The News from Baku. "We have few issues with the pipeline."

An analysis of the relationships between news sources and story keywords, June 2004, with an emphasis on how pipeline issues are characterized by international and regional press sources, and a question about the extent to which the regionals make the pipeline a human rights and/or environmental affair.

Human rights is not a local press issue. Coverage comes out of London (Financial Times) and South Africa (Business Report). In the Azeri, Georgian and Turkish (English-language) press space, the international and national NGOs appear to have had little success in making issues, and making issues into rights.

We have a classic case of rights talk being imported into the Azeri, Georgian and Turkish pipeline issue area by international NGOs. But the rights talk is only covered by the business press that is read by the international oil companies.

The pipeline issue organizes an exotic press space. Without Google News, no one person probably would be reading this collection of news sources over breakfast.

Conclusion: From the news analysis, we note that the farther you are from the project, the more the issues become subsumed by other issues, such as climate change and human rights. The closer you are geographically to the project, the narrower the issues become. One also could say that one reads the local press not for an overview of all the issues, but for issue poignancy, such as compensation for displaced villagers and others directly affected.

Legend
- Co-occurrence analysis of keywords and sources.
- Manner of speaking
- Media Source

The News about Networks: Making Issues into Rights?


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