

The G7 and the Crisis of Western Legitimacy:

When “Self-Defense” Masks Preemptive Colonial Violence

By: qais Aljoan

June 2025

The recent G7 declaration affirming Israel’s “right to self-defense” — in response to its own aggressive military campaign against Iran — must be read not simply as diplomatic positioning, but as a moment of rupture: a discursive and moral collapse of the very legal order the West claims to uphold.

1. Self-Defense Against What?

Iran, at the time of the Israeli strikes, had not launched a military attack on Israeli soil. Israel’s bombing of multiple sites deep in Iranian territory, killing hundreds (most of them civilians), was framed as anticipatory self-defense — a legal grey zone under international law, but one that the G7 now seems eager to endorse as normative.

This endorsement marks a sharp break from the principle of **non-aggression** enshrined in the UN Charter. More dangerously, it **universalizes the right of Western-aligned powers to strike at will**, while denying the same rationale to others.

2. Double Standards and the Afterlife of Colonialism

To many across the Global South, this posture reeks of colonial continuity:

- When Israel bombs **Gaza**, where almost **95% of casualties are civilians**, and imposes a blockade on food and humanitarian aid, it is shielded by the language of security.
- When it bombs **Iran**, it is cast as an act of noble containment.
- Meanwhile, nations like **Pakistan, Algeria, or Venezuela** watch and wonder: *“Are we next?”*

This pattern confirms what many have long suspected: that **Western-led institutions and norms are structurally biased**, designed to **permit violence when it serves allied interests**, and **condemn it when it challenges the existing order**.

3. The Atomic Bomb as a Western Monopoly

Nowhere is this hypocrisy more visible than in the nuclear question:

- Israel is **known to possess nuclear weapons**, remains **outside the Non-Proliferation Treaty**, and is **protected from inspection**.
- It occupies territories in defiance of over **30 UN Security Council resolutions**.
- Yet when **Iran, North Korea**, or any non-Western nation seeks nuclear capacity — whether for deterrence or sovereignty — it becomes an existential threat.

This double standard enshrines a **nuclear apartheid**: bombs in the hands of Western allies are “stabilizing,” but in the hands of others, “catastrophic.”

As someone who believes no state should possess nuclear weapons — neither Israel, nor Iran, nor the United States — the selective enforcement of this regime makes disarmament feel like a fantasy.

4. Geopolitical Fallout: The Cost of Hypocrisy

What the G7 fails to grasp is that **their credibility is eroding far beyond Tehran or Gaza**:

- **Neutral states**, such as Indonesia, Brazil, and South Africa, are increasingly alienated.
- **Postcolonial nations**, already skeptical of NATO’s agenda, now feel vindicated in their mistrust.
- Even within Western societies, younger generations are **questioning the ethical basis** of alliances that excuse war crimes when committed by “the right” side.

This legitimacy crisis does not just weaken the G7 diplomatically. It **fuels multipolar realignment** — pushing states toward new coalitions (BRICS+, SCO, Non-Aligned frameworks) that may lack cohesion but offer one crucial asset: **they do not treat subjugation as the price of partnership**.

Final Reflection

The question is no longer whether Israel has the right to defend itself. Every state does. The real question is:

When does “defense” become domination? And when will the West stop cloaking its colonial instincts in the language of law?

Until that question is faced honestly, the world will keep slipping further from justice — and closer to global moral collapse.