

## Bothina Osama

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## Introduction

- Covering science and education in conflict areas presents unique challenges.
- Based on SciDev.Net's decade-long experience in MENA.
- Production of Sharara podcast: Spark from the Heart of Crisis

<https://www.scidev.net/mena/content/podcasts/>



## Challenges in Conflict Zones

- Restricted access to scientific sites and research.
- Difficulty securing reliable sources.
- Navigating political and security risks.



## **Key Strategy: Data Manipulation**

- Conflict zones limit access to primary data.
- Journalists must work with available sources.
- Creative approaches to extract and verify information.



## Ensuring Reporter and Source Safety

- Conflict reporting carries risks: harassment, threats, imprisonment, and even death.
- Example: ISIS threats in Iraq over health reporting.
- Protection measures: anonymity, self-censorship, constant communication.



## Support for Reporters

- Prioritizing journalist safety.
- Self-censorship in commissioning and reporting.
- Financial support: highest rate for conflict-zone reporters.



## **Combatting Misinformation & Propaganda**

- High prevalence of propaganda in conflict areas.
- Example: Yemen, Libya, Syria with competing governments.
- Strategy: Fact-checking with multiple sources, including international and humanitarian organizations.



## **The Impact of Science Journalism in Conflict Zones**

- Highlights the human cost of conflict.
- Demonstrates how science can improve lives.
- Fosters international collaboration.

# The promo of the education in Gaza episode

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# Key Takeaways for Safe and Effective Coverage

- Self-censorship in reporting.
- Keep reporters as safe as possible.
- Provide clear guidance and reminders.
- Closely monitor risky stories.
- Maintain balance and fact-check rigorously.
- Push for impactful stories.

A photograph of a man in a military camouflage jacket sitting on a patterned rug in a tent. He is surrounded by several young children. The scene is dimly lit, with light coming from a window in the background. The man has a serious expression. The children are looking towards the camera. A large, vertical, cylindrical object, possibly a stove or heater, is visible on the right side of the frame. The overall mood is somber and intimate.

**Thank You!**