**Human rights and famine**

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Many countries experiencing conflicts worldwide are at risk of famine due to the use of starvation as a primary weapon in wars. Despite various warnings from international agencies and civil society organizations, the international community's failure to act has led to the death of many civilians and their exposure to serious diseases affecting their health and placing them in highly risky situations.

**Mechanisms provide a means of generating “early warning” to prevent famine**

Mechanisms provide a means to generate an "early warning" to prevent famine. Many human rights mechanisms can serve as an early warning about potential famines by focusing on the underlying conditions that lead to them, identifying their risks, and rallying the international community to prevent them. Monitoring indicators such as food access indicators and reports focusing on preventing humanitarian aid from reaching civilians in conflict areas and documenting the impact of sieges on food supplies can be tools for early warning to alert the international community to the occurrence of famine crises, allowing for early intervention, allocation of resources to prevent them, and finding effective solutions to prevent their occurrence or recurrence.

**The Food Security Interim Mechanism** is considered one of the most efficient means of simplifying data on food security, nutrition, and mortality in a way that decision makers can understand to take appropriate action to prevent famines.

**The leading early warning system network** is also considered a valuable tool in alerting the world about famines, particularly in conflict and armed conflict situations. In addition to reports issued by the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Food Program and reports and statistics issued by civil society organizations. However, due to the frequent inaction of the international community, famines often occur extensively.

**The international community's failure to protect civilians from the threat of famine**

Human rights frameworks can serve as early warning systems for famine by highlighting violations that often precede crises. Monitoring indicators, such as indicators and rates of access to food, health care, and water, along with civil and political rights, can reveal vulnerabilities in populations. For instance, restrictions on freedom of movement may indicate a blockade or siege affecting food supplies as well as intentionally targetinginfrastructure in armed conflicts. Periodic systematic reports on the human rights situation and the participation of key international bodies such as the United Nations, the Security Council and the Human Rights Council can alert the global community to impending crises, allowing early intervention and allocation of resources to prevent famine and find effective solutions to prevent its occurrence or recurrence.

Many international and human rights estimates point to the circumstances and situations that lead to famines in countries suffering from civil wars and armed conflicts. However, the international response often suffers from a political lack of taking the necessary steps to prevent these famines, despite strong evidence that indicates the Israeli occupation forces use starvation as a primary weapon against civilians in Gaza. The UN estimates warn of the negative effects of the barrier imposed on the Tigray region in northern Ethiopia, which resulted in famine and the death of many residents from hunger. However, the international community did not move as required and even contributed the continuation of famine conditions.

During the war on Gaza, a group of countries within the Security Council continued to restrict the access of humanitarian aid to civilians. It prevented taking decisions to ensure an end to the siege imposed on the Gaza Strip. Since the beginning of Israel’s fierce military attack on Gaza on 7 October 2023, the US has used the right of veto. 6 Times, which caused the continuation of genocide crimes committed by the Israeli occupation forces, and allowed humanitarian aid to not reach civilians, resulting in famine and humanitarian crisis. On 20 February 2024, the US used the same right, against a draft resolution calling for an immediate ceasefire in Gaza for humanitarian reasons. The project rejects the forced displacement of Palestinian civilians and advocates for the unimpeded delivery of humanitarian aid to Gaza and its inhabitants, ensuring urgent, continuous, and sufficient support for the Palestinian population.

**Recommendations**

Overall, it can be said that there are many mechanisms prevent famines in conflict-affected countries, but the lack of international political will has led ignoring them. Therefore, Maat recommends the following:

* The international community should act and respond to international warnings of famines in conflict-affected countries without political considerations.
* Those responsible for starvation crimes in conflict-affected countries must be held accountable to prevent the recurrence of such crimes.