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**7/09/2025**

# **UN Governance Constraints: An Obstacle to Holding Israel Accountable**

## **Abstract**

This article adopts an analytical and evidence-based approach to examine the reasons behind the United Nations' failure to revoke Israel's membership despite its repeated violations of UN resolutions and international law [1,2]. The findings indicate that the UN's inefficiency stems from the Security Council's inequitable structure [3], the veto power of the five permanent members [4], the extensive influence of pro-Israel lobby groups [5], the unconditional support of the United States and NATO [6], and the silence or covert cooperation of certain Arab regimes [7]. Analysis of international cases—including the Gaza conflicts, Iraq, Yugoslavia, Libya, and Yemen—demonstrates that over the past three decades, the UN has often served as a legitimizing tool for great power interventions rather than acting as a neutral mediator [8,9]. Finally, the article compares the current UN situation to the League of Nations' collapse before World War II, underscoring the urgent need for fundamental reforms in global decision-making structures [10].

## **Introduction**

Since Israel's establishment in 1948, the regime has repeatedly violated fundamental principles of international law [1], carried out mass killings of Palestinian civilians [2], and ignored dozens of binding United Nations

resolutions [3]. Nevertheless, Israel's membership has not been revoked, and it continues to enjoy full political, military, and diplomatic protection [4]. This fundamental contradiction raises critical questions regarding the UN's independence, neutrality, and degree of dependence on major global powers [5].

This article, using a scientific and evidence-based approach, examines the UN's power structure and the role of the United States, NATO, pro-Israel lobbies, and certain Arab regimes in sustaining Israel's occupation [6,7]. Additionally, it analyzes UN failures over the past three decades in acting as a neutral mediator [8] and emphasizes the need to review the new global order and reform the Security Council structure [9].

Reviewing documents, statistics, and historical cases shows that the Security Council's unequal structure, the veto power of five permanent members, the extensive influence of pro-Israel lobby groups, unconditional support from the United States and NATO, and the silence or covert cooperation of some Arab regimes are the main factors behind the UN's inefficiency in dealing with Israel [3–7].

Between 2023 and 2025, extensive attacks on the Gaza Strip resulted in the deaths of over 60,000 civilians, including more than 20,000 children and 15,000 women [11]. Despite this, no effective action was taken against Israel, which continues to enjoy complete political, military, and diplomatic protection [4,6].

This situation raises serious questions about the UN's claimed neutrality and the role of major powers in global decision-making [5]. While the UN Charter explicitly guarantees equality and justice among countries [12], the organization's performance regarding Israel's overt violations and other international crises demonstrates that these principles are frequently disregarded in practice [3,8].

## **1. Unequal Decision-Making Structure and the Veto Power of the Five Permanent Members**

One of the primary factors behind the United Nations' ineffectiveness in addressing Israel's repeated violations of international law is the decision-making structure of the Security Council. The UN Charter, particularly Article 6, explicitly states that any country that persistently breaches the fundamental principles of the Charter may be expelled from membership upon the recommendation of the Security Council and a two-thirds vote in the General Assembly [12]. In practice, however, this provision has almost never been enforced [3,4].

The principal reason for this ineffectiveness is the veto power held by the five permanent members of the Security Council: the United States, the United Kingdom, France, Russia, and China [4]. Each of these states can block any binding resolution with a single negative vote [3].

UN studies and analyses by international think tanks indicate that, since 1972, the United States has vetoed over forty-seven Security Council resolutions directed against Israel [4,13]. This demonstrates that, within the Council's decision-making structure, geopolitical interests often take precedence over international law and global justice [3,4].

Moreover, the veto power of the permanent members ensures that no effective strategy exists to apply international pressure on Israel. This has allowed Israel to maintain full political and diplomatic immunity, even in cases of blatant human rights violations, and to continue its occupation policies without significant international accountability [4,5].

Research further shows that the unbalanced power structure of the Security Council has not only affected decisions regarding Israel but has also hindered decisive international action in other crises, including crises in Syria, Ukraine, and Yemen [8,14,15]. In other words, the Security Council functions less as a guarantor of global justice and more as an institution safeguarding the interests of the five dominant powers [3,4].

## **2. Unconditional Support from the United States and NATO Countries**

Another critical factor contributing to the United Nations' failure to hold Israel accountable is the comprehensive support provided by the United States and NATO member states. As a strategic Western ally in the Middle East, Israel benefits from extensive military, financial, and political backing, which effectively neutralizes any binding UN actions [7].

According to official reports from the U.S. Department of State, over the past two decades, the United States has allocated more than \$150 billion in military and financial assistance to Israel [8]. Specifically, in 2023, the annual U.S. military aid to Israel amounted to \$3.8 billion. This support includes advanced weaponry, missile defence technologies, and intelligence assistance, enhancing Israel's military capabilities and reinforcing its immunity against international pressure [8].

Furthermore, despite formal claims of neutrality, the European Union and NATO provide substantial support to Israel in areas such as military technology, armed

forces training, and intelligence cooperation [9]. This network of support not only ensures Israel's internal security but also enables it to continue violating international law and UN resolutions with confidence [9].

International analyses indicate that the UN's failure to take effective action against Israel is not solely due to institutional weaknesses but is directly linked to its political and military dependence on Western powers [10]. In other words, the unconditional support of the United States and NATO constitutes a principal pillar of Israel's international immunity, thereby undermining the effectiveness and fairness of international law [10].

### **3. The Extensive Influence of Zionist Lobbies in Global Power Structures**

Another determining factor in Israel's continued immunity is the power and influence of Zionist lobbies on the policies of the United States and certain European countries. These lobbies, leveraging financial resources, media networks, and extensive political connections, can shape foreign policy and international decision-making to favour Israel [11].

Research conducted by think tanks such as the Middle East Institute and the Brookings Institution indicates that Zionist lobbies operate through three primary channels:

1. ***Economic and Financial Influence***: By controlling a significant portion of financial markets and investment in Western countries, particularly the United States, these lobbies create the capacity to exert pressure on policymakers and decision-making institutions [12].
2. ***Impact on Media and Public Opinion***: International media networks influenced by these lobbies often highlight perspectives aligned with Israeli policies while minimizing criticism of the regime's actions [13].
3. ***Direct Relationships with Politicians and Government Institutions***: Through lobbying sessions, election-related financial contributions, and personal connections with legislators, these lobbies play a decisive role in shaping U.S. foreign policy and that of its allies [14].

Research findings suggest that Zionist lobbies even influence the prioritization of issues within the UN Security Council and the official stances of the United Nations, such that many resolutions against Israel are modified or weakened through political and diplomatic pressure before voting [15].

Consequently, the extensive influence of these lobbies constitutes a key factor allowing Israel not only to withstand international pressure but also to continue its occupation policies and human rights violations. This situation highlights the practical limitations of international law when confronted with powers possessing high political and economic leverage [11,12,15].

#### **4. The Silence and Covert Cooperation of Certain Arab Regimes with Israel**

Another factor contributing to Israel's continued immunity is the silence or covert cooperation of certain Arab regimes in the region. Despite claiming to represent the interests of the Islamic world, these countries often pursue policies that ensure the survival of the Israeli regime and protect Western interests, frequently at the expense of Palestinian aspirations [16].

*Prominent examples of this trend include:*

**1. *The Abraham Accords (2020):*** This agreement normalized formal relations between the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, and Morocco with Israel, establishing frameworks for economic, technological, and security cooperation [17].

**2. *Secret Saudi-Israeli Negotiations:*** Reports from international research centers such as Chatham House and the Brookings Institution indicate that high-level security and economic negotiations between Saudi Arabia and Israel have taken place, often sidelining Palestinian interests [18].

**This policy of silence or covert cooperation is driven by several factors:**

- Efforts to maintain domestic political stability and regime survival in the face of regional and international pressures [16];
- The need for Western support and legitimacy for economic and security development [16];
- A conservative and political interpretation of representing the Islamic world, prioritizing national interests and political power preservation over Palestinian rights [16].

Historical analysis shows that this silence, combined with Western support and the influence of Zionist lobbies, has played a decisive role in shielding Israel from international accountability [19]. In other words, the lack of active intervention by Arab regimes has reinforced the existing global power structures and UN inefficiency, allowing Israel to continue its occupation policies unimpeded [16][19].

## 5. The United Nations' Failures over the Past Three Decades: From Yugoslavia to Gaza

Following the collapse of the Soviet Union in 1991, the United Nations entered a new phase in which it was expected to strengthen its role as a mediator and guarantor of global peace. However, the UN's performance over the past three decades indicates that the organization has often served the interests of major powers, losing its impartial and effective role in numerous international crises [8].

### Key examples of these failures include:

1. ***NATO's Intervention in Yugoslavia (1999)***: Despite its inherent responsibility to maintain peace, the UN effectively legitimized NATO's military intervention and failed to halt airstrikes or protect civilians [9].
2. ***The U.S. and U.K. Occupation of Iraq (2003)***: Despite widespread opposition within the international community, the Security Council was unable to enforce measures to prevent the occupation, leaving the UN with a limited role in oversight and humanitarian assistance [9].
3. ***Military Intervention in Libya (2011)***: With the support of Western powers, the UN legitimized an operation ostensibly aimed at "protecting civilians," which ultimately resulted in extensive human suffering and political instability [10].
4. ***Indirect Support for the Saudi-led Coalition in Yemen (2015–present)***: Despite numerous reports on human rights violations and the widespread bombing of civilians, the UN has taken little effective action [10].
5. ***Inability to Stop Israeli Attacks on Gaza (2023–2025)***: During recent Israeli operations in Gaza, the UN, despite issuing statements and formal warnings, failed to prevent mass civilian casualties or take practical measures to halt the aggressions [6][11].

These examples demonstrate that, in practice, the United Nations has often functioned as a tool to legitimize interventions by powerful states, rather than as an impartial and independent mediator. In other words, international institutions, particularly the Security Council, frequently prioritize the geopolitical interests of permanent members, resulting in systemic inefficiency in preventing overt violations of international law [8][6].

## 6. The United Nations and the Risk of Repeating the League of Nations' Fate

Over seven decades since its establishment, the United Nations faces challenges reminiscent of the fate of the League of Nations prior to World War II. The League of Nations, created after World War I, gradually lost credibility due to the dominance of major powers, its inability to enforce binding decisions, and its failure to prevent military aggressions, ultimately leading to its collapse [8].

A historical analysis of the UN indicates that a similar threat exists today. Factors that exacerbate this risk include:

1. ***Dominance of Major Powers***: The five permanent members of the Security Council, equipped with veto power, have consistently blocked binding resolutions and prevented effective action against countries such as Israel [3][4].
2. ***Financial and Political Dependence***: The UN relies heavily on funding and political support from major powers, which limits its independence and impartiality [5][6].
3. ***Inability to Enforce International Justice***: The lack of binding mechanisms to punish aggressors allows states that violate international law to continue their actions without fear of serious consequences [7][12].

If this trend continues, the credibility of the United Nations at the global level will diminish, and the trust of member states and the international community will erode. Historical experience from the League of Nations shows that such weaknesses not only foster distrust but also lead to institutional collapse and a power vacuum in international affairs [8].

This analysis underscores the urgent need for fundamental reforms in the UN's power structure, decision-making processes, and independence, warning that without substantive changes, the United Nations may face a fate like that of the League of Nations [4][5].

## 7. The Necessity of Revising the New World Order

Given the evident inefficiencies of the United Nations in responding to repeated violations of international law, particularly regarding Israel and other global crises, a fundamental review of the organization's power structure and decision-making mechanisms is a critical necessity. Proposed reforms focus on four main areas:

1. Abolishing or Limiting the Veto Power of the Five Permanent Security Council Members: Reducing or restricting veto authority could prevent the misuse of power by major states and enable the adoption of binding and equitable decisions [3][4].

2. Enhancing the Powers of the UN General Assembly: Strengthening the role of the General Assembly as a body capable of adopting binding resolutions could improve the balance of power and reinforce the UN's independence [5][6].

3. Establishing Binding Mechanisms to Punish Aggressor States and Human Rights Violators: Implementing mechanisms with strong enforcement capabilities, such as an empowered International Criminal Court, could provide effective deterrence against international violations [7][12].

4. Ensuring Financial and Political Independence of the UN from Major Powers: Securing stable and diversified funding sources while reducing reliance on financial assistance from specific states would allow the UN to operate free from political pressures [5][6].

Implementing these reforms would not only increase fairness and transparency in decision-making but also strengthen global security and the legitimacy of the United Nations. Without such changes, the international body will continue to remain ineffective, unable to prevent aggression by major powers or politically and economically influential states [4][5].

## Conclusion and Summary

A historical and evidence-based analysis of the United Nations' performance in addressing Israel and other international crises demonstrates that the combination of an inequitable power structure, the political and economic influence of major states, and the silence or covert cooperation of certain regional actors has prevented the UN from functioning as an independent mediator and a guardian of international justice [1][5].

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