANDATE:** Journalistic mandate in principle; in practice, her analysis consistently supports South Africa's framing.
- CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** Moderate. SABC's institutional relationship with the ANC government creates structural pressure toward supportive coverage.
- CREDIBILITY MATRIX:** D1 (-1) / D2 (+1) / D3 (+1) / D4 (+1) / D5 (-1) / D6 (0) → TOTAL: +1 → SOURCE LIGHT: YELLOW
- COUNTER-VOICE:** An international editor from a broadcaster with no stake in the case (e.g., BBC, Al Jazeera English) — not present.

3. Prof. Martha Bradley — Associate Professor, Public Law, UJ

- FUNDING:** University of Johannesburg (public university). No direct financial conflict of interest identified.
- MANDATE:** Compatible with neutral legal analysis in principle.
- CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** Low direct conflict; some institutional pressure in South African academic environment.
- CREDIBILITY MATRIX:** D1 (+1) / D2 (+1) / D3 (+2) / D4 (+1) / D5 (+1) / D6 (+2) → TOTAL: +8 → SOURCE LIGHT: GREEN
- COUNTER-VOICE:** A scholar specialising in ICJ genocide jurisprudence who would address the Bosnia v. Serbia (2007) *dolus specialis* standard — not present.

4. Abraham Krengel — President, SA Zionist Federation

- FUNDING:** SA Zionist Federation — community organisation. Institutional mandate to advocate for Israel and Jewish community interests.
- MANDATE:** Incompatible with neutral assessment. Structural advocacy role.
- CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** High. Institutional mandate to support Israel.
- CREDIBILITY MATRIX:** D1 (-2) / D2 (+1) / D3 (0) / D4 (+2) / D5 (0) / D6 (-1) → TOTAL: 0 → SOURCE LIGHT: YELLOW
- COUNTER-VOICE:** A Palestinian civil society representative in an equivalent structured role — not present.

5. Rise Reuben — Unidentified panellist

- FUNDING:** Unknown. No affiliation stated.
- MANDATE:** Unknown. No institutional context provided.
- CONFLICT OF INTEREST:** Stated advocacy position; no neutrality claimed or possible.



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4. CREDIBILITY MATRIX: D1 (-2) / D2 (0) / D3 (-2) / D4 (+1) / D5 (-2) / D6 (-2) → TOTAL: -7 → SOURCE LIGHT: RED

5. COUNTER-VOICE: An equivalent unqualified pro-Israel activist given comparable airtime — not present.

NOTE: Rise Reuben's inclusion as a panellist without stated credentials, and his unchallenged definitive legal pronouncements, represent the most significant single source selection failure in the broadcast.

6. Jeremy Corbyn — Former UK Labour Leader (soundbite)

1. FUNDING: No current institutional affiliation.

2. MANDATE: No relevant mandate. Present at The Hague as a supporter of South Africa's case.

3. CONFLICT OF INTEREST: High. Documented history of pro-Palestinian advocacy; expelled from Labour over antisemitism findings.

4. CREDIBILITY MATRIX: D1 (-2) / D2 (+1) / D3 (-1) / D4 (+2) / D5 (-1) / D6 (-1) → TOTAL: -2 → SOURCE LIGHT: YELLOW

5. COUNTER-VOICE: An equivalent pro-Israel political figure's reaction soundbite — not present.

NOTE: Corbyn is presented as a credible endorser of South Africa's case without disclosure of his antisemitism record or his status as an invited supporter rather than an independent observer.

Analysis completed. All findings are based exclusively on the transcript provided. Direct quotations are reproduced in the original language of the broadcast (English). All timestamps are approximate, derived from the transcript's own timestamp markers.

Legal and Methodological Notes

No factual determination

The results presented do not constitute factual determinations about individual persons, editorial teams, or broadcasts. They are the product of a standardized operationalization, not a finding of individual responsibility.

No legal judgment

The aggregated deviation index does not replace a legal assessment under Broadcasting Act s. 6. The determination of whether a specific broadcast violates legal requirements is exclusively the responsibility of the competent authorities (in particular BCCSA).

No proof of causation

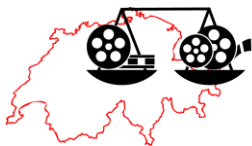
Statistical correlations are not to be interpreted as proof of causal relationships or editorial intent. Deviation values may be influenced by topic selection, news environment, political controversy, or format logic.

No judgment of intent

The analysis measures observable structural characteristics of broadcasts. A score of 7 means a significant imbalance was detected — not that the editorial team intended it. The methodology makes no claims about motives or strategic objectives.

Heuristic comparison tool

The index serves comparative pattern recognition across thousands of broadcasts, not precise metric measurement of individual segments. Threshold values serve heuristic orientation, not sharp legal qualification.



APPENDIX 1: NATIONAL BROADCASTING LAW

South Africa — Legal Framework for Broadcasting Impartiality

Primary Legislation

Broadcasting Act 4 of 1999 (as amended)

The Broadcasting Act establishes the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) as a public broadcaster and defines its Charter obligations.

Section 6 — Charter of the Corporation:

The SABC Charter mandates that the public broadcaster must:

- Provide programming that reflects South African attitudes, opinions, ideas, values and artistic creativity
- Offer a plurality of views and a variety of news, information and analysis
- Provide significant news and public affairs programming that meets the highest standards of journalism, including fairness, accuracy, and impartiality

Section 10 — Editorial Independence:

The SABC's news and current affairs programming must be independent from government or political party influence. The Board must ensure editorial policies that safeguard journalistic integrity.

ICASA Act 13 of 2000

The Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) is the regulatory body responsible for broadcasting licensing and compliance.

Electronic Communications Act 36 of 2005

Provides the overarching regulatory framework for electronic communications, including broadcasting standards.

BCCSA Broadcasting Code of Conduct

The Broadcasting Complaints Commission of South Africa (BCCSA) enforces the Free-to-Air Broadcasting Code of Conduct, which includes:

Clause 16 — News:

- News must be reported truthfully, accurately and fairly
- News must be presented in the correct context and in a balanced manner
- Only verified facts may be presented as facts; opinions must be clearly identified as such

Clause 17 — Comment:

- Comment must be clearly distinguished from fact
- Comment must be an honest expression of opinion and must be presented fairly

Clause 18 — Controversial Issues of Public Importance:

- When a programme deals with a controversial issue of public importance, opposing views must be presented, either within the same programme or in a follow-up programme within a reasonable time
- This requirement applies to all broadcasting services

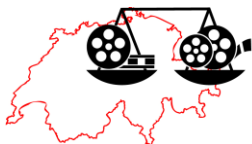
Clause 20 — Elections:

- During election periods, broadcasters must ensure equitable treatment of all political parties
- ICASA issues specific election broadcasting regulations

Regulatory / Complaints Bodies

Body	Role	Binding?
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President: Schläpfer, David - **Contact:** kontakt@SVFAB.ch - **Address:** SVFAB, Postfach, CH-8021 Zurich 1



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ICASA (Independent Communications Authority of South Africa)	Licensing, spectrum, compliance enforcement	Yes — can fine, revoke licences
BCCSA (Broadcasting Complaints Commission of South Africa)	Content complaints (bias, fairness, accuracy)	Yes — can reprimand, fine, require corrections
SABC Board	Internal editorial oversight	Internal
Parliament Portfolio Committee on Communications	Political oversight of SABC	Indirect

Notable Enforcement

- May 2024: ICASA fined SABC R500,000 for refusing to broadcast the Democratic Alliance's election advertisement showing a burning South African flag, ruling that SABC violated the right to free political communication.
- 2016: Western Cape High Court ordered removal of COO Hlaudi Motsoeneng for systematic censorship and political interference at SABC.
- 2017: Labour Court ruled that dismissal of the "SABC 8" journalists (who protested censorship of protest footage) was unlawful.

Equivalent to Other Countries

Country	Law	South African Equivalent
CH	Art. 4 RTVG	Broadcasting Act s. 6 (SABC Charter)
SE	Radio- och TV-lagen 5 kap.	BCCSA Code Cl. 16-18
DE	MStV §26	ICASA Act + BCCSA Code
NO	NRK-vedtektene §6	Broadcasting Act s. 10 (Editorial Independence)



APPENDIX 2: SCIENTIFIC REFERENCES

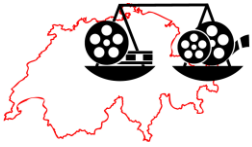
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SVFAB Working Papers

- Schläpfer, D. (2026). Systematic AI-Assisted Analysis of Public Broadcaster Impartiality: A Scalable Methodological Framework for Measuring Structural Bias in Public Service Media. [SSRN 6688478](#)
- Schläpfer, D. (2026). Measuring Editorial Noise: A Retrospective Suppression Index for Public Broadcasting Content Analysis. [SSRN 6733280](#)
- Schläpfer, D. (2026). Source Traffic Light: A Six-Dimensional Credibility Framework for Systematic Source Assessment in Public Service Media. [SSRN 6733880](#)

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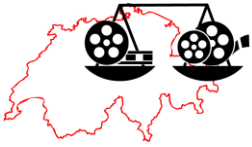
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The following books are available from SVFAB

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Unbalanced Reporting is the response to the halving initiative in Switzerland: Manipulation techniques are explained in detail, starting with the selection of staff and sources. Then 15 principles are explained: omission, framing, temporal framing, guilt by association, emotionalisation, context removal and many more, illustrated with numerous examples. Additionally, it becomes apparent where we ourselves apply these techniques – fostering not only awareness but also empathy.

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The interview is not a conversation. It is a stage – and someone else has written the script.

Those who don't know this deliver material. Good quotes that get cut wrong. Correct statements that end up in the wrong context. Honest answers framed as confessions.

This book is not a media criticism book. It is a toolbox – for everyone who faces a microphone and wants to know what to do about it. 7 chapters. 7 tools: What an interview really is. The 7 most common traps. The three principles of sovereignty – anchoring, reframing, setting boundaries. Preparation in one hour. Body and voice. What to do when things go wrong. And what matters after the interview.

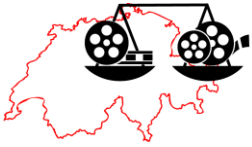
For politicians, activists, entrepreneurs, whistleblowers – for everyone who is in the public eye and wants to understand how the game works. So they stop playing along – and start shaping it.

In A5 format. Direct. For preparation, reference, follow-up and when difficulties arise



You think you see the world. In Wirklichkeit siehst du den Rahmen, den jemand um sie gelegt hat. Framing ist die älteste und eleganteste Manipulationstechnik der world. Sie verändert nicht die Fakten – sie verändert, was wir aus den Fakten machen. Wie wir fühlen. Was wir glauben. Wie wir entscheiden. Und sie funktioniert – weil wir alle mitmachen. Täglich. Unbewusst. Auch du. Dieses Buch ist kein trockenes Lehrbuch. Es ist ein Übungsbuch – spielerisch, direkt, voller Beispiele aus dem echten Leben. Du lernst nicht nur, wie andere dich framen. Du lernst, wie du selbst framest – und wie du es bewusst und fair einsetzen kannst.

Because whoever understands framing sees the world more clearly. Hears news differently. Conducts conversations more confidently. And no longer so easily accepts a frame chosen by someone else.



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With many exercises and concrete examples from politics, media and everyday life – and the occasional smile.

Framing with style. Because the frame changes everything.



The SRG collects 1.56 billion francs per year – compulsorily, from every household. Those who feel unfairly treated can file a complaint. There is even an authority for this: the UBI, the Independent Complaints Authority for Radio and Television.

But: It is not independent. It has no sanctioning power. And it decides in 99.6% of all cases: nothing.

This analysis exposes the system – factual, precise, without polemics. Procedures, personnel, powers, costs, statistics, legal recourse. And the constitutional review showing: the UBI system meets none of the three fundamental criteria – it is not proportionate, not separated by powers, not market-based.

The authority supposed to protect citizens primarily protects the system it should be overseeing.

Essential reading for anyone considering a complaint – and for anyone who wants to understand why genuine media oversight in Switzerland is still pending.