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The Dilemmatic Peacekeeping: The Fragile State of Global Peacekeeping Mechanisms

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ABSTRACT

The paper examines the efficacy of the international peacekeeping bodies in the contemporary conflict zones. Though they play a pivotal role in advocating for human rights and humanitarian aid, these organizations face significant challenges that impede their ability to enforce resolutions and maintain lasting peace. The study of recent conflicts in the paper highlights the recurring issues such as geopolitical division, veto power abuse, and selective empowerment. The investigation reveals a consistent pattern of humanitarian intervention and documentation of human rights abuses, yet a stark deficiency in securing long-term peace agreements. The paper highlights the dilemmas of peacekeeping by studying the recent conflicts. The dilemma, for member countries of the international peacekeeping organization, is to choose between world peace and individual interest. The dilemma for international bodies is politicization of decision making to make peaceful political settlements. The paper also argues for structural reforms to overcome the shortcomings and a commitment to neutrality. While the pursuit of global peace remains aspirational, strengthening these institutions is crucial for mitigating the devastating impacts of modern conflicts and fostering a more stable international order.

KEYWORDS

Peacekeeping, Geopolitics, Humanitarianism, Conflict Resolution, Reforms.

INTRODUCTION

“You can bomb the world into pieces, but you can’t bomb it into peace”¹. It has been more than often that a conflict has resulted in a large scale war, ultimately causing unprecedented casualties and severe human rights violations. Since the adoption of Universal declaration of human rights by the united nations general assembly in 1948², the world was expected to be a place, peaceful and respectful for human life as well as human rights. However, the future, wars, and deaths are always unprecedented. The United declaration of human rights was adopted on the lines of united nations commission on human rights to protect and advocate human rights internationally³, which also marked the launch of modern international human rights movement. Though it is not possible to have a ‘peace bomb’ but it is possible to advocate peace before a conflict escalates into war. The United nations commission on human rights was established to weave the international legal fabric that protects our fundamental rights and freedom. However, it was substituted by the united nations human rights council in 2006 as it was being continuously abashed for having states with notorious record of human rights violation as its members⁴. Almost 20 years later the substituted body faces the same question again in today’s war-torn world. It is true that it plays a crucial role in monitoring and assessing the human rights abuses across the world, but it is also true that the scope of its execution is limited due to reasons like geopolitical divisions, political differences within the group and selective enforcement. These factors limit the executive power of the body. These limitations are not exclusive to UNHRC, but are also faced by other international organizations working towards world peace. Take for example, the US and Israel withdrawing its participation from major international bodies⁵. The us withdrew itself from the World health organization as well as the UNHRC⁶. Israel withdrew its participation from the UNHRC⁷ amid the Israel-Palestine conflict and serious allegation on Israel for human rights violations. Such events put a question mark on the effectiveness

¹ Franti, Michael. Quote. *Bomb the World*.

² Universal Declaration of Human Rights, G.A. Res. 217A (III), U.N. Doc. A/810 (1948).

³ Universal Declaration of Human Rights, G.A. Res. 217A (III), U.N. Doc. A/810 (1948).

⁴ See U.N. Human Rights Council, *About the Human Rights Council*, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/about-council>.

⁵ See *Infra* note 6 and 7

⁶ See, e.g., Somini Sengupta, *U.S. Withdraws From U.N. Human Rights Council, Citing Bias Against Israel*, N.Y. Times (June 19, 2018).

⁷ See, e.g., Patrick Wintour, *Israel cuts all ties with UN human rights council*, The Guardian (Feb. 6, 2012).

of such international body. When major world powers do not find themselves in alignment with the goals and objectives of such international bodies, one shall, for sure, wonder how capable or effective is the body in bringing about a change for peace.

ROLE AND MANDATE OF INTERNATIONAL BODIES

Article 1 of the UN charter, while stating the purpose of united nations, tells that its members shall maintain international peace and security and take effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to the peace⁸. It further states that they shall maintain friendly relations among nations based on respect for the principle of equal rights and self-determination of peoples, and to take other appropriate measures to strengthen universal peace, to achieve international co-operation in solving international problems and to be a center for harmonizing the actions of nations in the attainment of these common ends⁹. The different international bodies under the UN system like the UNHCR, WHO, ILO, World bank etc. serve for the same purpose¹⁰. There are several other international bodies formed for regional cooperation among the countries. For example, European union, SAARC, ASEAN etc.¹¹ The aim of such bodies might be limited to defense, economic or social cooperation among themselves, but they also provide a platform to strengthen the relationships among the member nations which serves the purpose of strengthening universal peace. The formation of different international bodies has highlighted the need of the time. The United nations was formed in 1945 after world war II¹². It signified the requirement for peace in the war torn world, the adoption of UDHR and formation of UNCHR marked the importance for upholding human rights during wars and crisis, WHO signifies the importance of checking upon the raising health issues worldwide and prevent pandemics¹³, the different regional organizations signifies the regional efforts to overcome their

⁸ U.N. Charter art. 1.

⁹ U.N. Charter art. 2.

¹⁰ See generally Office of the U.N. High Comm'r for Refugees, *What We Do*, <https://www.unhcr.org/what-we-do.html> ; World Health Organization, *About WHO*, <https://www.who.int/about>; International Labour Organization, *About the ILO*, <https://www.ilo.org/global/about-the-ilo/lang--en/index.htm>; The World Bank, *About Us*, <https://www.worldbank.org/en/about>.

¹¹ See, e.g., Council of the European Union, *About the Council*, <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/en/general-secretariat/about/> ; SAARC, *About SAARC*, <http://saarc-sec.org/about-saarc> ; ASEAN, *About Us*, <https://asean.org/about-us/>.

¹² United Nations, *History of the United Nations*, <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/history-of-the-un>.

¹³ See *Supra* note 11

insecurities. Despite the objective being different, they all contribute to maintain world peace and co-operation.

In an era marked by conflicts such as the Israel-Palestine war, Russia-Ukraine war, middle eastern instability, and global tensions, international organizations play a crucial role in maintaining peace, addressing human rights violations, and ensuring humanitarian aid. Notwithstanding their capability, their effectiveness is often challenged by geopolitical divisions, enforcement limitations, and lack of cooperation from major powers.

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC)

The United Nations Human Rights Council,¹⁴ formed in the year 2006, is a substitute body for the United Nations Commission on Human Rights¹⁵. It is responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe. It addresses the situations of human rights violations across the world and also has the ability to discuss the issues concerning human rights and its violations that require its attention throughout the year. It serves as an international forum for dialogue on human rights issues with UN officials and mandated experts, states, civil society, and other participants. These platforms express the will of the international community. Further, the discussions held and the resolutions adopted send a strong political signal which pressurizes the governments to take action against human rights issues.¹⁶

United Nations Peacekeeping Force

The UN peacekeeping force works towards restoring peace and protecting the civilians in areas of conflicts and disasters.¹⁷ It is responsible for the ground operations of peacekeeping and human rights protection. A strong and effective partnership among the UN Secretariat, the Security Council, and the countries that contribute uniformed personnel makes it possible for the peacekeeping operations around the world to successfully complete their mandate. The peacekeeping force comprises of military and police personnel from the national services of the member countries and the UN does not have a force of its own.

¹⁴ See U.N. Human Rights Council, *About the Human Rights Council*, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/about-council>.

¹⁵ Id

¹⁶ Id

¹⁷ U.N. Peacekeeping, *What is Peacekeeping?*, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/what-is-peacekeeping>.

The UN security council has the power and responsibility to authorize peacekeeping operations while taking action to maintain international peace and security. The UN peacekeeping forces serve under the UN operational command.

United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR)

UNHCR is the refugee agency of UN which protects people who are forced to flee their homes and stateless persons.¹⁸ They work toward delivering life-saving assistance and look after the protection of human rights and refugee rights¹⁹. They help displaced people find a place called home. Refugees are a creation of conflicts and war. People migrate to save their life as well as for better opportunities. Thus the refugee agency plays an important role in protecting the rights of refugees during times of war and conflicts.

World Health Organization (WHO)

The increasing global health issues and biological developments needs to be monitored for mitigating future health crisis.²⁰ The world health organization provides the central leadership in the health sector for global health. It works to promote health, prevent diseases, and respond to health emergencies, including during war, pandemics, and natural disasters²¹. Wars devastate the health system and thus the WHO provides emergency medical aid, disease control and rebuilds health infrastructure in conflict and war zones²². Works with other UN agencies like UNHRC, UNICEF, red cross and NGOs to provide integrated aid. From providing emergency medical response to rebuilding health infrastructure, WHO plays a crucial role war torn areas for protection of human lives.

International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

The ICRC describes itself as ‘an impartial, neutral and independent organization’,²³ with an ‘exclusively humanitarian mission’ to protect and assist victims of armed conflict and other

¹⁸ Office of the U.N. High Comm’r for Refugees, *What We Do*,

<https://www.unhcr.org/what-we-do.html> .

¹⁹ Id

²⁰ World Health Organization, *About WHO*, <https://www.who.int/about>.

²¹ Id

²² World Health Organization, *Emergencies*,

<https://www.who.int/emergencies>.

²³ International Committee of the Red Cross, *Who We Are*,

<https://www.icrc.org/en/who-we-are>.

violent situations²⁴. The ICRC, founded in 1863, is a 150-year-old institution that is a sui generis hybrid between a Swiss non-governmental organization (NGO) and an international organization. ICRC is the guardian of war victims. It ensures the compliance of the international humanitarian law and protects the victims of armed conflict and violence. Protection of war victims, medical aid and healthcare support, visiting and protecting prisoners of wars, humanitarian aid and relief operations, promoting and enforcing international humanitarian law are some of the core functions of ICRC²⁵. Thus, it plays a crucial role during times of wars and conflicts.

CASE STUDIES

To understand the effectiveness as well as challenges of the international bodies during wars and conflicts, we need to study their work during recent conflicts and assess the challenges faced by them while executing their agenda. Here are few recent cases of conflicts which shall give us valuable insight for our study.

THE SYRIAN CONFLICT

The Syrian civil war began in 2011 as a protest against Bashar al-Assad regime and quickly escalated into a full scale war between the Syrian government and the anti-government rebel groups. It remains one of the most devastating conflicts of the 21st century. It had severe humanitarian and geopolitical implications. The Syrian observatory for Human rights reports killing of more than 600,000 people since the start of the war²⁶. The United Nations reported in its global appeal 2023 that more than 6.9 million people are currently internally displaced with 5.4 million living as refugees abroad²⁷. Not only this, the 7.8 magnitude earthquake and the 7.5 magnitude aftershock in southeast turkey and northwest Syria on February 6, 2023, worsens the situation putting death toll at almost 60,000 with nearly 50,000 casualties in turkey and 8,400 in Syria. The territorial division stemming from Syria complicated the earthquake response efforts making it difficult for the locals to avail medical aid.

²⁴ International Committee of the Red Cross, *About Us*, <https://www.icrc.org/en/about-icrc>.

²⁵ International Committee of the Red Cross, *What We Do*, <https://www.icrc.org/en/what-we-do>.

²⁶ Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, *Statistics*, <http://www.syriahr.com/en/>.

²⁷ United Nations, *Global Humanitarian Overview 2023*, <https://www.unocha.org/global-humanitarian-overview-2023>.

The UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) has played a crucial role in documenting atrocities and human rights violations in Syria. In August 2011, the UNHRC established the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic²⁸, tasked with investigating human rights abuses committed by all parties involved in the conflict. Since its inception, the Commission has compiled over 20 reports, detailing war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other grave violations.

Chemical Weapons Attacks (2013, 2017, 2018)

The use of chemical weapons has been one of the most heinous aspects of the Syrian war. Incidents where the Syrian government allegedly used sarin gas and chlorine bombs against civilians have been extensively documented by the UNHRC²⁹. An attack on Eastern Ghouta in 2013 killed nearly 1,400 civilians, mostly women and children. It was confirmed by UN investigations that sarin nerve gas has been taken into use for the attack. The UNHRC labeled the attack a war crime. Over 80 people were killed in a chemical attack on Idlib in 2017, prompting global outrage. The UNHRC's Fact-Finding Mission (FFM) linked the attack to the Syrian Air Force. Another chlorine gas attack on Douma in the year 2018 was reported. The attack reportedly killed dozens of civilians. The incident was investigated by the UNHRC and Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)³⁰.

Despite extensive documentation, Russia and China have repeatedly used their veto power at the UN Security Council to block punitive measures against the Assad regime. This highlights the UNHRC's enforcement limitations, as it cannot unilaterally impose sanctions or military interventions. The arbitrary use of veto power limits the international bodies merely to be mouthpieces for advocating human rights. They also limit the scope of pressurizing the ally governments of countries using veto power from taking steps on the basis of such reports on war crimes and abuse of human rights.

The siege of Aleppo

The battle of Aleppo lasted from 2012 to 2016. It is said to be one

²⁸ See U.N. Human Rights Council, *Commission of Inquiry on Syria*, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/iicisyria>.

²⁹ See, e.g., U.N. Human Rights Council, *Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic*, A/HRC/25/65 (Feb. 12, 2014).

³⁰ See, e.g., Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, *Report of the OPCW Fact-Finding Mission in Douma, Syrian Arab Republic*, S/1731/2019 (Mar. 1, 2019).

of the most brutal episodes of the Syrian war. The Syrian and Russian forces fought to reclaim the city of Aleppo. According to ICRC, the battle for control over Aleppo involved horrible suffering for civilians on both sides³¹. The pro-government forces wanted the armed groups holding eastern Aleppo to surrender and encircled the eastern Aleppo city in late July 2016 to force the armed groups to do the same. The civilians endured several airstrikes, artillery fire and starvation tactics. The United Nations-mandated Independent International Commission of inquiry on Syria documented the numerous violations of International Humanitarian Law and International Human Rights Law committed by the parties to the conflict during battle for Aleppo³².

The report tells that the civilians in eastern Aleppo city lacked sufficient food, medication and fuel even before the siege. The report also mentions about attacks on humanitarian convoys. A UN and Syrian Arab Red Crescent convoy was attacked by air, killing at least 14 civilian aid workers and injuring at least 15 others. There were other attacks too, that weaponized the humanitarian and medical aid. The violence persisted despite the call for an immediate ceasefire by UN general assembly as the enforcement efforts fell short. In 2014, Russia and china, two permanent members of UNSC cast negative votes in the security council, to prevent the adoption of a resolution to refer the situation in Syria to the international criminal court. Such events highlight the inability of these bodies to take effective action in situations where it is required.

THE YEMEN WAR

The civil war in Yemen which erupted in 2015, has become the site of grievous civilian suffering. The conflict has resulted in displacement of more than four million people and has also given rise to cholera outbreaks, medicine shortages, and threats of famine³³. The UNHRC recognized the gravity of situation and established the group of eminent experts on Yemen (GEE) in 2017 to investigate the human rights violations³⁴. The UN has also

³¹ See, e.g., International Committee of the Red Cross, *Aleppo: ICRC calls for urgent action to alleviate suffering*,

<https://www.icrc.org/en/document/aleppo-icrc-calls-urgent-action-alleviate-suffering>.

³² See, e.g., U.N. Human Rights Council, *Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic*, A/HRC/34/58 (Feb. 8, 2017).

³³ See, e.g., Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Yemen*, <https://www.unocha.org/yemen>

³⁴ See, e.g., U.N. Human Rights Council, *Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts on Yemen*, <https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/gee->

been involved in mediating peace talks and led negotiations including the Stockholm Agreement of 2018 and Riyadh agreement 2019. The Stockholm agreement is an accord between the parties to the conflict in Yemen. The UN and its agencies have provided aid and documented human rights violations and has also helped facilitate temporary ceasefire such as the 2022 truce.

These efforts have certainly reduced the intensity of the conflict in certain areas but has not been able to end the war. The ceasefires frequently collapse due to lack of enforcement mechanism. The UN peacekeeping forces are not active as of now in Yemen. Further, there has been little success in implementing the provision of the Stockholm accord, including the exchange of more than fifteen thousand prisoners and the creation of a joint committee to de-escalate violence. Many analysts also say that that the fight has now turned into a proxy war and thus has complicated the picture and way for peace.

Regional organizations and countries have also played a role in the peacekeeping efforts for Yemen. The gulf cooperation council supported the Riyadh agreement of 2019. The 2022 ceasefire between Houthis and the Yemeni government was brokered by Saudi Arabia. However, GCC members are alleged to be the parties in the conflict making them biased mediators. The Arab league expressed support for the Yemeni government. Though they have been involved, their impact has been minimal on peacekeeping and lacked active conflict resolution efforts. Most international efforts have lacked long term peace enforcement while focusing on short term ceasefires and humanitarian aids. It is also to be noted that the lack of neutral peacekeeping force has also prevented lasting peace. The military intervention by Saudi led coalition which aimed to restore the Yemeni government was alleged to be politically motivated as Saudi Arabia is also alleged to be a party in the conflict. Thus, Yemen still remains fragile and unstable in terms of peace.

THE SITUATION IN IRAN

The human rights watch³⁵ reports, that Iran remains one of the world's top practitioners of death penalty. The Iran Human Rights Organization reported that more than 700 executions took place in Iran during the period between January and November 2023, which is a substantial increase compared to the same period in the year 2022. The international organizations play a crucial role

[yemen/index](#) .

³⁵ Human Rights Watch, *Iran*, <https://www.hrw.org/middle-east/north-africa/iran> .

in Iran's human rights issues as well as nuclear negotiations, economic sanctions, and regional security. Amnesty international³⁶ reports suppressing of right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly in the aftermath of 2022. It also reports that the authorities intensified their crackdown on women and girls defying compulsory veiling laws. Further the UN independent International fact finding missions on Iran, and other independent UN experts and international human rights monitors were denied entry to Iran. In November 2022, the UN human rights council created an international fact finding mission on Iran to thoroughly and independently investigate the alleged human rights violations in Islamic republic of Iran related to the protest that began on 16 September 2022, especially with respect to women and children³⁷. But no further concrete action has been taken.

The joint comprehensive plan of action (JCPOA) was backed by UN to limit Iran's nuclear program, which initially succeeded in curbing Iran's nuclear program. However, the revival of JCPOA was a failed attempt after withdrawal of US in 2018. US lacked trust in Iran and alleged Iran of increasing its uranium enrichment. The International Atomic Energy Association successfully verified Iran's compliance with JCPOA until 2018³⁸. Though the international organization expose execution, torture, suspension of protest and possible nuclear plans of Iran which might be a threat to world peace, they fail to take any action which has a long term impact on the situation in Iran due to its resistance, geopolitical rivalries, and enforcement challenges.

ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT

The United Nations adopted the resolution 181³⁹, also known as the partition plan, to divide the British controlled Palestine into Arab and Jewish states in 1947. Since the creation of Israel, several war have been fought in the region with no longstanding and reliable peace agreements, as a result of which the area has been under constant threat of war and humanitarian crisis. The October 7,2023 attack launched by Hamas on Israel prompted the

³⁶ Amnesty International, *Iran*,

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/location/middle-east-and-north-africa/iran/>

³⁷ See, e.g., U.N. Human Rights Council, *Resolution S-35/1: Deteriorating situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially with respect to women and children*, A/HRC/RES/S-35/1 (Nov. 24, 2022).

³⁸ See, e.g., International Atomic Energy Agency, *Verification and monitoring in the Islamic Republic of Iran in light of United Nations Security Council resolution 2231 (2015)*, GOV/2023/3 (Feb. 28, 2023).

³⁹ G.A. Res. 181 (II), U.N. Doc. A/RES/181(II) (1947).

Israel Defense Forces (IDF) to engage in aerial campaigns and ground operations within the Gaza strip. Global conflict tracker⁴⁰ reports that the war has led to over 46,000 Gazan deaths, of which 17000 were Hamas militants. It also says that 90 percent of the population of Gaza have been displaced and face catastrophic food shortage.

UN peacekeeping in Lebanon

The United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL)⁴¹ has been deployed along the Israel-Lebanon border since 1978 to prevent hostilities between Hezbollah and Israel. It has also been mandated to confirm the withdrawal of Israeli forces from southern Lebanon and restore international peace and security. However, Israel demands the entire UNIFIL operating under the UN mandate to walk away. The Israel defense force positioned its forces in the immediate proximity of UN posts which endangered the safety and security of the UNIFIL personnel and premises. In October 2024, several UN peacekeepers were injured when the fight between Hezbollah and Israel started. The Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu called on UN to withdraw the UN peacekeeping force from combat areas because they are being used by Hezbollah as 'human shields'.

The international criminal court⁴² has also issued warrants for two individuals regarding the conflict, the Israeli prime minister Mr. Benjamin Netanyahu and the Israeli defense minister Mr. Yoav Gallant, for crimes against humanity and war crimes. While the ICC's arrest warrant for Prime Minister Netanyahu carries substantial symbolic weight and imposes practical limitations on his international movements, its effectiveness is constrained by the court's reliance on member states for enforcement and Israel's non-recognition of the ICC's authority.

Though the International organizations have been involved in brokering peace among the warring parties, no efforts have resulted in a long lasting peace. The Abraham accords under the trump administration is one of such efforts under which the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain normalized relations with Israel. Israel withdrew its membership from the United Nations Human Rights Council following the footsteps of the United states

⁴⁰ Council on Foreign Relations, *Israel-Gaza Conflict (2023)*, <https://www.cfr.org/global-conflict-tracker/conflict/israel-gaza-conflict>

⁴¹ U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL), *About UNIFIL*, <https://unifil.unmissions.org/about-unifil>

⁴² International Criminal Court, *Situation in the State of Palestine*, <https://www.icc-cpi.int/palestine>

under Donald trump's 2nd tenure as president of the United states of America. The UNHRC had earlier dispatched fact finding missions to investigate violations of human rights in 2009, 2010, and 2012⁴³. It had also adopted various resolutions demanding Israel to lift the blockade on Gaza strip and all other forms of collective punishment, calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza. It also demanded Israel to end its occupation of Palestinian territory occupied since 1967. Despite of the resolutions passed and pressures from the international community, Israel has done nothing to comply with these resolutions, instead it chose to withdraw itself from the council's membership. This poses a serious question on the effectiveness and ability of International peacekeeping bodies.

THE RUSSIA-UKRAINE CONFLICT

The Russia Ukraine war, which began with Russia's full scale invasion in February 2022, has become one of the most significant tests for international organizations and peacekeeping efforts in the modern era. The war brought the two major power and rivalries of the cold war at the edge of war with the involvement of North Atlantic treaty organization (NATO), led by America, and Russia, the successor of USSR. Examining this war provides critical insights into the effectiveness, limitations, and evolving role of international bodies in conflict resolution and peacekeeping as Russia and America are the permanent members of the UN security council with veto power⁴⁴.

The UN has provided humanitarian aid and documented war crimes through agencies like UNHCR⁴⁵. The UN security council has been ineffective due to Russia's veto power. On 26 February, 2022, "Russia vetoed a UN security council resolution on Friday that would have demanded that Moscow immediately stop its attack on Ukraine and withdraw all troops"⁴⁶. On 30 September 2022, "Russia vetoed a security council resolution which described its attempts to unlawfully annex four regions of Ukraine earlier in the day with a formal ceremony in Moscow, as a threat to international peace and security, demanding that the decision

⁴³ See, e.g., U.N. Human Rights Council, *Report of the United Nations Fact Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict*, A/HRC/12/48 (Sept. 25, 2009).

⁴⁴ See generally U.N. Charter art. 27 (providing for veto power of permanent Security Council members).

⁴⁵ See generally Office of the U.N. High Comm'r for Refugees, *Ukraine Refugee Situation*, <https://www.unhcr.org/ukraine-emergency.html> (for information on humanitarian aid).

⁴⁶ See, e.g., U.N. News, *Russia vetoes Security Council resolution demanding end to Ukraine invasion*, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/02/1112832>

be immediately and unconditionally reversed”⁴⁷. The UN peacekeeping force have not been deployed due to the scale of the conflict and lack of international consensus. The International Criminal Court (ICC) issued an arrest warrant for Russian president Vladimir Putin for war crimes and forced deportations of Ukrainian children⁴⁸. However, the ICC lacks enforcements mechanism and thus Putin is unlikely to be arrested unless he visits a country strictly adhering to ICC norms.

The peacekeeping efforts by the non-aligned and emerging powers indicate a shift in global peacekeeping, with China, India, and other emerging powers influencing peace negotiations unlike the previous western led institutions dominating the peacekeeping efforts.

CHALLENGES FACED BY THE INTERNATIONAL PEACEKEEPING BODIES

The case studies of the recent conflicts highlight the major challenges faced by the international peacekeeping bodies. These challenges have also been existent since the formation of these bodies. But the fact that they still exist and continue to hamper peacekeeping mission, poses a question on the working mechanism and effectiveness of such bodies. One significant issue is the absence of a well-defined mandate, often leaving peacekeepers with vague directives that restrict their ability to manage conflicts effectively. This challenge is further compounded by conflicting political interests among UN member states, resulting in inconsistent support and delayed decision-making. The use of veto power in the UNSC to prevent a resolution from being passed, is an example. Another critical concern is maintaining neutrality, as some missions are perceived as biased, which undermines their legitimacy and exacerbates tensions. For example, NATO’s interest towards Ukraine⁴⁹ and members of GCC being alleged to be a part of Yemen conflict⁵⁰. The premature withdrawal of peacekeeping missions without sustainable political solutions frequently results in renewed violence, highlighting the

⁴⁷ U.N. News, *Russia vetoes Security Council resolution condemning annexations in Ukraine*, <https://news.un.org/en/story/2022/09/1127842> .

⁴⁸ International Criminal Court, *Situation in Ukraine*, <https://www.icc-cpi.int/situations/situation-ukraine> .

⁴⁹ See, e.g., Council on Foreign Relations, *NATO*, <https://www.cfr.org/backgrounder/nato> (regarding NATO's involvement in Ukraine).

⁵⁰ See, e.g., Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, *Yemen*, <https://www.unocha.org/yemen> (regarding GCC involvement in Yemen).

limitations of temporary interventions.

The inability of the peacekeeping bodies to conclude a long term peace and bring the parties in conflict together to peacefully resolution indicates for a reform in their mechanism. The greatest challenge is the lack of enforcement mechanism and dependency on member nations. The dependency on member nations results in politicization of the outcomes and thus it becomes a dilemmatic peacekeeping. The dilemma is to choose between one's own interest and world peace. History has shown that the former remains more prevalent. It is not bad to look after one's own interest, but it is worse to look only at one's own interest at the cost of others. If the member countries continue to practice this, the world can never be at peace⁵¹. Overcoming these difficulties requires structural reforms, enhanced international cooperation, and adaptive strategies to effectively address the evolving nature of conflicts.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

The case studies of recent conflicts indicate that though the role of international bodies in maintaining peace and protecting human rights remains indispensable, their effectiveness is hindered due to various reasons limiting their enforcement. They play a major role in monitoring and reporting the situations in wars and conflict but the structural and legal incapacity affects their effectiveness when it comes to ground operations. They have now become mouthpieces of international human rights with its control in the hands of major powers and their allies. The case studies above show how the international bodies like the UNHRC, UN peacekeeping force, the UN high commission for refugees, WHO, ICRC and even the regional organizations have played crucial roles in addressing the conflicts, humanitarian crisis and human rights violations. However, the inability of these organizations to enforce their decisions remains a critical limitation. Fostering greater cooperation among member states is essential to overcome these shortcomings. It is also important to insure the independence of decision making from politicization by adopting a more transparent and independent process in investigating and addressing the problems. The member nations of these bodies need to foster greater cooperation among themselves to strengthen the international institutions. While complete global peace may remain an idealistic goal,

⁵¹ See generally U.N. Peacekeeping, *What is Peacekeeping?*, <https://peacekeeping.un.org/en/what-is-peacekeeping> (for general information on peacekeeping mandates).

strengthening international institutions, ensuring accountability, and fostering diplomatic cooperation can provide more sustainable solutions to ongoing conflicts and humanitarian crisis.