

THE GAZA GENOCIDE: A TEST OF GLOBAL CONSCIENCE AND THE FAILURE OF INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS

OUTLINE:

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Hook Statement

1.2 General Statement

1.3 Thesis Statement: The Gaza genocide is not merely a regional tragedy, but a moral and institutional crisis for the global community, exposing the hypocrisy and double standards of international institutions.

MAIN BODY

2. Manifestation of Gaza genocide.

3- Failure of International Institutions

3.1- UNITED NATIONS

3.1.1- Paralysis due to US vetoes in Security Council.

3.1.2- UNGA resolutions ignored by Israel.

3.1.3- Inability to protect civilians and ensure lasting peace framework in Gaza.

3.2- International Court of Justice

3.2.1- South Africa's genocide case against Israel - moral victory but unenforced rulings.

3.2.2- Structural weakness: no enforcement mechanism.

3.3 International Criminal Court

3.3.1. Lack of enforcement powers and political pressure.

3.3.2. Ineffectiveness in ensuring accountability.

4- Global Conscience on Trial

4.1 The Role of Major Powers

4.1.1. Unconditional support of US to Israel.

4.1.2. Divided stance of European Union, moral posturing but still do not clearly condemn Israeli actions.

4.1.3. No real unity among Arab and Muslim countries and their fragmented response.

4.1.4. Strategic opposition of western bloc by China and Russia but limited humanitarian ~~and~~ engagement.

4.2- The hypocrisy of Peace Initiatives

4.2.1- Trump's 20-point Gaza peace plan-

4.2.2- Unflinching support of US for Israel in the peace plan and damaging Palestine's sovereignty.

5- WAY FORWARD:

5.1- Genuine recognition of Palestinian statehood and sovereignty.

5.2- Reformation of the UN system.
limiting veto power.

5.3- Strengthening ICC and ICJ enforcement mechanisms.

5.3- Shift from interest based politics to value based global order.

6- CONCLUSION:

Thesis restated-

The bombs falling on Gaza have not only shattered homes but also fractured the world's conscience, exposing how international institutions hesitate when morality demands urgency. The crisis in Gaza stands as a stark reminder of how quickly humanitarian emergencies can escalate when global systems fail to act decisively. With civilian casualties rising and essential life supporting structures collapsing the region has become a symbol of the world's eroding commitment to justice and human dignity. At the same time the inconsistent and often muted reactions from major international institutions have cast doubt on their ability to fulfill their foundational promises.

The Gaza genocide is not merely a regional tragedy, but a moral and institutional crisis for the global community, exposing the hypocrisy and double standards of international institutions.

The manifestation of the Gaza genocide can be seen in the large-scale violence, destructions, and suffering faced by the Palestinian people since October 2023. The clearest sign is the massive killing of civilians through continuous airstrikes and ground attacks on crowded residential areas, where entire families have been wiped out and civilian deaths have reached extremely high levels. Along with this, repeated attacks on homes, schools, hospitals and shelters have destroyed the basic systems people

need to survive. Likewise, deliberate restriction of food, clean water, medicine, fuel and electricity, which has created famine-like conditions, spread diseases, and caused the near collapse of the healthcare system. Forced displacement is another key feature, over a million Palestinians have been pushed from one area to another. This constant uprooting threatens their ability to live safely on their own land. The destruction of maternity wards and attack on reproductive health services have damaged long-term population stability and future generation. Taken together, these patterns of killing, destruction, starvation, and displacement clearly show how the suffering of Palestinians in Gaza has taken the form of genocide.

The Gaza genocide has exposed the deep failure of international institutions especially the United Nations. An institution which was formed to maintain international peace and security and prevent future global conflicts is paralyzed on Gaza genocide. The biggest problem lies in the Security Council, where the veto power of big powers (US on Gaza, Russia on Ukraine) has blocked effective actions leaving the council dysfunctional. United States has used Ob-tame veto power on Gaza in last two years. Trust in global institutions is declining due to double standards, broken promises and unilateralism by powerful states. US disengagement (Trump's era) worsened

this trend, while other big states also defy UN principles. In a recent essay in *The Economist* co-authored with Helen Clark, former UNSG Ban Ki-moon wrote: "The UN is slipping into dysfunction as some of its traditional champions, notably the US, retreat from multilateral cooperation, cut funding and damage the rule of law when it suits them". At the same time, several resolutions passed by the UN General Assembly calling for an immediate ceasefire and unhindered humanitarian access were ignored by Israel, demonstrating the weak weak enforcement capacity of UN system. The inability of the UN and other institution to ensure protection of civilians or create a sustainable peace framework for Gaza further highlighted collapse of international order.

The role of International Court of Justice (ICJ) is twofold: to settle legal disputes submitted to it by states and to give advisory opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorized UN organs and specialized agencies. But, this organ is paralysed because of weak enforcement of its orders.

South Africa's ^{genocide} case against Israel marked a major moral and diplomatic victory as the ICJ accepted allegations of genocide in Gaza were legally plausible and issued provisional measures to prevent further harm.

However, the ruling has remained largely unenforced in practice because the court has no independent enforcement power and relies on political will and UN Security Council.

for implementation. The failure directly reflects the ICJ's structural weakness and lack of an enforcement mechanism. Even when the court issues strong and binding rulings, like in South Africa's genocide petition, it cannot ensure compliance on its own. The ICJ depends on state's voluntary cooperation or on the UN Security Council for enforcement and when powerful nations block action, its decisions remain legally valid but practically ineffective. Thus, the Gaza case shows the international justice can deliver judgements, but without enforcement power, it cannot deliver outcomes.

Not only the International Court of Justice but also the International Criminal Court also illustrates the crisis of global accountability

as it possesses legal authority to prosecute war crimes and genocide but lacks the enforcement power necessary to implement its decisions. • The Court has no police force of its own and must rely on member states to execute arrest warrants and cooperation requests. This structural weakness has repeatedly undermined accountability. For example despite ICC warrants against Sudanese President Omar-al-Bashir, several states refused to arrest him during official visits, demonstrating that political interest can override legal obligations. More recently, even the arrest warrant issued against Russian President Vladimir Putin in 2023 highlighted the reality that powerful states can avoid accountability when

enforcement depends on political will rather than legal compulsion. Thus, while the ICC offers a formal mechanism to prosecute grave international crimes, its effectiveness is severely restricted by state non-cooperation, geopolitical influences, and the absence of a centralized enforcement structure. The result is a system in which the law exists, evidence exists, and even judgments exist, but accountability remains incomplete, because power politics determine whether justice is delivered or ignored.

The role of global powers lies at the heart of the global paralysis over Gaza. The United States, European States, Arab States and other influential actors have shaped the

conflict through selective diplomacy, military support and vetoes that shield Israel from accountability.

Their geopolitical interests have overriden humanitarian principles, exposing the limits of global conscience. The

US gives unconditional support to Israel and stand by him through every thick and thin. The United States has consistently provided Israel with unwavering political, military and economic support often shielding it from international accountability.

Moreover, Western nations (Canada, France, UK, Australia) claims to recognize Palestine and condemn genocide but avoid taking any real action like imposing sanctions on Israel. Their stance is morally hollow, showing that recognition without accountability is meaningless. Western government

also suppress pro-Palestine protests brutally (especially in Germany and France) even as their citizens rise in solidarity. It seems that Palestinians are still atoning for the sins of Nazi Germany — one genocide paying for another. Similarly, ~~despite~~ ^{such as Qatar, Turkey, Pakistan, Egypt} Muslim countries also possess enormous wealth, military strength and strategic value fail to act decisively. They either pressure Hamas to compromise or remain submissive to US influence. - This reflects a deep political and moral paralysis in the Muslim world. This shows the dominance of the major power and ^{its} ~~their~~ control and the paralysis of others and their silence.

Additionally, the so-called peace initiative unveiled by Donald Trump in his 20-point plan is less about

Palestinian freedom and more about legitimizing Israel control. Under the guise of negotiation and reconstruction, the plan entrenches power imbalances, revealing the stark contradictions between rhetoric and reality in international peacemaking. On paper, the plan promises stability, reconstruction, and eventual self-determination for Palestinians, but in practice, it consolidates Israeli control and undermines Palestinian sovereignty. A central feature of the plan is the demilitarization of Gaza which effectively strips Palestinians of the ability to defend themselves or assert political autonomy. The proposal also excludes Hamas, the democratically elected governing faction of Gaza from any role in future governance, ensuring that all

decisions remain under the oversight of international actors - particularly the United States. The plan is giving unflinching support to Israel and damaging Palestine's sovereignty.

The failure of international institutions and the biased actions of major powers have left Palestinians helpless and the world's conscience tested. Recognizing these gaps is important before looking ahead. It is now crucial to explore practical ways to protect Palestinian rights and ensure justice. These steps can guide international community toward a ^{more} responsible and a fair approach.

A credible way forward for the Gaza crisis must begin with the genuine recognition of Palestinian statehood and sovereignty. Palestinians have endured

decades of dispossession and political marginalization, and granting full international recognition would not only affirm their right to self-determination but also provide a legitimate foundation for diplomatic and economic engagement. Without this fundamental acknowledgment any peace initiative remains superficial and incapable of addressing the structural inequalities of the conflict.

Second, the ~~UN~~ United Nations System requires urgent reforms, particularly regarding the disproportionate veto powers held by a few permanent members of the Security Council. Limiting or regulating ~~the~~ veto use in cases of mass human rights violations would prevent powerful states from shielding actors

responsible for oppression, and ensure that the UN can act decisively to protect civilians.

Third, the enforcement mechanisms of International Criminal Court (ICC) and International Court of Justice (ICJ) must be strengthened.

Holding states and individuals accountable for violations of international law without political interference, is essential to restoring credibility to global justice institutions.

Strengthened enforcement would deter future abuses and provide Palestinians and other vulnerable populations a genuine recourse for justice.

Finally, international community must shift from an interest-based global order to a value-based system grounded in justice, human rights and equality. Diplomacy

should prioritize ethical principles over geopolitical calculations, ensuring that decisions are guided by universal norms rather than selective alliances. Only through these combined measures - recognition, institutional reforms, accountability, and a value-driven approach - can the world move toward a just and sustainable resolution, restore Palestinian dignity, and uphold the very conscience of the international order.

The Gaza genocide represents not just a regional catastrophe but a profound moral and institutional challenge for the global community, exposing the hypocrisy and double standards of international institutions. The United Nations despite its mandate

to uphold peace and human rights, has repeatedly failed to act decisively, with the permanent veto powers, particularly that of the United States, blocking critical resolutions aimed at protecting Palestinian civilians.

These paralysis highlight the structural weaknesses of international governance, where power politics override justice.

Moving forward, a credible response demands genuine recognition of

Palestinian sovereignty, reform,

with the UN system to limit veto

power, strong enforcement mechanism with ICC and ICJ and a shift toward

value-driven global order. Only

through these measures can the

world restore justice, accountability,

and the moral authority of

international institutions.
