

Q no. (01)

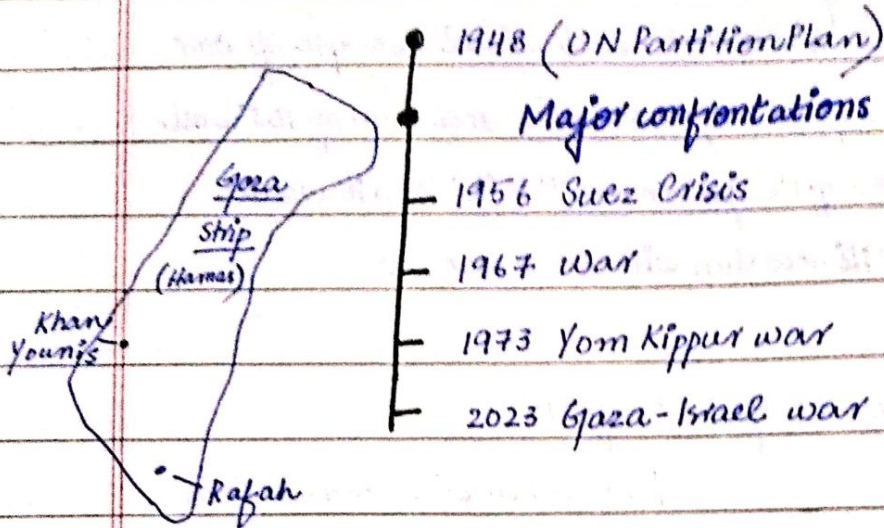
Q. Critically evaluate how Israel launched terror on Gaza has become a classical example of war crimes. How do you see the decision of ICJ and response of US government to it? How it would impact its relation with Arab world?

Background of the Conflict :-

Israel - Palestine conflict is a long standing issue before the international community. There have been series of conflicts between Israel and Palestinian authorities since 1948 Partition Plan of UN. After, the emergence of Hamas the issue is now more of a confrontation between a non-state actor (Hamas) and Israel.

The current war of erupted when Hamas launched the "Operation Al-Aqsa Flood" on October 7, 2023. Since then Israel is conducting war crimes on the Palestinian land.

## Brief Timeline of the Conflict :-



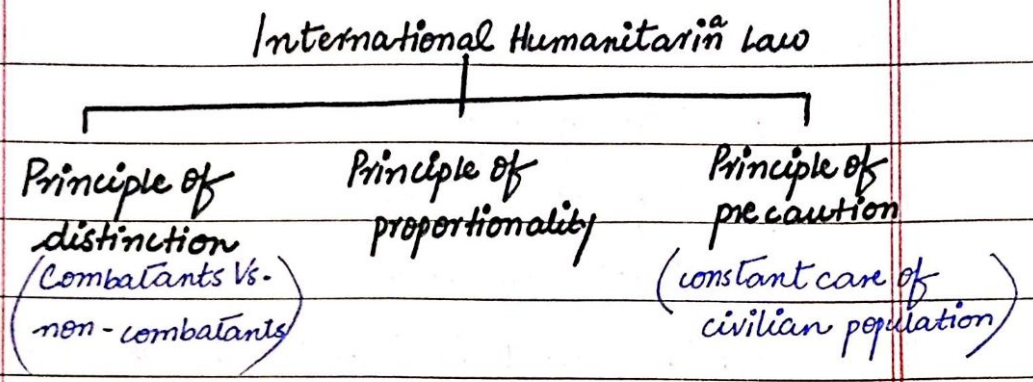
## Israel's war on Gaza: Classical example of war crimes

Since October, 2023 Israeli Defense forces have have Gaza strip an open prison and are involved in massive violations of International Humanitarian Law.

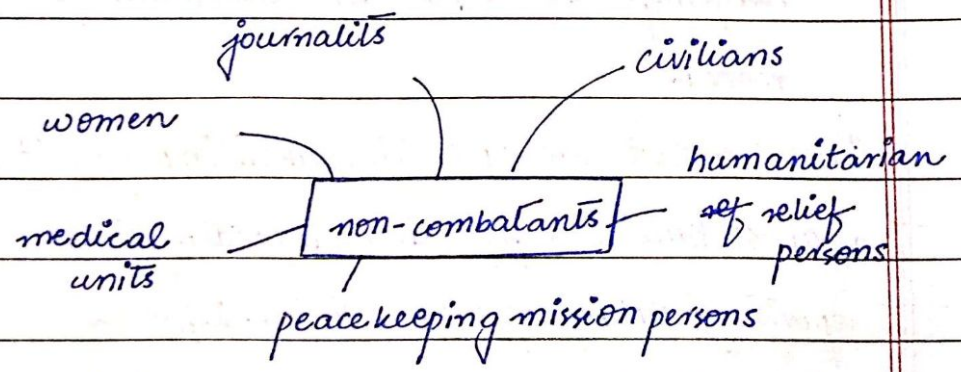
## International Law on War Crimes

According to the *Jus in bello* principle of "Just war Theory" moral principles are to upheld by the warring states during an any conflict. International humanitarian law also known as laws of armed conflicts address the protection of non-combatants.

# Important Principles of International Humanitarian Law (IHL)



International humanitarian law offers protection of non-combatants.



Hospitals, safety zones, and cultural property etc are to be protected under the International Humanitarian Law.

Moreover, according to "article 8 of Rome Statute" war crimes in particular include torture, wilful killing, extensively destroying property, use of poisonous weapons, sexual violence etc.

## Israel's violation of principles of Humanitarian Law :-

Israel has violated following principles of International Humanitarian law

- 1) Principle of proportionality
- 2) Principle of Good faith
- 3) Principle of humanity
- 4) Principle of distinction between combatants and non-combatants.

## Targeting Children, women and Palestinian men :-

Since the start of war Israel is committing genocide against Palestinian population. According to the reports of UN Agency for Palestinian Refugees more than 12,300 children have been died in the ongoing conflict.

Situation of women is also no less than worse. Approximately over 9500 women have killed. Pregnant women face severe challenges due to lack of health care facilities. Also, mansturing women are deprived of

required hygiene kits. In addition to this, men in Palestine are also being killed in a large number. Israel and its supporting allies consider the killings of brown men justified as they believe these people are potential terrorists.

### Infrastructural losses :-

Civilian infrastructure be it hospitals, homes or safe zones are all on the target of Israel's Defense Force.

### Hospitals :-

According to Palestinian ministry of health out of 36 hospitals in Gaza more than 25 are dashed to ground by Israeli forces. Among these hospitals few are Al-Shifa Medical Complex, Al Amal and Al-Nasser.

### Educational Institutes :-

Educational Institutes in Gaza have also been targeted. Israa University was destroyed by the Israeli forces along with many more leaving

students out of schools.

### Attack on Journalists :-

According to reports more than 100 journalists have been killed in the Gaza-Israel conflict making it the deadliest for journalists.

### Decision of International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Gaza-Israel conflict :-

In January 2024, South Africa filed a petition against Israel in International Court of Justice on the basis of violation of Genocide Convention.

### ICJ's Judgment :-

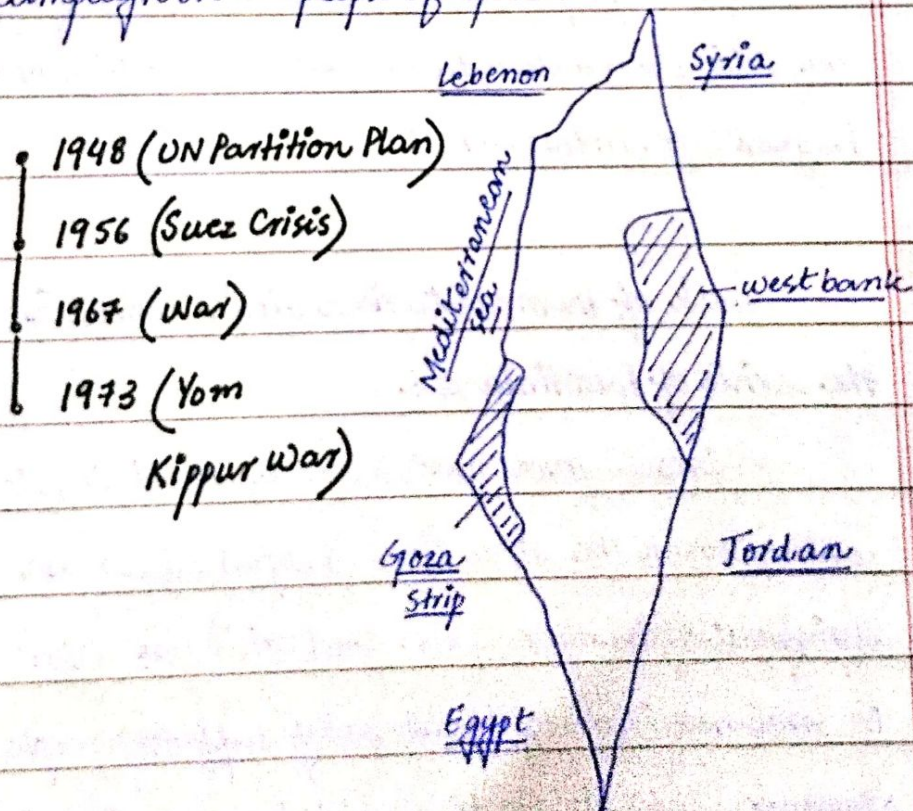
International Court of Justice (ICJ)'s ruling confirmed Israeli Occupation as unlawful.

Q no(02)

Critically evaluate the chances of continuation and expansion of Hamas-Israel war across the region.

### Gaza - Israel war: An Overview:-

The ongoing Gaza-Israel erupted on October 7, 2023 with Hamas's attack on Israel with the name of operation "Al-Aqsa Flood". Since then Israel has launched a genocidal campaign on the people of Gaza.



### Humanitarian Crisis in Gaza :-

Gaza is the largest open air prison in the world. The Gazans can not access transportation through sea. While the land route which is Rafah crossing with Egypt. This border is mostly sealed. Where as Rafah crossing is largely controlled by Israel.

Women, children, journalists, hospitals, safety zones etc all are under attack by Israeli forces in Gaza. According to reports of WHO more than 42,000 people have been killed in the ongoing conflicts. Journalists deaths have reached to record highest level in this conflict.

### Lack of Humanitarian aid exacerbates the crisis of Palestinians :-

Israeli forces have blocked the aid to Palestine which worsen the situation. People in Gaza are dying out of hunger. Severe food crisis has resulted in malnutrition of the already suffering people. Moreover, lack of medical aid has resulted in the increase of casualties of people.



Chances of expansion of war cannot be overruled :-

Hamas - Israel war would not end early  
 Israel has destroyed major area of Gaza but this does not signify the victory of Israel . The war can only end if any of the two warring states surrender ~~or~~ or a ceasefire can stop the war.

Israel wants the complete eradication of Hamas . In order to defeat Hamas , Israel would have to fight a long tunnel war as there are more than 250 - 500 tunnels in Gaza . These tunnels can not be destroyed only with bombardments.

Role of Non - state actors : Hizbollah and Houthis  
 Hezbollah of Lebanon and Yemeni Houthis have declared Jihad against Israel . Both the organizations have launch various areal strikes . Yemeni Houthis even target the ships in the red sea .

### Iran/Israel tensions have increased :-

Israel and US repeatedly accuse Iran for supporting Hamas, ~~Israel~~ Hizbollah and Houthis. Recently, the tensions between Iran and Israel have been increased. Israel targeted Iran embassy in Syria, and targeted Hamas's leader Ismail Haniyeh in Iranian territory. As a response, Iran fired missiles on Israel. So, ~~the~~ with the advancements in conflict the tensions between Israel and Iran would aggravate.

### Israel's attacks on Lebanon :-

#### The Syrian Factor :-

#### Destabilization of Red Sea and Persian Gulf :-