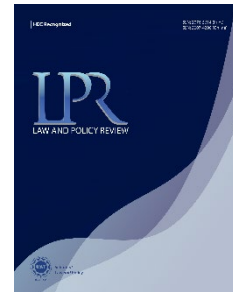
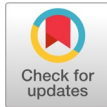


Law and Policy Review (LPR)

Volume 5 Issue 1, Spring 2026

ISSN(P): 2076-5614, ISSN(E): 3007-4290

Homepage: <https://journals.umt.edu.pk/index.php/lpr>



- Title:** Israel, UN Security Council Resolutions, and Forced Displacement in the Middle East
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- DOI:** <https://doi.org/10.5349/lpr.51.03>
- History:** Received: January 06, 2026, Revised: April 03, 2026, Accepted: May 16, 2026, Published: June 30, 2026
- Citation:** Yahaya, J. U. (2026). Israel, UN Security Council resolutions, and forced displacement in the Middle East. *Law and Policy Review*, 5(1),35-63. <https://doi.org/10.5349/lpr.51.03>
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- Conflict of Interest:** Author(s) declared no conflict of interest



A publication of
School of Law and Policy
University of Management and Technology, Lahore, Pakistan

Israel, UN Security Council Resolutions, and Forced Displacement in the Middle East

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Abstract

International bodies and scholars have noticed that Israel's conduct has been inconsistent with the United Nations Security Council protocol guidelines of principles, resulting in alleged violations of the human rights of Palestinian communities between 2015 and 2023. The conflict is regarded as a threat to Middle East Peacebuilding process that has caused much tensions within the region. Many families in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank were forced to vacate their homes. This research aims to examine the UN protocol peace deal and the realities on ground, and study how the events have compelled many Palestinians to leave their homeland and seek refuge in neighboring states for livelihood. Based on the research findings, the study concludes that Israel has disregarded the United Nations Security Council protocol which has led to deterioration of peace and stability in the Middle East. Furthermore, the study argues that when states fail to adhere to United Nations principles, this could lead people to lose faith in the functionality of UN, thereby affecting global peace architecture. Therefore, the paper opines that UN and other relevant organizations strengthen efforts to promote compliance with international law, human rights standards, and peace agreements. It further suggests that accountability measures, including sanctions and other enforcement mechanisms consistent with international law, should be considered where violations happen, with the aim of encouraging all parties to uphold human dignity, and contribute to peace.

Keywords: internal displacement, Israel, Middle East Stability, non-compliance, UNSC resolutions

Introduction

Israel's persistent noncompliance with the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) remains the prevalent issue, contributing to widespread political

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and human security instability, and protracted displacement in occupied Palestinian territory and broader Middle East. Several international legal and diplomatic instruments adopted throughout the 40-years of occupation were meant to address, constrain and control the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and create sustainable peace on the basis of international law. Nevertheless, enforcement of these resolutions has been limited due to geopolitical dynamics, weakened enforcement bodies and failure of sustaining the international consensus among the stakeholders.

This paper examines main legal documents on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including UNSC Resolution 446 ([1979](#)) and Resolution 2334 (United Nations Security Council [UNSC], [2016](#)). Both resolutions determine those Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian territory including East Jerusalem illegal and void, and violative of the Fourth Geneva Convention. The UNSC Resolution 2334 further stipulated that “Israel’s settlement activities in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem are a major obstacle to the achievement of a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as well as a fundamental obstacle to the attainment of a just and lasting peace” (UNSC, [2016](#)). However, the continued expansion of Israeli settlements, appropriation of land, restriction on movement of Palestinian people, and demolition of homes has contributed to growing insecurity and human suffering of many families across the Middle East.

The further continued construction of settlements by one party in dispute between Israel and Palestine has become a root cause of massive humanitarian consequences in occupied Palestine. According to different reports from humanitarian agencies, destruction of homes and civilian facilities along with restricted access to humanitarian assistance by Israeli occupation authorities exacerbated human suffering, particularly in the occupied Gaza and parts of West Bank where recurrent military operations and destruction of infrastructure resulted in one of the most enduring displacement crises in the Middle East, including loss of property and livelihood. As of 2024, the massive destruction of houses, public facilities and refugee camp infrastructures caused displacement of significant proportions of the Palestinian population, especially in occupied Gaza and has also strained other Arab states, international humanitarian organizations and donor countries. Moreover, this displacement has added fuel to regional insecurity.

With this new turn, international judicial institutions renewed their efforts to address these challenges arising from the occupation of Palestine. In July 2024, The Hague-based International Court of Justice (ICJ) once again examined the legality of occupation of Palestinian territories and called for Israel to uphold international law regarding prolonged occupation, expansion of settlement and other related practices. Although the ICJ's findings reaffirm established principles of international law, the gap between legal judgments and actual state practices reflects weakness in enforcement capacity of international institutions.

From a theoretical perspective, Israel's noncompliance with the United Nations resolutions reflects broader challenges related to international governance, legitimacy and enforcement in the field of international affairs. The failure of international institutions to ensure compliance with UNSC and UNGA decisions raises important questions concerning effective role of international institutions in managing conflicts within the international system. In that sense, Palestine has become a key object of study on the impact of international law on state behaviour, including the use of power in the realm of foreign policy, and the extent to which international legal norms can regulate state behavior.

Therefore, this paper aims at investigating the implications of Israel's noncompliance with United Nations resolutions on internal displacement, humanitarian insecurity and regional destabilization from 2015 to 2023 by looking at interaction of international legal instruments, state practices and patterns of displacement to highlight both shortcomings in accountability and governance structures, as well as possible strategies towards achieving lasting solutions in occupied Palestine.

Research Questions

Compliance with United Nations resolutions during the period from 2015 to 2023 and specifically address its role in generating internal displacement, exacerbating humanitarian insecurity, and fomenting regional destabilization. The paper analyses how the nexus of international legal norms, State practices and dynamics of displacement may be understood. This study seeks to inform current discourses on conflict management, humanitarian management, and international institutions effectiveness in conflict management. This article further reveals the necessity for strengthening the accountability mechanisms of states and

expanding diplomatic intervention in the conflict management, along with fostering of inclusive peace building efforts addressing both humanitarian crisis and structural issues concerning displacement.

This study seeks to address the following research questions:

- How has the failure of Israel to comply with the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council and General Assembly contributed to migration and displacement in the occupied Palestinian territories during the period between 2015 and 2023?
- What humanitarian, socio-economic, and security consequences have resulted from displacement associated with Israel's failure to comply with international legal and diplomatic frameworks?
- How have Israel's ongoing settlement expansion and occupation affected regional migration trends and the refugee crisis in the Middle East?
- What policy and institutional frameworks can the UN and the international community develop to strengthen compliance with UN resolutions and reduce displacement in the region?

Research Objectives

- To investigate the ramifications of Israel's disregard of UN resolutions for migration and displacement within the Middle East from 2015-2023.
- To evaluate the extent to which Israel's refusal to abide by UNSC and UNGA resolutions have fuelled migration and displacement within the Palestinian occupied territories.
- To analyse the humanitarian, socioeconomic and security repercussions of the forced displacement due to settlement expansion, military offensives, and other occupation related policies.
- To evaluate the relationship between Israel's settlement policies and regional migration patterns including refugee flows and cross border displacements.
- To formulate policy recommendations and mechanisms to improve compliance with international frameworks and mitigate the causes of forced migration and displacement in the Israeli Palestinian conflict.

Significance of the Study

This study extends the understanding of international law, forced migration, conflict studies, and global governance by exploring the nexus between the Israeli regime's disregard for the United Nations resolutions during the occupation period, territorial displacement, and regional tensions in the Palestinian territory and the Middle East region. Although there is an extensive body of literature that discusses the illegalities of the Israeli occupation, settlement policies, and treatment of Palestinians (Falk & Tilley, [2017](#); Quigley, [2010](#)), little attention has been paid to the impact of these policies on the humanitarian crisis and forced migration. This study aims to fill this gap in research, as it uses United Nations resolutions, humanitarian reports, and relevant data on forced migration to assess the connection between Israeli policies of occupation, military actions, and territorial house demolitions and the patterns of forced migration in the region. Additionally, the study will contribute to the discussion on international law, state responsibilities, human security, and conflict resolution in the context of long-standing territorial disputes and international interventions in the Palestinian territory.

Research Methodology

Research Design

This research applies a qualitative research approach and a descriptive and analytical research design to study the relationship between Israel's non-compliance with the UN Security Council resolutions and its impact on regional migration and displacement in the Middle East. This qualitative research design is appropriate since the study examines the complex political, legal and humanitarian process which cannot be captured and analyzed by the quantitative measurements only. Unlike studies that seek to test the relationship of cause and effect via statistical model, this research endeavors to offer in depth understanding of how the international legal violations, policies of occupation and expansion of Israeli settlements, contribute to forced displacement and migration in the occupied Palestinian territory and other countries of the region.

The descriptive approach provides systematic documentation of historical trends, international legal instruments, and displacement patterns from 2015 to 2023, whereas the analytical approach offers in depth

interpretation of the correlation among political decisions, international legal obligations, humanitarian repercussions, and migration patterns.

According to Creswell and Creswell ([2018](#)), qualitative research design allows researcher to examine social and political life of human beings in its natural settings to produce rich and detailed description and explanation. Research is based solely on the usage of secondary sources of data. The reason for the application of the secondary sources is that the history of the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians, United Nations' resolutions on the conflict, humanitarian crises and the trends in forced migration have been amply documented in publicly available sources. This allows for the examination of multiple long-term trends and comparative evidence to produce comprehensive results.

Sources of Data

The data was collected from a number of reliable international institutions, published materials and research sources. Data were derived from a variety of documents and published material, Primary documentary sources (official United Nations' records) include resolutions of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) and United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) resolutions pertinent to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and to occupation and settlement activities. Data also includes United Nations publications from bodies such as UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (UNOCHA), United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) reports, which include information on the situation of refugees, displaced persons and the conditions in the occupied Palestinian territory and surrounding countries. Other primary sources of data include the publications of international legal bodies, specifically decisions and advisory opinions from the International Court of Justice (ICJ) pertaining to international law and occupations.

Data also comes from official reports by international organizations, non-governmental organizations, humanitarian and human rights organizations, including reports from UNHCR, Amnesty International, and Human Rights Watch, etc. Data has also been sourced from publications from well-regarded humanitarian organizations and from reports from the different departments and units within the United Nations structure. Secondary sources of data (academic and published sources) include

scholarly and peer-reviewed journal articles, policy reports and books from academic institutions, think tank publications and conference proceedings focused on issues such as international law, migration, and conflict studies in the Middle East and North Africa. Additional data comes from international media archives and policy tracking tools.

Data Collection Methods

The data used in this study was systematically collected through the analysis of documentary evidence. The selection process identified relevant sources through the use of online academic databases, institutional online repositories of publications from academic institutions and international organizations (i.e., United Nations and its various branches, international legal archives), as well as the website of humanitarian agencies, that could shed light on the subject. Data selection criteria focused on criteria such as relevance, accuracy, reliability, timeliness and alignment with the research questions of the study.

In view of the prominent expansion of Israeli settlements, widespread humanitarian crisis and international diplomatic involvement during 2015-2023 period, focus was placed on acquiring documentary evidence pertaining to Israeli settlement activities, forced evictions, military operations, the scope of displacement, movement of refugees, as well as the overall international legal assessment of the situation.

Method of documentary review allowed to obtain the qualitative and contextual data that contributed to better understanding the scope and impacts of non-compliance with international resolutions. Such approach has been in line with Bowen's (2009) recommendation which argues that documentary analysis offers an efficient, straightforward, and systematic approach to reviewing and critiquing text documents, thereby producing qualitative evidence, in an objective, ethical, and rigorous manner. Data Analysis Methods The method adopted for analyzing the documents is Documentary analysis. Documentary analysis is a technique to evaluate and interpret textual data for the purposes of making inferences, developing evidence, and identifying patterns that enhance one's understanding of phenomena (Bowen, 2009).

Once collected, the documentaries underwent thematic analysis which helped to identify relevant and recurring themes, concepts and patterns in three key dimensions of the study, namely (1) the legal implications of the

non-compliance with UN resolutions, (2) the political implications of Israeli policies concerning expansion of settlements and occupations, and (3) the humanitarian consequences of Israeli policies concerning displacement, migration, and the movement of refugees.

Thematic coding assisted in sorting the collected data into various analytical categories enabling one to establish relationships between Israeli policies and outcomes relating to displacement. Therefore, evidence obtained from legal, humanitarian and academic documents were collated to form arguments about displacement phenomenon. To enhance the accuracy of the results, triangulated information sources were applied for validation.

Information sourced from the documents of United Nations were compared with evidence reported by humanitarian organizations and independent monitors as well as those available in academic publications and archives. Validity and Reliability Use of diverse types of documents coupled with methodological triangulation strengthened the reliability of the study's findings, and reinforced its credibility by triangulating information obtained from authoritative sources such as UN reports, official reports from ICJ, UNRWA, UNHCR, and established academic and scientific journals. Use of different sources helped to authenticate the information in question by contrasting and complementing information gathered from one source with information from other, non-conflicting, sources. In other words, if information is confirmed across several independent sources, it is considered valid.

Ethical Considerations

The research did not require interaction with living subjects and only involved collection of publicly available secondary data. As such, it did not require a formal ethical review, consent from the subjects or a need to disclose personal data to anyone. Nevertheless, principles of ethical research conduct, including academic integrity and scholarly ethics, have been followed. All sourced documents were acknowledged and referenced in strict compliance with APA 7th edition formatting.

Accuracy and objectivity in data reporting was sought throughout the process of data collection and analysis. This research aims to avoid plagiarism and misrepresentation of data and strives to provide objective

and comprehensive explanations to a sensitive and widely debated topic, such as the displacement of populations due to conflict.

Literature Review

The Israeli-Palestinian dispute stands out as one of the most stubborn and complex international issues of our time. Crucial to the conflict is the role of international law and United Nations (UN) resolutions designed to guide states, shield vulnerable people, and broker peaceful conflict resolution. Concerns about Israel's non-adherence to numerous UN Security Council and General Assembly resolutions have spurred much research into the conflict's impact on regional security, human rights, and refugee movements and displacement. Such concepts must be explored if the relationship between international legal obligations and displacement is to be examined in the Middle East region.

This conceptual review of the topic addresses a number of important concepts including, but not limited to: non-compliance with international law, UN resolutions, forced migration, internal displacement, refugee movements, and regional security. This discussion will lay the conceptual ground work needed for an exploration of the relationship between the disregard of international legal regimes and the resulting human crises and displacement.

The UN Resolutions

International relations and international law have frequently asserted the central role played by UN resolutions as instruments in the international system geared toward sustaining international peace, security and global order. According to Hurd (2017), UN resolutions are the formal decisions issued by the principal bodies of the United Nations which relate to matters such as the management of conflict, promotion and protection of human rights, and development. Within the UN system, Security Council resolutions hold particular significance due to their mandate to maintain international peace and security and their potential to impose legally binding obligations on member states, under specified conditions.

Further, Weiss and Daws (2018) describe Security Council resolutions as the institutionalised voice of the international community in terms of their reaction to any threatening challenges to the world order. Resolutions, they explain, act as guidelines for governments, set international norms that shape state behaviour, and the success of the United Nations relies on the

willingness of member states to respect resolutions and other aspects of its framework.

With respect to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, scholars point to the influence of various United Nations Security Council resolutions that structure the political and legal contours of the disagreement. For instance, Quigley (2010) argues that Resolution 242 (United Nations Security Council [UNSC], 1967) continues to be fundamental to peace discussions for its affirmation of the prohibition of the acquisition of territory through warfare, calling for Israeli evacuation of lands it had conquered during the Six-Day War. Similarly, resolution 446 (UNSC, 1979) proclaimed Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories illegal and a hindrance to a comprehensive peace, while resolution 2334 (UNSC, 2016) reiterated the illegality of the settlements and continued engagement of the global community in efforts to secure a negotiated, two-state peace agreement (UNSC, 1967, 1979, 2016).

In a legal sense, these resolutions represent major expressions of international humanitarian law as well as the principle of self-determination, argue Falk and Tilley (2017), because they provide the guidelines intended to govern the conduct of states and the protection of their respective civilian populations, with the aim of promoting a peaceful end to conflict, albeit ineffectively due to the lack of robust enforcement mechanisms. Chesterman (2011) too, asserts that the efficacy of any legal instruments depends not solely on their existence, but on whether the states who are obligated will comply, and also the capacity of international institutions to ensure compliance; where enforcement mechanisms are absent, the will of states will prevail and international law will suffer.

For the author, UN resolutions are not relics of a bygone era but remain vital tools to bolster international law and justice. UN resolutions with respect to the Palestinian-Israeli conflict illustrate the global consensus on the matter: they affirm that occupation, settlements, and their pursuit undermine prospects for a peaceful resolution of the conflict. They represent established principles of international law: territorial integrity, self-determination, and protection of civilians.

In fact, the author insists that the ongoing discrepancy between the adoption of resolutions and the reality on the ground has highlighted profound flaws in the existing international system.

With respect to the Israeli-Palestinian issue, the situation shows that international law works to the extent that states feel the need and are able to adhere to norms of international law, or are held accountable to them by means of the international system. International legal enforcement and global accountability mechanisms must be bolstered to help UN resolutions contribute to regional security, the resolution of conflict, and the safeguarding of fundamental human rights.

Non-Compliance with International Law

Noncompliance: a central notion in the analysis of international relations and international law Noncompliance refers generally to the violation of a state's commitments to adhere to provisions contained in international agreements, decisions of tribunals and decisions taken by an international organization. Scholars have often viewed compliance as an index to measure the effectiveness and the legitimacy of the international legal regime, because "the greater the influence that international norms exercise on the behaviour of states, the more the existing international order would appear to resemble that for which scholars have campaigned to maintain its legality, rule-based foundations (and the greater therefore would be the legitimacy of existing international institutions)" (Simmons, [2009](#), p. 3). Compliance not only supports the legitimacy of the legal regime by showing that international norms work, but it also lends to the regime a certain measure of efficacy because "the greater the compliance by states, the higher would be the legitimacy and effectiveness of international institutions; the more noncompliance that occurred, the lower it would be" (Simmons, [2009](#), p. 3).

For liberal institutionalists, institutions were built precisely to promote international cooperation, lessen conflict and reduce uncertainty about interstate behavior. The institution of international law therefore makes compliance both more attractive and possible. According to Keohane ([1984](#), pp. 71–73), "the more states cooperate, the more they will rely on the collective security to reduce uncertainty. By so doing they will make commitments more believable. So, there will be incentives to make commitments to satisfy such and other social and economic concerns too, making such bargains that are in turn relied on to build the regime even more compelling".

Hence, there are some very good reasons for states to comply with international obligations.

According to Chayes and Chayes ([1995](#)), "states often do comply with international law because the cost of non-compliance to the reputation and future relations of the states would significantly increase." Therefore, states are generally prepared to honor their obligations, because their interest in the reputation, the reciprocity or legitimacy is greater than their interest in the given behavior and in violation. This is not to say, however, that every violation can be attributed to "a breach to strategic, security and/or domestic politics interests is at stake that are greater than the costs associated with such violations".

Within the conflict in question Israeli settlements legal regimes that require states to abstain from settling in occupied territories have been, over a protracted period of time, ignored and contravened by Israeli Governments (Quigley, [2010](#)). He argues further that "the continuing establishment and enlargement of Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories is in direct violation of Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention, the principal Convention of law in times of war that, among other things, makes the transferring of part of an occupying power's civilian population into occupied territory an offense. These concerns were also addressed by various UN bodies, in particular by Resolutions 446 (UNSC, [1979](#)) and 2334 (UNSC, [2016](#)), which declared that the Israeli settlement policy and actions in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and the occupied Syrian Golan, have no legal validity and constitute a flagrant violation under international law (UNSC, [1979, 2016](#)). Falk and Tilley ([2017](#)) argue further that "the settlement policy is at odds with all humanitarian aspects of the law of armed conflict as well as the right to self-determination".

Moreover, from their perspective, "disregarding legal obligations would only prolong the conflict, exacerbate suffering of the civilian population, and make prospects for settlement extremely dim". Moreover, the continuing pattern of confiscations of land, demolitions of houses, restrictions of freedom of movement and so on, that constitute part of this settlement policy has been contributing to Palestinian economic deprivation, displacement, and insecurity in the oPt and it is leading to the loss of their homes and source of livelihoods (United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs [UNOCHA], [2024a](#)). Beyond the

specifics of the Israeli-Palestinian context, and given that "non-compliance that goes unpunished by other actors, while not itself damaging the existing international order or norms in any immediate way, might lower a state's risk assessment for such actions in the future. [...] repeated acts of unpunished violation of existing international law can serve to erode respect for international law generally, and for multilateral institutions in particular.

Repeated failures to respond could eventually weaken the perceived authority and legitimacy of international bodies or undermine belief in the possibility of a rule-based global system."

(Chesterman, [2011](#), pp. 421) "For non-compliance in a specific case to lead to a change in perceptions and practices toward international law requires not just violations; it requires a response to them." (Chesterman, [2011](#), pp. 425). The issues surrounding non-compliance and its consequences: The writer would argue that non-compliance of Israel regarding its obligations under international law should not be considered merely from a purely legal perspective but rather be viewed as reflecting the global governance challenges of today, which are also impacting the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: "Non-compliance often comes down to a mix of strategic incentives, material constraints, normative pressures, and domestic politics - with all four dimensions intersecting and interacting in a complex web of behaviors, perceptions, and expectations" (Chesterman, [2011](#), pp. 421).

Although the international legal system prescribes norms that aim to protect vulnerable populations and regulate state behavior, its ultimate effectiveness hinges upon the capacity of the international community to hold States to account and demonstrate consistent political will.

The persistent non-compliance of Israel in terms of its settlement practices demonstrates the limited ability of current mechanisms to enforce adherence to established norms of international law. According to Falk and Tilley ([2017](#), p.8), the problem of settlement has become "a major impediment to the achievement of a peace settlement on the basis of a two-state solution, exacerbating and prolonging the conflict and contributing to human rights violations and a lack of protection to the civilian population in the oPt". From this perspective, non-compliance not only challenges the international legal order but also has serious humanitarian and political

implications, fueling cycles of displacement, violence and insecurity within the region and beyond.

Therefore, addressing this challenge would require a stronger political will of the international community and effective mechanisms of international accountability as well as a commitment towards a just and lasting peace that upholds international law.

Forced Migration and Displacement

Forced migration stands out as among the major humanitarian and political predicaments in the current international arena. It is generally agreed upon among academics that forced migration describes the movement of persons or groups that is not voluntary. The causes of forced migration can range from armed conflict and persecution to human rights abuses, political violence, and environmental disasters.

What distinguishes forced migration from voluntary migration, the latter which are predominantly driven by socio-economic opportunities or personal decisions, is that it takes place under duress and the forced migrants may not have had an alternative but to leave their usual abode for the sake of their safety and survival (de Haas et al., [2020](#)).

de Haas et al. ([2020](#)) further assert that forced migration should not be viewed as solely an issue of demography; rather, it is a manifestation of broader political, socio-economic, and security-related problems. For instance, the authors propose that forced migration may emanate from socio-political inequities, enduring conflicts, suppression of rights by states, and governmental malfunction. For Betts and Collier ([2017](#)), the phenomenon of forced migration has to be understood within the context of human insecurity where, the absence of a viable state security mechanism forces individuals into exodus. For a long time now, it has been recognised by researchers that forced migration involves different segments of the displaced persons which include internally displaced persons (IDPs), refugees, asylum seekers and stateless individuals, who have been forced into displacement due to circumstances that are beyond their own volition (UNHCR, [2023](#)).

As a result, it has turned out to be the primary concern of numerous International Organisations (IOs), humanitarian relief organisations and policy makers who endeavour to manage and address humanitarian fallouts of conflict and destabilisation.

For protracted humanitarian crises, forced migration becomes one of the defining symptoms. As far as the Israel–Palestine conflict is concerned, forced migration continues to be one of the longest, most vexing, and deeply entrenched displacement crises of the contemporary period. Reports have long ago demonstrated how the conflict, which has spanned over decades, has led to recurring waves of forced migration that created hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees across occupied territories and neighbourhood countries.

As noted by Khalidi ([2020](#)), the plight of Palestinian refugees is one of the oldest protracted refugee situations in the modern international system and is characterised by periodic cycles of forced migration. In contemporary times, forced migration in the occupied Palestinian territories has been increasingly framed around a cluster of politically and security related causes. According to Quigley ([2010](#)), due to the ongoing Israeli occupation, forced migration can be attributed to militarised actions, land confiscation, and settlement enlargement that impact the livelihood of communities.

In addition, recurrent displacement in both urban and rural settings is often associated with administrative policies of house demolitions, forced evictions, restricted movement, and limitation of access to farming areas (UNOCHA, [2024a](#)).

In terms of humanitarian implications, the impact of forced migration is profound. Displaced individuals typically lose property and businesses, endure interruptions to their education, become unemployed, experience psychological distress, and face a limited access to healthcare and social amenities. For instances of extended displacement in protracted crises where political solutions remain distant, displacement has become a chronic humanitarian problem that extends across generations. As it pertains to the Israeli–Palestine case, the long-term displacement has translated into generations-long humanitarian concerns which affect their well-being and overall societal development.

From the viewpoint of this writer, the Israeli–Palestine conflict's protracted human forced displacement issue requires a political as opposed to a mere humanitarian solution.

It can be viewed as a by-product not just of armed conflict and insecurities but also, or rather, to a greater degree, of political contention over territory, settlements, and the implementation of international law

principles governing rights and obligations. Forced displacement is a humanitarian problem that arises from political instability and unresolved conflict. It is also in some aspects intrinsically political.

The Israeli–Palestine displacement demonstrates the interconnection between international law, the need to safeguard human rights and the quest for peace. The persistent and often recurring displacement proves that long-term conflicts can translate and transpire from a short-term humanitarian issue into a structural problem. For forced displacement in the Israeli–Palestine context to be addressed adequately, there must be a co-ordinated strategy which combines humanitarian assistance with political solution and adherence to legal provisions.

Internal Displacement

Internal displacement is the movement of people from their homes and lands, but within the internationally recognized borders of their countries and territories. The UN defines internally displaced persons (IDP) as “persons or groups who have been forced to flee from their homes or place of habitual residence as a result of armed conflict, violence, human rights abuses, natural or man-made disasters and without having crossed an international border”. Since they do not leave their territory of origin, internally displaced persons are not considered refugees and thus are not protected by international refugee law regimes, which are administered by the UN.

Some scholars have found that internal displacement is one of the most prevalent contemporary consequences of war. Cohen and Deng have claimed that ‘internal refugees may actually suffer more than their counterparts outside their national borders’ because ‘in most cases IDPs remain in the territory or area controlled by the authority that is also exercising governmental authority or force within this area’ because the risks faced by IDPs ‘may be more acute since they are likely to remain within a war zone where they lack access to humanitarian assistance and protection’. Moreover, Ferris suggests that ‘ID is no longer seen simply as a humanitarian disaster or even as a humanitarian crisis, it’s also a governance crisis and it’s a human rights crisis because of the consequences for displaced peoples such as the risk of insecurity, lack of livelihood, and reduced access to social security, as well as loss of home, shelter, food, and health services.

The Israeli–Palestinian conflict and specifically the case of Gaza and the West Bank exemplifies one of the most critical humanitarian emergencies of this era in relation to internal displacement. The operations led by the Israeli forces, and its infrastructure policies (including settlements) have led to large movements of the Palestinian population both within the Gaza strip and in the West Bank, according to UN agencies such as OCHA, resulting in serious humanitarian crises in relation to house ownership, health, food security, education, and social protection services for those affected (UNOCHA, [2024a](#), [2024b](#)). Palestinian displacement has also been characterized by protracted periods of displacement and the generation of multiple recurrent internal crises that pose a range of challenges related to security, development, and access to solutions for this populations.

In Fiddian-Qasmiyeh et al. ([2014](#)) The discussion around the situation of Palestinian displaced people reveals how internal displacement and conflict become intertwined and perpetuate cycles of crises, therefore constituting an essential part of the ongoing humanitarian situation.

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has a unique characteristic in that the internal displacement in Palestinian territories continues to have far-reaching humanitarian, development and human security impacts as a result of the conflict dynamics, militarisation, occupation policies and settlement activity that continuously fuel further displacement and undermine the security and livelihoods of Palestinians.

In the light of the literature review it can be stated that the internal displacement represents a dimension of the contemporary crisis. The ongoing military action, conflict, settlement development policies as well as forced evictions within the Israeli Palestinian conflict has contributed to significant ID in Gaza and the West Bank, generating the need to provide emergency relief and assistance in multiple areas. However, the problem cannot be tackled only at the emergency level, but require the need of lasting solutions.

Refugee Movements and Regional Migration

Refugees, broadly understood within international migration studies as individuals crossing international borders to flee a well-founded fear of persecution, conflict, violence, or human rights violations (UNHCR, [2023](#)), represent one of the most observable consequences of state fragility, armed

conflict, and systemic insecurity from a humanitarian and legal perspective.

Indeed, scholars of forced migration have shown that refugee crises are not necessarily short-lived: in protracted conflicts, displacement often becomes self-perpetuating through cycles of secondary and tertiary movements across generations, particularly in cases of long-standing refugee populations, such as the Palestinian case. Betts and Collier (2017), in an analysis of political economy, argue that protracted refugee situations are often characterized by "cycles of dependency" in which displaced individuals remain dependent on international assistance because of political barriers to durable solutions (return, resettlement, integration). These cycles can be amplified if the underlying political conflict is not resolved, turning temporary displacement into regional migration systems. In the Israeli-Palestinian context, flows of refugees and IDPs have transcended the occupied Palestinian territories to affect neighboring states including Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt.

These flows have been explained not only by patterns of forced displacement in 1948 but also by the persistent political and economic instability in the region.¹⁹ The challenges faced by host states include those associated with a large influx of refugees on local economies, public services, social and political dynamics.

Humanitarian studies also demonstrate the wider spillover effects of such refugee crises which can alter the demographics of entire regions, leading to persistent pressure on the international humanitarian system and host state institutions.¹⁹ This can, in many cases, lead to politicization of migration. Politically, Betts and Collier (2017) argue that protracted conflict is a cause for ongoing refugee crises where no lasting peace settlement is reached. If the underlying political conflict is not resolved, then displacement may become structurally integrated in regional systems. The author argues that the Palestinian refugee crisis exemplifies the link between international conflict, the absence of law, and regional instability. Displacement across generations reflects not only the immediate impact of conflict, but also a long-term failure to address the underlying political issues in the region.

The refugee crisis therefore requires understanding not just as a humanitarian issue but as an expression of ongoing conflict and the lack of a peaceful political resolution in the Middle East.

Research demonstrates that refugee movements in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict fit a larger pattern of protracted displacement. This issue is linked to protracted conflict and instability, and is not easily resolved without significant political will to bring about durable solutions to conflicts.

Human Security and Humanitarian Consequences

One of the more important conceptual advances in the study of security is the development of the notion of "human security," in which concern shifted from the security of the state to the security of individual persons and communities. According to human security scholarship, security is not to be understood as solely militarized, nor in territorial terms, but in terms of an individual's being free from fear and free from want. The UN Development Programme (UNDP) has formalized this by developing a definition of human security, which consists of freedom from hunger, freedom from disease, and freedom from repression, or security from the abrupt ruptures of daily life through conflict or displacement (United Nations Development Programme [UNDP], [1994](#)).

Scholars of security studies suggest that this reconceptualization extends the scope of security analysis to include economic, social, political, and environmental factors, which impinge on individual lives and human well-being (Sen, [1999](#)).

For Sen, indeed, human security is a necessary precondition for the expansion of the capabilities and freedom of an individual, suggesting a synergy between security and development. Human security offers, for Owen ([2004](#)), a normative framework for assessing the humanitarian consequences of conflict for vulnerable populations, in which security approaches based on state interests may not address such needs. Human security concerns in the case of Palestine, and, more broadly, displacement in that context, arise directly from the chronic conflict and limited mobility associated with that situation. Forced migration has implications for the lives and livelihood of those affected in terms of the access to work, schooling, health services and quality of life.

According to UNHCR, displaced populations are frequently subjected to prolonged periods of poverty and exclusion, and, additionally suffer significant psychological trauma.

Humanitarian scholars insist that, far from being purely immediate emergencies, displacement can generate, or contribute to, protracted social and political structures that create continuing security problems for the populations concerned. Kaldor (2013) discusses the phenomenon of 'new wars', which 'do not involve a clash of sovereign states but have their locus in failed states', thus blurring lines between combat

Regional Security and Political Stability

Political scholars define regional security as the overall security, politically, socially and economically, between politically associated states or other related communities. Instead of solely emphasizing on how security works within individual state boundaries, regional security theory instead seeks to investigate how the issues, politics and instability within a state impact other nearby state. When considering the middle east, many scholars argue that the long-lasting dispute between Israel and Palestine has impacted regional and political order throughout many countries nearby, as well as their government structures and political dynamics.

Buzan and Wæver (2003) consider security to be based on “regional security complexes” in which each state within a region has to coexist with other states around it with varying levels of hostility and cooperation in mind.

Within this system, any conflict may spill over the regional boundaries and influence the political structure of neighboring regions. For example, the Israel–Palestine conflict may affect neighboring states by creating or undermining security alliances, political ties, diplomatic connections and humanitarian issues.

Gap in the Literature and Empirical Evidence

Regional security generally refers, in the discipline of international relations, to the relative peace and stability of political, economic and social relationships between neighbours, that is between politically related societies in particular geographical area. Rather than looking at the security of individual states, we generally analyze regions as sets of politically inter-connected countries and communities among which security problems spill over the border, from one to another. It is often considered to be in the Israeli Palestinian conflict that the source of such spill over and instability in the Middle East is most enduring.

Buzan and Wæver (2003), on the one hand, put it this way, The idea of regional security complexes suggests security patterns may have their logic built on complexes of rivals and friends that structure much of the security environment in a given region.

In the words of Buzan and Wver, a region is a set of states, which are interconnected by their common involvement in some degree in certain patterns of politics, and are so deeply intertwined that normally, and security-wise, any change in the security situation of one would be perceived to be a threat to the security interests of another, or to the region as a whole.¹⁶ From another hand, a well-known contribution on migration studies, by Betts and Collier (2017) argues, Large population movements will create strains for public services and labour markets, and can fuel competition over scarce resources in the host state or community. These will place an additional burden on the country or region already struggling with conflict and lack of capacity, exacerbating local instability. Another literature in migration also argues that flows of refugees and internal displaced people become integrated in the politics of entire region. According to de Haas et al. (2020), Forced and voluntary migration flows increasingly become embedded within the processes of regional politics and governance, exacerbating existing tensions and conflict risks, and the challenge of managing refugee crises remains an intrinsic part of the political instability in a number of regions.

On a third level of analysis, the legal-institutionalists like Chesterman (2020) claim, that the persistence non-compliance to international legal norm and United Nations resolutions leads to weakening of the global governance mechanisms.

For Chesterman, in this view, failure of norms to enforce the behaviors of states and others leads not only to unchecked conflicts but to cycles of instability, to regional political fragmentation, and to collapse of global norms. From a legal-institutional perspective, thus, international legal non-compliance is another factor contributing to the security situation and the proliferation of violence across the regions. This analysis also shows how there is an interlinkage between human rights law, international migration regimes and regional security; it is, also, linked to human security, for instance as this issue relates to internal displacement, refugee flows and also externalization of human rights obligations in relation to security contexts (Goodman & Jinks, 2008).

From an analytical point of view, the overall pattern in the literature seems to be that, the direct violations of UN resolutions can cascade and can translate to other more specific events such as refugee and internally displaced person crisis and subsequently influence the security situation on a broader, regional scale. From the author's perspective, the problem of regional security in the Middle East could never be addressed effectively unless humanitarian implications caused by the protracted conflict and consequent displacement are adequately taken into consideration. Thus, as it has become evident through the various academic viewpoints addressed here, regional security can't be achieved in the Middle East without enforcing the respect of international norms, laws and resolution of UN concerning the conflict which cause humanitarian crises.

Results

Extent of Israeli Non-compliance and Contributions to Abuse of Human Right and Displacement

Secondary data collected from various UN Agencies indicate that successive Israeli governments have consistently failed to comply with the core UN Security Council (UNSC) and UN General Assembly (UNGA) resolutions on the occupation of Palestinian territory and the Palestinian question. Israel has not adhered to Resolution 2334 (UNSC, [2016](#)) which reiterated that Israeli settlements ... have no legal validity, and continued to expand settlements in the West Bank and East Jerusalem (UNSC, [2016](#)). UNOCHA has documented that more than 1.7 million displaced persons are currently in Gaza due to intensifying military operations and infrastructure demolition (UNOCHA, [2024a](#)).

In addition, approximately 5.9 million Palestinian refugees are still registered globally by UNRWA ([2023](#)), which suggests that this displacement remains tied to protracted conditions that have not been resolved legally or politically. Discussion According to scholars, Quigley ([2010](#)), and Falk and Tilley ([2017](#)) persistent expansion of Israeli settlements and practices associated with prolonged occupation can be understood as chronic violations of international humanitarian law and specifically the Fourth Geneva Convention, which has led to conditions of forced displacement. As de Haas et al. ([2020](#)) pointed out, displacement results from the interplay of political structures. The results correspond with the claims of these scholars because Israel's failure to abide by international

laws, its military operations, land restrictions has created and perpetuate a political context in the occupied Palestinian territories that generates displacement.

Humanitarian, Socio-Economic and Security Impacts of Displacement

The analysis of secondary humanitarian data shows severe humanitarian impacts of displacement including the prevalence of extreme poverty and high levels of youth unemployment.

About forty percent of Palestinians face multidimensional poverty (UNDP, 2024) with over 40% youth unemployment in Gaza. The Israeli occupation and recurring cycles of conflict in Palestine led to large-scale demolitions and destruction of Palestinian housing and infrastructures (UNOCHA, [2024a](#)). The widespread impact of conflict has led to the breakdown of the health and education system and has severely hindered access to health and educational services.

Discussion

According to scholars of human security, "people displaced do not enjoy either freedom from want or freedom from fear." (UNDP, [1994](#), p.13). Thus, in a manner, it can be said that the displaced Palestinian populations have been stripped of basic human needs. The prolonged and cyclical displacement is detrimental to the economic and social conditions of Palestinians because it perpetuates and reproduces dependence on aid and limits development opportunities.

According to Sen ([1999](#)) in a situation of prolonged displacement, human capabilities and freedoms collapse to extreme poverty, while Betts and Collier ([2017](#)) describe prolonged displacement as a factor that weakens resilience of communities due to the constant reliance on humanitarian aid and aid agencies, which the Palestinian communities face with regard to the long history of displacement that resulted in what Khalidi ([2020](#)) defined as an 'intergenerational vulnerability'. Thus, the humanitarian consequences are not temporary disruptions but long-term structural outcomes of unresolved political conflict.

Displacement Policies and Regional Migration Flows

The review of secondary sources revealed that settlement policies and occupation policies have contributed to migration flows regionally. – there are 5.9 million Palestinians under UNRWA's refugee status (United

Nations Relief and Works Agency [UNRWA], [2023](#)) – a significant number of these refugee populations are hosted in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Egypt. This has resulted in considerable strain on public services and national infrastructure in these countries – UN agencies note that continued displacement, and the prolonged displacement of refugee populations has resulted in continued displacement and secondary migration flows particularly with youth and vulnerable population segments (UNHCR, [2023](#))

Discussion of Buzan and Wæver ([2003](#)) theory of the region security complex shows that a threat in one part of a region often results in “spillover” threats in neighboring territories; in this regard the conflict between Israel and Palestine exemplifies a security complex and forced migration has become a systemic part of its features. Further to this it can be concluded from the above data, from the findings by Betts and Collier ([2017](#)) on protracted refugee settings, that forced displacement continues to generate regional “stress points” in a number of forms, including labor competition, pressures on education and health, and political instability in receiving states; therefore, the settlement policy and practices have wider-ranging impacts that move beyond simple territorial disputes.

Displacement Policies and Institutional Mechanisms for Compliance and Protection Enforcement Mechanisms

Based on secondary data; Current mechanisms of enforcement by the international community appear weak – Despite multiple resolutions from UNSC on the subject, the fact is that enforcement measures are insufficient due to lack of capacity and politically motivated political will from key UNSC states. – humanitarian actors emphasize that compliance mechanisms need stronger accountability and enforcement frameworks and peacebuilding approaches are needed to address compliance (UNOCHA, [2024a](#), [2024b](#); UNRWA, [2023](#)).

Some scholars explain that the effectiveness of the law is rooted in enforcement measures and not the normative statements of law themselves (Simmons, [2009](#)); a breach between an obligation and practice means that global legal governance systems become weakened in credibility. Policy considerations for enhancing UNSC’s mechanisms for compliance are the need to increase enforcement and the application of penalties for non-compliance. Strengthen humanitarian and protection frameworks.

Encourage regional peacebuilding collaboration, and provide long-term sustainable development programs for refugees.

In the same respect it can be understood from the work of Falk and Tilley (2017), that for there to be peace it requires structure and reform of governance not just declarations of law. From the authors's perspective for there to be resolution for the question of displacement in the Israeli-Palestinian context there needs to be a blend of law, protection and political negotiations. Without the blending of these elements' displacement will continue to be a recurring feature in the regional context.

Conclusion

The study examines the implications of Israel's non-compliance with UNSC and GA resolutions for regional and intraregional migration and displacement. It shows evidence of a correlation between prolonged non-compliance, settlements policy and military activities, and increased rates of migration, particularly within the OPT and wider MENA region. Long-term protracted displacement has been generated.

The research suggests that non-compliance with the legal framework contributes to protracted displacement, extensive internal displacement, large refugee numbers, including approximately 5.9 million Palestine refugees registered with UNRWA (UNRWA, 2023), secondary migration, regional stress points, humanitarian crises, and challenges to the credibility of international legal regimes. It also demonstrates the integral relationship between legal enforcement, humanitarian assistance, political negotiation, and regional stability.

Recommendations

Based on the study's findings, the following policy and institutional recommendations have been formulated:

Stronger Enforcement of UN Resolutions

There is need to improve the implementation of UN resolutions by strengthening their enforcement by the UN Security Council. More stringent accountability mechanisms, effective monitoring, and increased diplomatic pressure can help minimize the discrepancy between legal decisions and state conduct (Chesterman, 2011).

Improved Protection for Displaced Peoples in the Middle East

Humanitarian organizations, especially UNHCR and OCHA, need to enhance their protective programs, including shelter, health care, food, and education services for displaced populations and refugees, particularly in Gaza and the West Bank (UNOCHA, [2024a](#), [2024b](#)).

Addressing root Causes of Displacement

Finding a political settlement of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict should be the core focus of efforts seeking durable solutions to displacement. This should involve measures addressing settlement activities, evictions, and other military activities leading to displacement, with policy approaches guided by the principles of international law (Quigley, [2010](#); UNOCH, [2016](#)).

Enhanced Regional cooperation

The neighboring countries hosting Palestinian refugees-namely, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and Egypt-should be supported with International Burden-Sharing Mechanisms.

Regional cooperation strategies should focus on developing solutions that can alleviate pressures and maintain the region's stability (Betts & Collier, [2017](#)).

Promoting Human Security approach

A Shift of policy orientation from a security focus toward a human-oriented security strategy focused on the security of the civilian is critical and will guide towards protecting people livelihood, access to essential services and the reduction of people's vulnerability (UNDP, [1994](#)).

Expand Development Approach into Humanitarian Response

There is an urgent need for international development actors to integrate long-term, socioeconomic development activities within their humanitarian interventions, with particular attention given to education, employment generation, infrastructure redevelopment, and community building in displaced regions (UNDP, [1994](#)).

Strengthened Monitoring and Research

There is a continued need to strengthen the collection and use of empirical data on displacement, with the goal of providing reliable and

evidence-based recommendations to guide policymaking and operational interventions (UNDP, [1994](#)).

Author Contribution

Jibrin Ubale Yahaya: sole author

Conflict of Interest

The author of the manuscript has no financial or non-financial conflict of interest in the subject matter or materials discussed in this manuscript.

Data Availability Statement

Data supporting the findings of this study will be made available by the corresponding author upon request.

Funding Details

No funding has been received for this research.

Generative AI Disclosure Statement

The author did not use any type of generative artificial intelligence software for this research.

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