



Antalya Private Yükseliş College Model United Nations Conference 2025

UNSC

Agenda Item:

Israel-Palestine
Conflict

Under Secretary General:

Deniz Nur Berk

&

Bersun Akkaya

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A .Letter From Secretaries General

Esteemed Participants,

It is our paramount pleasure to welcome you to the second installment of Yükseliş Model United Nations Conference 2025. We, Neva Nas Aydın and Ramazan Yandı, will be serving you as your Secretary General's in the upcoming three days. Our Executive Team has put not only the best Academic Team but the Best Organization team so that you can enjoy creating memories in our conference.

Essentially Model United Nations Conferences are great opportunities to improve your debating capabilities, your confidence, your foreign language level and understand how policy is implemented. We can state that Model United Nations Conferences helped us both in our academic and social lives. For this reason it is our duty to transfer these experiences to the next generations and ensure that they affect them in a similar way.

We hope you have one of the best MUN experiences of your lifes in YKMUN 2025!

Sincerely,

Neva Nas Aydın & Ramazan Yandı

B. Letters From Under Secretaries General

Most esteemed participants, I am Deniz Nur Berk and I will be serving as Under Secretary General during the YKMUN25 for the United Nations Security Council committee. I graduated from Konya Social Sciences High School and currently study at Ankara University as a sophomore. I have been attending MUN conferences since 2019. For these three days, delegates should all be productive and should all come up with realistic solutions, ideas rather than bashing or blaming another country.

Don't forget that this conference is a simulation of the United Nations, and you should behave, talk, and obey the dress code accordingly. My best advice to you would be to read this study guide very carefully and think of solution ideas to share and debate with other delegations when sessions start.

If you have any questions regarding the committee, agenda, rules of procedure or any other concerns that come to your mind, don't hesitate to contact me via my email

dnthorhild@gmail.com

Deniz Nur Berk

Under Secretary General of UNSC

Esteemed Participants,

I am the Under-Secretary-General of this committee, Bersun Akkaya. I am currently continuing my studies in Sociology at Turkish-German University in the German language, and I would like to extend a warm welcome to you all to the YKMUN'25: United Nations Security Council! The narratives within this committee are generally created by blending various subjects, such as long academic papers, with historical contexts. We hope that you will greatly enjoy this committee and, in the process, gain insightful knowledge of the era and its dynamics. A great deal of information for this committee has been left to your own research initiative. The purpose of this is to help you gain experience in academic research and to encourage you to bring your own creative ideas. Therefore, please make sure to deepen your research as much as possible.

I also encourage each one of you to engage deeply with the topic, collaborate with your fellow members, and approach the committee with creativity and most importantly respect. This is an opportunity for growth, and I hope you will make the most of it. Once again, thank you for being part of this experience, and I look forward to seeing all of you in action during the committee sessions. May we all learn, grow, and, most importantly, enjoy this incredible journey together! Lastly, I want to thank all the academic and organizational teams of the YKMUN'25 for making this conference possible. I wish everyone a great time. And please do not hesitate to contact us regarding the committee or any special needs. Good Luck! bersunakkaya@gmail.com

Cordially,

Bersun AKKAYA

Under Secretary General of UNSC

1. Introduction of the Committee: UNSC

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is a primary component of the United Nations (UN) and is responsible for maintaining global peace and security. Its main functions include nominating new UN members to the General Assembly and approving modifications to the UN Charter. The United Nations possesses the authority to establish peacekeeping operations, enforce international sanctions, and provide permission for military intervention. The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) possesses exclusive jurisdiction to adopt legally binding resolutions upon member nations.

The Security Council, similar to the United Nations as a whole, was established in the aftermath of World War II to rectify the shortcomings of the League of Nations in upholding global peace. The inaugural session of the organization took place on 17 January 1946. However, throughout the following years, it faced significant obstacles due to the Cold War rivalry between the United States and the Soviet Union, along with their respective allies, which greatly hindered its functioning. However, it granted permission for military involvement in the Korean War and the Congo Crisis, as well as peacekeeping missions in the Suez Crisis, Cyprus, and West New Guinea. Following the disintegration of the Soviet Union, the United Nations experienced a significant surge in the magnitude of its peacekeeping endeavors. The Security Council granted authorization for substantial military and peacekeeping operations in Kuwait, Namibia, Cambodia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Rwanda, Somalia, Sudan, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

The Security Council has fifteen members, with five being permanent: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States of America. The victors of World War II were the big powers or their successor states. The permanent members has the authority to exercise a veto power over any significant resolution, which encompasses resolutions related to the acceptance of new member states into the United Nations or the appointment of nominees for the position of Secretary-General. The remaining ten members are elected on a regional basis to serve a two-year term. The leadership of the body is rotated on a monthly basis among its members.

UN peacekeepers, which consist of armed personnel contributed by member nations and financed separately from the primary UN budget, are responsible for implementing Security Council resolutions. As of March 2019, there exist thirteen peacekeeping missions comprising a workforce of more than 81,000 individuals from 121 nations. These missions are supported by a combined budget of almost \$6.7 billion. The Security Council holds the highest authority within the United Nations and is entrusted with the primary duty of upholding global peace and security. There are five influential nations that hold the status of "permanent members" in addition to ten members who are chosen and serve for two years. Since 1990, the Council has significantly enhanced its activity and presently convenes in almost uninterrupted sessions. It carries out military operations, enforces sanctions, requires arms inspections, sends election monitors, and performs other tasks.

The Security Council can be described as a hybrid entity, combining elements of a parliament and a confidential diplomatic gathering. The organization adheres to a monthly Program of Work established by its President, who changes regularly. We provide comprehensive details regarding

the various categories of Council meetings, including a dedicated section on Informal Consultations, where the Council mostly conducts its confidential deliberations. GPF has additionally gathered data on Council field missions that are dispatched to areas of crisis, as well as panels of experts that produce some of the United Nations' most incendiary and illuminating reports. The Council often dispatches Peacekeeping missions that deploy military personnel and law enforcement officers directly to areas of conflict. The United Nations' greatest and most costly endeavor is peacekeeping, which can generate controversy, particularly when employing forceful operations that involve the use of fatal force. The GPF analyzes Peacekeeping Data, encompassing metrics such as the quantity of peacekeepers, their nation of origin, and the financial expenditure associated with these missions. We examine the insights gained from previous UN peacekeeping endeavors, as well as ongoing missions. In addition, we examine Peacekeeping Reform and analyze the function and prospects of peacekeeping missions. Conflicts and internal unrest frequently expose the negative aspects of natural resources. GPF offers comprehensive insights into the contribution of natural resources to the instigation of conflicts, encompassing detailed data on Oil, Water, Diamonds, Timber, and Minerals. We also examine the significance of Small Arms and Light Weapons in conflict, along with the United Nations' endeavors to impede the proliferation of small arms.

While numerous states support the idea of Security Council Reform, there is significant disagreement regarding the specific methods for implementing reform, particularly in relation to membership changes. Several states seek to achieve "permanent" status for themselves, although numerous other countries dismiss such assertions. This section compiles information regarding additional reform matters, such as openness and Working Methods. The GPF has released a

concise yet thorough document, highlighting the key areas for reform and advocating for regional representation as the most effective approach to achieve genuine democratic reform. One of the primary matters for reform is the power of veto. The five permanent members bestowed upon themselves this privilege upon the establishment of the UN in 1945 and have steadfastly retained it ever since. The dispute on the veto persists more than six decades later. The matter at hand pertains not only to the infrequent use of the veto, but also to the frequent utilization of the "Hidden Veto" by permanent members as a means of coercing others to comply with their desires. GPF monitors the matter and presents Tables and Charts on the Veto, encompassing a full compilation of all the vetoes exercised and the topics that were vetoed in the Security Council since 1945. In 1997, members of the Security Council initiated a proactive exchange with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). GPF offers insights into the NGO Working Group on the Security Council and examines the dynamics between NGOs and the Security Council.

2. Introduction of Agenda Item: Israel-Palestine Conflict

The Israeli-Palestinian dispute is a political and military war that is still going on in the areas surrounding the Levant. It is one of the conflicts that has been going on for the longest amount of time, beginning in the middle of the 20th century. The Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, the status of Jerusalem, Israeli settlements, borders, security, and water rights, as well as concerns regarding Palestinian freedom of movement and the right of return, are among the most important aspects of the conflict.

During the latter half of the 19th century and the early 20th century, Jewish immigrants and settlers arrived in Palestine, which led to the beginning of the conflict. Additionally, the Zionist movement emerged during this time period. A primary reason for the local Arab population's opposition to Zionism was their fear of being displaced from their land and deprived of their property. By pledging to back the establishment of a "Jewish homeland in Palestine" in the Balfour Declaration of 1917, which was made by Britain, the Zionist movement was able to secure the backing of an imperial power. The establishment of Mandatory Palestine in the aftermath of World War I led to the escalation of tensions, which eventually led to open sectarian conflict between Jews and Arabs. An Arab uprising that demanded independence broke out in 1936, but the British were able to put down the disturbance.

The Palestine War of 1948 was sparked by the 1947 United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine, which resulted in the expulsion and flight of the majority of Palestinian Arabs, the founding of Israel on the majority of the area that comprised the Mandate, and the control of the Gaza Strip and the West Bank by Egypt and Jordan, respectively. During the Six-Day War in 1967, Israel seized the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, which later became known as the Palestinian territories. This occupation is now considered to be the longest military occupation in modern history, and it has garnered international condemnation for its violation of the human rights of the Palestinian people.

Since the beginning of the conflict, a significant number of civilians, the majority of whom were Palestinian, have been killed. The Israeli-Palestinian peace process has included a number of different attempts to resolve the conflict. These efforts have been done in conjunction with

efforts to resolve the larger conflict between Israel and the Arab world. As a result of the Oslo Accords, which were signed between 1993 and 1995, the Israel government and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) made significant headway toward a conflict resolution through negotiation. Over the past few years, the majority of attempts to achieve peace have been focused on the two-state solution, which entails the establishment of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel. Over the past few years, there has been a decline in public support for a two-state solution, which was once supported by both Israeli Jews and Palestinians. The representatives of the United Nations, the United States of America, Russia, and the European Union are the members of the Quartet on the Middle East, which acts as a mediator for official negotiations. Along with Egypt and Jordan, the Arab League is another significant participant. It is the Arab League that has launched the Arab Peace Initiative. Since the year 2006, the Palestinian side has been divided into two factions: Fatah, which has retained control of the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank, and Hamas, which has assumed control of the Gaza Strip. Repeated and ongoing efforts have been made to find a solution to this problem. Since the year 2019, the Israeli side has also been going through a period of political upheaval. July 2013 marked the beginning of the most recent round of peace discussions, which were subsequently put on hold in 2014. The most recent conflict between Hamas and Israel began in 2023 and is still continuing on as of February 2024. A total of five wars have been fought between the two groups since 2006.

3. Historical Background

World War I concluded in 1918. Britain had defeated the Ottoman Empire. Britain controlled practically all Ottoman lands in the Middle East after winning the First World War. Francis supported Britain in conquering Ottoman lands in the Middle East. After gaining control of most Ottoman territory, Britain prepared its colonies for independence. The sultan's former territories in Istanbul began to elect their leaders. Independence is celebrated everywhere with joy.

However, on May 14, 1948, riots broke out, armed forces were readied for war, and the world looked transfixed on Palestine. Roman deportation for rebelling against Judea led to the Jewish exodus to Europe. In the early century AD, theThey deemed Palestine hazardous because of Ottoman authority. . Since 1880, hundreds of Eastern European Jews moved to Ottoman-controlled Palestine. Herzl said the Jewish nation must take charge of their life and build a state in Palestine immediately. Herzl's concept became Zionism. He convened the First Zionist Congress in 1897 with European Jewish religious leaders. Herzl's suggestion to alleviate congress Jews' suffering was both praised and rejected. Those who rejected Herzl's concept said a Jewish state would violate their religion. The conviction is that only the Messiah can save the Jews. This rebuff did not deter Herzl from his Zionist goals. He approached the Ottoman-allied German leader to continue his fight. Herzl offered any financial aid to the Ottoman Empire to buy Palestine territory. Despite pressure from Europe, the Ottoman Empire rejected Herzl's offer for free. Herzl kept his idea going despite this denial. With this reluctance, Herzl resumed his struggle by approaching Ottoman adversaries Russia and Britain. Herzl was offered Uganda by Britain after failing to work with Russia. Herzl rejected the British territorial offer because it did not meet his needs. Britain, one of the Allies, supported Arab freedom so they could indirectly destabilize the Ottoman Empire by revolting for independence. Two Zionist camps existed during the period. For Jews in Palestine, the Ottoman Empire was their best hope of protection

from the British, who advocated Arab independence. European Zionists disagreed. They thought the Ottoman Empire was the greatest threat. Therefore, they believe the British will beg for aid protecting their homeland. European Jewish scientist Chaim Weizmann backed the British. His wartime lobbying targeted Lord Arthur Balfour, the British foreign minister. The group wanted Jews to get British-controlled property in Palestine if Britain defeated the Ottoman Empire. Weizmann received ownership rights over British holdings in Palestine after a lengthy procedure. Britain celebrated defeating the Ottoman Empire in 1918. After the triumph, Britain should fulfill its pledge to grant the Jews land in Palestine. England had gained sovereignty over the entire Ottoman Empire from the League of Nations, but it seemed to have forgotten its pledge to the Jews. In 1921, the British formed Trans Jordan, a kingdom not meant to uphold Jewish pledges. This rejection irritated Arabs who sought independence and not British rule. Jews also felt tensions since the British did not keep their pledges and there was anti-Arab attitude. Daily confrontation between Palestinian Arabs and Jews grows. Their quarrel involves an attack. An extremist named Vladimir Jabotinsky founded the Haganah Jewish militia as Arab-Jewish tensions rose. The Jewish state should not allow Arabs, according to Jabotinsky. In the Middle East, many Arab countries have formed. At that time, European Jews migrated to Palestine in greater numbers. Britain were overwhelmed by the Jewish-Arab conflict in Palestine in 1939. Britain stopped allowing European Jews to travel to Palestine. When a ruthless Nazi tyrant was elected leader of Germany in 1939, Jews were likewise afraid. The Nazi Party wants to seek, kill, and destroy Jews worldwide. Increased Jewish opposition to Jabotinsky's extremist ideas exacerbated the fragile situation. The Jews who first felt comfortable living with the Arabs in Palestine were also influenced by Jabotinsky's extreme understanding. With this radical understanding, the Jewish militia increased and assassinated British soldiers who blocked Jewish

immigration to Palestine. Britain is tired of Palestine's instability. Therefore, Britain gave the Palestinian question to the UN in 1947. UNSCOP decides Palestine's future.⁶ The UN divided Palestine into three parts. For the UN, Jews, Arabs, and Jerusalem received the three sections. A vote was held in 1947. 33 countries accepted this division, 13 declined, 10 abstained.

a. First Stage of the Conflict

Conflict is a physical or non-physical clash between two or more groups in an area. Conflicts and wars occur in almost every Middle Eastern location. One Middle East dispute that has never found a solution is the Israeli-Palestinian one. In 1897, the Israeli Zionist group lobbying directly to Sultan Abdul Hamid II sought to legitimize Jews and delegitimize Arabs on Palestinian land. The Ottomans ruled the Middle East for three centuries, especially Palestine, but Arab nationalism began to grow in the Middle East, so many groups wanted to break away from the Ottomans. The organizations are lobbying the British to grant their objectives in exchange for a divided territory. In 1917, as the Ottoman Turks lost the war, Palestine passed to British Imperialism. Arab countries tried to form Arab Nationalism countries, but Britain failed to promise them this because it had promised Israel to form a country that became a residence. The Zionists dwell in Palestine. Palestinian Arabs opposed the British mandate because it thwarted their aspirations for self-government and the massive immigration of Jews into Palestine after the Holocaust in Germany. The British agreement with Zionist Israel is a manifestation of the Balfour Declaration, which contains civil and religious rights. The Jews achieved their goal of establishing their own area by attacking civilians in the Palestinian territories under the guise of spreading terror and leaving their homeland. In June 1967, the people of the Middle East could not allow Israel to do such arbitrary things against the Palestinian population, and war broke out

between the Israeli Army and the Middle East Army. It took six days and was won by the Israeli side, which demanded the Middle East by recognizing Israel's territory as part of it and was ready to negotiate. After the conflict, Israel suppressed Palestinians economically, socially, ideologically, and politically. UN, a peacekeeping organization. Negotiating peace between Israel and Palestine. The Palestinian-Israeli conflict has been extensively discussed. Since 1947, Israel has repeatedly seized Palestinian areas. Zionists have occupied Palestine for 70 years, denying its freedoms and rights. Many Israeli violations violate International Law and International Humanitarian Law. In early May 2021, Palestinian protesters and Israeli police clashed over the planned expulsion of several Palestinians from Jerusalem. The recent Israeli and Palestinian clashes stem from a longstanding law by a group of Jewish settlers who want to evict the Sheikh Jarrah area, East Jerusalem. Civilians living there claim the land belongs to them, but the Jewish land is land owned by their religious association since before 1948, and the 1970 Israel Law claims that Jews have the right to build buildings in the area. Thus, the tension in Sheikh Jarrah is at the heart of the latest conflict between Palestine and Israel. The UN maintained that the conflict in Sheikh Jarrah was a violation of International Law because the Israeli side openly expanded Jewish settlements in East Jerusalem, which was illegal under International Law. The Jews are growing economically, militarily, and with direct help from major nations like the US, UK, and France. Thus, peace between the two countries is becoming harder to achieve and the peace negotiating process is becoming more uncertain. Peace between Israel and Palestine is unlikely as long as there is no resolution to the territory seizure issue.

b. Past Wars and Conflicts

Arab–Israeli War (1948)

After the Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel on 14 May 1948, the Arab League intervened on behalf of Palestinian Arabs, marching their forces into former British Palestine, starting the 1948 Arab–Israeli War. After fighting that claimed 15,000 lives, the 1949 cease-fire and armistice agreements left Israel in control of most of the former Mandate territory, Jordan in the West Bank and Egypt in Gaza, where the Arab League declared the All-Palestine Government on 22 September 1948.

Suez Crisis (1956)

Jordan and Egypt aided Palestinian Fedayeen terrorists' cross-border raids into Israel in the 1950s, while Israel retaliated in the host countries. After the 1956 Suez Crisis, Israel briefly occupied Gaza and exiled the All-Palestine Government, which was later returned. Egypt abandoned the All-Palestine Government in 1959 and incorporated it into the United Arab Republic, hurting the Palestinian national cause. Gaza Strip became a de facto military occupation under Egyptian military administration. However, Yasser Arafat founded the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1964. It received an Arab League seat after receiving backing from majority Arab League governments.

Six-Day War(1967)

Israel's military takeover of the West Bank from Jordan and the Gaza Strip from Egypt in 1967 shaped Palestinian nationalism. Thus, the PLO established its headquarters in Jordan, home to

hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, and assisted the Jordanian army during the War of Attrition, including the Battle of Karameh. The 1970 Jordanian–Palestinian civil conflict destroyed the Palestinian base in Jordan. The PLO's defeat by the Jordanians drove most Palestinian militants to South Lebanon, where they established "Fatahland".

Yom Kippur War (1973)

An Arab alliance led by Egypt and Syria attacked Israel on Yom Kippur on October 6, 1973. Egyptian and Syrian forces crossed pre-1973 ceasefire lines. Egypt tried to reoccupy much of the Suez Canal area, while Syria's frontline was in the Golan Heights to the north. Both sides suffered heavy casualties as Israel won the war.

Lebanon War (1982)

In the early 1970s, Palestinian resistance in South Lebanon peaked as Lebanon was used to strike northern Israel and hijack airplanes internationally, prompting Israeli response. Throughout the Lebanese Civil War, Palestinian militants attacked Israel and local opponents. Operation Litani, the 1978 Israeli incursion, followed the Coastal Road massacre. However, Israeli forces rapidly left Lebanon, and attacks on Israel resumed. After a Palestinian assassination attempt on one of its diplomats, Israel entered the 1982 Lebanon War. Initial Israeli results were good. Most Palestinian terrorists were defeated within weeks, Beirut was taken, and Yasser Arafat moved the PLO headquarters to Tunisia in June.

First Intifada (1987–1993)

The first Palestinian revolt began in 1987 in reaction to mounting violence and occupation. After the 1982 Egyptian–Israeli peace accord, international efforts to resolve the problem began in the

early 1990s. The 1993 Oslo Accords allowed the PLO to move from Tunisia to the West Bank and Gaza Strip and form the Palestinian National Authority. Radical Islamic Palestinian groups like Hamas and Palestinian Islamic Jihad promptly attacked Israelis, opposing the peace process. After hundreds of casualties and violent anti-government propaganda, an Israeli far-right terrorist killed Prime Minister Rabin over the peace initiative. This crippled the peace effort, which the 1996 Israeli government abandoned. Secon Intifada (2000-2005)

After years of failed negotiations, the Second Intifada began in September 2000. The unrest escalated into an open confrontation between the Palestinian National Security Forces and the Israel Defense Forces until 2004/2005, killing 130 people. Sharon ordered the evacuation of Israeli residents and military from Gaza in 2005. Israel and the Supreme Court proclaimed occupation finished since it "had no effective control over what occurred" in Gaza. Israel controls Gaza Strip's airspace, territorial waters, and the movement of people and goods in and out of Gaza by air or sea, so the UN, Human Rights Watch, and many other international bodies and NGOs still consider Israel the occupying power.

Fatah–Hamas split (2006–2007)

Hamas won 44% of the 2006 Palestinian legislative election. Israel threatened economic sanctions unless Hamas accepted earlier Israeli–Palestinian agreements, forswore violence, and recognized Israel's right to exist, which Hamas refused. Hamas seized control of Gaza after the 2007 Battle of Gaza between Fatah and Hamas. Israel's naval blockade of Gaza and Egypt's ground blockade of the Egyptian border began in 2007.

Israel launched Operation Cast Lead on Gaza in late 2008, killing thousands of civilians and causing billions of dollars in damage. Though the occupation and occasional violence continued, international diplomacy led to a ceasefire in February 2009.

Palestinian Authority attempts to join the UN as an independent state failed in 2011. Israel continued to face rocket assaults and air raids from Hamas-controlled Gaza. Palestinian participation in the UN became a non-member observer state in November 2012, and its mission title was changed from "Palestine (represented by PLO)" to "State of Palestine". Israel and Gaza fought again in 2014, killing over 70 Israelis and 2,000 Palestinians.

Israel-Hamas War (2023–Now)

After the 2014 conflict and 2021 crisis, Hamas planned an attack on Israel. The far-right Netanyahu government took power in 2022, causing political unrest in Israel and Palestinian Territories. This culminated in the 2023 Israel–Hamas conflict, when Hamas-led armed organizations attacked southern Israel from Gaza, murdering hundreds of people and capturing prisoners. In response, Israel bombed Gaza and invaded it to destroy Hamas and govern Gaza. Israeli forces killed tens of thousands of Palestinian civilians and displaced nearly two million. South Africa charged Israel of genocide at the ICJ and demanded a ceasefire. Genocide was possible, but the court did not mandate a ceasefire. Israel clashed with West Bank militants, Hezbollah in Lebanon and northern Israel, and Iranian-backed militias in Syria as the war spread. Iranian-backed militias clashed with the US, and the Houthis blocked the Red Sea in protest, prompting US bombings in Yemen, Iraq, and Syria.

4. Key Players and Stakeholders

Israel

Israel, which is a significant player in the conflict, has the objective of protecting its security, sovereignty, and territorial integrity. The nation is working hard to maintain its identity as a democratic and Jewish nation, despite the fact that it is confronted with attacks from extreme organizations. During the same time that it places a strong emphasis on the implementation of stringent security protocols to protect its citizens, Israel aggressively supports the acknowledgment and establishment of amicable relationships with the countries that are its neighbors.

Palestine

In the case of Palestine, the Palestinians, who are represented by both the Palestinian Authority (PA) and Hamas, are working toward the goals of achieving self-governance, establishing a sovereign state, and ensuring that refugees have the right to return home. Their goal is to establish a Palestinian nation that is independent and responsible for its own affairs in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem, with the latter being recognized as the capital of the government. Additionally, Palestinians demand that the Israeli occupation of lands be terminated and that settlements be removed from the territories that are now under Israeli administration.

United States of America

Throughout the course of history, the United States of America has been a key player in helping the resolution of the conflict and protecting Israel's security concerns. While at the same time taking part in efforts to promote peace and expressing support for the concept of a two-state solution, the United States has maintained a strong connection with Israel. Different administrations in the United States have utilized a variety of approaches, with some administrations placing a greater emphasis on diplomacy while others have adopted a more unilateral course of action.

United Nations

The United Nations has been actively engaged in addressing the Israeli-Palestinian issue through the creation of resolutions, the implementation of peacekeeping operations, and the implementation of humanitarian assistance initiatives. Several agencies of the United Nations (UN) are working together to alleviate the humanitarian crisis that is occurring in the region, to offer aid to the Palestinian state-building efforts, and to advocate a negotiated resolution that is based on international law and relevant UN resolutions.

Arab States

Arab nations, the majority of which are located in the Middle East and North Africa, have traditionally supported the Palestinian cause and worked to promote Arab unity as a response to what they consider to be Israeli hostility. A number of Arab states, such as Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia, have been actively involved in efforts to achieve peace, most notably through the

Arab Peace initiative. According to this proposition, Israel ought to withdraw from regions that it has seized and make it possible for a Palestinian state to be established in exchange for normalized ties with Arab nations. There are a number of Arab states, including Qatar and Iran, that provide financial and political support to Palestinian factions and encourage resistance against Israeli occupation.

Egypt

Egypt has been a significant contributor to the success of the cease-fires that have been established between Israel and various Palestinian factions, most notably Hamas in the Gaza Strip. Furthermore, it has been of assistance in the process of reconciliation between opposing Palestinian factions, with the objective of fostering unity and strengthening the negotiating positions of the Palestinians.

Jordan

Jordan has a significant interest in the negotiation and resolution of the dispute because of its proximity to the conflict and its sizeable Palestinian population. The Palestinian Authority has, throughout its existence, maintained diplomatic relations with Israel. At the same time, it has advocated for the rights of Palestinians and supported initiatives that attempt to achieve a comprehensive peace resolution that is based on the two-state solution.

Saudi Arabia

The Arab Peace Initiative has received official support from Saudi Arabia, a prominent regional power, and Saudi Arabia has actively sought a resolution to the conflict that is both fair and comprehensive through its efforts. The nation has been providing diplomatic support to the

Palestinian Authority and has been making concerted efforts to collect support from Arab nations and the international community for the formation of a Palestinian state's government.

Qatar

The Palestinian Authority has received financial assistance from Qatar, and Qatar has also provided humanitarian aid to Palestinians living in Gaza. In addition to this, it serves as a forum for political figures who are linked with Hamas and actively promotes efforts to work for reconciliation amongst the various Palestinian factions. In the aftermath of Israeli military operations, Qatar has played a significant role in mediating ceasefire agreements and providing help to Gaza in the area of rehabilitation.

Iran

Iran has regularly demonstrated substantial support for Palestinian resistance groups, such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad since the beginning of the conflict. In addition to publicly promoting the use of armed resistance against the Israeli occupation, the group has provided financial and military support to a number of different factions. Iran's position on the war is typically presented in relation to its wider competition with Israel in the region and its resistance against American domination in the Middle East. This relationship is regularly brought up in the context of the conflict.

In addition to other powerful persons and groups, these individuals and groups exercise a large amount of influence on the Israeli-Palestinian conflict through diplomatic efforts, military interventions, humanitarian help, and political support for their particular followers and interests.

5. Core Issues

a. Jerusalem

The Jerusalem dispute between Israel and Palestine is a highly contentious and nuanced component of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It revolves around the status of Jerusalem as a sacred city for a number of religions, including Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, as well as its political significance.

Due to the fact that Jerusalem is home to several notable sites, including the Western Wall (which is the only remaining portion of the Second Jewish Temple), the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, it holds a considerable religious level of significance for Christians, Muslims, and Jews alike.

Throughout the course of history, the city has played a pivotal role as a focal point for religious pilgrimages, cultural exchanges, and political power struggles, which has led to a number of conquests, occupations, and battles.

The city of Jerusalem was divided between Israel and Jordan during the Arab-Israeli War that took place in 1948. From that point on, Jordan took control of East Jerusalem, which included the Old City, while Israel was in charge of West Jerusalem.

The division of Jerusalem placed a tangible and conceptual impediment between Jewish and Arab communities, heightening tensions and setting the foundation for further clashes. During the Six-Day War that took place in 1967, Israel took control of East Jerusalem from Jordan. This section of Jerusalem included the Old City as well as other religious and cultural attractions. Subsequently, Israel took East Jerusalem into its territory and declared the entire city to be its undivided capital, a decision that is not recognized by the international community.

The international community has voiced its strong disapproval of the annexation of East Jerusalem, which has emerged as a major point of contention in the ongoing peace negotiations between Israel and the Palestinian population.

Following the annexation of East Jerusalem, Israel started constructing Jewish settlements in and around the region, which are considered to be illegal according to international law by the international community. A two-state resolution has become more difficult to achieve as a result of the expansion of settlements, which has caused demographic shifts. These shifts have altered the demographic equilibrium in Jerusalem and added an additional layer of complexity to the undertaking. Despite the fact that they refuse to acknowledge Israeli rule over the city, Palestinians consider East Jerusalem to be the capital of their future nation. The establishment of a Palestinian state that is independent and self-governing, with East Jerusalem acting as its capital, is their goal.

The Palestinian people who live in East Jerusalem are subjected to discrimination, the revocation of their residence permits, the demolition of their homes, and other activities that are designed to

alter the demographic composition of the population of the city. Specifically, the status of sacred places in Jerusalem, specifically the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound (which Jews refer to as the Temple Mount), has been a source of friction and enmity between Israelis and Palestinians. Conflicts frequently arise as a consequence of perceived threats to religious sites or efforts to limit access. The difficulties associated with visiting sacred locations and guaranteeing religious freedom for people of all faiths are of the utmost significance. A two-state resolution, in which Jerusalem would serve as the joint capital of both Israel and Palestine, or alternatively, as a city under international administration, has been proposed as a solution to the Jerusalem issue and as a means of achieving a complete peace deal. This resolve has been proposed as part of global efforts to address the Jerusalem dispute and to establish a comprehensive peace accord.

At the same time, the development of the negotiations has come to a halt due to the fact that there are different points of view regarding the status of Jerusalem, the construction of Israeli settlements, concerns over security, and other fundamental issues. Within the context of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the Jerusalem dispute is a deeply embedded and emotionally charged component by its very nature. As a result, diplomatic maneuvering that is deft, sensitivity for religious sensitivities, and a commitment to recognizing the legitimate ambitions and concerns of both Israelis and Palestinians are required.

b. Refugees

Palestinian refugees are Mandatory Palestine citizens and their children who were expelled during the 1947-1949 Palestine War and the Six-Day War. Most Palestinian refugees live in 68 camps in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the West Bank, and Gaza. By 2019, the UN had registered over

5.6 million Palestinian refugees. The first "Palestine refugees" and their descendants through the male line were defined as Palestinian refugees by UNRWA in 1949. In the 1948 Palestine War, 85% of the population, or 700,000 Palestinian Arabs, in what is now Israel was forced or voluntarily expelled. They fled to Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and the West Bank and Gaza Strip. UNRWA helps them and their qualified descendants in 59 camps, ten of which were founded after the 1967 Six-Day War to house Palestinian refugees. They are the world's oldest unsettled refugees. Arab states have ruled them since the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, Israel since the Six-Day War and the Palestinian Authority since 1994, and Hamas since 2007.

Jordan has the most refugees, at 2,000,000. By 2009, over 90% of UNRWA-registered Palestinian refugees in Jordan had full citizenship rights. Palestinians from the West Bank make up most of this number. However, Gaza Strip Palestinians still have questionable legal status as of December 2021. In 2021, Jordanian politician Jawad Anani estimated that half of Jordan's population is West Bank-Palestinian. About 2,000,000 refugees live in the West Bank and Gaza Strip under Israeli authority and embargo. Lebanon and Syria have about 500,000 refugees, although their situations differ. Syrian authorities provided Palestinian refugees economic and social privileges equal to Syrian citizens notwithstanding their statelessness. The Armed Forces conscript non-citizens. Palestinian refugees, especially in Lebanon, are denied citizenship or legal status out of concern that they may upset sectarian harmony. Refugees lose vote, property, and social service rights, among other privileges.

c. Borders and Security

Israelis and Palestinians have both been the targets of terrorist attacks that have been carried out by Palestinian and Israeli extreme groups. Israel, the United States of America, and the European Union have all designated Hamas as a terrorist organization. Hamas has been responsible for a wide range of attacks, including suicide bombings, rocket strikes, and shootings, all of which have been directed directly at Israeli residents and military personnel. The Israeli government has responded by launching military operations in an effort to eliminate these threats, which have frequently resulted in civilian casualties and have heightened tensions. In the region, the existence of radicalization and provocation from both parties makes the existing security challenges much more difficult to manage. Radical discourse and patriotic tales both contribute to the intensification of enmity and the continuation of hostility cycles. For the purpose of overcoming these challenges, it is essential to actively promote tolerance, cultivate communication, and establish mutual understanding between Israelis and Palestinians. When it comes to efficiently maintaining its borders, Israel faces challenges in terms of security, particularly in relation to Gaza and the West Bank. The construction of barriers and walls along these borders serves the objective of discouraging unlawful entrance, preventing the smuggling of weapons, and preventing extremists from entering the country. Despite this, these restrictions have been subject to criticism because of the negative impact they have on Palestinian communities and the fact that they impede the movement of both individuals and goods. There are security worries over the smuggling of weapons and the danger of assaults by militant organizations, which is why Israel maintains a blockade on the Gaza Strip. Because of the embargo, the flow of goods and humans into and out of Gaza is impeded, which leads to humanitarian crises and a worsening of living conditions for the people who live there. On the

other hand, there are many who argue that the siege is a sort of collective punishment and violates the rights of the civilian population of Gaza.

6. Past Peace Actions

Oslo Accords (1993-1995)

In 1993, Israeli authorities, headed by Yitzhak Rabin, and Palestinian leaders from the Palestine Liberation Organization, under the leadership of Yasser Arafat, endeavored to achieve a peaceful resolution through the Oslo peace process. An essential turning point in this process was Arafat's letter acknowledging Israel's legitimate existence. The Oslo Accords were concluded in 1993, serving as a blueprint for the future Israeli-Palestinian relations. The essence of the Oslo agreement entailed Israel's gradual relinquishment of power over the Palestinian territories to the Palestinians, in return for the establishment of peace. The Oslo process was intricate and advanced with intermittent progress. The trajectory of the process underwent a significant shift with the killing of Yitzhak Rabin in November 1995 and ultimately disintegrated when Arafat and Ehud Barak were unable to achieve a consensus at Camp David in July 2000. Robert Malley, who served as a special assistant to US President Bill Clinton for Arab-Israeli Affairs, has verified that although Barak did not provide a formal written offer to Arafat, the US did propose peace concepts that were evaluated by the Israeli side but were not responded to by Arafat. Malley stated that "the main shortcoming of the Palestinians is that they were unable, from the start of the Camp David summit, to either accept the American ideas or present a clear and specific alternative proposal of their own." As a result, there are several explanations of the plans under consideration.

Camp David Summit (2000)

In July of 2000, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat met for a peace conference that was organized by US President Bill Clinton. According to reports, Barak reportedly presented the following to the Palestinian president through the US as "bases for negotiation": an unarmed Palestinian state divided into three or four sections comprising 87-92% of the West Bank, which includes only portions of East Jerusalem, and the entire Gaza Strip, amount to only 86% of the total land area in the West Bank, while Israel's offer of 91% of the 5,538 km² of the West Bank comes with a number of conditions, such as the return of 69 Jewish settlements to Israel, the loss of sovereignty over the Temple Mount and other central East Jerusalem neighborhoods, and the continuation of Israeli control over the Jordan Valley.

This offer was turned down by Arafat. The Palestinian negotiators said that the Israeli occupation's land, security, settlements, and Jerusalem aspects remained in the deal. Arafat allegedly declined President Clinton's request for a counter-offer, refusing to even consider making one. When questioned in an interview in 2001 if the Palestinians had presented a counterproposal, former Israeli foreign minister Shlomo Ben-Ami—who maintained a journal of the negotiations—said: "No. The crux of the issue is that. The Palestinians never put out a counterproposal during our negotiations. Ben Ami said in a 2006 interview that he would have turned down the Camp David offer if he were a Palestinian.

Despite the United States' best efforts, no workable solution was reached that could appease both the Israelis and the Palestinians. For a long time, Clinton has held Arafat responsible for the

summit's failure. Clinton designated former US Senator George J. Mitchell to head a fact-finding group that would seek ways to revive the peace process in the months after the summit. One plan, according to the 2001 report of the committee, was for the Palestinian Authority to crack down on militant activity and for the Israeli government to destroy existing settlements. In the aftermath of the collapse of the Camp David Summit, a further outbreak of violence, which came to be known as the Second Intifada, broke out in the latter part of the year 2000 and continued for a number of years. In the years that followed, efforts to relaunch the peace process were made more difficult by the fact that negotiations had failed and the level of violence had increased substantially. However, despite the fact that the Camp David Summit did not succeed in achieving its original goal of forging a comprehensive peace accord, it continues to be a significant occasion in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It highlights the intricacies and problems that are involved in reaching a resolution that is long-lasting.

Taba Summit (2001)

On the occasion of the Taba Summit, which took place in Taba, Egypt, in January of 2001, the Israeli negotiation team presented a fresh plan. The "temporarily Israeli controlled" territories were eliminated as a result of the suggestion, and the Palestinian side agreed to accept this stance as a foundation for further negotiations. "The sides declare that they have never been closer to reaching an agreement and it is therefore our shared belief that the remaining gaps could be bridged with the resumption of negotiations following the Israeli elections," the statement read. Despite the fact that the talks came to an end without an agreement, the two sides issued a joint statement with the intention of attesting to the progress that they had made. In the Israeli elections that took place the next month, Ariel Sharon, a candidate for the Likud party, emerged victorious over Ehud Barak and was subsequently elected as the Prime Minister of Israel on

February 7, 2001. It was decided by Sharon's new government that they would not continue the high-level talks.

Road Map for Peace (2002-2003)

On September 17, 2002, the Road Map for Peace was considered to be one of the peace proposals that were offered by the Quartet consisting of the United States of America, the European Union, Russia, and the United Nations. The purpose of this plan was not to seek to find solutions to tough questions, such as what would happen to Jerusalem or Israeli settlements; rather, it left those issues up for negotiation in later stages of the process. In the first phase of the idea, which sought to put an end to both the creation of Israeli settlements and the violence between Israelis and Palestinians, the concept was never taken farther than that. At the time of November 2015, neither of the goals had been accomplished.

Arab Peace Initiative (2002,2007,2017)

A diplomatic proposal known as the Arab Peace Initiative (API) has been put out with the intention of bringing an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and establishing regular relations between Israel and the Arab states. The concept was initially presented by Crown Prince Abdullah of Saudi Arabia during the Arab League Summit that took place in Beirut in March of 2002. Subsequently, the Arab League gave its collective assent to the initiative. The Arab Peace Initiative (API) is a comprehensive peace plan that would lead to the establishment of regular relations between Israel and the Arab states. If Israel were to withdraw from the territories that it has occupied since the Six-Day War of 1967, including East Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, the West Bank (including East Jerusalem), and the Gaza Strip, then normal diplomatic relations would be established between Israel and the governments of the respective Arab countries.

As an alternative to the state of Israel, the idea suggests the establishment of a Palestinian state that would have East Jerusalem as its capital and would be governed independently. Both resolution 242 and resolution 338 of the United Nations are compatible with this plan. In accordance with Resolution 194 of the United Nations General Assembly, the Arab Peace Initiative (API) recognizes the position that Palestinian refugees are in and pushes for a solution to their problem that is equitable and in agreement with both parties. Both the right of Palestinian refugees to reclaim their homes and the right to get compensation for the losses they have suffered are upheld by this decision. Furthermore, the initiative calls for the establishment of a complete peace that is founded on the principles of international law and the resolutions of the United Nations that are applicable. It also provides assurances of security for all parties involved in the region. Arab states have made a commitment to normalize their relations with Israel, which includes establishing complete diplomatic and economic linkages. This commitment is contingent upon the successful completion of a comprehensive peace agreement and the fulfillment of the requirements outlined in the initiative.

As a noteworthy diplomatic effort with the objective of addressing the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and promoting peace in the Middle East, the Arab Peace Initiative has received a great deal of praise and recognition. It has received backing from a number of international organizations, such as the United Nations, the European Union, and the United States of America. In spite of this, the application programming interface (API) has been met with a number of challenges. The plan was initially accepted by Israel as a basis for further negotiation; however, Israel has raised misgivings regarding a number of components, particularly those that pertain to the repatriation

of Palestinian refugees and the limits of a potential Palestinian nation. Additionally, development in the promotion of the project has been hampered by differences within the Arab community as well as shifts in the dynamics of the region.

In spite of these challenges, the Arab Peace Initiative continues to fulfill its function as a model for future negotiations and diplomatic efforts that are aimed at bringing an end to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and achieving peace in the Middle East that encompasses all aspects of the region.

7. Current Challenges and Conflicts

a. Gaza Strip

Situated on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea, the small region known as the Gaza Strip is bordered to the east and north by Israel and to the south by Egypt. Its whole size is close to 140 square miles, and its length is about 25 miles and its width is about 7 miles. The strategic location and substantial Palestinian population of the Gaza Strip have given it a crucial role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, despite its tiny size.

The current war in Gaza has complicated historical origins and is influenced by multiple variables. The British Mandate of Palestine, which came into being after WWI ended, set the stage for what would later become the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Hundreds of thousands of Palestinians were forced from their homes and sought sanctuary in Gaza as a result of the 1948 Arab-Israeli War, which resulted in the establishment of the State of Israel. Israel annexed the

West Bank, East Jerusalem, the Gaza Strip, and the Golan Heights following the 1967 Six-Day War. Israel effectively imposed a siege on Gaza after pulling its forces and settlements out of the area in 2005. However, Israel continues to control its borders, airspace, and territorial waters. Israel and Egypt's embargo of the Gaza Strip has made already dire humanitarian conditions far worse. Problems in rebuilding after wars have resulted from shortages of food, medicine, and fuel caused by restrictions on the movement of people and goods. The Islamist political and militant movement Hamas has ruled the Gaza Strip since 2007, while being regarded as a terrorist group by Israel, the US, and the EU. Tensions between the two countries have escalated since Hamas took control of Gaza and began launching rocket strikes and incursions into Israeli territory, which Israel has responded to militarily. Israel and Palestinian terrorist groups, mainly Hamas, have fought multiple wars in the Gaza Strip. Victims and property have taken a heavy toll in these wars, which have included the Gaza War of 2008–2009, 2012, and 2014. The Gaza Strip is nevertheless deeply connected to Palestinian nationalism and dreams of statehood, despite its geographical isolation and internal strife among Palestinians. Questions regarding Gaza's future and its place in a future Palestinian state frequently arise in talks on a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Numerous regional and international powers, as well as the US, the UN, and others have tried to negotiate a peace deal between Israel and Hamas. Yet, long-simmering distrust and an unwillingness to resolve underlying grudges on either side have impeded these endeavors. Aid groups from around the world are helping the residents of Gaza with everything from food and medicine to medical treatment and rebuilding. Help has been slow in arriving and development projects have stalled due to persistent political tensions and security worries. In order to resolve

the conflict's root causes and establish a lasting peace, many analysts stress the need for Israel and the Palestinians, including Hamas, to resume political negotiations. Still standing in the way of a settlement are the Palestinians' deeply held political beliefs, internal conflicts, and security concerns. There are various aspects to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict that the Gaza Strip contributes to, including humanitarian crises, political unrest, and security worries. In order to resolve the conflict, it is necessary to take a holistic strategy that considers the humanitarian needs of the Gazan people with the fundamental concerns of the Israelis and Palestinians.

b. West Bank

Between 1517 and 1917, the region currently referred to as the West Bank was under the dominion of the Ottoman Empire, namely as a component of Ottoman Syria. The Cave of the Patriarchs is a renowned sacred place in the area. The victorious Allies of World War I assigned the area to the British Mandate of Palestine (1920–1948) during the 1920 San Remo conference. The San Remo Resolution, ratified on 25 April 1920, included the Balfour Declaration of 1917. The British Mandate of Palestine was primarily based on the Covenant of the League of Nations and Article 22 of that Covenant. On 11 April 1921, the United Kingdom appointed Abdullah I as the emir of the Emirate of Transjordan. On May 25, 1946, he officially proclaimed it as a sovereign Hashemite monarchy.

In 1947, the United Nations classified it as a component of a planned Arab state according to the Partition Plan for Palestine. The UN Resolution 181 proposed the division of the British Mandate into three entities: a Jewish state, an Arab state, and an internationally supervised area for Jerusalem. An expanded area of the contemporary West Bank was allocated to the Arab state.

The resolution identified the region referred to as "the hill country of Samaria and Judea", which is presently recognized as the "West Bank", as an integral component of the envisioned Arab state. After the 1948 Arab–Israeli War, Transjordan seized control of this region. The West Bank refers to a landlocked territory located in the Middle East, namely in the region of Palestine. Located in the Levant region of West Asia, this landlocked enclave is situated near the shore of the Mediterranean Sea. It shares its eastern boundary with Jordan and the Dead Sea, and its southern, western, and northern borders with Israel (via the Green Line). The region has been under Israeli control since 1967.

The territory initially arose following the 1948 Arab-Israeli War as an area that was captured and then incorporated into Jordan. Jordan exercised control over the land until the 1967 Six-Day War, at which point it was seized by Israel. Subsequently, Israel has governed the West Bank under the name of the Judea and Samaria Area, and in 1980, it extended its control to include East Jerusalem. The Oslo Accords in the mid-1990s divided the West Bank into three distinct levels of Palestinian control, established by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA): Area A (under PNA jurisdiction), Area B (under joint PNA and Israeli jurisdiction), and Area C (under Israeli jurisdiction, including 60% of the West Bank). The Palestinian National Authority (PNA) exerts complete or partial control over 165 Palestinian enclaves located in the three designated territories.

The West Bank continues to play a pivotal role in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. The Palestinians regard it as the central component of their envisioned state, alongside the Gaza Strip. Right-wing and religious Israelis perceive it as their hereditary homeland, encompassing various

biblical sites. There is a growing movement among certain Israelis advocating for the partial or complete annexation of this territory. Furthermore, it serves as the residence for an increasing population of Israeli settlers. Area C comprises 230 Israeli settlements that are under Israeli law. According to the Oslo Accords, this area was intended to be substantially handed over to the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) by 1997. However, this transfer did not take place as planned. Israeli colonies in the West Bank are deemed unlawful by the international community in accordance with international law. Referring to the 1980 legislation in which Israel declared Jerusalem as its capital, the 1994 peace treaty between Israel and Jordan, and the Oslo Accords, a 2004 advisory judgment by the International Court of Justice determined that the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, is under Israeli occupation.

The West Bank spans around 5,640 square kilometers (2,180 square miles) in terms of land area. The West Bank is home to roughly 2,747,943 Palestinians, while there are over 670,000 Israeli settlers residing in this area. Out of these Israelis, around 220,000 live specifically in East Jerusalem.

c. Israel-Hamas War

Israel and Palestinian militant organizations led by Hamas have been engaged in an armed battle since October 7, 2023, with the majority of the fighting occurring in and around the Gaza Strip. Initiating the most notable military escalation in the region since the Yom Kippur War fifty years ago, Palestinian terrorist organizations surprised southern Israel from the Gaza Strip on that day. Israeli forces began a massive ground invasion of the Gaza Strip on October 27 after expelling Hamas terrorists from their area. They then launched a massive aerial assault of the Strip. There

have been clashes with Hezbollah along the Israel-Lebanon border and in the Israeli-occupied West Bank. These clashes are a component of the larger Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the fifth battle between Israel and Gaza since 2008.

Conflict broke out when Palestinian militant factions commanded by Hamas unexpectedly attacked Israel in an operation codenamed "Operation Al-Aqsa Flood." Nearly three thousand terrorists broke across the Gaza-Israeli fence and launched simultaneous rocket attacks on Israeli towns and military installations. The assault started with a rocket bombardment aimed at Israel. A total of 1,139 Israelis and foreigners—including 766 civilians and 373 members of the security forces—were killed in this attack. Additionally, 253 Israelis and foreigners were captured and transferred to the Gaza Strip. As a result, Israel went into full war mode, tightened its siege, ordered the northern Gaza Strip to be evacuated, and started "Operation Swords of Iron" to destroy Hamas and liberate the hostages. Many Palestinians, according to analysts, were angry that Arabs and Israelis were trying to normalize relations despite the blockade of Gaza and the increasing violence caused by Israeli settlers in the West Bank. This anger could have prompted Hamas to launch its strike. According to Hamas, the Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories, the blockade of the Gaza Strip, the growth of illegal Israeli settlements, the purported goal of "Judaization" of the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the suffering of Palestinian prisoners and refugees were the reasons behind their attack.

In Gaza, more than 28,775 Palestinians have been murdered since the Israeli operation began. Among them are more than 10,000 children, 152 UN staff members, 70 journalists, and 7,000 women. Another 7,000 are believed to be missing or buried under the debris of structures that

have been destroyed. Midway through December, Israel has dropped 29,000 munitions on Gaza, resulting in the destruction or damage of 70% of the Strip's dwellings. According to experts, the level of devastation in Gaza is unprecedented in its scope and rate of destruction. The United Nations has issued a famine warning as the Gaza Strip devolves into a humanitarian catastrophe characterized by a breakdown in healthcare, scarcity of food, water, medicine, and fuel as a result of the siege, and power and communication outages. As Israel bombed locations it had earlier warned Palestinians to flee to, the phrase "no safe place in Gaza" became widely circulated. Both Israel and Hamas have been accused of war crimes because to the large number of civilian deaths. As of 4 February 2024, Israel has lost 225 more soldiers in its assault, hundreds of Palestinians have been imprisoned, and nearly all of Gaza's 2.3 million inhabitants has been domestically displaced. Additionally, between 250,000 and 500,000 Israelis have been internally displaced.

Numerous demonstrations around the world have demanded an end to the conflict and a halt to the violence. The 15th of November saw the passage of a resolution requesting a humanitarian halt. A subsequent seven-day ceasefire saw the exchange of 240 Palestinian captives for 105 foreign and Israeli hostages. Much of the Western world, notably the US, UK, and Germany, offered "strong" military and diplomatic backing to Israel, while the Islamic world and a large portion of the Global South condemned its actions, creating geopolitical divisions based on area. The Axis of Resistance launched attacks on American outposts in Jordan, Iraq, and Syria in reaction to America's support for Israel. After the Houthis assaulted civilian commercial ships in the Red Sea, which they claimed were connected to Israel, the United States, the United Kingdom, and other countries went to war with the Yemeni Houthi movement. "Food, medicine

and fuel to reach the besieged people" must be allowed to enter Gaza by Israel before the Houthis will stop their battle on the territory.

d. Water Resources

The Israeli occupation of Palestinian land, including the West Bank and Gaza Strip, has made the issue of water supplies a significant factor in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This is especially true in light of the fact that water resources are already in short supply. Over the course of several decades, Israelis and Palestinians have clashed about who should receive what proportion of the world's water supply. This is an overview of the water resource problem from a high-level perspective. Since the commencement of the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians, there has been a disagreement regarding the ownership and distribution of water resources throughout the conflict. As a result of the disruption that was brought to hundreds of thousands of Palestinians as a result of the establishment of the State of Israel in 1948 and the period of time when the British Mandate was in effect, the war has its roots in the past. Because of the region's dry climate and the unpredictability of its rainfall patterns, there are not many water resources available. In spite of the fact that it disproportionately affects people residing in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, water scarcity is a problem that affects both Israelis and Palestinians. Under Israeli control, the majority of the water resources in the region, including surface water sources and shared aquifers, are managed by the Israeli government. When the Oslo II Accord was signed in 1995, it resulted in the division of the West Bank into three administrative districts, each of which had a distinct degree of Palestinian autonomy. Nevertheless, Israel is in charge of the water resources in the West Bank, including the distribution of quotas and the maintenance of infrastructure.

There are laws and practices that discriminate against Palestinians, which results in water supplies being restricted to Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The Palestinians have a disproportionately smaller share of the water supply in comparison to the Israelis, which has resulted in water shortages and inadequate access to potable water. There are a variety of sources that provide Palestinians with water, including dirty groundwater wells and water that is supplied by truck. These sources are sometimes expensive and unpredictable. Israeli settlements in the West Bank consume a significant quantity of water resources, which frequently comes at the expense of Palestinian villages. This is a challenge for the Palestinian people. In accordance with international law, these settlements are considered to be unlawful. Israeli settlers have access to an abundant supply of water for drinking, agricultural, and industrial use, in contrast to the Palestinian cities and villages in the region that are experiencing water shortages. The Israeli government's limitations on Palestinian construction and development in the West Bank and Gaza Strip are making the ongoing water supply issues even more difficult to manage. It is difficult for Palestinians to obtain building permits for water infrastructure such as wells, cisterns, and wastewater treatment plants. These are all kinds of water infrastructure. Due to the presence of Israeli military checkpoints and barricades, water tankers and maintenance staff are unable to move freely, which further restricts access to water services. Environmental dangers that pose a threat to the quality of the water in the region include contamination caused by runoff from agricultural land, over extraction of water resources, and pollution from sewage that has not been cleaned. Palestinians who live in areas with a high population density are more likely to experience health problems and pollution as a result of poor infrastructure and wastewater treatment systems. The Palestinians have received assistance from a wide range of international

organizations, including non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and the United Nations (UN), in order to enhance their water infrastructure, access to clean water, and management of wastewater. The construction and renovation of water infrastructure, as well as measures to save water and improve water governance, are the key objectives of programs that are sponsored by contributors.

8. Humanitarian Situation

In addition to having historical ties to the area that precede the founding of the State of Israel in 1948, Palestinians are residents of the region who have always lived there. The founding of Israel in 1948, which Palestinians refer to as the Nakba or "catastrophe," resulted in the uprooting and deportation of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians from their homes and the land they had previously inhabited. As a result of the conflict, a significant number of Palestinians were forced to flee their homes and seek safety in neighboring countries, such as Jordan, Lebanon, and Syria. Some of them were internally displaced within what is now Israel. In the present day, the number of Palestinian refugees is estimated to be in the millions, and descendants of refugees are continuously fighting for the right to return to their ancestral homes. Since the Six-Day War in 1967, Israel has occupied the West Bank, which includes East Jerusalem, as well as the Gaza Strip. These are lands that the Palestinians consider to be a component of their future state. There have been significant social, economic, and psychological repercussions for Palestinian communities as a result of the Israeli occupation, which has resulted in limitations on Palestinian movement, the expansion of settlements, the theft of land, and the construction of a separation barrier.

Palestinians who are living under Israeli occupation are subjected to a variety of violations of human rights, such as arbitrary arrest, extrajudicial killings, house demolitions, and limits on their freedom of movement and expression. In particular, Palestinians living in Gaza have been subjected to destructive military offensives and a siege that severely restricts their access to supplies and services that are crucial to their survival. Since 2007, Israel and Egypt have been imposing a blockade on the Gaza Strip, which has resulted in a worsening of humanitarian conditions. This blockade has led to widespread poverty, unemployment, food insecurity, and inadequate access to healthcare and education. International organizations that advocate for human rights have expressed their disapproval of the embargo, describing it as a kind of collective punishment directed on the civilian population. The Palestinian people are confronted with substantial economic obstacles, such as high rates of unemployment, restricted access to resources and markets, and a reliance on government assistance from other countries. Through the restriction of access to natural resources, the impediment of the movement of products and people, and the stifling of investment and trade, the Israeli occupation has hampered the economic growth of the Palestinian territories.

The political landscape of Palestine is characterized by splits between competing factions, specifically Fatah, which dominates the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank, and Hamas, which rules the Gaza Strip. Both of these factions are now in conflict with one another. On the one hand, efforts to build Palestinian unity and a cohesive strategy for furthering the national cause have been hampered by internal splits and rivalries in politics. In spite of the difficulties they are confronted with, Palestinians have shown that they are resilient and unwavering in their fight for self-determination, justice, and dignity. In addition to military resistance against the

occupation, Palestinians engage in a variety of forms of resistance, such as nonviolent rallies, civil disobedience, and lobbying on the world stage. The Palestinian people are experiencing a situation that is characterized by displacement, occupation, violations of human rights, economic hardship, and political fragmentation as a result of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

9. Human Rights Violations

Israeli security personnel often engage in the arbitrary imprisonment of Palestinians, especially minors. Frequently, individuals are apprehended without being formally accused or given a trial, and are detained for extended periods of time through administrative detention. Moreover, they are deprived of fundamental legal entitlements, such as the right to legal counsel and fair trial procedures. Israeli security forces have faced allegations of employing disproportionate force against Palestinian demonstrators, employing live ammunition, rubber-coated metal bullets, tear gas, and other methods of riot control. As a consequence, there have been multiple fatalities and casualties, including those among unarmed people, demonstrators, and onlookers. Israeli authorities often engage in the destruction of Palestinian homes and structures in the occupied territories, with a special focus on East Jerusalem and Area C of the West Bank. These demolitions are frequently conducted as punitive actions, with the intention of clearing space for Israeli settlements, or because to the extreme difficulty for Palestinians to acquire building licenses. The proliferation of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories, which are considered to be in violation of international law, has resulted in the appropriation of Palestinian land, displacement of Palestinian communities, and limitation of Palestinian mobility and availability of natural resources. Israeli settlements frequently entail discriminatory laws and activities that infringe upon the rights of Palestinians. Palestinians encounter a multitude of limitations on their

ability to move freely due to Israeli checkpoints, roadblocks, and the separation barrier in the West Bank. These limitations hinder the ability to obtain healthcare, education, employment, and other vital services, and worsen the socioeconomic inequalities between Israeli settlers and Palestinians. Palestinian children are exceptionally susceptible to infringements on their human rights, such as apprehension, confinement, and aggression by Israeli security personnel. Israeli military courts frequently arrest and prosecute children as young as 12 years old, often disregarding international standards for juvenile justice. The blockade enforced by Israel and Egypt on the Gaza Strip has resulted in significant humanitarian ramifications for the civilian populace, such as food insecurity, limited access to potable water and proper healthcare, and socioeconomic deprivation. The blockade is a kind of collective punishment and is a breach of international humanitarian law. Palestinians residing in Israel encounter pervasive institutionalized discrimination and racism across multiple domains, encompassing housing, employment, education, and the availability of services. Discriminatory legislation and policies sustain disparities between Jewish Israelis and Palestinian citizens of Israel. The international community has condemned these human rights violations, along with others, as significant violations of international law, particularly international humanitarian law and human rights law. Also, Israeli citizens have been subjected to a multitude of terrorist assaults perpetrated by Palestinian extremist organizations like Hamas, Islamic Jihad, and the Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigades. The attacks encompass suicide bombings, shootings, stabbings, car ramming incidents, and rocket fire originating from Gaza. These assaults purposefully focus on non-military individuals, resulting in fatalities, physical harm, and psychological distress. The indiscriminate launching of rockets and mortars by Palestinian armed factions from the Gaza Strip into southern Israel presents an ongoing peril to the civilian populace. These assaults have resulted in fatalities,

casualties, and physical destruction. The situation experienced by the Israeli citizens also amounts to a violation of human rights.

10. Questions to be Considered

1. How can terrorist organizations be kept out of Gaza and areas of conflict?
2. What should the UNSC do to solve the refugee problem?
3. How can the border crisis between Israel and Palestine be resolved?
4. What steps should the UNSC take to solve the water resources problem?
5. What measures can be taken to alleviate the humanitarian crisis in Gaza, including addressing issues such as access to healthcare, and education?
6. How can the expansion of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories be halted and reversed to facilitate the establishment of a viable Palestinian state?
7. What steps can be taken to ensure the protection of Palestinian civilians, including children, from violence and human rights abuses in the context of the Israeli occupation?
8. How can the Gaza blockade be lifted in a manner that addresses Israeli security concerns while also respecting the rights and dignity of the Palestinian population?
9. What measures can the UNSC use to hinder the spread of weapons and the escalation of combat activities between Israeli security forces and Palestinian terrorist organizations, namely in Gaza?
10. How can we improve the efficiency of peacekeeping operations in the region to prevent violence and safeguard civilians in conflict zones?
11. How can the United Nations Security Council effectively resolve disagreements and overcome hurdles to reach a consensus on adopting resolutions that tackle the fundamental causes of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and facilitate a fair and enduring peace?

12. What are the possible solutions to address the Jerusalem issue in a manner that guarantees access to holy sites for all religious communities, while also acknowledging and honoring the city's religious, cultural, and historical importance to both Israelis and Palestinians?
13. What actions may be taken to improve the responsibility of all parties implicated in human rights violations and violations of international humanitarian law in the context of the Israel-Palestine conflict?
14. What diplomatic and legal options exist to confront Israeli aspirations for annexation in the West Bank and defend the principles of territorial integrity and the right to self-determination for Palestinians?

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