



Food Insecurity and International Response: Addressing Malnutrition in Palestine

- Zahra Farooqi (III BA LLB)

Food insecurity remains one of the gravest humanitarian issues in the Palestinian territories, with almost 1.8 million people who make up over one-third of the population, unable to access sufficient food. The situation in Gaza is grotesque, with persistent hostilities, a 17-year-imposed blockade, and endemic poverty significantly degrading an already battered system. The consequences are obvious and stark for children as hunger rates continue their climb.

Limited access to agricultural land and resources is one of the main causes of food insecurity in Palestine. Land seizure, destruction of their crops, and no access to irrigation water due to military aggression and constructs of settlements, are just a handful of obstacles faced by the Palestinian farmers in the West Bank. In Gaza, the siege has prevented agricultural production and trade since nearly 80% of the people rely on the government's humanitarian aid.

Wider repercussions are also evident, and not just the obvious

ones. Insufficient food and hunger dash hopes and catastrophically drive families into poverty. Due to the need to import more expensive goods or to depend on handouts, families often do not invest in their education or health, aggravating their vulnerability. Women and children are the most vulnerable, with mothers starving themselves to feed their children and malnourished infants adversely affected for life. Israel has cut off access to food, water and fuel; this has led to an artificially devised, accelerated and unparalleled famine. Each Palestinian living in Gaza is hungry and food insecure. Hundreds have already died as a result of lack of food and severe dehydration.

The international response to this destruction has been both reprehensible and inadequate. Humanitarian agencies, of which the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), and World Food Programme (WFP), are only examples, have an indispensable role to play in food aid and nutrition programs, but in these efforts are often hindered by financial constraints and logistical barriers that, at times, are compounded by constraints on the movement of aid into and

News at a Glance

The United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) published a report on Tuesday highlighting the worsening condition of press freedom in Afghanistan, with journalists encountering increasing limitations, arbitrary detentions, and a widespread atmosphere of fear and self-censorship, since the Taliban seized power in August 2021. For more information, see [here](#).

The prosecutor at the International Criminal Court (ICC) filed an application on Wednesday for an arrest warrant against Myanmar's military chief, Senior General Min Aung Hlaing, over alleged crimes against humanity committed against the Rohingya minority. For more information, see [here](#).

Russia on Monday vetoed a United Nations Security Council draft resolution aimed at protecting civilians in Sudan amidst the country's ongoing conflict. For more information, see [here](#).



throughout Palestinian territories. under such conditions.

Advocating for policy changes is another part of the crisis management efforts. The international community has been urging the relaxation of restrictions in trade and movement to make the local agriculture stronger and reduce dependency on aid. Meanwhile, community organizations are working to empower Palestinian farmers with the equipment, seeds, and appropriate training required to enhance productivity in an unfavorable environment.

While these efforts are one way to alleviate the situation, the core issue of food insecurity would be addressed only by ameliorating their root causes, through a concerted international effort to ease restrictions on movement and trade, allowing Palestinians to regain access to their resources and restoring their agriculture sector. Sustainability in such farming methods could be invested in, such as that encouraged by organizations based locally, such as the Canaan Center For Organic Research & Extension (CORE) and Union of Agricultural Work Committees (UAWC), empowering farmers to increase productivity and resilience

Regional cooperation will also be needed to ensure that there is adequate water for irrigation. Co-operation to develop shared water resources can help alleviate the scarcity and rejuvenate agriculture again. Moreover, Socio-political barriers must be addressed and finally, land disputes must be resolved, ensuring agricultural areas are protected and peacebuilding initiatives are pushed forward. Only when Palestinians gain control over their livelihoods can the persistent food insecurity, an alarming reminder of the broader humanitarian crises they endure, be effectively addressed.

Israel's Trepidation Spreading Enormous Abhorrence

- Sragvi Gaur (II B.B.A LLB)

No one in this world has ever been free of "fear" and has experienced it at least once in life for sure. Fear, if not handled in time, can lead to destruction either inside you or outside. This fear is evident in the context of security concerns and territorial disputes. Israel has long been apprehensive of Hamas in Gaza and Hezbollah in Lebanon, both of which are considered

News at a Glance

The governments of the Republic of Chile, the Republic of Costa Rica, the Kingdom of Spain, the French Republic, Luxembourg, and Mexico have referred Afghanistan for further investigation to the International Criminal Court (ICC) on Thursday for violation of women's rights in Afghanistan. For more information, see [here](#).

The Leninsky District Court of Kursk issued an in absentia arrest order for France 24 journalist Catherine Norris Trent and several other unidentified individuals on Tuesday. In a statement issued on Telegram, the court alleges that the group crossed into the Sudzhansky District of Kursk illegally while filming a report with Ukrainian armed forces. For more information, see [here](#).

Six environmental activists have been released from police custody in Cambodia on Monday after they were detained over the weekend for trespassing in the Vern Sai Siem Reap National Park. For more information, see [here](#).



terrorist organizations that threaten its existence.

Hamas and Hezbollah are often accused by Israel of stockpiling and smuggling in dangerous weapons and storing them in civilian areas. As per [Article 51\(7\) and 58 of Additional Protocol I of the Geneva Convention](#), using civilians as shields and placing military targets in populated areas are prohibited respectively. Despite this, several media reports show that [Hamas and Islamic Jihad](#) have carried out ambushes, mortar fire and anti-tank rocket attacks, which have killing many Israeli soldiers. The G7, knowing the fact that these terrorist organisations are backed by Iran which is powerful in terms of nuclear power, issued a [Joint declaration on October 19, 2024](#), urging Iran to stop supporting Hamas, Hezbollah, Houthis and other non-state actors.

Under [Article 2\(4\)](#) of the UN Charter, there is a prohibition of threat or use of force in International relations. However, [Article 51](#) provides the right of self-defense privilege in response to armed attacks.

Let's take the International Court of Justice's remark in relation to proportionality and necessity

under the framework of self defence in [Nicaragua v. United States case of 1986](#). Here, [Nicaragua claimed that the U.S. was breaching International Law and 1956 Treaty](#) by engaging in military and paramilitary activities in and against Nicaragua. The U.S. was accused of engaging in military actions such as mining Nicaragua's harbors, bombing ports, and launching attacks against Nicaraguan territory. Hence, the ICJ concluded that the U.S.'s military actions against Nicaragua were disproportionate and asked the U.S. to immediately cease and pay for all the damages it had made. The Court highlighted that the [right of self defense](#) for any such act must be fair in its proportionality and necessity. And hence, even Israel may be questioned for its counter attack over Hamas and Hezbollah, which is causing enormous threat to life and property. For which it may respond with its right to self defense principle. But are Israel's actions truly proportional? Israel's action shall definitely fall under the right of self defense up to some extent till it is not posing harm on the minds and lives of innocent civilians. Israel's initial aim with which it started counter attack was only to erase all the

News at a Glance

Istanbul police detained dozens of protesters on Monday during demonstrations calling for stronger protections against violence targeting women in Türkiye. The protest, held on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, saw police blocking access to İstiklal Avenue by closing surrounding streets to prevent the gathering. For more information, see [here](#).

Police forces clashed violently with supporters of former prime minister Imran Khan in Pakistan on Monday as nationwide protests erupted against Khan's detention, local media reported. The confrontations led to injuries among both demonstrators and police officers as well as the death of four Pakistani paramilitary officers. For more information, see [here](#).



camps and weaponry of these paramilitary organisations. And Israeli military officials themselves claimed that all the Hama's brigades have already been destroyed. Then, if this is the case, what is the need for continuing this war which started a year before?

This fight, which has continued for more than a year now, has caused significant destruction, loss of lives, and will leave scars for many years to come. And this is why Israel's counter attack doesn't seem proportional, considering it in terms of time span for which it has been in motion, enormous lives it has taken, destruction it has caused and mental trauma it has posed on the minds of young and adults. Reports of Palestinian detainees, particularly women, being held in inhumane conditions violate Article 76 of the Fourth Geneva Convention in relation to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and United Nations Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners in relation to denial of medical facility, hygiene and spiritual assistance which detainees need during their detention period. These examples of how Palestinian detainees are being treated show that the

Principles of Humanity are blurry in the Heart of Israel.

Therefore, in light of all these atrocities, it is a need of the hour now, that Israel and the parties in opposition must mutually come to an agreement, and disengage from this prolonged conflict and ceasefire. Mediators like the U.S. must be more proactive in pushing the parties towards formation of peace treaties or agreements. If these efforts fail, the UN Security Council or the International Criminal Court must take decisive steps to bring the conflict to an end.

Upcoming Activities

Human Rights Day: Our Rights, Our Future, Right Now (Dec 10):

This webinar by American Bar Association on the 76th Anniversary of Human Rights Day will address global human rights challenges, including the plight of Rohingya refugees, crimes against humanity in Sudan, and advocacy for women's rights and the ERA in the US. It commemorates the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which sets out a broad range of fundamental rights and freedoms for all individuals worldwide. For more information, view [here](#).

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