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## ESSAY

Title:

"HUMAN RIGHTS ARE THE FIRST CASUALTY IN ANY CONFLICT"

### • OUTLINE:

#### 1. Introduction

Theris statement: Human rights are <sup>observed as</sup> the first casualty during conflicts. They are violated by because people are denied accen to fundamental human rights. Intenational organizations and global community can play their role in creating awarenen and compliance of human rights.

#### 2. Human Rights are vital for peace.

#### 3. How Human Rights are fint casualty in Conflicts

- Freedom of movement is denied.
- Availability of food is limited.
- Accenibility of healthcare is negligible.
- Educational Institues are closed.
- Means of businen are attacked.
- ~~People are n~~
- Accen to information is controlled.



#### 4. Impacts of violating Human Rights in Conflicts

- a. Causes frustration in people.
- b. Leads to food shortage and famines.
- c. Effects quality of life.
- d. Literacy rates become lower.
- e. Deteriorates socioeconomic status of people.
- f. Creates intolerance in people.

#### 5. How Human Rights can be ensured during conflicts

- a. UNSC can play its role in ensuring safety of human rights.
- b. International Court of Justice should take legal action in case of human rights violations.
- c. Super powers can play an effective role.
- d. Civil society can create awareness for decision taken by advocacy.
- e. Global community can create awareness by <sup>peaceful</sup> protests.

#### 6. Conclusion.



## Human Rights

About 1400 years ago, The Prophet Muhammad SAW delivered a farewell speech on the tenth of Zilhaj. The main themes of <sup>his</sup> speech were human rights and equality. He considered human rights and equality as fundamental principals of Islam. Human rights are basic rights of every human being. Yet they are considered as first casualty during conflicts. They are violated in conflicts when people are denied freedom of movement, accessibility to healthcare, availability of food and right to seek education. Furthermore, during conflict the businesses and shops of people are attacked or closed due to curfews. All these factors lead to creation of a number of adverse impacts on the lives of people. Violation of human rights creates frustration and negative sentiments in people. They cause food scarcity, deterioration of socioeconomic status and impact quality of life. They contribute to creation of intolerance in people. It is vital to ensure the non violation of human rights during conflict. International organizations like United Nations Security Council and International Court of Justice can play a vital role in ensuring the integrity of human rights. Human rights.



are observed as first casualty during conflicts. They are violated because people are denied access to fundamental human rights. International organizations and global community can play their part in creating awareness and compliance of human rights.

Human rights as defined by United Nations Human Rights Watch are the fundamental rights of human beings which should be provided to all human beings irrespective of their gender, age and socioeconomic status. The constitution of Pakistan has defined the fundamental human rights, which should be provided to all citizens of Pakistan.

They are defined ~~from~~ in Article 8-28 of Constitution of Pakistan. The ~~fun~~ human rights include food, shelter, education, and access to healthcare and information etc. <sup>Similarly,</sup> Every state has defined the human rights for its citizens.

There are certain international organizations like United Nations which have also provided frameworks for the human rights. Nelson Mandela, was a political activist, who advocated for the human rights. Human rights are basic rights of all human beings.

Human rights are <sup>observed as</sup> the first casualty in conflicts. The world has witnessed



a number of conflicts since it was created. By looking ~~it~~ ~~intern~~ at world history, one can easily see that during wars the human rights of people are impacted adversely in a number of ways. ~~The~~ when conflicts and wars take place in any area. Then first of all the enemy forces try to take the land control of the territory. ~~by~~ For this purpose they increase their presence on borders and at times impose curfews. These actions lead to the restriction of freedom of movement. Recently in the Israel Palestine conflict, it has been observed that Israel ~~took~~ placed a siege on Gaza strip. ~~It~~ <sup>Israeli forces</sup> ~~attacked~~ created border checks and restricted the movement of Gazans across the border. Secondly the IDF asked people to stay in camps and limited their freedom. The Israeli forces <sup>targeted and</sup> killed those civilians who had to move within the city for doing their day to day activities. So conflicts limit the freedom of movement of civilians during conflict.

The availability of food is another basic human right which is impacted during conflicts. During conflicts various means including bombing, firing, damaging crops are employed to cause damage to the attacked state. ~~At~~ During conflict ~~the~~ at times the forces



of enemies try to attack the warehouses and crops of foods, which lead to food shortage and security issues.

According to a report by Al Jazeera, the Israeli army had purposely attacked the warehouses of food of the United Nations and World Food Programme. Secondly in case of Russia Ukraine war, the global shortage of wheat and cereal crops was experienced in Ukraine and those countries where <sup>imported</sup> wheat and cereal crops ~~were~~ <sup>exported</sup> from Russia and Ukraine. Was impact the availability of food to the people living in war impacted zones.

The conflicts affect the accessibility of healthcare services to people who are living in conflict zones.

During war, the healthcare facilities like hospitals are targeted by the opposite forces. Secondly the doctors, paramedical staff, nurses and surgeons are attacked during attacks on healthcare facilities. So these reasons reduce the availability of healthcare staff. As ~~the~~ people are injured massively during wars, so need for healthcare facilities arise. But ~~as~~ due to <sup>and infrastructure loss</sup> ~~confusion~~ the people can't access the healthcare facilities. So we can say that during war the people who are suffering from chronic diseases, pregnant women



and people with special healthcare <sup>have limited</sup> needs can not access the healthcare facilities.

Conflicts mean ~~regular~~ fighting, air strikes, attacks and ground attacks. They create horrible conditions during which no one is safe including the elderly, adults and children. So in such cases the schools are closed and children face discontinuation of education. The universities, vocational training institutes and professional colleges are also closed. All these lead to an increasing the rates of illiteracy in a <sup>conflict</sup> ~~was~~ affected place. During the conflict in Ukraine, the schools were shut down, due to which the education of children was discontinued. The conflicts in Africa are very common. So they have affected the indicators of education in the continent. According to United Nations High Commission for Refugees the number of out of school children is increasing in the ~~year~~ <sup>past</sup> war impacted areas of Africa. The conflicts have a bad impact on the education.

The conflicts are responsible for the closure of businesses and offices in an area. ~~They~~ Due to the instability and frequent conflicts, people residing in a conflict can not continue their day to day activities including business.



and jobs. In the ~~Israel~~ world war 2, when the allied forces took control of the areas, where they were winning. Then the businesses in those areas were closed. An example of the "Louis Vuitton" which is a renowned brand across the globe can be quoted, which faced serious challenges, and economic losses during WW2. % The losses were so high, that the company had to shut down its warehouses and shops, for a period. Then after the war when conditions became normal, then the company took a loan and started its set up from a very small warehouse in a village. ~~we~~ Conflicts cause damage to humans in many forms, including the problems faced by businesses.

Information is very important right of all human beings. ~~At~~ Access to information has been enshrined in article 19A of constitution of Pakistan. Similarly ~~other~~ constitutions of other states also declare it as a fundamental human right. Unfortunately ~~the~~ during conflicts, the access to information to the citizens is controlled. During conflicts, the access to information is disrupted by attacking the agencies of media, ~~press~~ houses and <sup>infrastructure</sup> towers of internet when the sources of creation of information are attacked, they effect the accessibility of information. Another important factor is that by use of techno-



logy information can be fabricated. Fake information can be used as a tool of propaganda. It can result in creation of negative emotions in people. Information and its <sup>control</sup> flow is a tactic which is used in conflicts.

Human Rights are fundamental rights of all human beings. Several philosophers have given notable works on the importance of human rights. The violation of human rights during conflicts have a variety of impact on lives of people. First of all they lead to creation of a feeling of frustration within people. Every individual wants enjoin of basic human rights like right to food, shelter, education and health care. During conflicts the infrastructure loss, ~~etc~~ <sup>and</sup> attacks on institutes which provide social services to humans are common. Like according to a report of DW, the Israeli army had attacked the hospitals <sup>and refugee camps</sup> in Gaza city. The attacks led to barbaric killing of people who were seeking refuge in shelters and ~~who~~ were under treatment in hospitals. The attacks ~~caused~~ resulted in creation of frustration in public, because they couldn't take refuge and get treated. Despairity, sadness, and frustration are common in people residing in conflict



affected areas.

Food shortage and famines are ~~a~~ one of the most adverse impacts of conflicts. The lack of food occurs due to damage of crops, restricted movement of goods and restriction of trade at borders.

Famines are observed in the conflict zones of the middle east. In the middle east, the civil war and conflict are very common. So the problem of food shortage is prevalent over there.

The shortage of food affects the children, pregnant and lactating mothers and elderly.

A report of World Health Organization have reported that stunting<sup>in children</sup>, due to food shortage is common in conflict affected

regions of Iraq and Syria. Although the soil of middle east is suitable for growing certain variety of crops like dates and olives and for livestock.

But still the presence of conflict have created the problem of availability of food to cater needs of population.

The shortage of food and denial of basic rights affect the quality of life. The people who are living in conflict affected areas have limited movement, shortage of food, lack of basic healthcare and facilities, social security services. All



these impact the quality of life. A study conducted by the WHO found out that people who have are living in conflict zones have compromised quality of life and shorter life spans. Secondly, when the jobs and businesses of people are shut, then people have limited financial resources, so they can't spend on their food, education and health, which ultimately affect their quality of life.

The literacy rates in the conflict zones are lower as compared to areas in their surroundings, which don't have conflicts. During the wars and conflicts the educational institutes are closed and that affects the education of children. The children can not continue their education in hostile environments. At times the conflict makers target the educational institutes, killing the children, teachers and causing infrastructural damage to educational institutes. For example ~~is~~ Afghanistan, which has been a victim of the great games of super powers. It has witnessed a number of conflicts in the past decades have a very bad educational set up. The literacy rates are very low in Afghanistan.



The socioeconomic status of an area is disturbed during a conflict. In an area when people are denied basic human rights like education, healthcare, right to business, then the socioeconomic indicators of people show negative trends. In a war or conflict prone area the human development index scores are very low. The people can not improve their living standards as their economic activities are restricted when people don't do their businesses properly, then their economic status deteriorates. Mostly in conflict, the people face the problem of temporary poverty. People from lower socioeconomic status can easily fall victim to the problem of poverty. So we can say that the socioeconomic status and conflict in an area are associated negatively. It means that when conflict occurs in an area, then socioeconomic indicators of that area show decrease in their values.

A major impact of conflict on people, is that it creates intolerance in people. During conflict the people are denied access to basic services, infrastructure is damaged, and civilian populations are targeted. Mostly during



Attacks on civilians, innocent people are killed. When the people whose families are bombarded and killed, then they become intolerant. Their purpose of life is lost and all they need is revenge. In Afghanistan, many young boys whose families had died during conflicts, were exhibited intolerable behavior. They wanted to take revenge. These such individuals are easy target for non state actors and exploited easily. The non state actors employ such individuals in their organizations and fulfill their illicit goals through them.

The ensuring of human rights during conflict is very necessary. We need to take measures to ensure that human rights are protected during any situation. There are various national and international organizations who can play their role in ensuring the adherence to the non violation of human rights.

United Nation security Council is an associated organization of United Nations. It is an international organization created with the mission of achieving peace and security in world. It can be used as an effective institute watchdog to ensure that during conflict the human rights remain intact. It had played its role in the time when after the imperialism, different <sup>colonies</sup> ~~nations~~ were getting independence.



At that time the socioeconomic indicators of <sup>newly formed</sup> states were not good and secondly some states had a risk of civil war.

So UNSC played an important role by providing due guidance to the states in controlling their affairs effectively and ensuring the protection of human rights.

"International Court of Justice" an important organization, whose decisions are binding upon the states. It can be used to legally oblige all states to ensure the following of human rights.

It has played a fundamental role in Israel - Palestine conflict. During the conflict the Israel was exploiting fundamental rights of people and secondly it was ensuring genocidal acts. So the government of South Africa called upon a the state of Israel by issuing a legal notice to ICT regarding this matter. An investigation was carried out and the ICT gave out its verdict, in which it ~~it~~ mentioned Israel for for discombing its act of human rights violations & genocidal act in Gaza. So <sup>states</sup> ~~we~~ need to give respect to decisions of ICT and proper legal action should be taken against states, who don't follow its jurisdictions.

The superpowers can play an important role in ensuring the non violation of human rights during conflicts. The world has recently witnessed the Conflict of the



Russia and Ukraine and the role of the G7 countries and United States in particular. The <sup>state of</sup> Russia was subjected to sanctions as it had damaged the peace of the region by attacking Ukraine. Strict measures were taken against it like its funds were frozen and was denied access to the SWIFT, money transaction system. The world powers can also use diplomatic ~~channel~~ means for ensuring the compliance to human rights during conflicts. Like United States of America uses its foreign policy tools when it wants to achieve certain results or persuade a state. In Afghanistan, when Taliban came into power, there were fears in people regarding the violation of basic human rights to females and minorities. So in this regard international community and states are playing their role by severing ties with Afghanistan, until they don't ensure the free rights of women & minorities.

Civil society organizations are playing an essential role in highlighting an issue. They have the power of advocacy. They can bring an issue into notice of the decision maker. Like for example during Israel Palestine conflict there are different advocacy groups, who are trying to ensure the <sup>basic</sup> human rights of both Palestinian and Israeli who



~~are~~ <sup>with</sup> ~~in~~ ~~the~~ are in the control of Hamas. The ~~refugee~~ international refugee commission is playing its role as a mediator for transfer of prisoners between the concerned authorities of Israel and Hamas. The civil society ~~used~~ <sup>uses</sup> various mediums including television, <sup>print</sup> media, social media and internet to propagate its message. It is playing an affirmative role in ensuring that human rights should not be violated during conflict.

The globalization has brought the people across the globe close to each other. Now a days, all people are just a click away from one another. It is easy to transmit messages across from one part of world to another. In such cases if the human rights are violated in an area, then the people of that area can use social media platforms and can convey their message to other people across the world. The international community then can do peaceful protest and awareness campaigns for raising voice against violation of human rights. The people of Gaza used the social media apps to show the atrocities of P- Israeli forces to the world. Due to which people across the globe had sympathies for them and they tried to create a difference for them. For this purpose, thousands of people in almost all



continent did peaceful protest. They tried to raise the voices for violatiobns of human rights in Gaza. They raised their voices, so that the decision maker & and government of their states can take action. Several governments severed their diplomatic relations with Israel. So global community has the power to highlight any issue of violation of human rights during conflict.

In a nutshell the human rights are the first casualty during conflict. They are violated during conflicts, in various forms during conflicts. The violation of human rights include limited food availability, restricted movement and lack of social services. These violations impact the humans in a number of ways. They lead to creation of intolerance and frustration in affected individuals. They deteriorate the socioeconomic indicators and quality of life of individuals living in a conflict zone. It is essential to ensure the safety of human rights during conflicts. The international humanitarian, non governmental and super powers can play their role in ensuring the safety of human rights. Human rights are fundamental inalienable right of every individual. Adequate actions should be taken to ensure their availability to every human in every circumstance.