



SKRIPSI

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Siege Warfare in 21st Century Conflicts:
An IHL Analysis of the Israeli
Encirclement of Gaza in Operation Swords
of Iron

Disusun oleh:

CAECILIA PATRICE YONANDI
NIM. 205210088

PROGRAM STUDI HUKUM
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2025

**SIEGE WARFARE IN 21ST-CENTURY
CONFLICTS: AN IHL ANALYSIS OF THE
ISRAELI ENCIRCLEMENT OF GAZA IN
OPERATION SWORDS OF IRON**

UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

Submitted to Fulfill the Prerequisite for the Obtainment of a Law Degree at the
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Authored by:
Caecilia Patrice Yonandi
205210088

**BACHELOR OF LAW STUDY PROGRAM
FACULTY OF LAW
UNIVERSITAS TARUMANAGARA
2025**

Pengesahan

Nama : CAECILIA PATRICE YONANDI
NIM : 205210088
Program Studi : HUKUM
Judul Skripsi : Siege Warfare in 21st Century Conflicts: An IHL Analysis of the Israeli Encirclement of Gaza in Operation Swords of Iron
Title : Perang Pengepungan dalam Konflik Abad ke-21: Analisis HHI terhadap Pengepungan Gaza oleh Israel dalam Operation Swords of Iron

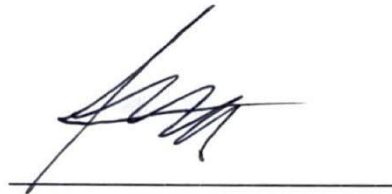
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1. AMAD SUDIRO, S.H., M.Hum, M.M., Dr., MKn., Prof
2. LEWIANDY, S.H.,LL.M.
3. ARIAWAN GUNADI, S.H., M.H., Dr. Prof.

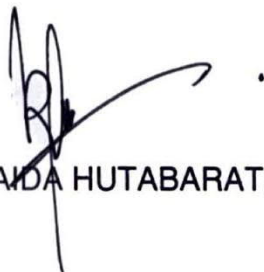
Yang bersangkutan dinyatakan: **LULUS.**

Pembimbing:
LEWIANDY, S.H.,LL.M.
NIK/NIP: 10220001



Jakarta, 13-Januari-2025

Ketua Program Studi



RUGUN ROMAIDA HUTABARAT, S.H.,M.H.

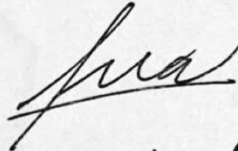
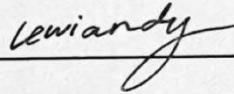
Persetujuan

Nama : CAECILIA PATRICE YONANDI
NIM : 205210088
Program Studi : HUKUM
Judul : Perang Pengepungan dalam Konflik Abad ke-21: Analisis
HHI terhadap Pengepungan Gaza oleh Israel dalam
Operation Swords of Iron

Skripsi ini disetujui untuk diuji

Jakarta, 22-Desember-2024

Pembimbing:
LEWIANDY, S.H.,LL.M.
NIK/NIP: 10220001

UNITAR

Universitas Tarumanagara

ABSTRACT

The practice of siege warfare in modern conflicts presents complex legal and ethical dilemmas under International Humanitarian Law (IHL), particularly concerning the interplay between military objectives and humanitarian protections. This thesis, "The Use of Siege Warfare in 21st Century Conflicts: A Legal Analysis of the Israeli Blockade of Gaza in Operation Swords of Iron," examines the legality of Israel's encirclement of Gaza following the October 7 attack under IHL. It evaluates whether these actions align with the Hague and Geneva Conventions, incorporating theories of Just War, the Martens Clause, and core IHL principles such as distinction, proportionality, and necessity. Using a normative qualitative approach, the study analyzes IHL's framework, historical precedents, and the humanitarian impacts of prolonged sieges like Gaza. The findings provide a nuanced assessment of the legal and ethical dimensions of modern siege warfare, contributing to the discourse on balancing military objectives with humanitarian protections.

Key Words: International Humanitarian Law (IHL), Siege Warfare, Operation Swords of Iron, Israel-Palestine Conflict

FOREWORD

The author would like to begin by expressing her gratitude to the Almighty God, whose grace has granted her the strength and perseverance to complete this undergraduate thesis, titled "Siege Warfare in 21st-Century Conflicts: An International Humanitarian Law Analysis of the Israeli Encirclement of Gaza in Operation Swords of Iron." This work is the result of months of restless effort, countless hours of research, and dedication. Every challenge faced in the process has only strengthened the author's conviction that the protection of human dignity in times of conflict is not only a legal obligation but a moral imperative. Her passion in IHL stems from her belief in the indomitable human spirit and resilience, even in times of war.

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This thesis is far more than an academic duty—it is a reflection of an aspiration to advocate for vulnerable populations and ensure accountability for violations of international law. The suffering endured by civilians in war zones serves as a constant reminder of the urgent need for more effective implementation of humanitarian protections. Through persistent advocacy, legal empowerment, and international cooperation, meaningful change is possible.

Jakarta, 3 December 2024

Caecilia Patrice Yonandi

Pernyataan

Nama : CAECILIA PATRICE YONANDI
NIM : 205210088
Program Studi : HUKUM
Judul : Perang Pengepungan dalam Konflik Abad ke-21: Analisis HHI terhadap Pengepungan Gaza oleh Israel dalam Operation Swords of Iron

Dengan ini menyatakan bahwa skripsi ini merupakan hasil kerja saya sendiri di bawah bimbingan Tim Pembimbing dan bukan hasil plagiasi dan/atau kegiatan curang lainnya.

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CAECILIA PATRICE YONANDI
NIM. 205210088

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TABLE OF ABBREVIATIONS

API I	Protocol Additional (I) to the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949, and relating to the Protection of Victims of International Armed Conflicts, 8 June 1977
CIHL	Customary International Humanitarian Law
GC I	Geneva Convention (IV) for the Amelioration of the Condition of the Wounded in Armies in the Field of 12 August 1949
GC II	Geneva Convention (IV) for the Amelioration of the Condition of Wounded, Sick and Shipwrecked Members of Armed Forces at Sea of 12 August 1949
GC III	Geneva Convention (III) Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949
GC IV	Geneva Convention (IV) Relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War of 12 August 1949
ICC	International Criminal Court
ICJ	International Court of Justice
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
ICTY	International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia
IDF	Israel Defense Forces
IHL	International Humanitarian Law
OCHA	United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

UN	United Nations
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (or the United Nations Refugee Agency)
UNHRC	United Nations Human Rights Council
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East
WWII	World War II
PGM	Precision-guided Munition

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