

Samha Shaikh

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Human Rights are the First Casualty in any conflict:

Outline:

1- Introduction:

2- Indicators depicting human rights as the first casualty in any conflict:

a- Israel - Hamas conflict has resulted in grave humanitarian crisis.

b- Ukraine - Russia war has led to dire refugee crisis.

c- Iran - Saudi tussle in Yemen has violated human rights.

d. U.S invasion in Afghanistan has deteriorated the social conditions of people.

e- U.S sanctions over Iran has curbed social development.

f India - Pakistan rivalry on Kashmir has violated the freedom of Kashmiri people.

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7- Iran - Iraq war has given an impetus to social chaos.

3- Factors that have given rise to such conflicts, violating human rights.

a- The motive of China and U.S to create hegemony leads to the conflict

b- KSA and Iran wants to achieve dominance in the region.

c- India aims to be a sole hegemon in the Indian Ocean region.

d- Resurgence of Russia as a global power.

e- Israel wants to occupy the whole Palestinian territory

4- Solutions to mitigate such conflicts, promoting human rights:

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- a- Promoting diplomatic negotiations to curb further escalation.
- b- Democratizing United Nation security council to promote resolution of ongoing conflicts.
- c- Providing humanitarian aid to war-torn countries.
- d- Fostering active participation of regional organization to resolve the conflicts.
- e- Encouraging intervention of U.S as a global mediator to prevail peace.

5- Conclusion:

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The evolving global landscape, marked by various conflicts, presents multitude of challenges for the globe. However, the most important one is humanitarian crisis. There are multiple indicators depicting that human rights are the first casualty in any conflict. However, there are various factors that have given impetus to such conflicts which need to be addressed. Israel- Hamas conflict and Ukraine - Russia war are the true manifestations of violation of human rights. Similarly, Iran- Saudi tussle in Yemen and U.S invasion in Afghanistan also play vital role in the humanitarian crisis. However, the aim of creating hegemony has

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given rise to the conflicts. China and U.S want to create dominance in the world. Moreover, Iran and Saudi Arabia have the desire to dominate Middle Eastern region. In order to mitigate such conflicts, it is imperative to take prompt measures such as ^{Promoting} diplomatic negotiation, democratizing United nations, and encouraging participation of regional organizations. In this way, humanitarian crisis can be curtailed and peace can be prevailed.

Before moving towards the factors which have instigated the conflicts, it is important to shed light on the indicators depicting human rights as the first casualty in any conflict. The first and foremost

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is Israel - Hamas conflict.

The ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict has resulted in the grave human loss. The conflict has witnessed thousands of Palestinian lives. According to United Nations International Children Emergency Fund (UNICEF), one children in an hour is being killed by Israeli forces in Palestine. This depicts that Palestine has become the open air prison for the people. According to Antonio Guterres, the war in Gaza is more than humanitarian crisis, it is the crisis of humanity. This shows the intensity of the barbaric conditions of the people living in Gaza. Hence, Israel-Hamas conflict has paved the way for

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humanitarian crisis.

Ukraine - Russia war has also witnessed the dire refugee crisis. This war has contributed to the internal displacement of the people. The Russia invaded Ukraine on 24, february, 2022, since then, the rate of refugee is escalating day by day. According to UNHCR, Out of 42.5 million population of Ukraine, 22.5 million people has been internally displaced. This illustrates that how such conflicts contributes to the violation of human rights. Thus, Russia - Ukraine war has further escalated refugee crisis.

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The tussle between Iran and Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in Yemen has created dire consequences for the people living in Yemen. The proxy war in Yemen has witnessed aggressive assertions by the forces of Saudi and Iran. Houthis rebellions in Yemen are backed by Iran and the government of Yemen is backed by KSA. Such assertions has led to the loss of hundreds of lives and has curbed the social development. However, China has mediated the ^{adverse} relations in March 2023 but no such actions are taken to strengthen the relations. Thus, proxy war in Yemen has led to the humanitarian crisis.

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→ The invasion of Afghanistan by the United States has also deteriorated the social conditions of people. War on terror has dire consequences on the people of Afghanistan. During war on terror, two million people became refugees and went to Pakistan. Such more by U.S has resulted in the humanitarian crisis in Pakistan. The undocumented Afghans are still present in Pakistan. However, the withdrawal of U.S forces on 31, August, 2022 has further aggravated the condition in Afghanistan. Women are the most affected community in Afghanistan. Therefore, the invasion of United States has contributed to the grave conditions of people in Afghanistan.

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The sanctions over Iran by the United States have curtailed the social development in the country. Due to such sanctions, Iran is unable to participate in trade which leads to the economic stagnation, hence, curtailing social development. Along with this, western countries and even most of the Asian countries are not investing in Iran due to such sanctions. Iran-Pakistan pipeline is the case in point. Iran has done its work on the pipeline. However, Pakistan has refused to do in order to be in the good books of west. Such tactics by the nations lead to inability

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of Iran to invest in social development. Thus, U.S sanctions over Iran has contributed to social crisis.

The rivalry between India and Pakistan has violated the freedom of Kashmiri people. Pakistani tribesman in Kashmir and Indian forces in the country have violated the right of independence of Kashmiri people. Article 35-A of Indian constitution which provides special status to Kashmiri people was abrogated by Narendra Modi in 2019. The supreme court of India upheld Modi's decision of abrogation of article 35-A. This has further escalated the adverse impacts on

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Kashmiri people. Therefore, it is not wrong to say that the rivalry between and Pakistan has resulted in the violation of human rights.

The war between Iran and Iraq gave an impetus to social chaos. Iraq witnessed grave impacts of the war. The war initiated in 2000 and lasted for eight years. During the time, millions of people lost their lives and millions of people became refugees. This led to the social chaos among the people of Iran and Iraq. This depicts that Human rights are the first

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casualty in the conflicts. Thus, Iran - Iraq conflict also contributed to the deteriorated conditions of people.

After exploring the indicators depicting human rights as the first casualty in the conflicts, it is imperative now to consider the factors that have given rise to such conflicts. First and foremost is the hegemonic motive of U.S and China.

The motive of U.S and China is to create hegemony in the globe which has led to such conflicts. The United states and China want to be a sole representative of the world. Due to this,

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tug of war is being witnessed. One such example is the US-India and Russia-China nexus. They are backing the rivals of each other. This leads to the escalation of the conflict. US is supporting Israel to counter China's influence in the region. Since 1948, US has provided \$260 billion dollars to Israel. This results in the further escalation of conflict between Gaza and Israel. Thus, China-US rivalry paves the way for the conflict.

The aim of Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and Iran is to achieve dominance in the Middle Eastern region. which has led to the proxy wars. Due to this, KSA

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wants to normalize its ties with Israel to become the largest oil exporter.

According to the Economist, De facto ruler of KSA has both economic and security interests in Israel.

This results in the risk to Saudi-Iran coalition.

Thus, the conflict to attain hegemony leads to humanitarian losses in different regions of the world.

India desires to be a sole hegemon in the Indian Ocean region. The aggressive assertions of India near Pakistan witness the growing influence of India in the region. To achieve its aim, India is seeking support from U.S.

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U.S - India strategic partnership and Quadrilateral security Dialogue are the cases in point. Such agreements are strengthening India in IOR which has posed a threat to Pakistan. The possibility of further escalation of the conflict between Pakistan and India has increased. Thus, the motive of India to become sole representative has resulted in the escalation of dispute.

The resurgence of Russia as a global power has dire consequences on the world. This resurgence has contributed to the Ukraine - Russia conflict. After the disintegration of Russia in 1992, it became weak and fragile. However, the invasion

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of Ukraine depicts the resurgence of Russia. West has provided almost 150 billion dollars aid to Ukraine yet it is unable to defeat Russia.

This shows the growing power of Russia. However, the resurgence has led to the dire repercussions, marked by Ukraine crisis.

Thus, growing power of Russia is a threat to human rights in Ukraine.

Israel's desire to occupy the whole Palestinian territory has also contributed to the conflict. Israel considers Palestine its homeland.

As a response to operation Al-Aqsa storm by Hamas, Israel declared war. Multiple resolutions have passed for the cease fire, but, Israel's

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only vision is to gain the control of Gaza strip. The conflict is ongoing and witnessing millions of lives. The motive of Israel has overlooked the rights of people living in Gaza. According to Antonio Guterres, it has become the 'graveyard of children'. This depicts the vulnerable conditions of Palestine.

While the factors that have given rise to such conflicts are undeniably challenging, there exists viable solutions to address the conflicts and to prevail peace.

It is important to promote diplomatic

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negotiations in order to curb further escalation of the conflict. Such step can pave the way for resolution of disputes. The dialogue between Xi Jinping and Joe Biden is the case in point. Xi Jinping said; The world is big enough for the two super powers to grow together. Such dialogues should be arranged between Israel and Hamas on United Nation 377 resolution to promote peace on humanitarian grounds. Moreover, such negotiations have the power to resolve Ukraine crises. Thus, diplomatic negotiation can contribute to prevail peace in the world.

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essential to democratize the United Nations security council. It consists of 15 member out of which five are permanent members: U.K, U.S, China, Russia, and France. The resolutions can only be passed if P5 members are agreed. This leads to undemocratization.

United States vetoed the resolution ^{demanding} for cease fire in Gaza. This ensures that the amendment in the United Nations charter is the need of an hour. Thus, democratizing the UNSC can resolve the conflicts.

Humanitarian crisis can be mitigated by providing humanitarian aid to war-torn areas such as Gaza and

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Ukraine .U.S has curtailed aid to Gaza which has resulted in dire threats to the livelihood of people. Aid to the people of Gaza was provided through Egypt, however, it is not enough for fulfilling the requirements of people. This depicts that the conditions of people can be improved by providing them aid. Thus, it is essential to provide aids to the war-torn countries.

Ongoing conflicts can be mitigated by fostering the active participation of regional organizations. Such organizations include Shanghai Cooperation Organization, Organization of Islamic Conference and the like. Such organizations

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can play vital role in curbing the active conflict in the regions. OIC called a session to demand the ceasefire in Gaza. However, it failed to bring the change. These organizations should play their role to resolve the Ukraine and Gaza Crisis.

Thus, such platforms can play a significant role in prevailing peace through out the mother planet.

Undoubtedly, human rights are the first casualty in any conflict. However, there are multitude of factors that have given rise to such scenarios which need to be curtailed. In

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order to cope with such ^{grave} threats of the conflicts, it is imperative to take pragmatic measures. First and foremost is to promote diplomatic negotiations. Moreover, democratizing United Nations can pave the way for the mitigation of adverse impacts of the conflicts. In addition to this, active participation of regional organizations can prevail peace in the globe. By implementing such recommendations, world can be transformed into a better place for the masses.

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