

DATE: / /

# Paralysis of Muslim Ummah: Why Palestine Remains a Forgotten Cause.

## Outline

### A- Introduction

Despite of passing several decades, Palestine conflict remain as it was. Muslim nations have diverging interests, and unity of ummah seems diminishing. Solution of this issue is only possible by effective muslim unity and solidarity on Palestine issue.

### B- How Muslim Ummah is Paralyzed

- 1- Disunity among muslim states
- 2- Internal rivalries of muslim nations  
Case in study; KSA-Iran conflict
- 3- Weakness of Organisation of Islamic countries.  
Case in study; OIC summit held in Riyadh in November 2023
- 4-

DATE: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

## C - Why Palestine Remains a Forgotten Cause

1- Diverging Economic and Political interests of muslim states

2- Dependence on USA  
Case in study: KSA-US relations

3- Normalisation with Israel  
Case in Study: Oslo Accords 1979

4- Authoritarian regimes in muslim world lacking democratic principles

## D - Necessity of Muslim Unity to Help Palestine Cause

## E - Conclusion

DATE:   /  /  

Paralysis of muslim ummah and negligence on Palestine issue is visible from the fact that Palestine shares border with muslim states, but Palestinians are not allowed to escape the country to save their lives. For Palestinians the war did not start on 7 November October with Hamas attack, rather in 1948 during the Nakba or catastrophe. Since then, several severe rifts and uncountable skirmishes have been witnessed. The response of muslim states to this problem have been varying. Though, muslim individuals of every muslim nations show solidarity with Palestinian people. The numbness of muslim ummah is because of internal rivalries among muslim states and lack of unity on a specific cause. Organisation of Islamic Countries has been so ~~not~~ powerless to draw a consensus among muslim states. This lack of unity among muslim countries has resulted in heedlessness towards Palestine problem. They have forgotten the Palestine issue, because advocating Palestine is

DATE: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

being contradictory to their national economic and political interest. Muslim states, especially the Arab nations have dependence on United States, which led to their normalisation of ties with Israel. The laxity of Arab states on Palestine issue is because of Authoritarian regimes in the countries, which does not take into account public sentiments. Only possible solution for Palestine issue is effective muslim unity and solidarity on this cause.

Paralysis of muslim ummah is glaring. Muslims, once the superpower of seven kingdoms, are now unable to stop genocide of their muslim brothers. The change in attitudes of muslim and lost spirit in ummah concept is multifaceted.

Mainly, it is because of disunity among muslim states. Muslims were powerful and ummah was lively, when their goal was one and their force was joint. In recent ongoing insurgency, different view points have come from muslim

DATE: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

countries, especially with reference to Hamas and other military factions opposing Israel. During the Houthis attacks on trade ships heading Israel, muslim nations have diverging opinion. While some complimenting their actions, others have criticized it harshly. "United Arab Emirates even asked United States to declare Houthis as terrorist group and attack them". This dissent among muslim countries is great setback to ummah spirit.

Disunity and disagreement has slowly grown to internal rivalries. Conflicts among muslim states result in internal weakness.

Whether created by own negligence or external efforts, internal rifts ubiquitously sabotage the goals of ummah. In this regard, vendetta of Saudi Arabia and Iran is important - Both the countries are crucial player, not just in middle eastern context, but in whole muslim world. Their conflict has divided the muslim world, and has averted their focus from major problems

DATE: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

like Palestine problem. Along with this, there are also many other rifts among muslim countries that do not allow ummah spirit to prosper properly. Lack of any effective guardian body over countries of muslim world is another problem. Organization of Islamic countries though exist, but it lack cohesion and unity; hence has lost its essence. It is unable to solve inter-state differences among member states, Shia-Sunni conflict and territorial disputes. Not much can therefore be expected from the organisation. It gathered in Riyadh last year during OIC/Arab League summit in November 2023, to discuss the blood-soaked tragedy underway in Gaza. Sure enough, this too ended with no clear action emerging to stop the massacre. It included representatives from all muslim states, but cannot reach any consensus. This has become an arena of politics and not a platform to discuss and resolve problems of muslim

World.

In the above paragraphs, we have discussed, how muslim ummah is powerless and inactive. The root cause behind this numbness ~~are~~ is lack of unity and cohesion between countries. This has led to avert their focus and forget Palestine issue; a glaring problem not just for muslims but whole world. Why they have forgotten the Palestine issue is discussed in paragraphs below.

Palestine has remained forgotten cause mainly because muslim countries have diverging economic and political interest. They would not allow advocacy of Palestine at the expense of their national interest. Most of the muslim countries have economic and political relations with Israel and its allies in war, especially United States and key members of European Union. Thus their prosperity and growth is directly associated with maintaining ties with such countries. In the early years of conflict, when muslim

DATE: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

nations were in early days of their development, they supported Palestine at the time of Nakba in 1948, and six days war in 1967. This support gradually diminished with muslim countries developing ties with rivals of Palestine to satisfy their own interests. Thus, Palestine problem is ignored to fulfil national interest.

Similarly, dependence on USA is another factor to forget Palestine cause. Muslim countries especially the Arabs have strong ties with ~~the~~ United States.

United States, from the beginning has remained an opponent to Palestine. United States have backed Israel at every global platform. According to reports, "United States has so far vetoed 50 times for Israel at United Nations Security Council". United States has openly advocated Israel in genocide. As former president of United States, George W. Bush said: "My thoughts are that we need to support Israel; no ands, ifs, Bults". United States wants the same from



DATE: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

its allies, to oppose Palestine problem question. Therefore, many of US dependent muslim countries withdrawn from support of Palestine.

Dependence on United States, has led many of muslim countries to normalise their relation with Israel. After Nakba in 1948, and Israeli aggression against muslims, led to a feeling of hatred against Zionist regimes by whole muslim world. All muslim states was reluctant to develop any diplomatic ties with Israel.

This attitude changed gradually over the time and with the help of American intervention.

Normalisation of relations with Israel started from <sup>Egypt</sup> Palestine, when Anwar Sadat, Egyptian President at that time signed Oslo accord in 1979. This was followed by neighbouring country Jordan in 1993. Even the Saudi Arabia started to normalise relation with Israel in deals brokered by Trump Administration. This developing interest of muslim states towards Israel has

DATE: \_\_\_/\_\_\_/\_\_\_

caused the later to forget Palestine conflict.

A major reason of development in diplomatic relations with Israel is authoritarian governments in muslim countries. Muslim world, especially the states in middle East lack democratic principles; and hence public opinion is of little value.

Decision power lies with the crown. Consider the example of Saudi Arabia, where king is not liable to question in regard of foreign policy. Thus they prioritise their self interest and ignore public sentiments. This has subsequently resulted in normalisation with Israel. Although public in whole muslim world have feeling of hatred for Israel. Historian Rashid Khalidi says;

"If you had democracy in the Arab world, you would not have any normalisation; Public opinion is overwhelmingly against normalisation with Israel, in every poll, in every muslim country."

In this way normalisation with Israel had become possible, because autocratic regimes

do not take public sentiments into consideration.

This shows how muslim ummah has get paralyzed and forgotten the Palestine cause. But this

spirit can be revised. Advocacy of Palestine cause is only possible by muslim unity and cohesion. For this reason, muslim states must need to reach

a consensus and forget all internal rivalries to

better support issue of Palestine. This can be done

by effective diplomacy by muslim states both within muslim sphere and at

international forums. Equipping Organisation of Islamic Countries with certain powers is

mandatory; as it is guardian of muslim ummah spirit.

Without muslim unity and help solution of Palestine conflict is

impossible. Turkish President Recep

Tayyip Erdogan said; "All the muslim nations should work

jointly, and help their muslim brothers in any way possible".

Therefore muslim unity is crucial to help Palestinian people.

DATE:   /  /  

In a nutshell, one may say that muslim ummah has lost its spirit. The force of unity and power of Islamic chivalry has get paralyzed. This is because of rising internal conflicts between muslim states, which has led to lack of unity and cohesion. Unfortunately, Organisation of Islamic countries has also been of no use in this regard. This can be visualized from its summit in November last year. In this dilemma Palestine issue has been ignored by muslim countries. It is mainly due to diverging economic and political interests of respective countries. Most of the muslim states have authoritarian regimes which ignore public sentiments in deducing foreign. US has also been a major player in this regard. It has compelled the muslim states to develop relations with Israel. Palestine issue has no solution, until the muslim states joined together and manifest Ummah spirit.