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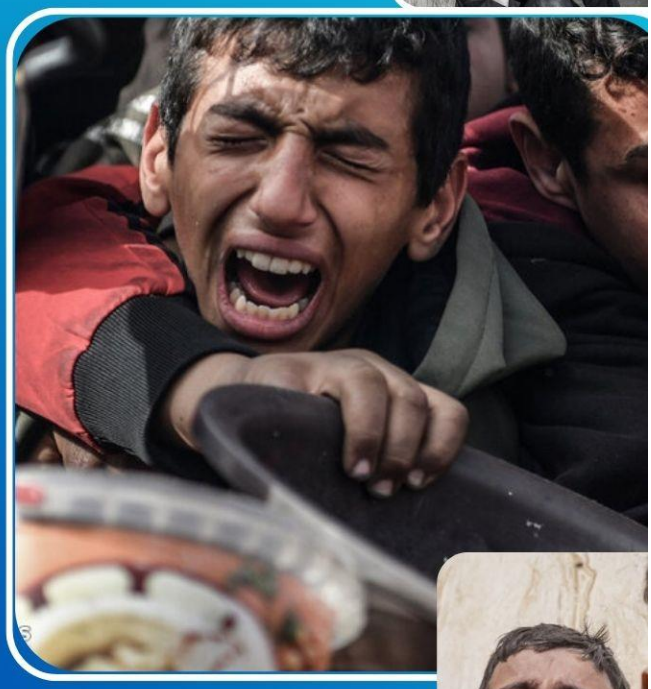
FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF 7TH OCTOBER: AN ACCOUNT OF ISRAEL'S GENOCIDAL CAMPAIGN IN GAZA



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President's Message on the Publication "First Anniversary of 7th October: An Account of Israel’s Genocidal Campaign in Gaza"



As we mark the first anniversary of the tragic events of October 7th, this publication serves as a sobering reflection on the unrelenting violence and devastation that has unfolded in Gaza. The Centre for Pakistan and Gulf Studies (CPGS) stands committed to amplifying the voices of the oppressed and shedding light on the systematic injustices faced by Palestinians. This publication offers a comprehensive account of Israel’s genocidal campaign, emphasizing the urgent need for the global community to address the humanitarian crisis, human rights violations, and war crimes in Gaza. It is not just a documentation of the loss, but a call to action — for justice, accountability, and an end to the ongoing occupation that perpetuates this cycle of violence.

I extend my deepest gratitude to the contributors of this critical work. By offering a detailed and factual account, we hope this publication will serve as a resource for scholars, policymakers, and activists who are working tirelessly to bring about a peaceful resolution to the Palestine-Israel conflict.

Let this anniversary remind us of our shared responsibility to advocate for a world where peace, dignity, and justice are not just aspirations, but realities for all.

Nasir Abbas Shirazi
President, Centre for Pakistan and Gulf Studies (CPGS)

First Anniversary of 7th October: An account of Israel's Genocidal Campaign in Gaza

Introduction:

The 2005 siege of Gaza Strip and complete naval, air and land blockade of the strip had confined the population of 2.2 million Palestinians to stay inside a territory of 25 miles long and 4 to 7 miles wide. **To give a general description of Gaza's area, let's take Islamabad. The area of Islamabad for instance is 905 sq km and Gaza has 365 sq km which is 40 percent of total Islamabad's area hosting 2.2million Palestinians before 7 October and the displacement has made the living area even smaller**. Disconnected from the world, the population of Gaza Strip has witnessed some of world's worst human rights abuses and violations of international basic humanitarian laws at the hands of Israel. Israel since 2005 had been suffocating and prosecuting Palestinians not just in Gaza Strip but west bank as well. The



illegal settlements which have increased over the past two decades, illegal arrests ands crackdown on refuge camps inside west bank and the injustice in Gaza strip forced Palestinians to act in order to break the siege and to raise the Palestinian issue of occupation by Zionists at international especially in such times when Israel attempted to normalize relationships with Arab world which would have eventually undermined the Palestinian cause for once and all.

However, Hamas's response and operation was calculated, military oriented and nature wise it was a strategic operation. The Hamas operation of 7th October only attacked precisely the military sites and the police headquarters. Contrary to this, the response by Israel following 7th October has been alarming and inhuman in nature.

7th October: An Operation to Break the Siege:

The 7th October military to military operation of Hamas, Islamic Jihad and other participants against Israel was aimed at breaking the siege imposed on the Palestinian people since 2007 by Israel and supported by west and also to prove their point that no matter what, we will continue our resistance until freedom. Additionally, the objective of Hamas operation also included capturing of hostages in order to release the Palestinians held hostage by Israel for years without any charges as the precedent for prisoner's swap exist between Hamas and the axis of resistance.

Firstly, the operation destroyed the image of Israel's image of being "undefeated" and "unpenetrated". It is worth mentioning that the one destroying this was not a well-functioning state but a small resistance organization working in the world's largest open-air prisons, Gaza. Following this and the long 12 months of fighting and failure in achieving the military goals set by Israel, the Israel's Elite intelligence Unit 82000' chief Yassi Sariel taking responsibility of failure in preventing 7th October attack by Hamas resigned from his position. He stated, *"In the years before and months before, as well as on October 7 itself, we all failed as a political and operational system in being unable to connect the dots to see the full picture and prepare to face the threat."* His resignation and confession of failure of Israel's intelligence shows the internal division and realization of this massive intelligence failure as to how a small organization confined in a small territory could plan such an attack and succeeds in executing so.

Secondly, it succeeded in reviving the dying Palestinian cause at international level and showed world the hidden faces behind the prosecution of Palestinians including those of Muslim states and European who are still supporting the extremist government of Netanyahu. The students' intellectual uprising in west particularly in the USA and Europe have not just forced states to take positive political stance on Palestine but few states have recognized Palestine as a state and condemned Israel's actions and violations of international law and war crimes committed by Israel.

Thirdly, this presented a clear message and stated a fact that no matter what, Palestinians will never stop their resistance and will only settle with freedom. The complete support of the resistance by Palestinians despite losing all of their houses, properties and even families, shows the fact that the stance by Hamas and Islamic Jihad was based on the collective idea and ideology of entire Palestine.

Prisoners' swaps, conditions of Palestinians in Prisons and Support for Hamas:

The one goals among others around 7th October attack by Hamas was to make an effort to release thousands of Palestinians held hostage in Israel's prisons by Israel for years without any proper evidence or on a mere hunch or a sense of threat of resistance from the. The major portion of these hostages held by Israel are children and includes woman as well as men. According to a report, every 1 out of 5 Palestinians have been arrested or charged at some point. A great number is of men as it stated that 2 out of every 5 men in Palestine have been arrested or detained at some point by Israelis. As of April, 2024, according to AlJazeera, about 9,500 Palestinians from

Gaza and the West Bank were in Israeli captivity, according to estimates from Addameer Prisoner Support and Human Rights Association, a rights group based in the West Bank city of Ramallah.

The starting point for any examination of international obligations and standards regarding arrest and detention is article 9 of the **International Convent on Civil and Political Rights**, which provides that:

"Everyone has the right to liberty and security of person. No one shall be subjected to arbitrary arrest or detention. No one shall be deprived of his liberty except on such grounds and in accordance with such procedure as are established by law."

Out of these 9,500 imprisoned, 3,660 are held without any charges or evidence shown to their families or lawyers which clearly is a violation of international laws as mentioned above.



Hamas with its hand on Israeli hostages, have tried to negotiate deals with Israel for prisoner's swap to get these Palestinians back who have been detained for no obvious reasons other than standing for their basic rights such as liberty and freedom as allowed by international law at various occasions. The initial successful deals witnessed release of prisoners from Israeli detention center and the moment prisoners, released in an exchange deal between Isarel and Hamas, reached Ramallah or other places of release, videos of celebrations and released prisoners holding Hamas flags were spotted online. In one of the videos from the mass celebrations, a woman heard shouting, *"We did not come here to celebrate, but rather to cheer and show our loyalty to the resistance [Hamas] and Gaza.*"

These releases of prisoners were all the time greeted by their families holding Palestinian flags even in places reportedly having strong hold of Fatah. For the same reason to not let the international media and world see the support for Hamas, Israel authorities later banned celebrations. Isarel's National Security Minister, according to "Times of Israel" clearly warned against celebration or showing of joy or happiness at the release spot by families or released prisoners. When al-Budayri, Al Jazeera's correspondent, asked a released child if the Israeli prison administration had to sign them papers prior to their release, the boy said: *"No, but they threatened us that if there are people waiting for us outside or if we celebrate, we will be imprisoned again."* This shows how deeply the cause of Palestine, sacrificing for this cause and commitment to resist Isarel is integrated in Palestinians and also highlights the fear by Israelis about world knowing the support of Palestinians for the resistance as these celebrations were filled with Hamas flags, slogans and speeches in honor of martyred Hamas fighters.

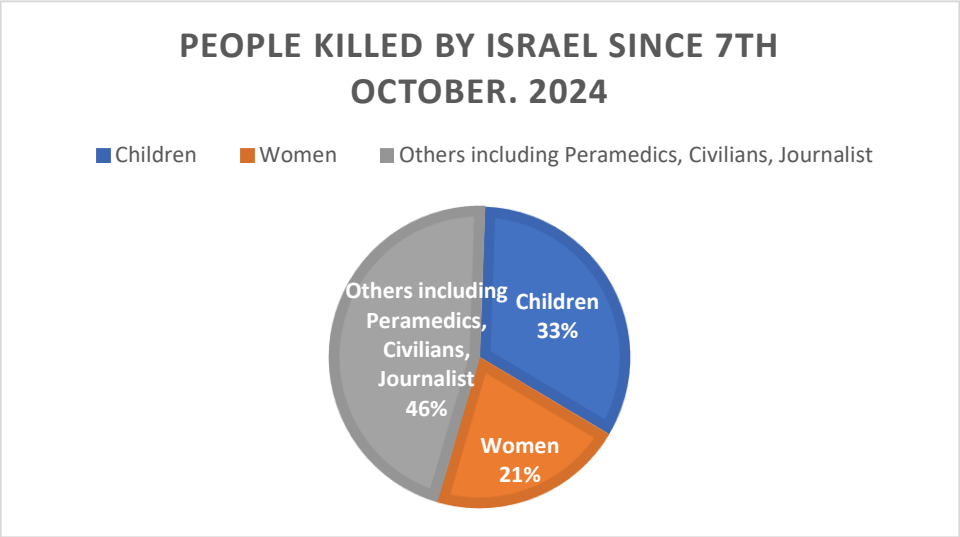


Moreover, the conditions in Israel's 19 prisons where Palestinians have been held hostage are worse as Israel has restricted any organizations from accessing these prisons which makes it difficult for the international community to assess the conditions of the prisoners as well as the actual number of prisoners held hostage by Israel.

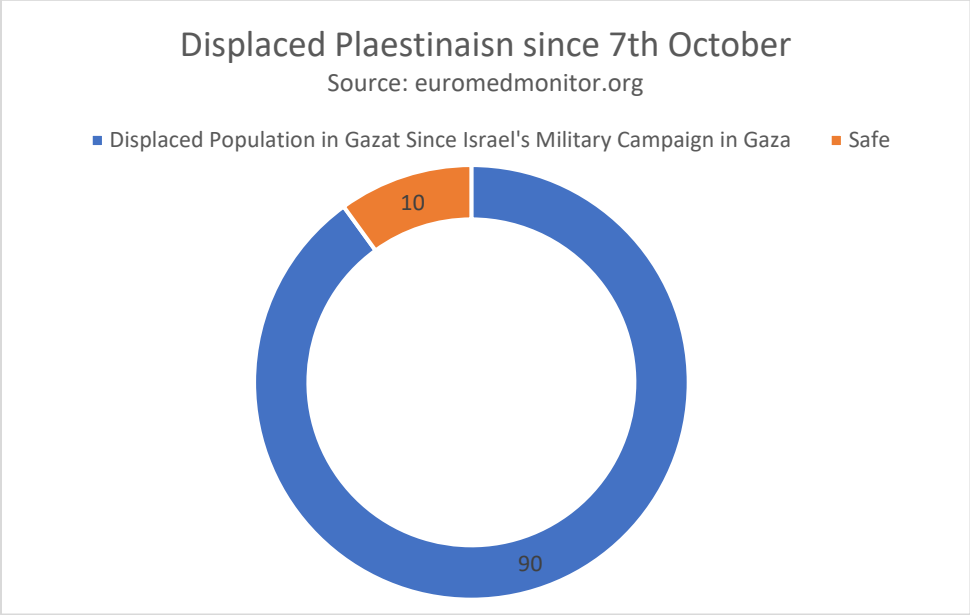
This element of resistance will not go away any time soon especially not after the 7th of October and the following Israel's response.

Israel's Response to the 7th October Attack:

Israel's response to the 7th October has been one of the deadliest, inhuman and cruel response this world has witnessed in recent times as along with other military means, Isarel Forces has also used AI targeting mechanism based on Bin Guvr's work of Targeting Machine. So far, according to the international Euro Med Human Rights Monitor organization, Israel has killed 49,032 Palestinians including a great number of children and women and injured more than 94,000. The details are as fellow:



According to the report, Israel's onslaught and genocidal campaign has resulted in the displacement of 90% of Gaza's population and still attacking the remaining area previously declare as military safe zone.

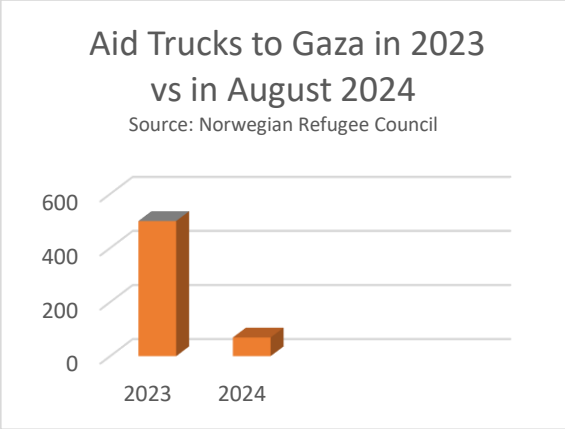


This is one of the biggest humanitarian crises this world has seen in last hundred years as more than 2.2 million population is thrown into a tiny corner of the Gazza Strip and yet the international

community has done nothing, Israel even prevented the United Nations and other international organizations and targeted many for delivering aid to the Palestinians stuck in Gaza Strip.

Attacks on Human Aid workers and Prevention of Aid by Israel:

According to a report issued by 15 different human aid organisations, as of September, 2024, Isarel is blocking 83% of aid destined for Gaza as compared 34% in 2023. According to International Laws, blockade or obstruction of aid is in violation of international humantarian laws and the denial of right to life is also a violation. Israel is doing all these with full immunity.



Describimng the worsening situation and blockade by Isarel, the report statd that in August 2024, only 69 trucks were entering Gaza per day as compared to 500 in 2023 which has resulted in around 1 million people in August, 2024, living without food.

The agencies working on human aid and medical assitance have stated that Isarel is sytamatically obsructing aid in six ways as follow:

1. Denial of safety, with more than 40,000 Palestinians and nearly 300 aid workers killed since last October
2. Tightening of a 17-year blockade to a full siege, which prevents aid from entering Gaza
3. Delays and denials which restrict the movement of aid around Gaza
4. Tightly restrictive and unpredictable control of imports;
5. The destruction of public infrastructure such as schools and hospitals
6. The displacement of civilians and humanitarian workers

Attacks on Civilian Insfrstructure. Houses, Schools, Hospitals, Religious and Heritage Sites

The same report indicates Israel has also killed 172 journalists, attacked 1,240 health workers out of which 523 have died and the rest are injured. Additionally, it has destroyed the 89% of Gaza's hospitals, 70% housing buildings, and 80% schools including those run by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA). According to situation report by UNRWA, 70% of their schools have been targeted and destroyed by Isarel and over 220 of their staff have been killed since the comnflict including injuring of more than 563 workers. In a sattement on X, the head, Philippe Lazzarini, said. *"Humanitarian staff, premises and operations have been blatantly and unabatedly disregarded since the beginning of the war."*



The attacks on schools have been frequent and a bit psychic as in latest strike on UNRWA school, al-Jaouni, Israel killed 6 of UNRWA's staff. Its note worthy to mention that this is the fifth time this school has been hit by Israel with immunity. Moreover, according to BBC, the children in Gaza estimating around 650.000 are unable to join the schools due to continued attacking of schools by Israeli forces.

Violation of Child Rights:

Israel's military brutalities in Gaza Strip has killed more than 15,000 minors and added to the sufferings in terms on non-provision of basic health facilities, food and water as Israel also is blocking aid to the Gaza Strip. According to the United Nation, Israel has severely violated basic child rights by its continued military actions in Gaza. UN's Convention on the Rights of Children (1989) is a global treaty aiming to stop the violations and abuses of child rights across the globe and is widely accepted and ratified including the State of Israel in 1991 held a session which Israel participated to defend. Israel has killed majority of civilians in its military actions on Gaza Strip since October 7th and a great portion of them is the children. Apart from directly killed, there is a high number of missing children. Additionally, the health care system's failure has led thousands of children unattended and are in dire need of nutrition and medical assistance which if not solved timely could even worsen the situation.

While talking to the media, according to Aljazeera report on 16th September, Bragi Gudbrandsson, vice chairperson of the committee on Child Rights by UN, said, *"The outrageous death of children is almost historically unique. This is an extremely dark place in history*." He, while further describing the situation in Gaza, said *"I don't think we have seen before a violation that is so massive as we've seen in Gaza. These are extremely grave violations that we do not often see." The committee expressed their concerns by saying, "deeply regrets the state party's repeated denial of its legal obligations"* which clearly shows Israel is continuously breaking international laws. The Israel prisons have also arrested children on regular basis and a great number of them are children which again questions Israel's continued prosecution of Palestinian children.



The committee showing concerned areas of violation stated, *"The Committee reminds the State party of the indivisibility and interdependence of all the rights enshrined in the Convention and emphasizes the importance of all the recommendations contained in the present concluding observations. The Committee draws the State party's attention to the recommendations concerning the following areas, regarding which urgent measures must be taken: non-discrimination (para. 18), right to life, survival and development (para. 21), torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (para. 30), mental health (para. 38), administration of child justice (para. 49) and violations of children's rights in the occupied Palestinian territories, including the Gaza Strip and the West Bank (paras. 51, 53 and 55)."*

Unfortunately, according to the research by Euro Med Monitor, Israel failed in following the ICJ recommendations which were issued after the case against Israel was put forward by Africa. The ruling asked Isarel to comply and take certain measures to avoid the genocide in Gaza, however, according to the report, Isarel has failed in in complying with the ICJ ruling. The report identified six violations which show failure in complying with ICJ ruling, the six indicators are as follow:

1. Mass Massacre
2. Causing serious physical/mental Harm
2. Imposing Inhuman Living Conditions
4. Using Starvation as a weapon
5. Imposing an environment meant to prevent childbirth,
6. Public Incitement to Genocide

Just as Israel did not follow up on the recommendations stated by the ICJ during its ruling over the case forwarded by Africa against Israel of genocide in Gaza, Israel will not follow or implement the committee's sent recommendations to Israel to follow up and implement in order to provide safety, security and preserve the basic rights of children in occupied Palestinian territories.

Collective Punishment:

"Civilians must not be collectively punished" read the news headline of United Nation's press on 30 October 2023, accusing Israel of collectively punishing Palestinians. On 30 October, 2023, right after 3 weeks of Israel's atrocities, Philippe Lazzarini, Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), called the Israel Defense Forces' relentless bombardment of the Gaza Strip "shocking", with the level of destruction unprecedented, adding that "the human tragedy unfolding under our watch is unbearable". Reiterating that "no place is safe in Gaza", he said 1 million people were pushed from the north to the south over three weeks, with the south also being bombarded. Additionally, UN official also stated Israel killed some 3,200 children in just 3 weeks of its bombardment in Gaza. In the recent session of general assembly of UN (24 September, 2024), the head reportedly expressed concerns about situation in Gaza stated that nothing can justify the collective punishment of the Palestinian people. *"The speed and scale of the killing and destruction in Gaza are unlike anything in my years as Secretary-General,"* the UN chief said.



In the opening remarks of the session, the United Nation head called the situation in Gaza a "nightmare" indicating the severity of the situation and continued massacres which have led to the creation of world's worst disaster in Gaza. UN also has reportedly issued a document for the "Collective Punishment" that was documented by UN and stated *Israel destroyed 244 wells in the Gaza Strip between 2000 and 2006 and demolished the main electrical power plant in 2006*. This shows a repeated violation of international norms and obligation by Israel. The accounts of Israel's actions in this Gaza conflict are more sever than those done in between 2000 to 2006 which only increased with the passage of time. One imagines and baffles how a state formed of individual human beings could do such horrifying acts without having a single doubt on their actions. To understand this, let's explore the ideology of Zionism and its impact on the unending suffering of Palestinian people.

War Crimes:

Human history is full of evolutions and progress and with each passing era, humans have only improved themselves in every thing and are the reason of all this progress in technology, science and education. This has only been possible with a defined code of conduct humans have followed and practiced throughout history in order to not go stray and preserve the very essence of humans; humanity. Unfortunately, Israel is among those top states who have been violating these norms of humanity which at this time are called the behavior or conduct of a person in state of war. There are set rules of engagement as well as defending when it comes to international states. Israel's action as in Gaza are considered to be the violations of those norms of humanity that humans have always tried to preserve in order to be who we are, to stay humans.

Following the 7th October, Israel unleashed its history's worst brutalities against Palestinians and have committed war crimes and violated international laws.

1. Use of Banned Material:

Israel has continuously used white phosphorous against civilians in Gaza Strip which from international law perspective is banned as the damage this material causes is unthinkable and devastating. The UN chief, Antonio Guterres, has termed Israeli's retaliation as a clear breach of International Humanitarian Law (IHL), which is underscored by the fact that attacking civilian targets and using prohibited weapons like white phosphorus is in blatant breach of core provisions under the Geneva and Hogue Convention.

2. Attacking Civilians:

Fourth Geneva Convention or Geneva Convention on the PROTECTION OF CIVILIAN PERSONS IN TIME OF WAR aims to delve into humanitarian protections for civilians in a war zone. The ICJ has affirmed that the Geneva Conventions constitute intransgressible principles of international customary law'. And the latest tally from the conflict shows Israel killing thousands of civilians in the name of attacking Hamas and a great portion of the killed are children and women.

The Palestinian individuals residing within the occupied territory of West Bank and the Gaza Strip are very much entitled to fall within the definition of "Protected Persons" under the GCIV, with Art 27. detailing that protected persons are 'entitled, in all circumstances, to respect for their persons, their honor, their family rights, their religious convictions and practices, and their manners and customs.' As United Nations' High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, observed,

"The imposition of sieges that endanger the lives of civilians by depriving them of goods essential for their survival is prohibited under international humanitarian law."

3. Collective Punishment:

Following international laws prohibit collective punishment: Geneva Conventions IV, Article 33 (1949); Geneva Conventions (Protocol I), Article 75(2d) (1977) - Isarel has also violated this law by attacking every single person including children, women, man

and even press and the physical infrastructure including schools, hospitals and prayer places.

4. **Blocking Humanitarian Aid:**

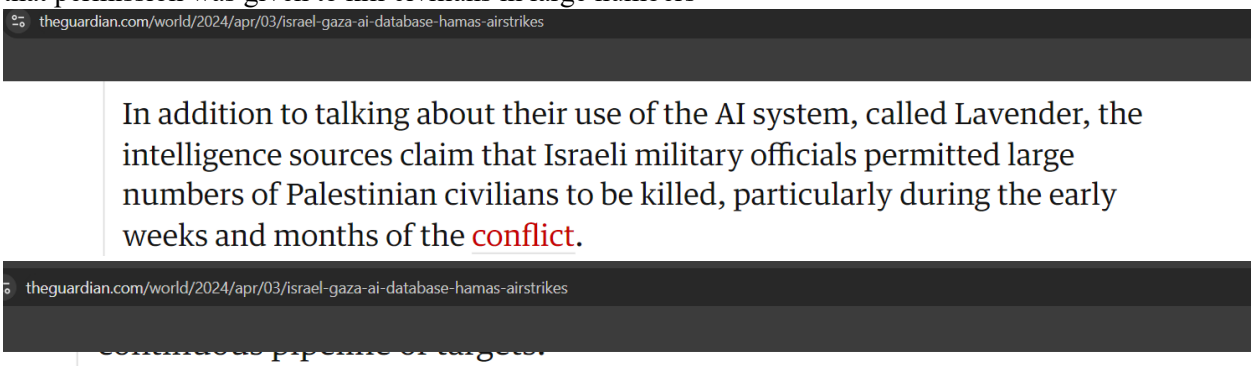
Deliberate obstruction in aid, blocking of aid in armed conflict is also a wrongful act and can be tried. State of Israel has again and again targeted aid workers, human rights groups and blocked aid trucks from entering Gaza Strip which clearly violates the law.

5. **Massive Violations of Human Rights (HR):**

Studies by UN, I.C.J., and International H.R. organizations have found that Israel violates the human rights of Palestinian people on a massive scale, including torture, imprisonment without charges or trial, land confiscation, harassment at checkpoints, unwarranted civilian shootings, not punishing Israeli settlers' crimes against Palestinians, unwarranted disruption of medical care, commerce, employment, free movement, destruction of public and private property, family separation, etc.

Mass Assasination: Machine Targeting and Pager Attacks

Israel has been using Artificial Intelligence for the generation of target lists based on the algorithm provided to the machine. The recent conflict in its start witnessed Isarel using "Lavender System" which generated around 37,000 targets and Israel Intelligence officer reveled to the Guardian that permission was given to kill civilians in large numbers



Israelis indiscriminately bombed homes of civilians and as mentioned by the Guardian, they just wanted to bomb. The exact word of an Israeli intelligence officer was "Whatever you can, you bomb." This is clear intent of mass assassination of the Palestinians and Israel has successfully bombed everything they could be it schools, hospitals, homes, health workers, professors and even UN run sites including refuge camps. Additionally, Israel also carried out a similar attack in Lebanon when Isarel targeted thousands of people in Lebanon by detonating pagers used by Hezbollah and the civilian's sector of Lebanon which included paramedics, private security firms and resulted in death of a 10-year-old girl and many others.

The use of cyber force to detonate basic communication devices is a danger tool and weapon which could put everyone across the globe at risk.

Zionism: Extremist Ideology of the state of Israel

Zionism a political thought is probably one of the top extremist ideologies of the world after ISIS and Al Qaeda. AL Qaeda and ISIS aimed to eliminate other and establish their desired government based on their principles and rules. And inn order to achieve, they started beheading people in open skies, slaughtered individuals, and spread horrors across the world. For them, those differing to their ideologies, were always met with brutality and killings. Same way, the Zionist ideology comprised of Individuals from across the Europe and other areas, have the same tendencies of ISIS and Al Qaeda. Israelis believe only they have the right to exist in the Palestinian lands and that they are the sons of God destined to rule and stay there. For this, they find Palestinians the biggest threats as any occupier would feel threatened from the people whose land they have colonized or occupied.

The Britishers when colonized the sub-continent lands, they also adopted policies of prosecutions, torture, killings and imprisonment for they were also witnessing a large level of resistance from different segments of society both military and politically. Where they found its easy to handle and control the natives through installment of puppet rulers they did. However, where they felt it's impossible to control the public with one ruler they adopted policies of killing, torturing and imprisonment followed by severe public punishments and hangings inside prisons. Its always hard to control the occupied territories with force. Israel is facing the same situation in Gazza and has adopted the same policies. Interestingly, the British were not ideologically extremist but always aimed at politics and economic prospects. For them the existence of people of subcontinent was acceptable. In the case of Zionist, the mere presence of Palestinians is not acceptable and the reason is their ideology which is extremist in nature and promote ultimate slaughter, prosecution and genocide.

Isarel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu in his speech at United Nation, in September 2023, showed a map of Middle East where Palestine as a state was removed and put in under a sovereign Israel state and again statement Netanyahu said, "You must remember what Amalek did to you, says our Holy Bible." The quote Netanyahu refers to is the book of Samuel in chapter 15 verse 3: "Now go and smite Amalek, utterly destroy all that they have, and spare them not; but kill both man and woman, infant, ox and sheep, camel and donkey ". – This only shows Israel's true intention about Palestine.

The idea of eradicating Palestine and Palestinians is largely influencing the current government members of Isarel including their Prime Minister, Defense minister and others which make them even more dangerous than the figures of ISIS as ISIS have no solid infrastructure, means, resources or that much advanced technology. We can say the ISIS was a child with having bones but too week to ift anything heavier whereas Israel is a complete young man with six packs and capability to do anything for its cause.

The Prime Minister oof Isarel stated Gaza as the "City of Evil" the Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant said, "We are fighting against animals". As stated by Netanyahu and his

cabinet about eradication of Palestinians, it's obvious what Israel want is the occupation of entire Gaza, killings of all Palestinians as referred by Netanyahu in his speech where he quoted bible and this systematic killing, uprooting of Palestinians won't stop until it gets all of it; the killings, elimination of Palestinian race, the state and their history**.** A report by al Jazeera stated that some 120 new cemeteries were found in Gaza which are undocumented as build recently and they are strethed across the Gaza Strip as shown in the graph below.



These mass graves are only of bodies the Palestinians have found and the thousands under the debris in Palestine are yet to be found and this will make Gaza one of the most haunted places as it will be filled with only dead bodies of thousands of Palestinians.

Israel's Military Campaign in West Bank

Isarel attacked Gaza Strip as an excuse to retaliate against Hamas and have justified its attacks on Gaza Strip using this very sentence that it is attacking Hamas as it is present in Gaza. However, since October 7th, Israel has not limited its military actions and attacks to just Gaza but has frequently attacked West Bank as well for which it has no justification other than the fear of Hamas over there and as a matter of fact, Hamas only operates in Gaza Strip and has very little or equal to none presence in in terms of military personal pr arsenals. Following the October 7, these operations, which Israel defends as vital to stop more attacks and break up Hamas networks, have extended to West Bank and includes extensive raids, targeted assassinations, and large arrests of Palestinians for which it has no legal justification because an attack from Hamas needs an answer to a place where they exist and at their places only.

The Israeli violence in the West Bank has escalated in recent months, as seen by a rise in Israeli raids, deaths, and arrests. Israel claims that this increase in military activity is in response to the attacks on October 7, 2023, however it has raised concerns about the wider ramifications for Palestinians, particularly the predicament that detainees confront.

Israel in the West Bank:

Israel's military actions in the West Bank have substantially intensified since the unrest escalated on October 7. Israel defends these tactics, including extensive raids, targeted assassinations, and massive captures of Palestinians. The already alarming situation has been made worse by the military operations, which have left many Palestinians dead and the populace in a state of generalized terror. More than 11,000 Palestinians have been arrested and detained as a result of more than 1,500 raids carried out by Israeli troops in the West Bank since October 7, 2023. Israeli military activities, including targeted assassinations and skirmishes during raids, have resulted in over 716 Palestinians killings and over 5,750 others injured by Israeli army fire in the occupied territory, according to the Health Ministry. According to UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), December 2023, there are an estimated 15,000 Palestinians who have been forced to flee their homes in the West Bank as a result of heightened military operations, home demolitions, and continued unrest. Israeli soldiers have destroyed some 300 Palestinian houses and buildings in the West Bank, claiming security concerns, which has made the humanitarian situation worse (B'Tselem, November 2023). Israel stepped up its military activities in the West Bank after the October 7, 2023 attacks, claiming security concerns and seeking to destroy militant infrastructures (BBC News, 2024).

Justifications from Israel: According to the Israeli government, these stepped-up measures in the West Bank are an immediate response to the October 7th attacks carried out by Hamas and other extremist organizations. According to Israel, the military operations are meant to eliminate militants and stop such acts of violence. But a lot of onlookers and detractors

contend that the scope and essence of these operations extend beyond self-defense, casting doubt on their real purpose.

It is understandable that Israel's activities in West Bank are nothing but a reflection of Israel's overall perception about Palestinians and aims at eradicating all Palestinians in order to capture and occupy the remaining what is left of Palestinian territories. Isarel's conduct in West Bank is a component of a larger plan to erode Palestinian resistance and establish Israeli sovereignty over the occupied areas. The military's targeting of civilian neighborhoods has given rise to claims of collective punishment. The region's humanitarian catastrophe has gotten worse due to the demolition of houses and other infrastructure as well as the uprooting of thousands of Palestinians. According to Peace Now (December 2023), there has been a 20% rise in the authorization of fresh Israeli settlement units within the West Bank since October 2023, which has severely hampered peace efforts. Since October 2023, there have been over 150 documented attacks on Palestinian citizens and property by Israeli settlers in the West Bank, where violence against Palestinians has increased dramatically (OCHA, December 2023). Numerous raids that resulted in massive arrests and civilian fatalities were part of these actions (Al Jazeera, 2024).

Where it is headed?

Many believe that the Palestinian people face a serious risk as a result of the current upsurge in violence in the West Bank. The West Bank's Palestinian population faces a bleak future due to the growing militarization and growth of Israeli settlement activity. Despair among the Palestinian people is exacerbated by the ongoing occupation and the absence of a diplomatic settlement. Many individuals believe that Israel's acts and strategies are an aspect of an ongoing scheme to undermine the prospects of a Palestinian state, endangering the Palestinian people's identity as a separate national group. What attracted the West Bank? Even if Israel's main battle is with Hamas in Gaza, the emphasis on the West Bank is perceived as an effort to strengthen Israeli authority over the entirety of the Palestinian territory. Israel may be trying to cause harm to the Palestinian Authority and thwart any aspirations towards Palestinian autonomy by stepping up military operations in the West Bank, which is vital for establishing a Palestinian state. This strategy has drawn criticism for not helping to find a long-term solution, but rather for escalating the dispute. Food, water, and medical treatment are among the humanitarian needs of about 1.5 million Palestinians in the West Bank, where the conflict is exacerbating existing threats (UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), December 2023). The West Bank's hospitals are under pressure from the increasing military operations; they are suffering from a scarcity of medical supplies and are overflowing with victims (World Health Organization (WHO), December 2023). These actions, according to the Israeli government, are required to counter what it sees as an existential danger posed by Palestinian organizations. The already terrible circumstances for Palestinian detainees have been made worse by the ongoing bloodshed. Many detainees remain in captivity with little progress made in prisoner swap negotiations, despite pleas from throughout the world for their release and continuing negotiations (Human Rights Watch, 2024).

The 7th of October and the hostage taking act of Hamas was basically an effort to release the Palestinians arrested by Israel and imprisoned for years without charges. Hamas has made

clear that it will use prisoner swaps to pressure Israel into making concessions (Middle East Monitor, 2024). The ongoing fighting and its effects on detainees are highlighted by recent statistics collected over the last two months. More arrests and altercations have resulted from Israeli military measures, and Hamas has persisted in demanding significant concessions for any prospective prisoner swap (The New York Times, 2024).

This all scenario rises the question every one fails to understand or does not acknowledge the reality of the issue. The question of why West Bank? Isarel has repeatedly shown signs and even through statements have made it clear that they want only Israel and any other portion of the society dedicated to Palestinians would still be not independent rather in control of the Israeli authorities.

Impact of Isarel's occupation on Human Life in Palestine:

Like any other part of the world where torture, prosecution without crimes, assassinations, and suppression leads to catastrophic situations, Palestinians are also suffering from unimaginable pain, depression, trauma and anxiety at national level: 50% of resident of West Bank and 71% of the people of Gaza (58% overall of entire Palestine) are in state of depression and some 7% of adults screened positive for PTSD (Post Traumatic Stress Disorder). One would question come an entire nation is in anxiety? Remember when coronavirus hit the world and it impacted and made lives of every single citizen like a hell, Palestinians are facing these things because of Israel's continued aggression at national level. According to a report by World Bank, Palestinians as human beings are suffering and over half of population in Gaza and West bank are suffering from depression. The study titled "Palestinian Psychological Conditions Survey (PPCS)" was presented in 2022 which highlights the worse human life state in Gaza and Palestine before this latest 7th of October and Israel genocide campaign begin. One can only imagine how worse these numbers would get once the survey is re conducted in post Israel Hamas war.



The study attributes the conditions to "overlapping vulnerabilities and cumulative traumas on the Palestinian population," due to "decades of exposure to conflict, restrictions on movements, and poor living conditions," particularly for the Gazans. Additionally, the reasons mentioned are traumatic situations, unemployment's, which are a direct consequence of the Israel's imposed harsh

Israel's Trial at ICJ

In December 2023, South Africa initiated legal proceedings against Israel at the ICJ, accusing Israel of committing acts of genocide against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip. This case is

grounded in the Genocide Convention, which defines genocide as acts committed with the intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial, or religious group. South Africa claimed "acts and omissions" by Israel "are genocidal in character because they are intended to bring about the destruction of a substantial part of the Palestinian national, racial and ethnical group" (BBC).

Genocide Under International Law:

- killing or causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group
- deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part
- imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group
- forcibly transferring children of the group to another group

Allegations by South Africa

South Africa's allegations focus on several key points:

1. Military Operations: South Africa claims that Israel's repeated military operations in Gaza have resulted in significant civilian casualties and destruction of infrastructure, which they argue constitutes genocidal acts.
2. Blockade: The long-term blockade imposed by Israel on Gaza is cited as a form of collective punishment that severely restricts the movement of people and goods, leading to dire humanitarian conditions.
3. Intent to Destroy: South Africa argues that these actions demonstrate an intent to destroy the Palestinian population in Gaza, either in whole or in part.

ICJ Proceedings

In January 2024, the ICJ held hearings to consider South Africa's request for provisional measures to protect the people of Gaza. During these hearings, South Africa presented evidence and arguments to support their claims of genocide.

ICJ's Initial Ruling

The ICJ concluded that it is plausible that Israel's actions could constitute genocide under the Genocide Convention. As a result, the court ordered Israel to take measures to prevent acts that could be considered genocidal. However, the ICJ did not mandate an immediate suspension of Israel's military operations, citing the need for further examination of the evidence.

Israel's Response

Israel has firmly rejected the allegations, describing them as baseless and politically motivated. The Israeli government asserts that its military actions are conducted in self-defense, particularly in response to attacks by Hamas and other militant groups operating in Gaza.

Implications

This case has significant implications for international law and the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. If the ICJ ultimately finds Israel guilty of genocide, it could lead to increased international pressure on Israel and potentially result in sanctions or other measures. Conversely, a ruling in favor of Israel could reinforce its position that its actions are justified under international law.

Current Status

The case is still ongoing, however, according to the EuroMedMonitor report issued in August, 2024, Isarel has failed in following the recommendations and suggestions given by the ICJ. The report underlines six major violations which indicate Israel failing to follow the ICJ ruling. The mentioned six indicators are mentioned below:



Assasination of Sayyed Nasrallah and Iranian Retaliations:

On 27th September, 2024, Israel bombed Beirut's southern suburb and assassinated the head of Lebanon's resistance movement and political party Hezbollah. The killing of Sayyed Hasan Nasrallah is seen as a major escalation by Israel which tried deescalate the situation at Lebanon's border by escalation. Since 8th October, Hezbollah has started a massive series of attacks against Israel in response to Isarel's aggression against Gaza and in support of Palestinians to make Israel divert its resources to Lebanon's border. The continued military strikes by Hezbollah have displaced thousands on northern border forcing

Israel to acknowledge the displacement and made it its fourth major military goals of reestablishing these settlements.

Hezbollah has since day one stated its actions in north will only end when Israel's actions in Gaza stops and Israel stops its aggression. Days before his assassination, Hezbollah Head Sayyed Hasan Nasrallah came and delivered a policy statement and stated, *"You won't be able to 'return' the settlers to the north and do whatever you want. This is a big challenge between us and you, and the only way is to stop the war on Gaza."* This statement clearly showed the continued consistency in Hezbollah's policy and its actions are still ongoing as the night of the 7th October. On 07,11,2024, Hezbollah fired fresh missiles targeting Haifa and surroundings with successful impacts and Israel despite killing the head of Hezbollah is unable to demotivate Hezbollah or stop its actions. The recent attacks show a consistency in Hezbollah's policy on Gaza Wa/ The death of its head has not moved Hezbollah's stance. Instead, it has strengthened and attacks since the assassination have also increased. Interestingly, the attack resulted in direct hits and according to Timesofisarel, this was a complete failure of the Israeli defence equipment. Hezbollah has followed a policy of continued support for the Palestinians and the assassination of Hezbollah head Sayyed Hasan Nasrallah was the price they paid for the support and its actions against Isarel. The war technically was not Hezbollah's war and none in the organization according to many reports were informed in Hezbollah about the possible attack of 7th October and yet the resistance in Lebanon considering and realizing its responsibility, joined the conflict and lost its head along with thousands of soldiers.





The Israeli attack on resistance head in Lebanon and in Tehran when Israel assassinated Sayyed Hasan Nasrallah and Ismail Haniyah, it was important for Iran to retaliate to set the rules of engagement with Isarel clear.

Iranian Response:

Iran on 10th September, 2024, retaliated directly against Isarel and launched some 180 missiles mix of hypersonic and ballistic missiles. The missiles targeted three key strategic military bases. The targeted included Nevatim base, Tel Nof Air base and Israeli Mossad Head Quarter. Iranian intentionally did not strike the more populated areas and the attack seemed to have hit only military targets in response to the assassination of Sayyed Hasan Nasrallah and Ismail Haaniyah. According to the Guardian's study and analysis through Satellite and social media footage, it reported missiles after missiles striking the Nevatim airbase in the Negev desert, indicating that despite the highly touted effectiveness of Israel's Iron Dome and Arrow air defences, Iran's strikes were more effective than had been previously admitted. According to the Guardian, Experts who analyzed the footage noted at least 32 direct hits on the airbase and that the missiles landed close to hangars that house Israel's F-35 jets, among the country's most

prized military assets. More importantly the report suggested the same missiles if directed at populated areas could have been disastrous and also emphasized that "Israel" will not be able to withstand an exchange of strikes with Iran if this conflict turns into a long-term one. The Iranian retaliation was aimed at achieving the deterrence it has established in the region against both the American as well as the Israelis.

The assassination of IRGC's Qasem Suleimani witnessed Iran retaliating directly against the USA's base in Iraq, Ain Al Asad air base. The apri;l retaliation against Isarel after Isarel attacked Iranian embassy in Syria also showed pattern of Iranian retaliation. Iran's rules of engagement have been simple. They will retaliate against the same entity in same manner the way they have been attacked. Isarel's Nevtam air base was reportedly involved in assassination of the Hezbollah head and thus targeting this was a primary objective. However, Iranian retaliation was also calculated as Iran does not want war to expand. The strike was purely of a military nature and attack and did not target any civilian infrastructure.

Conclusion:

Palestinians were completely in a situation where no one was listening to their cries and words. The Muslim world including the Kingdome of Saudi Arabia was on its way of normalizing with Isarel. These actions and the fact that Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have been besieged since 2007 and Israel's actions in Masjid Al Aqsa led the foundation of the Al Aqsa Storm Operation by Hamas in an attempt to resist, make Palestine issue the issue of world and to denounce any attempt by world community of selling Palestinians to Isarel. However, as expected, Isarel's actions have been indiscriminate and killed more than 49 thousand Palestinians and displaced almost entire population of Gaza Strip. The atrocities and destruction caused by the military action of Israel clearly falls under the definition of genocide as Israel has intentionally blocked aid, massacred groups, families and has also attacked with intent to prevent birth of babies (Palestine Centre for Human Rights). In January, the Washington post stated the Israel military campaign just in a spam of three months had victimized 52,000 pregnant women in Gaza. The operations against hospitals and infrastructure had added up in preventing birth. Additionally, Israel's actions of assassination in foreign countries, attacks on embassies and heads of organist ions shows intent of Israel to expand the war and spread it across the region. If not stopped, Isarel will be the cause of deaths of countless lives in West Asia.

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