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Batch : 390-A
Subject : English Essay
Date : 29-04-2025

4. War Crimes in the Palestine-Israel Conflict: A Challenge to International Justice

A. Introduction:

Thesis Statement: While Israel is continuously committing war crimes in conflict with Palestine, the role of international institutions have remained questionable.

B. How Israel is committing war crimes in Palestine?

a. Targeting of civilians, especially women and children

◦ Over 70% Killed were

Women and children (UN OCHA)

b. Attack on educational institutions and hospitals

- UNRWA report

c. Use of disproportionate force and banned weapons

- Human Rights Watch report

d. Forced displacement of local residents

- Israel's evacuation order to over million of people in 24 hour

e. Blockage of humanitarian aid

- OCHA report

C. Challenges to International Justice:

a. Ineffectiveness of the UN system

- Paralyzed role due to veto power

b. US veto and political support to Israel

- US veto in UNSC (Al-Jazeera, 2023)

c. Double standard of European Union

- Called for ceasefire but avoided direct condemnation

d. Weak enforcement of ICC rulings

- Reuters, 2023 report

e. Media control and public opinion manipulation

- Al Jazeera Media Watch, 2023

D. Conclusion

"Today people are not surviving in Gaza, those that are being killed with bombs and bullets are dying slowly." This is the statement given by Jonathan Whittal that clearly depicts the cruelty of Israel. From the very first day, Israel is continuously breaking the rules that were made during Geneva convention, and the irony is that those big powers, who made these rules, are silent too. Israel has made her aim to erase Palestine from the map of the world, and she is doing everything she can. For instance, Israel is continuously targeting civilians, particularly women and children.

Similarly, Israel has bombarded educational institutions and hospitals in Gaza. Apart from these, Israel is continuously using disproportionate force and banned weapons to kill the innocent people of Palestine. In all this phase, it has been a ^{→ remained} challenge to international

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justice due to ineffectiveness of UN. Moreover, the biggest hurdle is US veto and political support to Israel. Apart from this, there is weak enforcement of ICC rulings. While Israel is continuously committing war crimes in conflict with Palestine, the role of international institutions have remained questionable.

Israel has continuously broken down the rules of Geneva convention, that should be followed during war. Israel is targeting civilians, especially women and children. Geneva convention clearly states that during war with any country, civilians should be protected. Israel has violated all those rules and continued its bombardment on civilians. According to the UN Report, over 70% of those killed during this conflict were women and children. Israel has done

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direct air strikes on local residents, wiping out whole families. Therefore, by breaking those rules, Israel is committing war crimes.

Apart from targeting civilians, Israel has bombarded on various educational institutions and hospitals. According to Geneva convention, during war hospitals and educational institutions must not be bombarded. Hospitals provide treatment and emergency aid to the injured ones, but Israel's destruction of hospitals led the injured ones to die miserably. UNRWA has reported multiple Israeli attacks on educational institutions and hospitals, especially Al-Ahli Baptist Hospital that was providing aid to everyone. Thus, Israel is violating International law and committing war crimes in Palestine.

Apart From these two, Israel is also using disproportionate force and banned weapons for the massacre of Palestinians. Under International Humanitarian Law (IHL), military force must be proportionate to the threat and must do minimize harm to the civilians. Israel is violating these laws too. Israel is using banned weapons. Israel has used 2000 pounds bombs and White Phosphorous in ~~the~~ urban areas of Palestine, according to Human Rights Watch Time. Entire residential areas were collapsed due to air strikes of Israel, even if there was suspicion of 1-2 Hamas fighters. Hence, Israel is doing tyranny in Palestine.

Furthermore, Israel has forced the local residents to evacuate. International law clearly forbids the evacuation of people from

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local territories, but Israel is violating all those laws. Israel has warned the people to move to the neighboring countries. According to reports, Israel has ordered the Palestinians to evacuate within 24 hours, that is impossible to execute. People had no other option - some moved and some preferred death in their own country. Thus, by forcing locals to evacuate from their homeland, Israel is committing another war crime.

Moreover, Israel has blocked humanitarian aid to the people of Palestine. Israel has destructed all the infrastructure and injured a lot of innocent people. They need food, medicines, and other basic things, but Israel has blocked the humanitarian aid. According to OCHR report, aid convoys

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repeatedly bombed or denied entry. UN called this blockade as "violation of International humanitarian law". Therefore, ^{by}violating rules of war, Israel is committing war crimes in Palestine.

The war crimes done by Israel have remained a challenge for International justice particularly because of ineffectiveness of UN. UN has been remained paralyzed since the very first day. Although, various nations have raised their voice and even Antonio Guterres has labelled Netanyahu as criminal, but because of veto power ~~not~~ procedure in UNSC, justice couldn't be served. All those resolutions were blocked due to veto politics. Because of this paralyzed system, UN has remained ineffective and failed to stop the genocide of Palestinians.

Another big Challenge to International justice is US veto and political protection of Israel. US is currently world super power and is in P5 countries of UNSC. US has been supporting Israel since 1947, and is supplying aid and weapons to Israel. Al Jazeera reported in 2023 that in UNSC, only US vetoed against to stop the genocide in Gaza while all other four ~~court~~ members were in favor to stop this. US policy is influenced by strong pro-Israel lobby. Thus, this has been the biggest challenge in the way of justice to Palestine.

Apart from US, European Union's double standard are too a challenge. On one hand, EU is continuously condemning the Russian invasion on Ukraine strongly, but silent about Israel. Moreover,

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there is deep trade and technological cooperation with Israel that undermines neutrality.

Although EU has called for ceasefire but avoided direct condemnation. Further, there is internal division among EU members that prevents a united action.

Thus, this proves to be another challenge.

Moreover, there is weak enforcement of International Criminal Court (ICC) rulings - another major challenge. ICC ~~has been~~ was formed to give rulings about the cases of war crimes, genocide, and crimes against humanity etc. Those rulings must be followed, but in case of Israel, these rulings are just a piece of paper. According to Reuters, ICC opened investigations against

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against Israel, but Israel do not recognize ICC jurisdiction.

Moreover, political pressure on Israel ICC reduces its effectiveness.

Hence, this proves to be another challenge.

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Another major challenge is media control and public opinion manipulation. Media shapes narratives and views of people about any issue. Western media is undermining the genocide of Palestinians. According to Al Jazeera, Western media is framing Israel's action as self-defence mechanism. These biased narratives are shaping the views of public in the West, making them unaware of the real situation. Thus, media biasness is another big challenge in the way to serve justice to Palestinian.

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The role of international institutions to serve justice to Palestinians has remained very challenging, despite of the war crimes done by Israel. Israel has placed international humanitarian law at the tip of its shoe, continuing the massacre of innocent people. Israel is forcing the people of Palestine to evacuate from their homeland. Similarly, she has blocked the humanitarian aid for Palestinians. She is continuously using heavy weapons to shed the blood of innocent souls. Despite all these violations, international institutions have remained clueless and paralyzed. US veto and political support to Israel is a major challenge faced by international institutions. Similarly, EU is also having double standards about this issue. Apart from these, media has manipulated the people

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Through its biased narratives, Palestinians deserve justice and in order to this, International justice mechanism should be reformed. Human rights organizations and activists should raise this issue globally to show the real image of Israel. It will ultimately build pressure on Watchdogs. Moreover, OIC and Arab League should play their part for the Palestinians. Let them live peacefully in their homeland because every human deserves to breath peace and happiness.

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