

Qatar Crisis and Its Impact on the Palestinian Cause

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Abstract— The Palestinian issue is one of the most important issues in the Arab and Islamic countries. In other words, any Arab or Islamic dispute has a negative impact on the Palestinian cause. This paper attempts to examine the nature of the dispute between the Gulf states and the impact of this dispute on the Palestinian issue. By clarifying the reasons for the dispute and then the impact of the options for solving the crisis among the Gulf countries on the Palestinian situation, especially with the existence of Israel and its attempts to normalize with the Arab countries, especially the Gulf states, in addition to the relationship of the Palestinian Hamas movement to the Islamic Republic of Iran. This paper is based on the use of theoretical framework through the theory of political crises as well as the theory of prediction in international relations through the future options to resolve the crisis between the Gulf States and the impact on the Palestinian issue. The methodology is to analyze the crisis among the Gulf States and clarifying the options for solving this crisis and the impact of these options on the Palestinian issue. The researcher found that the options for resolving the crisis between the Arab Gulf countries will affect the Palestinian issue negatively, whether the option of negotiations or military option, but the option of negotiations between the Arab Gulf countries less negative on the Palestinian issue than the military option.

Keywords— Arab Gulf crises, crises in Qatar, Palestinian cause, Hamas, Israel

I. INTRODUCTION

In June 2017, a new crisis began among the Gulf States. The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, the Kingdom of Bahrain, and the Arab Republic of Egypt have boycotted Qatar as a result of the Qatar behavior towards several sensitive issues in the Middle East, especially regarding Iran, Hamas, the Brotherhood of Muslims, and Al Jazeera channel. Saudi Arabia, along with the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Bahrain, regard the Islamic Republic of Iran as their first enemy, as a result of Iran's interference in the Gulf region, especially in Bahrain and Yemen [1].

Israel shares its position with the Gulf States the consideration of Iran to be the first enemy and the first supporter of terrorism in the world. From the Israeli point of view, the Islamic Republic of Iran supports Islamic resistance movements such as Hezbollah in Lebanon, Palestinian Hamas and Islamic Jihad in Palestine. After the Syrian crisis, the Political Bureau of the Palestinian Hamas movement moved to the State of Qatar, where the State of Qatar has supported the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, especially after the Israeli wars on the Gaza Strip,

particularly in the areas of health, education and electricity, and to help the Palestinian Hamas movement pay salaries to employees in the Gaza Strip.

This crisis represents an opportunity for the State of Israel to normalize relations with larger Arab states, especially as there is an increasing Israeli tendency towards a settlement based on the priority of Arab normalization as much as possible with Israel at the expense of the priority of the settlement of the Palestinian issue. Israel seems confident that the status of the Palestinian cause has fallen in the political conscience of a large segment of Arab society. So the question is what is the impact of this crisis among the Gulf States on the Palestinian issue?

The relationship between the Gulf states has always been strong and natural, regardless of the differences between these countries, since the policy pursued by the Arab Gulf countries in any dispute is resolved by peaceful and tribal means as these countries based on the tribal community and the differences are resolved in a friendly manner does not arrive To the military option, but the dispute between the Arab Gulf states, which took place in July 2017 has had political dimensions at the regional and international levels, through the dissatisfaction of the Gulf States to the behavior of the State of Qatar, this paper argue that the crisis between the Gulf States impact on the Palestinian issue and the options to solve this crisis will also impact on the Palestinian issue.

II. RESEARCH METHOD

This study was conducted from the secondary data. The collections of data are comprised on Media, Books & several articles. Researcher has carefully studied about the opinion on the Gulf crisis and its impact on the Palestinian issue and the Hamas movement. The significant objectives of this research are to clarify Gulf demands from the State of Qatar, especially with regards to the Palestinian issue and Hamas movement, also justify the Qatari response to the Gulf demands relating to the Palestinian issue and Hamas. The situation of the Gulf crisis is considered an international issue that has an impact on a global cause such as the Palestinian issue.

III. GULF DECISION AND ITS IMPACT ON PALESTINE ISSUE

The most important points of disagreement between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and with it the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt and between the State of Qatar, which have direct or indirect impacts on the Palestinian issues are the following:

The major impact is the relationship between the State of Qatar and the Islamic Republic of Iran, which increases

tension with Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain. Iran is interfering in Arab affairs and is still trying to influence political decision-making in Arab countries as well as the Islamic Republic's relationship with Iran and the Palestinian Hamas movement. The relationship between the State of Qatar and the Muslim Brotherhood, where Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and Egypt consider the Muslim Brotherhood to be a terrorist group and banned from its activities at the local and regional levels. The State of Qatar does not consider the Muslim Brotherhood to be a terrorist group; on the contrary it provides financial, moral and political support [2].

Qatar's ownership of Al-Jazeera channel is considered to be one of the most important points of disagreement between these countries. Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Bahrain and Egypt consider Al-Jazeera to be a platform for media incitement by attempting to stir up internal strife in these countries and air contents with a tendency towards Muslim Brotherhood. The island is a free platform that balances opinion and other opinion. The crisis among the Gulf States has an impact on the Palestinian issue, especially with regard to the peace process between the Palestinians and the Israelis, the Qatari support for the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and the hosting of the leadership of the Palestinian Hamas movement in the State of Qatar. After they left Syria, without consulting the Gulf states, has affected the relationship among the Gulf states, especially as Hamas leaders have strong ties with Iran, Saudi Arabia, the UAE and Bahrain consider Iran an enemy.

IV. ROAD MAP OPTIONS TO SOLVE THE GULF CRISIS

As the repercussions of this Gulf crisis on the Palestinian issue, there are several scenarios for how to resolve this crisis between the parties and the impact of these clarifications on the Palestinian issue. First the role of military is to keep the crisis in a way that pushes each party towards further punitive measures of the other party, up to the stage of military confrontation with the knowledge that 20% of arms sales in the world went in 2015-2016 to the Gulf States, and doubled the volume of purchases of Gulf weapons during Period from 2011-2016. However, it will be the result of material losses that make the continuation of material support for Palestine is declining in large part, and will raise the question of the priority of the Palestinian issue within the activity of Arab diplomacy. However, the worst development in this scenario that invest Israel this state of war through competing Gulf parties to the conflict to appease Israel as a bridge to employ the Jewish lobby in the US circles to drag the US position for one side or the other.

Secondly the role of diplomatic dialogues by the countries of the region to find solutions that suit all parties. This is what the State of Kuwait is trying to do in addition to the Sultanate of Oman, but this solution requires more time and effort to complete a balanced deal between the conflicting parties [3]. The question that arises is what is the impact of these scenarios and solutions on the Palestinian issue, especially regarding the relationship between the Palestinian Hamas movement and the State of Qatar?

A. Military Approach

The military clash between the conflicting parties will have a negative impact on the Palestinian cause primarily for several reasons. First, the material and economic support of the Palestinian people will decline significantly or stop [7]. Since the common enemy between Israel and the Gulf states is the Islamic Republic of Iran, it will result in contacts between the parties, which open the way for the establishment of formal relations between Israel and the Arab Gulf states without solving the Palestinian problem. The cessation of Gulf support for the Palestinian people and the central issue of the Arabs will increase Iran's role in the Palestinian issue by increasing support for Palestinian resistance movements such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad[3].

Iranian interference in the Palestinian issue will increase Iran's influence and work to achieve its interests in the Middle East, especially to create a bullwark against United States by increasing the strength of the resistance axis [9]. However, if the conflicting parties in the Gulf reach compromises that satisfy all the parties in the Gulf, this means that the conflicting parties have to make some concessions to bring the points of view closer.

B. Political Dialogue

The relationship between the State of Qatar and the Palestinian Hamas movement will be less flexible than before the Gulf crisis. In other words, support will be limited, not as much as before the Gulf crisis, and there will be an attempt to direct the Palestinian Hamas movement to the Egyptian-Egyptian alliance through the pressure to reduce the country's support for the Palestinian people. Al-Jazeera, which is considered an essential supporter of the Palestinian cause and covers all the news of Palestine, will monitor all its information, leading to non-coverage of Palestinian events, especially in the Gaza Strip. In other words, to reduce the media coverage of the Palestinian news.

V. HAMAS MOVEMENT AND THE GULF STATES

The Palestinian Hamas movement is a resistance movement against the Israeli occupation, and Hamas adopts the option of armed resistance against Israel. Its international relations are complex and sensitive, especially after the Arab countries accept the strategic peace option with Israel, including the Arab Gulf states. The relationship between the Palestinian Hamas movement and the Arab Gulf states is not clear and balanced as a result of the relationship between the Palestinian Hamas movement and the Islamic Republic of Iran, where most of the Gulf States see Iran an enemy because Iranian interferes in the internal affairs of Arab countries.

Whereas, the relationship between Saudi Arabia and the Palestinian Hamas movement is unstable due to the different estimates and objectives between the two parties. The relationship between Hamas founder Sheikh Ahmed Yassin and Saudi Arabia was very good. Sheikh Ahmed Yassin has a great position within the Arab and surrounding Arab region. But with the passage of time and the emergence of new alliances in the Middle East, especially the relationship between Hamas and the Islamic Republic of Iran, the

relationship between Saudi Arabia and Hamas has become so cold that Hamas is sometimes accused of terrorism by Saudi Arabia as a result of hostility between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Hamas, on the other hand, has declared more than once that it is trying to balance its international relations. The goal of Hamas is to find support for the Palestinian cause and the Palestinian people. Hamas welcomes any support from any Arab or Islamic country in the face of the Israeli occupation, But the Hamas view is not accepted by Saudi Arabia, so the relationship between Saudi Arabia and the Palestinian Hamas movement has only become official[4].

The Islamic Republic of Iran supports the military wing of Hamas, and this is what Saudi Arabia cannot do, especially with strong relations between Saudi Arabia and the United States. The Saudi point of view that Iran interferes in Arab internal affairs is correct, Hamas has stopped the attempt of Iranian interventions in the Palestinian cause several times, and Hamas point of view is that if Arab states support Hamas as the Islamic Republic of Iran does, this situation means that they have stronger ties between Hamas and Arab states than Iran.

The United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Bahrain followed the Saudi approach in dealing with the Palestinian Hamas movement, accusing both the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain of the Palestinian Hamas movement as being on the Iranian axis and serving Iranian targets in the Middle East. They want Hamas to break its relationship with Iran, if Hamas agrees to that, then what will the prize be?

The State of Qatar has a different direction and a different way of dealing with the Palestinian Hamas movement, especially after the Israeli wars on the Gaza Strip. The State of Qatar supported the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and received the leaders of the Palestinian Hamas movement on its territory. The Palestinian Hamas movement continued to belong to the axis of resistance against the Israeli occupation. This axis includes the Islamic Republic of Iran, Syria and the Lebanese Hezbollah, as well as the Palestinian Hamas movement. However, after the outbreak of the Syrian revolution, the Palestinian Hamas movement took a different position from the positions of Iran, Syria and Hezbollah. Led to the emergence of a sharp dispute, resulting in the departure of the leadership of Hamas from Syria and the direction to the State of Qatar, which is a Gulf state, where the hosting of leaders of the Palestinian Hamas movement in addition to increasing support for them and the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip, this Qatari behavior was a problem between State of Qatar and other Gulf State led by Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia, along with the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain, consider the Palestinian Hamas movement to be part of the Muslim Brotherhood. These countries consider the Muslim Brotherhood to be a terrorist group involved in subversive events in Egypt, Yemen and Syria [5].

If the State of Qatar sticks to the demands of the Gulf, this will have negative consequences on the Palestinian situation in the Gaza Strip, especially as the State of Qatar supports a number of large projects in the sector in terms of infrastructure and electricity and financial and economic support and social in the Gaza Strip. The extent of the Palestinian issue in the Arab disputes has always had negative effects on the Palestinian people. The most dangerous point is to consider the State of Israel as part of the Middle East and the dealings between the Arab Gulf States and the State of Israel.

VI. CONCLUSION

The crisis between the State of Qatar and the Gulf States of Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates and the Kingdom of Bahrain is one of the tools used to reduce the importance of the Palestinian cause and to consider Israel's resistance as a terrorist act.

The Palestinian Hamas movement is a Palestinian movement resisting the Israeli occupation with the aim of establishing a Palestinian state with East Jerusalem as its capital. It adopts the armed resistance as part of its resistance, which is guaranteed by international law and international humanitarian law.

The Islamic Republic of Iran supports the Hamas movement with all kinds of support. On this basis, the Palestinian Hamas movement was considered part of the Iranian axis that interferes in Arab affairs. In contrast, Hamas welcomes any Arab or Islamic assistance to confront the Israeli occupation and tries to balance the relationship with Iran and the relationship with the Arab countries, especially the Gulf.

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