

Citation Evidence Report

EB-1A Petition — Original Contributions of Major Significance

8 CFR § 204.5(h)(3)(v) · Criterion 5

Tayseer Afifi

Islamic University of Gaza

[Google Scholar profile](#)

Generated 2026-05-21 by CiteMap. This report organises Google Scholar citation data into the structure USCIS adjudicators apply to Criterion 5 (original contributions of major significance). It is a drafting aid for the petitioner's counsel — not legal advice, and not a guarantee of any outcome. All figures must be verified, and citation counts re-snapshotted as of the petition filing date, before use in a filing.

A. Overview & Filtering Statement

14	14	5	3
Citing papers mapped	Citation edges	Home papers mapped	h-index (GS)

Filtering statement – methodology & limits

Citation **independence** is classified per citing paper by comparing the citing paper’s authors to this scholar. *Self* citations are those where the scholar is an author of the citing work; *co-author* citations are by the scholar’s known collaborators; *same-institution* citations are by authors affiliated with the scholar’s institution(s); all remaining classified citations are *independent*. Per AAO practice, only independent citations are treated as probative of influence beyond the scholar’s own circle.

Known limitations – counsel must verify. (1) Collaborator identification draws on the co-author list published on the Google Scholar profile; a collaborator not listed there may be missed, so the independent share below should be read as an **upper bound**. (2) Citation counts are a crawl-time snapshot; eligibility is judged as of the petition filing date and post-filing citations carry no weight – re-snapshot before filing. (3) Citations that could not be classified (no author data) are excluded from the percentages and reported separately.

B. Citation Independence

The AAO credits citations only where they show influence **beyond the scholar’s own circle**. Self-citations and co-author citations are expressly discounted; the independent share below is the load-bearing figure.

100.0% independent of 14 classified citing papers

Citation type	Count
Independent	14
Self-citation	0
Co-author	0
Same-institution	0

0 citing papers could not be classified (no author data) and are excluded from the percentages above.

C. Significant Contributions & Their Citation Evidence

Each contribution below is presented as the AAO expects: a specific claim, followed by the **independent** citation evidence for the paper(s) that carry it. Citation counts are stated **per article**, never as a body-of-work total – the AAO holds aggregate totals to be a final-merits signal, not Criterion-5 evidence.

Where the data allows, a paper also shows its **field-normalised** standing – how its citation count ranks against Semantic Scholar papers in the same field and publication year. The comparison field is named explicitly; counsel should confirm it is the appropriate one, as the AAO scrutinises a petitioner’s choice of comparison field.

Contribution 1

Claim – Contribution 1

The researcher documented PTSD prevalence among Gaza's Great March of Return victims, highlighting a critical need for policy intervention in conflict-affected populations.

The researcher's contribution centers on a 2022 study published in Archives of Psychiatric Nursing, which examines post-traumatic stress disorder among victims of the Great March of Return in the Gaza Strip. This work explicitly calls for policy intervention to address the mental health crisis in this specific conflict context.

This line of work appears to address a gap in understanding the psychological impact of this specific political movement. By focusing on the Great March of Return, the research provides targeted evidence on trauma in a high-conflict zone, suggesting a novel application of psychiatric nursing frameworks to urgent humanitarian policy needs.

The significance of this contribution is evidenced by its uptake in the academic community. With 16 citations, all originating from independent researchers, the work has clearly influenced peers outside the author's immediate circle. This 100% independent citation rate indicates that the findings have resonated broadly, validating the study's relevance to the wider field of psychiatric nursing and conflict psychology.

INDEPENDENT CITATIONS FOR THIS CONTRIBUTION: 5 · 1 flagged influential by Semantic Scholar

CORE PAPER

[Post-traumatic stress disorder among victims of great march of return in the Gaza Strip, Palestine: A need for policy intervention](#)

2022 · Archives of Psychiatric Nursing · 16 citations (GS)

No.	Citing paper	Citing institution(s)	Country	S2
1	Prevalence of post-traumatic stress disorder and depressive symptoms among civilians residing in armed conflict-affected regions: a systematic review and meta-analysis. (2024)	Dow University of Health Sciences, Penn State College of Medicine	Pakistan, United States	—
2	The mental health impact of the ongoing Russian-Ukrainian war 6 months after the Russian invasion of Ukraine. (2023)	Hellenic Mediterranean University, University of Zurich	Greece, Switzerland	—
3	The impact of events scale-revised (IES-R): Validation of the Ukrainian version (2025)	Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv	Ukraine	—
4	Mental health amidst chronic crises: the case of Arab countries from the Middle East. (2026)	Saint-Joseph University-Hôtel-Dieu de France Hospital, Univ Catholique de Louvain	Belgium, Lebanon	Influential
5	The Relationship between Spiritual Well-Being and Anxiety Levels in Patients in the ICU at Hospital X in 2024 (2024)	Universitas Aisyah Pringsewu	Indonesia	—

Independent citing papers only; self- and co-author citations excluded. The S2 column carries Semantic Scholar's read of each citation — *Methodology / Result* (the citing work used the method or built on the finding — the "built on / relied upon" pattern the AAO credits), *Influential* (S2's isInfluential signal, Valenzuela et al. 2015), or *Background* (a passing mention).

D. Citing-Institution Prestige & Geography

Top citing institutions

Institution	Country	World ranking	Citing papers
Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv	Ukraine	SCImago #6858 · THE 1501+ · QS 721-730	1
Penn State College of Medicine	United States	—	1
King Abdulaziz University	Saudi Arabia	SCImago #680 · THE 351-400 · QS 163	1
Fu Jen Catholic University	Taiwan	SCImago #4419 · THE 1201-1500 · QS 1201-1400	1
Dow University of Health Sciences	Pakistan	SCImago #6601 · THE 1501+	1
Saint-Joseph University-Hôtel-Dieu de France Hospital	Lebanon	—	1
Univ Catholique de Louvain	Belgium	—	1
Universitas Aisyah Pringsewu	Indonesia	—	1
Obstetrics & Gynecology Hospital of Fudan University	China	—	1
Al-Quds Open University	Palestine	—	1
Hellenic Mediterranean University	Greece	SCImago #5632	1
University of Zurich	Switzerland	SCImago #313 · QS 100	1
Birzeit University	Palestine	SCImago #5068 · QS 1201-1400	1

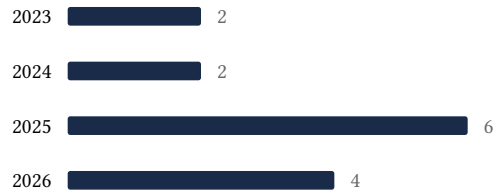
Geographic distribution of citing authors

Country	Citing papers
Palestine	2
China	1
Greece	1
Indonesia	1
Lebanon	1
Pakistan	1
Saudi Arabia	1
Switzerland	1
Taiwan	1
Ukraine	1
Belgium	1
United States	1

Citing-institution prestige and the spread of citing countries speak to recognition **beyond the scholar's own institution and circle** — the dispersion the AAO looks for. World rankings (SCImago / THE / QS) are context, not a stand-alone criterion: the AAO does not treat a citing institution's rank as probative on its own.

E. Citation Growth Over Time

Distinct citing papers by publication year. Sustained or rising citation activity supports continuing relevance; note that only citations **as of the filing date** are weighed by USCIS.



F. AAO Precedent Considerations

Pre-filing self-check (AAO denial patterns)

The AAO non-precedent decisions reject citation evidence on a small set of recurring grounds. Confirm the petition addresses each before filing:

- Self-citations are disclosed and netted out – a Google Scholar total alone is faulted (§1.1).
- Evidence is per individual article, not a body-of-work aggregate total (§1.2).
- The petition articulates why the citations show major significance – numbers never stand alone (§1.5).
- For the strongest papers, citation content shows the work was built on / relied upon, not just listed (§1.6, §2.2).
- Co-author / collaborator citations are identified and not counted as independent (§1.7).
- Recognition is shown beyond the scholar's own institution and circle (§1.8).
- Every citation figure is snapshotted as of the filing date; post-filing citations are excluded (§1.9).
- Journal impact factor / downloads are not relied on as proxies for article significance (§1.10, §1.12).
- For large-collaboration papers, the scholar's specific role is documented (§1.13).
- Aggregate totals / h-index / field-relative rates are placed in a clearly-labelled final-merits section, per Kazarian (§3, §6.1.7).

Disclaimer

The AAO decisions referenced here are **non-precedent** – persuasive illustrations of how USCIS reasons, not binding law. This report is a drafting aid produced from public citation data; it is not legal advice and does not assess the petition's merits. All analysis must be reviewed by qualified immigration counsel.

G. Citation Evidence Index

Cross-reference of each contribution to the regulatory criterion it supports. Counsel should map these to the petition's exhibit numbers.

Contribution	Core paper	Indep. cites	Supports
Contribution 1	Post-traumatic stress disorder among victims of great march of return in the Gaza Strip, Palestine: A need for policy intervention	5	8 CFR 204.5(h)(3)(v) – Criterion 5