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## War Ethics in Islam and the West: A Case Study of the Israel-Palestine Conflict

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### Abstract

The world and its all nations desire peace and security. Naturally everyone prefers peace and no human being would want a situation where war and conflict break out. However, historically it is also true that clashes of power, politics, and ideologies have always existed, because which many wars have been witnessed.

However, even during wars, there are some fundamental moral norms and human values that are acknowledged globally. These principles and values aim to reduce human suffering and to ensure humane treatment of opponents even in times of wars.

Islam presents a complete system of life. Even in war, it lays great emphasis on morality and values. On other hand, the West also formulated rules and laws of wars through the Geneva Conventions and various other agreements.

The current Israel-Palestine conflict has once again raised questions about human rights and ethical standards during war. Attacks on urban populations, civilians settlements, places of worship, children, women, journalists, aid workers, and medical personnel, is the violation of international laws and Islamic teachings.

In this article, comparison between Islamic and western war ethics will be presented, especially Israel brutalities in Palestine so it becomes clear which ideology (Islamic or western) upheld humanity during the war and who failed in the face of ground realities.

**Keywords:** Islam, war, clashes, Geneva Conventions, fundamental, brutalities

## Opponent Rights: Islamic Perspective:

In Islamic Shariah, not only are the rights of Muslims defined, but it also teaches justice, fairness, mercy, and compensation even towards opponents and enemies. It clearly states that oppression and injustices against enemies, even during war, are not permissible.

The Holy Quran says:

وَلَا يَجْرِمَنَّكُمْ شَنَاٰنُ قَوْمٍ عَلَىٰ أَلَّا تَعْدِلُوْاۗ اَعْدِلُوْا هُوَ اَقْرَبُ لِلتَّقْوٰىۗ وَاتَّقُوا اللّٰهَۗۗۙ اِنَّ اللّٰهَ خَبِيْرٌۢ بِمَا تَعْمَلُوْنَ<sup>1</sup>

Translation, “Don’t let the enmity of any nation prevent you from acting justly; act justly, that is near to piety”

Allah (SWT) clearly mentions.

وَقَاتِلُوْا فِيْ سَبِيْلِ اللّٰهِ الَّذِيْنَ يُقَاتِلُوْكُمْ وَلَا تَعْتَدُوْاۗۙ اِنَّ اللّٰهَ لَا يُحِبُّ الْمُعْتَدِيْنَ<sup>2</sup>

Translation, “And fight in the way of Allah those who fight you, but don’t transgress limits. Indeed, Allah doesn’t like transgressors”.

Islam, even, doesn’t like aggression but doing good, as Allah mentions in several places,

(وَأَحْسِنُوْاۗۙ اِنَّ اللّٰهَ يُحِبُّ الْمُحْسِنِيْنَ)<sup>3</sup>

Translation, “And do good; indeed Allah loves those who do good”

### 1. Prohibition of Targeting Non-Combatants:

Islam has clearly defined two types of combatants:

- (1). Those who are actively involved in war: fighting them is permitted.
- (2). Those who are not involved in war: fighting them is not allowed. These include women, children, the elderly, the sick, wounded, blind, special persons, madmen, monks, travelers, ascetic, caretakers of temples, shrines and places of worship, and common people. Islam strictly prohibits attacking such individuals.

Allah forbids to fight against non-combatants, as the Holy Quran clearly mentions,

{فَقَاتِلُوا الَّذِيْنَ تَبَغٰى<sup>4</sup>

Translation, “So fight against those who commit aggression”

The Holy Prophet (SAW) only ordered fighting against those who took part in the battle, and instructed not to fight those who were not involved in the war. Whenever he (SAW) sent out military expeditions, he would instruct the commander: “Fight those who disbelieve Allah (SWT). Don’t be treacherous, don’t break treaties, don’t mutilate the dead, and don’t kill children”.

On the occasion of the conquest of Makkah, when he saw the body of a woman, he expressed strong displeasure and said, “she was not fighting”. He then instructed Hazrat Khalid Bin Waleed (RA), saying, “Never kill a woman or a hired worker”

## 2. Prohibition of Excess in Fighting against Aggression:

In Islamic teachings, even in fighting the enemy, moderation and observing limits are commanded. The Quran states,

{وَإِنْ عَاقَبْتُمْ فَعَاقِبُوا بِمِثْلِ مَا عُوقِبْتُمْ بِهِ وَلَئِنْ صَبَرْتُمْ لَهُوَ خَيْرٌ لِلصَّابِرِينَ<sup>5</sup>}

Translation, “And if you take revenge, then take only as much as was done to you. But if you are patient, patient is better for those who are patient” In other verse Allah says,

{وَجَزَاءُ سَيِّئَةٍ سَيِّئَةٌ مِّثْلُهَا<sup>6</sup>}

“And the recompense of an evil is an evil equal to it”.

Hazrat Abdullah Ibn Abbas (RA) declared all those actions as transgressions which the Prophet (SAW) had prohibited during the war like killing and mutilation of women and children.

**3. Minimizing Pain in Lawful killing:** If, due to war, the enemy becomes necessary, Islam commands that it to done humanely and with the least possible pain. Just as an animal should be slaughtered with care and least pain. The Holy Prophet (SAW) says: “Allah has prescribed excellence in everything. So when you kill, kill in the best manner...”

In another hadith it is said, “Believers are the ones who kill in the best and the most humane manner among all people” The Holy Prophet (SAW) has forbidden punishment by fire.

**4. Prohibition of looting:** Islam has forbidden looting and massacres. During the battle of Khyber, when reports came out about aggression by people against the conquered the Prophet expressed strong displeasure and said that Allah has not made it lawful for you enter the homes of people without their permission, to beat their women, or to eat their fruit, while you have already received from them what was due to you.

Another narration states that looting is not better than scavenging.

**5. Prohibition of Causing Hardship to Common People:** Islam forbade the ways of ignorance as the Holy Prophet said, “Whoever makes the path difficult or robs a traveler, his struggle (Jihad) is not accepted”. In another hadith he said, “and scattering yourselves in valleys and ravines is an act of Satan”.

**6. Prohibition of Mutilation:** When the Holy Prophet (SAW) sent out the Mujahedeen, he (SAW) would strictly instruct them not to engage in mutilating the bodies or body parts. In a hadith he (SAW) forbade looting and mutilation. As He (SAW) says:

{نَهَى النَّبِيُّ صَلَّى اللَّهُ عَلَيْهِ وَسَلَّمَ عَنِ النَّهْيِ وَالْمُتْلَةِ<sup>7</sup>}.}

Translation,

“The messenger of Allah (SAW) forbade mutilation (of bodies)”

Hazrat Ali (RA) advised Hazrat Hassan (RA) about his killer, “If I remain live I will decide about him myself but if I die, then strike him with a single blow. Don’t mutilate him because the prophet forbade mutilation – even if it were of an animal or beast (predators).

The jurists (fuqaha) considered mutilation not only as the desecration of human corpses but also extended this prohibition to animals and beast.

Hazrat Abu Ayub Ansari (RA) narrates, “I heard Rasoolullah (SAW) forbidding the act of killing after tying. By the One in whose hand is my soul, even if it were a hen, I would not kill it after tying”

Likewise, according to the Companions (Sahabah) and Islamic jurists, cutting off the head of a slain person and displaying it to others is considered mutilation.

When the head of a Christian leader was brought before Hazrat Abu Bakkar (RA), he expressed dislike and disapproval. When someone said, “The Romans and Persians also do this,” he replied, “We are neither Persian nor Romans. For us, the Book of Allah and the way of the Messenger (SAW) are sufficient”.

#### **7. Prohibition of breach of covenant:**

Islam strictly prohibits betrayal and breach of agreements both in war and peace.

**As quran says:**

{وَأَوْفُوا بِالْعَهْدِ إِنَّ الْعَهْدَ كَانَ مَسْئُولًا}<sup>8</sup>

**Translation, “And fulfill the covenant; indeed, the covenant will be questioned about”**

The Holy Prophet (SAW) says, “Every traitor will have a flag on the Day of Judgment by which he will be recognized” Similarly he (SAW) also said:

{وَلَا دِينَ لِمَنْ لَا عَهْدَ لَهُ}<sup>9</sup>

“And whoever breaks a covenant has no religion”. Similarly the Prophet (SAW) said, “There is no greater breach of covenant than the breach committed by the ruler of the people”

While the Treaty of Hudaibiya was being written, Abu Jandal (RA) came in chains, but the Holy Prophet (SAW) returned according to the terms of agreement. Amr ibn Abasah (RA) narrated that the Prophet (SAW) said, “whoever makes a treaty with a people should neither loosen its terms nor make it stricter until its duration ends, or he informs them clearly about ending the treaty” similarly the Holy Prophet says, “whoever kills a person under a treaty, will not smell the fragrance of Paradise”.

### **8. Obedience to the leader and moral Responsibility:**

Islam commands to obey the leader and fight in an organized manner

There are two types of war: the one who fights solely for the pleasure of Allah, obeys the leader, spends his best wealth, and avoids corruption- his sleep and wakefulness are both deserving of reward. But the one who fights against the first one—he will be responsible. However, the holy prophet cleared not to obey illegal and immoral orders of the leader because everyone is responsible in front of Allah.

Similarly the leader or ruler is responsible of his subjects' actions. As when Hazrat Khalid Bin Waleed (RA) killed some people of Banu Khuzaima in misunderstanding, the holy prophet shed blood and also compensated for the financial loss.

**9. Prohibition of Killing an Ambassador:** Islam doesn't permit to kill an ambassador or trader in another country. Islam also prohibits the ambassador or traveler to attack, kill someone or loot property. When Maseelma Kazzab' ambassador came with blasphemous message, the Holy Prophet (SAW) said:

(لولا ان الرسل لا تقتل لضربت اعناقكم)<sup>10</sup>

Translation “if the killing of a messengers were not forbidden, I would have struck off your neck”

**10. Avoiding Attack during unawareness:** Islam closed the tradition of attacking at night. If the Holy Prophet (SAW) reached at night he would wait till morning as in the case of Khyber War.

**11. Prohibition of Destruction or Sabotage:** Islam has declared, when an army goes ahead and destroys crops, fields, common killing in towns, and burning, Fasad Fil Ard. As Allah says:

(وَإِذَا تَوَلَّى سَعَى فِي الْأَرْضِ لِيُفْسِدَ فِيهَا وَهُنَّكَ الْحَرْثُ وَالنَّسْلُ ۗ وَاللَّهُ لَا يُحِبُّ الْفُسَادَ)<sup>11</sup>

Translation, “And when he turns away, he strives throughout the land to cause corruption therein and destroy crops and livestock. And Allah doesn't like corruption”

When Rasoolullah (SAW) sent an army he would instruct its leader instructions in which it was compulsory that elders, women, or children not to be killed. During the battle, looting of property and family was strictly forbidden. The holy prophet has declared, entering their homes of enemy to tease them or looting them, their Jihad would not be accepted

When Hazrat Abu Bakkar (RA) sent army to Syria, he gave them ten instructions:

1. Women, children, and elders should not be killed.
2. Don't mutilate.

3. Fruitful trees not to be cut and crops not to be burnt.
4. Avoid breach of agreements.
5. Don't flee the battle field during war.
6. Don't kill animals.
7. Obedient soul and property must be protected.
8. Don't be dishonest with war booty.
9. Don't destroy settlements.
10. Don't tease monks and worshippers and don't destruct their places of worship.

**11. War prisoners' Rights:** War prisoner includes every person who not due to committing any war crime but war reasons is caught<sup>12</sup>. Islam gives POWs the rights of food, clothes, shelter, and treatment. Rasoolullah (SAW) handed over the POWs<sup>13</sup> of Ghazwa Badr, to his companions with the instruction to treat them kindly and not to let them suffer from hunger or thirst. Therefore, the companions would eat dates themselves and give the POWs full meals. In the battle of Abyssinia, the prophet gave six thousand sets of clothes to six thousand prisoners<sup>14</sup>. Similarly in Ghazwa Badr, Abdullah Bin Obay provided his shirt on order of the holy prophet, to Abdullah Ibn Abbas. The Holy Prophet (SAW) personally gave food, drink, and clothes to the daughter of Hathim Thai, and then set her free and sent her back.<sup>15</sup> Likewise, the leader of Yamama-Samal Ibn Asal was captured, the Holy prophet (SAW) provided him with good meal, and gave him proper milk.

According to Stainly Iain Powl: Salahuddin Ayubi, after the conquest of Baithul Muqaddas, ordered his police, "those who could not pay ransom were set free, and from sunrise to sunset, lines of prisoners were released. Later, the widows and daughters of knights had their husbands freed."<sup>16</sup>

### **Western Perspective and International Humanitarian Law: Introduction:**

International Humanitarian Law (IHL) refers to a collection of legal principles designed to reduce the harmful consequences of armed conflicts for humanitarian purposes. Its primary objective is to safeguard individuals who are not involved, or who have ceased to take part, in hostilities, while also imposing limitations on the weapons and strategies used during warfare. IHL is often referred to as the "law of war" or the "law of armed conflict."

As a branch of international law, IHL forms part of the framework that regulates relations among states. Its rules are derived from international treaties and conventions, as well as from customary

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law, which reflects consistent state practice recognized as legally binding, along with certain general legal principles.

It is important to note that IHL does not determine whether a state is permitted to resort to the use of force. That question is addressed under a separate but related area of international law, specifically outlined in the Charter of the United Nations.<sup>17</sup>

### **Where International Humanitarian Law to be found?**

A major A significant portion of International Humanitarian Law is embodied in the four Geneva Conventions of 1949, to which almost every nation in the world has committed itself. These conventions were later expanded by two Additional Protocols adopted in 1977, which specifically address the protection of individuals affected by armed conflicts.

Beyond the Geneva Conventions, several other treaties regulate the prohibition of specific weapons, restrict certain methods of warfare, and provide safeguards for particular groups of people and types of property. Among the most notable are:

- The 1954 Convention on the Protection of Cultural Property during Armed Conflict, together with its two supplementary protocols;
- The 1972 Convention on the Prohibition of Biological Weapons;
- The 1980 Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons and its five protocols;
- The 1993 Chemical Weapons Convention;
- The 1997 Ottawa Treaty banning anti-personnel landmines;
- The 2000 Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child concerning the involvement of children in armed conflict.<sup>18</sup>

International laws for POWs: in 1949(AD) Geneva Convention, an agreement was signed that relates to the rights of POWs, consists of 42 provisions. Provision number 26 is related about POWs' meals, to provide proper meal and water which is adequate as per their own country tradition.<sup>19</sup>

International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and Human Rights Law differ in their nature and application, even though some of their provisions are similar. These two legal systems emerged separately and are enshrined in distinct treaties. A key distinction is that Human Rights Law primarily governs situations of peace, whereas IHL is tailored for armed conflict. Moreover, during wartime, certain rights guaranteed under Human Rights Law can be lawfully suspended, while IHL continues to apply in full.<sup>20</sup>

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**What does International Humanitarian Law cover?****International Humanitarian Law addresses two main domains:**

1. Ensuring the safety and rights of individuals who are either uninvolved in hostilities or who have ceased to participate in them;
2. Imposing limitations on the conduct of warfare, specifically regarding the choice of weapons and the military strategies employed.

**What is Protection?**

Under International Humanitarian Law (IHL), protection is extended to individuals who do not participate in combat, such as civilians, as well as medical and religious personnel attached to the military. It also covers those who are no longer engaged in fighting, including the wounded, shipwrecked, sick combatants, and prisoners of war.

Such individuals are entitled to respect for their lives and for both their physical and psychological well-being. They are guaranteed legal rights and must always be safeguarded and treated with humanity, without any form of discrimination.

More precisely, it is prohibited to kill or injure an adversary who has surrendered or is no longer capable of fighting. Those who are wounded or ill must be collected and cared for by whichever party has them under its control. Medical staff, hospitals, ambulances, and medical supplies must also be given full protection.

IHL also lays down detailed provisions regarding the treatment of prisoners of war and the responsibilities of an occupying power toward civilians under its authority. These obligations include ensuring adequate food, shelter, and medical assistance, as well as allowing civilians to communicate with their families.

To identify protected individuals, objects, and locations, the law recognizes specific emblems. The most notable among these are the Red Cross, the Red Crescent, and symbols used to mark cultural property and civil defense facilities.<sup>21</sup>

In addition, IHL forbids the use of methods and means of warfare that:

- a) Inflict unnecessary suffering or excessive injury;
- b) Cause serious or long-lasting harm to the natural environment.

Consequently, the use of numerous weapons has been outlawed, including exploding bullets, chemical and biological arms, blinding laser weapons, and anti-personnel landmines.

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**Twenty Nine Rules of IHL:**

It is essential for everyone to recognize and respect the following twenty-nine fundamental rules of IHL:

- The use of chemical and biological weapons, poisons, expanding or exploding bullets, anti-personnel mines, blinding laser weapons, undetectable fragments, and cluster munitions is strictly forbidden.
- The employment of anti-vehicle mines, naval mines, torpedoes, incendiary weapons, and booby-traps is subject to limitations.
- Deceptive practices such as treachery or declaring false truces are prohibited.
- Warfare methods that are indiscriminate by nature, or that cause unnecessary suffering, excessive injury, or widespread, long-term, and severe environmental damage, are not permitted.
- Manipulation or modification of the natural environment as a tactic of war is prohibited.
- Clear distinction must always be maintained between combatants and civilians, as well as between military targets and civilian objects.
- Incidental harm to civilians, including death, injury, or damage to civilian property, must be avoided or at least minimized.
- The positioning of military objectives must be planned in a way that reduces risks to civilians and civilian property.
- Indiscriminate attacks are prohibited.
- Retaliatory acts (reprisals) against protected persons or property are not allowed.
- Military operations must not be conducted on the principle of “no survivors.”
- Civilians must never be starved as a method of warfare.
- Cultural property must be safeguarded from attack.
- Attacks on facilities containing dangerous forces, such as dams and nuclear power stations, are restricted.
- Acts of violence such as murder, torture, mutilation, cruel treatment, corporal and collective punishment, reprisals, hostage-taking, sexual assault, enforced prostitution, rape, humiliation, enslavement, or pillage against protected persons are absolutely forbidden.
- All persons not participating in hostilities—including civilians and those rendered hors de combat due to surrender, illness, wounds, or detention—must be treated with humanity.
- Women and children must be protected from unlawful assaults, including rape, enforced prostitution, or any other form of sexual violence.

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- Anyone detained, whether a captured combatant or a civilian, must be treated humanely.
  - The sick, wounded, and shipwrecked—whether combatants or civilians—must be respected, protected, and given care without discrimination wherever possible.
  - Efforts must be made to search for, identify, and care for the wounded, sick, shipwrecked, and the deceased.
  - Medical facilities, whether fixed or mobile, must never be attacked.
  - Medical and religious personnel must be respected, protected, and allowed to perform their duties.
  - The transportation of the wounded and sick, along with their medical equipment, must be safeguarded.
  - The protective emblems of the Red Cross, Red Crescent, and Red Crystal must be respected at all times.
  - Families have the right to know the fate of their sick, wounded, or deceased relatives, and the work of the ICRC's Central Tracing Agency must be facilitated.
  - Humanitarian relief operations must be protected and supported.
  - The recruitment and use of child soldiers are strictly prohibited.
  - Mercenary activities are forbidden.
  - Measures must be taken to shield civilians from the risks posed by explosive remnants of war, including leftover cluster munitions.<sup>22</sup>

It should be noticed that there also some other international laws and rules.

- International Human Rights Law: it applies always, during peace and war-though certain rights may be legally suspended in emergencies; key inviolable rights remain non-derogable. For example: right to life, prohibition of torture.
- International Criminal Law( ICC and related bodies): Core Crimes and Jurisdiction: includes Genocide, Crimes against Humanity, war crimes and aggression .ICC prosecutes grave breaches( e.g., willful killing, torture, pillages).issues arrest warrants.
- Refuge and Displacement Law: it focuses to protect rights of displaced persons- internally and externally displaced-ensuring access to basic services, non-refoulement, and asylum.

### **War Schemes of Islam and Western:**

The war scheme of the Holy Prophet (SAW) was totally different, aimed, always, to take care of humans' soul and property. He would give particular instructions to the army leader, therefore during 7 years (2 A.H- 9 AH), nearly 82 wars were fought (55-Saraya and 27-Ghazawat) in which only 200 persons died, including Muslims and Non-Muslims.

While the western scheme of war has always emerged as the killer.

Some wars details are given which show us the western scheme of war:

Name of war	Year	People(died)
The Mahabharata war or Kurukshetra	3128, B.C	millions or more (According to tradition)
French Revolution	1789 A.D	6.6 millions
Russian Socialist Revolution	1917 A.D	Above 10 millions
WW I	1914-1918 A.D	Above 7.3 millions
WW II	1039-1945 A.D	Above 10.2 millions <sup>23</sup>

The above figures show whether Islamic scheme of war or the western failed to treat the people humanely.

**Brief History (Israel and Palestine):**Both have combined

26,790km<sup>2</sup> area comparable to the size of Hawaii or Albania in which

### **Israel:**

**Land area:** 20,770-20,330 km<sup>2</sup> (measured along the internationally recognized

**(Green Line) Borders:**

**North: Lebanon**

**Northeast: Syria**

**East: Jordan**

**Southeast: Egypt**

**West: Mediterranean Sea**

**Southeast: West Bank**

**Population (2025):** approximately 9.52 million, about 91% urban population.

**Capital: Jerusalem** (most countries have embassies in **Tel Aviv**.)

**Language:** Hebrew (official), Arabic (special status), English is widely used.

**Currency:** Israeli Shekel (ILS), Jordanian Dinar and US Dollar are also accepted in some areas.

### **Palestine:**

**Land area:** 6020 km<sup>2</sup>, including Gaza Strip, West Bank and Jerusalem

**Borders:** (not internationally recognized)

**1. West Bank** (landlocked):

**East: Jordan**

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**West, North, South:** surrounded by Israel

**2. Gaza Strip:**

**North and West:** Israel

**Southeast:** Egypt (Rafah border)

**West:** Mediterranean Sea

**Population (2025)** =5.59 million, about 84% urban population.

**Capital:** Palestine claimed **East Jerusalem**, the administrative capital (defacto)

**Ramallah Language:** Arabic (official and widely spoken), Hebrew and English are also understood in some areas.

**Currency:** No official currency, Israeli Shekel is commonly used.

**Israel-Palestine-Conflict**

**Background:** both the Jews and Arabs claimed Palestine as own land.

1. **1517-1917:** Palestine was part of the Ottoman Empire.
2. **1917 (A.D): Balfour Declaration:** The British promised a “National home for the Jewish” that created a wave of concern for the Arabs.
3. **1920-1948:** Jewish immigration increased, causing Arab resistance.
4. **1947:** United nation proposed division of Palestine into Jewish and Arab states. It was accepted by Jewish but rejected by Arabs.
5. **1948:** Israel declared emancipation, surrounding Arabs countries were attacked, and nearly 750,000 Palestinians became refugees known Nakba.
6. **1967:** Six days war, Israel captured West Bank, Gaza, Golan Mountains, and East Jerusalem, that increased Israel control.
7. **1987-1993:** violence, marches, attacks, and protests, resulting Oslo Accord, aimed to peace and a two-state solution, but failed due to violence and mistrust.
8. **2005:** Expelling of Israel but later Hamas controlled Gaza.
9. **Wars:** 2008, 2012, 2014, 2021.

**Israel-Palestine-Conflict (2023-2025):**

The current conflict between Israel and Palestine broke out, when on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 2023, Hamas army wing Al-Qasim Brigade suddenly attacked on Israel, resulting nearly 1200 people died and 240 were kidnapped.<sup>24</sup> And 3300 injured.<sup>25</sup>

In retaliation, the Israeli cabinet officially declared war on Hamas, and the defense minister instructed the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) to impose a “complete siege” on Gaza. This escalation has been described as the most significant intensification of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in decades.

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Subsequently, Israel ordered more than one million residents of northern Gaza to evacuate in anticipation of a ground offensive, which began on October 27, alongside ongoing aerial bombardments. Between November 24 and November 30, 2023, a temporary ceasefire enabled the exchange of some hostages and allowed increased humanitarian assistance to enter the Gaza Strip.

Despite the brief truce, Israeli military operations continued in Gaza and Rafah, raising humanitarian concerns far beyond northern Gaza. Since the beginning of the offensive in 2023, numerous reports have highlighted strikes on journalists, schools, and areas previously designated by Israel as humanitarian zones. Repeated attacks on hospitals and other vital infrastructure have severely strained Gaza's health system, contributing to the spread of diseases such as polio. The targeting of humanitarian workers has further deepened the crisis. In April 2024, an Israeli airstrike killed seven staff members of the World Central Kitchen, and in August of the same year, personnel from the World Food Programme came under attack. Such incidents have had a chilling effect on humanitarian agencies, forcing many to reduce or suspend their operations. Moreover, Israel's restrictions on "dual-use" goods entering Gaza have obstructed relief efforts.<sup>26</sup>

By January 2025, the humanitarian situation had deteriorated dramatically, with 1.9 million Palestinians—around 90% of Gaza's population—displaced and facing acute food and resource insecurity. At present, no hospitals in Gaza remain operational. The conflict has resulted in over 46,000<sup>27</sup> fatalities, with Israeli military estimates suggesting that approximately 17,000 of the dead were Hamas combatants.<sup>28</sup>

According to UN, 90% of living units have been destroyed in Gaza in which 160,000 completely destroyed and 276,000 partially destroyed. Population of about 775,000, now have been completely displaced which were living in four big cities-Rafah, Khan Younas, Gaza, and Deir al-Balah.

In refugee camps of UN, in middle and western Gaza, more people than capacity, are living.

International institute for food Integrated Security Faze Classification (IPC) warns of 18 lac people face lack of food in which 133,000 face severe food problem. Round about 80% population needs human aid.<sup>29</sup>

According to U N F PA (UN institution), the fragrant women and newly born children face severe psychological, dysfunctional health system problems. In first six months of 2025, 17000 children were born that is less

41% related to the previous three years.<sup>30</sup> There is severe shortage of medicines. The picture is inconsiderable. 170 trucks having Ultrasound machines and portable incubators etc., but no permission is from Israel. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees (UNRWA) has confirmed in a recent report that due to the actions of the occupying Israeli forces, one million Palestine children are suffering from starvation. This is a statement that shakes the human conscience.

The sharp edge of hunger on these children's bodies is more painful than a missile or bullet wound. Because of hunger 122 people died. Since March 2, 2025, Israel's siege has been a clear violation of international laws. Hospitals have been destroyed, schools turned into ruins, and shelters transformed into graveyards. Since 2023, more than 35,000 Palestinian children have been martyred. In 14 hours 14 people died due to hunger. According to WHO, one out of every five children under the age of five is suffering from starvation.<sup>31</sup> UN accuses Israel of using starvation as weapon against Palestinians which war crime.

In the recent Israel- Palestine war, countless examples were seen where human rights and ethical values were trampled. Civilian populations, homes, schools, worship places, and even hospitals and aid workers were targeted. Journalists and women were not spared either. Some facts and figures are presented, which are inevitable evidence against Israel:

Attacks on civilians and infrastructure:

- 1) Hospitals, schools, and ambulances have been ended over **670** attacks causing **886** deaths and **1355** injuries, more than **60** attacks recorded in the West Bank.
- 2) The **Fahmi al-Jarjawi School** in Gaza City was bombed on **May 25**, killing at least **36** people, including **18** children, and injuring many others.
- 3) Under UN, **Alfakhora** school was attacked in which dozens died and injured.
- 4) International organizations report international starvation tactics due to Israel's blockage of aid, posing severe famine risks.
- 5) **90 %** destruction; major disruptions in healthcare, schools, and agriculture.
- 6) As of February-March 2025, Gaza casualties include around **48,348-50,021** killed and **111,000** injured, with **60%** of deaths being women and children.
- 7) The Lancet and other health studies estimate the true death totally may be **41%** higher than **64000** traumatic deaths by mid-2024.

- 8) On November 3, 2023, **Al-Shifa** hospital's outside, an ambulance was attacked in which dozens died and injured.
- 9) On March 23, 2025, in **Rafah**, aid vehicles and ambulances were attacked, resulting 15 workers death.
- 10) More than **700** wells of water have been ruined, means no availability of drinkable water.
- 11) **1.9** million People have been forcibly displaced.
- 12) **492** attacks on health care centers, causing **198** medical personnel's and **103** UNRWA's personnel's deaths.
- 13) **50** million tons of debris has been produced, containing hazardous materials such as white phosphorus which is harmful to health and environment.
- 14) More than **200** historical places and **100** cultural monuments were completely destroyed or partially affected.

The biggest evidence against Israel is that ICC issued arrest order of Israeli PM **Benjamin Netanyahu** and defense minister **Yoav Gallant** on March 21, 2024, shows greatly violation of human rights and war ethics and moral values.

The conflict has devastated public health, infrastructure, and civilian life in Gaza. Millions have lost homes and loved ones, and progress towards peace remains stalled amid a complex political and diplomatic standoff.<sup>32</sup>

All these events and reports strong violation of international humanitarian laws, Geneva Conventions, war ethics, and human morals, by Israel against Palestinians.

### **United Nations and international Reaction:**

The United Nations, other countries, international institutions showed different reactions.

United States of America has controversial reaction, she, from the begging, supports Israel politically, economically, and logistically, however now USA also feels strong violations of human rights in Palestine, especially in Gaza. Some weeks ago USA used veto power against a resolution which presented for cease fire. Donald Trump, USA current president also accepts to allow aid especially food as the situation is dreadful.

France, China, British, and Russia demand about two-state division repeatedly and removing blockage of routs for food and medicines. Britain and France are near to accept Palestine sovereignty. South Africa filed case in ICJ against Israel's violation in Gaza. China and Turkey demanded from both sides for cease fire.

UN and UNICEF have raised their voices but all in vain.

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UN Secretary General demands for cease fire and allowing the

### **OIC and Arab League:**

Organization of Islamic conference and Arab League repeatedly speak for stopping international humanitarian laws violation. In this connection, Iran and particularly Pakistan play the key role. Both countries especially the second one has been raising its voice in OIC and UNO and assures economically, politically, and socially support to the Palestinians and considers them as brothers. Pakistani permanent representative to UN, mostly speaks against human rights violation in Gaza. Recently Pakisanti parliament passed a Resolution in favor of Palestine.

There are frequently strikes, protests, and demonstrations not only in the west countries, including USA, UK, CANADA, in all Muslim countries, but also in **Israel**.

Though, during the conflict, many tries were made for cease fire, but still no permanent cease fire.

### **Suggestions:**

Some positives suggestion are given for resolving Israel-Palestine conflict, bringing peace, and giving the civilians their due rights of life, health and property:

1. Help bring attention to what's happening in Gaza;
2. Learn more about Gaza and lift up Palestinian voices;
3. Direct mediation should be conducted;
4. UN should play its role and act on its own resolution;
5. Two-state division according to UN resolution(181);
6. USA should not support Israel, but humanity ;
7. European and West should pressurize both to make agreement for common civilians;
8. If any side refuse, its large companies should be banned and it should not be supported;
9. Contact members of Congress (USA) and call for an arms embargo on Israel and humanitarian access for Gaza;
10. Hold corporations accountable for their role in violating the rights of Palestinians in Gaza<sup>33</sup>.

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