

# War Crimes in the Palestine-Israel Conflict: A Challenge to International Justice

## \* Outline

### 1) Introduction

### 2) What are War Crimes?

### 3) War Crimes in the Palestine-Israel Conflict have taken central stage

#### 3a) Targeting of civilians in Palestine by Israel

(56,000 deaths since Oct 7, 2023 —

The Guardian, June, 25)

#### 3b) Collective Punishments by Israel

(Restriction on food and medicine,

Violation of Geneva Convention

(Article 33)

#### 3c) Destruction of Civilian Infrastructure in Palestine by Israel

(over 70% of all buildings in Gaza

have <sup>been</sup> destroyed — UN OCHA, June, 25)

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3a) ~~Illegal settlements by Israel in Occupied West Bank in Jerusalem~~  
 (Violation of Fourth Geneva Convention)

3b) Use of indiscriminate weapons

(Use of White Phosphorus in Gaza

in 2008-9, 2014, 2023-25 —

banned ICC and Geneva Convention)

3c) Denial of medical aid and evacuation

(40% of International Emergency Medical staff are denied entry into Gaza — OCHA June 25)

3d) Hostage-Taking by Hamas

(251 Hostage in Gaza, a war crime under Article 8 of Rome Statute)

4) Why War Crimes in Palestine-Israel Conflict are a Challenge to International Justice

4a) Political Pressure and Lack of enforcement power

(ICC issued arrest warrants for Israeli PM Netanyahu, US called it 'outrageous')

4b) Disputed Jurisdiction of ICC

(Israel disputes Palestine's statehood, legal authority of ICC questioned)

4c) Asymmetric Warfare Complexity

(state vs non-state actors)

complicate applying war laws)

4d) Lack of Access

(war zones restrict access to UN, ICC)

4e) Endless conflict cycle

(slow justice system)

4f) Weak Accountability

(45 UN Security Council resolutions)

against Israeli actions have been

ignored or Vetoed - UNSC Records)

5) Necessary steps to strengthen International Justice in Palestine - Israel conflict :

(i) Ensure ICC jurisdiction clarity

(ii) Stop political interference

(iii) Guarantee access for investigators

(iv) Protect civilians in Real Time

(v) Promote Peace talks.

6) Conclusion

When hospitals become battlefields and children are buried beneath rubble, the laws of war are not just broken — they are betrayed. The Geneva Conventions promise to protect civilians in war, but in Palestine those protections seem to vanish under the smoke of bombed hospitals and missile strikes. War crimes have taken central stage during Palestine-Israel conflict. The world has witnessed the deliberate targeting of civilian, collective punishments, destruction of infrastructure, illegal settlements by Israel, use of indiscriminate weapons, denial of medical aid, hostage-taking by Hamas, and widespread war crimes in the ongoing Palestine-Israel conflict — exposing the deep failure of international mechanisms to ensure justice and accountability. Some of the challenges in the ~~good use of punctuation~~

International Justice include: political pressure, disputed jurisdiction of ICC, asymmetric warfare, lack of access and weak accountability. However, by protecting civilians in real time, promoting peace talks and stopping political interference, international justice can still be upheld. The Palestine-Israel conflict has seen many allegations of war crimes. These war crimes not only intensify human suffering but expose the critical weaknesses, political bias and

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engrapping stat

War crimes are serious violations of international humanitarian law, committed during armed conflicts. According to the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (Article 8): "war crimes are the grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions or other serious violations of laws and customs applicable in international or non-international armed conflicts." Some examples of war crimes are: targeting civilians, torture and inhumane treatment, hostage-taking, use of forbidden weapons, starvation of civilians etc. Heads of state, military commanders, political leaders, non-state actors (e.g., militia leaders) can be held accountable for conducting war crimes. They are judged by International Criminal Court, UN bodies (Human Rights Council), International Criminal Tribunals etc.

In the Palestine-Israel conflict, war crimes have taken the central stage. Deliberate targeting of civilians in Palestine is a direct violation of international humanitarian law. Thousands of Palestinians have been killed in Israeli military operations in Gaza, since Oct 7, 23.

"Since the war began in Oct 2023, more than 56,000 Palestinians have been killed." (The Guardian, June 30, 25). So, killing of Palestinians is raising urgent questions about violations of International humanitarian law.

Israel has imposed collective punishment on the population of Gaza and West Bank. Israel has maintained a blockade restricting movement of people, goods, fuel and medicine. It is the violation of Geneva Convention (Article 33), which says: "No protected person may be punished for an offence he or she <sup>has</sup> not personally committed. Collective punishments are prohibited". Hence, imposing collective punishment is illegal and Israel is committing this warcrime.

The world has also witnessed the destruction of civilian infrastructure in Palestine by Israel. Destruction is all over the Palestine, including school buildings, hospitals and medical or aid camps. According to UN OCHA Report (June, 25): "over 70% of all buildings in Gaza have been destroyed". Bombing hospitals

or schools can never be justified - even in war scenarios.

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Israel continues to construct illegal settlements in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem. Transferring Israeli population in occupied areas is considered illegal under Article 49(6) of Fourth Geneva Convention, which says: "The occupying power shall not deport or transfer parts of its own civilian population into the territory it occupies." Hence, these settlements by Israel in Palestine are illegal and considered as war crime.

Use of indiscriminate weapons, is another war crime, that Israel has been committing in Palestine for years. Bombing white phosphorus is banned under International Criminal Court and Geneva Convention. Palestine has suffered with these bombs and missiles in Operation Cast Lead (2008-9), Gaza War (2014) and in ongoing conflict since Oct, 2023. These actions of Israel are unlawful and demands international investigation.

Israel has denied the access of Palestinians to medical aid and

food aid. Israeli forces are killing and bombing aid camps. According to United Nations (June, 25) ; "In Gaza, daily food intake has fallen well below 'survival' level". According to United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) : "As of mid June 2025, 44% of International Emergency medical teams were denied entry into Gaza." Hence, denial of medical aid in Gaza has become a critical humanitarian crisis.

Hamas, a militant group based in Palestine, is accused of hostage-taking during Oct 7, 2023 attack on Israel. Over 200 people, including children and foreign nationals were abducted and taken into Gaza. Hostage-taking is classified as war crime under Article 8 of Rome Statute.

These actions have drawn widespread global condemnation and call for international accountability.

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War crimes in Palestine- Israel conflict are seem to be a challenge to International Justice System. Political pressure of world powers and lack of

enforcement power are major hurdles in the way of justice. In Nov, 24 ICC issued arrest warrants for Israeli PM Netanyahu and Def. Min. Gallant, citing charges including starvation and crimes against humanity. In response US described these arrest warrants as "outrageous". As ICC cannot enforce its decision and <sup>also</sup> PM Netanyahu is supported by US, he is still free and accountable.

Another challenge to International Justice is the disputed jurisdiction of International Criminal Court. Israel disputes Palestine's statehood, that questioned the legal authority of ICC. "US also emphasized that ICC lacks jurisdiction in Palestine-Israel conflict." (VOA, Patsy Widakuswara, May, 24). These challenges to loopholes of International Justice system make thousands of Palestinians suffer.

Asymmetric warfare in case of Palestine and Israel, makes war laws difficult to apply. The asymmetry is between Israeli military forces and Palestinian armed groups (Hamas).

It is difficult to distinct between civilians and combatants. As International laws are mostly meant for a traditional battles between armies, the asymmetric warfare complexity in Palestine-Israel conflict complicates the enforcement of legal norms.

Restrictions on the investigators of United Nations and ICC on entering the war zone, is also a challenge to international justice. Investigators struggle to enter of Gaza to gather evidence and if they enters, it is unsafe for them, as many of them get killed.

<sup>16</sup> 100 Journalists and dozens of aid workers have been killed in Gaza (2023-25)  
(Reporters without borders) • Lack of arrest of UN or other bodies for international justice, into the warzone makes ground realities unclear.

It can be seen that Israel and Palestine ~~is~~ <sup>has</sup> stuck in an endless conflict cycle. A triggering event occurs, violent response comes, peace talks fail and again an event occurs. In this scenario of continuously

changing group realities, justice can be seen nowhere. As it is said that **Justice delayed is Justice denied.** Some is happening in Palestine-Israel conflict.

Weak accountability system in International Justice is one of its major drawback. World powers influence the justice system and its decisions. According to **United Nation Security Council (UNSC)** voting records, 45 UNSC resolutions against Israeli actions have been vetoed by US. Such misuse of power blocks the way of justice and accountability.

By taking some necessary steps, International Justice system can be strengthened. In order to make the world peaceful or secure for everyone, some steps are inevitable. By preventing political interference, protecting civilians in real time and promoting genuine efforts for peace talk, the conflict of Palestine and Israel can be resolved.

it can be logically claimed that

Conclusively, one may say that the Palestine - Israel conflict marked by alleged violations by both Israeli forces and Palestinian armed group, exposes a deep crisis in global justice system. The killing of civilians, illegal settlements in occupied areas of Palestine, denial of medical aid and destruction of infrastructure are war crimes that are being committed by Israeli forces in Palestine. Yet International Justice system is silent. Some of the challenges to International justice system are pressure of world powers, lack of access and weak accountability. However, by promoting peace talks and preventing political interference, peace can be upheld in Palestine.

well done

"To refuse to see the sufferings of others is to deny our common humanity"

- Mahmoud Darwash

(Palestinian Poet)

u know how to write impressive and catching things

kindly try to write middle body paragraphs with more interesting detail

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