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Israel Palestine Conflict:

Watering the Growth and Development of the Arms and Ammunition Industry with Palestinian Blood

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Abstract

Israel Palestine conflict is a historical dispute which has multi-faceted aspects. These aspects include religious sensitivities, geo-political perspective, colonial impacts and economic repercussions. A historical decision by colonists led to creation of this bloody conflict which has taken an ugly shape these days. This policy brief identifies the least discussed aspect of this conflict i.e. enormous benefits for arms industry and private security companies. Weapons industry in the US, EU and Israel has taken huge advantage of Zionists fear of being victimized again after the infamous holocaust. Irony of the matter is that in order to avoid another genocide of Jewish people, Israel has caused a massacre of innocent Palestinian people who had nothing to do with holocaust. This massacre is so revenue generating for the global weapon industry that a peaceful resolution of the conflict has always been disregarded. It is not clear how many innocent Palestinians will die to calm down the fear among Zionists and how much Palestinian blood will spill to satisfy greed of weapon industry stakeholders.

Key Words: Palestine, Israel, weapon industry, arms, private security agencies, research and development

Executive Summary

Issue

Pakistan's foreign policy is embedded in Article 40 of the Constitution of Pakistan which is derived from Mr. Jinnah's statement about the objectives of foreign policy. Jinnah emphasized that Pakistan will always stand up with those who are being oppressed in violations of the UN resolution. This later become a principle of Constitutional law which ensures Pakistan's role as a promoter of settlement of international disputes through peaceful means to encourage international peace and security.

Recommendations

Pakistan, as a sovereign state, should adopt two immediate policy initiative.

1. Identify and bring to light, all the aspects of the Israel-Palestine dispute i.e. religious, geo-political, economic and psychological. This has got to be done at a large scale using the full strength of social media.
2. Clearly state its foreign policy principles and emphasis the need for a peaceful resolution of this long-standing and very sensitive matter.
3. Clearly state its support for the Palestinian populace.

I) Historical Background of Israel-Palestine Conflict

After World War I, the winning alliance decided to partition the Ottoman Empire. They decided to divide the conquered nations amongst themselves. The Palestinian region was taken over by the British. In 1918, the League of Nations accepted the British mandate over the Palestinian region, i.e., allowing Britain to take control over the administration of the region. The mandate also included a provision regarding the establishment of a Jewish state in the region. During Hitler's rule over Germany, Jewish people suffered the Holocaust which almost extinguished the Jewish nation. The Holocaust sufferings put more weight on the Jewish peoples' claim towards the land in Palestine. Thus, the British Government decided to enforce their promise as per their mandate. As a result, Jewish people from across the world got together under the flag of Zionism in Palestine.

The United Nations ("UN") gave independence to the land of Palestine from British control and divided the land into two states: Jewish and Arab. The Arabs considered this as a hostile act towards their territorial sovereignty and opposed this move of the UN. Riots and conflicts started to emerge in which numerous Arabs and Jews were killed. These riots took the form of a war in 1947 which ended in 1949. In July 1949, Israel managed to take control over two-thirds of the former British mandate whereas Egypt and Jordan managed to take control over the Gaza strip and West Bank, respectively.

In this entire conflict, the most sensitive and disputed parts of the Palestinian land are the Gaza Strip, West Bank and Jerusalem. These three parts have been claimed by three big religions of the World for centuries: Jews, Christians and Muslims. All these three big religions have made various attempts to capture the Palestinian land for many centuries. The Palestinian remained historically disputed among the followers of these religions. Sometimes, it was captured by the Jewish people, sometimes Christians got to rule the land and lastly under Ottoman Empire, Muslims could govern this sacred territory.

II) Pakistan's Foreign Policy Principles and Recognition of Israel

According to the founder of Pakistan, Quaid-e-Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah,

“Our foreign policy is one of friendliness and goodwill towards all the nations of the world. We do not cherish aggressive designs against any country or nation. We believe in the principle of honesty and fair play in national and international dealings and are prepared to make our utmost contribution to the promotion of peace and prosperity among the nations of the world. Pakistan will never be found lacking in extending its material and moral support to the oppressed and suppressed peoples of the world, and in upholding the principles of the United Nations Charter.”

The Constitution of Pakistan lays down guidelines for the conduct of foreign policy of the country. Article 40 of the constitution provides that:

“The State shall endeavour to preserve and strengthen fraternal relations among Muslim countries based on Islamic unity, support the common interests of the peoples of Asia, Africa and Latin America, promote international peace and security, foster goodwill and friendly relations among all nations and encourage the settlement of international disputes by peaceful means.”

Pakistan's foreign policy is embedded in Article 40 of the Constitution of Pakistan which is derived from Mr. Jinnah's statement about the objectives of foreign policy. Jinnah emphasized that Pakistan will always stand up with those who are being oppressed in violations of the UN resolution. This later become a principle of Constitutional law which ensures Pakistan's role as a promoter of settlement of international disputes through peaceful means to encourage international peace and security.

Furthermore, Palestine issue gained significant attention in the subcontinent as Jinnah took up the matter as his political roadmap. The All India Muslim League (AIML), under Jinnah's leadership, launched various protests and passed many resolutions in support of the Arab cause and to show solidarity with their Arab brethren. Jinnah supported Palestine at both national and international forums and firmly

rejected the Balfour Declaration. The Muslim League then called for a cancellation of the Announcement and asked for removal of British Command over Palestine. Jinnah very firmly maintained that, "*Indian Muslims would consider the British as enemy of Islam if they failed to alter its present pro-Jewish policy in Palestine.*"

Since Israel has been reluctant to resolve its dispute with Palestine through peaceful means, Pakistan considers Israel's actions in Palestine a violation of international law as enshrined in the Constitution of Pakistan as well as the UN's resolution.

III) Benefit to Military Industrial Complexes and Private Security Companies

There are multiple reasons for the perpetuation of the Israel-Palestinian Conflict. For instance, Israeli Prime Minister's invocation of ethno-religious policies; Iran's continuous arming of the militant groups striving to resist the Israeli occupation; and, military support of the United States to the Israeli government.

However, the key reason for the unwillingness on behalf of the United States' to end the conflict and the constant perpetuation of the conflict, are the profits made by the arms industry, trade and development corporations and the private security companies of Israel. The arms industry, established in Israel, the United States and the European Union (EU), is benefitting the most out of this conflict.

Notably, Israel is the sixth largest weapon exporter of the world, and its economy is heavily reliant on weapons' manufacturing and export. The occupied Palestinian territories have become a laboratory for Israel to test its weapons and then subsequently selling them in the international market by labelling them as "battle proven" or "combat proven". According to a report, Israel Defense Forces (IDF) action on the Palestinians in 2014 have exponentially boosted Israel's weapon exports. In essence, the interest of the arms industries in the conflict and their motive to make more profits by keeping the conflict alive is the primary reason why Israel-Palestine conflict is still raging on.

The representatives propagating the motive of the private security companies and IDF have made it to the *Knesset*, which is the unicameral legislature of Israel. They always end up taking steps that flame the conflict rather than extinguishing it. One such example was Ariel Sharon, the defence minister of Israel, who ordered the invasion of Lebanon in the 1980s in collusion with the IDF and Mossad, Israel's intelligence agency. Moreover, the said minister visited Temple Mount which resulted in a backlash from the Muslim community and further flamed the conflict.

Post the 1967 war, Israel's constant occupation of the Palestinian territories has made those areas a colony. All the wars, conflicts and intifadas that have arisen so far, have led to the considerable growth of Israel's innovation and technology with respect to the arms and ammunitions industry. Israeli security companies have been receiving preferential treatment from the EU in terms of research and development projects. The EU Horizon 2020, which is world's largest research and development funding initiative, permitted Israeli companies to engage in 1.37 billion Euros worth of military and security projects. The research and innovation in arms and ammunition sector has not just made Israel politically stronger but also contributed to its economy.

Israel boosted its economy by exporting the weapons used to combat the Palestinian resistance in the international market. Israel was the third largest arms exporter between 2013 and 2018, contributing 3.1% to the global arms export. The primary reason for such a large number of weapon being exported is because these weapons are of the latest technology and are now being used on the colonized people of Gaza and the West Bank. Successful experiments in real war settings increase the demand for these weapons. For example, Israel tested its drone technology during the 1973 war and since 1980, Israel contributes to 80% of the global drone exports. The weapons include counterinsurgency and surveillance related technologies. Based on the nature of the aforesaid weapons, it is clear that they are being used in a colonial settler framework.

Gaza's Great March of Return was launched by youth groups in 2018 through which they demanded an end to the decade long blockade and advocating for the right of return for the Palestinian refugees. Israel has made Gaza a laboratory, specifically after its disengagement from Gaza in 2005, to test its high-tech barriers and installations resulting in a digital colonization. Israeli response towards the march

resulted in the death of 210 people. Tavor 7 was the rifle that Israel tested on the participants of the March. As per the Israeli Weapon Industry, Israel used this weapon in 2018 and labelled it as “extensively proven in the battlefield”. Along with the aforementioned rifle, Israel has further tested the electric fence and other crowd-control products and dispersal methods, for instance, the Sea of Tears drone which drops tear gas on the civilian population. The use of the Sea of Tears drone was experimental, and its producer received hundreds of orders from international purchasers.

Thus, Israel has been using Gaza as a laboratory to test its lethal weapons and then offering them in the international market as combat proven. The innovation in weaponry technology, based on its experiments on the people of Gaza, has resulted in increased exports, public and private profits and added to Israel’s reputation on the global stage.

IV) Conclusion

The Israel-Palestinian conflict started to provide ‘relief’ to holocaust victims in the form of Zionism that promoted the religious belief of Judaism. This ‘struggle of relief’ for holocaust victims, through religious beliefs, has turned into an uncontrollable sense of fear which paralyzed Israel as a nation so much that it is now generating enormous benefits in the form of investment, export revenues and other economic gains. Opting out of a military solution is no longer an option for Israel owing to all the economic benefits this conflict generates for it.

Since significant evidence exist to prove that the international weapons industry in the United States, EU and Israel is a huge beneficiary of the conflict between Israel and Palestine, it further reiterates gross violation of fundamental principles of foreign policy of Pakistan, i.e. international peace is threatened, obstructing settlement of conflict through peaceful means and resulting in the oppression and suppression of the people of Palestine. One of the manifold reasons why Pakistan will not recognize Israel as a legitimate state of the international community. Civilized nations of the world

need to recognize the destructive side of Israel-Palestine conflict to prevent the humanitarian crisis that is resulting in the genocide of Palestinians.

V) Recommendations

Meanwhile Pakistan, as a sovereign state, should adopt two immediate policy initiative.

1. Identify and bring to light, all the aspects of the Israel-Palestine dispute i.e. religious, geo-political, economic and psychological. This has got to be done at a large scale using the full strength of social media.
2. Clearly state its foreign policy principles and emphasis the need for a peaceful resolution of this long-standing and very sensitive matter.
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