

## Palestine in Current Scenario: A Critical Study

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### **Abstract**

*The main theme of the study is to highlight the current situation in Palestine due to Israel invasion. The study focuses on the constant violation of the human rights by the Israel against Palestinians. The research discusses the impact of war on socio-economic condition of the peoples of Palestinians in the West bank and Ghaza strips. The role of international community and international organizations is discussed. The research approach is descriptive and analytical. The references and conclusions are in the end.*

**Key Words:** Violation of Human Rights, Palestine in Current Scenario, New Development.

### **Introduction**

On November 29, 1947-a date memorable in Jews history... the General assembly voted to recommend the partition of Palestine, with an economic union as proposed by the majority report. The Arab state was to include the central and eastern part of Palestine, from the valley of sdralon down to Beersheba western Galilee, and a strip of land along the Mediterranean coast from Gaza southward and along the Egyptian order to the Red Sea. Jaffa would constitute an enclave in the Jewish state, which was to extend over eastern galili and the valley Esdraelon, a Negeb. Jerusalem and Bethlehem with the adjoining territory were to stay outside of both states and be subject an administration responsible to the Trusteeship Council The Assembly also took note of Britain's decision to terminate the mandate by August 1,1948;provided for the establishment of the two states within two months after British withdrawal; established a five nation UN Palestine Commission to implement the resolution; and called upon the security Council to assist in its implementation of the plan, instructing it to interpret as a threat to peace any attempt to change the plan by force,1.(Lenzowski,1980,pp.404-405)

Prior to 1948, Palestine was a 10,000-square-mile area of land bordered by the Jordan River, Egypt, the Mediterranean Sea., Syria, and Lebanon. The Jews claim that Palestine is actually the site of the ancient land of Israel, which was, according to the Hebrew Bible, promised to the Jews by God. Palestinian Arabs, on the other hand claim that their sustained and continuous majority. The inability of either side to recognize the validity the other side's claims to the disputed territory has resulted in decades of instability and violence in the region.

Both Israel and the United States view the military actions of the Palestinian militia hamas as terrorist aggression, and cite Israeli national defence as the rationale for Israel's aggressive military response. Palestinian views the actions of the Israeli military as state-sponsored terrorism. Each side continues to suffer casualties as the impasse over territorial rights in the region continues. This conflict spills over into the regional and international communities, with both sides drawing support and military aide.

### **Gaza Strip and West Bank**

Gaza strip is the territory on the shore of the Mediterranean. This territory was originally designated to become part of a new Palestinian state under the 1947 United Nations partition plan for the former British-held mandate of Palestine. Egypt occupied Gaza from 1949 through the 1967 "six Day War". As of 1967, Israel officially occupied the area, until it

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withdrew its troops and settlements in 2005. Though Israel still controls some aspects of Gaza, it is officially still presided over by the Palestinian Authority. West Bank is a territory on the west bank of the Jordan River, formerly part of Jordan, but captured by Israel also in the Six –day War. Forty percent of the territory is currently presided over by the Palestinian Authority though it is officially under Israeli rule.

### **Hamas (Harkat al-Muqawama al-Islamiyya)**

Originally a Palestinian resistance movement as of early 2006. Hamas has been the ruling party in the Palestinian parliament. It is officially considered a terrorist organization by Australia, Canada, the United Kingdom, the European Union, Israel, and the United States.

### **Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO)**

A group formed by the Arab League (Egypt, Jordan, Syrian, Iraq, and Lebanon) with the expressed purpose of destroying the Jewish state of Israel and establishing Palestine as an Arab country. The PLO includes several smaller organizations, such as Faeh, which was founded prior to the founding of the PLO, but now functions as the organization's military arm. An organization called Black September, which was an offshoot of Fateh, was responsible for murdering eleven Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics in 1972. (EBSCO Host Connection, 2014)

### **Zionism**

A political movement (from the Hebrew word [Zion], meaning [Jerusalem]) stated by European secular Jews in the late nineteenth century. Zionism's goal was to establish a Jewish state in the 'Land of Israel'. The Zionist political movement was based on ancient Jewish traditions underscoring the importance of the Land of Israel, and fueled by the growing anti-Semitism throughout the world. Zionists also believed that Judaism transcended religious belief, and that all Jews constituted a single nation. Today, the term is often used to denote support for the modern state of Israel.

### **The Violation of Palestinian's Human rights**

Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strips live in an odd and oppressive limbo. They have no nation, no citizenship, and no ultimate power over their lives. Since 1967 when Israel conquered these areas (the final 22 percent of mandatory Palestine), Palestinians have been living under Israeli military occupation. While in some parts Israel has allowed a Palestinian autonomous entity to take on such municipal functions as education, health care, infrastructure and policing.

According to International law, an occupying force is responsible for the protection of the civilian population living under its control. Israel, however, ignores this requirement, routinely committing violations of the Geneva Conventions, a set of principles instituted after World War II to ensure that civilians would never again suffer as they had under 1 (A Synopsis)

Israeli forces regularly confiscate private land, imprison individuals without process—including children and physically abuse them under incarceration, demolish family homes, bulldoze orchards and crops, place entire towns under curfew, destroy shops and businesses, and kill civilians—and Palestinians are without power to stop any of it.

When a child is arrested, for example—often by a group of armed soldiers in the middle of night—parents can do nothing. Knowing that their sons most likely being beaten by soldiers on the way to the station, stripped and humiliated in prison, quite physically abused in multiple additional ways, and destined to be held—perhaps in isolation—for days, week, or months. Parents are without the ability to protect their child.

Finally, when the military trial under which their son is to be sentenced—often to years in prison—all they can do is hire a lawyer whose efforts, at best, will reduce the ultimate sentence by a few months. Meanwhile, the presence of such a lawyer provides Israel cover

for its “judicial System”. In fact, that Palestinians live, basically, in a prison in which Israel holds the keys. They cannot leave Gaza or the West Bank unless Israel guards allow them to. If they have been allowed out, they cannot return to their homes and families unless Israeli guards permit it.

Under orders from Defence Minister Yitzhak Rabin, ‘Soldiers armed with cudgels beat up those they could lay their hands on regardless of whether they were demonstrators, or not, breaking into homes by day and night, dragging men and women, young and old, from their beds to beat them. At Gaza’s Shifa Hospital 200 people were treated during the first five days of the new policy, most of them suffering from broken elbows and knees. Three had fractured skulls,”<sup>2</sup>(Dawid McDowall, 1989)

### **The Intafada**

Living under such hardship and humiliation, in the year 2000 the Palestinian population began an uprising against Israeli rule called the “Intafada.” This term rarely translated in the American media-is simply the Arabic word for uprising or rebellion- literally, it means “shaking off.” The American Revolutionary War, for example, would be called the American intifada against Britain. This is the second such uprising.

The first began in 1986 and ended in 1993 when the peace negotiations offered hopes of justice. (Sadly, in the following years these hopes were crushed after Israel, rather than withdrawing from the West Bank and Gaza, as promised, actually doubled its expansion in these areas.)During this first uprising, which consisted largely of Palestinians throwing stones at Israeli troops (David McDowall, 1989, p.7??).

### **Latest Development in the Region**

The twists and turns of political animosities, sectarian rivalries and territorial disputes in the Middle East over many decades now include further unraveling of the regional order as new forces take hold. The enduring Israeli- Palestinian conflict must be seen within this context. The regional order that has more or less prevailed for decades is fast unraveling and new forces are emerging that cannot be contained.

Since 2011 the rising toll of death and destruction in Syria, the flight of Syrian refugees to neighboring countries and the divisive policies of the Shia-dominated government in Baghdad have led commentators to depict a region riven more by sectarian animosities than the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Another shift has taken place at the international level, with the Americans no longer able to exercise decisive influence in the region overall. In their opposition to the Assad regime in Syria, the Americans were at one with their long-standing Arab ally Saudi Arabia, but they upset the Saudis by not doing more to bring him down. This omission was not the only source of aggravation to the Saudis who have come to question the commitment of the Americans to their erstwhile friends in the region. They were aghast when the Americans did nothing to prevent the fall of Mubarak in Egypt and watched in consternation as the Muslim Brotherhood came to power there. (The Guardian 26 July 2014)

Recent developments in Syria and Iraq, specifically the advances made by ISIS (The Islamic State in Iraq and Levant) and its declaration of a new Islamic caliphate across captured territory in both states, represent further unraveling of the regional order.

Israelis fear the double threat of Hezbollah and ISIS. Many Israelis compare ISIS to the Nazis. According to Mare Schulman (columnist for the Times of Israel) “Isis has engaged in its barbaric killing spread in public, in the light of day. They have been openly proud of their actions while the Nazis went to a great deal of effort to hide their crimes. Isis revels in their achievements since its forming. Israel has had to live with war, with dispute, with terror, but never with an evil as profound as that of ISIS (Mare Schular, 10/08/2014).

Israeli Chief of staff General Benny Gantz pauses during a press conference at the prime minister's office in Jerusalem, on August 27, 2014 in an Interview with Jerusalem Post pose with the question," do you think the world is overly worried about Islamic State," Gantz replied, "Israel Defense Forces has the wherewithal to defend itself against Islamic state ... The Islamic state is creating its own "shock and awe" by beheading innocent people. But I believe we are capable of dealing with and containing this threat and that is exactly what we should do."(Jerusalem Post, August 27, 2014)

On the other hand ISIS pledges to join the Palestinian Fight against "Barbaric Jews". The Islamic state of Iraq and the Levant (ISIS) has told the Palestinian people that it is "only a matter of time" before they reach Palestine to join the fight against "barbaric Jews". The Islamic militant group, who last month announced a "Caliphate" straddling the Iraqi-Syrian border and renamed themselves the Islamic state, released the provocative statement on an Isis-affiliated Twitter account.

" It is matter of time and patience before it (Islamic state) reaches Palestine to fight the barbaric Jews and kill those of them hiding behind the ghargad trees- the trees of the Jews,"(Gaza Crisis,31 July,2014). The Group Said, " As for the massacres taking place in Gaza against the Muslim men, women and children, then the Islamic State will do everything within its means to continue striking down every apostate who stands as an obstacle on its paths towards Palestine."

## Conclusion

It is concluded in the end that the violation of human rights of Palestinians is continuously going on. The international human rights agencies are not taking serious notice due to pressures of the super powers. The OIC (Organization of Islamic Countries) is also silent. The group and its "Caliph", Abu Bakar Al-Baghdadi, have faced criticism from some quarters for not coming to the aid of Palestinian civilians being killed in the Israeli Defence Forces operation Protective Edge in Gaza.

It is not the manner of the Islamic State to throw empty, dry and hypocritical words of condemnation and condolences like the Arab tawaght do in the UN and Arab League. The true objective of an Islamic state is to provide ultimate Perfection of human body and human soil. It is suggested in the end for Isis to show concern on constant violation of human rights of the Palestinian peoples.

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