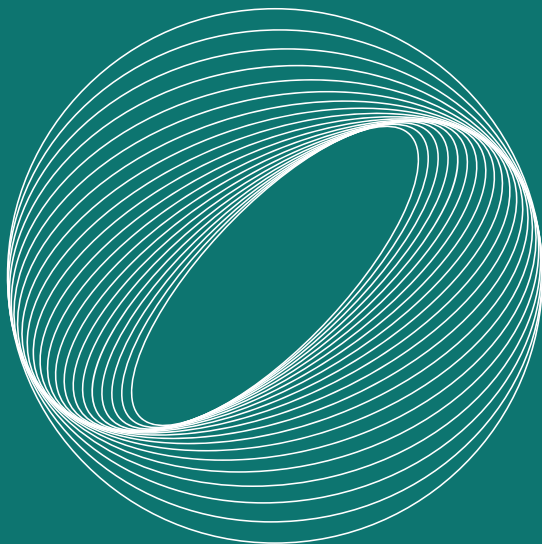




Institute of
International
Studies

DEPT. OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
UNIVERSITY OF CALICUT



FORTNIGHTLY REVIEW #89

16 MARCH – 31 MARCH 2025

THE RISING TIDE OF ILLICIT MIGRATION FROM PAKISTAN

In recent months, there has been a sharp increase in illegal migration from Pakistan due to economic instability, high unemployment, and limited prospects (Shahzar, 2025). With limited legal options, thousands of Pakistanis often turn to human traffickers, who take advantage of their desperate situation and guide them through risky migration routes. Recent tragedies, including shipwrecks near Morocco and Libya, highlight the urgent need for safer and more regulated migration pathways.

On January 16, a boat carrying 80 passengers capsized near Morocco, causing over 40 Pakistani casualties (Dawn, 2025). The vessel, which had departed from Mauritania, included 66 Pakistanis among its passengers. Moroccan authorities rescued 36 individuals, some of whom are now housed in a camp near Dakhla. In another tragic incident off the coast of Libya, a boat carrying 65 people, mostly Pakistanis, sank in the Mediterranean Sea, resulting in 16 Pakistani deaths (Dawn, 2025). The Pakistani embassies in Rabat and Tripoli are working with local authorities to assist survivors and locate missing persons. Many of the deceased hailed from Pakistan's conflict-ridden Kurram district, underscoring the desperation fueling such perilous migrations (Baabar, 2025).

Despite Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) crackdowns, illegal migration persists, and some officers have been fired for their involvement in human smuggling. However, eliminating trafficking networks alone is not enough; a sustainable solution lies in expanding legal migration frameworks, improving access to work visas, and strengthening international cooperation to ensure safer mobility. Addressing economic disparities and investing in skill-based migration programs will also reduce the desperation that compels people to undertake such risky journeys. Only by adopting a comprehensive, rights-based approach can we prevent further tragedies and create a more secure future for aspiring migrants. (Aamnah Fatima Khan, Fatima Jinnah Women University)

References

- Baabar, M. (2025, February 11). FO confirms 16 Pakistanis perished in Libya boat tragedy. *The News International*. <https://www.thenews.com.pk/print/1281920-fo-confirms-16-pakistanis-perished-in-libya-boat-tragedy>
- Momand, A. (2025, January 16). Boat with 80 passengers, including several Pakistanis, capsizes near Morocco: FO. *Dawn News*. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1885661/boat-with-80-passengers-including-several-pakistanis-capsizes-near-morocco-fo>
- Shahzar, E. (2025, March 1). Exodus from Pakistan: Why thousands risking everything to escape. *Dawn News*. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1894907/exodus-from-pakistan-why-thousands-risking-everything-to-escape>
- Syed, B. (2025, February 12). 16 dead, 10 missing after latest Libya boat tragedy. *Dawn News*. <https://www.dawn.com/news/1891347>

RAMADAN FOR PALESTINIANS: AMIDST RUINS AND ISRAELI AID BLOCK

While the world welcomed the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan, Palestinians faced an exacerbated crisis as they struggled amid Israel's ongoing humanitarian aid blockade. Despite the ceasefire that was officiated on 15 January 2025, little progress was made, as Israel has blocked access to food, water, electricity, fuel, and other necessary supplies since the beginning of March 2025 (Jafarnia, 2025). Gaza's Coastal Municipalities Water Utility (CMWU) reported that the depleting fuel reserves are only available for the week being, and water supplies are threatened as water desalination pipelines are almost entirely non-functioning and neglected due to the Israeli attacked months prior (Jafarnia, 2025). Additionally, the UN-led Food Security Kitchen reported that 80 community kitchens are running low on food, causing food prices to spike (Moench, 2025).

Despite the ceasefire's intention to improving access to food and resources, conditions in Gaza remain far from their pre-October 7, 2023 state. Although faced with international condemnation from Qatar, the US, and European countries, followed by Egypt's foreign ministry calling starvation "a weapon against Palestinians" (Moench, 2025), the Israeli blockades persist. However, series of images released online reveal the resilience of Palestinians, as they rebuilt their communities from the ruins and remains of their land amidst the instability and crisis among them. (Chiara Abigail Gultom, International Relations, Universitas Gadjah Mada)

References

- Al Jazeera. (2025, March 4). *Gaza families break Ramadan fast amid ruins*. Al Jazeera. <https://www.aljazeera.com/gallery/2025/3/4/gaza-families-break-ramadan-fast-amid-ruins>
- Jafarnia, N. (2025, March 5). *Israel Again Blocks Gaza Aid, Further Risking Lives*. Human Rights Watch. <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/03/05/israel-again-blocks-gaza-aid-further-risking-lives>
- Moench, M. (2025, March 5). *Gaza food prices spike and shortages loom after Israel halts aid*. <https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c1jpw5p5e6go>

THE CBDR-RC PRINCIPLE: A LIFELINE OR LIABILITY FOR THE GLOBAL SOUTH?

The Common but Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC) principle, key to climate justice, recognizes that developed nations, responsible for 70% of historical emissions (IPCC, 2021), must lead mitigation and support developing countries with finance and technology. For the Global South, it is a double-edged sword. While CBDR-RC provides a moral framework to demand equitable climate action, its implementation falters.

Developed nations have yet to fulfil their \$100 billion/year climate finance pledge (Oxfam, 2023), leaving countries like Indonesia struggling to fund renewable transitions. This failure reflects a breakdown in the CBDR-RC principle, as it undermines developed nations' responsibility to support the Global South, perpetuating inequities and hindering global climate goals. Meanwhile, emerging economies like China and India, now top emitters, face criticism for “hiding” behind their developing-nation status under CBDR-RC, exposing the principle's outdated binary categorization.

Indonesia's struggle to balance rapid economic growth with its 29-41% emissions reduction target by 2030 epitomizes the challenges faced by the Global South. Despite ratifying the Paris Agreement, Indonesia relies on international aid to meet its goals, highlighting the Global South's dependency on CBDR-RC's promises. Yet, the lack of binding enforcement mechanisms allows wealthy nations to evade accountability, perpetuating inequities.

The recent Climate Action Tracker report (2023) underscores the urgency that current pledges put the world on track for 2.4°C warming, devastating for vulnerable nations. While CBDR-RC remains vital for amplifying Global South voices in forums like COP28, its effectiveness hinges on reforming responsibility metrics to reflect present-day emissions and ensuring transparent, binding commitments. Without this, the principle risks becoming a hollow symbol, leaving the Global South to bear the brunt of the climate crisis. (Jane Natasha, Law, Universitas Airlangga)

References

- Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), *Sixth Assessment Report (AR6)* (2021), <https://www.ipcc.ch/report/ar6/wg1/>.
- United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), *Article 3(1): Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities (CBDR-RC)* (1992), <https://unfccc.int/resources/docs/com/kp/converg.pdf>.
- Paris Agreement, *Article 2(2): Implementation of CBDR-RC* (2015), https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/english_paris_agreement.pdf.
- Henrique Schneider, “Common but Differentiated Responsibilities in the Paris Agreement,” *FU Law Review* 18, no. 2 (2024): 327.
- Oxfam, “Rich Countries' Continued Failure to Honor Their \$100 Billion Climate Finance Promise,” *Oxfam International*, 2023, <https://www.oxfam.org/en/press-releases/rich-countries-continued-failure-honor-their-100-billion-climate-finance-promise>.

SUBMIT YOUR WRITING!

Author's guideline:

tinyurl.com/IIsoPenSubmission

Enquiry and assistance:

publication.iis@ugm.ac.id | 0813 8153 7878 (Dila)

UNIVERSITAS GAD