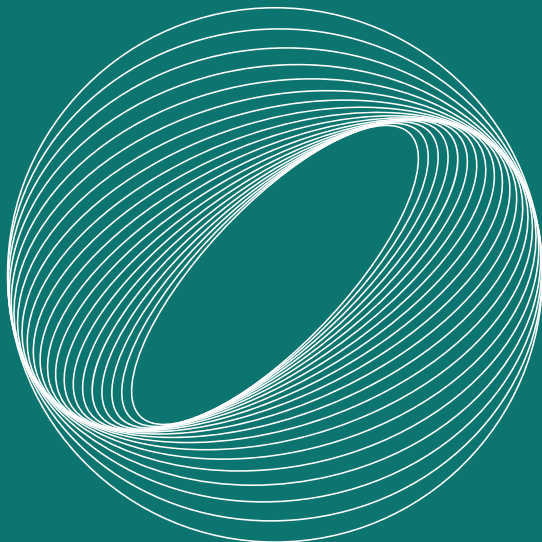




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ISRAEL'S LEGAL ACTIONS PRESSURE BY SOUTH AFRICA: EXPOSING THE SOUTH'S GLOBAL ORIENTALISM SHIFT

The serious human rights violations that Israel has committed against Palestinian civilians have sparked international condemnation. By the end of 2023, South Africa submitted a report against Israel to the ICJ demanding full condemnation for Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister. South Africa's action in challenging Israel is an indication of the solidarity of Southern countries in supporting Palestinian independence, while also shifting the Western orientalist stigma that has been spread to Southern countries. This orientalist understanding is depicted through the Western view of the Eastern world as the inferior territory. Today, the struggle for decolonization has disrupted this understanding and degraded the West's moral integrity in the world.

South Africa's submission of Israel's acts of genocide to the ICJ has changed the orientalist map which is very discriminatory towards South countries. This discrimination occurred as a result of the inferior mentality that was formed during colonialization and imperialization. According to Orderson (2024), South Africa demonstrated its bravest action against West's alignment with Israel in Palestine. Shift in views can be analyzed from the partisanship of European countries towards South Africa's proposal. For example, the support from the Deputy Prime Minister of Belgium (TRT World, 2024). The spirit of altruism influenced Spain, Norway, and Ireland to recognise Palestine as a state. According to Cafiero (2024), these symbolic support motivates Malta as well as EU countries to do it, too. The extent of the European Union's support indicates Israel's failure to break the idea of a Palestinian state and legalize its territorial annexation.

The orientalism shift that supported by West's non-compliance act on international law has a negative effect on the image of these countries in the international world. Based on Malik (2024), through the filing of this case, the historical context of colonization has motivated South countries to challenge the West. Furthermore, Western countries' non-compliance with the ICJ decision also degrades their moral authority, so that the credibility of Western human rights defense is flawed and worthless. South Africa's action to support Palestinian independence through the ICJ has succeeded in shifting the West's negative stigma towards Global South countries. Such this moment will have implications for studies of the decolonization of the Global South in order to reveal efforts to advance its influence in the international stage. (Muhammad Arifin Ilham, HI UGM 2023)

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THE DUALITY IN SUSTAINABILITY: UNCOVERING THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE CASE

The globe is heating, the environment is screaming. The aforementioned situation is alarming to the society to urge for a hurried transition from conventional vehicles to environmentally friendly vehicles to reduce the carbon emissions that will harm the earth. In regards to that, the sales of electric cars are steadily rising, driven by the aspiration to significantly improve the globe (Sanguesa et al., 2021).

However, the progress of technology in the automobile sector has revealed a contradictory situation. While sustainability is being pushed, human rights are infringed upon, especially in the Global South. For example, it has been discovered that the cobalt mining sector in Congo involves the use of child labor. Tesla, one of the largest electric vehicle manufacturers, was included in a lawsuit over the fatalities and significant injuries suffered by child laborers in cobalt mines in Congo (Lawson, 2021). Escaping this dire state is very challenging when one becomes aware that Congo is among the most impoverished nations globally.

The exploitation that occurred in the mining sector of the Global South was primarily motivated by the economic circumstances that compelled them to engage in such practices (Dummett, 2021). For instance, nickel mining in North Halmahera, Maluku, has caused human anguish and environmental damage where the companies have seized customary land, disrupting the communities and destroying essential food sources, while improper waste disposal and deforestation have further harmed the environment (Pratama, 2021).

The increase in electric vehicle production, while heralded as a move towards sustainability, exposes a clear duality: the positive environmental effects in the Global North are accompanied by substantial negative impacts on both human and ecological aspects in the Global South. In order to really attain sustainable development, it is crucial to tackle these ethical considerations and promote more equitable mining methods and economic options for impacted people. Only when the promise of electric vehicles is completely achieved can we ensure the protection of human rights and environmental integrity without any compromise. (Aminah Rafa Laksita Azmi, HI UGM 2022)

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DRUG TRAFFICKING AND SECURITY GOVERNANCE DILEMMA

Examining the cultural diversity dynamics is a necessity in understanding the implications of a specific issue in the Global South, such as the alarming rise of drug trafficking. In 2022, 1,466kg (3,232 pounds) of cocaine were seized in Mali, Chad, Burkina Faso, and Niger compared to an average of 13kg (28.7 pounds) between 2013 and 2020, according to a report by the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). This indicates that the conflict-ridden region is becoming an influential route for drug trafficking (Al-Jazeera, 2024). However, the data on West Africa's emergence of becoming a drug trafficking corridor needs to be dissected structurally. This could lead to an investigation into whether the government is participating in this criminal act and using it as a tool of corruption which affects the whole chain of supply.

Adding to the data, Lucia Bird, Director of the Observatory of Illicit Economies in West Africa at the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, said that this is not free from corruption and corruption is the grease that keeps any wheels of criminal market moving (Al-Jazeera, 2024). It is precisely corruption that becomes a lubricant for the smooth running of these illegal activities and exacerbates the already diverse securities problems in the Global South, including drug trafficking.

In response to the similar issues, the president of Indonesia requested all of his personnel to enforce the law strictly and impose deterrent effects on the perpetrators. "Because we also know that many elements of our law enforcement officials are involved in it, this is a note and a firm action must be taken against them," he said (Adri, 2023), therefore, producing effective securities against drug trafficking is difficult or even impossible to implement in the presence of government officials who do not have taken the accountability of their position.

This kind of transaction, though legally wrong, shows that it is true that the Global South is struggling to at least maintaining the proper dynamics between resources and the population, specifically workers. The position of these countries is awry and cannot be guaranteed externally, which is a field for transnational drug trafficking and internally from the competent authorities.

Again, the key to the problem must begin to be built firmly and strongly from the authorities who have been in authority from the start. People are drawn to drug trafficking because it is fast and profitable, and the government's tolerance of it due to money laundering opportunities exacerbates the issue. Therefore, government corruption is likely a key reason for the increase in drug trafficking. If the government consistently rejects drug trafficking and eliminates corruption, the threat would diminish. A country with a consistent and clean government will be immune from threats like this. (Yosephine Amelia Kristi, HI UGM 2024)

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