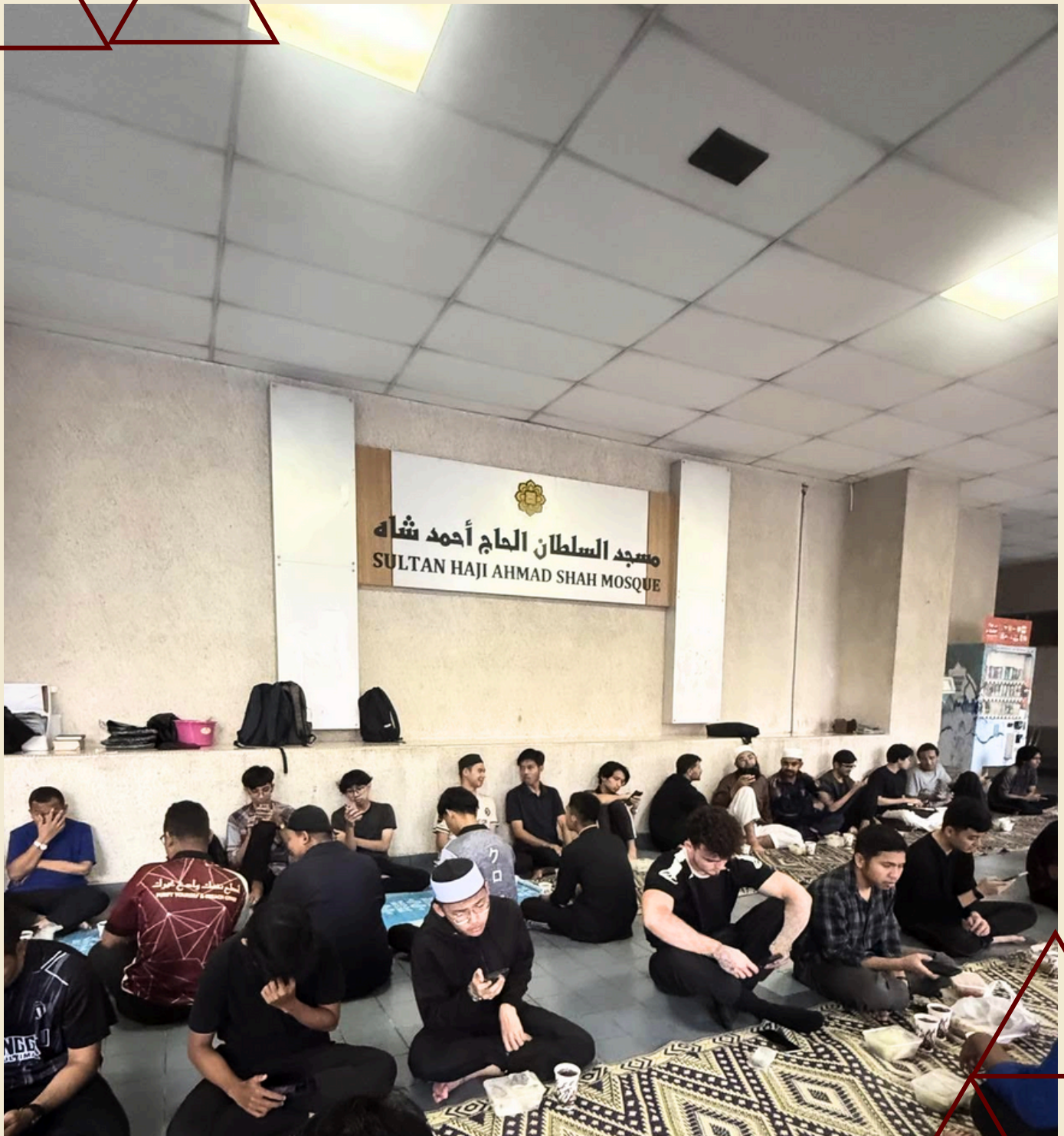


CENTRIS

The official bulletin of CENTRIS, IIUM

March-April 2025 (Vol.8)

€-BULLETIN



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CENTRIS E-bulletin is published bimonthly
(bimestrial).



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FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

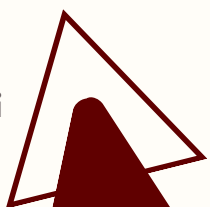
Quo Vadis? Realism and the Gaza Question

Realism, as the dominant school of thought in international relations, has been propagating “logical” calculations in dealing with conflicts. Think of realist game theory (prisoner’s dilemma and zero-sum game), balance of power, statism, self-help, etc. This thinking framework has been subscribed to by, if not all, the majority of state actors in global politics. Such thinking benefits the so-called “major” powers. However, the same benefits rarely reside with the so-called “underdeveloped,” “Third World,” “peripheries,” “middle powers” and “Southern” countries. These non-major powers will always be dominated, outpowered and dependent on these “advanced” countries if the same realist logics are taken as the only “pragmatic” solutions to any conflicts. As a result, due to considering so many of these “realistic” calculations, these non-hegemonic countries take no concrete action on the War in Gaza, including the Muslim countries.

Hence, why not these Muslim countries, for a second, put aside such mathematical calculations and focus on the strategic moves that we can garner from the Islamic revelation and Islamic heritage? For instance, in the *Qur'an*, it is regularly highlighted that in the past, how many times had Muslims won the wars even though they were highly outnumbered? Why not contemplate these actual events, as sometimes what we deem as “realistic” does not necessarily confirm that it will happen totally according to our “strategic” plan.

It doesn’t mean that we must put aside strategy and operate our *modus operandi* blindly. The point is for Muslim governments not to be too afraid or too calculative (hence, lack of confidence), as if they are only being influenced by realism and only realism is the guidance in foreign policy making, diplomacy, etc. If they keep on stuck in this “realist” sack, we will always be at a dead end, and nothing good will really happen for Gaza.

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eISSN 2811-342X



9 772811 342006