

# Muslim Economic Interests in Muzling ↑ Support for Palestine

## Outline

### 1) Introduction

a) Thesis statement

2) History of Palestine and the Israel-Hamas conflict

3) Early support of Muslims for Palestine and later shift

4) Economic interests of Muslim countries

o ~~not~~ take a legal stance on Palestine

a) Regional security and economic ties of KSA with Israel

b) COP29, non-carbon fuels, and economic and strategic shift in KSA's vision

c) Dubai - The Global Trade Hub - strong relationship with Israel - UAE

d) Energy security, and strategic positioning of Turkey in the Eastern Mediterranean - Turkstream pipeline

e) Growing trade of Indonesia with Israel (\$400-500 annually)

f) Pakistan's diplomatic relations with Western countries and Middle Eastern trade and remittances

g) 1979 - peace treaty of Egypt-Israel and regional stability

h) Sanctions and economic isolation of Iran, and leveraging of Iran to support Palestine



- 2) Iraq - The major oil exporter - and its balancing economic strategy
- k) Afghanistan international aid and investment to stabilize its economy
- 5) However, there are not only economic interests in urging Muslim support for Palestine, but also some political pressure as contributing like:
  - a) US-Saudi civil Nuclear Deal, and political pressure on Pakistan
  - b) Rise of Hindu nationalism and regaining Muslim support for Palestine
  - c) Jordan balancing peace treaty with Israel and domestic political dynamics
  - b) consequences of Muslim countries not supporting Palestine
  - a) loss of unity and credibility
  - b) public opinion impact
  - c) impact on humanitarian and moral considerations
- 7) Way forwards to resolve Palestine-Israel conflict
  - a) Two state solution
  - b) Regional peace initiative
  - c) Addressing core issues
  - d) Recognition and reconciliation
  - e) conclusion



"Muslims are like one body; if one part hurts, the whole body feels the pain." as stated by prophet (S.A.W) to foster unity and solidarity among Muslims. Perhaps, this statement became limited to words only. Sometimes personal interest overshadows the pain of the body parts. The same thing is happening in today's world. Despite the deep grievances of Muslim countries or communities, their economic interests are dominating them to refrain from support of Palestine. There are manifold facets to shape countries' foreign affairs; these various factors have become strong chains for their feet to take a step towards Palestine. Apart from economic interests numerous political factors are also aggravating the situation. These various forces can cause execrable consequences which can demolish unity and credibility among Muslims, may impact public opinion, and can cause egregious violation of human rights. As the situation is reaching to the acme of brutality; it acquires an urgent move to resolve the issue. This move should not be ephemeral but should be permanent.



energize the energy of animosity towards Palestine. Economic interests, including trade, foreign investments, and political alliances are crucial factors in muted response of Muslim countries, or Muslim majority countries, highlighting the huge disparity between their economic priorities and ideological solidarity.

The Israel-Palestine issue set back to WWI when Ottoman Empire and Germany on one side, and Britain and France on another side. To get the support of Jews, Britain promised them to give a piece of land in Palestine. In 1917, ~~when~~ ~~Ottoman Empire collapsed~~, it passed Balfour Declaration which was an open announcement to get support of Jews. After the collapse and division of Ottoman Empire, France annexed Syria and Lebanon, and Britain annexed Iraq and Palestine. During that period Jews were multiplying and staying in Palestine. On November 29, 1947, the UNGA had passed Resolution 181 which declared the creation of Israeli State. In 1948, British left Palestine, and David Ben-Gurion - the head of Jews Agency - claimed Jews' authorization on Palest



US president Harry S. Truman had accepted his claim. On May 15, 1948, Israel expelled Palestinian from their own homeland which is celebrated as Nakba day every year. Thus, the series of oppression continued. Many Muslims faced immense cruelty; countless were displaced and not allowed to return to Palestine. Numerous negotiations took place to resolve the issue, but each time they were rejected by Israel. This continued until Hamas came into being in 1987. Hamas, a Palestinian Islamist organization, aimed to establish an Islamic state in historic Palestine. Hamas served various social services to gain strong support from Palestinian. Unlike the Palestinian liberation organization (PLO), they choosed the way of resistance to Israel. In early 2000s, Hamas entered politics more formally, and achieved significant victory in 2006 winning majority of seats in Palestinian legislative council. In 2007, Hamas took control of the Gaza strip, and were trying to solidify its power in the region. This power illuminated on October 7, 2023. However, during Palestinian issue Muslim countries



played significant role to support  
palestinian Muslims.

As Jews took control on palestinian territory and declared themselves as sovereign state after UN resolution 181; this claim was negated by surrounding Muslim countries including Egypt, Jordan, Syria, and Lebanon. The situation became worsen and first war took place between Israel and Arab countries. During the war Israel gained significant support of America which cause the defeat of Arab countries. Arab countries' some parts were annexed by Israel. In 1967, a Six days war, fought by Arab countries with Israel got the second time, and had to face another failure. Golan Heights, East Jerusalem and West Bank, and Sinai peninsula of Syria, Jordan, and Egypt were annexed by Israel. After the third war 'Yom Kippur war' in 1973, a peace initiative - Camp David Accord took place in 1978. In accord of this peace initiative Egypt recognize Israel, then Jordan signed the agreement later. Egypt reoccupied its lost territory as a reward.



The Arab countries or Muslim support for Palestine set to end as their affection was replaced by state's interest.

Gradually, Muslim's ~~support~~ ~~geographical~~ geostrategic interests replaced by economic interests which are playing a nefarious role in muzzling Muslim support for Palestine. These egregious interests have circled many Muslim countries or Muslim majority countries. To begin with, the regional security and economic ties of Saudi Arabia and Israel have seen a significant shift in recent years. These ties are strengthening due to concerns over Iran and its support for militant groups. Saudi has the economic interest of its regional stability which can be expected from Israeli help in nuclear arms to counter Iran, and create a buffer zone for their economic affairs. Economic partnerships are emerging, particularly in technology, health care and infrastructure sectors. Israeli innovation in water management and agriculture technology is of particular interests to Saudi Arabia, putting it briefly, Saudi



Arabia affection towards Palestine has been replaced by their economic interest.

Additionally, COP28 and its non-carbon fuel aim by 2050 is another potent force for KSA to give cold shoulder to Palestine. As KSA's entire economy is heavily dependent on petroleum ~~etc~~ so this policy seems devastating to their economy. To maintain ~~their~~ its splendid economy, KSA has to build strong relationship with Israel and its strong allies like USA. According to Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Israel is the only light at the end of the tunnel, and can reduce her heavy dependence on primary activities. In short, COP28 has proved another obstacle in the way of KSA to support Palestine based on her economic interests.

Another Muslim country which has kept a blind eye on Palestine issue is UAE. The Israel-UAE partnership can be understood through its strategic and economic alliances, formed under the "Abraham Accord". Since signing of Abraham Accord, UAE has seen substantial increase of its trade with Israel to reach \$3.45 bn in 2024. UAE has also signed Free Trade Agreement providing



relief from majority of traded products making Dubai as the 'Global Trade Hub'. Apart from trade, UAE has strong security and military ties with Israel, which includes joint defence system and technology transfers. This alignment is helping them to maintain their status of prosperous business hub, and retaining UAE to take solid step towards Palestine issue. Thus, economic interests and strategic partnership of UAE and Israel is playing a notorious role in muzzling Muslim support for Palestine.

### (UAE-Israel Deals: Aljazeera.com)

Another country which included in the list is Turkey. Although, Turkey remains a potent supporter of Palestine, still there are manifold factors which is hindling Turkey to take strong stance on Palestine issue. One of them is Turkstream pipeline which is diversifying geopolitical leverage of Turkey. Turkstream pipeline transports Russian natural gas to southern and central Europe. This Eastern Mediterranean is driving Turkey's desire to access and control significant energy reserves in the region. This require a stable and cooperative relations with regional powers like Israel, which is significant



power in mediterranean region. This  
Turkstream pipeline and its  
activities are becoming potent  
factors to diversify Turkey's vocal  
support for palestine. To conclude  
it, despite the vocal support of  
Turkey for palestine, still ~~she~~  
her economic interests are causing  
the quite response to permanent  
solution to the problem of palestine.

(Article from Arab Center Washington DC)

Among the Muslim countries  
Indonesia is also involved which  
had a staunch support for palestine,  
and had moral values on the  
substructure of humanitarian sup:  
justice. However, their enriched support  
has been diversified after 'Abraham  
Accord' as the regional pressure  
on indonesia reduced. To boost  
their economy, Indonesia is yearning to  
normalized relations with Israel.  
This normalization has led to  
increase Indonesia's economy to  
approximately \$400-500 bn annually.  
Moreover, enhanced foreign Direct  
investment from US is further diversifying  
its economic portfolio. This pragmatic  
shift the Indonesia's historical support  
for palestine. Briefly, the increasing trade  
relations between Indonesia and Israel



is dwindling Muslim support for Palestine.  
 (Ng. Jee (son, Indonesia-Israel Relations))

Among those various countries, whose economic interests are replacing their sentiments towards Palestine, Pakistan is also included. The heavy dependence of Pakistan on international organizations like IMF, World Bank etc. for loan can diverge, and are diverging Pakistan's capacity to take a solid step for Palestine. Countries like United Nations and China may influence to adopt a more subdued stance on Palestine issue. Additionally, trade relations with Middle Eastern countries which can influence Pakistan's stance as they have complex relations with Israel. \*Foreign Direct Investment, regional stability and economic growth, diplomatic relations and trade opportunities, and remittances from Pakistani workers from abroad are all the influential factors for Pakistan. To sum it up, economic interests and dependent monetary policies of Pakistan are serving the factors in muzzling Pakistan's support for Palestine.

(Palestine and the Silence of Muslim World: Aya Daw by Arooj Rana)



1979 'Peace Treaty' of Egypt-Israel and numerous economic interests of Egypt are responsible for the gold standard of Egypt for Palestine following the treaty Egypt is receiving economic aid from US (which is close ally of Israel. Between 1979 and 2000 Egypt received over \$38 bn with an ongoing annual provision of approximately \$1.3 bn. (Camp David Accord: Britannica)) This treaty has helped to stabilize Egyptian's political and regional stability with Israel. These regional and political stability are the main reasons which are condemning Egypt strong support for Palestine. Thus, Egypt's economic interests are playing vital role in nudging Muslim support for Palestine.

Despite the significant support of Iran for Palestine, some factors like economic sanctions and isolation have caused the significant support of Iran. The re-imposition of US sanctions, especially after the US withdrawal from the 'joint comprehensive plan







for Palestine. In conclusion, Iraq is trying to rebuild its economy, and has choosed the muted response to palestinian issue.

likewise, the economic devastation and securing international recognition of Afghan Taliban in Afghanistan are influencing support for Palestine. However Afghanistan remained strong supporter of Palestine, but its economic conditions and other factors are blocking their way to take strong step to neutralize the issue. Thus, internal stability and regional diplomacy might indirectly influence how vocal they are about palestinian issue.

To sum it up, despite the strong support of Afghan Taliban their economic conditions are muzzling its support for Palestine.

As muslim countries are increasing their power geoeconomically, and are retaining to raise their loud voice which can stop Israeli oppression; many problems are springing out from this. First, when muslim countries fail to support Palestine, it undermines the support and credibility of the unity of the Muslim



world. Historically, Palestine remained a unifying factor among the Muslim countries, symbolizing Israeli oppression and the striving to find solution to it. Now, as economic interests have abandoned this collective stance, which fractured the unity and credibility among 'Muslim Nations'. This has also affect the capacity of Muslim countries' capacity to build consensus on global issues. Moreover, it questions the credibility of these countries, as their inaction may be perceived as betrayal of the shared values and commitments that bind the Muslim community. In short, the muted response of Muslim power is causing the loss of credibility and unity among them.

Second, the stance of Muslim countries on Palestinian issue can influence public opinion. Countries' economic pursuits can shape public opinion.

As there are many pro-Palestinians in Muslim countries who are supporting their Muslim fellows, so any hard step of countries can cause the lack of public trust on government. In this situation, various protests might arise ~~to~~ making it difficult



govt government to handle the  
evolution of the situation. The  
latest protests in Middle East, Europe,  
North America, Asia and Africa  
are the examples of such  
mistrust of public on government.  
Thus, economic interests and the  
muted response of muslim countries  
can destabilize internal peace and  
trust of public.

Third, As the plight of  
palestine seemed as struggle for  
humanitarian right and justice, so  
failure of muslim support can  
raise the questions on the  
Islamic teachings. As many nations  
shape their foreign policy and  
domestic affairs on ethical teachings  
of Quran, so their cold step  
can stain their foundation. It can  
erode the humanitarian obligations  
stated in Quran. Briefly, palestinian  
issue can impact humanitarian and  
moral considerations of muslim  
countries.

Resolving the palestine-Israel conflict  
requires a multifaceted approach that  
addresses several ethical dimensions. The  
two-state solution remains a cornerstone  
proposing the establishment of an  
independent palestine state alongside



Israel, with mutually accepted borders. This solution aims to ensure both people can leave in peace and security. Complementing this, a regional peace initiative involving neighbouring Arab could foster broader diplomatic support and stability, leveraging their influence to mediate and support the peace process. Addressing core issues such as the status of Jerusalem, the rights of refugees, security concerns, and the borders are essential for any lasting agreement. Finally, recognition and reconciliation are essential, with both sides acknowledging each other's rights and existence, and engaging in dialogue and confidence building measures to heal historical wounds, and build a foundation for enduring peace.

In conclusion, Muslims, who were known for their unity, and considered as one body, who can feel the pain of their fellow being, ~~etc~~ became blinded by their economic interests. These have the potential to shake the moral considerations of Muslims. Being self-centered they are not taking any solid step, because of various factors including geopolitical stability for their economic



growth. Initially, some Arab countries strived for the rights of Palestine, but later as the Israeli oppression aggravated; they gradually retained from Palestine issue. As the roots deep in every country's earth, and deteriorated the greenery of ethics of Muslim countries. Various other factors are also responsible for muted response of Muslims. Despite the urge to help the Palestinian Muslims, some countries like Iran, Indonesia, Afghanistan, Malaysia, and Egypt cannot take concrete stance considering their geopolitical and economic stability. However, KSA, on the other hand is retaining to build relations with Palestinian due to its own economic consideration. This reckless response is springing out problems like loss of unity, changes public opinion which causes protests, and affects humanitarian and moral values. The Palestine issue has become a fouled quagmire which needs some way forwards to clean it. The goal can be achieved through two steps solution, regional peace initiative addressing core issues, and recognition and reconciliation. However, these solutions



Day: **MTWTFSS**

Date:    /    /   

Seemed as dream for Palestine,  
because Israel is not agreeing  
on any of them.