

War Crimes in the Palestine

Israel Conflict A Challenge to International Justice

Date 20
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OUTLINE

1. Introduction

Thesis Statement:

1. War Crimes and the failure of International Justice.

1.1. Defining War Crimes in the context of the conflict.

1.2 The Gaza Wars: Recurrent Patterns of Violence.

1.3 Siege of Gaza: A Humanitarian Crisis as War a Crime.

1.4 Role of Israeli and Palestinian Armed Groups

1.5 International Criminal Court (ICC):

Jurisdiction and limitations

1.6 Selective Justice and Global Power Politics

1.7 Victims without a Voice: Civilian Trauma and Legal Silence

2. Political and Institutional Impediments

2.1 Media Narratives and Public Perception

2.2 Geopolitical Interest and Diplomatic Paralysis

2.3 Lobby Groups and Political Pressure

2-5 UN's Credibility Crisis
Human Rights Organizations and Civil
Society

- ~~3. Historical and Legal Context~~
- ~~3.1 Origin Origins of the Conflict: Mandates and Partition~~
- ~~3.2 Nakba and the Question of Displacement~~
- ~~3.3 Occupation and the st Settlements~~
- ~~3.4 Oslo Accords and illusion of Peace~~
- ~~3.5 Evolution of International Law and its Double standards~~

Conclusion

Children buried beneath rubble, hospitals bombed into silence, and entire neighborhoods reduced to ash - these haunting images define the brutal reality of the Palestine-Israel conflict. As global leader voice "Concern" and institutions issues statements the machinery of war continues to crush innocent lives. In this volatile landscape war crimes are not aberrations but recurring strategies. Despite countless investigations and resolutions, justice remains elusive, raising the urgent questions: Can

Date: / / 20
International Law to truly hold power to account when geopolitics? This ~~essay~~ morality is entangled with persistent war crimes. It delves into the force and Palestinian armed groups, exploring their legal & Classification under international humanitarian law. It analyses the cyclical nature of military operation in Gaza, the humanitarian fallout, and the limitation of global legal institutions like the International Criminal Court (ICC). Beyond the battlefield, It examines how media narratives, political lobbying, and diplomatic interests distort the path to justice - it also revisits the historical context of the conflict tracing how colonial legacies and failed agreements have allowed impunity to thrive in a region desperately in need of accountability and peace. The Palestine - Israel conflict is not just a ~~geopolitical~~ geopolitical crisis; It is a legal and moral test for the international Justice system. While war crimes committed by both sides are well-documented their ~~prosecution~~ prosecution is consistently obstructed by political bias, legal ambiguities and the strategic interests of powerful nations. International Law, once envisioned

as a neutral framework for justice, is increasing manipulated or ignored in this conflict. It argues that the repeated failure to hold present perpetrators accountable — whether state or non-state actors — not only undermines the credibility of global institutions but also deepens the suffering of victims, prolongs the conflicts, and erodes the foundational principles of international justice.

Media Narratives significantly shape public understanding of the Israel-Palestine conflict. Western media often emphasize Israel's security concerns, while regional outlets highlight Palestinian suffering. This divergent perspective stems from political alliance and audience expectations. Disinformation framing further distorts perceptions. For example, the Centre for Media Monitoring's 2023-24 report identified biases in Western coverage, noting a tendency to legitimize Israeli actions while marginalizing the Palestinian perspective. Additionally, the proliferation of misinformation on social media platforms has exacerbated misunderstandings with false narratives spreading rapidly. Such media disparities obscure accountability, polarize

Date _____ 20____
M T W T F S S

audience, and hinder constructive discourse. Ultimately biased coverage serves as a soft power tool that influences international responses and obstructs impartial justice.

The Gaza conflicts of 2008-9, 2014, and exhibit recurring patterns of disproportionate force and significant civilian casualties. In 2014, ~~approx~~ approximately 2251 Palestinians ~~casualties~~ were killed, with 65% identified as ~~cit~~ civilians, raising concerns about violations of international humanitarian law. The 2023-24 escalation intensified these concerns, with report indicating that ~~70%~~ nearly 70% of over 33000 Palestinian deaths were women and children. The use of AI-driven targeting system by Israeli Defense forces, ~~It~~ intended to enhance precision, has been criticized for contribution to increase ~~cit~~ civilian human. These patterns underscore the urgent need for accountability and adherence to international legal standards to protect civilian ~~low~~ lives.

The prolonged blockade of Gaza has precipitated a severe humanitarian crisis, with significant implications for essential services and quality of life. Since March 2025, Israel's complete blockade has halted the delivery of food, fuel, and medical supplies, leaving 2.3 million Palestinians struggling to survive on dwindling resources. Hospitals are non-functional, lacking medicine, electricity, clean water and proper sanitation, escalating health risks. The United States has accused Israel of using humanitarian aid as a tool of war, highlighting that aid has ceased for 57 days, causing mass starvation and deprivation. These actions have been condemned by rights groups as potential war crimes, emphasizing the urgent need for accountability and adherence to international legal standards to protect civilian lives.

Both Israel and the Palestinian armed group have been implicated in actions violating international humanitarian law. Hamas has faced accusations of using human shields by operating within civilian areas; however, investigations by Amnesty International found no conclusive evidence supporting these claims. Conversely, the Israeli military's use of heavy artillery, including white phosphorus shells, in densely populated civilian zones has raised serious concerns. Reports from Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch document the deployment of such munition in Gaza, leading to significant civilian harm. These practices by both parties underscore the urgent need for adherence to international legal standards to protect civilian populations.

The ICC's efforts to investigate alleged war crimes in the Palestine-Israel conflict have encountered significant challenges. In April 2025, the ICC Appeals Chamber ordered a review of Israel's jurisdictional objections concerning arrest warrants for

MTWTFSS 20
Israeli officials, highlighting legal complexities in the court's authority over non-member states. Additionally political pressures have influenced the ICC's operations; for instance the court has faced US sanctions in response to its investigations into Israeli action in Gaza. These developments illustrate the limitations of ICC in addressing alleged war crimes and amid geopolitical tensions and questions of sovereignty.

The application of international justice in the Palestine - Israel conflict is often perceived as selective, influenced by global power dynamics. The United States has exercised its veto power in the UN Security Council to block resolutions critical of Israel, including those calling for ceasefires in Gaza. This pattern of political immunity for allies contrasts with the prosecution of weaker states, undermining the credibility of international legal institutions.

Date 20
M T W T F S S

Civilians in Gaza endure profound psychological and economic hardships due to ongoing conflict. Studies reveal high prevalence rates of depression, anxiety, and PTSD. Among young adults exposed to war-related trauma. Despite the extensive suffering, mechanisms for reparation and victim-centered justice remain inadequate.

Western media often portrays the Israel Palestine conflict through a lens favoring Israeli perspectives, emphasizing Israeli right to self-defense while downplaying Palestinian casualties. This bias influence public perception and policy debates (Prism Report 2025) This narrative divergence is often reinforced by disinformation and emotional framing, which obscure accountability and polarize audience.

Geopolitical alliance further compound diplomatic inaction. The United States and ~~Key~~ European States maintain robust strategic ties with Israel, shielding it from criticism in global forums like the UN.

At the same time, Arab states remain divided. Some normalizing relations with Israel under the Abraham Accords while others offer only limited support for Palestine—reflecting a lack of regional unity. In the U.S. lobby groups like AIPAC hold major influence, using money, lobbying and media to suppress pro-Palestinian voices, despite growing progressive opposition. This imbalance damages the credibility of institutions like the UN, which faces criticism for double standards and political bias. Meanwhile human rights groups struggle with restricted access and political pushback, making it difficult to ensure accountability.

Conclusion

The Palestine - Israel conflict exemplifies the deep failures of International Justice. From war crimes and civilian suffering to biased media coverage and selective accountability the mechanisms meant to uphold human rights have often faltered. Historical grievance like the Nakba, illegal settlements, and the breakdown of

Peace accords remain ~~was~~ unresolved.
Institutional Such as the ICC and the UN
Struggle against political pressure and
Structural limitations. As a result Justice is
Inconsistently applied, often favouring the
Powerful while neglecting ~~vi~~ victims.

A meaningful path forward requires
Confronting these legal moral double
Standards with genuine Commitment to
Universal human rights.