

HUMAN RIGHTS: REALITY OR DELUSION IN PALESTINE?

Mahwish Ahmed

MPhil Scholar - Social Sciences (International Relations)

mahwish.ahmed88@gmail.com

Received: 26 March, 2024

Revised: 25 April, 2024

Accepted: 18 May, 2024

Published: 28 May, 2024

ABSTRACT

Rights are all the things that can be said to be legal and deemed appropriate by the law and/or legislation of a particular government in a country. It may also be defined as basic freedom and/or autonomy that all individuals of a state may be entitled to. Although experts define the term 'Human Rights' to be more in perspective and relativity. This article explores the meaning and concept of human rights in today's artificially intelligent world, illustrating the artificial existence of human rights' champions of the world. The aim is to scrutinize the looming question of what happens to the existence of such organisations and the powers invested within them, when it comes to Palestine and the ongoing active genocide there, now for the past 200+ days. Since October 2023 the world has witnessed the unfolding of some of the most unfathomable war crimes in Gaza, the coastal strip of Palestine. Never have any reporters been denied access in such areas for news coverage as these are part of Reporters' protocol for media coverage and share news alerts with the world. However, when this basic right and freedom of speech was snatched away by the Israelists, it was then that the men and women, as young as 22 and 25, like Motaz aziz, stood up to fight for their right and freedom of speech through the lens of their smartphones, shooting the most drastic reality that mankind could never imagine, the inhuman side of humans. With esteemed organisations and groups of activists working worldwide as part of UNICEF and ICJ, it becomes an incredulous reality when the world watches the Gaza tragedy unfold right within their eyes through the social media lens today. According to the United Nations, 1.7 million people are internally displaced, or about 75 percent of Gaza's 2.2 million residents. The displacement itself has led to immense challenges for the population and the humanitarian response in terms of shelter, food, sanitation and health. 13000+ Palestinian children (alone) have been brutally massacred in the name of fishing Hamas militants from Gaza. It leads to the inevitable question brimming globally, if it ever would end. The answer lies in the article, a Muslim onlooker's perspective on how Western entities of power nail onto their agenda via violence, even when it completely surpasses and negates all criteria of social justice and human rights in 2024, because: '*A right delayed, is a right denied.*' - Martin Luther King.

Key words: Human rights, social justice, violence

1.INTRODUCTION

When a baby is born in today's neo liberal world, the child already possesses a number of rights as he/she is considered part of the human race residing on Earth. In fact, now in some countries, the child even has the right to not have a gender associated with them from the time of the birth, up til the time they wish to choose any one of the seventy two genders recognized by the medicine fraternity worldwide (Allahrakha, 2024). This may appear to be daunting for countries where for the basics of life, food, health and education, people cram up into long queues for

uncountable dreary hours, all with the intent of being hoped to be treated as a human.

The images which blew up the world's different screens in Oct. 2023 were aghastingly in contradiction to the safe world we wish to imagine for these children. They portrayed severed limbs, horrified faces and gory blood splattered across streets to forever haunt the viewers sitting and absorbing this from miles away. Today with technology, news that would reach us previously in days and/or weeks, now becomes readily available within minutes or hours. The overflow of such

unfiltered information has also led masses a quick and real insight into the hypocrisy, earlier, only maybe judged as a bystander, of the west, when it comes to implementation of human rights in Palestine. These images included the portrayal of ugly remains of human flesh and blood and the goriest of images which were once only imagined in bloodlust cinema of the West. The most sorrowful element in all this is the fact that numerous organisations, that otherwise raise slogans for the rights of women, children, old, weak, yet remain quiet in the face of this humongous calamity descending upon innocents which resumes to the need to understand this conflict first and then the calamities that befell on citizens of Palestine and Israel, whether they are alike, victimising both, or only one is sacrificed to the double standards of a world feeding a pro-Zionist rhetoric to the rest.

1. CONTRADICTIONARY VIEWS:

2.1: 'INDIGENOUS' ISRAELIS:

The Israelis claim that they are pious descendents of Prophet Moses and David (Arabic- Prophet Moosa and Prophet Dawood) respectively, and their return to the Holy Land hence began around late 19th century. This promised land, Palestine, lay within the Ottoman Empire existent back then, as the epicentre of Islam and Prophet Muhammed’s followers, the Muslims, or more commonly understood as the Palestinian muslims. The moribundity of the Ottomans at that point in history was known, and a quite clear invitation to the uprising nations of Europe and West to try and suppress the Muslim possession of Holy Lands within the empire and turn it into a favourable home security for themselves. This became easier and possible due to the fall of the Ottomans during the WWI and declarations to make claims on lost Turk territory, then ending up in the possession of the House of Saud, from Makkah. The idea these displaced Jews needed the British (as victorious Allies of WWI) was to lend support to bring in Jews from Europe and the rest of the world, changing the demographic equation based on a biblical statement that is 4000 years old is a ridiculous rationale. The hills and undulating terrain next to—and including—Jerusalem were always known and named as Zion, and this took on a symbolic call for Jews all over the world to “return to and concentrate around Zion.” Thus, all Jews worldwide who want to establish their presence central to Zion are commonly addressed as Zionists;

all Zionists are Jews, but not all Jews are Zionists. This sentiment of Zionism was later translated into the Protocols of the Elders of Zion, a book originally published in 1903 but later banned (Khan, 2023). This, coupled with the Balfour Declaration 1917 and Treaty of Lausanne 1923, became the final nail in the coffin of the Palestinian border rip had been put in, and the formation of Israel was shortly afterwards, by 1948. For a large part in history, the israelites had made claims to be the victimised, scrutinised and exiled race at every stance and effort to return to their homeland, but that narrative underwent a huge question, when a Six-day war capsized all their attempts. The timeline of Israel realisation can be put down as follows:

- **14th May 1948- Israel's date of establishment**
- **1948-49- 78% mandatory Palestine lost in NAKBA (Catastrophe)**
- **1956- no win no loss war**
- **1967- 6 day war**

This was so because much of what has happened post the Six day war, leaves little for a right mind of sanity to not understand the hypocritic attitude of the west in lending their support and their customary association with the supposed Elders of Zion to initiate arrival of their Messiah (the Antichrist) upon their “Holy Land”.



2.2: THE PALESTINIAN POINT OF VIEW:

As per the UN suggestion, a two state policy was to be adopted to decide the fate of tussle between the Israeli claimist and the original residents of Palestine. However, backed by the British Declaration, the Israeli's proceeded forward to lay claims physically and politically on these zones, thereby confining the bulk of the 2.2 million population to the Gaza coastal strip which is merely 41 km long and 10 km wide at maximum (Khan, 2023). The Palestinians did give land and trade space to these arriving Jews, opening their hearts and societies like any civil society does for immigrants. However, trouble began in paradise after the mid 20th century. The typical Israeli narrative "the world is against us" should actually have been the Gazan song, especially after the 1967 Six day war that changed some of the western rhetoric towards the Palestinian point of view as well (Smith, 2003). This is so because these Zionists have carried out the most blasphemous acts and violent actions towards humanity in the attempt to occupy the Holy Lands. Especially from October 2023, the kind of blood bath that is openly viewed through the eyes of social media is horrendous to even fathom.

Amidst such chaos and anti democratic standing of the world leaders, emerged a new kind of journalism and patriotism which tore the boundaries and broke barriers of international boundaries. The Gazan cause and Palestinian awareness started to spread like wildfire when young university graduates and students like Motaz Azaiza, Plestia Alaqad, Hind Khoudary, Bisan and many such more stood up for the cause and broadcasted their gruesome everyday to the world.

2. THE INHUMANE VIOLENCE ON PALESTINIAN HUMANS:

Much of whatever that has to be said about the violence and atrocities inflicted upon these innocent Palestinian men, women, children, young, old and weak have already been printed and published, yet a simple internet search serves to bring up quite a well fed western (US led) rhetoric about how Palestine IS the land of Jews and is NOT 'occupied' territory. The use of tamed vocabulary in no way shuns the blow that they and especially the Muslim world feels in dismissing their right to even voice their concerns with the right terminology. USA in a rather twisted way has become the democratic Frankenstein, in all honesty, as in the name of rights, their institutions that were supposedly for prevailing the transparency

of justice, have now conveniently changed words to portray the victim as the potential danger. A similar approach has been made towards the Israeli actions. From newspaper headlines to statements made in ICJ show how the drastic effect on the Arab lives in Palestine have been dimmed to make them deserving of nonchalance by the world. But thankfully, just the very opposite has happened.

Few examples indicate the use of rhetorical figures, or in other words, euphemism, to reduce the severity of such violent acts and report in contradiction to peace journalism (Inceoglu, 2023). Such attempts are done to dehumanise the palestinian experience of war and their viewpoint, diminishing their side of the story in the entire narrative and downplaying Israeli war crimes as quoted by Abdul Kader Assad, US linguist.

- **Palestinians Dead Vs Palestinians Killed/ Massacred**
- **Hospitals Attacked Vs Hospitals Bombed**
- **Israeli Mass murder/lynching by Arab terrorists Vs Israeli brutal atrocities on Palestinians**
- **Gaza Streets on fire Vs Gazan residential areas lit by Israel bombs**

The real face of violence however is seen the outrageous journalist and doctors' reports that found way to world wide web and newspapers about the kind of genocide at play there which should have been stopped as per the instructions laden in the UN charter, Chapter VII to safeguard people living within their border from all acts of violence and/ or terrorism and to use all available means to suppress and stop any and all terrorist activity (Jhamkhandi, 2022). Some examples of what happens behind those border in occupied territory are:

- **Limb amputations to stop poison and/or decay from spreading to other body organs**
- **Emergency C-sections of pregnant women without any anesthetic facilities. Worthy to note here that doctors worldwide, during their practice are forbidden to use tools or make any incision, however minute, on a breathing human body without sufficient anesthesia.**
- **Eye pelleting and numerous fractures due to untimely, non patterned and stupendously perpetual bombardments hitting civilian blocks at ungodly hours.**

- Human bones and bodies crushed under falling bricks and building debris and huge blocks of lead and iron, skewed like flesh ready for grilling.
- Still births and deaths of minors (unofficial numbers-20000)- enough to fit completely in a football stadium (to give perspective).
- Flogging and forced stripping of Muslim men to flash their privates
- Open and forced display of gang rape of pregnant women before their families preceding their massacre in Al-Shifa hospital during Ramadan 2024.

3. METHOD OF TACKLING PALESTINE ISSUE IN AN ALTERNATE REALITY:

If this would have been an episode of an acknowledged fighter series, the human rights' advocates would have been, in an alternate reality, rushed to the defenses of the tormented Arabs openly jailed in Gaza. According to (Ladadwa and Nasr, 2022), the institutions like UDHR (United Declaration of Human Rights), ICJ (International Court of Justice), UNICEF (United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund), HRMI (Human Rights Measurement Initiative) and IHL (International Humanitarian Law) would have passed laws enacting occupied forces on this land and opened border accepting immigrants in Jordan and Egypt and/or persuading them to ease BCF (Border Security Forces) and allow medical assistance/ professionals/aid, peace journalists, humanitarian aid/supplies reach the victims. The displacement and brutal reality of Palestine would not be a part of mainstream media but rather attempts to bring the leaders of the two factions towards dialogue searching for a not such a despicable way to deal with the crisis.

Important female leaders of the world would discard their white women privilege to a more Diana-inspired side and speak about the anguish that these brown Arab women would have to live through each day, like Hilary Clinton and Taylor Swift from pop media. The likes of Michelle Obama and Malala Yousufzai would not stay quiet and aloof to the gender related crime becoming everyday norm in that part of the world and would make their voices heard to the huge following that they seem to enjoy and take pride of.

4. ROLE OF PAKISTAN IN PALESTINIAN ISSUE OVER THE YEARS:

- The Indian Muslims since as early as 1919 after World War I did not recognize the Treaty of Sevres that took apart the Ottoman Empire limb by limb. Even later when the Treaty of Lausanne replaced it in 1923, they were evidently unhappy as Israel claimed forced possession over them.
- After 1947 however, when Pakistan became a member of the UNO, she had over different times shown her persistence to stand by Palestine's side.
- In Feb. 1974, PM Z.A.Bhutto hosted the OIC summit conference in Lahore and invited PLO (Palestine liberation organisation) members and graced them with honour. The Declaration of Lahore signed then also recognized the rights of Palestinian Muslims and evidently vouched for their cause making it the primary aim for the Muslim world that Israeli occupation must end. PM Bhutto was also known to have cordial terms with the then PLO leader Yassir Arafat.

It is therefore that to date, Pakistan does not formally recognize the state of Israel in the UNO. The Pakistani passport is valid for many countries of the world except Israel. In the new millenia Pakistani government has also repeated passed resolutions to persuade USA to help de escalate the Israeli violence to end the genocide of innocent Palestinians. Alongside Turkey, Pakistan has internationally and domestically also projected her firm standing for the same. The recent invitation to the Iranian President to Pakistan in Apr. 2024 was also quite a diplomatic way of showing support to Irani militant ultimatums to the attackers of Palestine.

5. CONCLUSION:

The Israel-Palestine Conflict is indeed one of the many signs of the End of times as the type of human rights that are available to the privileged westerners cease to exist beyond Gaza borders. It is therefore justifiable to ponder whether the need of more violence induced ultimatums are required- particularly of the likes that Iran just recently delivered to Israel on 10th Apr. 2024- so that the so called and self proclaimed guardians of democracy may come forward to really determine a solution for this issue that has taken countless lives with itself below the ground and numerous futures and hopes rekindles then blown apart, then again rekindled,

once every now and then, in the glimmer that some entity or Muslim philosophy or prophecy may change their reality to a more humane one. But until then, we continue to witness how the West sublimely crucifies the Muslim world one nation at a time and fails to reveal to us what human rights actually look like.

Biodata:

Mahwish Ahmed

MPhil Scholar - Social Sciences (International Relations)

The author has been an educator for a little over a decade now in reputed schools of Karachi, Pakistan and led her History/ Social Studies department for the last eight years. She has attended numerous teacher training courses and conferences over the course of time to help her groom herself and her faculty in the challenges of the growing demands of educational expertise, from the likes of British Council (for O'levels History-Pakistan Studies) and SIE, especially in the post covid era. Despite having command over her subject content, Mahwish is a firm believer that a good teacher never stops learning, everyday, from not only her superiors but also her subordinates and her students and that's what sets her on the path of excellence achievement. She has also completed her Train the trainer course by ICT, having also done free lance teacher training in intervals at OUP- Oxford University Press for more than two years in renowned schools of Karachi. Having social media presence as a tutor and history enthusiast cum teacher, Mahwish worked for a year as the face of History lectures for a youtube channel owned by Junaid Akram-aka- Ganjiswaq, a rising youtuber/ digital content creator for social change with a following of 6K. Currently, Mahwish is pursuing her Mphil Social Sciences-International Relations, meanwhile working part time at the Beaconhouse O'Levels Section Pechs, to get closer to her dream of playing a role to acquire to chance to make substantial presence in the foreign office and/or affairs of Pakistan in future.

JCISS
International Journal of Contemporary
Issues in Social Sciences