

# Gaza Conflict And Its Fallout On the Region

## 1- Introduction

(a) Gaza Conflict and Israel's genocidal Onslaught.

(b) Thesis Statement.

## 2- Fall out On the region

(a) Fueling into a broader regional war.  
(Involvement of Hezbollah, Houthis and Iran).

(b) Economic loss in the region.  
(Halt of trade in the red sea, Suez Canal traffic disturbed - World Economic Outlook report)

(c) Inter-state displacement enabling refugee Crisis. (UNOCHA reports)

(d) Attacks on Cyber security and technological threats. (Jerusalem Post hacked)

(e) Conflict fueling the risk of a nuclear war.  
(Foreign affairs magazine's analysis)

(f) ↑ Spread of Chemical borne diseases in the region due to Israel's use of Chemical weapons.  
(Human rights Watch report)

(g) Biodiversity loss and infertility due to toxic residue.

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### 3- Regional gains in Gaza Conflict

- (a) Israel as the largest benefactor.  
(Testing its weapons on civilian population)
- (b) Saudi Arabia's indirect benefit with the persecution Hamas and Hezbollah.
- (c) Iran garnering World's sympathy and Support.
- (d) Turkiye and Qatar acting as diplomatic agents.
- (e) Palestinian cause amplified through social media.

### 4- Way forward

### 5- Conclusion

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Gaza - the tiny strip in the south-west of the Israel - has been brought under havoc since October, 2023. While South Africa has been contesting against Israel being guilty of 'committing genocide' in the Gaza strip' at the International Court of Justice, the whole Middle Eastern region has come under flames of the conflict. The disastrous war on Gaza is, in fact, not only limited to Gaza, but brought severe implications on the broader Middle Eastern region ranging in diverse aspects of human life. From political and social to technological and humanitarian; all aspects of the region came under the spell of regional fallout.

The Gaza Conflict has brought key regional players into action. Consequently, the war is endangering a broader regional war in which actors such as Iran and Hezbollah in Lebanon are all involved. In May, 2024 Israel attacked an Iranian Consulate in Syria which was followed by a series of direct military attacks between the two nations. Analysts on multiple forums have

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termed it as a 'ripple effect' sensing a regional war. Moreover, Israel has also attacked Lebanese territory, and the non-state actor; Hezbollah, has been responding in a similar fashion. The UN peacekeeping forces on the Lebanese border belonging to 11 countries including France and Italy, have also been attacked by the Israeli military. Thus, the Gaza war has slowly emerged as a broader regional war endangering and displacing millions of civilian population on each side of the border.

Economic losses in the region due to the mentioned conflict have also been paramount. According to the European Institute of the Mediterranean, Egypt and Jordan have been severely affected by the disruption in the maritime traffic in the Red sea, owing to the Yemeni Houthis' attacks on international shipping. Suez Canal, which serves as the gateway between Asia and Europe, has seen 60% reduction in traffic and subsequently causing a loss of \$350 million per month to the Egyptian economy - IMF

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reported. Along with the direct economic losses to the region, tourism in areas like Israel, Lebanon's historic sites and Egypt's pyramids have also been comparatively ~~reduced~~, causing the tourism economy a blow. Hence, the Middle Eastern region is suffering from severe economic implications due to war on Gaza.

Along with the economic crisis, the genocidal onslaught on Gaza has created inter-regional displacement and a refugee crisis. According to one estimate, Beirut is  $\frac{1}{344}$  the size of Texas in the US, and direct missile attacks on civilian population by Israel has already displaced more than a million people. Moreover, the displaced populations in shelters and on streets have faced shortages of food, hygiene products, and adequate sanitation facilities. Lebanon is already a home to 1.5 million Syrian refugees, making it the world's largest host country for refugees relative to its population size. Thus, the refugees already living in compromised conditions have faced increased internal displacement

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and deteriorating physical conditions due to war. According to a report by the UNOCHA, 50,000 Syrians have already tried to flee back to their home country, where the living conditions are already scarce. Due to the limited shared resources, xenophobic sentiments against the refugees have seen a surge in Lebanon and elsewhere.

On the northern coast of Lebanon, there has been an uptick in dangerous sea journeys to Europe, especially to Cyprus. These illegal immigrations on ~~the~~ one hand, are causing life risks to the migrants and on the other hand promotes illegal immigration and then consequently coercive means are used against them at border security. There are <sup>also</sup> numerous Palestinian refugees living in Lebanon ~~too~~ - estimated around 4,70,000. Those Palestinian refugees already face multiple barriers in the Lebanese society making them one of the most marginalised group in the region, and the conflict has exacerbated these restrictions, whether social or economic. Many Palestinians

refugees have already been displaced multiple times over the decades and now they are facing renewed threats of additional displacement. Thus, the escalation of war to Lebanon and other regions has the potential to trigger further displacements and straining the already over-stretched humanitarian resources.

The region marred with the effects of conflict, has also seen a rise in Cyber crimes and technological threats. Owing to the Cyber crimes, The Jerusalem Post - a prominent English language newspaper operating in Jerusalem - went down for days after a series of cyber attacks following the aftermath of the conflict. Moreover, The UAE and Qatar also failed to immune themselves from the ripple effects of war. Google launched a new cloud region in Qatar in May, 2024 and Amazon Web Service was launched in UAE region last year. The technology giants can face significant hurdles as well as losses in the wake of war on Gaza. Israel itself is facing employee shortage at companies like Asmis - a

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U.S based cybersecurity firm — due to 5% of its employees called up from reservists to rejoin Israeli military. Furthermore, the use of Artificial Intelligence in military to assign targets, has severely been criticized with Human Rights watch finding out in a report that AI used by Israeli military to target civilians relies on faulty data and inexact approximations. The effects of the conflict, therefore, are more far reaching than mere military stuffles.

Following suit, the threat of a nuclear war looms large. According to the Foreign Affairs journal, Iran may consider leveraging its status as a threshold nuclear state, raising specter of potential nuclear weaponisation as a means to counter Israel's perceived military superiority. Furthermore, the stifling battle might trigger Israel's extreme move to attack Iran's nuclear facilities. While Iran has consistently maintained that its nuclear program is for peaceful purposes, the potential to leverage this capability as a deterrent against



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Israeli aggression has undoubtedly been a point of consideration. Thus, the possibility of a larger threat looming over middle east in the form of a nuclear war, cannot be ignored.

While the ~~the~~ threat of nuclear weapons has only been a distant reality, the use of Internationally Prohibited chemical weapons has already unfolded itself into a scary reality. According to Human Rights Watch, Israeli military has used multiple airbursts of artillery-fired white phosphorus over Gaza and Lebanon. The effects of white phosphorus on human body are lethal. It has an incendiary effect with excruciating burns down to the bone as it is highly soluble in fat and therefore, human flesh. Consequently, it can exacerbate wounds even after the treatment and can enter bloodstream and cause multiple organ failures. Thus, the use of white Phosphorus - an Internationally prohibited chemical weapon - over Lebanon, can cause serious life threatening diseases to the local population in the short as well

as long term.

As the consequences of the conflict transcend all the spectrums, the wild life of the region, in the meanwhile, has also been severely affected. Biodiversity loss is one of the forgotten component that the war has brought upon the region. Animals that have been attacked during the war have been difficult to rescue. Moreover, the missile residue bearing toxic substances leaves the land infertile for years to come. Subsequently, the biodiversity of the region is one of the most marginalised elements of the society hit by the war on Gaza.

While the Gaza Conflict has had some of the most devastating effects on the region, it also has some beneficiaries. The war on Gaza has also been serving some regional interests either knowingly or unknowingly. Although, it has to be the most gruesome and evil deed, yet certain states have tried to serve their interests consciously while others have benefitted unconsciously.

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Israel is the largest benefactor of the Gaza war, not only for the short term but also in securing some long term goals. The genocidal onslaught on Gaza has allowed Israel to test its weapons technology on the innocent civilians. Alongside testing its weapons technology, Israel is also gaining land en masse as it has completely or almost completely forced Palestinians from the Northern Gaza rendering an apocalyptic image. The whole idea of Gaza conflict serves Israel's Zionist interests aiming for "Greater Israel".

Saudi Arabia is another major player in the region, and it also has some of its interests served ~~in the~~ by the Israeli war machine. Hezbollah, Hamas, and Houthis, are all being hit by Israel which Iran calls the "Axis of Resistance" — thus, thereby attacking Iran's strength in the ~~the~~ region. Iran and Saudi Arabia are two major rivals in the middle east and the persecution of Iran's axis of resistance is therefore serving Saudi Arabia's interests.

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Iran, even though, being an offeree of the war, yet has garnered some gains. In the broader spectrum, Iran has supposedly tried to maintain its status quo in the region and has gained mass support from around the world being hailed as the only country in the region to confront Israel!

Alongside Iran, some countries have gained the status of diplomatic agents for peace, such as Turkey and Qatar. Both the countries have tried to mediate between various regional forces involved, and thereby gained recognition as such. On the other hand, a positive outcome of the war also has been the amplification of the Palestinian freedom. The onslaught has been live telecasted on social media through some of the Palestinians, and gained mass recognition around the world. The New York Times noted a 60% increased support among the democrats for the Palestinians, which previously was significantly low.

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However, no amount of gains justify the current wave of murdering civilians en masse. Therefore, there must be a way forward for the apocalypse caused by war on Gaza, in the entire middle east. Turkiye and Qatar can play their diplomatic role in a more enhanced way as well as the US pushing Israel for negotiations. Without negotiations and coerced steps at the UN, there is no way to get the middle east out of the flames. If Israel still does not comply, the UN can use its article which gives the UNGA an authority to surpass the Veto as it did in the Nicaragua vs USA ~~is~~ called as the 'Uniting for Peace resolution' 1950. Thus, an immediate ceasefire, as well as a lasting long term two-state solution viable to the people's interest is important for lasting peace in the region.

Conclusively, Gaza has been a flashpoint for over more than a decade. However, the recent wave of conflict has spread

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the region like a wild fire. Neighbouring countries as well as key regional players have gotten involved in the regional tug of war. However, greater consequences await the future, if the world at large and UN, in specific does not immediately intervene.