

Unit 3 Essay

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In the midst of conflict, innocent lives are being taken. The question we must ask ourselves, and the Israeli government is: Should the war between Israel and Hamas stop? Critics argue that Israel's actions are necessary for security and self-defense. They Blame everything on Hamas, instead of taking credit for what they have done. They blame everything on Palestinian, and somehow get away with it everytime. They believe that the land is there so it gets them upset whenever they are attacked. They then go to the media, and show the attacks that the Palestinians do, but don't show the attacks they do. They also don't tell the people the motives for those attacks, so it makes the Palestiniasn look bad, and the Istrealis look good. However, evidence shows the atrocities Israel is doing like the recent bombings. These bombings are harming civilians and they violate international humanitarian law. It almost seems as if Israel is bombing the people on purpose. Why I say this is because they attacked schools and hospitals, two places where even if there are terrorists you shouldn't attack. This is not just me talking, this is everyone who cares for life talking. There was no evidence to attack the school or the hospital, but they still attacked. These realities show the true face of Israel, and how to reach its goal of taking not only Palestine, but also the surrounding countries, it will do anything including killing innocent people. They believe that this is their holy land, and to capture it they are doing anything they can, and want. No evidence of Israel defeating the enemy is present, but there is plenty of evidence for them killing innocent civilians. While acknowledging the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, I believe that the indiscriminate bombings in Gaza have devastating consequences for innocent civilians. In this essay, I will explore the myths surrounding these attacks and present evidence supporting the urgent need for change.

Amnesty International, October 20, 2023, known for its campaigns to end abuses of human rights, has documented Israeli attacks in Gaza, revealing unlawful actions that must be

investigated as war crimes. They say this, because between 7 and 12 October, Israeli forces carried out air bombardments that caused mass civilian casualties. Survivors, satellite imagery, and verified photos and videos confirm the devastation. Amnesty International also reported things like, Entire families were wiped out, and essential infrastructure crumbled. One of my friends that lives in Minnesota, his name is Suleyman, had family in Gaza. There were over 30 family members, and with one airstrike from Israel they were all gone. When I heard this, and saw my friend sad, it hurt me. This is one of many stories of entire families being wiped out. The world is watching this happen, and they are acting like it's nothing. This is only the beginning of the war. As I am writing this essay there are still many people getting bombed. This situation is even more saddening because of how many people live in the small land of Gaza. Gaza is known for being one of the most densely populated areas in the world, making it easier for Israel to kill people. Israel's stated intent to destroy Hamas has led to a shocking disregard for civilian lives. The Gaza Strip, already under a 16-year illegal blockade, faces water shortages, medicine scarcity, and crumbling infrastructure. The international community must act to prevent Gaza from becoming a giant graveyard (Amnesty International, 2023).

The casualty numbers reveal the human cost of these bombings. According to English Wafa, 28/March/2024, known for its news in the Middle East, Since 7 October, Israeli forces have launched thousands of air bombardments, resulting in at least 32,552 deaths, mostly civilians. They say that these are security measures, to make sure their civilians are safe. Over 15,000 children have lost their lives, and approximately 70,000 people have been injured. More than 1,000 bodies remain trapped beneath the rubble. These numbers represent real lives-families torn apart, futures shattered. Almost half of the casualties were children, which shows you how much Israel cares about the people of Palestine, and the civilians that they say they will protect

once they take over Palestine. Israel's argument is that they do care for the Palestinians, but they have to get rid of Hamas. Hamas doesn't have too many soldiers, and yet Israel blames it on Hamas. They even bomb hospitals, and end up just blaming it on Hamas. Israel can blame it on Hamas, but you can look at the west bank to see other examples. Palestinians are treated terribly. One day you have a house, and the next day you can be kicked out, because they want to build homes there. This is not a government we should be supporting, but rather boycotting. There are many stories of people that even when heard no one is doing anything. Whenever the Palestinians start to attack they are called terrorists, even if they are fighting for their country to get it back. The only reason terrorist organizations in Palestine were made was so they can fight for their country. The question here is who is the real terrorist, the people fighting for their country and their rights, or the people attacking a country that doesn't belong to them, while controlling the media to make the situation not look as bad as it really is. They say that this is the necessary measure needed to be taken to get their holy lands. They underscore their lives, and then say they will take care of us if we were under the Israeli government. Just like in the example with my friend, these people have names. 32,552 deaths is just a number for many people until they hear their names and their stories. The population of a semi big city in Minnesota, Blaine, is 71,739. The people that died are 45% of all of blaine. Imagine this didn't happen in Gaza, but happened in Blaine. The world would be going crazy. This is not taking into consideration how small Gaza is compared to its population. This conflict displays the influence that israel has to other countries, and indicates that this conflict will not end until there is more pressure put on the Israeli government and the zionists who started this movement.

The ongoing Israeli bombings raise critical legal and ethical questions. Are these actions consistent with international humanitarian law? What about the principles of proportionality and

distinction? In a report published in *The Lancet*, experts highlighted the impact of Israeli attacks on civilians. The targeting of residential areas, schools, and hospitals violates fundamental norms (Sheraz Yaqub, 11/14/2024, Known for his journaling, and medical skills). Israel uses many arguments to justify their actions, and America and the other big countries just follow along, and let it happen. The international community must hold accountable those responsible for these violations. As global citizens, we cannot turn a blind eye to such a disregard for human rights. The right to life and security applies to all, regardless of nationality or ethnicity. Israel's actions need to be punished.

Beyond the casualties, the bombings cause long lasting psychological trauma on Gazans. According to Relief Web, 11/03/2023, Known for its news recording, Survivors face nightmares, anxiety, and grief. Children are growing up amid rubble, witnessing death and destruction. The loss of loved ones leaves scars that may never heal. Even the Gazans living in the U.S, like my friend Suleyman. My friend went to Palestine about six months ago, and stayed there for about 1 month. Most of the time he spent it with his family. Imagine how he would feel when he learned that his whole family living there is gone, in less than an hour. This would make anyone have a problem. Suleyman has been very sad ever since, and even when I see him at Anoka, he doesn't want to talk to anyone. This is one of many stories of the people of Gaza, who are being brushed under the rubble. Even with all this pressure, and sadness, Gazans exhibit remarkable resilience, helping each other and rebuilding their shattered lives. Growing up in the rubble with no parents and the constant fear of death, will harm their brains.

People argue that Israel's actions are for security. However, they should still be held accountable for the lives they have taken away. There is much evidence that the attacks on the

hospital and the schools were not needed. Human rights organizations such as, *Amnesty International*, provide evidence of war crimes committed during the conflict. As humans we shouldn't just sit and watch, as what's happening in Gaza is getting worse. Diplomatic pressure, sanctions, and investigations are key to ensuring justice and preventing further genocide. We have a responsibility to advocate for peace. Our colleges and universities play a crucial role in raising awareness of the conflict, and pressuring governments to prioritize civilian lives over military objectives. As we move into the future, we hope that Israel will listen to the demands of the people on earth, instead of just ignoring us. According to CBS news, 03/25/2024, Known for news reporting said there have been many times were israel did not listen to what the U.N says. This shows that Israel will not listen to anybody, even the UN. Israel says they have a right to what they do, and the people agree with them. Even with the pressure from the UN they are still not listening, and instead continue the war.

In this essay we have explored the devastating impact of Israel's military actions on innocent Gazans. The evidence shows the urgency of this issue. Throughout this research, I have gained a deeper understanding of the human cost during conflicts like the one in Palestine right now. I wrote this essay because I have a personal connection to Gaza, and Palestine. I am from Palestine, and I have family that lives there which makes me anxious. The stories of the tragedies in Gaza such as families being totally erased, children traumatized, and communities getting shattered remind us that war affects real lives. As we ask the question of whether Israel should stop bombing and killing innocent Gazans, let us remember that peace is not a distant dream. We could achieve it tomorrow, with the right amount of effort.

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