

Essay Title : Hamas-Israel Conflict : A Test Case for World Justice

Outline :

(1) Introduction

(2) Historical Perspective of Hamas-Israel Conflict ;

- (a) Settlement of Zionists in Palestine (1880s)
- (b) WWI: Fall of Ottoman Empire. Balfour Declaration (1917)
- (c) Control of Palestine by UK

(3) Escalation in Gaza - Oct 7, 2023 :

- (a) Hamas's Al-Aqsa storm on Israeli occupied Gaza.
- (b) Axis of Resistance vs Axis of Repression.
- (c) Counter attack on Gaza population: Ceceide.

(3) A Test Case for World's Justice ;

(a) 1st ever downed Ceceide ;

- (i) Against Geneva Convention, UN Charter of Human Rights
- (ii) 65,000 dead 90% population displaced - 2.2 million Palestinians.
14,000 missing, 11,000 injured. - UN Press Release.

(b) War Crimes Committed by Israeli force ;

- (i) More than 90,000 tonnes of bombs dropped ; internet connectivity disrupted. Advanced weapons against unarmed civilians. Journalist killed.
- (ii) White Phosphorous and urban wars - Amey by International. Flooding underground water supplies, killing plants. (Illegal under International Law)
- (iii) Tunes of Israel : Inhumane treatment of prisoners. Violation of Convention against Torture.

(c) Disproportionate Women;

- (i) Raped, Harassed, Killed. Forced to have sexual relations in return for aid.
- (ii) The New York Times: 70,000 pregnant women suffering from malnutrition & 95% pregnant and breastfeeding mothers face severe food poverty. Operated without anaesthesia.
- (iii) Access to sanitary pads during menstruation is not available - UNFPA.

(d) Vulnerable Children;

- (i) WCNSF: Wounded Children No Surviving Family. 40,000 children are orphans (UNICEF). 20,000 children ^{have} ~~are~~ amputated limbs.
- (ii) Mental health issues. Lost childhood. Poor to child abuse. 60,000 have been deprived of education.

(e) Starvation as war tool;

- (i) UN Aid Body COHA: Gaza - "hungeriest place on Earth"
- (ii) Beyond repair damage to bodies. Drinking saltwater to survive. UN Food and Agricultural Organization: 1.8 m experienced critical levels of hunger.
- (iii) Blockage of Aid. Gaza Aid Flotilla captured by Israeli forces. Activists like Greta Thunberg and Senator Mushayyeh Ahmad detained and later deported.
- (iv) Killing Palestinians at Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (G HF) food distribution centres.

(f) Healthcare;

- (i) 31/36 hospitals demolished (The Wall Street Journal). 200 ambulances targeted by IDF.
- (ii) Cutting off medicine supply and electricity. Death of pre-mature babies in incubators.

(g) Attack on Infrastructure;

- (i) 6200 buildings demolished. 1500 schools (78% of total) - completely destroyed.
- (ii) 92% of Gaza housing stock destroyed (BBC). 50 tonnes of debris from explosive material - UN. Reconstruction cost beyond \$1.2 billion.

(h) Targeted Historical and Cultural Sites;

- (i) Al-Jazeera reported over 80% of mosques in Gaza and 200 plus historical sites damaged.
- (ii) More than 800,000 native Palestinian Olive Trees uprooted.

(4) Response of International Community;

- (i) UN: 1947 solution - 44% Arab State vs 56% Jewish. (Rejected by Arabs). 147 countries recognize ~~Palestine~~ Palestine.
- (ii) ICJ: banned states from recognizing Israel and aiding it. Ironically Israel enjoys full support from key allies.
- (iii) UNGA Voting: VETQed by US. 2023-2025. (Two years old genocide) Sept 2025 [142 favour, 10 against, 12 absentations] - two state solution. France, Britain, Australia, Canada, Japan recognized Palestine in Sept 2025.
- (iv) US - key ally of Israel. Supply of advanced weapons to IDF. Trump nominated for Nobel Peace Prize 2025. Important stakeholder in Middle East.
- (v) International Civil Society, NGOs, Media, Human Rights Activists etc. in favour of Palestine. Boycott of Israeli products. Damage to Israeli reputation in world.

(5) Way Forward;

- (i) Ceasefire deal signed by Trump and regional leaders (Oct 14, 2025)
~~Release~~ Release of captives from both sides.

(ii) Settlement of key issues like number of states, Jerusalem as capital, refugee settlement, water resources, final borders, international guarantees etc.

(iii) Gaza Re-construction Plan and restoration of peace.

(6) Conclusion

President of the International Committee of Red Cross said, "Conflict in Gaza is moral failure of international community." International community that is a strong advocate of human rights and even animal rights took two whole years to agree upon stopping genocide in Gaza. The world watched a fully documented genocide where heinous war crimes were committed by Israeli Defense Forces including ~~discouraging~~ ^{starving} women, ~~starving~~ ^{starving} children, demolishing hospitals, bombing buildings and historical sites shattering to ground. UN, ICTJ, UNGA played a slow role and eventually a ceasefire deal was signed with key settlement issues still in debate.

It all started in the 1880s where Israeli Jews called Zionists started settling in Palestine. When the institution of Khilafat fell apart during World War I and the world saw fall of Ottoman Empire, all the settlement of territories was done by signing Balfour Declaration in 1917. Palestine ~~became~~ came under British rule while the Zionists made their own defence army. This strengthened their stay in Palestine. The issue of Jewish illegal settlement in Palestine continues to be bone of contention between Arab States and Israel.

The ongoing conflict further escalated when Hamas backed by Iran launched 'Al-Aqsa' storm on Israeli occupied Gaza. Some Israelis were captured by Hamas which became the reason why Israel Defense Army launched full-fledge war on civilian unarmed Palestinians living in Gaza. It has been reasoned with that Israel's right to self-defence is being used. The exact day when it all started is Oct 7, 2023. The ceasefire deal has been signed after two years and seven days, to be precise - Oct 14, 2025.

It is a shame for the world but is a strong prospect of justice, rule of law and fundamental human rights to take two years to bring this genocide to an end. According to dictionary, Genocide is a well-crafted policy by a particular state to punish a community by systematic killings and rapes. This is exactly how Palestinians were treated. Israeli Jews who were victims of Holocaust themselves, became supporters of a genocide ironically. Genocide itself is against Geneva Convention and UN Charter of Human rights. Benefit of doubt cannot be given to the world as the era of technology documented it transparently. According to UN Press Releases, 65,000 Palestinians are dead, 90% population - 2.2 million people have been displaced, 14,000 are missing and 11,000 are injured. Punishing unarmed innocent civilians and women is one of the many war crimes Israeli forces have committed over a period of two years.

Israeli forces, backed by the tech giant, US, have ~~the been~~ been involved in crimes so inhuman that even the devil felt remorse. More than 90,000 tons of bombs have been dropped on Gaza. To ensure that no voice finds its way outside Palestine, multiple attempts to disrupt internet connections have been done. Journalists have been targeted. Advanced weapons have been used against innocent civilians that defended their ~~own~~ land and people with merely pelted stones. According to Amnesty International, White Phosphorus has been used in a way to ensure no agricultural activities can be done. The ground water supplies have been flooded with saltwater to make it unfit for human consumption and vegetation; this is illegal under International Law. Times of Israel has reported inhuman treatment of captives. They are tortured, stripped naked, assaulted, bound, photographed and even whipped up. This is violation of Convention against Torture but IDF has no functioning conscience that will ~~the~~ awake the human in them.

Despite everything, harming women and children cannot be justified at any cost, but this limit has also been crossed by Israeli Occupation forces. Women are raped, harassed, assaulted and killed. Even little girls are subjected to gang rapes whenever there is a possibility or opportunity available. Women are not even safe from men providing aid; they are forced to have sexual relations in return of aid or medicine for their young children. The New York Times has reported that over 70,000 pregnant women in Gaza are suffering from malnutrition and about 95% pregnant and breastfeeding mothers face severe food poverty. Due to lack of medical facilities, they are operated upon without anaesthesia. Menstruating women tear their clothes and even tear off their breasts if they were not a female during a conversation with UNFPA officials. Dismissing women is a war crime of a high level which went unnoticed for weeks, months and years in Gaza.

Not only women but also the children felt vulnerable in Gaza. UNICEF has reported that over 40,000 children in Gaza are orphans. There is a category made for Palestinian children called WCNSF (Wounded Child, No Saving Family) as per official UN sources. What a tragedy it is to be a child in Gaza where your only crime is wanting to grow up with your family. Children soothing their younger siblings during airstrikes and bombing is a dreadful scene to watch. It is even more painful to live like this, they don't have the option of turning it off by switching to the next post as the first world countries have. 20,000 children are handicapped because of either a leg or an arm amputated, ~~not~~ acknowledging the fact that all these amputations are done without any painkillers. Their schools have been bombed to rubble, leaving 60,000 children without education. There was no graduating student in Gaza during the years 2023, 2024 and 2025 as per Al-Jazeera news. Children have lost their childhood, home, schools, friends, family and what not but this was not enough to justify a timely ceasefire.

Those who could not be killed by bullets were forced to die out of starvation. Artificial famine was created ~~to~~ by blocking all aid to Gaza. UN Aid Body OCHA declared Gaza, "the hungriest place on Earth." Videos of starving children have been circulating all over the Internet. What a pity it is that Palestinians have to see those videos before their appeal of aid on social media apps like Instagram to cause people to act. The damage done to their bodies is beyond repair, they are dying rather than not die of starvation. UN Food and Agriculture Organization has reported that over 1.8 million experienced critical levels of hunger in Gaza. Gaza Aid Flotilla captured by Israeli forces with its activists like Senator Marjorie Ann Bradley and Greta Thunberg detained is another example of aid blockade. Even at Gaza Humanitarian Foundation (GHF) food distribution centre, Palestinians are killed while they wait for their small portions of food. The world continued its Mukbangs and Food ASMRs while children died out of hunger.

To make sure wounded Gazan population died, the healthcare system of Gaza was attacked. According to The Wall Street Journal, 31 out of total 36 hospitals were demolished and over 200 ambulances burned to ashes. Medicine and aid supply was already cut off so even if doctors and patients survived, they could not be treated effectively. The electricity supply was targeted and made dysfunctional so pre-mature babies in incubators ~~and~~ as well as patients on ventilators died a slow death. Those of the patients' ~~and the~~ loved ones who came out alive were already dead because what exactly is life when you see a loved one die before your eyes helplessly and you cannot save them even if you desperately want to? All this was not enough for the world to pressure Israel into ceasefire so the merciless butchery of unarmed civilians continued to erase every evidence of Palestine identity.

The main goal of Israel was to kill Palestinians in Gaza and capture them to make room for the Zionists. 6200 buildings were demolished as well as 1500 schools that made up 78% of the total schools. As per BBC

report, 92% of Gaza housing stock has been completely demolished. UN has established that there is beyond 50 tons of debris from explosive material alone. The re-construction cost is over \$ billions of dollar. Not only housing societies but also historical and cultural sites have been targeted to remove Palestinian landmarks from Gaza. Al-Jazeera has reported over 80% of mosques in Gaza and 200 plus historical sites have been bombed to debris. Olive trees were a Palestinian delicacy. Since 1967, more than 800,000 native Palestinian Olive trees have been uprooted by Israel to make way for new Jewish settlement in Gaza. This has resulted in climate change, soil erosion and damage to the overall environment. The crimes committed by Israel go well beyond the limit of transgression.

Since the last 75+ years, there have been some unsuccessful attempts done by international community to help resolve this issue. When Palestine issue was brought to UN by ~~Britain~~ Britain in 1947, UN's solution was establishment of a 44% Arab state and 56% Jewish state. However, this was rejected by Arab countries as it was extremely unfair to Palestinians. ~~As~~ multiple resolutions have been passed in UN session related to this conflict, however there has been no consensus on it because the 5 permanent members of United Nations Security Council ~~and~~ (P-5) used its VETO power to reject any effort to establish a Palestinian government. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) has barred states from recognizing Israel and aiding it for the illegal occupation of Palestine, however this did not stop the supply of advanced weapons by key allies to Israel.

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has been voting over Palestine issue since decades. ~~Howe~~ This voting has been overwhelmingly affected by P-5 which has been advocating against any attempt to establish peace in Middle East. It took two years for the UNGA to vote in favour of a ceasefire in Gaza, despite the genocide being a fully documented one. Recently, France, Britain, Australia, Canada and Japan have recognized

Palestine as a legal sovereign state. A two-state solution has been accepted by the UNGA during its September 2023 meeting where 142 states voted in favour, 10 states against it including Israel, USA and key allies while 12 states abstained from voting. At the ~~past~~ moment, 147 countries have recognized Palestine. The progress has been quite slow but eventually a consensus has been built.

US has always been a key ally of Israel. It has supplied advanced weapons to IDF while supporting its right to self-determination despite the fact that it is not Israeli land at the first place. USA has been a strong proponent of Israeli states Palestine land since the beginning of this conflict. Due to the increasing influence of China in world leadership, US has used Middle East conflict as an opportunity to strengthen its hegemonic position in the global politics. Donald Trump had been nominated for Nobel Peace Prize 2025 but he could not win. In order to establish US as a main peace-maker, US political leadership has shown deep interest in this conflict.

The International Civil Society, NGOs, Media houses, Human Rights Activists have been observing the crisis since October 2023. Rallies have been organized in European countries, boycotts have been done globally and aid has been sent to Gaza through both sea ~~route~~ and land routes. Israel has been called out for its behaviour all over the world, but due to strong support by allies who are superpowers of the world, it did not pay much attention to all the calls. Arab countries have been facing major backlash for having trade relations with Israel despite the genocide. Abraham Accords signed between Arabs and Israelis is one of the many bilateral ties between the both countries. Everything became the new normal so it did not matter if there were more killings, rapes, deaths, starvation and bombing in Gaza against Palestinians.

The recent ceasefire signed between Trump and regional leaders has been a major breakthrough. Captives have been released from both Hamas and Israeli prison. The killing has not stopped actively despite the ceasefire, however there has been some improvement. Palestinians in Gaza are seen thanking Allah (SWT) for this day and returning to their homes. The homes however do not exist like they did before war. Friends and family members ~~to~~ will never return from their eternal home. There are still negotiations going on regarding some key issues like Jerusalem being capital of Palestinian state or Israeli, settlement of refugees that went to neighboring countries like Egypt, Syria etc., control of water resources, final borders and international guarantees regarding the full implementation of ceasefire. The resolution and mutual agreement on these vital aspects can lead to establishment of peace in the region.

There have been multiple solutions offered by experts and authorities. Jerusalem can be a joint capital of both Israel and Palestine. Refugees should be called back to Gaza and settled here. The water resources should be shared. Final borders can be established after suitable land swaps between Israel and Palestinian state. UN, USA and ~~other~~ Arab countries can be international guarantors of ceasefire and agreements. It is important to stop bloodshed as soon as possible because how many more injustices will be needed for the world to acknowledge that children of Palestine deserve to live as freely as children in European countries.

The world's conscience has slept peacefully while unarmed Palestinians suffered at the hands of Israel. It is high time that the people unite together and advocate for successful negotiations that are also practical. No more deaths, gang rapes, starvation should be allowed. May the next time the world hears from Gaza, it is laughter of the Palestinians and not the cry of a mother who carries the leftover pieces of her child's body. As Bobby Sands said, "Our revenge will be the laughter of our children."