

Israel-Hamas Conflict and Humanity

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Abstract

The aftermath of the conflict has not only left a trail of destruction but has also fueled tensions on a global scale. The international community, including various nations and humanitarian organizations, has been actively engaged in diplomatic efforts to broker a lasting peace agreement. The United Nations, in particular, has been at the forefront, urging both Israel and Hamas to cease hostilities and engage in meaningful dialogue to address the root causes of the conflict. One of the critical challenges is the delicate balance between Israel's right to self-defense and the protection of civilian lives in Gaza. The disproportionate impact on innocent civilians, including women and children, has sparked widespread concern and condemnation. Humanitarian agencies are struggling to provide aid to the affected population amid the ongoing hostilities, with reports of hospitals and infrastructure being severely strained. The media, both traditional and social, has played a significant role in shaping public opinion and influencing the narrative surrounding the conflict. Images and stories of civilian suffering have captured the world's attention, prompting calls for immediate action to alleviate the humanitarian crisis. Activists and advocacy groups are leveraging these narratives to pressure governments and international bodies to take a stronger stance in finding a resolution. The geopolitical implications of the Israel-Hamas conflict are profound, with neighboring countries closely monitoring the situation. The potential for the conflict to escalate and draw in regional powers adds an additional layer of complexity. International leaders are faced with the challenge of balancing their strategic interests with the urgent need for a peaceful resolution to prevent further destabilization in the Middle East. Furthermore, the economic ramifications of the conflict are significant, with both Israel and Gaza experiencing disruptions in trade, commerce, and infrastructure. The rebuilding process, once the conflict subsides, will require substantial international assistance and collaboration. The allocation

of resources for reconstruction and rehabilitation will be a crucial aspect of the post-conflict landscape.

Keywords: Hamas, Israel, War, Gaza.

Introduction

The conflict between Israel and Hamas that erupted on October 7, 2023, unfolded as a highly complex and multifaceted series of events. The breach of Southern Israeli security by Hamas fighters marked a strategic shift, utilizing the sea route for infiltration. The meticulous planning and execution of simultaneous attacks on military outposts and a civilian gathering showcased a level of coordination that had not been previously associated with Hamas. The assault on the music event, resulting in the tragic loss of around 1200 lives and the capture of hostages, added a sinister dimension to the conflict.

As tensions escalated, the international community found itself divided in response to the conflict. Nations took various positions, with some condemning Hamas for its aggression and others expressing concerns about Israel's response. The unexpected nature of Hamas's campaign outside of Gaza raised eyebrows globally, leading to increased scrutiny of the region's

stability and security. The response from Israel was swift and forceful. The initiation of air strikes in Gaza aimed at countering the threat posed by Hamas fighters holding Israeli civilian's hostage was met with condemnation and calls for restraint from several quarters. The ground operation plan on Gaza further intensified concerns about the humanitarian impact of the conflict on the civilian population.

The 25-day preparation period undertaken by Hamas, as reported by the BBC, indicated a level of strategic planning and military training that surprised many observers. The focus on creating hostages, conducting raids, and breaching security demonstrated a high level of sophistication in their tactics. The release of videos showing Israeli civilians in captivity only added fuel to the already volatile situation, prompting Israel to respond with urgency. The 45-day duration of the conflict witnessed significant casualties, with 15,000 lives lost in Gaza. The toll on civilians, infrastructure, and the overall

stability of the region was profound. The eventual ceasefire on November 29, 2023, brought a temporary halt to the hostilities. The exchange of hostages and prisoners during the ceasefire underscored the complexities of the negotiations between the two parties. While the truce marked a pause in the direct hostilities, the underlying issues and tensions between Israel and Hamas remained unresolved. The international community continued its efforts to mediate a lasting and comprehensive peace agreement that could address the root causes of the conflict and prevent future outbreaks of violence in the region.

Hamas

With an estimated strength of around 30,000 fighters, Hamas has consistently demonstrated its military capabilities by periodically launching attacks on Israel. These actions have not only led to casualties but have also fueled the ongoing conflict in the region. The group's strategic maneuvers and engagement in asymmetric warfare have posed significant challenges for Israel's security apparatus.

The year 2021 witnessed a particularly tense standoff between Hamas and Israel

over the contested city of Jerusalem. This conflict underscored the deeply rooted historical and geopolitical complexities surrounding the region, further contributing to the strained relations between the two entities. The city holds immense religious and cultural significance for both Israelis and Palestinians, making it a focal point of contention. Hamas's activities extend beyond military engagements, encompassing various socio-political dimensions. The organization provides social services to Palestinians, including education, healthcare, and welfare programs, creating a complex dynamic that intertwines its militant activities with a perceived role as a provider for the community.

The recognition of Israel as a separate state from Palestine by the international community has not mitigated the longstanding tensions between the two nations. Instead, it has become a source of contention, adding another layer of complexity to the already intricate geopolitical landscape of the Middle East. The ongoing struggle for self-determination, territorial integrity, and competing national narratives continues to

shape the relationship between Israel and Hamas, with broader implications for regional stability and global diplomacy.

Gaza Patti

The Gaza Strip is a region that is approximately 41 kilometers long and 10 kilometers wide, situated between Israel, Egypt, and the Mediterranean Sea. According to the United Nations, over three-quarters of Gaza's population, around 1.7 million people are registered refugees or descendants of refugees. Before the conflict, there were over 500,000 people residing near the Gaza Strip, concentrated in eight refugee camps. Israel controls the airspace and coastal border of this area, which has significant implications for the economic and social conditions in Gaza, as its residents face challenges in maintaining connections with the outside world.

Palestine

Palestine, historically encompassing the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, has a rich and complex history that spans millennia. In ancient times, the region was inhabited by various civilizations, including the Canaanites, Philistines, and Israelites. It holds significant religious and cultural importance for Judaism, Christianity, and

Islam. During the Roman era, the term "Palestine" was used to refer to the geographic area that includes present-day Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza. Over the centuries, the region witnessed the rise and fall of empires, including the Byzantine and Ottoman Empires, each leaving its mark on the cultural and architectural landscape.

In the late 19th and early 20th centuries, the concept of a national homeland for the Jewish people gained momentum, leading to increased Jewish migration to Palestine under the Ottoman Empire. After World War I, the League of Nations granted Britain the mandate to administer Palestine. The conflicting national aspirations of both Jews and Arabs intensified during this period. The establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 marked a pivotal moment in the region's history. The declaration of independence by Israel led to armed conflicts between the newly formed state and its Arab neighbors, resulting in displacement and significant demographic changes. The West Bank came under Jordanian control, while Egypt administered the Gaza Strip.

The Six-Day War in 1967 had profound consequences for the Palestinian territories.

Israel captured the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip, leading to the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians. The subsequent decades saw the Israeli-Palestinian conflict intensify, with issues like settlements, borders, and the status of Jerusalem remaining contentious. Efforts to achieve peace, including the Oslo Accords in the 1990s, aimed at establishing a framework for resolving the conflict. However, reaching a comprehensive and lasting agreement has proven elusive, and the region continues to experience tensions, violence, and complex geopolitical dynamics. The term "Palestine" is used today to refer to the broader historical and cultural context of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, encapsulating the ongoing aspirations and struggles of the Palestinian people for self-determination and statehood. The history of the region remains a key factor in understanding the complexities of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the quest for a peaceful resolution.

Human Tragedy

Due to the ravages of war, approximately 2.2 million people from the Gaza Strip have

been compelled to migrate towards the southern regions. This mass movement has led to an increased population density in the southern areas, where people have found themselves without homes and living in a constant state of fear. The vast, sandy expanses of Al-Mawasi bear witness to the magnitude of the unfolding humanitarian crisis on Earth, as refugees seek shelter amidst these desolate landscapes.

According to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), the aftermath of the attacks on October 7 has resulted in nearly 1.7 million people from Gaza being displaced. The majority of these displaced individuals have sought refuge in the southern regions, exacerbating the pre-existing challenges of an already densely populated area. Schools, hospitals, and temporary tents have become impromptu shelters for thousands, while the onset of winter brings with it conditions reminiscent of floods, further intensifying the plight of the refugees.

Amidst this crisis, Al-Mawasi emerges as a semblance of security for those displaced. Functioning as a makeshift city of tents, this area relies heavily on agriculture, situated

along the shores of the Mediterranean Sea and in close proximity to the border with Egypt. An Israeli spokesperson reassures that Al-Mawasi is a secure place for everyone, with plans to provide a safe environment. However, the pressing question remains: how will 2 million people sustain themselves in such a confined space? Juliette Touma, the Communications Director of UNRWA, highlights the stark reality of the situation, describing the limited expanse of land in Al-Mawasi. The area predominantly features sand dunes and date palm trees, lacking essential facilities. The prospect of settling thousands of homeless individuals here poses a monumental challenge for the United Nations, especially given the absence of hospitals and emergency shelters. The necessity of erecting tents for makeshift homes add to the complexities, particularly as winter approaches, rendering such accommodations unsuitable for the cold weather. Compounded by the fact that people who have been displaced since 1948 have endured prolonged stays in tents, the Gaza Strip initially housed eight refugee camps, whose areas have expanded over time, transforming into densely

populated urban areas. The United Nations aims to avoid the creation of additional refugee camps, emphasizing the urgency of addressing the multifaceted challenges faced by the displaced population. The ongoing humanitarian crisis in Gaza underscores the critical need for international collaboration and concerted efforts to alleviate the suffering and provide sustainable solutions for those affected by the conflict.

Children dying in attack

The dire situation in Gaza reflects the devastating impact of the Israel-Hamas conflict, particularly on the most vulnerable members of society. The staggering number of casualties, especially among children, highlights the urgent need for international intervention and concerted efforts to bring about a cessation of hostilities. The international community, including the United Nations and humanitarian organizations, faces the challenge of providing immediate aid and relief to the affected population in Gaza. The reports from the Gaza Health Ministry paint a grim picture of the toll on civilians, emphasizing the need for comprehensive and coordinated humanitarian efforts to

alleviate the suffering of those caught in the crossfire. The plight of missing individuals, including a significant number of children, adds another layer of tragedy to the conflict. Families are torn apart, and the uncertainty surrounding the fate of the missing compounds the anguish for those awaiting news of their loved ones. The loss of journalists and humanitarian workers underscores the dangers faced by those striving to document and address the human cost of the conflict. Their sacrifices emphasize the importance of ensuring the safety of individuals working in conflict zones and the critical role of the media in bringing global attention to humanitarian crises. As the conflict continues, diplomatic efforts must intensify to facilitate a meaningful ceasefire and create conditions for a sustainable peace process. The international community must work collaboratively to address the root causes of the conflict and find a political resolution that ensures the rights, security, and dignity of all people in the region. In the face of such tragedy, a renewed commitment to dialogue, diplomacy, and respect for international law is essential to prevent

further loss of life and pave the way for a just and lasting peace in the region.

Shortage of water

The situation in Gaza has become increasingly difficult due to the water scarcity, particularly for those who managed to survive the recent attacks. As of October 15, families remaining in Gaza are facing a daily challenge of coping with a severe shortage of water. Each person is allocated only three liters of water per day, significantly below the standard daily requirement of 15 liters per individual. This scarcity intensifies the hardships faced by the residents, adding to the already complex and challenging circumstances in the region. The impact of the conflict extends beyond direct confrontations, affecting the daily lives of the general population in both Israel and Gaza. The scarcity of essential resources, such as water, poses a serious threat to the well-being of ordinary people, highlighting the far-reaching consequences of the ongoing conflict in the region.

Global observations

The repercussions of the Israel-Hamas conflict are reverberating globally, and India's stance is increasingly crucial given its historical ties with Israel and its

diplomatic efforts in the Middle East. India's appeal for peace and its provision of humanitarian aid underscores its commitment to fostering stability in the region. The Indian government has also emphasized the need for a Two-State Solution, which aligns with its consistent support for a just and lasting resolution to the Israel-Palestine conflict.

The economic impact on India is multifaceted, with the potential disruption of trade ties affecting various sectors. The longstanding trade relations between India and Israel, spanning defense, technology, and other industries, make it imperative for both nations to find a diplomatic resolution swiftly. The economic fallout, including inflationary pressures, could pose challenges for India's economy at a time when global stability is crucial. Beyond the economic dimension, the humanitarian crisis resulting from the conflict is a matter of deep concern for India. The loss of innocent lives, especially children, has garnered international attention and condemnation. India's emphasis on sending medical aid reflects not only its commitment to supporting the health needs of the affected population but also its

broader stance on the value of human life and well-being. As the conflict unfolds, the international community, including India, awaits a resolution that ensures lasting peace in the region. India's diplomatic efforts, humanitarian aid, and calls for restraint contribute to the collective global endeavor to mitigate the impact of the conflict and pave the way for a more stable and secure future for the people of Israel and Palestine. The coming days will likely witness intensified diplomatic efforts to bring about a cessation of hostilities and a path forward for a peaceful coexistence in the region.

Conclusion

The ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas is against the interests of the common citizens, and this war is not being fought in accordance with international rules and laws. The attacks carried out by Hamas and Israel is both in violation of human rights. The casualties in this conflict, especially among children and women, are alarmingly high. According to a report, Israel's new weapon, the "Gaspal," is designed to target enemies with the help of ground intelligence, information, and surveillance data collected in all systems.

This raises concerns about the potential impact on civilians. Some points are given below in this regard

1. Conflict Overview:

The ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas has been characterized by intense military operations, resulting in a high number of casualties, especially among vulnerable populations such as children and women. Both sides have engaged in actions that contravene international humanitarian laws and norms.

2. Human Rights Violations:

The attacks carried out by both Hamas and Israel has led to severe human rights violations. The disproportionate impact on civilians, including the alarming number of child casualties, raises concerns about the ethical conduct of the conflict. Targeting non-combatants, particularly in densely populated areas, is a breach of international humanitarian law.

3. New Weaponry - "Gaspal":

Israel's introduction of a new weapon called "Gaspal" has sparked additional worries. This weapon, equipped with advanced intelligence systems, claims to have the capability to differentiate between combatants and non-combatants. However,

there are uncertainties regarding the accuracy of such systems, especially in complex and densely populated urban environments.

4. Ethical and Humanitarian Concerns:

The use of sophisticated weaponry in conflict zones, particularly those with high civilian concentrations, raises ethical and humanitarian concerns. The potential for unintended civilian casualties and damage to critical infrastructure is significant, emphasizing the need for a careful and measured approach in warfare.

5. International Response:

Various nations, including the United States and Islamic countries, have condemned the conflict and called for an immediate cessation of hostilities. India, while expressing concern, has refrained from labeling Hamas as a terrorist organization, emphasizing the need for dialogue, negotiation, and a peaceful resolution.

6. Humanitarian Aid Efforts:

India has demonstrated its commitment to humanitarian assistance by sending 70 tons of essential supplies to the people of Palestine. This includes medicines and other necessary items, dispatched through

Egypt to reach Gaza. India's appeal for restraint, dialogue, and a diplomatic resolution underscores its stance on prioritizing the well-being of civilians.

7. Economic Impact on India:

The conflict has potential economic implications for India due to its trade relations with Israel. The disruption of trade and economic activities between Israel and Arab nations could have a ripple effect on the global economy, impacting India's economic interests.

8. The Urgency for Peace:

The conclusion emphasizes the urgent need for a peaceful resolution to the conflict. The conflict's humanitarian toll, violation of international laws, and potential economic repercussions underscore the importance of a collaborative international effort to bring about an end to hostilities and establish lasting peace.

In short, the detailed explanation highlights the multifaceted aspects of the Israel-Hamas conflict, encompassing human rights concerns, the introduction of new weaponry, international responses, humanitarian aid efforts, and the potential impact on India's economic interests. The overarching call is for a swift and peaceful

resolution to the conflict for the sake of global stability and the well-being of affected populations.

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