

Committee: Security Council (SC)

Agenda Item: The Crisis in the Middle East: taking measures to avoid full-scale

war

Student Officer: Deniz İpek Zeynioğlu, Selen Arslan - Vice Presidents

Introduction

The tension between Israel and Palestine, or more specifically, the current war between Israel and Palestine's ruling Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas, has highlighted the headlines throughout the past few months. This conflict, which can be traced back to the United Kingdom's mandate on the area during the time of the Ottoman Empire, has escalated with the surprise attack of Hamas on Israel in October 2023. In the following months, the humanitarian crisis in Palestine became more urgent and the safety of both Palestinians and Israelis became increasingly at risk.

In the past, Israel has been severely repressing the Palestinian population to stay dominant in the region through apartheid and persecution, which was seen as a crime against humanity. [1] Israel has restricted the right of movement as well as access to food in the Palestine territory for 15 years, which was mostly done by the boundary wall built by Israel on Palestine grounds. This closure was also implemented through the blockade of the Erez Crossing, which is the only way Palestinians can exit the Gaza Strip and access the West Bank and other countries.

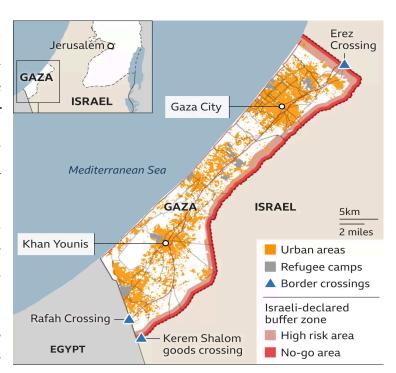
On 7th October 2023, Hamas organized an unprecedented attack on Israel, which escalated the conflict to an active battle site and killed about 1,200 people while taking 200 hostages. The Palestinian authorities announced almost 14,000 deaths after Israel's military response. [2]



The urgency of the crisis in Israel and Palestine obligates the United Nations to take action and resolve the conflict through peacebuilding efforts as well as to ensure the safety of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and Israelis in East Jerusalem. The atrocities happening in the war as well as the inhumane conditions Palestinians are residing in call for international attention. Our responsibility is to ensure a cease-fire and negotiations for long-term peace alongside the resolution of the humanitarian crisis.

Definition of Key Terms

Gaza Strip: The Gaza Strip is a territory on the Egypt- Israel border, adjacent the Mediterranean Sea. It is one of the most densely populated areas in the world, with a population of more than two million people. It was occupied by Egypt for 19 years following the 1949 war, and by Israel for years afterwards. retreated in 2005, however, is still considered to be occupying

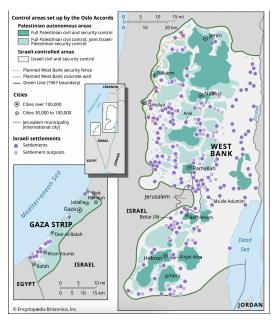


the area by the UN because it still controls the airspace, border, and shoreline.

[2] Map of the Gaza Strip, UN OCHA 2023, BBC



West Bank: The West Bank territory was retained by Arab soldiers after Britain's mandate on the territory ended in 1948, and it was a part of the



Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan until 1967 when it was occupied by Israel. The borders were decided between Jordan and Israel, however, both of those parties as well as the Palestine Liberation Organisation claimed rights over the territory. Israel Defense Forces have been conducting frequent raids ever since 2022, and since the October attacks in the Gaza Strip, movement and entrance have been blocked to the territory. [7]

Map of Israeli and Palestinian Settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, Encyclopedia Britannica

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO): The PLO was formed in 1964 by a coalition of Palestinian groups under the leadership of Yasser Arafat, in order to establish an Arab state instead of Israel. [3] The PLO claims to represent the entirety of the world's Palestinians, who lived in the Palestine territory before Israel's formation. [4]

Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas): Hamas was founded in 1987 with the aim of establishing an independent Islamic state in Palestine. Hamas opposed the PLO by taking a more violent approach and rejecting attempts to cede any part of Palestine. [5] Hamas has been declared a terrorist group by Israel, the US, the UK, the EU, and other countries. [7]

Palestinian Authority (PA): The PA was established to govern the autonomous Palestine territories of the Gaza Strip and West Bank in 1994, as a result of the Declaration of Principles (Oslo Accords) between Israel and PLO.



Within the agreement, the West Bank and Gaza Strip were recognized and authority was given away to the PA, a council consisting of Palestinians. PA and the Oslo Accords are highly denounced by Islamic movements like Hamas. [6]

Intifada: Intifada, as an Arabic word, directly translates to uprising. It refers to the violent opposition acts of Palestinians to the Israeli occupation. [9]

Balfour Declaration: The Balfour Declaration is a document published on November 2, 1917, by the British government, expressing support for the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine. This declaration was included in a letter from Lord Balfour, the British Foreign Secretary, to Lord Rothschild, a prominent member of the British Jewish community.

Ceasefire: A suspension of fighting agreed upon by the parties to a conflict, typically as part of a political process. It is intended to be long-term and often covers the entire geographic area of the conflict. Its aim is usually to allow parties to engage in dialogue, including the possibility of reaching a permanent political settlement.

Zionism: Zionism is the political movement for self- determination and liberation of the Jewish people in their ancestral homeland.

Major Actors Involved

Israel

The Israeli view on Palestine roots back to Zionism and the aim of establishing a Jewish state in place of Palestine. The migrated Jews were promised a land to return to and to take back the Temple in Jerusalem. The rise of anti-semitism throughout Europe caused the displaced Jews to migrate to Palestine and revive their nationalism. Zionism was seen as the solution to both anti-Semitism and the creation of a separate Jewish entity and was created as a political view by Austrian journalist Theodor Herzl.



With Palestine under the rule of the Ottoman Empire, Zionists were not able to gain political support. However, after World War I, the Zionists persuaded Britain to release the Balfour Declaration, which put forward British support for a "Jewish homeland" in Palestine. Through getting an endorsement from the League of Nations, Palestine was placed under British mandate, however, the British aim of joining the Arab and Zionist forces could not succeed with the great opposition in between.

However, in 1939, after Arabs opposed the declaration of two mutually dependent states, Britain started to restrict Jewish migrations to gain Arabic support against Germany and Italy. After World War II, Britain aimed to stop their mandate entirely on the area and delivered the issue to the UN.

In 1948, the Zionist and Palestinian forces clashed over the two-state solution and as Zionists came out of the battles with the upper hand, Israel declared its independence and was recognized by the United States, the Soviet Union, and other significant powers. However, even though the Zionist dream was achieved, Israel and Palestine's tension continues after almost 60 years since the official independence of Israel. [12]

Palestine

Palestine, currently a non-member observer state of the United Nations, was a part of the Ottoman Empire before the start of World War I. Palestinians believed that Britain promised them independence in return for their support of the Allied Forces against the Ottoman Empire. However, according to the 1919 Sykes-Picot Agreement between Russia, France, and Great Britain, the Palestine territory was going to be under the special protection of the Allies and become internationalized.

After the Balfour Declaration, it was apparent that Palestine was not going to gain independence. With the UN approving the declaration and requesting cooperation between a Jewish Agency and a Palestinian authority, the Zionists and Palestinians realized that sovereignty would be dependent on population after the British rule ended.



As the tension between the two communities increased, the 1936-1939 Arab Revolt occurred due to the Arab desire for independence and fear of a Jewish state. The birth of a national identity was finally achieved thanks to the uprising, yet, the Zionist self-reliance also increased.

After World War II, important powers such as the United States supported the Zionist view in order to have a place for the holocaust survivors. The Arab countries also raised interest in the Palestine issue and declared the Alexandria Protocol, which states that Zionism and the protection of European Jews should not be interconnected and Palestine should not be forced to go through injustices.

After PLO and Fatah's formation, Palestinian forces started to train guerillas in order to raid Israel. These organizations fought throughout the civil war as well as the Six-Day War but never achieved a peaceful agreement with Israel. After the intifadas and Oslo Accords, during the peace negotiations in the 2000s, the US-mediated talks did not bring a meaningful solution and Palestine started to seek international recognition through the United Nations. However, Palestine's bids in the Security Council were generally vetoed by the US, which hindered their efforts. [13]

United Kingdom

The United Kingdom is one of the most important actors in the Israel-Palestine conflict due to its involvement in the area since it took control after World War I. The British mandate over the area presented many conflicts, especially because the migration of Jews alongside the Balfour Declaration caused the Palestinians to feel betrayed after Britain ensured they would get their right to independence.

For this reason, the UK was one of the key factors why the conflict began in the first place. After the UK mandate ended subsequently to the issue's referral to the UN, a clear two-state solution or peaceful resolution was not achieved, causing the tension to continue after Israel's declaration of independence in 1948.



After the 2023 conflict, the UK has condemned the attack by Hamas and supported the right of Israel to defend itself while protecting citizens in Gaza. The UK has condemned the violence by Israeli settlers and raised the issue with the Israeli government as well. The UK supports temporary ceasefires for aid to be brought into the territory, as well as the release of hostages. Overall, the current UK politics in the territory aims to sustain and achieve peace, without bringing the mandate issues into the current matter. [19]

United States

The United States has had close relations with Israel tracing back to it being the first country to recognize Israel's independence. The US names Israel their most reliable partner in the Middle East, and over \$3 billion in Foreign Military Financing is shared annually. The US also exports many products to Israel, which is its largest single trading partner.

The US has also been involved with Palestine since the clandestine talks between PLO and the US government in 1983. However, in 1985, the US Congress passed a policy that prohibits negotiations with PLO. In 1987, the United States declared the PLO as a terrorist organization. In 2006, the US passed the Palestinian Anti-Terrorism Act that forbade US aid to Palestinian Unity governments with Hamas or other Hamas-led organizations unless Hamas was to recognize the independence of Israel. In 2011, to hinder Palestine's UN application process, the US passed another act that cut off all economic aid to PA unless PLO stopped their mission of attaining UN membership.

In 2014, another act was passed to place additional restrictions on Palestinians that support investigations in the International Criminal Court regarding the Israelis. [16] All of the aforementioned legal policies show the United States' intention to block international recognition of Palestine as well as to force a peace agreement with Israel.



Syria

Syria is important in the conflict because of its historical bonds and intertwined conflicts with Israel. In 1920, a Syrian congress rejected the Balfour Declaration and chose the king for a united Syria, which included Palestine. However, the Allies' separation of the area deemed that Lebanon and Syria would be under French mandate while Palestine would be held under British mandate. [13]

Syria was one of the first Arab countries to attack Israel after it gained independence in 1948. Additionally, Syria hosted Palestinian military groups and allowed their operations against Israel. In the 1967 Six-Day War, the Golan Heights territory of Syria was captured by Israel, creating the current tension between the two countries. Syria is also infamous for its close relations with Iran and Hezbollah, which are the main opposers of Israel. [14]

Lebanon

Lebanon holds significant importance in the conflict between Israel and Palestine because of the two previous wars between Israel and Lebanon. The first one occurred in 1982 because Palestinian leaders were residing there, and the second happened in 2006 after the Islamist terrorist group Hezbollah captured two Israeli soldiers. [14]

Lebanon is also critical in hosting many of the Palestinian refugees, however, because of the fear that the conflict might result in Palestinians being placed in Lebanon against the will of the Lebanese, they are not allowing the refugees most of their humanitarian rights. Additionally, the risk that Palestinians residing in the camps might riot if they are not allowed to return home presents a fear for Lebanese politics. [15]



China

China's Middle East policy is generally based on the BRI (Belt and Road Initiative) and financial investments and the preservation of these investments through diplomacy. China condemned the attack on 7 October 2023 but did not accuse Hamas of being a terrorist organization, much to Israel's dismay. That was in sharp contrast to the United States and its allies, which specifically condemned Hamas for a terrorist attack and offered full support to Israel. In the statement made immediately after Hamas' attacks, China called on the parties to reduce the tension as soon as possible, and reiterated the proposal for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state and a two-state solution to solve the problem.

France

France supports the creation of an independent Palestine and thinks that Jerusalem should be the shared capital of Israel and a future Palestinian state. Although France made attempts to introduce resolutions in the United Nations calling for an independent Palestine state these attempts were opposed by the United States of America. France's position regarding Hamas is well established: they take it as a terrorist organization that commits terrorist attacks and believe the civilian population of Gaza should not have to pay for Hamas' crimes. Additionally according to a survey done 80% of French people support France recognizing Palestine, however France does not recognize Palestine as a country yet.

Russia

Russia's approach towards the nations has changed over the years. During the Soviet Period and the Cold War the relationship between Russia and Israel was strong, however, that trust was broken after suspicions rose in Russia that the Soviet Jews wanted to flee to Israel. That was when the Russian Federation decided to strengthen relationships between the PLO (Palestine Liberation Organization) and other Arab Nations opposed to Israel.



The USSR (Union of Soviet Socialists Republics) constantly blocked the Soviet Jews from leaving the country in order to settle in Israel but those restrictions were lifted in early 2000s after the U.S. Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev co-hosted the March 1991 Madrid conference on the Arab-Israeli conflict with the U.S. President George H.W. Bush, the Russian government played a role in international efforts to move toward a two-state solution, but the relationship with Israel was still very tense. With the collapse of the USSR, restrictions of leaving the country were lifted.

Putin sees Israel as a key factor for Russian foreign policy in the Middle East but on October 7th, 2023 the relationship between Israel and Russia abruptly came to an end as Putin publicly backed away from his very close relationship with Israel's president Benjamin Netanyahu. Quickly after that Russia reignited ties with the representatives of Hamas and other Palestinian constituencies.

General Overview of the Issue

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has roots leading back to the Jewish migration of the area during the Ottoman Empire. Palestine was under the mandate of Britain due to the decision of the League of Nations, which was thought of as a transition phase, yet failed to address the right to self-determination of Palestinians. [11]

With the rise of Zionism, the Jewish nationalist movement that aimed to create a Jewish Palestine state, and the threats posed by pogroms and persecutions, the Jews found refuge in the area now known as Israel and Palestine. The British government had also declared its support for a Jewish national state in Palestine back in 1917.



However, the main starting point of the issue was the United Nations' decision in 1947 to divide the British-governed Palestine into two separate states, one being Jewish and the other Arab. The founding of Israel as a haven for Jews post-holocaust was highly denounced by both Palestine and other Arab countries. Jewish armed groups and Palestine forces were engaged in battles until the 1948 invasion by Egypt, Iraq, Transjordan, and Syria, subsequently to the declaration of independence of Israel.

In 1967 Israel started a defensive war against the aforementioned countries because of the risk of a future invasion, and the Gaza Strip, West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Golan Heights were taken with the unprecedented battles. This Six-Day War became the backbone of Jewish settlements and the Arab population was placed under military rule. [3]

First Intifada

With the escalation of Israeli land exploitation and settlement after the Likud party became the head of the government of Israel and the increased in repression consequently to the Palestine protests of the invasion of Lebanon in 1982, PLO was increasingly challenged by public opinion. As Israel was trying to separate PLO and the occupied territories, the objections against PLO were supported by the Israeli government, and a catalyst event was set to take place. In 1987, the Israeli forces struck two vans of Palestinian workers, which was seen to be the revenge of an Israeli person being stabbed in Gaza.

During the first year of the intifada, riots took place with minimal ammunition used; rocks and Molotov cocktails were thrown at Israeli forces. With the severity of the response from Israel, more violent fighting began with rifles as the First Intifada slowly came to a close in 1993 with a death toll of two thousand. In 1998, the PLO accepted the United Nations resolutions that recognized Israel and aimed for the acceptance of current boundaries to withhold peaceful coexistence.



Oslo Accords

After the First Intifada, the economic and political impact of the intifada caused the newly elected Israeli government to follow a more peaceful approach. PLO and Israel collectively signed the Oslo Accords, which recognized PLO as the legitimate representative organ of the Palestinian people. Israel also agreed to withdraw from the West Bank and Gaza Strip while recognizing the legitimacy of the Palestine Authority. These agreements signed in 1993-1995 also promised the discussion and resolution of the two-state solution in a matter of 5 years.

However, both parties continued activities that violated the Oslo Accords, such as Israel continuing its settlements on Palestine territory and Palestine continuing to import arms and develop defensive forces. With this tension rising in 2000, and a visit from prominent Israeli political leaders to Jerusalem that tried to prove the sovereignty of Israel over the holy grounds, rioting began to spread around the occupied territories once again.

Second Intifada

The Second Intifada lasted for almost 5 years and caused the death of more than 4,300 throughout the conflicts. The Israeli forces tried to reoccupy the Gaza Strip and West Bank through a new mission called Operation Defensive Shield. The next year, Israel started to build a boundary wall surrounding the West Bank, similar to the barriers around the Gaza Strip, to separate and restrict the Palestinians. [10]

After the Second Intifada, the PA lost its authority and many people started to support Hamas. The Israeli government also decided to start "disengagement" with Palestinians by closing its settlements in the territories. Since the disengagement, Israel has been stating that the Palestine territory is no longer occupied, while the United Nations states the opposite due to the limitations that are still imposed on airspace, waters, and access to the territory. Palestinians themselves also identify the ethnic entity living in Gaza, the West Bank, and Jerusalem as a whole and state that their territory is still occupied. [3]



Hamas and the 2023 War

In 2006, Hamas won the legislative elections in Palestine after the PA was criticized for corruption. Israel arrested Hamas members who participated in the parliament and imposed sanctions on Gaza. The relations between the previous ruler Fatah and Hamas brought violence and an end to national unity. Hamas took over Gaza through an armed operation while Fatah and PA continued their control of the West Bank. [3]

The unprecedented assault on Israel began on 7th October 2023. Israel responded with air strikes and a ground forces mission, with a death toll of 21,000 in Palestine. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu presented his decisiveness in the ongoing mission of the Israeli Defense Forces by stating their "clear goal of destroying Hamas's military and governing capabilities". After a temporary truce in November facilitated by Qatar, Israeli forces started to expand into refugee camps in Gaza. Israel also announced certain parts of Gaza to be cleared, which were later respondents of air strikes. During the November truce, both parties exchanged hostages, and a temporary cease of fights was ensured. However, at the start of December, both parties blamed each other because of failure to meet hostage release requirements.

With Israel closing off its borders with Gaza, food, water, and medicine supplies are unable to enter the territory. Limited aid deliveries were allowed through the Egyptian border into the Gaza Strip, however, amounting to a fifth of the regular necessary supplies. With the severe limitation in place; fuel, water and sanitation services are not able to run. [7]

Timeline of Important Events

Date:	Event:
1896	Theodor Herzl calls for the "restoration of the Jewish State" and the Zionist movement



	officially begins.
1916	The Sykes-Picot Agreement is concluded between the Allied Powers to divide Palestine after World War I.
1917	The UK issues the Balfour Declaration that makes the promise of a "national home for the Jewish people in Palestine".
1922	The League of Nations recognizes the Balfour Declaration and gives mandate over Palestine to the UK.
1936-1939	The Arab Revolt occurs as Palestinians riot against Jewish migration and British mandate.
1947	The UK presents the question of Palestine to the United Nations.
1948	The UK mandate comes to an end and Israel declares its independence. The first Arab-Israeli War breaks out with the invasion by Egypt, Transjordan (Jordan), Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon.
1964	Palestine Liberation Organisation is founded.
1967	The Six-Day War occurs with Israel occupying the West Bank, Gaza, Golan Heights, and East Jerusalem.



1987	First Intifada begins.
1995	Oslo Accords are signed.
2000	The Second Intifada begins.
2006	Hamas wins the national elections. Israel-Hezbollah (Lebanon) war begins. [18]
October 2023	The attack by Hamas in Israel takes place.

Related Documents

- Palestine plan of partition with economic union, 29 November 1947 (A/RES/181(II)): This resolution adopted by UNGA is crucial in being the first international document addressing the issue, which was produced after the referral of the issue to the UN by the UK.
- Israel membership in the UN, 11 May 1949 (A/RES/273 (III))
- Mideast situation/Withdrawal of Israeli forces, termination of states of belligerency, 22 November 1967 (S/RES/242)
- Mideast situation/Call for cease-fire/ Parties to implement S/RES/242, 22
 October 1973 (S/RES/338)
- Palestine question/Inalienable rights of the Palestinian people:
 Self-determination, independence, sovereignty, return, 22 November 1974 (A/RES/3236)
- Palestine question/CEIRPP/DPR/DPI/UNPA, 12 December 1979
 (A/RES/34/65)
- Advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, 9 July 2004 (A/ES-10/273)
- Gaza ceasefire, humanitarian aid, Adopted by the Security Council at its



6063rd meeting, 8 January 2009 (S/RES/1860)

- Human rights and humanitarian law violations/Gaza military operation
 Report of the UN Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza conflict
 ("Goldstone report"), 25 September 2009 (A/64/490)
- Illegality of Israeli Settlements in Palestinian Territory Occupied Since 1967, Adopted by the Security Council at its 7853rd meeting, 23
 December 2016 (S/RES/2334)

Past Solution Attempts

The first diplomatic meeting between the countries was the Madrid Peace Conference. Israel, refusing to recognize PLO, met with individuals from the West Bank and Gaza alongside delegations from neighboring Arab countries and the US. Palestinians' right to self-rule as well as the refugees were discussed despite any conclusion being reached. [21]

The Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, or Oslo Accords, was the first-ever peace attempt to resolve the conflict between Israel and Palestine. In 1993, the Oslo Accords were signed between the Israeli Prime Minister and the PLO. Israel recognized the PLO as the rightful representative of Palestinians, and the PLO recognized Israel's right to exist. The PA was established alongside the promise of discussing permanent borders in 5 years. However, in 1995, an Israeli opposed the Oslo Accords based on religious grounds and committed murder on a Palestinian, resulting in both sides violating the agreement and the short-lived peace ending. [20]

In 1998, the United States gathered at the Wye River Summit to presume the Oslo Accords peace process. Israel agreed to withdraw from occupied territories if the PA was to act against anti-Israeli terrorism. Despite the agreement, the territories were not returned to Palestine and arms reductions were not done by the PA. [21]



In 2000, the countries gathered together at the Camp David Summit in order to discuss a final agreement on the West Bank and Gaza. The parties still could not agree on matters such as borders, Jerusalem, and the refugees' right to return, resulting in the failure of another diplomatic peace attempt. [20]

With the Second Intifada happening subsequently, Israel and PA met together at Sharm el-Sheikh and decided to resume negotiations and bilateral relations. Both sides were to reduce violence while the US was to investigate the emerging violence through an advisory committee. In 2001, they gathered again for the Taba Summit, which was based on proposals of US President Clinton for mutual compromise. Coming days before the Israeli presidential election, the Taba Summit again could not reach a resolution and the newly elected government scrapped the peace effort that started with the Oslo Accords.

In 2003, the Red Sea Summit was organized to discuss the US Roadmap for Peace, which was backed by both the EU and the UN. The initial aim was to end the conflict and establish the Palestinian state by 2005. However, minute progress was achieved. Lastly, in 2005, the representatives met once again at Sharm el-Sheikh, intending to end the Second Intifada that had been ongoing for four years. They restated their intention of following the Roadmap while a ceasefire was reached. A truce was negotiated although periods of violence still emerged. [21]

In conclusion, with the recent developments in 2023, it can be seen that none of the peace attempts could resolve the issue, however, significant steps were taken to find common ground, especially with the Oslo Accords and the US mediation.



Possible Solutions

The most likely and peaceful resolution for the issue would be to achieve the two-state solution and develop both states as two separate entities that engage in peaceful cooperation. However, the first and foremost step to achieve even the consideration of such a solution is through the termination of the current violence through a ceasefire or permanent truce. Therefore, bilateral or most efficiently multilateral negotiations with international organizations should be resumed while the two parties' worries regarding regrouping during ceasefires should be eased through additional agreements. Then, the two-state solution including the rights of refugees and displaced people as well as the division of territories and boundaries can be discussed at length in order to reach a mutually beneficial agreement with compromise, which would end the conflict once and for all.

The more urgent, humanitarian side of the issue requires the UN and the Security Council to provide the necessary resources to the Palestinians. Access to healthcare as well as basic human needs such as shelter, water, and food are at risk. Hence, an agreement to deliver external assistance through one of the borders should be made with Israel and neighboring countries to ensure the flow of humanitarian aid.

Additionally, the territories at risk of air raids should be cleared and arrangements for the refugees should be made with international cooperation, which again requires an agreement regarding the border crossings. The refugees should be provided with care as well as financial assistance in their country of residence, which requires long-term planning and UN collaboration to achieve.

Lastly, the atrocities and war crimes should be considered with their long-term impacts once peace is settled in the region. International courts such as the International Court of Justice or special expert groups could be referred to in order to review the previous human rights violations and their consequences.



The currently ongoing human rights violations could also be addressed if a rapid solution and oversight mechanism can be provided by the United Nations to prevent them from happening before a truce is reached.

Overall, the current conflict should be addressed by delegates in two parts: the necessary aid and ceasefire to end the current violence between Hamas and Israel, and the political and legal grounds as well as long-term aid to end the conflict entirely. The delegates are welcome to focus on both short and long term solutions as one cannot exist without the other, and peace cannot be reached without international cooperation and effort.

Useful Links

A video explaining the history of the Question of Palestine by the United Nations: https://youtu.be/yBjMbe24Vu0

A video explaining the history of the issue with more detail: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lwo2TLlMhiw

The United Nations Information System on Palestine's database that includes all relevant UN documents: https://www.un.org/unispal/documents/

Bibliography

- 1. Hassan, Tirana. "World Report 2023: Israel and Palestine." *Human Rights Watch*,
 - https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2022/country-chapters/israel-and-palestine-0. Accessed 8 January 2024.
- 2. "Israel Gaza war: History of the conflict explained." *BBC*, 15 November 2023, https://www.bbc.com/news/newsbeat-44124396. Accessed 8 January 2024.



- 3. McGreal, Chris. "What are the roots of the Israel-Palestine conflict?" The Guardian, 13 October 2023, https://www.theguardian.com/world/2023/nov/09/why-israel-palestine-conflict-history. Accessed 8 January 2024.
- "Palestine Liberation Organization | History, Goals & Impact." Britannica, 17 December 2023, https://www.britannica.com/topic/Palestine-Liberation-Organization.
 Accessed 8 January 2024.
- 5. "Hamas | Definition, History, Ideology, & Facts." *Britannica*, https://www.britannica.com/topic/Hamas. Accessed 8 January 2024.
- "Palestinian Authority (PA) | Definition, History, & Region." Britannica, 31 December 2023, https://www.britannica.com/topic/Palestinian-Authority. Accessed 8 January 2024.
- 7. "What is Hamas and why is it fighting with Israel in Gaza?" *BBC*, 28 December 2023, https://www.bbc.com/news/world-middle-east-67039975. Accessed 8 January 2024.
- 8. "West Bank | History, Population, Map, Settlements, & Facts." *Britannica*, https://www.britannica.com/place/West-Bank. Accessed 8 January 2024.
- "INTIFADA | English meaning Cambridge Dictionary." Cambridge
 Dictionary, 3 January 2024,
 https://dictionary.cambridge.org/dictionary/english/intifada. Accessed 9
 January 2024.
- 10. "Intifada | History, Meaning, Cause, & Significance." *Britannica*, 5 January 2024, https://www.britannica.com/topic/intifada. Accessed 9 January 2024.
- 11. "History & Background | United Nations." the United Nations, https://www.un.org/en/situation-in-occupied-palestine-and-israel/histor



- y. Accessed 9 January 2024.
- Rabin, Yitzhak, and Menachem Begin. "Israel Jewish Homeland, Zionism, 1948." Britannica, https://www.britannica.com/place/Israel/Immigration-and-conflict.
 Accessed 9 January 2024.
- 13. "Palestine Split Admin, West Bank, Gaza Strip." *Britannica*, https://www.britannica.com/place/Palestine/Split-administration-of-the
 -West-Bank-and-the-Gaza-Strip. Accessed 9 January 2024.
- 14. "Israel-Palestine Conflict: The Key Players." India Today,

 https://www.indiatoday.in/interactive/immersive/israel-palestine-conflict-saudi-arabia-arab-countries-hamas-war-peace-agreements/. Accessed 9 January 2024.
- 15. Haddad, Simon. "The Palestinian Predicament in Lebanon." the Palestinian Refugee ResearchNet, https://prrn.mcgill.ca/research/papers/haddad_0009.htm. Accessed 9 January 2024.
- 16. "A Timeline of U.S. Policy Toward Palestine." Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, https://carnegieendowment.org/specialprojects/breakingtheisraelpalestinestatusquo/timeline. Accessed 9 January 2024.
- 17. "Our Relationship Policy & History." U.S. Embassy in Israel, https://il.usembassy.gov/our-relationship/policy-history/. Accessed 9 January 2024.
- 18. Cruz, Margaret. "Historical Timeline Question of Palestine." the United Nations, 28 December 2023, https://www.un.org/unispal/historical-timeline/. Accessed 10 January 2024.
- 19. "2023/24 Israel-Hamas conflict: UK and international response House of Commons Library." The House of Commons Library, 5 January 2024,



- https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/research-briefings/cbp-9874/. Accessed 10 January 2024.
- 20. "Milestones: 1993–2000 Office of the Historian." US Department of State, Office of the Historian, https://history.state.gov/milestones/1993-2000/oslo. Accessed 10 January 2024.
- 21. Au, Ceri. "Sixteen Years of Israeli-Palestinian Summits." *Time Magazine*, 17 December 2023,
 - https://content.time.com/time/specials/packages/completelist/0,29569,1 644149,00.html. Accessed 10 January 2024.