

THE OSTRICH MENTALITY IN THE UMMAH'S RESPONSE TO ISRAEL'S ACTIONS

Outline

1. Introduction

The response of muslim ummah towards Israel's offensives in the Israel-Palestine conflict reflects its refusal to confront difficult realities.

2. All Eyes on Gaza

3. Manifestations of the Ostrich Mentality in the Response of Muslim Ummah

- a. Majority of fuel utilized to carry out attack by Israel is provided by muslim majority countries.
(60 per-cent of oil imports of Israel comes from two muslim countries)

b. Increase in the trade between Israel and Muslim countries.

(Trade of \$7 billion between Israel and 19-Muslim countries in the past 9 months.)

c. Ineffectiveness of the Organization of Islamic Conference to sanction Israel;
(Iran's Foreign Minister urged trade embargo at emergency meeting of OIC - ignored by states)

d. Failure of the League of Arab States to come up with unified stance.

(Passed weak resolution of 11-Oct-2023 and delaying to take the matter to the UN)

e. Omission of Muslim States to knock the door of International forums.

(Case of genocide against Israel has been brought to the ICJ by South Africa - not an Arab state)

f. Israeli Products are still being utilized

by muslims.

(Failed calls to boycott Israeli products such as KFCs, McDonalds and Pepsi.)

g. Abandonment of Palestine cause by Arab States.

(Abraham Accords - normalization between Israel and Arab States)

h. The excuse of Palestinian disunity by the Muslim world.

(Argument of Hamas - Fatah divide by muslim world)

i. Approach of Muslim states to balance both Western powers and Palestinian cause.

(Case study of Turkiye)

j. Ban on Pro-Palestine protests by Muslim countries.

(Pro-Palestinian banners were banned at Pakistan Super League Games)

k. Muslims are busy prioritizing strategic objectives over lives of Palestinians.
(Case study of Egypt)

l. Lack of efforts to rebuild of Gaza by Muslim world.

(Insufficient aid campaigns and efforts of muslim world pointed out by Turkiye President Erdogan)

4. Need of the Time

- i. Put trade sanctions on Israel.
- ii. Execute oil embargo on Israel.
- iii. Openly advocate for Palestinian cause on international platform.
- iv. Prepare rebuilding plans and post-conflict

5. Conclusion

Essay

A boy sitting on the rubble of his house is neither crying nor screaming.

He looks quite traumatized and shocked.

A house where he was eating food with his family yesterday, is just now a pile of debris. Suddenly, he stood up and raised hands to pray. He asked God to send a miracle. He asked God where are his muslim brothers and sisters. Not only

this boy, but the whole world is wondering right now the whereabouts of muslim ummah. Muslim ummah,

a term used to denote whole muslim community as one-nation,

has been quite passive and diplomatic to Israel's actions. Israel launched

full-fledge war on Gaza after the attack of 7th - October by Hamas.

Uptill now Israel has killed more than 50,000 innocents of Gaza and destroyed almost all critical infrastructures including schools, hospitals, universities and residential blocs. These actions of Israel were met with protests and condemnations from muslim world. But this was not enough. Muslim community has been only performing the lips service rather than taking the effective pragmatic actions. The trade partners of Israel in the muslim world could have taken an action by suspending trade. An action that was highly suspected but just too disappoint. Israel is being supplied with oil from muslim countries. Its products are still in markets of muslim states. Moreover, failure of

League of Arab States and Organization of Islamic Conference, OIC, indicates the non-seriousness of muslim states. Internal divide among muslim nation along with prioritizing their personal interests over lives of innocent people of Gaza are some of the reasons behind Ostrich mentality of their response. In a nut shells the response of muslim world towards illegal and cruel actions of Israel demonstrate refusal of muslim nations to confront difficult realities.

The response of muslim world has made it subject of mockery. Palestinians have always been owned by muslims through out the world. In 1948, the United Nations came up

with the partition plan without taking the indigenous Palestinians into confidence. The result was Arab-Israeli war of 1948-49. Unfortunately except for misery the war did not borne any fruits. The conflicts continued leading to six-days war of 1967. In 1967, Israel was in full control of the region including Gaza and the West Bank, known Palestinian parts. Gradually Israel withdrew from Gaza and promised to move out of West Bank as well. These promises remained unfulfilled till date. Palestine or Israel is surrounded by muslim majority countries, the Arab States. It is part of the muslim ideology that whole nation is like ~~par~~ a body and stands united. Therefore, whenever there is any

action in the Palestine, the world comes to all ears. All eyes lay on muslim ummah as to their response. The stance of Palestinian cause has been historically supported by muslim nations since 1948. That is why it is natural to expect support and reaction in case of present-day Israel. But as times have change and muslim response to atrocities committed by Israel has disappointed the world particularly Palestine. The response broadly demonstrates that ummah has closed its eyes in the face of Israeli actions. The silence of muslim nations is louder than the missiles of Israel.

It is reiterated that Israel has killed more than 50,000 innocents in which largely women, children

and non-combatants are the victims. The tanks of Israeli army roam freely in the streets of Gaza. The aerial attacks by helicopters are being carried out with complete impunity. Unfortunately, the fuel to run these demonic weapons are supplied by muslim majority countries. According to Israel trade data, 220,000 barrels of oil per day, which is almost 60 percent of the total oil import of Israel, comes from two muslim majority countries, i.e., Azerbaijan and Kazakhstan. In this way, not only muslim ummah is keeping its silence on the matter but also contributing in Israel's genocide against Palestinians.

Furthermore, the underestimation

of Israel's actions in the region by muslim nations is reflected by the trade increase between muslims and Israel. Trade is a weapon that can build or demolish a country based on the actions of participants.

Israel's major trade partners are muslim countries like Bahrain, Turkiye, and the United Arab Emirates, etc. During these tough times of on-going war, the trade of Israel stands strong that is not only stable but shockingly increasing. In the past nine months, the trade between Israel and 19 muslim countries is estimated at about \$ 7 billion. These stats reflect the denial of muslim countries to join hands against Israel.

Not only this but also the lackluster performance of the Organization of Islamic Conference in the past few years dictates the story of fall of the muslim unity in the Palestinian cause. Organization of Islamic Conference, famously known as OIC was established to unite muslims on one platform. It was formed as a reaction to arsenal attack on Al-Aqsa Mosque by Israel. The organization whose sole purpose of existence was to advocate for Palestinian cause failed to take any pragmatic action. After the attack of Hamas on Israel on 7th October, 2023, Israel's offensives begin to take place, which, unfortunately, are carried out even today.

The situation led to emergency meeting of OIC in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. In the meeting, the Foreign Minister of Iran urged all the OIC member states to put trade embargo on Israel. The request of putting trade sanction on Israel was never realized and currently 14 - OIC member states have trade ties with Israel. The inability of OIC to reach a consensus has rendered it ineffective and it is mirror to show the muslim nations; their weak stances and useless condemnations.

Moreover, OIC is not the only ineffective body of muslim unity. There also exists the League of Arab States, which is a regional organization of Arab

countries. The stance of League of Arab States is to stand with the Palestinians in their struggle for the right of self-determination. Uptill now the League of Arab States has not come up with a unified stance against the war crimes committed by Israel. After the announcement of war by Israel, the league of Arab States passed an extremely weak resolution of 11-October-2023. Furthermore the reluctance of the League to act against the interest of Western agent, Israel, is evident from its delaying to take the matter to the ICJ, i.e. the International Court of Justice. Moreover, the League has also failed to present any

impressive resolution before the United Nations. These omissions of the league depict that it has been trying its best to keep its eyes close and wait for the next actions of Israel.

It is also important to mention that to resolve the global disputes, United Nations provides the forum of the International Court of Justice. Only States can bring suits against states in the court. There are total 57 muslim countries in the world, according to the OIC but none has knocked the door of ICJ against Israel. A secular country, with a majority christian population, South Africa initiated a suit against Israel aimed on-going genocide of Palestinians. This is a point of

concern and embarrassment for muslim ummah. It depicts the sincerity claims of muslim countries towards Palestine are nothing more than just words.

The disappointments in the response of muslim ummah just do not end here.

In many muslim majority countries Israeli products are being utilized.

The use of such products strengthens GDP of Israel and provide it with resources to kill innocent babies of Palestine.

Boycott calls were made by muslims accross the world, specially of prominent franchises such as of Mc Donalds, kFC and Pepsi co. Ltd. etc. Unfortunately, these and many Israeli supported brands still flourish in mainly muslim

majority countries. This demonstrate that initial calls for boycott were emotionally charged and loosened grip over-time. It is a sign that muslims are lacking unity and on automatic mode.

Moreover, the abandonment of Palestinians at the hands of Israeli forces is evident from the normalization efforts between Israel and Arabs. For long, the trade ties between muslim countries and specially arabs were stringent. Eventually due to activism of the United States of America, Israel and Arab States including Morroco, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain entered into an agreement to normalize the

relations between subjects of the agreement. The agreement, also known as Abraham Accords, ensured that trade resume between its party and also result in acceptance of Israel in the Arab landscape. Israel is very clear of its stance on refusing the Palestinians their rightful land. Despite being aware of the Israeli evil approach towards Palestine the respective Arab States choose to stay in denial, close eyes over the tears of innocents and shake hands with the cruelty.

In addition, the muslim world often tries to justify its response by blaming divisions among Palestinian factions.

Palestinian majority areas are Gaza and the West Bank. West Bank is controlled and dominated by Fatah, a political body of Palestine. On the other hand, Hamas dominates on Gaza. Hamas disagree with Fatah on many points. Hamas believes that Fatah is influenced by Israel and Western powers and has rendered PLO, Palestine Liberation Organization ineffective. On the other hand, Fatah criticizes Hamas on taking up arms against Israel. This internal division among major political parties of Palestine is used as an excuse by the muslim world in ^{delaying} coming up with a unified stance of support. No doubt, that this political divide is a major hurdle in the conflict resolution but it should not stop

the mighty muslim nations from safeguarding innocent Palestinians.

The response manifests that muslim nations are handling the mess via diplomacy. Western hegemony, the United States of America is protecting and supporting Israel since forever. Many of the muslim states are not so strong to stand against the U.S. The U.S. has made almost all muslim countries dependent on itself. Therefore, now to take a strong stance requires the willingness of muslim states to upset the world hegemony. It appears from the actions of muslim states that they are trying to balance relations with the Western world and the Palestinian cause. Because of this

diplomatic approach, muslim ummah had not been able to come under a single - strong stance against Israel. For example, Turkiye had been condemning Israel for its unlawful actions but is also an ally of the U.S. in NATO and also applied for the membership of European Nations body, i.e. the EU (European Union).

Furthermore, the weak reaction or will of the muslim nations is also reflected in their recent action of banning pro-palestine protests. Since the escalation of 7th - October the whole world is protesting majority in favour of Palestine. Despite global supports and local pressure, the majority of

Muslim states are opting for a more neutral or a weak support for Palestine. One of such behaviours is the ban of pro-Palestine posters at the Pakistan Super League Games.

Such actions reflect hesitation in the stance of Muslim countries to come to the front, and face the cruel realities.

Muslim ummah, a strong term depicting nationalism also includes Palestinians but majority of the Muslim states are prioritizing their strategic interests over the ideals of Muslim nationalism. This is costing thousands of lives of Palestinians. For example, SUMED Pipeline, the Arab Petroleum Pipeline provides regular oil supplies to Israel and this Egypt based

pipeline is of strategic importance to Egypt. Egypt despite being a muslim country is being benefited from oil supply to Israel via SUEZ Pipeline. Although it seems morally wrong but Egyptian economy is in turmoil and need this pipeline to continue working. It is time for muslim ummah to come together and decide their priorities.

Furthermore, it is need of the time that muslim ummah open its eyes. If these 57 countries collectively pressurize Israel to agree to ceasefire and move towards peaceful negotiations, no force on earth can stop them to do so. Muslim nations can devise a plan to enforce economic sanction on Israel

along with oil and arm embargoes. Moreover, there is a need to openly advocate for Palestinian cause instead of making excuses or handling the matter with over-precautions. Instead of being afraid of the global powers, if stand together, muslim ummah is a global power in itself and has the potential to learn from South Africa and bring the matter to the international platforms. In all these on-going circumstances, one must not ignore the post-war situation of Palestine. The unity among muslims is required to rebuild Gaza and prepare a post-conflict plan.

In a nut shell,
It is evident from the response

of muslim ummah that they have impliedly chosen to stay deaf to the cries of Palestinians.

Palestinians are waiting for a miracle from the sky. They are witnessing the silence of ummah towards their pain. But the muslim nation has adopted ostrich mentality in addressing Israel's offensives, meaning thereby, that they, the muslim nations, have decided to live in denial or refuse to confront the facts just like the myth of Ostrich burying its head in sand ^{owing} ~~due~~ to danger sensed. This ostrich mentality is demonstrated by muslim nations when they refuse to boycott Israeli brands, ~~but~~ when they silence anti-

Israel voices and when adopt weak stances against Israel. Furthermore, the increase trade between muslim nations and Israel along with oil exports by muslim countries to Israel paint a different picture. The only protest and voices raised are being limited to X, formerly twitter, a social-media application. Muslims if stand united can eliminate the sufferings of fellow brothers but the needed unity among muslims is desperately missing. It is important to keep in mind that innocent childrens of Gaza are paying the price of muslim disunity with their blood. Even if

today right actions are taking such as putting trade embargoes on Israel, Israel could be pressurized. All we can do is to wish for the better, brighter future of Palestinians. Antonio Guterres, the United Nations Secretary - General aptly remarked regarding the children of Gaza;

"If there is a hell on earth, it is the lives of the children of Gaza."

- Antonio Guterres