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Trumps Agrassion Towards ICC And Its Impact On Palestine-Isreal Conflict

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Abstract

On November 21, 2024, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, and Hamas leader Mohammed Deif for alleged war crimes in the Israel-Palestine conflict, which has claimed over 40,000 civilian lives. On February 6, 2025, U.S. President Donald Trump, supporting ally Israel, imposed sanctions on ICC officials, freezing their U.S. assets and banning their entry. The U.S. is not an ICC member. These sanctions, criticized by 79 countries including the UK, France, and Canada, hinder the ICC's ability to probe war crimes, particularly in Palestine. This could delay justice and embolden further Israeli military actions, possibly advancing the "Greater Israel" vision, worsening regional unrest. The sanctions undermine the ICC's independence, threatening global justice and human rights principles. Trump's lack of empathy for Palestinian victims has raised concerns about U.S. priorities. Experts urge the EU, UN, and others to support the ICC with funding and diplomacy. Without action, these sanctions may undo decades of progress in international justice, leaving vulnerable groups without accountability and fueling violence in the Middle East.

Key Words: US, Sanctions, International Criminal Court, War, Human Rights, Benjamin Natin Yahu, Yoav Gallant

Introduction

On November 21, 2024, the International Criminal Court (ICC) issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, former Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, and Hamas military leader Mohammed Deif, following investigations into alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity. These warrants were met with condemnation from both Hamas and Israeli officials. In support of Israel, a key NATO ally, newly elected U.S. President Donald J. Trump, on February 6, 2025, denounced the ICC's decision and signed an executive order imposing sanctions on the ICC. These sanctions are perceived as enabling war crimes and genocide in Palestine, exacerbating a conflict that has claimed over 40,000 lives—predominantly women, children, and the elderly—while causing severe injuries and widespread homelessness. This article examines the nature of the U.S. sanctions on the ICC, their role in perpetuating the genocide in Palestine, and their broader implications for human rights violations in the region. The analysis is divided into sections for clarity and accessibility.

Arrest warrant issued by International Criminal Court (ICC)

Established under the Rome Statute in 2002, the ICC operates independently of the United Nations to prosecute the gravest international crimes. Since October 7, 2023, escalating war crimes in the Israel Palestine conflict have led to a sharp rise



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in civilian casualties, creating an alarming humanitarian crisis in the Middle East. On November 21, 2024, the ICC's Pre-Trial Chamber I issued arrest warrants for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and former Defense Minister Yoav Gallant, citing their responsibility for war crimes and human rights violations, including the deaths of over 40,000 civilians in Palestine. The ICC also rejected Israel's jurisdictional challenges under Articles 18 and 19 of the Rome Statute (Situation in the State of Palestine: ICC Pre-Trial Chamber I Rejects the State of Israel's Challenges to Jurisdiction and Issues Warrants of Arrest for Benjamin Netanyahu and Yoav Gallant, 21-11-2024). On the same date, the ICC issued an arrest warrant for Mohammed Diab Ibrahim Al-Masri, known as "Deif," a Hamas military leader, for alleged war crimes and crimes against humanity committed in Israel and Palestine since October 7, 2023 (ICC, 21-11-2024). The Israeli government and U.S. President Donald J. Trump strongly condemned the warrants targeting Israeli officials.

United States sanctions on ICC

The United States is not a member of the ICC and has historically displayed hostility toward the court. In March 2019, the U.S. imposed economic and travel sanctions on ICC Prosecutor Fatou Bensouda and other officials involved in an Afghanistan investigation, though these were lifted by the Biden administration in April 2021. In response to the ICC's November 21, 2024, arrest warrants for Netanyahu and Gallant, and in alignment with the strong U.S.-Israel alliance, President Trump condemned the ICC's actions as "illegitimate and baseless." On February 6, 2025, he signed an executive order imposing sanctions on the ICC, including the freezing of ICC officials' property and assets in the U.S. and barring ICC officials, employees, agents, and their immediate family members from entering the country (Imposing Sanctions on the International Criminal Court, 06-02-2025).

International Reactions

Mostly the international community has strongly condemned the decision of Trump imposing sanctions on the International Criminal Court (ICC). Seventy-nine countries, including key U.S. allies like the UK, France, Germany, and Canada, have voiced strong support for the ICC, warning that the sanctions threaten global justice and rule of law (Dozens of countries speak out against Trump sanctions on ICC, 07-02-2025). Some countries show their support for these sanctions, the Prime Minister of Israel Benjamin Netanyahu has appreciated these sanctions (Vignoli, 12-02-2025). In support of International Criminal Court (ICC) against US sanctions the foreign minister of European Union Kaja Kallas announced the unwavering support for ICC (Trump's sanctions on ICC are 'vindictive and aggressive, 25-03-2025). The International Criminal Court (ICC) on Friday strongly condemned an executive order signed by U.S. President Donald Trump, stating that the measure was a deliberate attempt to undermine the Court's independence and impartial judicial mandate (International Criminal Court condemns US sanctions move, 07-2-2025).

Impact of US Sanctions on the ICC Regarding the Palestine-Israel Conflict

The U.S. sanctions on the International Criminal Court (ICC), announced in early



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2025, are poised to significantly obstruct investigations into war crimes and human rights violations across the Middle East, a region already fraught with conflict and instability (Kozul-Wright, 07-02-2025). These measures, which specifically target ICC officials, create formidable barriers for researchers, lawyers, and human rights defenders striving to document ongoing atrocities with accuracy and impartiality (International, What Do the Trump Administration's Sanctions on the ICC Mean for Justice and Human Rights? 25-03-2025). By imposing penalties on key personnel, the sanctions undermine the ICC's operational capacity, threatening its ability to uphold justice in some of the world's most volatile areas. The chilling effect of these actions extends beyond the courtroom, discouraging victims and witnesses from coming forward due to heightened fears of reprisals, further eroding the pursuit of accountability (24, 07-02-2025).

Particularly in the context of the Israel-Palestine conflict, the ICC's ability to gather credible evidence and pursue cases is likely to be severely compromised. The sanctions create an environment of uncertainty, where legal proceedings may stall, and justice for victims of alleged war crimes could be indefinitely delayed. This development risks emboldening Israeli authorities to intensify military operations in Palestinian territories, as the threat of international legal scrutiny diminishes. Some analysts argue that this aligns with the "Greater Israel" ideology, which envisions expanded territorial control, further undermining Palestinian sovereignty and self-determination. The sanctions thus not only impede justice but also contribute to escalating tensions in an already volatile region, with far-reaching implications for peace and stability.

These measures represent a broader assault on the global rules-based order, a framework that has underpinned decades of progress in international justice, equality, and human rights (International, USA: Sanctions Against International Criminal Court Betray International Justice System, 06-02-2025). The ICC, established to hold perpetrators of heinous crimes accountable, relies on its independence to function effectively. By targeting its officials, the U.S. sanctions weaken this independence, signaling a retreat from the principles of universal accountability. This move has drawn sharp criticism from global leaders and human rights advocates, who view it as a betrayal of the international justice system. The erosion of the ICC's authority could set a dangerous precedent, encouraging other nations to flout international legal obligations without fear of consequences.

President Donald Trump's statement accompanying the sanctions has further intensified global concerns. His remarks, which notably lacked any expression of sympathy for Palestinian victims, have been perceived as dismissive of the human toll of the conflict. This stance has fueled accusations that the U.S. is prioritizing geopolitical alliances over human rights, raising questions about its commitment to fostering global peace. The absence of empathy in Trump's rhetoric has galvanized calls for stronger international action to protect the ICC's mandate and ensure that victims' voices are not silenced.

Experts underscore that the ICC's independence is not merely a legal necessity but a cornerstone of global peace. Without a robust and impartial court, the cycle of impunity for war crimes and human rights abuses risks perpetuating violence and instability worldwide. To counter the effects of the sanctions, major economic powers, including the European Union and emerging economies, are urged to adopt policies that bolster the ICC's operational resilience. International



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institutions, such as the United Nations, must also play a pivotal role in safeguarding the court's mandate. Proposals include diplomatic efforts to shield ICC personnel from sanctions, increased funding for its operations, and public campaigns to reaffirm the importance of international justice.

The ramifications of the U.S. sanctions extend beyond the ICC's immediate challenges, threatening the broader architecture of global governance. As the international community grapples with these developments, the need for collective action to preserve the principles of justice, equality, and human rights has never been more urgent. Failure to act risks unraveling decades of hard-won progress, leaving the most vulnerable populations without recourse to justice.

Conclusion

The US sanctions on ICC, enacted in February 2025 undermine the global justice system, specially in the case of Palestine-Israel conflict. US indirect support for Israel based on regional alliance have significant impacts on raising atrocities in the middle east. These sanctions are condemned by key US allies like, UK, Germany, France and Canada. Avoiding the empathy for Palestinian war victims by US President raises severe concerns about the human rights security in the Middle East. The international community, including major economies and the United Nations, must act swiftly to protect the ICC's mandate through diplomatic support, increased funding, and public advocacy. Failure to counter these sanctions could unravel decades of progress in global justice, leaving vulnerable populations without hope for accountability.

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