



Forum: **United Nations Peacebuilding Commission**
Question of: **Cultivating diplomatic solution for the Israel and Palestine conflict**
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Position: **Deputy Chair**

I. Description of the Issue

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is about the competing claims of the Israelis and the Palestinians to the land between the Mediterranean Sea and the Jordan River. Both claim it as their historical homeland.

The conflict has its roots in the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when the Zionist movement emerged with the goal of establishing a Jewish homeland in the region.

The establishment of the state of Israel in 1948 in response of the Holocaust as a place for Jews to live led to the displacement of Palestinians.

Despite several international efforts in the past, the conflict continues.

After World War I, the League of Nations gave Britain a colonial mandate over Palestine, and Jewish immigration to the region increased. This led to escalating tensions between the Jewish and Arab communities. So in 1947, the United Nations proposed a plan to partition Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states. This plan was accepted by the Jewish community but rejected by the Arab leaders.

Since then, the conflict has continued, with several confrontations. The main parties involved are Israel, the Palestinian Authority, and Hamas. Other key players who have played an engaging role in the past include the United States, Egypt, Jordan and the United Nations. But even Germany, a major donor to Israel, is increasingly relevant to the issue, in light of the fact that Israel was founded after Holocaust and World War II as a place for Jews to live without being persecuted.



It also has wider implications for the Middle East region and the international community, as it has the potential to affect global security and economic interests, which has already happened in the form of boycotts affecting companies and shipping vessels being attacked by the Houthi movement.

Key issues include the status of Jerusalem, the recognition of a Palestinian state, the right of return of Palestinian refugees, and the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. What makes the conflict so difficult to mediate is finding a lasting solution that addresses the needs and concerns of all involved parties and to which all parties agree.

II. Definition of Key Terms

Zionism

A political movement that emerged in the late 19th century with the goal of establishing a Jewish homeland in the region of historic Palestine.

Intifada

An Arabic word meaning "shaking off" or "uprising," referring to the two major Palestinian uprisings against Israeli occupation in 1987-1993 and 2000-2005.

West Bank

A territory located in the Middle East, west of the Jordan River, that has been occupied by Israel since the 1967 Six-Day War. Prior it belonged to the Jordan.

Gaza Strip

A narrow strip of land along the Mediterranean coast, controlled by Israel until 2005 and currently governed by Hamas.

Jerusalem

Jerusalem is the capital of Israel and wholly under its rule since 1967.



The UN condemned Israel's annexation of the city repeatedly and the status of the city remains a central issue in the dispute between Israel and Palestine, also due to its great religious importance. It has important holy sites of the three world religions Judaism, Islam and Christianity.

Genocide

Article II

“In the present Convention, genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such:

- *Killing members of the group;*
- *Causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group;*
- *Deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part;*
- *Imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group;*
- *Forcibly transferring children of the group to another group.”*

(Source: In: UN.org: <https://www.un.org/en/genocideprevention/genocide.shtml> (23.05.24))

III. Background information

Palestinians seek an independent state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip with East Jerusalem as its capital, while Israel claims Jerusalem as its capital and has built settlements in the occupied territories. Neither Israel nor the Palestinians accept the integration of the people of Palestine as citizens into the State of Israel due to different reasons, essentially because of the fear of losing influence and sovereignty.

Military action and battles started before the founding of Israel in the late 19th and early 20th century when the Zionist movement brought more Jews to former Palestine. When after WW I. the Ottoman Empire was partitioned, Britain got control over the region by league of nations mandate. Britain supported a Jewish homeland in 1917 which eventually led to



growing Arab-Jewish tensions over the region. The tensions escalated, after the UN voted for a partition in 1947, into a civil war, won by the Jews.

In 1948, the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel was formally proclaimed, leading to further war.

The conflict has led to cycles of violence, displacement, and human rights violations on both sides, with a disproportionate impact on Palestinian civilians due to the asymmetry of power.

The conflict between Israel and Palestine recently escalated terribly when Hamas carried out a terror attack on Israel at Oktober the 7th 2023, killing approximately 1200 Israelis and abducting over 200 Israelis.

In the following days after more casualties, Israel declared war on Hamas, with the goal to destroy Hamas in the Gaza Strip completely.

The ensuing war costed and costs many human lives primary of Palestine civilians, like women, children, elderly and injured people. The estimated number of Palestinians killed is approximately 40,000.

But what exactly is the impact of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on people's daily lives?

The conflict has long had a major impact on society, especially in the regions where it takes place. In Gaza, repeated military conflicts and the Israeli blockade have contributed to a severe humanitarian crisis, with high rates of poverty, unemployment, malnutrition, and lack of access to basic services such as health care and clean water. According to the International Rescue Committee (IRC), Palestine is ranked as one of the countries most at risk of worsening humanitarian crisis in 2024, in their Emergency Watchlist: "Gaza is now the deadliest place for civilians and aid workers in the world". More than one hundred thousand Palestinian civilians have been either killed or injured due to Israeli military operations. Every day this number continues to rise.

The conflict has had a devastating impact on the mental health of people in the region, particularly Palestinians living under occupation and blockade. Residents struggle with



depression and anxiety disorders. Children show symptoms like sleeplessness, panic attacks, bed-wetting, and developmental regression due to traumatic experiences.

Economic development and freedom of movement in the Occupied Palestinian Territories are restricted by Israeli security measures.

The conflict has caused regional instability and mistrust between Israelis and Palestinians for decades .

Finding a solution is crucial to end violence and address the humanitarian crises. The conflict has been going on for centuries and becomes more and more important.

Therefore, a diplomatic solution should be worked on for, and with all parties.

IV. Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Israel

The Jewish state established in 1948, with a significant Jewish population and a smaller Arab minority.

Palestine

The Palestinian territories, including the West Bank and Gaza Strip, where the majority of the Palestinian population resides.

Hamas

A Palestinian Sunni-Islamic organization that has waged an armed struggle against Israel, with the stated goal of establishing an independent Islamic state in historical Palestine by conquering Israel. It is the governing party of the Gaza Strip and consists of a military (Kassam brigades), aid organization, and political party. It is declared a terror organization by the EU, USA and Israel.

Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO)

A political organization once the leading representation of the Palestinians. It was founded in 1964, and led by Yasser Arafat from 1969 until his death in 2004.



United States

A key ally of Israel and a major player in the peace process.

Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt and Jordan

Arab countries that have signed peace treaties with Israel or play a necessary role in the peace process.

United Nations (UN)

The international organization that has been involved in mediating the conflict and proposing solutions, such as the partition plan in 1947.

European Union (EU)

A major donor to the Palestinian territories and a participant in the peace process.

Arab League

An organization representing Arab countries, some of which have been involved in the conflict. It is siding with the Palestinian population.

Germany

Germany as a major donor state of Israel. It is morally obligated to Israel because of the genocide of Jews (Holocaust) in World War II, which eventually led to the founding of Israel.

V. Timeline of events

1917, Balfour Declaration: The Declaration expresses British support for the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine. This resulted in tensions between Arabs and Jews.



1948, Effects of the Partition Plan:

14th May: David Ben-Gurion reads in the Declaration of Independence of the State of Israel, which covers 56 percent of the Palestinian territory.

The State of Israel is established, and the Arab-Israeli War begins.

15th May: Arabic states decline Israel's right to exist and therefore the UN-Resolution. Egyptian, Syrian, Jordanian and Iraqi associations attack.

Surprisingly Israel won the war.

After the war Israel controlled 77 percent of Palestine.

1949, Agreements

Israel concludes a ceasefire with Egypt, then agreements with other Arab states.

1956, Sues Canal

The Canal was nationalized from the Egyptian president. Because of that, Israeli troops enter into the Gaza Strip and the Sinai Peninsula. On the 5th In November, British and French units also land in Egypt. But the United Nations, the USA and the USSR deescalated and the war came to an end.

1967, Six-Day War

The war is a cooperative attack of Syria, Egypt and Jordanians that results in Israel's occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and other territories.

1973, Yom-Kippur-War

In order to win back the occupied territories, Egypt and Syria launch a surprise attack on Israel. But Israel wins again and can keep the territories. The war ends with an armistice.

1979, Egyptian-Israeli Peace Treaty

1982, First Lebanon War

1987-1993, The First Intifada, a Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation



1993, Peace agreement

The Oslo Accords are signed, establishing the Palestinian Authority and outlining a framework for future negotiations. Both states are recognizing each other

2000-2005, Second Intifada

Another Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation.

2003, Peace plan "Road Map"

The Middle East Quartet of the USA, United Nations, EU and Russia presents its peace plan known as a "Road Map". It provides for the establishment of a state of Palestine by the end of 2005.

2005, Withdraw

Israel withdraws from the Gaza Strip but maintains control over its borders, airspace, and territorial waters.

2006, Hamas' election victory & the second Lebanon-war

Hamas wins the Palestinian legislative elections, leading to tensions with the Palestinian Authority and Israel.

2007, Hamas control in the Gaza Strip

2008-2009, 2012, 2014

Major conflicts between Israel and Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

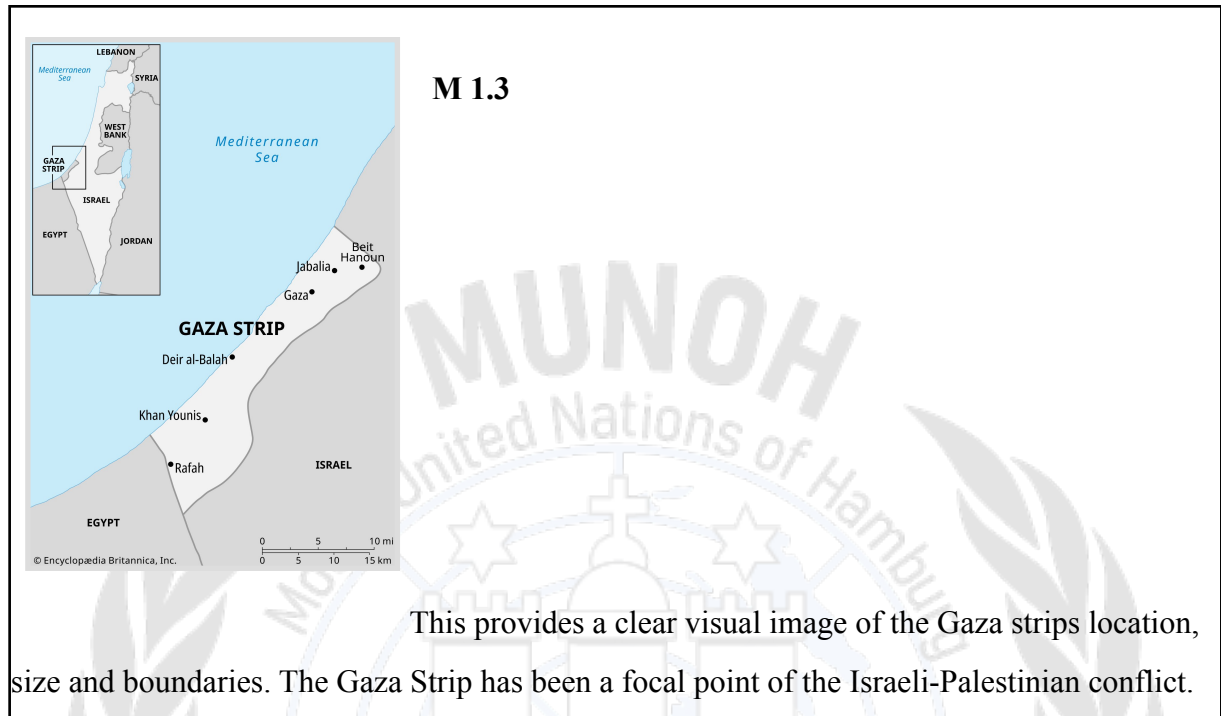
2010, Violent stop of an aid fleet for the Gaza Strip. Failure of new peace negotiations

2011, Reconciliation of Hamas and Fatah and the Application from Palestine to the UN

It provides for the formation of a transitional government and elections within a year.

Application for Palestine to be a member of the United Nations (Proposal passes even though it was harshly criticized from the USA)

2012, New Gaza offensive



This provides a clear visual image of the Gaza strips location, size and boundaries. The Gaza Strip has been a focal point of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

2013, Again at the negotiating table

2014, Peace talks failed and Hamas and Fatah agree to becoming a unity government.

Israel launches ground offensive- Bombardments without a break

For four weeks, rockets fly back and forth almost continuously - agreed ceasefires are immediately broken.

7.1.2023, Terror attack of Hamas

Hamas attacks Israel, killing over 1200 civilians and abducting over 200 civilians.

7./8./9. Oktober 2023, Start of War

Israel starts war against Hamas, blocking the Gaza Strip for energy, help, food and drinking water, bombarding headquarters of the Hamas

End of 2023, 2024, War continuous

Israel kills about 40,000 Palestinians. Israeli casualties rise to about 1,400.



2024 International Court of Justice

South Africa is suing Israel for committing a Genocide on Palestinian people.

VI. Previous attempts to solve the issue

There have been several attempts to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through negotiations and peace agreements. Some notable attempts include:

The Oslo Accords (1993)

Agreements between the Israeli government and the PLO that established the Palestinian Authority and outlined a framework for future negotiations on a final settlement.

The Camp David Summit (2000)

A summit hosted by U.S. President Bill Clinton at which Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat attempted to reach a final agreement on the core issues of the conflict.

The Arab Peace Initiative (2002)

A peace plan proposed by the Arab League, offering full normalization of relations with Israel. But only in exchange for its withdrawal from the occupied territories and the establishment of a Palestinian state.

The Road Map for Peace (2003)

A plan proposed by the Quartet (United States, European Union, Russia, and the United Nations) that outlined a series of steps for both parties to take towards a final settlement.

The Annapolis Conference (2007)

A peace conference hosted by the United States at which Israeli and Palestinian leaders agreed to resume negotiations towards a two-state solution. Despite these efforts, obstacles remain, including disagreements over the status of Jerusalem and borders.



VII. Possible solutions

While there is no easy solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, several possible approaches have been proposed, such as the Two-State Solution. The establishment of an independent Palestinian state alongside the State of Israel, with agreed borders, security arrangements, and a resolution of the issues of Jerusalem. This would come closest to the demands of the countries. Another proposed Solution is the One-State Solution. The creation of a single state with equal rights for both Israelis and Palestinians is often proposed as an alternative to the two-state solution.

Many countries would like to see an effective peace agreement. It would involve not only Israel and Palestine but also neighboring Arab states. The agreement should address regional security concerns and stable relations.

Any lasting solution will require Resolutions, negotiations, and a commitment to peace and security by all parties involved.

VIII. How to prepare as a delegate

As a delegate in the committee discussing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, you should prepare by researching the positions and interests of the country or organization you represent. This may involve studying official statements, policies and, in particular, historical involvement in the conflict.

It is also important to understand the core issues, such as the status of Jerusalem, borders, and the right of return for Palestinian refugees. Familiarize yourself with previous peace initiatives, agreements, and resolutions related to the conflict.

Consider forming alliances with other countries or organizations that share similar positions or interests. This can strengthen your negotiating power and increase the chances of achieving your desired outcomes.



All delegates are required to submit at least one draft resolution and a minimum of two, preferably three, position papers covering all topics of the forum. The deadline for submitting these documents is **September 21, 2024**. After this deadline, the Student Officers will not provide corrections or feedback on the documents.

IX. Questions delegates should consider during Research

- What are the possible consequences of not cultivating a diplomatic solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict?
- What are the different approaches regarding the Israel and Palestine conflict?
- What is the role of international organizations in the the Israel and Palestine conflict?
- Which resolutions/treaties regarding this conflict has your country signed?

X. UN resolutions

[UN General Assembly Resolution 181 \(II\) \(1947\):](#)

Proposal by the UN to partition the Mandatory Palestine to create independent Arab and Jewish states linked economically and a Special International Regime for the city of Jerusalem and its surroundings.

<https://documents.un.org/doc/resolution/gen/nr0/038/88/pdf/nr003888.pdf?token=jI9f2HOKQQU4DtBMRv&fe=true>

[UN Security Council Resolution 242 \(1967\):](#) Emphasizes the inadmissibility of acquiring territory by war and calls for the withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from occupied territories in the 1967 Six-Day War.

[https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=S/RES/242\(1967\)&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=S/RES/242(1967)&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False)



[UN Security Council Resolution 2334 \(2016\)](#): Reaffirms that the establishment of Israeli settlements in Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, has no legal validity and constitutes a flagrant violation of international law.

<https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=S/RES/>

[2334\(2016\)&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False](https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=S/RES/2334(2016)&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop&LangRequested=False)

XI. Useful links

[United Nations Information System on the Question of Palestine \(UNISPAL\)](#):

A comprehensive resource provided by the United Nations on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, including resolutions, reports, and historical documents.

[The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: An Interactive Database \(ProCon.org\)](#): An interactive database with resources, timelines, and perspectives on the conflict from various sources.

[The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: A Visual Explainer \(Vox\)](#): A video explainer from Vox providing a visual overview of the conflict's history and key issues.

<https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15569.doc.htm>

XII. Sources

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<https://www.britannica.com/summary/Gaza-Strip>

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Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL COORDINATOR FOR THE MIDDLE EAST PEACE PROCESS from <https://dppa.un.org/en/mission/unsco>

Maps:

M 1.0 - This map is part of the following report: [Ad Hoc Committee on the Palestine Question: Report of Sub-Committee 2 \(11 November 1947\)](#)

M 1.1 In: Britannica- old Palestine

<https://kids.britannica.com/kids/article/Palestine/353592>

M 1.2 Document Sources: United Nations Department of Public Information (DPI)

Publication Date: 29/11/1947

<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-208958/>

M 1.3 In Britannica: Gaza Strip

<https://www.britannica.com/place/Gaza-Strip>