

Resource Guide

Double-sided

Legal Dimensions: Navigating the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict on the Global Stage



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OLGA'S UPCOMING LECTURES

- The Left and the Conflict



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Common Q&A's

Why is there a case against Israel at the ICJ?

South Africa's case at the International Court of Justice rests on two claims. The first relates to the scale of civilian death and destruction in Gaza. The second relates to statements by Israeli officials or former officials that they claim demonstrate the intent of committing genocide.

Why is there a case against Israel at the ICC?

The International Criminal Court has requested arrest warrants for Israeli and Hamas leaders on charges of war crimes and crimes against humanity.

What is the possible impact of both cases?

The danger of both cases against Israel is not only the damage to Israel's reputation and the possibility that its leaders could be arrested, but their potential to erode the interpretation of the laws of war in ways that can be manipulated by cynical parties.

What is the role of international law in the politics of the Middle East in general?

International law is based on international custom (a practice accepted as law), treaties, and general principles of law accepted by most countries. The borders of the countries in the region of the Middle East are recognized based on various treaties signed after WWI. Various parties refer to international law as the basis for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Key Takeaways

- The case that Israel's war against Hamas is a just war according to international law is a strong one.
- While many consider the ICJ and ICC cases against Israel to be baseless, their existence demonstrates the ways in which the law can be used for political purposes.
- Ignorance about the laws of war, about other wars in the region, and about international law as it applies to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a key factor in manipulating public opinion against Israel.
- The treaties that form the basis in international law for the sovereignty and borders of many states in the region of the Middle East since WWI are far from just.
- Many aspects of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict such as Israel's military occupation of the West Bank and its military blockade of Gaza can be interpreted in different and even contradictory ways according to international law, even though many in the international law community interpret Israel's actions as being illegal.

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