

Istanbul Aydın University
Model United Nations
Conference United Nations
Security Council



Committee Agenda: The Gaza Conflict and Human Rights Breach

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1. Letter from the Secretary General

Greetings everyone!

Firstly, I would like to welcome all of you to the first edition of İstanbul Aydın University's Model United Nations, an edition that will surely go down in history!

Secondly, as you dive into your study guides to prepare for the big day, I wish you a fruitful journey of research and learning. The world of Model United Nations is one of diplomacy, collaboration, and critical thinking, and I have no doubt that each of you will rise to the occasion with passion and intellect.

Thirdly, as you engage in debates, negotiate resolutions, and forge alliances, remember that you are not just representing countries, but embodying the spirit of global citizenship. The challenges we face today require innovative solutions, and it is through events like MUN that we can cultivate the leaders of tomorrow.

Fourthly, I encourage you to seize every opportunity to engage with your fellow delegates, share perspectives, and craft resolutions that reflect the diverse voices of our world. Whether you are an experienced delegate or new to the world of Model UN, this experience promises to be one of growth and camaraderie.

Lastly, on behalf of the entire team, I extend my sincerest wishes for your success. May your debates be dynamic, your resolutions impactful, and your memories lasting.

Welcome to IAUMUN 2024!

2. Introduction to the Board

Dear distinguished participants, First and foremost we are more than grateful to have you with us at the Istanbul Aydın University United Nations Conference. So, with most heartfelt greetings, We shall continue moving forward with our letter as fast as possible to bring you one step closer to our study guide which will hopefully, be the leading key to make this year's conference, as well as the committee, succeed in making a marvellous memory for each and one of you.

My name is Zehra Güneş and my dear friend's name is Hamza Doğan and We have been responsible for the Special committee you all are most likely familiar with, UNSC.

Throughout the year, full of sweat and tears, we as the academic team has worked like ants, as one may claim, not to only come up with a twist with our unusual and interesting agenda items regarding immortality, but also to make a useful source of knowledge to keep the debate revolve around each one of our diligent delegates.

Furthermore, I would like for all of you to enjoy your precious time here; learning, meeting new people and making many more unforgettable memories together. We will be there to support you before and during the committee so, please do not be hesitant in communicating with us! Hope to see you all soon...

Best Regards, Zehra Güneş

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Distinguished delegates,

We are delighted to formally welcome each and every one of you to the United Nations Security Council of IAUMUN 2024!

As your board members, we will make sure that this will be an experience that you will never forget, filled with spirited and insightful discussions of the highest caliber held in an acknowledging and cooperative atmosphere. You will be expected to address multifaceted

and complex issues and developments related to the situation in the Middle East, a persistent danger to global peace and stability that also affects the region, during our sessions.

This Study Guide is advised to be used as a compass that indicates how to organise and conduct your research for the topic and assist you with your overall preparations. You should, however, bear in mind that the information that this Study Guide is going to provide you with, is only an overview of this complex and challenging topic area. Therefore, we strongly encourage you to do your personal research both on the topic and on your personal country's position.

We are certain that you will provide us with structured, well written position papers and a constructive debate during the conference. We do anticipate delegates being respectful, devoted, and eager to make the most out of their experience, but most importantly, we want you to enjoy yourselves and share our passion and knowledge for debating. During your whole experience, we will be at your disposal for any possible remarks and inquiries that may arise. If this experience is a game of strategy, negotiation, cooperation and preparation, we are ready to give you the necessary instructions and inspire you for your next steps.

We wish you all good luck and cannot wait to meet you in person!

Kind regards,

Zehra Güneş, President Chair

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3. Introduction to the committee

The Security Council, the United Nations' principal crisis-management body, is empowered to impose binding obligations on the 193 UN member states to maintain peace. The Security Council's five permanent and ten elected members meet regularly to assess threats to international security, including civil wars, natural disasters, arms proliferation, and terrorism. Structurally, the Security Council remains largely unchanged since its founding in 1946, stirring debate among members about the need for reforms. In recent years, members' competing interests have often stymied the Security Council's ability to respond to major conflicts and crises, including Syria's civil war, the COVID-19 pandemic, and Russia's annexation of Crimea and subsequent invasion of Ukraine. The Security Council has five permanent members—the United States, China, France, Russia, and the United Kingdom—collectively known as the P5.

Any one of them can veto a resolution. The Security Council's ten elected members, which serve two-year, nonconsecutive terms, are not afforded veto power. The P5's privileged status has its roots in the United Nations' founding in the aftermath of World War II. The United States and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics (USSR) were the outright victors of the war, and, along with the United Kingdom, they shaped the postwar political order. As their plans for what would become the United Nations took shape, U.S. President Franklin D. Roosevelt insisted on the inclusion of the Republic of China (Taiwan), envisioning international security presided over by "four global policemen." British Prime Minister Winston Churchill saw in France a European buffer against potential German or Soviet aggression and so sponsored its bid for restored great-power status. The members of the P5 have exercised the veto power to varying degrees. Counting the years when the Soviet Union held its seat, Russia has been the most frequent user of the veto, blocking 152 resolutions since the Security Council's founding, as of February 2023.

The United States has used the veto eighty-seven times; it last vetoed a resolution in 2020 that called for the prosecution, rehabilitation, and reintegration of those engaged in terrorism-related activities. The country objected to the resolution's not calling for the repatriation of fighters from the self-proclaimed Islamic State and their family members. China has used the veto more frequently in recent years, though it has historically been more sparing than the

United States or Russia; Beijing has now blocked nineteen resolutions, including sixteen since 1997. In contrast, France and the United Kingdom have not exercised their veto power since 1989 and have advocated for other P5 members to use it less.

1. What is the Security Council's structure?

The Security Council's presidency rotates on a monthly basis, ensuring some agenda-setting influence for its ten nonpermanent members, which are elected by a two-thirds vote of the UN General Assembly. The main criterion for eligibility is contribution "to the maintenance of international peace and security," often defined by financial or troop contributions to peacekeeping operations or leadership on matters of regional security likely to appear before the Security Council.

A secondary consideration, "equitable geographical distribution," gave rise to the regional groups used since 1965 in elections: the African Group has three seats; the Asia-Pacific Group, two; the Eastern European Group, one; the Latin American and Caribbean Group, two; and the Western European and Others Groups (WEOG), two. Each has its own electoral norms. An Arab seat alternates between the African and Asian blocs by informal agreement. Turkey and Israel, which has never served on the Security Council, caucus with WEOG. Subsidiary organs that support the Security Council's mission include ad hoc committees on sanctions, counterterrorism, and nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons, as well as the international criminal tribunals for Rwanda and the former Yugoslavia.

Within the UN Secretariat, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Operational Support manage field operations. The Peacebuilding Commission, established in 2005 as a repository of institutional memory and best practices, serves an advisory role.

3. Introduction to the Agenda Item

The conflict has roots dating back over a century, with both Israelis and Palestinians asserting historical and religious claims to the land. It's characterised by cycles of violence, territorial disputes, and competing national aspirations.

“Since 7 October 2023, the escalating crisis in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory has caused large numbers of civilian deaths and injuries.”

In the Gaza Strip, airstrikes and a lack of medical supplies, food, water and fuel have virtually depleted an already under-resourced health system. Hospitals have been operating far beyond capacity due to rising numbers of patients as well as displaced civilians seeking shelter. The provision of essential health services – from maternal and newborn care to treatment for chronic conditions – has been severely compromised.

In Israel, hundreds of civilians - including children and the elderly - have been taken hostage. Attacks on health have been reported in Israel and the occupied Palestinian territory, killing and injuring health workers and patients, and damaging health facilities and ambulances.

WHO is working with partners to address the most urgent health needs, including through the provision of life-saving medical supplies. WHO urges all parties to protect health and ensure safe access to health care for their populations.

“Human rights defenders in Gaza are now trying to survive with their families”

The vast majority of human rights defenders in Gaza have now suffered forced displacement, the destruction of their homes, and tragically for some, the loss of relatives. Like the 2.2 million Palestinians living in Gaza, they are presently deprived of food, water and medicine, and have to risk their lives by going out in search of these most basic necessities. Because of the telecommunications blackouts and electricity shortages, all contact with the outside is

sporadic at best, adding to the uncertainty surrounding their situation, and that of the undocumented crimes perpetrated in the enclave by the Israeli military.

FIDH member organisations that have offices in Gaza say they are unable to ascertain whether their premises were bombed or raided. These havens for the respect of human rights and human dignity, which store important and sensitive information on the victims of human rights violations and their perpetrators, had to be abandoned overnight.

Civilians, including women and children, often bear the brunt of the violence in conflicts, with high numbers of casualties reported, particularly in densely populated areas like Gaza. The conflict has led to the displacement of numerous Palestinians, either internally within the occupied territories or as refugees in neighbouring countries.

Gaza, in particular, has faced strict blockades and restrictions on the movement of people and goods, impacting access to basic necessities such as food, water, and medical supplies.

Various parties involved in the conflict have faced allegations of committing war crimes, including indiscriminate attacks on civilians, the use of disproportionate force, and targeting civilian infrastructure.

We are faced with a somber reminder of the ongoing humanitarian catastrophe and the urgent need for coordinated international action as we gather to discuss the critical issues surrounding the Gaza Conflict and the violation of human rights in the region. Long-standing cycles of violence, resentment, and systematic human rights violations have defined the situation in Gaza, making it necessary for the international community to hold meaningful discussions and take decisive action to lessen civilian suffering and advance enduring peace and stability. The Gaza Conflict has erupted into a destructive cycle of violence and revenge, causing tremendous human misery and widespread destruction. It is rooted in decades of historical tensions and unresolved grievances. The ongoing escalation of hostilities in 2023–2024 has drawn attention from around the world to the dire circumstances of the Gaza population, who bear the brunt of indiscriminate attacks, military conflicts, and humanitarian crises made worse by an extended siege and isolation.

In addition, claims of violations of human rights and potential war crimes by all sides have thrown a shadow over the battle, highlighting the critical need for responsibility and victims' justice.

Human rights and international humanitarian law must be respected as basic values, and those who violate them must face consequences for their conduct. In light of these obstacles, it is our responsibility as representatives of the global community to convene in this prestigious forum in order to initiate positive discourse, investigate workable solutions, and devise a plan of action that tackles the underlying causes of the conflict, upholds the rights and dignity of all civilians, and advances the cause of peace and reconciliation in the area.

4. Key Terms

Six-Day War and Israeli Occupation of Gaza (1967):

Prior to the start of the war, attacks conducted against Israel by fledgling Palestinian guerrilla groups based in Syria, Lebanon, and Jordan had increased, leading to costly Israeli reprisals. In November 1966 an Israeli strike on the village of Al-Samū' in the Jordanian West Bank left 18 dead and 54 wounded, and, during an air battle with Syria in April 1967, the Israeli Air Force shot down six Syrian MiG fighter jets. In addition, Soviet intelligence reports in May indicated that Israel was planning a campaign against Syria, and, although inaccurate, the information further heightened tensions between Israel and its Arab neighbours.

Egyptian Pres. Gamal Abdel Nasser had previously come under sharp criticism for his failure to aid Syria and Jordan against Israel; he had also been accused of hiding behind the United Nations Emergency Force (UNEF) stationed at Egypt's border with Israel in the Sinai. Now, however, he moved to unambiguously demonstrate support for Syria: on May 14, 1967, Nasser mobilised Egyptian forces in the Sinai; on May 18 he formally requested the removal of the UNEF stationed there; and on May 22 he closed the Gulf of Aqaba to Israeli shipping, thus instituting an effective blockade of the port city of Eilat in southern Israel. On May 30, King Hussein of Jordan arrived in Cairo to sign a mutual defence pact with Egypt, placing Jordanian forces under Egyptian command; shortly thereafter, Iraq too joined the alliance.

The UN Security Council called for a cease-fire on June 7 that was immediately accepted by Israel and Jordan. Egypt accepted the following day. Syria held out, however, and continued to shell villages in northern Israel. On June 9 Israel launched an assault on the fortified Golan Heights, capturing it from Syrian forces after a day of heavy fighting. Syria accepted the cease-fire on June 10.

“The Six-Day War broke out as a result of Israel's preemptive strike against Egypt, Jordan, and Syria in 1967. Israel annexed the Golan Heights, East Jerusalem, the West

Bank, and the Gaza Strip as a result of the conflict. With Gaza emerging as a center of resistance to Israeli rule, the occupation signaled the start of a new phase in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict.”

Oslo Accords and Establishment of Palestinian Authority (1990s):

On September 13, 1993, Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) Negotiator Mahmoud Abbas signed a Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements, commonly referred to as the “Oslo Accord,” at the White House. Israel accepted the PLO as the representative of the Palestinians, and the PLO renounced terrorism and recognized Israel’s right to exist in peace. Both sides agreed that a Palestinian Authority (PA) would be established and assume governing responsibilities in the West Bank and Gaza Strip over a five-year period. Then, permanent status talks on the issues of borders, refugees, and Jerusalem would be held.

While President Bill Clinton’s administration played a limited role in bringing the Oslo Accord into being, it would invest vast amounts of time and resources in order to help Israel and the Palestinians implement the agreement. By the time Clinton left office, however, the peace process had run aground, and a new round of Israeli-Palestinian violence had begun.



In November 1995, Rabin was assassinated by Yigal Amir, an Israeli who opposed the Oslo Accords on religious grounds. Rabin's murder was followed by a string of terrorist attacks by Hamas, which undermined support for the Labor Party in Israel's May 1996 elections. New Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu hailed from the Likud Party, which had historically opposed Palestinian statehood and withdrawal from the occupied territories.

Worried that the peace process might collapse, the Clinton administration involved itself more actively in Israeli-Palestinian negotiations. In January 1997, following intensive U.S. mediation, Israel and the PA signed the Hebron Protocol, which provided for the transfer of most of Hebron to Palestinian control. In October 1998, Clinton hosted Netanyahu and Arafat at the Wye River Plantation, where they negotiated an agreement calling for further Israeli withdrawals from the West Bank. Infighting over the implementation of the Wye Memorandum, however, brought down Netanyahu's government in January 1999.

In Israel's May 1999 elections, the Labor Party's Ehud Barak decisively defeated Netanyahu. Barak predicted that he could reach agreements with both Syria and the Palestinians in 12 to 15 months, and pledged to withdraw Israeli troops from southern Lebanon. In September, Barak signed the Sharm al-Shaykh Memorandum with Arafat, which committed both sides to begin permanent status negotiations. An initial round of meetings, however, achieved nothing, and by December the Palestinians suspended talks over settlement-building in the occupied territories.

Barak then focused on Syria. In January 2000, Israeli, Syrian, and U.S. delegations convened in West Virginia for peace talks. These negotiations foundered when Barak refused to reaffirm Rabin's pledge to withdraw to the June 4, 1967 line, arguing that none of the concessions offered by the Syrian delegation in return could be considered final, since Syrian

President Hafiz al-Asad was not present. A subsequent meeting between Clinton and Asad in Geneva failed to produce an Israeli-Syrian accord.

Blockade and Hamas Rule in Gaza (2007-Present):

- In June 2007, following the military takeover of Gaza by Hamas, the Israeli authorities significantly intensified existing movement restrictions, virtually isolating the Gaza Strip from the rest of the occupied Palestinian territory (oPt), and the world. This land, sea and air blockade has significantly exacerbated previous restrictions, limiting the number and specified categories of people and goods allowed in and out through the Israeli-controlled crossings.
- Prior to the Second Intifada in 2000, up to half a million exits of people from Gaza into Israel, primarily workers, were recorded in a single month. For the first seven years of the blockade, this number declined to just over 4,000 on average, rising to 10,400 monthly over the next eight years.
- So far in 2022, the Israeli authorities have approved only 64% of patients' requests to exit Gaza mainly for specialized treatment in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, by the time of the scheduled medical appointment. In previous years, patients have died while awaiting a response to their application.
- The Egyptian authorities closed the Rafah border crossing with Gaza for long periods after 2014 following political unrest in Egypt. Rafah has been mostly operational since mid-2018, and was open for 95 days out of 151 in the first five months of 2022.
- After the blockade, the number of truckloads of commercial goods exiting Gaza dropped significantly to only two truckloads on average per month in 2009. Following the 2014 escalation of hostilities, commercial transfers from Gaza to the West Bank resumed, and from March 2015 exports to Israel also resumed. In August 2021, exports to Egypt started for the first time, boosting the monthly average of exports to 787 in the first five months of 2022. Pre-blockade, the average monthly high was 961.

- The volume of truckloads entering Gaza in the first five months of 2022, around 8,000 per month, was about 30% below the monthly average for the first half of 2007, before the blockade. Since then, the population has grown by more than 50%.
- Israeli forces have largely restricted access to areas within 300 metres of the Gaza side of the perimeter fence with Israel; areas several hundred metres beyond are deemed not safe, preventing, or discouraging, agricultural activities.
- Israeli forces restrict access off the Gaza coast, currently only allowing fishermen to access 50% of the fishing waters allocated for this purpose under the Oslo Accords.
- Unemployment levels in Gaza are amongst the highest in the world: the Q1 jobless rate in 2022 was 46.6%, compared with an average of 34.8% in 2006. Youth unemployment for the same period (age 15-29) stands at 62.5%. (PCBS)
- 31% of households in Gaza have difficulties meeting essential education needs such as tuition fees and books, due to lack of financial resources.

“After a brief but bloody struggle with competing Palestinian factions, including Fatah, Islamist militant group Hamas took control of Gaza in 2007. Israel put a blockade on the region in reaction to Hamas's control and rocket strikes from Gaza, severely restricting the flow of people and products in and out of the area and escalating the socioeconomic hardships and humanitarian problems faced by its citizens.”

Forced Displacement Issue:

Every year, millions of people are forced to leave their homes due to conflict, violence, human rights violations, persecution, disasters, and the impacts of climate change. The number of forcibly displaced persons reached unprecedented heights in 2023, calling for increased humanitarian assistance.

By the end of June 2023, 110 million people were displaced worldwide, while UNHCR projects that there will be more than 130 million forcibly displaced persons in 2024.

Around 52% of all these refugees originated from only 3 countries: Syria, Ukraine, and Afghanistan.

The EU is the leading international donor in situations of forced displacement,

The battle between Israel and Hamas has resulted in airstrikes and shelling that have severely damaged civilian populations in the Gaza Strip, worsening the situation of forced displacement. These military operations have caused extensive damage, casualties, and civilian displacement. They are frequently conducted in heavily populated metropolitan areas where Hamas militants operate.

Civilian Casualties and Loss of Life; Many civilians, including men, women, and children, have been killed as a result of airstrikes and artillery that targets insurgent positions. The likelihood of civilian deaths and injuries is increased by the indiscriminate character of these attacks, which frequently take place in residential zones with high densities of people. Communities get traumatised when neighbours, family members, and friends are lost as a result of bombings and shelling, which makes citizens feel afraid, sad, and insecure.

Destruction of Residential Buildings and Infrastructure: Airstrikes and shelling have destroyed or seriously damaged residential buildings, schools, hospitals, mosques, and other essential infrastructure, leaving many areas unusable and forcing residents to evacuate for their safety.

The devastation of houses and infrastructure not only forces families to relocate, but also interferes with basic utilities like electricity, water, and sanitary facilities, exacerbating the humanitarian situation in Gaza. **Fear and Trauma Among Civilians,** The prevailing anxiety and uncertainty among Gaza's civilian population stems from the ongoing threat of bombings and shelling. They constantly worry about becoming the target of the fight or getting caught in the crossfire.

The sound of explosions, the sight of devastation, and the loss of loved ones can cause trauma and psychological anguish in children in particular, which has a profoundly negative effect on their mental and emotional health.



Humanitarian Crisis:

“International calls for a cease-fire are mounting as the humanitarian situation in Gaza deteriorates rapidly amid the ongoing war between Israel and Hamas.”

In October 2023, the Palestinian militant group Hamas launched a massive surprise assault on southern Israel, the deadliest single attack on Israelis in history. Israel’s subsequent declaration of war with the intent to destroy Hamas has further worsened an already dire situation in the Gaza Strip, where more than two million Palestinians

lived prior to the conflict. International efforts to negotiate a full humanitarian cease-fire have failed as the war's death toll has climbed.

The Gaza Strip, a small territory of about 139 square miles (360 square kilometres), or roughly the size of the city of Detroit, was already experiencing a severe humanitarian crisis before the current hostilities broke out. As a result of a sixteen-year blockade by Israel, more than half of all Gazans depend on international assistance for basic services. Additionally, some 80 percent of Gaza's residents are considered refugees under international law, and Palestinians overall compose the largest stateless community in the world.

Where Are Palestinian Refugees?

Number of refugees as of 2023 or most recent available



Source: UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).

COUNCIL ON
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Israel's military operations in response to Hamas's attack have resulted in "colossal human suffering," UN Secretary-General António Guterres said in January. As of February, Israel's retaliation has killed 27,748 people [PDF] and injured more than

66,800 others, according to the Hamas-run Gaza Ministry of Health. (These figures could not be independently verified, but outside sources have also reported similar numbers.) More than 120 journalists and media workers have also been killed, as well as over 150 UN employees, the highest number of aid workers killed in any conflict in UN history.

Israel maintains a complete siege of Gaza, cutting off electricity and water, and supplies of food and medicine remain scarce. A December report [PDF] by the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification, an initiative composed of independent international food security and nutrition experts, warned that an estimated more than 90 percent of Gaza's population is facing crisis levels of food insecurity. Without fuel, meanwhile, Gaza's only power station has gone dark. The lack of electricity has shut down desalination and waste-water treatment plants, further compromising access to safe drinking water.

Access to Essential Services: The fighting has had a serious negative influence on Gaza's infrastructure, which includes electrical networks, healthcare facilities, and water and sanitation systems. Many people lack access to critical services like electricity, clean water, and quality medical treatment as a result of infrastructure destruction. In addition to dealing with a dearth of qualified staff and medical supplies, hospitals and clinics are overrun with casualties.

Furthermore, Israel and Egypt's limitations on the flow of people and products have made it more difficult to import needs like food and gasoline, making the shortages of these items worse. **Food Insecurity and Malnutrition,** The conflict exacerbates food insecurity and malnutrition among Gaza's population by interfering with agricultural practices, commerce routes, and food distribution networks.

Malnutrition rates have increased as a result of many families' inability to get or afford wholesome food, especially for youngsters and expectant mothers. Due to access restrictions, logistical problems, and security threats created by the fighting, humanitarian agencies encounter difficulties in providing food relief and nutritional support.

Shelter and Protection Needs, Residential structures are destroyed during the fighting, uprooting families and leaving a large number of civilians without a place to live and vulnerable to the weather. Makeshift camps and overcrowded shelters are unsafe places for displaced people to live, leaving them more vulnerable to violence, abuse, and exploitation. In the context of forced relocation and humanitarian situations, vulnerable populations like women, children, the elderly, and people with disabilities are especially vulnerable to gender-based violence, trafficking, and other protection concerns.

Psychosocial and Mental Health Impacts:

The psychological and emotional health of Gaza's civilian population suffers greatly from the trauma, anxiety, and uncertainty brought on by the fighting. A lot of people struggle with the symptoms of anxiety, depression, and posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which can negatively impact their relationships, growth, and general quality of life in the long run. The lack of access to psychosocial assistance and mental health services exacerbates the mental health crisis and leaves many people and families ill equipped to deal with the psychological effects of the conflict. Humanitarian Access and Response: Due to access restrictions, security threats, and logistical problems, humanitarian organisations in Gaza confront enormous challenges in providing aid and assistance to affected individuals. To meet a variety of needs, prioritise the most vulnerable populations, and guarantee the effective distribution of aid, coordination between humanitarian actors, local authorities, and international stakeholders is crucial. In order to maintain humanitarian operations and lessen the suffering of conflict-affected individuals, international financing and support are essential. In order to address the underlying causes of the conflict and alleviate the humanitarian catastrophe, more diplomatic efforts are required in order to support a fair and long-lasting settlement for all sides.

International Support

Financial Aid and Humanitarian Assistance: Financial support for humanitarian activities in Gaza is largely provided by international donors, including as states, multilateral organizations, and humanitarian NGOs. Financial aid contributes to the funding of necessary services for impacted populations, including food distribution, healthcare, shelter, water, and sanitation. Humanitarian organizations work in Gaza to provide aid and assistance to vulnerable populations, giving priority to the most urgent needs and guaranteeing that those impacted by the conflict have access to basic services. Examples of these organizations include the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and numerous international NGOs.

Diplomatic Engagement and Conflict Mediation: International players in the Hamas-Israeli conflict participate in diplomatic attempts to encourage communication, assist negotiations, and settle disputes between sides. These actors include the United Nations, regional organizations, and individual nations. De-escalating tensions, advancing ceasefire agreements, and advancing efforts toward a long-term settlement to the conflict are the goals of diplomatic engagement.

In an effort to promote a fair and comprehensive settlement that takes into account the legitimate aspirations of both parties and addresses the underlying causes of the conflict, international mediators and envoys put forth great effort to heal divisions, foster trust, and facilitate peace negotiations between Israeli and Palestinian leaders. Advocacy and Awareness Campaigns, Human rights organizations, advocacy networks, and civil society organizations all over the world struggle to mobilize public support and increase public knowledge of the humanitarian crisis in Gaza by drawing attention to the precarious situation of civilians impacted by the conflict and advocating for swift action to meet their needs. In order to resolve the Hamas-Israeli conflict and advance peace and justice in the region, advocacy efforts concentrate on exerting pressure on governments, international organisations, and other stakeholders

to prioritise humanitarian assistance, respect human rights values, and support diplomatic attempts.

Capacity Building and Development Initiatives: International development organisations and donor nations fund capacity building and development programs to increase Gaza's ability to withstand long-term hardships, encourage sustainable livelihoods, and establish local institutions that can handle these issues. Rebuilding infrastructure, boosting the economy, expanding access to healthcare and education, and enabling marginalised people to surmount poverty, inequality, and social isolation aggravated by the conflict are the main goals of development initiatives.

5. Historical Background

During the cold war disagreement between the United States and the Soviet Union made the Security Council an ineffective institution. Perhaps the most notable exception to that occurred in June 1950, when the Soviets were boycotting the Security Council over the issue of China's UN membership. The absence of a Soviet veto allowed the U.S. to steer through a series of resolutions that authorised the use of military force to support South Korea in the Korean War. Troops from South Korea, the United States, and 15 other countries would swell the ranks of United Nations Command to nearly 1 million by the war's end. When an armistice was signed at P'anmunjŏm in July 1953, more than 250,000 troops—the overwhelming majority of whom were Korean—had died while fighting under the banner of United Nations Command in Korea. Between the late 1980s and the early 21st century, the council's power and prestige grew. Beginning in the late 1980s, there was a surge in the number of peacekeeping operations (including observer missions) authorized by the Security Council: between 1948 and 1978 only 13 missions had been authorized, but between 1987 and 2000 some three dozen operations were approved, including those in the Balkans, Angola, Haiti, Liberia, Sierra Leone, and Somalia.

While these operations experienced a measure of success—as evidenced by the awarding of the 1988 Nobel Prize for Peace to UN Peacekeeping Forces—failures in Rwanda and Bosnia led many to question the effectiveness of the UN as a keeper of peace and of the Security Council as a deliberative body. In April 1994, 10 Belgian troops guarding Rwandan Prime

Minister Agathe Uwilingiyimana were killed by Hutu extremists, and the Security Council responded by voting to reduce the size of the UN Assistance Mission for Rwanda (UNAMIR), an already understrength force of some 2,500 lightly armed troops, by 90 percent. By the time the UN voted to bolster its peacekeeping mission the following month, the Rwandan genocide was well under way, and UNAMIR commander Roméo Dallaire was struggling to save what civilians he could with the meager force that he had. In July 1995 Dutch peacekeepers tasked with securing the “safe area” of Srebrenica, Bosnia and Herzegovina, failed to protect hundreds of Bosniak (Bosnian Muslim) men and boys in the face of advancing Bosnian Serb paramilitary troops. More than 8,000 Bosniak men and boys were killed in the subsequent Srebrenica massacre, and in 2014 a Dutch court ruled that the government of the Netherlands was partially liable for the deaths of 300 of the victims. In the conflicts of the 21st century, the Security Council was a much less effective body. Beginning in 2003, Arab militias backed by the Sudanese government carried out a terror campaign in the region of Darfur. In spite of the presence of an African Union peacekeeping force, hundreds of thousands were killed and millions were displaced in what was called the first genocide of the 21st century. In August 2006 the Security Council authorized the creation and deployment of a peacekeeping force to Darfur, but the Sudanese government rejected the measure. In the entire history of the UN, no peacekeeping mission had ever failed to deploy once authorized by the Security Council.

A compromise was found in a joint peacekeeping force known as the hybrid United Nations/African Union Mission in Darfur (UNAMID), authorized by the Security Council in July 2007. Large-scale UNAMID troop deployment did not begin until 2008, some five years after the violence began, and obstruction by the government of Sudanese Pres. Omar al-Bashir limited the mission’s effectiveness. The United States traditionally vetoed measures that were seen as critical of Israel, and it did so more than three dozen times in the decades following the Six-Day War. Russia used its veto to protect its interests in what it termed “the near abroad”—the territories of the former Soviet Union—and to support the regime of Syrian Pres. Bashar al-Assad. In 2008 Russia vetoed a measure condemning its occupation of the Georgian republics of South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

After the outbreak of the Syrian Civil War in 2011, Russia and China vetoed numerous attempts to stem the bloodshed in that conflict. Some half a million people were killed in the fighting in Syria, and millions more were displaced. The only significant action taken by the

Security Council—the creation of the Joint Investigative Mechanism (JIM), a body to investigate the use of chemical weapons by the Assad government and other combatants—was ultimately halted by Russia when it vetoed the extension of the JIM’s mandate. After Russia illegally annexed the Ukrainian republic of Crimea in March 2014, it vetoed a Security Council resolution condemning the act, and, when Russian-backed militants shot down Malaysia Airlines flight MH17 over eastern Ukraine, Russia vetoed a resolution that would have created an international tribunal to investigate and prosecute those responsible for the loss of 298 lives.



United Nations Resolution 242,

resolution of the United Nations (UN) Security Council adopted on November 22, 1967, in an effort to secure a just and lasting peace in the wake of the Six-Day (June) War, fought primarily between Israel and Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. The Israelis supported the resolution because it called on the Arab states to accept Israel’s right “to live in peace within secure and recognized boundaries free from threats or acts of force.” Each of the Arab states eventually

accepted it (Egypt and Jordan accepted the resolution from the outset) because of its clause calling for Israel to withdraw from “territories occupied in the recent conflict.”

The Palestine Liberation Organization rejected it until 1988 because it lacked explicit references to Palestinians. Though never fully implemented, it was the basis of diplomatic efforts to end Arab-Israeli conflicts until the Camp David Accords and remains an important touchstone in any negotiated resolution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

Nations Resolution 181, resolution passed by the United Nations (UN) General Assembly in 1947 that called for the partition of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states, with the city of Jerusalem as a *corpus separatum* (“separate entity”) to be governed by a special international regime. The resolution—which was considered by the Jewish community in Palestine to be a legal basis for the establishment of Israel, and which was rejected by the Arab community—was succeeded almost immediately by violence. Palestine had been governed by Great Britain since 1922. Since that time, Jewish immigration to the region had increased, and tensions between Arabs and Jews had grown. In April 1947, exhausted by World War II and increasingly intent upon withdrawing from the Middle East region, Britain referred the issue of Palestine to the UN.

To investigate a suitable course of action, the UN formed the UN Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP), an inquiry committee made up of members from 11 countries. Ultimately, UNSCOP delivered two proposals: that of the majority, which recommended two separate states joined economically, and that of the minority, which supported the formation of a single binational state made up of autonomous Jewish and Palestinian areas. The Jewish community approved of the first of these proposals, while the Arabs opposed them both. A counterproposal—including a provision that only those Jews who had arrived before the Balfour Declaration (and their descendents) would be citizens of the state—did not win Jewish favor.

The proposal to partition Palestine, based on a modified version of the UNSCOP majority report, was put to a General Assembly vote on November 29, 1947. The fate of the proposal was initially uncertain, but, after a period of intense lobbying by pro-Jewish groups and individuals, the resolution was passed with 33 votes in favor, 13 against, and 10 abstentions.

6. QTBA(Questions To Be Answered)

- 1. What are the historical and territorial factors contributing to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, particularly in the Gaza Strip?*
- 2. What are some examples of human rights breaches documented during military confrontations in Gaza, and how do they violate international humanitarian law?*
- 3. How have civilian casualties been affected by the conflict, and what measures have been taken to protect civilians?*
- 4. What role do international actors, such as the United Nations and human rights organizations, play in addressing human rights breaches in the Gaza conflict?*
- 5. What are the challenges in achieving accountability for human rights violations and war crimes committed during the Gaza conflict?*
- 6. How do restrictions on freedom of movement in Gaza affect the daily lives of its residents and their access to essential services?*
- 7. What diplomatic efforts have been made to resolve the Gaza conflict, and what obstacles have hindered progress toward a peaceful resolution?*
- 8. How can the international community support efforts to address human rights breaches in the Gaza conflict and promote a just and sustainable resolution?*
- 9. What are the long-term implications of the Gaza conflict on the human rights, security, and stability of the region, and how can they be addressed?*

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