

Human rights are the first casualty in any conflict

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2. Comprehending the fundamental rights of human beings

3. How human rights become first casualty in any conflict?

a. loss of civilian lives

b. Innocent people losing properties

c. Social circles and societies withering away.

d. Conflicts causing the death of cultures.

• Syrians^{immigrants} unable to practice their culture in foreign states

e. Deprivation of children from education due to conflicts

f. lack of access to basic necessities of life during conflicts.

g. Conflicts causing environmental degradation

h. Mass graves and missing

Persons as a result of conflicts.

i. Miseries after the conflict.

- Rape of German women after WW-II (BBC)

4. Measures that can minimize human rights violations during wars.

a. Protection of non combatants.

b. Avoiding any unnecessary loss of property.

c. Provision of humanitarian aid in war zones.

5. Conclusion.

When new settlements are constructed, the inhabitants of that particular geography like trees and animals are first ones to be sacrificed. Similar is the case of war, Human rights are first casualty in any conflicts. Humans are deprived of their fundamental rights in the form of loss of life, property and other belongings. For instance, their social circle. Conflicts result in exodus and mass migration. Environmental degradation makes war zones unlivable. Moreover, an overwhelming majority do not even get respectable funeral. The ends of wars even open gates to new catastrophies. Even by arguing that in reality, the wars are inevitable, the violations of human rights can be minimized by protection of non combatants, avoiding unnecessary property loss, and

provision of humanitarian aid to people in war zone. In a nutshell, the innocent humans become first victims of war, and their lives are disrupted from multifaceted angles. However, it is duty of combatants to take measures to minimize human rights violations.

Before reviewing the violations of human rights in conflicts, it is crucial to understand the fundamental human rights. As mentioned in Universal declaration of human rights, and conformed by diverse codes, Every human has right of life, property, free movement, education, and to pursue happiness in his life. These rights are considered unalienable, and no one can deprive any person of these rights.

On the contrary, the conflict is the thing which takes all

these rights away from human beings. For instance, the first and foremost right of any human is of life. It can be called more fundamental than any other fundamental right. But immense amount of casualties during conflicts can be civilian without any exception. In Israel's assault on Gaza, till now more than 26,000 people have been killed, including about 11,000 children, who have nothing to do with the conflict. In Russia Ukraine war, almost similar number of civilians have been killed. But the casualties of human rights in conflicts are not only limited to loss of human rights.

Another area, where destruction can be observed is property loss. Countless people have to lose their houses and other properties as a result of war.

A major example of it can be seen in Gaza, where almost half of infrastructure have been destroyed till now due to bombings by Israeli forces. Cities of eastern Ukraine like Mariopol and Bakhmut have lost almost all of their buildings. Millions of people who work for days and nights to build their houses and other properties lose them within minutes after bombs being dropped by opponent forces.

Along with the loss of life and property, people in conflict zones often lose their social circles and core societal values. It can be understood from the example of Syrian refugees, the millions of Syrians who left their cities for countries like Türkiye and Sweden cannot celebrate their social function with previous zeal

and enthusiasm, because today they are divided, and on foreign lands, where they must have to comply with the values of those lands.

But the loss is not limited to social celebrations, the communities facing conflicts have to sacrifice their own cultures.

Syrian refugees in Sweden and other European states cannot profess their religions as openly as they could in Syria. Moreover, a report of Middle East Eye on hate and discrimination against Arab refugees in Türkiye reveals the miserable situation in which Arabs cannot even openly display and celebrate their cultures, and have to face wide spread hatred.

Additionally, the deprivation of children in war zones from education is often a considerable issue. Education is considered as a

fundamental right of every human being, but schools are first place to be closed in case of conflict. Afghanistan, which was considered a liberal and thriving country in 1960's and 70's, then faced two major conflicts: Coldwar and War on Terror. And resultantly, even today, girl child above the age of ten cannot go to school. The parts of Pakistan which became the worst victims of terrorism are today far behind in literacy as compared to other areas.

Not to talk about education, humans in war zone are even deprived of basic necessities of life. The very fundamental things like food, water, shelter and basic health facilities become scarce in wars. Some prominent reports on Gaza's

Current situation reveals that all patients in intensive care unit of Al-Shifa Hospital died because of lack of oxygen. Surgeries are going on without anesthesia. The report of UN exposes the fact that more than 90 percent of people starving across the world are in Gaza. An Al-Jazeera's report shows that almost all of Gaza's population is surviving on unhygienic water and food.

The catastrophies of war are not only short-term, but have long term consequences. The environmental degradation of war zones is often a fact. Nuclear bombs dropped on Japanese cities during World War-II polluted the environment of impacted cities, and continued to hurt for decades. Moreover, the water resources, land and even the air of conflict zones remain polluted

for long period of time. One of major reason of spread of Influenza after WW-I was unhygienic climetic condition that had resulted in polluted water bodies and food items which caused the fast track spreading of flu.

Along with other cruelties, one thing that can never go unnoticed are missing persons and mass graves that have become quite common in recent conflicts. Thousands of people have been found in mass graves in Kashmir as a result of brutalities of Indian forces. Similar mass graves have been exposed in Gaza and Ukraine. It manifests that people who found themselves in war, not only have to face difficulties in life, but after they are deprived of respectable funerals.

The miseries of people struck in wars do not usually end with the end of conflicts. The difficulties usually follow such people long even after the end of wars. For instance, Germans had to face gang rapes and other human rights violations after world war-II from the hands of Soviet forces (BBC). A manifestation of it can be seen from world war-I, when despite poor economic situation, Germany had to pay reparations to allied powers, which was a disaster for already crippling German economy.

The diverse examples given above makes the fact clear that 'Human rights are first casualty in any conflict. Though any realist can argue that war is an inevitable phenomenon of this world, but even in any

case depriving humans of their fundamental rights cannot be justified under any condition, and the ^{responsibility} ~~right~~ of protection of humans and their fundamental rights lies solely on combatants.

Though the chances of complete and absolute protection of human rights are not visible, but violations can be minimized by taking certain measures. The world has already taken steps towards such measures, and a major example of it is 'Geneva Convention'. This convention bars combatants from human rights violations. Today, an overwhelming majority of countries is signatory of this convention. So, in accordance with it, the protection of non combatants is first and foremost duty of forces. It is compulsion upon forces not to kill, harm or threaten any such person who is not directly involved

in the conflict.

Along with saving lives of innocent people, it is often necessary for forces to avoid any unnecessary loss of property, including transportation networks, public and private buildings, trees and crops. It often forbades soldiers from stealing anything from anywhere. Under some situations, destroying some properties from where there is a threat can be considered necessary, but utmost care from forces can help in minimizing the human rights violation.

Another, but most important, part of facilitating people struck under such calamity is by provision of humanitarian aid. The economic activity halts during conflict, and all the residents become dependent upon aid. Therefore, by providing

excessive aid in form of food items, clothings and shelters can contribute in averting the level of danger. Moreover, along with relief aid recovery aid should also be provided. So that people can rebuild their societies after war. A manifestation of it can be seen in Ukrainian and Gazan conflict, where people from across the world are providing aid to reduce the miseries of people stuck in conflict.

In conclusion, war is the name of misery in which individuals and societies are destroyed politically, economically and socially; People have to lose their lives, loved ones and livelihoods. The history is demolished and geography is altered. Hunger and bloodshed represent the two pictures of war. Millions of innocent people

Day: _____

Date: _____

who lost their lives in conflicts, hundreds and thousands of eye catching buildings which became the trash.

Countless children who could not see their parents again, and similarly, the parents who lost their lovely kids; All are evident of one thing that human rights are of no value when the conflicts are in place.