



THE DOUBLE STANDARDS OF WESTERN COUNTRIES TOWARD UKRAINE AND PALESTINE “Western Hypocrisy”

Dr. Awad Slimia

University Utara Malaysia/ UUM
awad.sliemyeh@gmail.com

Abstract: The Palestinian sources of alarm are many. They wonder where the western countries' moral and legal outrage was regarding the clear instances of international standards violations, like the Israeli occupation of Palestine since 1948. The Palestinians see double standards in western policies. Many find the West's approaches to threatening the national security of Russia through separating Ukraine from its Russian roots, a closer association with NATO states, and imposing thousands of types of sanctions on Russia disturbing. However, as a faulty and unrealistic policy. Sadly, despite hundreds of UN and Security Council resolutions, reports from hundreds of human rights organizations, and despite the Palestinians' struggles to end the Israeli occupation since 1948 based on UN Security Council resolution 181, the West was unable to impose any sanctions on Israel. One thing becomes clear to us: the Israeli occupation army's procedures in the Palestinian territories have breached all of these judgments and western principles.

Keywords: Double standards, Western countries, Russia federation, Ukraine, Palestine.

Introduction:

Despite the crimes of the Israeli occupation that amounted to ethnic cleansing and racial discrimination... we find no one who is holding Israel responsible for behaving as a state above the law,” Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas.
(France 24, 2022).

Since the start of the Russian especially military “From Russia's viewpoint” operation in north Ukraine (Donbas Region) on the 24 Feb 2022, and the invasion of Ukraine “from western state's perspective”, we have seen around eight packages of sanctions imposed from western states over the Russian Federation, around “11000 types of sanctions”. which included Economic, political, and diplomatic sanctions, for instance, condemning the Russian operation in Ukraine at the UN general assembly, freezing the Russian seat in the Human Rights Council, supporting the International Criminal Court investigation...etc. In the same thread, we see billions of dollars and euros flooding Ukraine in the form of weapons, military logistical equipment, drones, rockets, etc. to continue the battle against Russian forces.

Nevertheless, since 1948, the crimes of Israel against international law have always been present. The Palestinians find no western countries holding Israel liable for behaving as a state over and above international law, no practice for sanctions, boycotts, criminal courts, isolation... etc.

To be clear, every war has an aggressor and it has a victim. In the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, for instance, Palestinians have been victims of Israeli occupation and western countries' policies since the Balfour declaration statement issued by the British Mandate in 1917. Today, for the Russian special military operation in Donbas, the Russian people in eastern Ukraine are victims of the ambitions of NATO expansion.

This paper aims to make a comparison between the double standards of the western countries towards the Russia-Ukraine crisis and the Israeli occupation of Palestine, including their efforts to employ the principles of international law along with so-called western values to impose devastating political costs on Russia in response to its moves in Ukraine. To achieve this, the authors apply a qualitative research method. And, utilize the remarks made by the ambassadors of (Russia, China, and Nicaragua) at the interactive colloquy that was moderated by the first author and held on 12Sep. 2022, at the Palestine Institute for National Security Research (PINSR).

Ukraine and The Western Countries

To begin with, after the U.S and its western allies formally rejected Moscow's security demands to roll back the expansion of NATO, the security alliance and bar Ukraine from ever entering the alliance (Ivanova, et al., 2022). That's what Putin sees as a significant threat to Russian national security. Therefore, after the negotiations collapsed, President Putin admitted the independence of two districts in eastern Ukraine, Donetsk and, Luhansk, as independent entities, and subsequently, on February 24, 2022, he sent Russian troops on a "peacekeeping mission" into those areas (Seddon, 2021). However, the Nicaraguan Ambassador to Palestine, Roberto Morales, said that the behavior of the West in the recent Ukrainian crisis differs greatly from its position on the issues of the Arab world. The West hastened to impose harsh political, cultural, economic, and sports sanctions on Russia and prevent it from participating in many international events. However, the West did not exert this pressure on Israel to implement the agreements signed between the Palestinian and Israeli sides to achieve full recognition of the State of Palestine and end the Israeli occupation.

The western unity over Russia's operation in Ukraine has been immediate, solid, and backed by weapons, funds, media, and diplomatic moves... It directly and intensely condemned Putin's decision to recognize the non-government-managed regions of Donetsk and Luhansk and Russia's unjustified army offensive toward Ukraine (Council of the EU, web). From his side, President Biden depicted the Russian operation as an "unprovoked and unjustified attack" on Ukraine while promising that his country and its allies "will hold Russia accountable" (Aljazeera, 2022). Nonetheless, a few hours after the beginning of the special Russian operation, the members of the UN Security Council held an emergency session, "President Putin, stop your troops from attacking Ukraine," UN Secretary-General António Guterres said (Charlton, 2022). From his perspective, NATO secretary general Jens Stoltenberg stated that Russia had chosen the path of an offensive against an independent country. He added that the attack puts in danger innumerable civilian souls, describing the Russian operation as a "grave breach of international law." (I24 News, 2022).

Formerly, in Mar. 2014, the western countries have gradually imposed sanctions on Russian Federation, at the outset in reaction to the illegal annexation of Crimea Island and therefore create an intentionally unsettled of Ukraine, according to the European Commission web (2022), furthermore, on 23 Feb. 2022, the western countries widened the boycott in reply to the avowal of the independence of the Donetsk and Luhansk districts, and the pushing of Russian armed forces into those areas. However, follow 24 February 2022, in response to Russia's military invasion of Ukraine. the western leaders adopted a broad scope of personal and economic sanctions, around eight packages of sanctions against Russia. Including, the financial, energy, transport, industrial, prohibition of investments in the Russian, granting of visas, Media, NATO airspace, Based on Federal Germany's web, G7Germany (2022). As a section of the economic war, the western democratic countries have put a number of trading restrictions on Russia's products. based on these sanctions, the European economic bodies cannot market particular products to Russia, and automatically, the entities of Russia are not allowed to drive its products to European markets, Restrictions to the EU's capital, financial markets, and services, SWIFT ban for seven Russian

banks, etc. (European Council & White House, web 2022). In this regard, based on the U.S Department of State's website (2022). The secretary of the US, Antony Blinken, stated,

"We will continue to act with our allies and partners in imposing costs on Russia if it

While Washington's leaders take every opportunity to reaffirm their intent to solidly support Ukraine's union and territorial safety between its territorial waters and internationally recognized borders. The US has committed more than USD 10.6 billion to security aid since January 2021 as a sign of the US's ongoing and unwavering support for Ukraine's territorial integrity and sovereignty. Since February 24, 2022, more than USD 9.9 billion has been added. However, to help Ukraine maintain its territorial integrity, safeguard its borders, and enhance interoperability with NATO, the US has nevertheless given more than USD 12.7 billion in security aid since 2014. Relying on the U.S. Department of State web (2022), In the same situation, though, the EU has demonstrated its ability to respond quickly in support of Ukraine and has displayed unity in its reaction. Since February, the EU has mobilized over EUR 4 billion in support of Ukraine. This includes top financial help, budget support, crisis response, emergency assistance, and humanitarian aid. Likewise, the EU has provided EUR 2 billion of support to the Ukrainian armed forces under the European Peace Facility. Simon Coveney, Ireland's Minister for Foreign Affairs and Defense stated in an interview in 6 Jul. Moreover, On 23 June 2022, with 529 votes, Members of the European Parliament passed a resolution urging Heads of their States to grant Ukraine EU candidate status "without delay" (News European Parliament web, 2022).

On the flip side, the western nations are committed to keeping up their support for the nations taking in refugees from the turmoil in Ukraine, However, the EU, the US, and other donor states significantly contributed to humanitarian efforts. The speed and breadth of the international reaction to the catastrophe have been exceptional and extraordinary. People who have sought or are seeking sanctuary from the war in EU countries are given legal status and safeguards by the EU. (Panayotatos, et al, 2022). The EU home affairs commissioner, Ylva Johansson, stated that "all Ukrainians fleeing the war would continue to be welcomed with open arms by EU countries" (Sanderson, 2022).

On the same policies, the EU Permanent Council statement No.1383 Vienna, 21 July 2022, asserted that, The EU's stance on Russia's invasion of Ukraine remains unequivocal. this war blatantly violates international law, the UN Charter and the fundamental of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) principles and commitments. It is a vicious war of aggression, unfit for the twenty-first century. The statement further stated that the purposeful and indiscriminate bombing of civilians and civilian infrastructure is a grave breach of international humanitarian law and is a war crime. No self-respecting state could ever recognize or justify this attempted territorial grab (official website of the EU, 2022). In that, the high European representative, Josep Borrell stated,

"The EU condemns in the strongest possible terms these continued indiscriminate targeting of civilian objects including hospitals, medical facilities, schools and shelters. he added, this barbaric Russian behaviour, in total disregard of International Humanitarian Law, must stop immediately".

In the international arena, western countries seek to demonize and isolate Russia, the Biden administration repeatedly says Moscow has become isolated internationally, because of its invasion of Ukraine. However, under the influence of the US. In an effort frame of western countries to diplomatically isolate Russia from the international organization, the UN General Assembly, which included Israel, voted on March 2 to criticize Russia for invading Ukraine and demand that Moscow end hostilities and evacuate its military forces (Pamuk & Landay, 2022). in the same approach. In addition, the UN General Assembly voted on April 8 to expel Russia from the Human Rights Council (HRC) due to allegations that Russian troops had violated and abused human rights in Ukraine "grossly and systemically." (UN News,2022). Further, Russia's most favorable nation (MFN) status would be revoked, thus putting a stop to normal trade relations between the two countries, according to President Biden. In a similar vein, the EU and the G-7 countries made the same move. (Widakuswara, 2022).

Although the sanctions are meant to make it harder for Russia to fund the war, there is an odd paradox at play. The effects of sanctions were seen on the world market; for example, a high rate of inflation between 9.8% and 22.8%; a sharp increase in the prices of basic commodities, in particular, energy

resources and fertilizer resources, additionally, disruption of supply chains. While it is sad that the course of the war in Ukraine and its developments are uncertain or guaranteed and may extend to a nuclear war, western countries still announced support for the war in Ukraine. new sanctions against western liberal values. For instance, banning Russians from Europe is already making it tougher for Russians to get visas for the EU and Schengen region as a result of this decision. However, this type of processing is a serious violation and contrary to the rules of human rights, so the aims of war directly wipe out so-called western values.

Across Europe, the media coverage of war news is blatantly biased compared to other conflicts, in particular the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, as an example, on July 19, 2022, BBC News published a report boasting that Ukraine's shadow army was resisting Russian occupation, it called them the "resistance fighters" (Rainsford,2022). While the Times of Israel Journal highlighted in its report on 9 Aug. 2022 a growing challenge to Russia's grip on "occupied" areas of southeastern Ukraine, it used the term "resistance" to describe activists of the guerrilla forces and the term "occupied" to describe the Russian operation army. According to the report, pro-Kyiv guerilla forces are assassinating pro-Moscow leaders, detonating bridges and trains, and assisting the Ukrainian military by pinpointing important targets (Karmanau & Arhirova, 2022). At the same time, the expressions of human rights, arrests, war crimes, and the rights of Ukraine's people to resistance... were spread among the journalist reports in western countries. According to their reasoning, if the Geneva Conventions are respected, the Ukrainian resistance forces will be considered combatants rather than terrorists. In this aspect, the Russian mindset rather than actuality is the driving force behind the depiction of the Ukrainian resistance as terrorists.

The speed of western countries' response to imposing thousands of types of sanctions against Russia and the way they treat it as a pariah occupation state raises questions about why similar responses to other wars across the world have been lacking. Media commentators, journalists, and political figures in the west have come under fire for allegedly employing their platforms to express both their admiration for Ukraine's armed resistance to Russian troops and their horror at how such a conflict could occur in a country that prides itself on being "civilized." (Al Jazeera, 2022). However, in contrast to nations like Iraq and Afghanistan, CBS foreign correspondent Charlie D'Agata calls Ukraine "relatively civilized," and his comments have contributed to the further dehumanization of non-white, non-European individuals affected by a conflict in mainstream media. (Lambert, 2022).

On the other hand, in comparing standards, however, the next section of this paper highlights the policies of the western countries towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Western Countries Measures Towards Israel

The policies of western countries to support Ukrainians in 2022, struggling against so-called Russian occupation, are a clear occasion to remind the world of the double standards of the West. However, since 1967, the Palestinians have been struggling to achieve the establishment of their independent state and end the Israeli occupation. They have been engaging in peaceful resistance to stop Israel's ongoing, illegal takeover of Palestinian territories, including its colonies, and to end the siege of Gaza since 2005, etc.

Gocha Buachidze, the ambassador of Russia's federation to the State of Palestine, said that the US and western countries practice the policy of duality of standards, and this is one of the reasons for their attempts to include Ukraine in NATO and thus threaten Russian national security. Also, he added, during the 74 years of the Israeli occupation, the world formed, including the Russian Federation and the former Soviet Union, a clear picture of the reasons for the struggle of the Palestinian people and its goals. He added that what is strange and contradictory at the same time is that international law stands by the Palestinian people and their rights to declare their independent state and sovereignty on their land. But America and its allies are always on the wrong side. From 1967 until today, the Americans have thwarted hundreds of UN resolutions and agreements, and they have been offering initiatives and ultimately failing to reach solutions that give the Palestinian people their rights, even for once.

At least since the Oslo peace agreement of 1993, Palestinians see western countries through the lens of only giving empty situations to end the Israeli occupation. At the same time, they fully supported Israel's, among others, flooding Israel with trillions of dollars and euros, providing long-standing security and unwavering protection in the international arena. On the other hand, the democratic countries' parliaments are working hard to criminalize anybody or/and the movements think of boycotting Israel. For instance, fighting the boycott movements, in particular, the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions

Movement, "BDS." Also, supporting Israeli settlement products, receiving exports and importing from Israel, etc., most statements of the western leaders are hollow statements. They lean toward Israel, and they support the executioner, not the victim. As a result of this twisted policy, Israel has been above international law.

Nonetheless, Amnesty International (2022), Al Mezan Center (2021), Human Rights Watch (2021), and other humanitarian organizations' reports have all drawn attention to the ongoing oppression and dominance by Israel over the Palestinian people, as well as Palestinian refugees (more than 7 million), who are exiled abroad or denied the right to self-determination and return, who are subjected to isolation and control, who have their ownership and land taken from them, and who are denied economic and social rights. In order to impose its dominance over the Palestinian people, the Israeli government uses the closure and accompanying limitations to divide and separate the Palestinian people. Notwithstanding, some human rights observers see that, A case in point, the comparison between the Gaza strip and the South African Bantustans is exact, however, the goal of maintaining Jewish Israeli control over demography, political power, and territory has long dictated government policy, as seen by the laws, regulations, and remarks made by top Israeli officials.

In his remarks, Ambassador Morales asserted that today we see how the concepts of the right of self-determination of people and respect for international law and the obligations arising from it, as well as the decisions of the International Court of Justice and the resolutions of the UN, are not implemented except for those that are in line only with the capitalist policies of the US, and in this way, the West is quick to invite, led by America, to abide by agreements and laws only in cases that justify their transgressions and dominance and implement the interests of those governments associated with them. He adds, "Unfortunately, what is being applied today is only what western countries impose without respect for the truth and giving each country its right, and the West's claims to maintain international peace and security do not fully comply with their policies on the ground." Palestine, Russia, China, Nicaragua, and many countries in the world are experiencing these attempts at domination.

In an interview on Press TV (2022), the EU foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, admitted that:

"The western countries apply double standards when it comes to the wars in Ukraine and Israeli-occupied Palestine, saying, "We are often criticized for double standards". He adds "the US was to blame for a lack of resolution".

In the same thread, on July 15, 2022, speaking alongside Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas in Bethlehem, Biden said, "The Palestinian people deserve a state of their own that's independent, sovereign, viable, and contiguous." But he justifies his partiality toward Israel under the argument that "the ground is not ripe at this moment to restart negotiations" and that the "goal of the two-state solution seems so far away" (White House official website, 2022). He has fallen short of promises to reopen its consulate for Palestinians in Jerusalem, which former President Donald Trump ordered shuttered in 2019. Biden made similar promises in his presidential election campaign, like reopening the PLO's Washington office. He is also perceived as being impotent to get the embassy of his state back from Jerusalem to Tel-Aviv. On the whole, he failed to pressure Israel to end its occupation of Palestinian land. While he opposes the Russian annexation of eastern Ukraine, he acquiesces to Israel's annexation of East Jerusalem.

The Chinese Ambassador of the People's Republic of China to the State of Palestine, Mr. Guo Wei, said that history has proven that domination and the policy of making military blocs and creating an environment for confrontation between the camps will not bring peace, but will lead to other wars. and that the ongoing Ukrainian crisis is the biggest evidence of the American desire to continue feeding its unipolar tendency. He added, that Mr. President Mahmoud Abbas pointed out that the current events in Europe have shown flagrant double standards, and what is happening in Palestine cannot be tolerated. Therefore, China calls for the international community not to adopt double standards on the Palestinian issue and other big international issues in the whole world, and it is unreasonable for the duality of standards to be used for sympathy. Concerning the refugees in Ukraine and ignoring the refugees in Palestine, the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America, he adds, that the Republic of China supports the activation of international law and UN resolutions to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on this basis.

However, according to the Congressional Research Service report, RL33476, in March 2022, Congress enacted legislation providing USD 1 billion in supplemental funding for the Israeli Iron Dome system, which was used during the last aggression on Gaza. The report called Israeli illegal settlements "residential neighborhoods," not settlements. Moreover, on 3 Mar. 2022, The Israel Anti-Boycott Act was introduced by Congressman Doug Lamborn, together with Congressman Lee Zeldin and 46 of their fellow House Republicans. This measure safeguards American businesses from being forced to submit information to international groups to further boycotts against Israel and penalizes anyone who tries to circumvent this safeguard. It also states that Congress opposes the Boycott, Divestment, and Sanctions (BDS) campaign (Zeldin House, 2022).

In this regard, the US and Israel fought for more than three years to prevent the publication of the UN database for companies operating in the 1967 territories and in East Jerusalem, known as "the blacklist," because they feared it would be used as justification for a boycott of Israeli settlement products, The Israeli Prime Minister declared that he was severing connections with Michelle Bachelet's UN Office for the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), which had created the list. (Lazaroff, 2020). Beyond this, US legislators view the compilation of a database of corporations conducting business in the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and the Golan Heights by the UN Human Rights Council as a BDS action. However, internationally, the US has vetoed numerous UN Security Council (UNSC) resolutions that have been critical of Israel, including at least 53 from 1972 to 19 May 2021, according to UN records. In their loyal policy frame, US officials lobbied EU chiefs to avoid sponsoring groups of coalitions that seek an international boycott of Israel, claiming they are encouraging anti-Semitism. Immediately, Germany's Bundestag adopted a motion on "resisting the BDS," defining it as anti-Semitic (Landau, 2019). In a similar vein, Priti Patel, the British Home Secretary, claimed on 20 May 2022, that the BDS movement, which seeks to end Israel's illegitimate capture of Palestinian territory, is racist and anti-Semitic (Middle East Monitor, 2022). However, the US, Israel and some EU governments, including Germany, Britain, et al.) see the BDS movement's measures as amounting to banning anti-Semitic activity. The US. Since 2014, more than an hundred bills targeting boycotts and the pro-Palestinian movement have been presented in municipal, state, and federal legislatures. To date, anti-BDS laws have been passed in thirty-four US states, based on the Palestinian legislation website (2022). We see that western countries consider any boycott movement against Israel as a crime and antisemitism, but, the sanctions against Russia, denying the rights of the Palestinians, or occupying any other nation across the world, are just ballet dancing.

In western media coverage, the Israeli attacks on class medical personnel, the willful killings of civilians and journalists, and destroying farms, institutions, factories, civilian buildings, etc., were called unintentional collateral damage. Israeli terminology was frequently utilized by western countries and the media to portray Palestinian resistance as an act of terrorism and Palestinian militants as terrorists. While the diplomatic steps of President Mahmud Abbas and his initiatives were dubbed "diplomatic terror," sadly, during the latest Israeli attack on Gaza on Aug. 2022. Israel's army killed 44 Palestinians, including 15 children and four women. Despite that, the current Israeli PM stated that Israel would not apologize, according to the Israeli Haaretz newspaper (2022). In a comparison of violence and struggle, the BBC published a video on 26 Feb. 2022, of a Ukrainian woman making Molotov cocktails. It is called "They Defend Their City." The BBC itself reported on 2 Apr. 2022, that the Israeli soldiers in Hebron shot dead a Palestinian when a suspect threw a Molotov cocktail at them during a "riot". However, the BBC in this report uses the term "riot," rather than the term "defending their city".

On 26 July 2022, Mr. Thibault Camelli- Chargé d'affaires, of the EU to the UN, stated, that "the EU is deeply concerned about the increasingly high number of casualties, including children. The EU recalls that any use of force must be proportionate and in line with international law, including international human rights and humanitarian law". With all due respect, has the EU ever resolved the Palestinian catastrophe? In fact, the way invasion, occupation, resistance, and international law are handled is starkly compared in the eyes of the Palestinian leadership, on the one hand, the unique deployment of all diplomatic and political, economic sanctions... instruments, over Russians. On the other hand, persistent calls for considerably more restrained steps against Israel have been turned down by western countries (Kuttab, 2022).

Discussion

While the leaders of western countries declared their Position in full solidarity with Ukraine, among others, providing protection for civilians during Russian operations, taking solid measures to ensure the flow of weapons to Ukraine's army, imposing diverse packages of boycotts and sanctions against Russia, demonization of Russia on the international scene and describing it as an occupying country outside international law... etc. sadly, the Palestinian finds nothing of these processes or pressure against Israeli occupation since 1948. The double standards and attitudes of western countries, and what they have done in the life of people across the world, reveal the criminal and aggressive nature of such attitudes. Western countries are predatory for wealth, especially the wealth of weak countries. The aggressive character of the West is what produced double standards as an expression of their true essence. Like the rest of the non-western people of the earth, we suffer from the negative aspects of this policy. Therefore, the policy of domination expressed by the West will not continue without resistance and rejection by the people of the world and their governments. western domination prevents people from living in dignity, security, and stability.

of comparing decisions taken against Russia, at a minimum, Western countries are required to ban all business with the Israeli settlements, instead of merely labeling their products, imposing more pressure, and activating the financial, economic, technology...etc. boycott over Israel, to force it to implement UN resolutions, the Palestinians also demand western countries end hypocritical policies and double standards against them, and assume their responsibilities with their obligation under the laws of the EU and international law to stop assisting this illegal Israeli occupation of the State of Palestine, the democratic countries should determine who is the victim and who is the aggressor. However, in the Middle East and across the world, we believe at the present moment, the world is going through an important turning point and a fundamental turning point. The war in Ukraine revealed the truth of the West's position. We in the region are key partners in creating this moment because the fundamental issues and the prices paid directly were paid from the blood, conscience, rights, and dignity of the afflicted people, mainly the people of the Middle East, Africa, and Latin America, but the focus of American domination was with us in the Middle East region more and uglier than others from all over the world.

The majority of people across the world especially in Palestine see obviously that the double standards of western countries are exacerbated, in other words, western countries are particularly concerned about their interests, not maintaining international law, or human rights. It should be noted that these values and international law principles are important everywhere, not just in the case of Ukraine or Russia. However, these ambiguous approaches caused the Palestinians to lose even more faith in western policies, Security Council resolutions, the UN, and the so-called international community as a whole regarding their cause. At this moment, we must see an essential element, which is the reformulation of the political and geographical map of a multipolar world away from the American unipolarity. America and its allies, and between a multipolar axis led by Russia, China, and many countries in the world that reject American hegemony, towards a new world based on recognition of the rights and security of people, and the search for settlement and dignity for them and the right to self-determination, away from western domination and duality of standards.

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