

A STUDY ON THE ROLE OF U.N.O. AS A MEDIATOR IN ARMED CONFLICTS

Kumari Mukesh¹, Dr. Ashwani Kumar²

¹Research scholar, Political Science, NIILM UNIVERSITY, KAITHAL.

²Assistant Professor, NIILM UNIVERSITY, KAITHAL.

ABSTRACT

Mediation as a means to end armed conflicts has gained prominence particularly in the last 25 years. U.N.O. has played a major role in the mediation. This article analyses U.N.O. mediations in armed conflicts at international level. The main aim of the study is to know the existing armed conflicts at international level. This research will be helpful in saving succeeding generations from the scourge of war and free from threat of war. This article gives recognition to the work has done by U.N.O. as a mediator in armed conflicts.

Keywords : *Mediation, Peace building, Armed conflicts, Peace keeping, Reconstruction, Civil war, Nation building .*

INTRODUCTION :

UNO directly or indirectly is the most effective mediation agency at the international level since last 70 years. It had played its role many times to diminish the tension between two or more conflicted groups or states.

UNO recognised its major responsibility to maintain peace at world level and mediation is the best way to achieve its goal. It also initiate negotiations to conflicted states or groups by many ways .

The following is a list of ongoing armed conflicts that are taking place around the world and continues to result in violence:

- Afar (Eritrea & Ethiopia) (Second Afar insurgency)
- Afghanistan (Taliban insurgency)
- Armenia – Azerbaijan (In Nagorno-karabakh)
- Congo (Conflicts in East) (Ituri + Katanga +Kivu)
- Ethiopia Oromo conflict
- Iraq (Civil war Islamic state)
- Lebanon (Hezbollah-Islamic state)
- Libya (Civil war -Islamic state)
- Maghreb (African Sahara)Al-Queda in the Islamic- movement.
- Mali (In North) (French intervention)
- Mexico (Mexican drug -war)

1st International Conference on Multidisciplinary Research (ICMR-2018)



NIILM University, Kaithal, Haryana, (India)



4th-5th August 2018

www.conferenceworld.in

ISBN:978-93-87793-38-5

- Myanmar / Barma (Insurgencies)
- Nigeria (Boko Haram Islamists)
- Pakistan (In North-West) (Taliban and Al-Queda)
- Philippines Moro conflict
- Somali (civil war)
- Syria (civil war Islamic-State)
- Syria (Russian intervention)
- South-Sudan(civil war)
- Sudan (In East) (Internal disputes)
- Yeman(civil and other countries)

II.REVIEW OF LITERATURE

The U.N.O. has done a lot time to time to prevent armed conflicts by the tool of mediation specially in Africa continent. The U.N.O. has appointed time to time advisors on armed conflicts. Yeman armed conflict is the latest exam-ple of it over the decades, the U.N. has helped to end numerous conflicts by mediation.

III.THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE MEDIATION OF INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES

Only a few years ago it seemed that the widespread euphoria which greeted the end of the Cold War and the demise of communism was going to invigorate the UN system and enhance its role in executing its central function; that of maintaining international peace and security and dealing with threats to peace. Initial success in ending the fighting between Iran and Iraq, and facilitating the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan, created an optimistic perception about the continuing and increasing relevance of the United Nations in meeting the challenge of creating order in an anarchic system of states, all of whom still jealously guard their sovereignty and freedom of action. Such was the feeling in the heady days of 1989-90 that President George Bush was able, in his address to Congress on 11 September 1990, to talk of a 'new world order struggling to be born, a world quite different from the one we have known, a world where the rule of law supplants the rule of the jungle' .1 The group of seven industrialised states (G-7), not to be outdone, issued a declaration on 16 July 1991 which stated that 'the conditions now exist for the United Nations to fulfil completely the promise and vision of its founders. A revitalised United Nations will have a central role in strengthening the international order'. It seemed then that the international momentum towards peace and stability could not but gather further pace.

The initial optimism regarding the birth of a new United Nations quickly proved to be misplaced. Subsequent UN efforts at dealing with an increasing number of brutal conflicts seemed quixotic at best and palpably irrelevant at worst. The dream of an effective international organisation mediating conflicts, ending wars and producing settlements may be deferred for a while longer. As the UN enters its 51st year, it seems time to take stock of how to make the organisation more effective, and how best it can respond to the myriad of problems brought about by the changes in the pattern of international relations. Where are we then on the anniversary of

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ISBN:978-93-87793-38-5

the United Nations? Right now there is much confusion and uncertainty about the United Nations and little public support of it. Many are prepared to stamp an icon of failure on the organisation. The ad hoc response to the conflicts in Bosnia, Croatia and Somalia, and the failure to avoid tragedy in Chechnya, generated a wave of public disappointment with the United Nations and raised questions about its continued relevance in a hostile and anarchic environment of states. The purpose of this paper is to assess the strengths and weaknesses of the United Nations as a mediator of international conflicts in the post-Cold War era. Such an assessment can only take place within a wider structural framework, and against the background of two dominant trends: a strong demand and burgeoning expectations for the United Nations to take a more useful role in responding to international conflicts; and a widespread disappointment and reluctance to support an effective and autonomous United Nations.

IV. EXAMPLES OF U.N.O. MEDIATION

(UN mediation of the Kashmir dispute)

The United Nations has played an important role in maintaining peace and order in Jammu and Kashmir soon after the independence of India and Pakistan in 1947, when a dispute erupted between the two States on the question of Jammu and Kashmir. India took this matter to the UN Security Council, which passed resolution 39 (1948) and established the United Nations Commission for India and Pakistan (UNCIP) to investigate the issues and mediate between the two countries. Following the cease-fire of hostilities, it also established the United Nations Military Observer Group for India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP) to monitor the cease-fire line

COMBODIA

The Paris Peace Accord of 1991, which brought an end to the long-standing armed conflict in Cambodia, were also successfully negotiated under U.N.O. auspices.

GUATEMALA

An U.N.O. mediator Jean Arnault also helped secure a settlement in 1996 to the long standing armed conflict in Guatemala.

TAJIKISTAN

The U.N.O. helped to facilitate negotiations between the Tajikistan government and Islamic rebel groups in armed conflicts.

Mediation In Syria Executive Summary

Kofi Annan and Lakhdar Brahimi appeared to be the perfect candidates to find a way out of the Syrian civil war. They took on the job hoping that, if success was impossible, they might at least stop things from deteriorating further. The odds, however, were stacked against them. The regime of President Bashar al-Assad was prepared to do whatever necessary to survive, whatever the cost to the country. At the same time, the opposition was unwilling to accept a political compromise, which, in any case, it was too divided to agree on. Each side held out hope it could win by escalating the level of violence—hope fuelled by external patrons—and lost interest in negotiations when the balance of power seemed to shift in its favour. Because both sides felt they could—and had to—win, they were not welcoming of mediation. In this unfavourable context, Annan and Brahimi failed,

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and despite their considerable acumen, their worst possible nightmares came to pass. Annan, whose mediation lasted from February 23 to August 2, 2012, blamed the Syrian government's refusal to implement his peace plan, the opposition's escalating military campaign, and the lack of unity in the UN Security Council. Moreover, Annan's peace plan expected the Syrian government to make all the concessions while actually incentivizing regime elites to stick together rather than embrace it. He also lacked a strategy to address the intransigence of the opposition, which, convinced by the Libyan precedent that the West would intervene on its behalf, held on to unrealistic demands. Making little progress with the conflicting parties, Annan turned to regional powers but was unable to pressure them to stop financing and arming the opposition. He finally focused on Russia and the US, but their diverging aims, as well as excessive optimism regarding Russia's leverage over Assad, blocked progress on this level.

Brahimi, whose mediation mission lasted twenty-one months, from August 17, 2012, to May 14, 2014, faced an even more intractable mediation environment. His efforts climaxed in the Geneva II Conference, which failed, according to him, because the conflict was not ripe for resolution, and he had no leverage to make it so. Brahimi spent little time mediating between the regime and opposition. Instead, like Annan, he pursued a top-down strategy focused on the US and Russia but made little headway in the face of their mutual distrust and competing interests, including Russia's priority to reverse Western interventionism. Regional actors, unable to overcome their traditional grudges and look beyond their immediate self-interest, continued providing resources to fuel the conflict.

Could events have turned out differently? What was the strategy of the mediators? Despite overall failure, what were their achievements? The experiences of Annan and Brahimi provide a number of lessons for ongoing or future mediation processes. These can be grouped according to the five basic challenges that mediators confront:

- **Mission and mandate:** Both mediators faced a stricture and contradictory mandate, under which the regime was expected to make major concessions. Confusion over the mandate encouraged the opposition to treat Assad's departure as a precondition for, rather than an end result of, negotiations.
- **Impartiality and inclusivity:** In part due to their mandate, which came from both the UN and the anti-Assad Arab League, the mediators were not perceived as wholly impartial. Inclusivity was also uneven, with key parties missing at every stage.
- **Entry and consent:** The mediators never had a favourable point of entry, since the parties and their supporters never felt the conflict to be mutually hurting stalemate. Instead, with both sides willing to withstand high levels of suffering, a self-serving stalemate took hold.
- **Strategy:** Both mediators attempted to build confidence through cease-fires, but these would not hold without parallel movement toward resolving the conflict. The mediators focused on US-Russian relations, but agreement between the two was shallow.
- **Leverage:** Without the means to follow through on threats or promises, the mediators were reduced to making warnings and predictions. They cultivated and counted on the great powers feeling a need to end the conflict, but the Syrians did not see it that way and entrapped their patrons.

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IV.CONCLUSION

The charter of the United Nations identifies mediation as an important means for the peaceful settlement of armed conflicts and it has proven to be an effective instrument to address both inter-state and intra-state conflicts. U.N.O. has played a vital role to restore peace in the world by its mediation efforts in armed conflicts. The U.N.O. meditation work in armed conflicts at international level has not reached the peace destination and a lot has to be done yet in this field as the armed conflicts in the world has not come to an end completely. All of us should appreciate the mediation done by U.N.O. in armed conflicts. U.N.O. had done a lot of in the field of mediation and yet to be done a lot.

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