



# UNITED NATIONS Human Rights Commission

**CHAIR- Eswar Chava**

## Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates!

We are very pleased to welcome you to the simulation of the *UNHRC* at *VIVA MUN 2024*. It is an honour to serve as your Executive Board for the duration of the conference. This Background Guide is designed to give you an insight into the case at hand, so we hope this acts as only a *catalyst* for furthering your research, and not limited to just this guide. Please refer to it carefully. Remember, a thorough understanding of the problem is the first step to solving it.

*Do understand that this Background Guide is in no way exhaustive and is only meant to provide you with enough background information to establish a platform for beginning the research*

. Delegates are highly recommended to do a good amount of research beyond what is covered in the Guide. The guide cannot be used as proof during the committee proceedings under any circumstances.

We understand that MUN conferences can be an overwhelming experience for first-timers but it must be noted that our aspirations from the delegates are not how experienced or articulate they are. Rather, we want to see how one manages the balance to respect disparities and differences of opinion and work around this while extending their foreign policy to present comprehensive solutions without compromising on their self-interests and initiate consensus building.

New ideas are by their very nature disruptive, but far less disruptive than a world set against the backdrop of stereotypes and regional instability due to which reform is essential in policy making and conflict resolution. At any point during your research, do not hesitate to contact the Executive Board Members for clarifications or in case you need help in any other aspect. We look forward to a fruitful discussion and an enriching experience with all of you.

Regards,

*Eswar Chava*

*Chairperson*

## Important Points to Remember

A few aspects that delegates should keep in mind while preparing:

- 1. Procedure:** The purpose of putting in procedural rules in any committee is to ensure a more organized and efficient debate. The committee will follow the UNA-USA Rules of Procedure. Although the Executive Board shall be fairly strict with the Rules of Procedure, the discussion of the agenda will be the main priority. So, delegates are advised not to restrict their statements due to hesitation regarding procedure.
- 2. Foreign Policy:** Following the foreign policy of one's country is the most important aspect of a Model UN Conference. This is what essentially differentiates a Model UN from other debating formats. To violate one's foreign policy without adequate reason is one of the worst mistakes a delegate can make.
- 3. Role of the Executive Board:** The Executive Board is appointed to facilitate debate. The committee shall decide the direction and flow of debate. The delegates are the ones who constitute the committee and hence must be uninhibited while presenting their opinions/stance on any issue. However, the Executive Board may put forward questions and/or ask for clarifications at all points of time to further debate and test participants.
- 4. Nature of Source/Evidence:** This Background Guide is meant solely for research purposes and must not be cited as evidence to substantiate statements made during the conference. Evidence or proof for substantiating statements made during formal debate is acceptable from the following sources:

a. United Nations: Documents and findings by the United Nations or any related UN body is held as a credible proof to support a claim or argument.  
Multilateral Organizations: Documents from international organizations like OIC, NATO, SAARC, BRICS, EU, ASEAN, the International Court of Justice, etc. may also be presented as credible sources of information.

b. Government Reports: These reports can be used in a similar way as the State Operated News Agencies reports and can, in all circumstances, be denied by another country.

c. News Sources:

1. Reuters: Any Reuters article that clearly makes mention of the fact or is in contradiction of the fact being stated by a delegate in council.

2. State operated News Agencies: These reports can be used in the support of or against the State that owns the News Agency. These reports, if credible or substantial enough, can be used in support of or against any country as such but in that situation, may be denied by any other country in the council. Some examples are – RIA Novosti (Russian Federation), Xinhua News Agency (People's Republic of China), etc.

*\*\*\*Please Note: Reports from NGOs working with UNESCO, UNICEF and other UN bodies will be accepted. Under no circumstances will sources like Wikipedia, or newspapers like the Guardian, Times of India, etc. be accepted. However, notwithstanding the criteria for acceptance of sources and evidence, delegates are still free to quote/cite from any source as they deem fit as a part of their statements.*

## Guidelines

- Read the entirety of the background guide in the order it was written. Make sure to highlight the names of specific treaties, documents, resolutions, conventions, international bodies, events and any other specific incidents so that you can get back to them later and do a lot more thorough research.
- Understand some of the basic details regarding the country that you've been allotted whether this be the capital, current affairs regarding geopolitical situation, political hierarchy etc. While not strictly necessary, you never know when this can turn out to be handy. Geography Now's A - Z Country List has been a particularly helpful resource for this.
- Use a search engine of your choice to create as many tabs as possible for the highlighted terms from your background guide. Wikipedia or a YouTube video act as a great way to get a brief summary of the incidents at hand but such sources (especially Wikipedia articles) cannot be used in committee as sources.
- Delve into deeper research regarding the particular position of your allocation with the agenda at hand. Try searching for the voting stances of your allocation in related conventions and understanding the reasons for voting as so. UN Press Releases are also a helpful source for this matter.
- Find the website for the foreign ministry of the country you have been assigned alongside the "Permanent Mission of COUNTRY to the United Nations" website and search for a key term relating to the agenda, this should often give you statements from recent press conferences or UN committee sessions that can act as valuable sources of information in forming a position.
- Keep a handy copy of the Charter of the United Nations, whether as a .pdf file extension or a physical copy works. This contains the founding principles of the United Nations and contains articles that lay out the mandate of the six bodies that the United Nations is primarily divided into. Spend some additional time researching the specific mandate and functions of the committee that you have been assigned.

- The Executive Board may ask for the source of a statement that a delegate makes in committee either during a Point of Order circumstance or if said statement stands to be of interest to the Executive Board. Therefore, it is recommended that delegates keep track of their sources when making / disputing a claim and also ensure their validity. Please do remember that while you as a delegate are allowed to cite any source you wish during committee.

## Hierarchy of evidence

Evidence can be presented from a wide variety of sources but not all sources are treated as equal. Here's the hierarchy in which evidence is categorised:

*Tier 1:* Includes any publication, statement, resolution, or document released by any of the Nations' official organs or committees; any publication, statement, or document released by a UN member state in its own capacity. The evidence falling in this tier is considered most reliable during the simulation.

*Tier 2:* Includes: any news article published by any official media source that is owned and controlled by a UN member state. E.g.: Xinhua News (China), Times of India (India), BBC (United Kingdom) etcetera. The evidence falling in this tier is considered sufficiently reliable in case no other evidence from any Tier 1 source is available on that particular fact, event, or situation.

*Tier 3:* Includes: any publication from news sources of international repute such as Reuters, The New York Times, Agence-France Presse, etcetera. The evidence falling under this tier is considered the least reliable for the purposes of this simulation. Yet, if no better source is available in a certain scenario, it may be considered.

## Foreign Policy and Foreign Relations

Foreign policy, in simple terms, is what your country aims to achieve in regards to the issue at hand or in general with its relations with other countries.

### *1. What role must foreign policy play in your research?*

Understanding the foreign policy of your country must be a checkbox that you tick off at the very beginning of your research.

Your foreign policy should dictate everything from the arguments you make, the reasoning you give for making those arguments, and the actions you take in the Council.

### *2. Where do I look to find foreign policy?*

Most of the time, foreign policy is not explicitly stated. It must be inferred from the actions and statements issued by the country. Reading the meeting records from previous meetings of UNSC (or any other UN body where your country might have spoken on the issue) is a great place to start. If such records are unavailable, look for statements from your country's

Foreign Ministry (or equivalent like Ministry of External Affairs, Ministry for Foreign Affairs etcetera) and top leadership (PM, Pres., Secretary of State, Defence Minister).

Foreign Relations on the other hand refers to the diplomatic ties that one country has with another and considers elements such as the mutual presence of embassies, consulates, ambassadors & diplomatic dialogue. More often than not, foreign policy is what will be of your primary concern during your MUN but it is important to also consider any extremities in your allotted country's foreign relations.

## Rules of Procedure

ROP, or rules of procedure are the set rules to be followed whilst in committee session. Rules of procedure are generally the same for all simulated conferences, and some parts can be amended based on the executive board of that specific conference. Since the ROP is universally followed, the link below will take you to a cheat sheet which you can use for future reference as well. [[ROP](#)]

## Introduction to the Committee

The United Nations General Assembly is one of the six important organs of the United Nations (UN), and the primary deliberative, strategy making and representative organ of the UN. The first committee of the General Assembly is the Disarmament and International Security Committee. It deals with disarmament, global challenges and threats to peace that affect the international community and seeks out solutions to the challenges in the international security regime.

## Mandate of DISEC

The committee considers all disarmament and international security matters within the scope of the Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any other organ of the United Nations; the general principles of cooperation in the maintenance of international peace and security, as well as principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments; promotion of cooperative arrangements and measures aimed at strengthening stability through lower levels of armaments. The Committee works in close cooperation with the United Nations Disarmament Commission and the Geneva-based Conference on Disarmament. It is the only Main Committee of the General Assembly entitled to verbatim records coverage.



## Introduction

To put it simply, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict is one of the world's longest unending series of conflicts with roots originating back in the mid 20th century. The dire consequences from such a conflict over the course of seven long decades in all forms cannot be expressed merely by quantities. While we as a committee intend to explore the conflict considering recent events and with special emphasis on the two regions mentioned in the agenda, it is absolutely necessary that every delegate have an understanding of how we have got to this point with regards to the conflict. As a result, while this document will aim to summarize the origins of this conflict, please be aware that this document is not exhaustive in any form or manner. Reality is often a lot more complicated than any document or speech will allow for its nuances to be presented.



Fig. 1: Geographical Area of Palestine in the 1920s

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict began towards the close of the 1800s.

Resolution 181, also referred to as the Partition Plan was enacted by the UN in 1947 with the goal of dividing the British Mandate of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states. With the establishment of the State of Israel on May 14, 1948, the first Arab-Israeli War began. After Israel won the war in 1949, 750,000 Palestinians were forced to flee their homes, and the region was split into three sections: the Gaza Strip, the West Bank (across the Jordan River), and the State of Israel. Tensions in the area increased during the ensuing years, especially between Israel and Jordan, Syria, and Egypt. In preparation for a potential Israeli army mobilisation, Egypt, Jordan, and Syria signed mutual defence agreements in the wake of the 1956 Suez Crisis and Israel's invasion of the Sinai Peninsula. After a series of manoeuvres by Egyptian President Abdel Gamal Nasser, Israel launched a pre-emptive strike on the air forces of Egypt and Syria in June 1967, sparking the Six-Day War.

Following the collapse of the Ottoman Empire post WWI, the United Kingdom and French Republic took over control of most of the region that was previously under the control of the Ottomans. The United Kingdom had sole custody to the geographical area that comprised of present day Palestine and Israel. (*fig. 1*) This region under British rule is often referred to as "Mandatory Palestine", with the nomenclature arising from a League of Nations mandate for the nation under the United Kingdom.

Anwar al-Sadat, the president of Egypt, declared the war a victory for Egypt because it allowed Egypt and Syria to negotiate over previously ceded territory. Six years later, in what is known as the Yom Kippur War or the October War, Egypt and Syria launched a surprise two-front attack on Israel to regain their lost territory. The thirtyyear struggle between Egypt and Israel was finally resolved in 1979 when representatives from both countries signed the Camp David Accords, a peace treaty, after a series of cease-fires and peace talks. The 1993 Oslo I Accords facilitated mutual recognition between Israel's government and the newly founded Palestinian Authority, as well as providing a framework for Palestinian self-governance in the West Bank and Gaza. The Oslo II Accords of 1995 built upon the terms of the original accord, requiring Israel to completely evacuate six cities and four hundred towns in the West Bank.

After Hamas overthrew the long-standing dominant party Fatah in the Palestinian Authority's 2006 parliamentary elections, factionalism among Palestinians erupted. This handed control of the Gaza Strip to Hamas, a political and militant movement influenced by the Palestinian Muslim Brotherhood. Conflict broke out between Hamas and Fatah after Hamas took over. A ceasefire was reached in 2011 after a string of fruitless peace negotiations and violent clashes. In 2014, Fatah and Hamas formed a unity government. After confrontations in the Palestinian territories in the summer of 2014, the Israeli military and Hamas engaged in a military confrontation during which the latter launched around 3,000 rockets at Israel, prompting Israel to launch a massive attack in Gaza. After a few Palestinians rushed the perimeter fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel and threw rocks during an otherwise peaceful march in March 2018, Israeli soldiers murdered 183 Palestinians and injured 6,000 more. A few months later, terrorists from Hamas launched over 100 rockets into Israel, to which Israel retaliated with strikes on over fifty sites in Gaza over the course of a 24 hour standoff.

On October 7, 2023, Hamas launched unexpected air, sea, and land attacks against Israel from the Gaza Strip. Fifty years after the 1973 Yom Kippur War was started by an unexpected strike between Egypt and Syria, there was another assault on a Jewish festival. In the sixteen years that Hamas has ruled Gaza, the magnitude and ferocity of the strikes against Israel have never been seen before, and the Israelis were taken aback by the brutality. Both American and Israeli authorities will examine the apparent intelligence and operational shortcomings in averting the attack. Iran is thought to give material support to Hamas and may be broadly complicit, according to U.S. authorities, while President Biden has stated that "there is no evidence" that Iran was involved in the attack's planning.

This problem basically didn't arise just because the Arabs disagreed with the two-state system. Though Israel agreed to the partition, but it is a questionable matter about the extent to which Israeli leaders accepted the Palestinians as their fellow citizens. Religious extremism had also risen as a major factor. Not only regional disputes, mass ethnic cleansing is also said to be a goal of Israel, that seeks the expulsion of ethnic minorities, Muslims in particular, by force. Though the actions of Hamas cannot also be justified; but what is necessary is to understand the root cause of this conflict. Because, the conflict that is happening today is not completely a battle for supremacy, rather it is the angry outburst against Israel's seven and a half decades of colonial rule over Palestine. Israel, on the other hand, believes there is large scale antisemitism among the Arabs. Antisemitism exists in many parts of the world specially the South Asia and middle east. It is believed that antisemitism was manifested from the fact that there has been a denial of the holocaust and its memories. There is a belief that Zionists managed to justify their existence and get international support for the creation of Israel only by highlighting the incident of holocaust. Therefore, when the Arabs believe that Israel has been Islamophobic the entire time; the Jews believe that the Arabs portray hatred towards the Jews and are reluctant to accept them.

## History

While prior to World War 1, the region comprised mostly of Muslims (87%), there was a large influx of Jewish people post the 1920s with several reasons worth attributing this to. Firstly,



there was an increasing sentiment for the Zionist movement among Jews which essentially stated the need for the establishment of a state for the Jewish people as a result of the centuries of oppression they have faced and to settle in a state for Jews, with this region more specifically being in the geographic region of Palestine and in support of the establishment of the State of Israel.

Secondly, the United Kingdom in an effort to gain the support of the Jews issued the Balfour Declaration in 1917 during WW1 stating its support for and essentially intent to establish "The establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people." even before it had defeated the Ottoman Empire. Regardless the British attempted at honoring the argument leading to an inward migration of 320,000 Jews to the region by 1938 causing an increase in the Jew population from a mere 3% before the war to 30% by the 1940s. In addition the gruesome incidents that occurred as a result of the Holocaust contributed to this huge influx of people from Jewish descent.

The Partition Plan firstly created a State of Israel in an attempt to create a state for the Jews, the state of Palestine allowing the Arab Palestinians to gain Independence and creating a special international regime for the city of Jerusalem such that it in a sense is a part of neither state while allowing access to the citizens of either state considering the special importance the city of Jerusalem held in all religions involved: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. (fig. 2)

While this was met with an uproar of excitement and joy for the Jews, the Palestinians and the surrounding Arab nations felt for this to be an act of a foreign state taking away their lands, resources and more leading to a violent eruption of riots and civil unrest in the months to come. The British mandate expired on the 14th of May 1948 which also happened to be the day the Israeli Declaration of Independence was established only for the surrounding Arab Nations such as Egypt, Iraq, Syria, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Yemen and Jordan to declare war on Israel the very next day.

The nations took control of the Arab Palestine designated regions and immediately pushed towards regions designated towards the State of Israel. The war lasted for nearly 10 months after this with Israel winning the war and the signing of an armistice. In this process, the geographical landscape had gone through large changes post the signing of an Armistice as Israel took control of regions that were according to the Partition plan supposed to be a part of Palestine, roughly 33% more land than it was initially supposed to occupy. By the end of this war, Jordan was in control of the West Bank and East Jerusalem while Egypt remained in control of the Gaza Strip with the rest of the British Palestine region under the control of Israel including East Jerusalem, initially meant to be under an international regime. It remained this way roughly until 1967. Ironically enough, a war that started with the purpose of



Fig. 2: The original plan of partition

establishing a larger and more dominant Palestine went on to do quite the opposite. By the end of the war, and in the decades that continued there was no discernible state of Palestine.



Fig. 3: The situation unfolding over the course of the last century

In the decades that followed, there was another war known as the Six-Day war leading to Israel capturing the Golan Heights region of Syria and the entirety of the Sinai Peninsula of Egypt. While the Sinai Peninsula was returned to Egypt via the US-mediated Camp David Accords, the Golan Heights region has remained under dispute both by Israel and Syria since then. Security Council's attempts at mediating this dispute and returning to the partition plan via Security Council Resolution 242 for example remained largely unsuccessful. Post the Six-Day War, Israel encouraged the formation of Israeli settlements in regions that were originally segregated for Palestinians via the form of subsidies, cheap housing and more driving Palestinians out of the region originally allocated to them and driving in Israelis along with Israeli military and enforcement officers.

Through a sense of vulnerability for the people of Palestine and an increasing encroachment of the lands that were designated to be theirs by the basis of international law meant increasing amounts of civil unrest. In the West Bank region, this led to the birth of the Palestine Liberation Organization often known as the PLO with Yasser Arafat leading the organization until his death in 2004. The Gaza Strip however gave birth to a significantly more radical and militant organization via the form of Hamas which rose to popularity via their social welfare programs across the Gaza Strip building clinics, schools and more. In addition, the fear that peace talks would lead to nowhere and would only leave the Palestinians oppressed were reasons expressed for the severe violence at which these organizations and their violent uprisings or Intifadas operated at. The first Intifada occurred from 1987 - 1993 due to the increasing number of Israeli settlements over the West Bank, amounting to close to 700,000 people.

The Second Intifada occurred from 2000 - 2005 post the Oslo Accords, which attempted to provide a level of autonomy to the Palestinians (fig. 4), and the Clinton Talks that at the end produced no concrete results, leaving the Palestinians hopeless in the possibility that this peace process would ever conclude. Each of the Intifadas were extremely brutal for all parties involved, thousands of citizens were caught in the fires on both sides with little to no involvement in the original fight.



Fig. 4: The Oslo Accords and the region classification within the West Bank

The Palestinian territories, which had been a part of the Ottoman Empire for four centuries, were given to Britain in 1920 as part of the League of Nations' mandate system. - The necessary powers were to be used by the League to teach "peoples not yet prepared to exist by themselves under the severe conditions of the modern world," as stated in Article 22 of the Statute, which was regarded as the mandates system's constitution. With the UK's approval and the help of Zionist organisations, the British mandate was grossly misused between 1922 and 1939 by permitting significant Jewish immigration to the Palestinian Territories. The Jewish population increased as a result, growing from roughly 56,000 at the start of the mandate to 608,000 by 1946. The Palestinian Arab resistance that began in the 1930s as a result of the Jewish exodus has persisted ever since. An unidentified Arab State and an unnamed Jewish State were to be established on the Palestinian territory, according to the non-binding resolution.

In essence, the decision partitioned all of Palestine into eight districts, leaving three for the Arab State and three for the Jewish State. Al-Quds was declared a corpus separatum and given to the control of the world government and the UN Trusteeship Council for a term of ten years, while Jaffa, the seventh zone, would be an Arab stronghold within the Jewish sector. With the exception of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, all of Palestine was occupied by Israel in the years that followed, particularly during the 1967 Arab-Israeli War. The United States' subsequent resolutions called for Israel to leave the seized areas. Following the 1967 War, the U.N. Security Council unanimously adopted Resolution 237, which declares that "gaining a country through war" is unacceptable and calls for Israel to leave the territories it has recently occupied. Nevertheless, Israel persisted in flagrantly disobeying the standards for the defence of fundamental human rights outlined in Resolution 181 and later U.N. resolutions.

That stands to be the current situation as of right now, unlike what most people claim this conflict is not thousands of years old. It is not deep-seated in the people of Palestine or Israel that this conflict remains the way it is. Peace processes have time and time again disappointed

either side creating this illusion that violence can be the only solution to this problem, leading to escalations from either side in fear of repercussions. It is solvable and simply requires that all parties involved understand the validity of other sides of the argument to reach a solution requiring compromise for all parties involved.

## Recent Events of Potential Interest

~~There have not been much in terms of direct recent developments~~ or large scale peace talks between either state, most responses to any situation have been based on incidents that have occurred and have been more response based than any proactive manner. The Second Intifada post the Clinton Agreements have for the last decade put a halt on any major peace talks between either of the states. Protests from regions of the Golan Heights have continued in recent times in the past few months that are continued to be met with severe amounts of oppression. Violence between Palestinians and Israelis leads to continuous loss of life on either side. Israel continues to expand settlements in regions such as the Golan Heights and East Jerusalem.

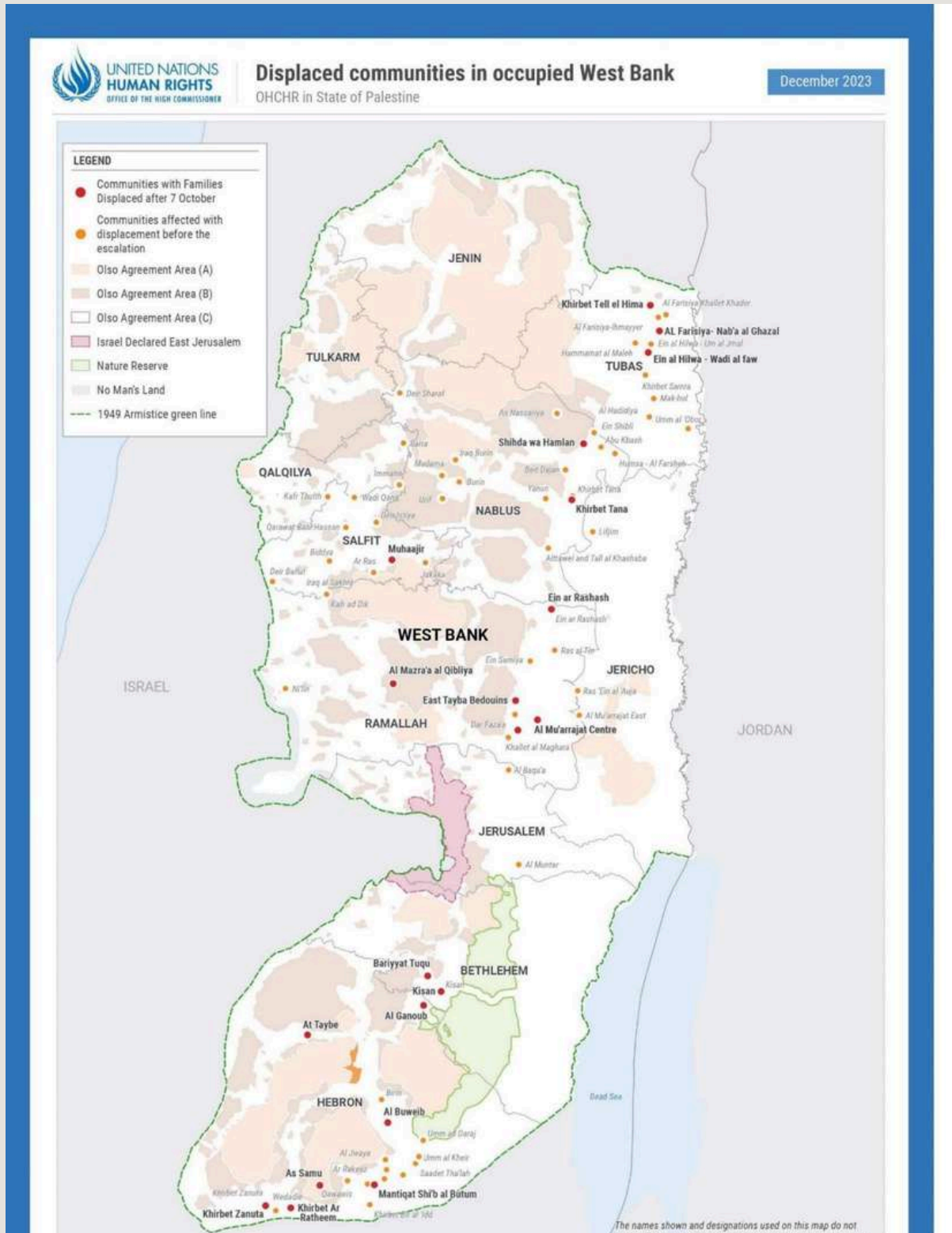
Some current consensus considering possible solutions include potentially entertaining the annexation of some of the most Israeli settlements in the West Bank in such a way that the 80% of the Israeli population would be covered within only 30% of the area of the West Bank, leaving the rest of the West Bank to a potentially new Palestinian State and the entirety of the Gaza Strip. The unexpected surprise strike by Hamas on Israel on October 7, 2023, set off a chain reaction of terror. Israeli media reports that the conflict's early attacks were the bloodiest attack in the nation's history, with at least 250 people killed and 1,500 injured in Israel. Additionally, Hamas captured about 250 Israelis as captives. As of January 2024, approximately 25,000 Palestinians have been killed in Gaza and 59,604 are injured.

As a fallout, Israel has gone guns blazing into the Gaza strip causing a lot of chaos within the region and indirectly causing harm to the civilians. After a few failed resolutions within the UNSC, an Emergency Special Session was convoked (reconvening of the 10th Special Session of the General Assembly) a resolution regarding a Humanitarian ceasefire has passed. Follow-up to this, two more resolutions have passed in the Security Council – namely resolutions 2712 and 2720. Many major countries like the United States, Britain, Germany, Italy, the Netherlands and Switzerland have suspended their funding of *United Nations Relief and Works Agency* for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA) in wake of the allegations made by Israel. The dossier says Israel has wider evidence that UNRWA has employed 190 Hamas and Islamic Jihad militants. One large issue however involves the consideration of how such a future state (if and when formed) would be governed and how the division of power between the PLO and Hamas will happen.

In May, Israel launched a five-day offensive in the occupied and blockaded Gaza Strip, killing 11 Palestinian civilians. Following a Hamas-led attack in southern Israel on 7 October during which at least 1,000 people were killed, of which 36 were children, and some 245 were taken hostage or captive, Israel conducted intense military operations that killed 21,600 Palestinians in Gaza, a third of them children, and wrecked 60% of homes. In October, Israel intensified its 16-year blockade on Gaza, cutting off all supplies, including food, water, electricity, fuel and medicines, aggravating the humanitarian catastrophe. Following 7 October, Israeli authorities increased restrictions on freedom of movement across the occupied West Bank. Israeli



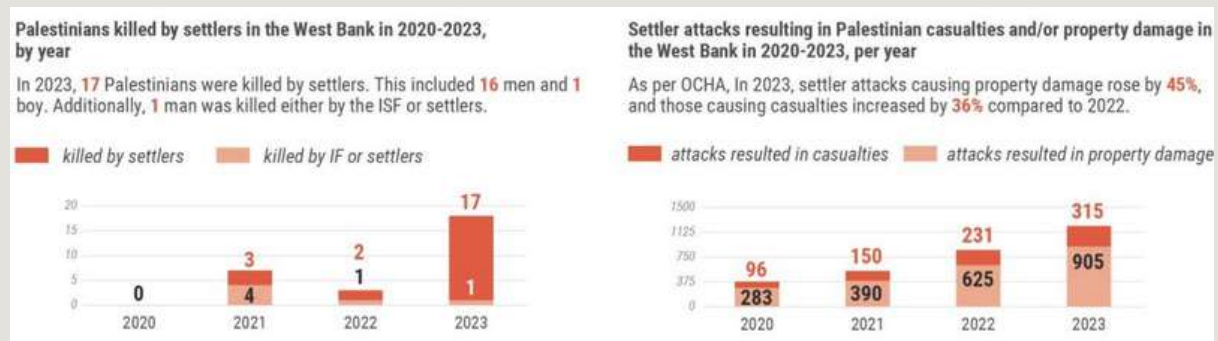
authorities deepened the apartheid system oppressing Palestinians in Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, by implementing laws and policies of segregation, deprivation and forced displacement.



In Gaza alone, 1.9 million Palestinians were forcibly displaced due to Israeli offensives, out of a population of 2.2 million. State-backed settler violence increased. In the Negev/Naqab in southern Israel, Israeli forces continued to demolish Bedouin homes and whole villages, including one village for the 222nd time. In the West Bank, Israeli policing operations were the most lethal since 2005, with 110 Palestinian children among those killed. Detentions of Palestinians without charge or trial reached record levels. Inside Israel, police sometimes used excessive force and arbitrary arrests at anti-government demonstrations, and imposed bans on anti-war protests in Palestinian communities. On 25 July, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) received submissions regarding the legality of Israel’s occupation of the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT). From September, the Israeli Supreme Court heard petitions against an amendment to the Basic Law: The Judiciary. The government-proposed amendment undermined the independence of the judiciary and its ability to preserve the civil rights of Jewish citizens.

Less than 40% of the occupied West Bank continued to be administered by Fatah, a nationalist Palestinian party, while the occupied and besieged Gaza Strip was administered by Hamas, a nationalist Islamist party, in the absence of national elections since 2006. In July, leaders of the rival Palestinian factions met in Egypt for a “reconciliation committee”, with no outcomes. The poverty rate among Palestinians reached 25%, according to the World Bank, affecting particularly Gaza, where, before October, 73% of residents already depended on humanitarian aid. In January, Israel withheld the transfer of taxes collected by Israeli authorities on behalf of Palestinian authorities. The resulting funding deficit exacerbated poverty, with public sector employees receiving reduced wages and businesses constrained by Israeli restrictions. The transfer of tax revenues to the authorities in the West Bank partly resumed in November.

Gaza’s economy and infrastructure collapsed in October under the destruction wrought by Israel’s military operation combined with the tightening of Israel’s 16-year illegal blockade. After the first month of conflict, the UN Development Programme found that 96% of people in Gaza needed basic support for survival. The effects of the conflict also negatively impacted the economy in the West Bank. In Gaza, Israeli forces killed 21,600 Palestinians, according to Gaza’s Ministry of Health (see Israel and the OPT entry), while in the West Bank, they killed 493 Palestinians, making 2023 the deadliest year since at least 1967. In October and November, Qatar and other intermediaries negotiated the release by Hamas of 109 hostages and by Israel of 240 Palestinians from Israeli detention.





## Potential Violations of International Humanitarian Law

The year's first Israeli offensive against occupied and blockaded Gaza, from 9 to 13 May, killed 11 Palestinian civilians, including four children, and destroyed 103 homes. The initial air strike killed Khalil al-Bahtini, a senior member of Al-Quds Brigades. Al-Quds Brigades fired hundreds of indiscriminate rockets towards Israeli towns. The second round of hostilities, with its cataclysmic humanitarian consequences for Gaza, saw unprecedented numbers of civilian casualties. On 7 October, amid the firing of thousands of indiscriminate rockets, fighters from Palestinian armed groups attacked southern Israel; at least 1,000 people were killed, and some 3,300 others injured, while some 245 were taken hostage and captive. In the following 12 weeks, Israeli forces' aerial bombings and ground offensives killed 21,600 Palestinians, a third of whom were children, according to Gaza's Ministry of Health.

According to OCHA, by the end of the year, 65,000 homes were destroyed, forcibly displacing 1.9 million Palestinians. In addition, 76 healthcare facilities, 370 schools, 115 mosques and three churches were damaged or destroyed. Also on 7 October, the Israeli government blocked electricity sold to Gaza. On 9 October, it imposed a full siege, cutting off all supplies including food, water, fuel and medicines. Media workers were also attacked. The Committee to Protect Journalists reported that 70 journalists were killed. Medical personnel also faced attacks in the area. By December, 23 of 36 hospitals had been forced to close because of damage and lack of electricity. The WHO reported that 600 patients and medical personnel were killed in attacks on medical facilities, including 76 ambulances.

### *Right to truth, justice and reparations*

Israeli authorities failed to promptly, thoroughly and independently investigate crimes and violations committed by the Israeli army, including unlawful killings in the West Bank and war crimes in Gaza. Israel continued to refuse to cooperate with the UN commission of inquiry and to deny entry to the UN Special Rapporteur on the OPT. At the end of October, the ICC prosecutor visited Israel, the West Bank, and the Rafah Crossing on Egypt's border with Gaza. On 29 December, South Africa applied to the ICJ for proceedings to be initiated against Israel regarding its breaches of the 1948 Genocide Convention in Gaza.

### *Arbitrary detention*

Israeli forces arrested 2,200 Palestinians in the month following 7 October, according to the Palestinian Prisoners Club. Israeli authorities invoked the "Unlawful Combatants" Law, a category that does not exist in international humanitarian law, to hold without charge or trial 661 Palestinians from Gaza. Some 3,291 Palestinians were held under administrative detention, without charge or trial, according to sources.

The ICRC confirmed that Palestinian prisoners were denied contact with their families and lawyers after 7 October, under "state of emergency" orders that were extended on 31 October until the end of the year. Israeli authorities refused to share their summary of evidence and

arguments in the conviction of prisoner of conscience Mohammed al-Halabi, a humanitarian worker from Gaza.

## *Settlements and Home Demolitions*

Israeli authorities provide security, infrastructure, and services to more than 710,000 settlers in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. According to OCHA, Israeli authorities demolished 1,004 Palestinian homes and other structures in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, in 2023 as of December 11, displacing 1,870 people, which surpasses 2022 figures. Most buildings were demolished for lacking building permits, which authorities make nearly impossible for Palestinians to obtain in these areas.

The difficulty in obtaining Israeli building permits in East Jerusalem and the 60 percent of the West Bank under Israel's exclusive control (Area C) has driven Palestinians to build structures that are at constant risk of demolition or confiscation for being unauthorized, including dozens of schools. Entire Palestinian communities in areas like the South Hebron Hills find themselves at high risk of displacement. International law prohibits an occupying power from destroying property unless "absolutely necessary" for "military operations."

Authorities also sealed the family homes of Palestinians suspected of attacking Israelis, acts of unlawful collective punishment. They did so under a discriminatory law that allows settler organizations to pursue claims for land they claim Jews owned in East Jerusalem before 1948, a strategy they have particularly used in Sheikh Jarrah and Silwan. Palestinians are meanwhile barred under Israeli law from reclaiming property they owned in what became Israel and from which they fled or were expelled in 1948.

## *Israeli Closure Policy*

Since 2007, Israeli authorities have blocked most of Gaza's population from traveling through the Erez Crossing, the only passenger crossing from Gaza into Israel through which Palestinians can travel to the West Bank and abroad. Israeli authorities often justify the closure, which came after Hamas seized political control over Gaza from the Fatah-led Palestinian Authority (PA) in June 2007, on security grounds. However, the closure policy is not based on an individualized assessment of security risk; a generalized travel ban applies to all except those whom Israeli authorities deem as presenting "exceptional humanitarian circumstances," mostly people needing vital medical treatment and their companions, as well as prominent businesspeople.

## *Abuses by Hamas and Palestinian Armed Groups*

Hamas and other Palestinian armed groups on October 7 deliberately killed civilians and committed a range of other abuses, including taking civilians hostage, and launched thousands

of indiscriminate rockets at Israeli communities, all of which are war crimes. During the October 7 attacks, Hamas-led fighters attacked the “Supernova Sukkot Gathering” outdoor music festival, killing at least 260 people, according to the Israeli rescue service, and invaded homes. Armed groups threatened to execute hostages. They released some of the hostages in late November in exchange for the release by Israel of Palestinian prisoners, as part of a short-term ceasefire agreement.

Hamas authorities have blocked some women from traveling pursuant to regulations issued in February 2021 that allow male guardians to apply to courts to block unmarried women from leaving Gaza when such travel will cause “absolute harm,” a broad term that allows men to restrict women’s travel at will. The Palestinian statutory watchdog, the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR), received 56 complaints of arbitrary arrests and 81 complaints of torture and ill-treatment against Hamas authorities between January and August 2023.

### *Abuses by the Palestinian Authority*

The State of Palestine published the Convention against Torture and its Optional Protocol in the Palestinian Official Gazette in September, effectively making it Palestinian law. Also in September, the UN Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture visited places of detention in the West Bank. However, the PA continued its systematic practice of arbitrarily detaining opponents and critics, including students. Lawyers for Justice, a group that represents Palestinians detained by the PA, documented 726 Palestinians they determined were detained arbitrarily between January and August 17, generally for periods of days or a few weeks. Between January and August 2023, the Palestinian statutory watchdog ICHR received 162 complaints of arbitrary arrests, 86 complaints of torture and ill-treatment, and 13 complaints of detention without trial or charge pursuant to orders from a regional governor against the PA.

In August, the PA registered Lawyers for Justice after blocking its registration for months.

Personal status laws for both Muslims and Christians discriminate against women, including in relation to marriage, divorce, custody of children, and inheritance. Palestine has no comprehensive domestic violence law. The PA has long been considering a draft family protection law, but women’s rights groups have raised concerns that it does not go far enough to prevent abuse and protect survivors.

## **Potential War Crimes**

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### *Scope of International Humanitarian Law (IHL)*

IHL, rooted in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and customary international law, is designed to safeguard civilians and those no longer active in combat, such as surrendered soldiers, and to restrict weaponry and combat tactics. Its provisions, which are binding on all states and non-

state armed groups in a conflict, prohibit indiscriminate attacks, targeting civilians, and collective punishment, regardless of reciprocal actions or military disparities.

## *Allegations Against Israeli and Palestinian Combatants*

- *Israeli Military Tactics:* Criticism has mounted against Israel for tactics that appear to subject the civilian population of Gaza to collective punishment. The protracted blockade and recurrent airstrikes, which have led to high civilian casualties, especially among children, have prompted calls for investigations by international organizations. Reports indicate that since October 7th, Israeli operations have resulted in over 8,400 Palestinian fatalities, raising questions about the proportionality and discrimination of these attacks.
- *Use of Prohibited Weapons:* There are also serious allegations that Israel has employed white phosphorus, a substance with devastating effects on human tissue, in densely populated areas of Gaza. Such use in civilian areas could contravene IHL due to the indiscriminate suffering it causes.
- *Palestinian Armed Groups' Conduct:* On the Palestinian side, armed groups stand accused of war crimes for the intentional targeting of Israeli civilians, the indiscriminate firing of rockets into Israeli territories, and the usage of human shields. These actions breach the cardinal rules of IHL and have resulted in approximately 1,400 Israeli deaths reported by the government since the conflict's resurgence.
- *Occupation and Settlement Issues:* The UN report also reiterates the longstanding international view that Israel's settlement activities in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, and the displacement of civilians, potentially constitute war crimes. Despite Israel's withdrawal from Gaza in 2005, the UN maintains that Israel's effective control over the area continues, with obligations under IHL to provide for the basic needs of the population.

## Timeline for the Conflict

- 1948: Israel declared an independent state, Arab-Israeli War over Palestine begins.
- 1949: Israel concludes Armistice agreements with neighbouring countries, around 1000 infiltrators are killed by the Israeli army.
- 1949: 1953: Hundreds of civilians are killed by 2; Arab infiltrators were killed in the thousands.
- 1967: Six-Day War between Israel, Egypt, Jordan, and Syria takes place; Khartoum Resolution issued at the Arab Summit; UNSC adopts Resolution 242.
- 1974: 1980s: Palestinian insurgency in South Lebanon.
- 1987: First Intifada begins.
- 1991: Madrid conference, First Intifada comes to an end.
- 1993: Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin sign the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self Government in Oslo.
- 1994: Jordan and Israel sign peace treaty.

- 1995: Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip, also known as Oslo II, signed in Washington D.C.
- 1997: Protocol Concerning the Redeployment in Hebron signed.
- 1998: Benjamin Netanyahu and Yasser Arafat sign the Wye River Memorandum at a summit in Maryland hosted by Bill Clinton.
- 2000: Israeli Army withdraws from southern Lebanon in compliance with UN Resolution 425; Camp David Summit takes place.
- 2002: The United States pushes through the passage of Resolution 1397 by the Security Council.
- 2003: The Quartet on the Middle East announced the Road map for peace; The International Court of Justice ruled in a non-binding advisory opinion that the Israeli West Bank barrier was illegal under international law, the United Nations had also condemned the construction of the wall as "an unlawful act of annexation".
- 2004: Operation "Days of Penitence" takes place in the northern Gaza Strip.
- 2005: Completion of Israel's unilateral disengagement plan.
- 2006: Hamas Islamist group wins Palestinian parliamentary elections.
- 2007: Annapolis Conference for first time establishes "two-state solution" as basis for future talks between Israel and Palestinian Authority.
- 2008: Israel launches month-long full-scale invasion of Gaza to prevent Hamas and other groups from launching rockets.
- 2009: Discovery of major offshore natural gas deposits; Right-wing parties prevail in elections, Likud leader Benjamin Netanyahu forms government.
- 2012: Israel launches week-long military campaign against Gaza-based armed groups following months of escalating rocket attacks on Israeli towns.
- 2013: Benjamin Netanyahu replaces most religious Jewish groups with centrist and secular parties in government after the latter's strong showing in January elections.
- 2014: Israel responds to attacks by armed groups in Gaza with a military campaign by air and land to knock out missile launching sites and attack tunnels. Clashes end in an uneasy Egyptian-brokered ceasefire in August.
- 2015: Israel suspends contact with European Union officials in talks with Palestinians over EU decision to label goods from Jewish settlements in the West Bank as coming not from Israel but from settlements.
- 2016: US agrees military aid package worth \$38bn (£28bn) over next 10 years for Israel, largest such deal in US history. Previous pact, set to expire in 2018, saw Israel get \$3.1bn annually.
- 2017: US President Donald Trump recognises Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, upsetting the Arab world and some Western allies.
- 2018: Opening of a US embassy in Jerusalem. Protests take place in Gaza along the fence with Israel, including demonstrators hurling rocks and gasoline bombs across the barrier. Israeli troops kill more than 170 protesters over several months. From Gaza, hundreds of rockets are fired into Israel.
- 2019: US says it no longer considers Israeli settlements on the West Bank to be illegal.
- 2021: Tensions between Israel and Hamas are sparked by the eviction of Palestinians from East Jerusalem and altercations at the al-Aqsa mosque. In addition to reestablishing some American aid and diplomatic ties with the Palestinians, the Joe Biden administration assists in mediating a ceasefire.
- 2022: String of terrorist attacks in Israel by Palestinians killed a few people. This led to an operation regarding the clamp down on militants that resulted in the execution of 146 Palestinians in the West Bank in 2022.

- ~~2023~~ unexpected surprise strike by Hamas on Israel on October 7, 2023, set off a chain reaction of terror. Israel is conducting counter terrorism operations within the Gaza Strip while simultaneously launching missiles onto their territory.

## Conventions, Existing Laws & Shortcomings

### Oslo Accords

If there ever need to be a direct consideration of what laid the most groundwork towards the establishment of statehood and recognition between both parties in the Israel-Palestine conflict, it would invariably be the Oslo Accords. While the Oslo Accords did not pan out the way it was originally intended, its consequences were far-reaching and had allowed for a new precedence to be established. The Oslo Accords was divided into two different accords. The first accord consisted of the following conditions:

- o Aimed towards the establishment of a "a Palestinian Interim Self-Government Authority" in select regions of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip for a "transitional period not exceeding five years" (Article I)
- o "Israel will withdraw from the Gaza Strip and Jericho area" (Article XIV)
- o The creation of a liaison committee to oversee a smooth transfer of power over to the Palestinian Liberation Organization, alongside the implementation of co-operative measures with the states of Jordan and Egypt (Article X & XII)
- o Allow for co-operation concerning economic, regional and other sorts of issues between either of the states throughout this transition period (Article XI)

Oslo Accord II, sometimes also known as the Taba Agreement acts as a continuation for the first accord by dividing the West Bank into 3 regions and providing varying degrees of freedom for the economic and executive jurisdiction. While both the Oslo Accords were intended to act towards the creation of a legitimate State of Palestine, it did not remain that way for extremely long. Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister at the time of the signing of the Oslo Accords was assassinated with the motives being tracked to his role in the negotiation of the Oslo Accords. While much of the work of the Oslo Accords was abandoned in around 2002 during the second Intifada where Israel re-established full control of the regions A and B in the West Bank. Some of the main issues that led to this failure likely had to do with the amount of uncertainty and ambiguity the accords created regarding what could happen to key issues with regards to the conflict in the future. While the Israeli settlements in these areas constitute a minority, what would be their inevitable future? The Oslo Accords did not make expressly clear to the people about what the course of action would be with regards to Jerusalem, Old City and Temple Mount.



Other agreements such as the Hebron Agreement of 1997, the Wye River Memorandum and the Sharm El Sheikh Memorandum that were established as a result of the Oslo Accords are also agreements that delegates should spend time studying to get a more comprehensive understanding of the situation. The case study of how the Oslo Accords fell apart is one of the most important lessons learned that we can derive from history with regards to the peace process between both states.

### Camp David Accords



The Camp David Accords signed between Israel and Egypt allowed for Israel to retreat from the Sinai Peninsula region post the Six-Day War. While this may not be directly related to the issue at hand that we are dealing with, many across the international community view the Camp David Accords as an example of what should have happened between the states of Israel and Syria to resolve the issue of the Golan Heights region that was also captured during the same time. Israel agreed to retreat from the Sinai Peninsula on the condition of a peace agreement between both states.

The signing of these accords was by many considered to be the beginning of the end of Arab-Israeli tensions considering that Egypt was for much of the 20th century considered to be the primary authority or voice on Arab concerns regarding the Israeli situation. And Egypt reaching a peace agreement meant that another attempt at a coordinated attack, battle or another Arab-Israeli war would only turn out to be unsuccessful without the largest military in the region to cooperate with. This agreement brought with it severe amounts of disagreement within the civil population of Egypt that ultimately led to the assassination of Anwar Sadat, the president of Egypt during the negotiation of the peace process with Israel and also led to the dismissal of Egypt from the Arab League for the next decade for they did not approve of his decisions, alongside the PLO, to move ahead to peace talks with Israel.

### 2006 Palestinian Legislative Elections

In these elections, Hamas won a clear majority in Palestine. Following this came the decision of the Western world to cut-off all official ties with the Leadership of the Hamas. The development of Israel-Palestine issues was paralyzed due to the fact that the State of Israel refused to negotiate with the Hamas, an organization which did not recognize Israel's Right to Exist and even promoted violence against Israeli citizens. This complete break in dialogue was accompanied by constant violence along the Gaza strip and other adjoining areas of the two states and hence some form of communication had to be restored.

### Annapolis Conference, 2007

On 27th November 2007, a conference was held at the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland. Palestine was represented by the Leader of the PA Mahmoud Abbas, and attended by Israeli President Ehud Olmert and the President of the United States, George W. Bush. Abbas at the conference demanded a state the size of West Bank and the Gaza Strip meanwhile Olmert was willing to piece out parts of East Jerusalem as part of a broader and

more holistic peace deal. This decision was not without major critics from right wing. Israelis and resulted in parties' part of the coalition threatening to back out. However, despite the issues faced, a two state solution was mutually agreed upon and all the parties present issued joint statements regarding the same.

### Operation Pillar of Defence

The long years of disagreement between the Hamas and the State of Israel led to violent consequences for the non-combatants on both sides of the Gaza strip. Over the years, Hamas intensified its rocket campaigns and Israel engaged in bombardments and ground invasions of the Gaza Strip. On November 14th 2012, Israel began with the Operation Pillar of Defence. The aim of this Operation was to “reduce the offensive capabilities of the opposition” and began with the killing of Hamas Military Chief Ahmed Jabari. It was followed by bombing of civilian centres by both sides and resulted in thousands of casualties. Israel’s Iron Dome missile defence system was seen to be very successful against Hamas attacks and on November 21st, a ceasefire was called between the Hamas and Israel to be mediated by Egypt. In November 2014, another prisoner exchange program was carried out between the two parties.

### Palestinian Unity Government

The only directly negotiating parties presently are the Israeli Government and the Palestinian Liberation Organization. Attempts to form a united front in order to represent Palestinian interests in a more systematic manner. In 2008, the division in governance of the Palestinian Authority between the two parties resulted in the collapse of centralized order in the country. Attempts to form a united government had taken place in 2014, the Palestinian United Government containing both Hamas and Fatah officials, however, all negotiations ceased by 2015.

## Disruptions in the Peace process

There are many issues involved in the peace process. Some of the key issues include:

- **Border Disputes:** Resolution 181 originally called for a two-state solution back in 1948, which the international community has also advocated for ever since. But after so many wars, and with Israel occupying Palestine, there is much dispute and controversy over where the borders for both states should be drawn. Additionally, Israelis have settled in the areas that are considered occupied Palestine.
- **Right of Return:** Following the 1948 war, thousands of Palestinians fled their homes as refugees, and today there are millions of Palestinians living in refugee camps. Refugees claim that they have a right of return that includes “a claim to citizenship, financial settlement and, in some cases, return to former homes and property in what is today Israel.” However, the Israeli leadership opposes this right of return in order to keep Israel a Jewish state.
  - **Security and Terrorism:** The conflict has created a vicious cycle of fighting by both Israeli and Palestinian sides. The Israeli military occupies parts of Palestine in order to secure its borders and territory taken over the course of the Arab-Israeli wars. However, this also creates tension with Palestinians and leads to insecurity and fighting. Also,

groups within Palestine have fired rockets into Israel, and one of Palestine's leading groups, Hamas, is considered a terrorist organization by the United States.<sup>vi</sup> The Israel- Palestine conflict is intense, controversial, complex, and violent. Although different plans have been tried and failed, negotiations are restarting on both sides. Now is an important time for the international community to act and help both sides come to an agreement that will lead to peace.

## ICJ ruling on South Africa v Israel

South Africa complained that acts committed in the Israeli military campaign may constitute genocide, the incitement to commit genocide, and the failure to punish those responsible. The ICJ ruled that "at least some of the rights claimed by South Africa and for which it is seeking protection are plausible". The finding of plausibility based on the Palestinian civilian population being "extremely vulnerable" points to a further development of a doctrine of humanitarian stasis (a willingness to grant interim relief based on human vulnerability) in the case law of the ICJ.

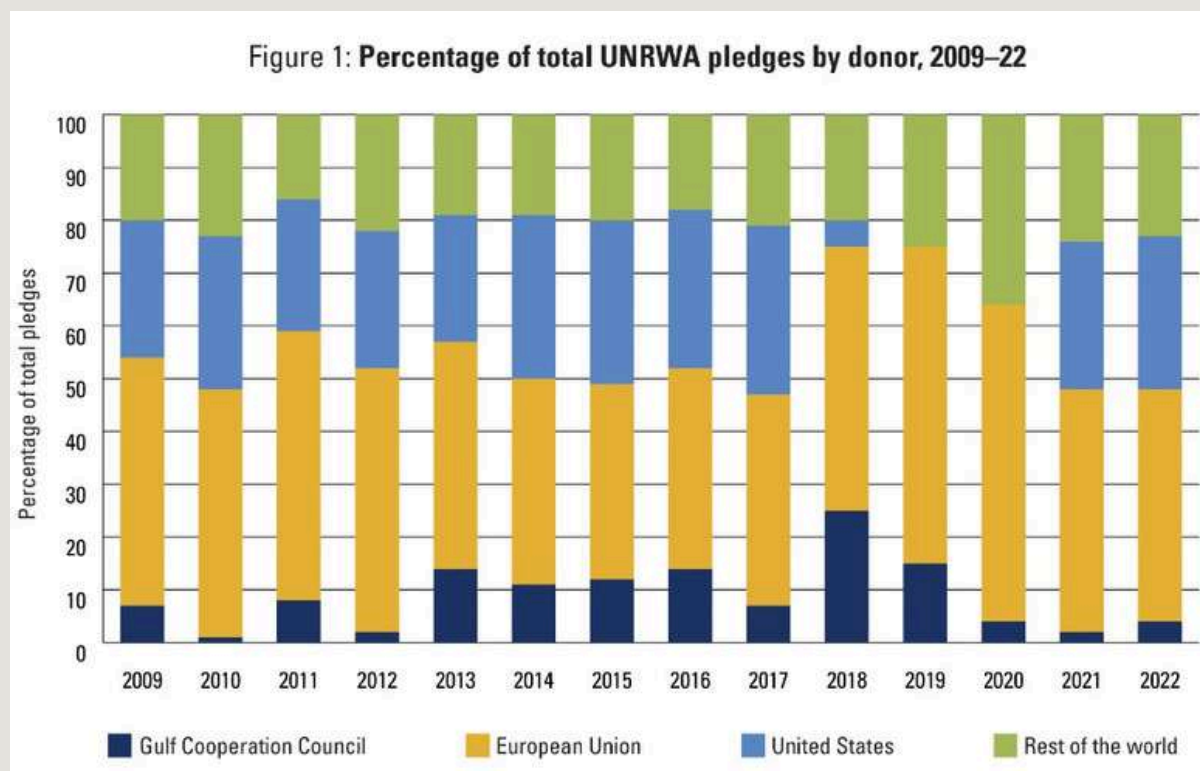
Since the ICJ handed down its provisional measures Order on 26 January, Israeli forces have reportedly killed hundreds of Palestinians as per UNOCHA's daily briefings, civilians waiting to receive humanitarian aid were shot and injured, hospital staff have been killed, and government ministers called for the displacement of Palestinians from Gaza at a far-right conference. At a time when the credibility of international law hangs in the balance, the ICJ demonstrated the enduring relevance of its guidance by issuing a firm ruling in front of an expectant legal and non-legal community. States are now called upon to ensure, beyond assurances and words, that they are ready to take action to ensure compliance.

## Resumption of Aid

After careful consideration and in close consultation with legal counsel, UNRWA USA National Committee (UNRWA USA) is pleased to announce the resumption of its financial support and active fundraising for the vital mission of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), as it carries out its life-saving humanitarian mission. This financial support, starting with an immediate disbursement of US\$ 5 million, will contribute directly to saving refugee lives, as a population of 2.2 million in Gaza faces a man-made famine. This was done as a precautionary measure in the context of the Biden Administration's decision to suspend its funding to UNRWA following serious Israeli allegations against 12 UNRWA staff members.

This decision to resume funding at this time is informed by, among other things, the actions of the European Union (EU), Canada, Australia, Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Germany, France, and Japan, all of which have resumed their own funding for UNRWA in recent weeks. The decisions of these governments to resume funding were based on their own investigations and, in some cases, on the findings of the United Nations' own internal investigation. The stakes for Palestine refugees and for humanity could not be higher. Under any circumstances, undermining the indispensable work of UNRWA harms Palestine

Refugees across all of the UN Agency’s five fields (Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem). Under current circumstances, with more than a million people in Gaza facing starvation, undermining UNRWA is already having deadly consequences.



## Conclusion

Human rights are “the rights that one has simply because one is a human being, and are held equally and inalienable by all human beings. They are social and political guarantees necessary to protect individuals from the standard threats to human dignity posed by the modern state and modern markets.” The international human rights protection mechanism, though, were framed to design the limitation of state power, in reality, however, they projected a much market-oriented domain of human rights. The world order is strongly violent towards human rights as it places it in a sphere which comprises its domain of subjugation as well. It is characterized by free markets and trade, the absence of economic regulation, strong individual property rights and seeks to reduce the role of the state on which human rights depend for protection.

The human security perspective may be seen as a quasi-realist substitute for the Neo-liberal internationalist perspective on human rights incorporated in the international human rights regime. States are not independent bodies, they are heavily influenced by elites, private corporations and interest groups. Human rights are designed to protect individuals from state elites who undermine citizens’ interest deliberately for their own benefit. Therefore, as mankind enters a new era of globalization in the twenty-first century, it is crucial that this stain on the planet is removed. Both Israel and Palestine should arrive at a compromise to end military disputes. Though neither side appears to believe the other, but when both sides will be able to

create confidence in the reliability of the other side, peace will come. And in this world, giving sovereignty to a colonised state would be undoubtedly the most humane and just thing to do.

## Note for the Delegates

*This background guide is an invaluable tool designed to facilitate your research and preparation, but it is crucial to remember its purpose as a guide rather than a comprehensive source.*

It should not replace your diligent research efforts. The complex issues surrounding the Israel-Palestine conflict and the protection of civilians and refugees necessitate a thorough and independent exploration of the topics.

While this guide introduces essential concepts and principles, it is imperative to delve deeper, consult additional resources, and engage in critical analysis. Please use the links to important documents provided for further reading and comprehensive understanding. We have intentionally left out recent information regarding the Israel-Hamas hostilities. We encourage you to actively engage with the current situation by gathering information from reliable news sources and applying the various concepts and principles outlined in this guide to the ongoing conflict. Your ability to synthesize this knowledge and propose innovative solutions is a crucial aspect of your role as a delegate.

Furthermore, please pay special attention to understanding the nature and mandate of our committee, the UNHRC (United Nations Human Rights Council). Familiarize yourselves with the committee's objectives, procedures, and specific responsibilities in addressing human rights issues. Lastly, we emphasize the importance of using reliable and credible information, as outlined in the guide itself. It is vital to distinguish between information gathered from these sources and your analysis and interpretation. The credibility of your arguments and proposals depends on the quality of your sources and the rigor of your research.

## Questions a Resolution Must Answer (QARMA)

1. If the Israeli settlements in either region are deemed as against international law, what is the best possible course of action to ensure that all the settlers are able to leave the region and find another region to settle in a safe manner?
2. Can the UN enforce a humanitarian ceasefire in the Gaza strip? How will this help in assisting the Palestinians living in the region?
3. Was Israel in the right while combating Hamas in the Middle East?
4. How can humanitarian organizations and agencies navigate the challenges of providing assistance to civilians and refugees in conflict zones, especially given the complexities and restrictions they encounter?

5. How can international legal mechanisms, such as the ICC, be effectively utilized to address human rights abuses and promote accountability in conflict zones worldwide, with a particular focus on the Israel-Palestine region?
6. What tradeoffs would all parties involved need to make in the establishment of a future state of Palestine and for a ceasefire agreement to be placed between both the State of Israel and Palestine to stop the loss of civilian life?
7. Considering the situation at hand, what sort of a solution is practical to implement here:  
One State solution or Two States solution?
8. How would it be ensured that citizens from either state can access the holy sites in the region of East Jerusalem focusing on the sovereignty aspect in the event that a state of Palestine is established?
9. What are the specific humanitarian concerns faced by children, women, and vulnerable populations in conflict zones, and how can tailored strategies be developed to address them?
10. What can the committee do to reinforce its obligations under UNSC Resolutions 2712 and 2720 to ensure that there is a more permanent, unconditional and free passage of humanitarian aid by virtue of humanitarian pauses and corridors to facilitate the agencies of the UN, the ICRC and affiliate partners?
11. What are the major human rights violations that have occurred in the Israel-Palestine conflict, and how do they affect civilians, particularly refugees?

## Links for further research

1. Geneva Conventions (1949) and Additional Protocols (1977). [[International Committee of the Red Cross](#)]
2. United Nations Charter [[Charter of the United Nations](#)]
3. UNGA Resolution 194 (1948)
4. [Oslo Accords](#)
5. Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) and Protocol (1967). [[United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees](#)]
6. "Protecting Civilians in Armed Conflict: Obligations of the Security Council under the United Nations Charter." International Review of the Red Cross. Volume 91, Issue 874. 2009.
7. "Palestine Refugee Crisis: Challenges and Solutions." United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East ([UNRWA](#)).
8. Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (1998). [[International Criminal Court](#)]
9. "Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict." [[United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs](#)]
10. "Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories." [[Amnesty International](#)]
11. United Nations, "Resolution 242 (1967)," UN Resolution 242
12. International Court of Justice 2004, "Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory," [[ICJ Advisory Opinion](#)]
13. Al Jazeera, "Israel's Gaza Blockade Under Scrutiny," [[Al Jazeera Report](#)]
14. BBC, "Israel and the Palestinians: Can Settlement Issue be Resolved?" [[BBC Article](#)]



15. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) [[UDHR](#)]
16. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966) [[ICCPR](#)]
17. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966) [[ICESR](#)]
18. South Africa v Israel case in the ICJ (2023-24) [[Application of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide in the Gaza Strip \(South Africa v. Israel\)](#)]

### *UNGA: ESS Resolution*

<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/n23/412/97/pdf/n2341297.pdf?token=tt71TteNtqLtNMIDDZ&fe=true>

### *UNSC Resolutions*

<https://peacemaker.un.org/sites/peacemaker.un.org/files/SCRes242%281967%29.pdf>  
f <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/338> <http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/2712>  
<http://unscr.com/en/resolutions/doc/2720>

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### *Reports for Understanding*

[View of Transforming conflict: analyzing the impact of UN security council resolution 2334 on human security in Israel-Palestine \(iocscience.org\)](#)

[Chapter 4 The Second Palestinian Intifada from Airpower versus Terrorism: Three Case Studies on JSTOR](#)

[The Israeli-Palestinian Conflict: Historical and Prospective Intervention Analyses \(cartercenter.org\)](#)

[Approaching Peace: Centering Rights in Israel-Palestine Conflict Resolution - Carnegie Endowment for International Peace](#)