

# The Ostrich's mentality in the Ummah's Response to Israel's actions.

## 1. Introduction:-

1a. In the absence of unity, there is defeat  
Statement of the head of IUMS (International Union of Muslim Scholars) on Palestine issue.

1b. Israel's actions against Palestinians have included military offensives resulting in widespread casualties and destruction, particularly in Gaza, where tens of thousands have been killed, including many children, and millions displaced.

1c. The passive stance of Muslim majority states on Palestine is driven by political calculations, fear of Israeli nukes and a lack of unity.

## 2. Main body:-

2a. The Muslim Ummah's historical response to Israel.

(i) Early support for Palestine; first and foremost issue of Muslim world.

(ii) Shifts in policy over time: Arab-Israeli wars, Oslo accords, geopolitical dynamics.

(iii) Current inconsistencies, i.e. some Muslim countries have moved towards normalization with Israel such as UAE, Bahrain.

2b. Political and geopolitical dynamics shaping the Ummah's response.

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- (i) The influence of Western powers (United States role in shaping foreign policy of Muslim nations)
- (ii) Strategic alliances and economic dependencies particularly regarding trade, military aid etc.
- (iii) Internal divisions within the Ummah, UAE, KSA moving towards normalization with Israel. (Abraham Accords hosted by US in 2020)

2c. The nature of the Ostrich Mentality in the Muslim Ummah's response.

- (i) Denial and avoidance of responsibilities through diplomatic and political channels.
- (ii) Superficial responses and symbolic support while lacking real and tangible actions

2d. Factors driving the Ostrich mentality.

- (i) Cultural and ideological differences. (secular vs. Islamic governance models).
- (ii) The military dynamics and Nuclear imbalance.

2e. The impact of Ostrich mentality on Palestine.

- (i) Failure to achieve tangible responses for Palestine.
- (ii) Erosion of credibility and moral authority of Muslim Ummah especially in relation to Palestine.

2f. Recommendations for breaking the ostrich mentality.

3. Conclusion:

## Essay:-

The division within the Muslim Ummah over Palestine from silence to passive support for Israel fuels the "ostrich mentality" that hinders collective action and perpetuates inaction. As Ali Mohiuddin Al-Baradghi, then head of International Union for Muslim Scholars, stated, "The Islamic world has split into three groups: the silent ones as if these massacres and attacks <sup>had</sup> never occurred, the second group far from remaining silent and the third group consists of small <sup>no. of</sup> countries like Turkey, Qatar, Malaysia, Algeria, which have stood with Palestine against Israel." Israel's military offensive actions following Hamas's 7 October 2023 attacks include the killing of over 42,000 Palestinians, consisting of 13,300 children, and left Gaza in ruins. Moreover, the destruction of ~~cities~~ cultural sites has made vast areas uninhabitable, causing unparalleled devastation. The passive stance of Muslim majority states on Palestinian issue, despite their vocal condemnation of Israel, reflects a combination of political calculations, fear of Israeli nuclear capabilities, and a lack of unity among Muslim countries <sup>and</sup> is playing a critical role in Ummah's reluctance to confront Israel.

Initially the Muslim World rallied behind the Palestinian cause especially after the creation of Israel in 1948, with many countries offering direct support to Palestinians. However, over time the response has become increasingly divided. For instance during the 1967, six-day war, several Arab states, including Egypt and Jordan fought against Israel in defense of Palestinian territories. Yet, with the

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passing of time, particularly after the Oslo accords 1990s some Muslim majority countries shifted their focus from direct confrontation to diplomatic solutions. More recently countries such as UAE and Bahrain have normalized relations with Israel, indicating a shift in priorities due to regional politics and economic interests. This division reflects inconsistent support for Palestine majority due to fears of alienating international allies or upsetting domestic politics.

Moreover, the geopolitical landscape significantly influences the Muslim Ummah's response. Western powers, particularly the United States, have been central in shaping foreign policies of many Muslim majority countries. Also, the US (United States) has vetoed a UNSC (United Nation Security Council) Gaza ceasefire for the fourth time since Israel's war began. For instance, US military aid to Egypt and Saudi Arabia has often dictated these countries stances towards Israel. As a result, rather than confronting Israel, these nations have opted for diplomacy that aligns with their broader strategic interests of trade deals and maintaining regional stability. The reluctance of inaction is exemplified by the muted reactions to Israel's 2018 relocation of its embassy to Jerusalem which resulted in widespread protests but failed to result in tangible diplomatic repercussions from key Muslim countries. Additionally, the US president Trump hosted the Abraham accords in 2020 and in this context, the fear of upsetting the US often overrides the moral imperative to challenge Israel's actions, contributing to the "ostrich mentality".

these fissures to advance its policies without fear of significant repercussions. Also, Pakistan has nuclear weapons but other Muslim countries don't have it which raises question as Israel's nuclear power strengthens its actions that are inhumane.

Therefore, the consequences of ostrich mentality are devastating for the Palestinian cause. As Muslim countries fail to take decision, Israel has been able to continue its occupation of Palestinian territories and expand settlements in the West Bank with little international backlash. For instance, Israel's plan to annex the parts of West Bank in 2020 went largely unchallenged by Muslim majority countries, even though such a move directly undermines the prospect of two-state solution. The lack of unified and forceful response from the Ummah not only weakens the Palestinian cause but also erodes the moral authority of Muslim-majority countries at global stage. As the global community watches, the Muslim Ummah's inability to challenge Israel strengthens its position, allowing it to act with licence while undermining efforts to achieve peace and justice for Palestinians.

Last but not the least, to build unity within the Ummah, Muslim-majority countries must prioritize the Palestinian cause over internal divisions like regional rivalries. Key nations such as Saudi Arabia, Iran, Turkey, and Pakistan, should engage in open dialogue and collaboration, uniting around a common objective through facilitation of Organization of Islamic Countries (OIC) which can coordinate efforts and issue unified stances on such issues. The Ummah should push for sanctions against Israeli goods and companies involved in settlement-building and human rights violation. A coordinated boycott of Israeli products, similar to BDS movement would amplify economic pressure. Additionally leveraging international bodies like United Nations to hold Israel accountable and push for binding resolutions would place significant diplomatic pressure on Israel. For a broad based approach, engaging civil society and grassroots movements is essential. All above, the collective voice of Muslim world is the only weapon that holds the power to amplify these

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efforts in demanding justice and accountability  
of Israel's actions, to address this long-standing  
issue.

Conclusively, the "Ostrich mentality" that characterizes the Muslim Ummah's response to Israel's actions has resulted in an ineffective approach to the Palestinian cause. While many Muslim majority countries express solidarity with the Palestinians, their actions often fall short of the meaningful support primarily due to geopolitical, economic, and ideological factors. The fear of alienating

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Western powers, internal divisions, and competing regional interests have led to symbolic gestures rather than concrete measures. For the Ummah to effectively address the Israeli's inhumane actions, it must overcome these internal divisions, unite on a common cause and adopt a more proactive approach. Only then the Muslim Ummah can play its role in advocating for peace, justice and the rights of Palestinians on the global stage.