

Effective Application of International Refugee Law: The Impact on Palestinians

DGN Sanjeevani

Faculty of Defence and Strategic Studies, General Sir John Kotelawala Defence University

nirukasanjeevani@yahoo.com

Since the establishment of Israel in 1948 that was supported by both Balfour Declaration in 1917 and the United Nations Partition Plan, also referred to the UNGA Resolution 181, Palestinians have been denied their right to be sheltered securely and return to their habitual places. This whole process mainly follows by Israeli's forceful evictions and expropriation of properties of Palestinians which violate basic rights that exist in the International Refugee Law. It is obvious that the 1948, 1967 and 1973 wars gave birth to largest Palestinian refugee flows in the modern history. Palestinian refugees and their descendants comprise any persons whose normal place of residence was British mandatory Palestine during the period of 1 June 1946 to 15 May 1948 and who lost both his home and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 conflict. However, those parameters are now extended as the displacement of Palestinians has been passed through generations by causing a Protracted Refugee Situation in the region. Though number of International mechanisms including the UN General Assembly Resolution 194, UN Security Council Resolution 237, General Assembly Resolution 2535 have pointed out the fact that Palestinian refugees need to be permitted to return to their homes at the earliest practicable date and to compensate those who decide not to return, those mechanisms have not yet made an effective contribution to ensure the rights of Palestinians. Within this landscape, this paper concludes that the issue of the Palestinian refugees has become intensified due to the lapses in implementing international legal procedures which have been adopted so far. The Qualitative methodology is utilized in the study to analyse secondary data collected from books and journal articles.

Keywords: *forceful evictions, international refugee law, protracted refugee situation*