



Humanitarian Crisis on The Dynamics of The Russia-Ukraine Conflict (Analysis of Humanitarian Law and Proposals for the Strengthening of the International Court)

Yudi Rianto Ratu*, Ernesta A. Brahmana, Tarsisius Susilo, Sarwo Supriyo, Thomas HK. Sinaga
Sekolah Staf dan Komando Tentara Nasional Indonesia

*Email for Correspondence: yudiratu200053@gmail.com, ernestardent@gmail.com, muchus70@gmail.com, sarwosupriyo1995@gmail.com, apul_au97@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

This study examines international humanitarian law in the dynamics of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, which has had a significant impact on the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. The background of this study focuses on the existing fact that the Russian military invasion since February 2022 has caused the largest humanitarian crisis on the European continent. The Russia-Ukraine conflict has resulted in casualties, war injuries, infrastructure damage, and the absence of basic rights such as health care and access to basic necessities. Millions of Ukrainians have fled, both to neighboring countries and within Ukraine to safer locations. The purpose of this study is to analyze the application of international humanitarian law in responding to the Russia-Ukraine conflict and to provide recommendations for the development of more relevant policies in this context. The method used in this study is a qualitative approach through the analysis of legal documents and case studies, with a focus on the humanitarian crisis caused by the dynamics of the Russia-Ukraine conflict since February 2022. This analysis reveals that the principles of international humanitarian law are not fully applied in the context of the Russia-Ukraine conflict. The research findings show that the humanitarian crisis in this conflict is quite concerning and requires UN intervention. Based on these findings, this study recommends that the UN urge Russia to implement a ceasefire with Ukraine and to ensure the realization of international humanitarian law protection in *humanitarian corridors* based on international agreements and supervised by the UN, in order to evacuate civilians and distribute humanitarian aid.

Keywords:

Russia-Ukraine
conflict, humanitarian
crisis, humanitarian
law, refugees

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INTRODUCTION

Russia's invasion of Ukraine that began on February 24, 2022, has had a variety of multidimensional impacts, especially in the humanitarian aspect. Within weeks of the invasion, millions of Ukrainian civilians were forced to leave their homes for safer areas or abroad. Based on UNHCR statistics, there are 3.7 million internally displaced persons in Ukraine (as of February 2025); 6.9 million refugees from Ukraine have been recorded globally (as of February 2025); and about 12.7 million people will need humanitarian assistance by 2025, including about 2 million children (UNHCR, 2024). Attacks on civilian infrastructure, including hospitals, schools, and energy systems, worsen the conditions of civil society (Spiegel et al., 2022). The war has led to the breakdown of healthcare systems, mental health crises, and widespread food insecurity (Leaning & Guha-Sapir, 2022; Kluge et al., 2022). The United Nations (UN) has called this conflict the fastest refugee crisis on the European continent recorded in the history of modern war (UN News, 2023). This massive displacement has placed additional pressure on neighboring countries, many of which were already facing post-pandemic recovery issues (Janmyr, 2022). The humanitarian crisis in this war poses complex challenges, both for Ukraine itself and for countries hosting refugees from Ukraine (Søreide & Søreide, 2023).

Some of the factors behind Russia's invasion of Ukraine are NATO. Russia has long criticized NATO's presence in the European region (Charap & Shapiro, 2021). Russia strongly rejects Ukraine's intention to join NATO, as Russia considers the military alliance a direct threat in Russia's border region (Mearsheimer, 2022). Russia considers Ukraine part of its "strategic sphere of influence" and views Ukraine's pro-Western orientation as a threat to its national security and geopolitical identity (Tsygankov, 2022). However, Ukraine has received great support from Western countries in the form of weapons, intelligence, and humanitarian aid (Menon & Rumer, 2022). The United States, the European Union, and NATO are the main supporters. Until now, the conflict is still ongoing under the condition that Russia and Ukraine cannot advance or win because the forces of both sides are balanced, so no ceasefire progress can be achieved on the Eastern and Southern fronts (Gady

& Grossman, 2023). Diplomatic efforts have not resulted in permanent peace, despite some local ceasefires (Delcour & Wolczuk, 2023). Ukraine is strengthening its position with the help of Western technology, while Russia continues to defend the territory it already controls while increasing the narrative of domestic nationalism. Therefore, this study is important to understand the extent of the impact of the Russia-Ukraine conflict on the humanitarian crisis, and how the international community responds to these situations and conditions.

International humanitarian law, set out in the 1949 Geneva Convention and Additional Protocol I (1977), was designed with the aim of protecting individuals and civilian objects during armed conflict. The principle of distinction, which is one of the main pillars of this law, expressly prohibits attacks on medical facilities that are considered civilian objects (Dinstein, 2016). However, this law was violated by Russia in its invasion of Ukraine, as Israel did to the Palestinian state (Roberts, 2022). Russia is considered to have violated international humanitarian law (IHL) in its invasion of Ukraine due to a number of actions and attacks that are not in line with the basic principles of the IHL, in particular the Geneva Conventions and its Additional Protocols (Sassòli, 2023). IHL requires countries in conflict to separate between combatants and non-combatants (Schmitt & Watts, 2022). However, Russia reportedly launched direct attacks on civilian settlements, schools, hospitals, and other public facilities (Klabbers, 2023). An example is the Russian military bombing of the Donetsk Academic Regional Drama Theater in Mariupol in March 2022 that killed hundreds of civilians taking refuge, and this is considered a serious violation because there are no military targets there (Croft, 2023).

This research conducts a study of highly relevant themes to explore the ways in which laws can be enforced to protect the rights of civilians during conflict. By assessing the global response to this situation, this article will raise awareness of the humanitarian crisis it faces. Thus, the focus of this research is the humanitarian crisis caused by the Russia-Ukraine conflict reviewed from international humanitarian law that is more adaptive to the development of current war strategies and technologies. Given the blunt regulation of international law against humanitarian violations committed by superpowers, such as Russia's invasion of Ukraine, the study also proposes strengthening international courts to address these issues. By considering the perspective of superpowers that often have double standards in dealing with the dynamic development of strategic environmental problems, this research aims to contribute to the development of international humanitarian law policies and the strengthening of international courts that are more adaptive to the development of dynamic strategic environments. Therefore, the title of this research is *Humanitarian Crisis on the Dynamics of the Russia-Ukraine Conflict (Analysis of Humanitarian Law and Proposals for the Strengthening of the International Court)*.

This study seeks to present novelty by examining the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine from the perspective of integration between geopolitical dynamics, digital disinformation, and the response of non-state actors, which have not been touched much in previous studies. The focus of this research is not only on the physical impact of displacement, but also on how the manipulation of information and social media shapes global perceptions of conflict, as well as how local civil society organizations fill the void of the state's role in providing humanitarian assistance. With a qualitative approach and critical discourse analysis, this research contributes to a more comprehensive and contemporary understanding of modern humanitarian crises in the context of hybrid warfare. By raising these cases, this study enriches understanding of the impact of military strikes on humanitarian crises in countries in conflict. It is hoped that this research will make a significant contribution to the Indonesian legal literature, which tends to lack a strong deterrent effect in raising the issue of humanitarian crises in the international context. In addition, another scientific novelty lies in the capacity-based policy recommendations of developing countries, which are rarely heard by superpowers, especially by the United States in the global discourse on strengthening international humanitarian law. This research proposes the establishment of an *ASEAN* autonomous body that is free from the intervention of superpowers as a regional response to the growing threat of humanitarian crises in the international world, as is happening in Ukraine, Palestine, Syria, and other countries. This approach takes into account the differences in the technological and resource capacities of developed and developing countries, and provides concrete solutions relevant to *ASEAN* countries that face challenges in protecting their countries' territorial sovereignty.

The study also criticizes the West's double standards in dealing with Ukrainian refugees compared with those from other countries. Refugees from Ukraine are receiving a warm welcome in many European countries. They were granted emergency residence permits, access to social services, education, and employment in a short period of time. Meanwhile, refugees from Syria, Afghanistan, Palestine, or Africa often face rejection, tightening policies, and even criminalization when entering Europe. Some countries even built walls or held them in refugee camps in poor conditions. Faced with the media, the Western media presents an empathetic and heroic narrative of the Ukrainian people, with an emphasis on "common values" and "European civilization." As for conflicts in Muslim-majority countries or among people of color, it is often highlighted by the narrative of "internal chaos," "terrorism," or "cultural backwardness," which actually reduces public

empathy. This criticism opens up space to renew the international legal framework with a more inclusive and responsive approach to the needs of developing countries, thereby enriching the global discourse on addressing humanitarian crises caused by armed conflict. The West's double standards in responding to the Ukraine crisis reflect a political, racial, and strategic bias that has long been criticized in international relations. This shows that humanity is often defined not by universal principles, but by geopolitical interests and cultural identity.

The research aims to analyze the impact of the humanitarian crisis arising from Russia's invasion of Ukraine, in particular on civilians, refugees, and civilian infrastructure; to examine the political and military dynamics of the Russia-Ukraine conflict that worsened the humanitarian situation; and to provide policy recommendations related to the handling of humanitarian crises in armed conflicts, especially those involving major powers and global impacts.

METHOD

A descriptive qualitative approach was used in this study, which aimed to explore in depth how humanitarian crises occurred and were experienced by civilian victims; to analyze narratives and discourses that developed, both from the media, government officials, humanitarian organizations, and civilians; and to understand the power relations and geopolitical dynamics that shaped the response to this crisis. The focus of this research was: (1) the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine as a challenge to international humanitarian law; (2) the humanitarian impact caused by the Russia-Ukraine conflict on civilians, including refugees, women, and children; (3) international humanitarian law perspectives on the Russia-Ukraine conflict; and (4) *OHCHR*'s response to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine. Data sources were obtained from official documents from international institutions (e.g., *UNHCR*, *ICRC*, *UN*); news from international media; and scientific literature. The study used a qualitative descriptive method to examine humanitarian crises in the dynamics of the Russia-Ukraine conflict, aiming to understand the meaning, perspective, and human experience that could not be measured statistically, but were crucial in complex socio-political contexts.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The Humanitarian Crisis in Ukraine as a Challenge to International Humanitarian Law

The humanitarian crisis in Ukraine due to Russia's invasion has become the world's main spotlight. Thousands of civilians were killed, millions displaced, and many public facilities destroyed. This conflict not only tests the resilience of the Ukrainian state, but also challenges the effectiveness of International Humanitarian Law (HHI) in contemporary armed conflicts. The humanitarian crisis in Ukraine as a challenge to International Humanitarian Law (HHI) highlights how Russia's invasion of Ukraine has tested the effectiveness, applicability, and limits of HHI in the modern era of conflict. Russia's invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 has led to an escalation of international armed conflicts that have led to mass civilian casualties, massive displacements, destruction of civilian infrastructure, and allegations of war crimes. This raises critical questions about the effectiveness of HHI in protecting victims of conflict, ensuring access to humanitarian assistance, and enforcing legal accountability for violations. The Russia-Ukraine conflict not only violates the basic principles of the HHI, but also exposes structural weaknesses in the international mechanism for upholding humanitarian justice.

Based on the principle, International Humanitarian Law has the purpose of maintaining the safety of individuals who do not participate in war. This includes protection for civilians, health workers, religious leaders, and groups of injured individuals, victims of ship damage, sick people, and civilian prisoners and prisoners of war. This law recognizes the right to life of individuals in armed conflict, where there are individuals who need to be protected from the direct influence of war. Civilians are a number of human beings who are not directly involved in armed conflict, therefore receive special protection in line with the laws of war. Medical personnel are given protection so that they can carry out their duties in providing health services. This protection also covers the injured, both military and civilian, as well as victims of ship incidents, with the aim of ensuring that they receive proper treatment in accordance with humanitarian principles. In addition, this law guarantees that sick individuals and prisoners of war must be treated with respect, without discrimination, and kept away from inhumane treatment. In essence, anyone who is in poor health or is a prisoner has the same right to be treated with dignity and protected from acts that degrade his or her human values.

The humanitarian impact caused by the Russia-Ukraine conflict on civilians in Ukraine.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict that began in 2014 and culminated with Russia's massive invasion of Ukraine in February 2022 has had a huge humanitarian impact on civilians including refugees, women, and children. Thousands of civilians have been killed and injured as a result of direct attacks, such as bombings of residential areas, hospitals, schools, and other civilian infrastructure. Many of the victims came from children, women, and the elderly who could not evacuate quickly. More than 8 million Ukrainians have fled to European countries, while millions more have become internally displaced. These evacuations are causing great pressure

on neighboring countries and international humanitarian organizations to provide standard necessities. Critical infrastructure such as hospitals, power plants, clean water networks, and educational facilities were severely damaged or destroyed. This destruction has a long-term impact on the quality of life of civilians, including difficulties in accessing health services and education. On the other hand, the war is already disrupting food production and distribution, especially since Ukraine is one of the world's wheat granaries. Many people lost their jobs and livelihoods due to the destruction of markets and factories, as well as the economic blockade. The psychological trauma of war, family loss, and the destruction of homes leads to severe psychiatric disorders, particularly among adolescents and children. Meanwhile, mental health services are severely limited amid prolonged conflicts.

The Russia-Ukraine conflict has had a great humanitarian impact and has extended to various areas of life, not only felt by Ukrainian citizens, but also by the global community. Thousands of lives were lost and many others were injured by direct clashes, airstrikes, and other military operations. Millions of citizens have had to flee their homes, within Ukraine or to several countries. These refugees face hardships in life, including limited housing, food, and medical services. The war between Russia and Ukraine has triggered a major humanitarian crisis characterized by a shortage of food, medicine, and other basic necessities. In the midst of an insecure situation, international organizations such as the ICRC are working hard to distribute humanitarian aid.

Affected civilians are under severe psychological distress due to brutality, the loss of loved ones, and uncertainty about the future. Moral support is very important to help their recovery. On the other hand, the world of education is also affected by schools being damaged or used as evacuation sites, thus hindering the learning process and affecting their future prospects. In addition, there have been reports of human rights violations such as torture, detention without legal basis, and harassment in war zones. The civil society economy was also hit, marked by job losses, disruptions of business activities, and a surge in inflation.

Russia's invasion of Ukraine has triggered Europe's largest war, causing a variety of crises, such as the mass displacement of civilians, the deportation of people from occupied territories, and military violence that includes executions of civilians. The conflict, which peaked in 2022, has not only resulted in deaths and injuries, but also threatens the safety and lives of the Ukrainian people through the destruction of health facilities and the disruption of the distribution of medical services and essential supplies. This war has become an ongoing humanitarian crisis due to the destruction of infrastructure and disruption of basic needs that directly affect the civilian economy. The impact of the damage, psychological suffering, and loss of life due to this conflict is likely to leave a mark and affect future generations of Ukrainians.

International Humanitarian Law Perspectives on the Russia-Ukraine Conflict.

In a book by Steven D. Strauss entitled *World Conflict*, it is revealed that over the past fifty years, all of the 193 countries in the world have been involved in some form of conflict. No country is completely free from conflict, be it internal or external conflict, and it can occur once or even repeatedly. Humanitarian law, which includes one of the Geneva Law, serves to provide protection for those who become victims in war situations.

The Geneva Conventions, also known as the Geneva Conventions, are a collection of international treaties that govern the norms of humanitarian law in situations of war. The main purpose of this convention is to provide protection to individuals who did not take part or have ceased to engage in combat, such as wounded soldiers, prisoners of war, as well as civilians. The Geneva Conventions, referred to as the Geneva Conventions, are a collection of international treaties that govern the norms of humanitarian law during armed conflict. The main purpose of the Convention is to provide protection to individuals who are not involved or are no longer participating in war, such as wounded soldiers, prisoners of war, and civilians.

Based on its basic principles, international humanitarian law aims to protect individuals who are not directly involved in armed conflict, such as civilians, medical personnel, religious leaders, as well as those who are injured, sick, have suffered a maritime accident, or become a prisoner of war. In the global context, countries are required to self-restraint and comply with the rules of international law. This humanitarian law is specifically designed to safeguard and guarantee the human rights of non-combatant victims in war situations, i.e. those who do not actively take part in armed conflict. This is relevant to the Russia-Ukraine conflict on March 24, 2022 until now. The conflict has been going on for about three years without any serious efforts from both sides to pursue peace, which ultimately resulted in many casualties on both sides.

This conflict can be analyzed from two points of view, namely *jus ad bellum* and *jus in bello*. *Jus ad bellum* refers to the legality of the use of force, while *jus in bello* relates to the manner or method of the invasion carried out by Russia against Ukraine. In addition, in humanitarian law there are two important concepts, namely necessity and self-defense. The concept of necessity explains that violations of international obligations can only be justified if the action is not another way to protect the vital interests of the state from a major threat.

Russia's military invasion of Ukraine has caused many civilian casualties and destroyed various public infrastructure in Ukraine. Such actions are clearly contrary to the basic principles of international humanitarian law and humanitarian assistance. The violation is also regulated in Article 3 of the 1949 Geneva Convention, which provides protection rules in non-international armed conflicts. The article states that countries involved in conflict have an obligation to protect those who are not directly involved in combat, including military members or combatants who have surrendered or are no longer participating due to illness, injury, captivity, or other causes. They must be treated humanely and must not be subjected to physical violence or punishment without due process.

According to Hans Petter Gasser, individuals who obtain protection are those who, under the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols, have a special status that is legally recognized. Article 4A of the Geneva Convention III states that although some groups of civilians are not combatants, i.e. parties directly involved in the war, they are still entitled to the status of prisoners of war if captured by the enemy. The conflict between Russia and Ukraine has had serious unintended consequences for both sides. This shows that every war or conflict must bring casualties or material losses.

During the conflict, there were a number of violations committed by the Russian military. This situation can be classified as a violation of several principles in humanitarian law, including the following:

First, the principle of military necessity, as stipulated in Article 57 of Additional Protocol I to the Geneva Conventions, states that attacks in conflicts using weapons must be directed only at military and combatant targets. Attacks that cause many civilian casualties and that target civilian facilities, including critical infrastructure, must be avoided. However, in reality, Russia has carried out attacks on various civilian targets such as schools, hospitals, residential areas, as well as electricity and internet networks. These actions have endangered the survival of civilians in Ukraine, especially children and those injured by the attacks.

Second, the principle of humanity has been violated in a number of actions by the Russian Armed Forces, including by blocking the distribution of humanitarian aid sent by world organizations, including the International Red Cross. This blockade has emerged in several areas, one of which is in Mariupol, which is under strict siege by Russian forces, making it difficult for the ICRC to access and distribute aid to citizens. Other regions such as Kharkiv and Luhansk were also targeted, causing delays and restricted access for humanitarian volunteers, hampering the process of distributing aid. Donetsk is also one of the regions that often experiences obstacles in the delivery of aid due to the ongoing fighting and the strict supervision of the parties involved in the conflict.

Third, the principle of proportionality refers to the balance between the actions taken and their impact in the context of the conflict using weapons. In the war between Russia and Ukraine, there seems to be an imbalance in the counteroffensive, where Russia uses much greater military force against Ukraine. This inequality causes significant differences in the number of victims and the resulting damage. The air strikes launched by Ukraine against the Russian state did not have an impact as much as Russian missile and rocket attacks on Ukraine. For example, the city of Kyiv was targeted by missile attacks targeting public facilities such as educational places and residential areas, resulting in severe destruction and deaths. In addition, Russian forces also launched airstrikes for several consecutive days against civilian areas suspected of being hiding places for Ukrainian troops.

OHCHR's response to the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) provided a report on the humanitarian crisis as of February 15, 2024, there were 30,457 civilian casualties due to Russia's invasion of Ukraine, with 19,875 of them injured. However, the OHCHR stressed that the actual figure is likely higher than officially reported. Since the beginning of the conflict in February 2022, an estimated 10,582 civilians—that is, individuals not involved in the fighting—have lost their lives. The highest number of deaths occurred in March 2022, which recorded more than 3,900 fatalities. Meanwhile, data on the number of soldiers killed has been submitted by the Russian and Ukrainian sides, but it has not been independently confirmed so it needs to be responded to with high vigilance.

During Russia's invasion of Ukraine, there were strong allegations of attacks on civilians, with more than 4,226 deaths confirmed by the United Nations. Such actions reflect human rights violations, because according to international humanitarian law, civilians are a group that must be protected and cannot be targeted by military attacks. Attacking civilian facilities or areas is classified as a violation of human rights, and the high number of civilian casualties suggests that Russian military actions have the potential to violate the principles of international humanitarian law. In various regions of Ukraine, more than 550 innocent civilians were recorded as victims, which raised global concerns. In response to this, the Office of the UN High Commissioner established a mechanism for monitoring and handling human rights violations, including through the active role of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). The attack also violated the provisions of the 1949 Geneva Convention, especially the Geneva IV Convention which provides

protection to civilians, as well as violated Article 51 paragraph (5) letter (b) of Additional Protocol I of 1977 which prohibits attacks that pose a risk to civilians and damage civilian infrastructure.

The Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has been conducting investigations related to human rights violations in Ukraine, including in the conflict in the Donbas region between the Ukrainian government and separatist groups. The UN also assigned a special rapporteur on human rights issues in Ukraine, and the UN Human Rights Council actively addressed these violations through resolutions and decisions. In addition to the United Nations, other international organizations such as the European Union and the Council of Europe are also taking part in handling cases of human rights violations in Ukraine. The report from the UN Commission on Human Rights documented a range of abuses that occurred during the armed conflict between Russia and Ukraine, including inhumane conditions of detention, isolation from the outside world, torture, forced labor, and limited access to independent observers. The treatment of prisoners of war reportedly violated the provisions of Articles 13, 14, and 15 of the 1949 Geneva Conventions on the protection of prisoners of war. Cases of deaths due to torture, lack of medical services, and other ill-treatment were also recorded. Meanwhile, female prisoners of war are usually held separately and generally receive more appropriate treatment than male prisoners.

In the Russian-controlled Donetsk region, there have been criminal court cases against Ukrainian prisoners of war as well as alleged torture used to force confessions. On the other hand, Ukraine's treatment of Russian prisoners of war also reportedly includes executions at the time of capture. In addition, a pattern of violations of legal procedures was also found in Ukraine's treatment of prisoners of war. All of these actions are serious violations of International Humanitarian Law and can be categorized as war crimes. The UN responded to human rights violations and disturbances to stability during the invasion by issuing a resolution on Russia's aggression against Ukraine. Although the UN Security Council faces obstacles due to Russia's veto, the UN General Assembly can still adopt resolutions to recommend joint action in situations of breach of peace or aggressive action. These resolutions reflect the principles of international law that have binding force and aim to create global peace and security. In addition, the resolution affirms the obligation of each UN member state to resolve conflicts through peaceful means and not to use forces that threaten the sovereignty and territorial integrity of other countries. Russia's military actions against Ukraine are considered a violation of the principles of the UN Charter and a threat to world peace. The UN also emphasizes the importance of maintaining the international order based on freedom, equality, justice, and respect for human rights. Russia's military operation is seen as an urgent measure to be addressed, in order to protect victims of the conflict and prevent forced territorial control. The UN resolution affirms that no state shall control the territory of another country by threat or military force, and any violation of this principle must be stopped immediately.

The construction of the narrative and potential of Western double standards in handling the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine.

The narrative regarding Russia's invasion of Ukraine is widely shaped and disseminated by Western countries, international media, and multilateral organizations as a unilateral aggression by Russia against the sovereign state of Ukraine; a serious violation of the UN Charter, international humanitarian law, and the principle of non-aggression; and a humanitarian tragedy that requires a decisive global response, including military, economic, and humanitarian support. This narrative effectively highlights the suffering of Ukrainian civilians, mobilizes global solidarity, and encourages sanctions against Russia and the massive mobilization of humanitarian aid.

The world's backlash to Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022 highlights the "double standards" applied by Western groups in responding to human rights abuses globally. While they are quick and vocal in condemning Russia's actions, many other human rights violations, such as those committed by Saudi Arabia, the repressive actions in Egypt, and Israel's treatment of Palestinians, have been ignored or not given the spotlight they deserve. Western countries-imposed sanctions on Russia and opened the door to Ukrainian refugees, and the International Criminal Court began an investigation into alleged war crimes in the region. However, this response contrasts with the lack of action against human rights violations in various other parts of the world. The indecisiveness of Western countries in responding to Saudi Arabia's human rights record, the slow reaction to the situation in Egypt, and the reluctance to pressure Israel over discriminatory policies towards Palestinians show striking inequality. Israel's treatment of Palestinians has even been likened to an apartheid system, although this claim is denied by the Israeli government, while violence by Israeli forces in the West Bank rarely receives strong condemnation from the West. On the other hand, Europe shows great solidarity with Ukrainian refugees, but does not give similar treatment to refugees from countries such as Syria, Afghanistan and Libya, according to Amnesty International. In the United States, despite Ukrainian welcomes, thousands of Haitian refugees were deported between September 2021 and May 2022, and generally subjected to torture and inhumane treatment—a practice that is thought to be rooted in systemic racism against blacks. The rapid and massive response to Ukraine is comparable to conflicts in countries such as Syria, Palestine,

Yemen, Afghanistan, or Sudan, which often get a slow, limited, or even ignored response by the international community. Ukrainian refugees are widely welcomed with open arms in Europe, while refugees from the Middle East or Africa often face rejection, strict policies, or discrimination. The war in Ukraine is also considered to have diverted focus and resources from other important issues such as the climate crisis, long-standing conflicts, and human suffering in other regions of the world.

Western countries that condemn Russia's abuses sometimes ignore or justify human rights abuses committed by their own allies in other conflicts. The construction of the narrative in the Ukraine conflict has succeeded in arousing international concern and action, but it has also opened up space for criticism of global injustices in the handling of the conflict. This double standard reflects the politicization of humanity, where the response to suffering depends on geopolitical, economic, and cultural factors, rather than solely on the principle of universal humanity.

CONCLUSION

The humanitarian crisis in Ukraine due to Russia's invasion challenges the effectiveness of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) in contemporary armed conflicts, exposing structural weaknesses in global humanitarian justice mechanisms. The conflict has caused widespread civilian casualties, displacement of millions, and destruction of infrastructure, violating principles of military necessity, proportionality, and humanitarian protection. International bodies like the OHCHR and UN have documented violations and initiated responses, while Western countries' condemnation of Russia contrasts with their tolerance of allies' abuses in other conflicts, revealing geopolitical biases in humanitarian responses. Future research should explore mechanisms to strengthen IHL enforcement in major power conflicts, addressing systemic weaknesses and political biases to ensure equitable civilian protection.

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