

Q Gaza Human Crisis has become a classic example of war crimes by Israel. But the champion of human rights is silent. Find out the reasons and explain how it would affect the US relations with the Muslim world?

Ans
(a) **An Overview on Israel-Palestine Conflict:**

On January 26, 2023 Israeli forces had a raid in a tense town in the West Bank. They ended up killing nine members of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad group and some other people who weren't involved. In response, Palestinian fighters fired two rockets, which led to Israel striking back. Fortunately there were no more reports of people getting hurt. Then, on October 7, 2023 something big happened. Hamas did a major surprise attack on Israel, which had never been done this way before. In response, Israel launched air attacks and blocked off the Gaza Strip, a place in Palestine controlled by Hamas. This conflict has been going on for a long time, and it's causing a lot of harm.

(b) **Gaza Human Crisis - The champion of Human rights is silent &**

The United States, which prides itself as a global leader on human rights and international law, was conspicuously silent on Gaza human crisis.

The ongoing Gaza humanitarian crisis, exacerbated by the Israel-Hamas war, has led to significant accusations of war crimes against Israel, especially due to the high civilian casualties and widespread destruction in Gaza.

(c) Reasons behind the silence of Champion of Human rights - US

1. Strategic Alliance with Israel

One of the primary reasons for the U.S.'s silence on alleged Israeli war crimes is its deep and long-standing strategic alliance with Israel. The U.S. sees Israel as a key partner in the Middle East and provides it with \$3.8 billion in military aid every year, and views the country as a crucial ally for intelligence and military cooperation.

2. National Security concerns

The U.S. focuses a lot on protecting its own security and fighting terrorism in the Middle East. Because the U.S. sees Hamas as a terrorist group, it views Israel's military actions in Gaza as part of the fight against terrorism, not as war crimes. This makes it hard for the U.S. to criticize Israel without affecting its strategy to fight terrorism.

3. Political Lobbying and Domestic Influence

Pro-Israel lobbying groups, such as the American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), hold significant influence over U.S. foreign policy decisions. Many politicians, especially in Congress, avoid criticizing Israel to prevent political backlash from these powerful lobbying groups. This influence contributes to the lack of strong

condemnation of Israeli actions in Gaza.

4- Moral Justification for Israeli Defense:

Another reason for the silence is the narrative that Israel has the right to defend itself against Hamas rocket attacks. This justification allows Israel describe its military actions as self-defense. The U.S. and its allies support Israel's right to security, and this view often ludes the humanitarian crisis happening in Gaza.

5 Impact on the U.S.'s Global Image:

The U.S.'s stance on accusations of Israeli war crimes could harm its reputation as a supporter of human rights and global law. In Muslim countries, this look like hypocrisy b/c the U.S. has intervened in places like Libya or Syria, to protect human rights. This double standard has led to more anger and increased anti-American feelings in many Muslim-major countries.

(A) How the Silence of U.S affect its relations with the Muslim World?

This Silence could have a significant impact on U.S. relations with the Muslim world in several ways:

(1) Erosion of Trust:

Many Muslim-majority countries see the U.S. silence as a betrayal of its commitment to human

sights. This could lead to a loss of trust in the U.S. as a reliable partner, especially in the Middle East and North Africa.

2- Increased Anti-American Sentiment

The U.S.'s support for Israel, despite the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, is fueling anti-American sentiment across the Muslim world. This could lead to protests, boycotts, and opposition to U.S. policies and interests in these regions.

3- Strain On Diplomatic Relations

Countries like Turkey, Qatar, and Malaysia, will have openly criticized Israeli's actions in Gaza could see their relations with the U.S. worsen. This tension may make it difficult for the U.S. to maintain strong diplomatic ties with these nations, potentially impacting cooperation on regional and global issues.

4- Potential Impact on Saudi-Israel Relations

Saudi Arabia was engaged in talks to normalize relations with Israel, an effort largely encouraged by the U.S. to foster regional peace and cooperation. However, the ongoing Gaza crisis has put these discussions on hold, with Saudi leaders condemning the violence and calling for an end to Israeli attacks. This delay not only affects the chances of Saudi Arabia and Israel improving relations but also weakens the U.S.'s plan to unite the Middle East. If the crisis continues, Saudi Arabia might move further away from Israel, making it harder to

achieve peace in the future. This setback could undermine U.S. efforts to promote long-term stability and peace in the region.

6. Weakening of the Abraham Accords:

The Abraham Accords, which normalized diplomatic relations between Israel and several Arab nations like the UAE and Bahrain, are now at risk due to the Gaza Conflict. These agreements were seen as a major diplomatic success for the U.S., fostering economic and security cooperation in the region. However, the humanitarian crisis in Gaza has led to growing opposition in Arab countries, pressuring their governments to reconsider their ties with Israel. If these nations decide to withdraw or suspend their participation in the Accords, it could significantly weaken U.S. influence in the Middle East.

7. Growing Influence of Other Powers:

As U.S. relations with many Muslim-majority countries weaken due to the Gaza Crisis, other global powers like China and Russia may take advantage of the situation. Both countries could step in to offer alternative partnerships, including economic, military, and political support, to fill the gap left by the U.S. China, with its Belt and Road Initiative, has already expanded its influence in the Middle East and could strengthen ties with countries disillusioned by U.S. policies. Russia, too, might boost its presence by providing military cooperation and aligning with nations opposed to U.S. and Israeli actions. This change could diminish U.S. influence in the region and lead to a more multipolar world, where Muslim

Countries can turn to other significant allies instead of relying solely on the West.

8- Impact on Trade and Economic Ties

Weaker relations with Muslim-majority countries may significantly impact economic ties, especially in sectors like energy and trade. Many of these countries are major oil producers, and a decline in diplomatic relations could jeopardize U.S. access to crucial energy supplies. This change could also result in increased prices for goods and energy, affecting the U.S. economy. Overall, strained relations could lead to a more fragmented economic landscape, making it harder for the U.S. to maintain its position as a key player in the global market.

9- Challenges in Counterterrorism Cooperation

Many Muslim-majority countries are crucial partners in the U.S. counterterrorism efforts. However, growing anger over the situation in Gaza may weaken this cooperation, as these nations may feel less inclined to collaborate with the U.S. if they perceive it as biased or unresponsive to their concerns. Reduced cooperation could make it more challenging to combat terrorist groups that threaten both regional and global security.

Conclusion: In conclusion, the Gaza crisis has the potential to severely strain U.S. relations with the Muslim world, impacting diplomacy, security, and economic cooperation. Without addressing the humanitarian concerns, the U.S. risks losing trust and influence across the region.

Ques → How the Middle East was dragged into the Israel - Palestine conflict.

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Q Critically evaluate the chances of expansion of Israel-Hamas war into the whole region. Also analyze how this war could impact global power politics.

Ans (1) **Expansion of Israel-Hamas war into the whole region:**

The ongoing Israeli onslaught in Gaza has escalated regional tensions, with Arab countries - such as Lebanon, Yemen, and Syria - as well as Iran, involved, raising concerns over a potential wider regional conflict.

(a) **Israel:**

Israeli forces had unilaterally withdrawn from Gaza in 2005 marking 38 years after capturing it from Egypt in the Middle East war, abandoning settlements and leaving the enclave under the control of the Palestinian Authority.

In 2022, at least 44 people, including 15 children, were killed in three days of violence that began when Israeli air strikes hit a

senior Hamas commander in a preemptive operation against an imminent attack by the

allegedly Iranian-backed movement.

Israel launched its military offensive in Gaza against Hamas's Oct 7, 2023 attacks which has killed

41,638 Palestinians, according to the Palestinian health ministry.

b) Palestinian Territories:

Tensions between Israel and Palestine date back to the late 1940s. Palestinians lament Israel's creation as the Nakba, or catastrophe, that resulted in their dispossession and blocked their dreams of statehood.

In the conflict that followed, some 700,000 Palestinians, half the Arab population of what was British-ruled Palestine, fled or were driven from their homes, ending up in Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria as well as in Gaza, the West Bank, and East Jerusalem.

In 2006, Hamas won a majority of seats in a Palestinian legislative election. Later in 2007, Hamas took over Gaza in a brief civil war, ousting Fatah forces loyal to Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas, who is based in the West Bank.

c) LEBANON:

Israel invaded Lebanon in 1982 and thousands of Palestinian fighters under Yasser Arafat were evacuated by sea after a 10-week siege. In 2006, war erupted when Lebanon's Hezbollah fighters captured two Israeli soldiers and Israel retaliated.

Hezbollah and Israel have been exchanging cross-border fire since Oct last year. Hezbollah leader

Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah was killed in Israeli attacks on Sep 28, 2024; wk was confirmed by Hezbollah who vowed to continue the battle against Israel. Meanwhile, Lebanon's health ministry has recorded more than 1000 killed and 6000 wounded in the past two weeks in Israeli attacks.

d) Syria:

Israel has been carrying out strikes against allegedly Iran-linked targets in Syria for years but has ramped up raids since Oct 7, 2023. Three civilians were killed and nine others injured on October 1, 2024, in an Israeli airstrike on the capital Damascus, according to Syrian state media. The Syrian leadership has historically provided support for Hamas, including allowing the organization to move its politburo to Damascus.

e) YEMEN:

Yemen's Houthis are part of the "Axis of Resistance" an anti-Israel and anti-Western alliance of regional groups (Hamas, Hezbollah, and Houthis) allegedly backed by Iran. The Houthis have said their attacks on shipping routes in the Red Sea are a show of support for the Palestinians and Hamas in its fighting with Israel.

f) IRAN:

Iran's relations with Israel have been severed since Ayatollah Khomeini came to power. Tehran cut off all ties with Israel, citizens could no longer travel and flight routes were cancelled, and the Israeli embassy in Tehran was transformed into the Palestinian embassy.

Iran allegedly supports an "Axis of Resistance" which includes a network of political and armed groups across the region, including in Lebanon, Syria, Iraq, and Yemen, supporting the Palestinian cause and against Israel and US influence in the Middle East.

Iran's strikeback against Israel on October 1, 2024, launching a barrage of missiles - after Tel Aviv claimed it had carried out ground incursions into South Lebanon.

an attack or invasion especially a sudden or 'brisk' one.

(2) Impact of Israel Hamas War on Global Power Politics:

(a) Shifting Alliances:

The Israel-Hamas war could force countries to reconsider their alliances. Some Arab nations that were improving relations with Israel, like the UAE or Bahrain, might face pressure from their populations or other regional powers to distance themselves from Israel. This could pause or reverse diplomatic normalization efforts, making regional relations more complex.

(b) Great Power Competition:

The war might deepen the rivalry between global powers such as the US, China, and Russia. The US has traditionally supported Israel, while Russia and China may see this as an opportunity to increase their influence by supporting other Middle Eastern nations or positioning themselves as peace brokers. This competition could extend beyond the Middle East, affecting other areas where these powers have conflicting interests, leading to a more divided and tense global political landscape.

c) Impact on Energy Markets:

A prolonged conflict in the Middle East can lead to instability in global energy markets, particularly with oil and gas. If the fighting spreads to oil-producing nations or disrupts major shipping routes, like the Strait of Hormuz, it could cause a spike in oil prices. Higher energy costs would impact economies around the world, especially in countries dependent on Middle Eastern oil, potentially causing inflation and economic slowdowns, and giving energy-rich nations more leverage in global politics.

d) Humanitarian and Security Implications:-

The conflict could have significant humanitarian consequences, displacing large numbers of people and leading to a refugee crisis. This could increase migration, particularly to Europe, causing political and social challenges. Additionally, the war might heighten security concerns globally, as extremist groups could use the conflict to recruit and radicalize individuals. This would force global powers to focus more on counterterrorism efforts, possibly leading to new security alliances or interventions.

