

# Human Rights are the first Casualty in any Conflict

## 1) Introduction:

Thesis statement:-

Violation of human rights is the first casualty in all conflicts. Armed conflicts involves the devastating losses of civilian life, massive displacement and violation of human rights and international humanitarian law. Therefore international justice system must take step and ensures the human rights protection.

## 2) Explaining the importance of human rights.

## 3) How human rights are the first casualty in conflicts.

3.1 Using rape as a weapon of war

3.2 Recruiting children to serve on the frontlines

3.3 Launching direct attacks on civilians

3.4 Obstructing humanitarian aid

3.5 ill-treatment of prisoners of war

3.6 forced displacement of peoples

3.7 Subjecting children to sexual violence

3.8 physical and psychological damage to health

3.9 limiting the mobility and communication

## 4) Crimes under which human Rights were targeted.

4.1 War crimes for human rights violation

4.2 Crimes against humanity

4.3 Genocides against human rights.

## 5) Measures to ensure the international human rights.

5.1 International Justice system

5.2 International Criminal Courts

5.3 Constitution and laws

5.4 International humanitarian law

## 6) Conclusion:

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According to the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) "All human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, without distinction of any kind, such as race, sex, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status. Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person." Violation and casualty of human rights impacts devastating effects on the society, Human Rights violation includes the children recruitment as servant and on frontlines, launching direct attacks by obstructing humanitarian aid and ill-treatment of prisoners, physical and psychological damage to health by forced displacement and sexual violence, including the limitations in mobility and communication. Violation of human rights is the first casualty in all conflicts. Armed conflicts involves the devastating losses of civilian life, massive displacement and violation of human rights and international humanitarian law. In order to ensure prevalence of human Rights international justice system must took step ahead.

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Human rights are a set of principles concerned with equality and fairness. They recognise our freedom to make choices about our lives and to develop our potential as human beings. They are about living a life free from fears, harassment or discrimination. Every person has

dignity and value. One of the ways that we recognise the fundamental worth of every person is by acknowledging and respecting their human rights. Human rights can broadly be defined as a number of basic rights that people from around the world have agreed are essential. These include: the right to life, the right to a fair trial, freedom from torture and other cruel and inhuman treatment.

Many of the gravest human rights violations are committed in war. These also includes using rape as a weapon of war. From ancient times till now rape is used as a tool for war. The rape of women by soldiers during wartime has occurred throughout the history. During the World War II both Allied and Axis armies committed rape as a means of terrorizing enemy civilian populations and demoralizing enemy troops. The mass rape committed against German women by advancing Russian soldiers. In the second half of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, cases of rape were documented in more than 20 military and paramilitary conflicts.

Recruitment of children to serve on the frontlines during war is also a worst example of human rights violation. Thousands of children are recruited and used in armed conflicts across the world. Between 2005 and 2022

more than 105,000 children were verified as recruited and used by parties to conflict. Warring parties use children not only as fighters, but as scouts, cooks, porters, guards and more. (UNICEF)

Direct attacks on civilians or civilian objects are prohibited and are war crimes. Amnesty International found that Israeli forces carried out attacks that violated international humanitarian law, including by failing to take feasible precautions to spare civilians, or by carrying out indiscriminate attacks that failed to distinguish between civilians and military objectives, or by carrying out attacks that may have been directed against civilian objects.

Along with attacks on humanity mistreatment of prisoners of war was also seen in history. According to the US department of Justice 90 nations violate prisoners rights in some way and treated them badly. In over one-third of the nations, conditions were reported to be harsh and punitive.

Mistreatment of humans during or after war and in conflicts also includes the forced displacement of peoples. People were forcibly displaced by the end of 2021 due to the conflict, violence,

persecution and human rights violations.  
people have been internally displaced by  
the conflict in Ukraine and Afghanistan

In many conflicts, fighting forces  
continue to use sexual violence against  
women and girls to deliberately inflict  
lasting physical and psychological damage.  
Amnesty International has documented  
how Ethiopian troops and military soldiers,  
as well as fighters have subjected children  
women and girls to rape, gang rape,  
sexual slavery, sexual mutilation and  
other forms of torture.

These conflicts along with physical  
and psychological damage also limits the  
mobility and communication, during conflicts  
and war the mobility of humans and  
communication was disconnected by  
shutting down all internet services and  
social apps is also a violation of basic human  
rights.

War crimes are the serious  
violations of international humanitarian  
law that includes wilful killings, direct  
attacks on civilians, torture, use of prohibited  
weapons, the murder or ill-treatment  
of prisoners of war or others who have  
been captured, surrendered or injured  
and crimes of sexual violence.

Crimes against humanity are crimes committed as part of a widespread or systematic attack by or on behalf of a state or an organization against a civilian population during wartime.

There are many crimes that violates human rights including murder, extermination, enslavement, deportation or forcible transfer of a population, torture, rape and other serious forms of violence, enforced disappearance and apartheid.

Casualty of human rights in different conflicts also includes the Genocide. Genocide are certain acts committed with the intent to destroy, completely or partially, a national, ethnic, racial or religious group. Genocide may be committed in armed conflict or in peacetime.

International humanitarian law - known as the law of war - establishes what can and cannot be done by parties to an armed conflicts. These laws seek ~~to~~ to minimize human suffering and protect civilian as well as combatants who are no longer taking part in hostilities, such as prisoners of war.

In the conclusion we need to realize that new world must

prefer the values of freedom and human rights, above all other values. above personal wealth, technical power and nationalism.

(Herbert Read)

So in all conflicts the first casualty is human rights, involving the devastating loss of physical, mental and psychological health. We must need to know the importance of human rights and international laws, agencies, constitutions, criminal and human justice system must play their role in this regard.