

STUDY GUIDE



HFS 2024 MUN

THE XIII SESSION



DISEC

Disarmament and International
Security Committee

#hfsmun2024



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Letter from the Executive Board

The Executive Board of The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC), welcomes each and every one of you to HFS MUN 2024.

For many, it may be the first-ever MUN conference in your educational experience, and we strongly encourage you to go through the study guide that has been prepared for you as a part of the conference to get an in-depth understanding of the issues that will be discussed in committee. However, there is a lot of content available beyond the study guides. You are expected to research, collate, list down possible points of discussion, questions, and plausible responses and be prepared to enjoy the intellectual energy in the room. At the same time it is not only about speaking and presenting but also the ability to listen, understand viewpoints and learn from each one's perspective.

DISEC is a technical committee that requires resilience accompanied by a fierce mind-set and the ability to address aspects of a larger situation with utmost empathy. The issue being discussed in the committee requires a balance of all traits to ensure the best results. Remember that you can be a powerful delegate and still be diplomatic and respectful of member nations. The executive board strongly encourages all delegates to actively participate in the committee regardless of their experience, and engage in debate.

The agenda at hand is an ongoing global conflict that places importance on historic claims and relations between the involved countries. Research and awareness of foreign policy plays a pivotal role in discussion surrounding the agenda.

We, the Executive Board, ensure a thrilling experience and wish all our enthusiastic delegates the very best!

Regards,
The Executive Board,
Disarmament & International Security Committee.

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Agenda

Deliberating upon
Israeli Actions in
Occupied Palestinian
Territories with
Respect to Violent
Non-State Actors in
the region



Introduction to the Committee

The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) is the First Committee of the United Nations General Assembly. It deals with disarmament, global challenges, and peace threats that impact the international community, while also attempting to find solutions to the challenges that the international security regime faces. The mandate of DISEC is highlighted as, "to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources". The First 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. It takes into account the general principles of cooperation in maintaining international peace and security as well as principles governing disarmament and the regulation of armaments; promotion of cooperation with agreements and action for cooperation, including international security, under the Charter, or in relation to the powers and functions of any other UN organ.

Keep in mind that all resolutions passed by this committee are non-binding resolutions and must be formatted as recommendations to the 193 nations in the committee.

Furthermore, given its direct association with the United Nations General Assembly (being a subsidiary organ as authorised under Article 22), it retains the powers and responsibilities of the General Assembly as outlined in Chapter IV of the Charter of the United Nations, including:



Introduction to the Committee

Article 10

"The General Assembly may discuss any questions or any matters within the scope of the present Charter or relating to the powers and functions of any organs provided for in the present Charter, and, except as provided in Article 12, may make recommendations to the Members of the United Nations or to the Security Council or to both on any such questions or matters."

Article 11 [2]

"The General Assembly may discuss any questions relating to the maintenance of international peace and security brought before it by any Member of the United Nations, or by the Security Council, or by a state which is not a Member of the United Nations in accordance with Article 35, paragraph 2, and, except as provided in Article 12, may make recommendations with regard to any such questions to the state or states concerned or to the Security Council or to both. Any such question on which action is necessary shall be referred to the Security Council by the General Assembly either before or after discussion."

Article 11 [3]

"The General Assembly may call the attention of the Security Council to situations which are likely to endanger international peace and security."



Key Terms

Gaza Strip: A coastal region at the southeastern corner of the Mediterranean Sea, bordered by Egypt and Israel, and governed by the Palestinian organisation Hamas since 2007.

Rafah: A city in the southern Gaza Strip, near the border with Egypt, known for its border crossing and tunnels used for smuggling.

Operation Protective Edge: A military operation launched by Israel in July 2014 with the stated aim of stopping rocket attacks from Gaza and destroying tunnels used by militants.

Operation Cast Lead : A three-week armed conflict that took place in the Gaza Strip during the winter of 2008–2009, initiated by Israel to stop rocket fire from Gaza.

Hamas: A Palestinian Sunni-Islamic fundamentalist militant organisation and political entity governing the Gaza Strip.

Fatah: A major Palestinian political party and the leading faction within the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), primarily based in the West Bank.

Israel Defense Forces (IDF): The military forces of the State of Israel, responsible for defending the country and conducting military operations.

Blockade: Restrictions imposed by Israel on the movement of goods and people into and out of the Gaza Strip, ostensibly for security reasons.

Humanitarian Corridor: Routes or areas established to allow the safe passage of humanitarian aid and civilians during conflicts.

Ceasefire: A temporary suspension of fighting, typically agreed upon by all parties involved in a conflict.



Settlement Expansion: The process of Israeli communities being built on lands occupied by Israel since the 1967 Six-Day War, considered illegal under international law by many countries.

Rocket Fire: The launching of rockets from the Gaza Strip into Israeli territory, often resulting in civilian casualties and damage.

Iron Dome: A mobile all-weather air defence system developed by Israel to intercept and destroy short-range rockets and artillery shells.

Tunnel Warfare: The use of tunnels by militant groups in Gaza for smuggling, movement of fighters, and launching attacks.

Civilian Casualties: Non-combatant persons who are injured or killed during military operations or conflicts.

War Crimes: Serious violations of the laws of war that give rise to individual criminal responsibility, including targeting civilians and using disproportionate force.

Displacement: The forced movement of people from their homes, often as a result of conflict or violence.

Refugee Camps: Temporary settlements established to accommodate people who have been displaced from their homes.

United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA): A UN agency providing support and assistance to Palestinian refugees.

Two-State Solution: A proposed solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict envisioning two states, Israel and Palestine, existing side by side in peace.

Occupation: The control and governance of a territory and its population by a foreign military power.



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Intifada: Palestinian uprisings against Israeli occupation, notably the First Intifada (1987-1993) and the Second Intifada (2000-2005).

Peace Process: Diplomatic efforts to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and achieve a lasting peace.

West Bank: A territory landlocked between Israel and Jordan, partially controlled by the Palestinian Authority but with significant Israeli settlements.

East Jerusalem: Part of Jerusalem captured by Israel in 1967, considered occupied territory by most of the international community but claimed by Israel as its capital.

Palestinian Authority: The interim self-government body established to govern parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Security Council Resolutions: Decisions made by the UN Security Council, often addressing international peace and security, including the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Border Crossings: Points of entry and exit along the borders of Gaza, primarily controlled by Israel and Egypt, critical for the movement of people and goods.

Human Shields: The practice of using civilians to protect combatants or military objectives from attack, considered a violation of international humanitarian law.

Truce Negotiations: Discussions aimed at establishing a temporary cessation of hostilities in a conflict.



Introduction to the Agenda

The Israel v Palestine conflict, appears to be a never-ending saga, tracing its origin to the British Colonial era of The First World War. In the modern context the conflict has escalated from acts of aggression surrounding religious and communal disharmony to a full fledged war, which threatens not only to destabilise the demographic of the Middle East, but also threatens an impending war with global consequences.

The root of the conflict can be traced back to the United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine, in 1947, which proposed the creation of two nations, from occupied British colonies. The war we witness in the present, was a result of a Palestinian movement known as the "Intifada". The term in Palestinian context translates to a civil uprising. This so-called "civil-uprising" was a response by the Palestinian general populace, against the endless oppression, occupation, and escalating attacks by the Israeli Government. The first Intifada extended from 1987-1993, ending once the Oslo Accords had been signed.

The Oslo accords were seen as the first step in the peace process between the PLO and the Israeli government. The Second Intifada spanned from the year 2000 until 2005 where in the later stated year, Israeli Prime Minister Sharon ordered the removal of Israeli settlers and soldiers from Gaza. Israel and its Supreme Court formally declared an end to occupation, saying it "had no effective control over what occurred" in Gaza. However, the United Nations, Human Rights Watch and many other international bodies and NGOs continue to consider Israel to be the occupying power of the Gaza Strip as Israel controls Gaza Strip's airspace, territorial waters and controls the movement of people or goods in or out of Gaza by air or sea.



In 2006, an extremist branch of the government split, creating its own radical new government, which won a 44% majority in the Palestinian Parliament. Fatah and Hamas underwent a brief civil war, in which Hamas emerged victorious claiming power in Palestine. From the period of 2011-2014, Hamas carried out rocket attacks and raids over Israeli territory.

Benjamin Netanyahu, who is currently regarded as the fresh faced antagonist of the Israel-Hamas conflict, and is the longest serving Israeli Prime Minister, did not let the Hamas backed attacks of October 7th go unanswered, starting an aggressive retaliatory movement against Hamas, ensuring that all Hamas operations within the Gaza Strip would cease. However, the situation has turned out of hand with Netanyahu and the Israeli military having little to no regard for "human rights" and violating the fundamental rights of civilians and the wounded in the Gaza strip, With the most recent attack on the Palestinian general populous coming in the form of an air raid and missile strike on a children's refugee camp in Rafah. Many critics deem Netanyahu to be a war-criminal while countries like South Africa have accused Israel of Genocide in the International Court of Justice (ICJ) .

Although the charge of Genocide was accepted, no cease fire was ratified by the court. These occurrences have culminated into a breeding ground for a potential war and a new Arab Winter, with extremist organisations like Hezbollah, Hamas and the Houthis gaining traction, with nations like Iran funding them. On the other hand nations like the USA and UK continue to back and support Israel's war on Palestine, while vetoing all resolutions on a ceasefire.



History of the Agenda

The Israel-Palestine conflict is a multifaceted struggle, deeply rooted in historical, political, and social dimensions. Its origins can be traced to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when nationalist movements among Jews and Arabs began to emerge. The Zionist movement, advocating for the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine, gained momentum in response to widespread anti-Semitism in Europe. Simultaneously, Arab nationalism was rapidly growing, seeking independence from Ottoman rule and later opposing colonial domination.

Following World War I and the disintegration of the Ottoman Empire, the League of Nations granted Britain the mandate to administer Palestine. The Balfour Declaration of 1917, in which Britain expressed support for a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine, exacerbated tensions between Jewish and Arab communities. Jewish immigration to Palestine increased significantly during the interwar period, further straining relations.

The post-World War II era marked a critical juncture in the conflict. The Holocaust intensified global support for the establishment of a Jewish state. In 1947, the United Nations proposed a partition plan to create separate Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem under international administration. The Jewish community accepted the plan, but the Arab community rejected it, leading to a civil war. On May 14th, 1948, the State of Israel declared independence. The following day, neighbouring Arab states launched an invasion, initiating the first Arab-Israeli war. Israel emerged victorious, but the conflict resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, an event referred to by Palestinians as the *Nakba*, or "catastrophe".



Subsequent decades saw continued hostilities, including the Suez Crisis of 1956, the six-day war of 1967, and the Yom Kippur War of 1973. The six day war was particularly significant, as Israel captured the West Bank, Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, the Golan Heights, and the Sinai Peninsula. These territories became central points of contention, with Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza leading to prolonged and violent confrontations

The late 20th and early 21st centuries saw efforts to negotiate peace, notably the Oslo Accords of 1993 and 1995, which established the Palestinian authority and outlined a framework for a two-state solution. However, the assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in 1995, ongoing settlement expansion, and persistent violence impeded progress. The Second Intifada (2000-2005) marked a period of intensified conflict, with significant casualties on both sides

In recent years the conflict has continued to evolve, with intermittent violence and diplomatic initiatives. Issues such as the state of Jerusalem, security concerns, the rights of Palestinian refugees, and Israeli settlement activities remain deeply divisive. Despite numerous international efforts to broker peace, a comprehensive resolution has yet to be achieved, leaving the Israel-Palestine conflict as one of the most enduring and complex disputes in modern history.



Timeline of Key Events

Pre - 20th Century

1517-1917 : Palestine is part of the Ottoman Empire

Early 20th Century

1897: The First Zionist Congress is held in Basel, Switzerland, advocating for a Jewish homeland in Palestine

1917: The Balfour Declaration is issued by Britain, supporting the establishment of a Jewish national home in Palestine.

British Mandate Period

1920: The San Remo Conference grants Britain the mandate over Palestine
1929: Hebron Massacre; Arab riots lead to the deaths of Jewish residents in Hebron and Safed.
1936-1939: Arab revolt against Britain rule and Jewish immigration

Post World War II

1947: The United Nations proposes a partition plan to create separate Jewish and Arab states. The plan is accepted by the Jews but rejected by the Arabs.

1948:

- May 14: Israel declares independence
- May 15: Arab-Israeli War begins as neighbouring Arab states invade

1949: Armistice agreements are signed. Israel controls more territory than allocated by the UN plan; hundreds of thousands of Palestinians are displaced (Nabka)

Mid-20th Century Conflicts

1956: Suez Crisis; Israel invades Sinai Peninsula in coordination with Britain and France against Egypt

1964: The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) was founded

1967: Six day war; Israel captures the West Bank, Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, Golan Heights, and Sinai Peninsula. Simultaneously UN resolution 242 called for withdrawal from occupied territory and recognition of all states in the area

1970s- 1980s

1973: Yom Kippur War; Egypt and Syria launch surprise attack on Israel. **1978:** Camp David Accords; Egypt and Israel sign a peace treaty, Israel withdraws from Sinai **1982:** Israel invades Lebanon to expel the PLO; results in the Sabra and Shatila massacre

1987-1993: First Intifada; Palestinian uprising against Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza.

Peace Efforts and Continuing Violence

1993-1995: Oslo Accords; agreements between Israel and the PLO establish the Palestinian Authority and outline a framework for peace

1995: Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is assassinated by a Jewish Extremist

2000-2005: Second Intifada; renewed Palestinian uprising, marked by significant violence on both sides.

Peace Efforts and Continuing Violence

2005: Israel unilaterally withdraws from the Gaza Strip.

2006: Hamas wins Palestinian legislative elections; subsequent conflict between Hamas and Fatah leads to Hamas taking control of Gaza.

2008-2009: Gaza War (Operation Cast Lead); Israel launches a military campaign against Hamas in Gaza.



2012: Operation Pillar of Defense; an eight-day conflict between Israel and Gaza militants. **2014:** Operation Protective Edge; a 50-day conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza. **2018:** Protests at the Gaza-Israel border; numerous Palestinians killed by Israeli forces.

2021: Escalation in violence; clashes in Jerusalem and a subsequent 11-day conflict between Israel and Hamas in Gaza.



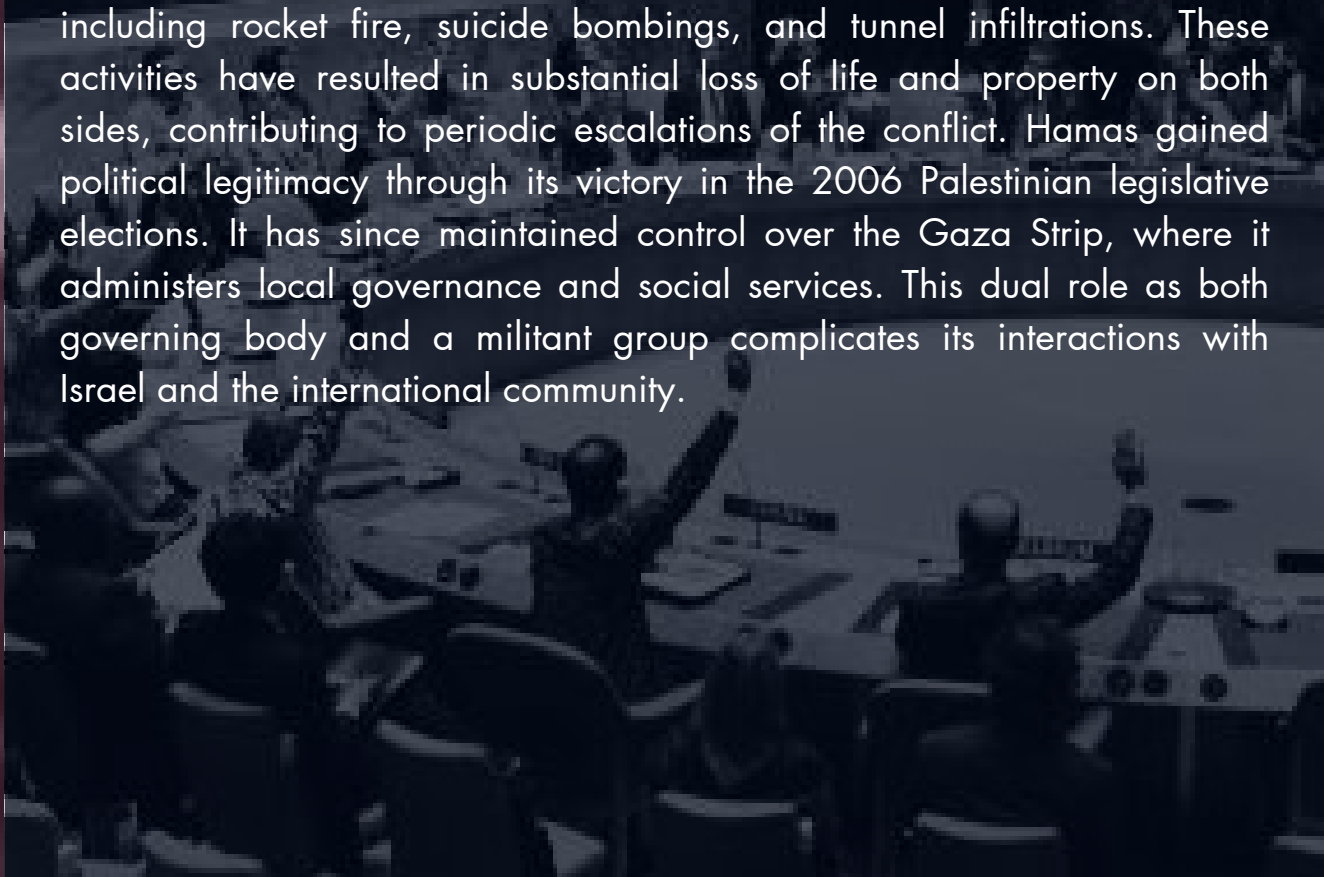


Non-State Actors (NSAs) in the Region

The Israel Palestine conflict has been significantly shaped by various militant groups whose activities and ideologies have influenced the dynamics of the conflict. These groups, primarily Palestinian in origin, engage in a range of activities including armed resistance, political manoeuvring, and social services. The most prominent militant groups include Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), and Hezbollah.

Hamas

Hamas, an acronym for Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamia, is the most prominent militant group operating within the Israel-Palestine conflict. Founded in 1987 during the first Intifada, Hamas combines political, military and social dimensions. Its charter originally called for the destruction of Israel and the establishment of an Islamic stage in historic Palestine. The Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades is the military wing of Hamas. It has been responsible for numerous attacks on Israeli targets, including rocket fire, suicide bombings, and tunnel infiltrations. These activities have resulted in substantial loss of life and property on both sides, contributing to periodic escalations of the conflict. Hamas gained political legitimacy through its victory in the 2006 Palestinian legislative elections. It has since maintained control over the Gaza Strip, where it administers local governance and social services. This dual role as both governing body and a militant group complicates its interactions with Israel and the international community.





Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ)

Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) is another significant militant organisation. Founded in the late 1970s, PIJ shares Hamas's goal of establishing an Islamic state in place of Israel but operates independently of Hamas, often coordinating its activities to maximize impact. PIJ is known for its militant operations against Israel, including rocket attacks, suicide bombings and guerilla warfare tactics. It does not engage in political processes, focusing solely on armed struggle. PIJ's military wing, the al-Quds Brigades, is highly active in launching rocket attacks from Gaza into Israel. The group is heavily influenced by the Iranian Revolution and receives substantial support from Iran, which sees the group as a proxy in its broader geopolitical struggle against Israel and western influence in the Middle East.

Hezbollah

Although primarily based in Lebanon, Hezbollah has played a significant role in the Israel-Palestine conflict, particularly in supporting Palestinian militant groups. Founded in the early 1980s with the support of Iran, Hezbollah has evolved into a powerful political and military force with Lebanon. The group has engaged in direct military confrontations with Israel, most notably during the 2006 Lebanon war. It provides training, funding and weapons to Palestinian militant groups, thereby enhancing their operational capabilities. Their involvement in the Israel-Palestine conflict is part of its broader strategy to resist Israeli and Western influence in the region. The group's ideological commitment to the Palestinian cause is intertwined with its allegiance to Iran and its goal of expanding Shiite influence in the Middle East.



Current Scenario

As of June 2024, the Israel-Palestine conflict continues to be a deep rooted and complex issue with significant geopolitical, social and humanitarian implications. The conflict, which has spanned over a century, has seen numerous escalations, ceasefires, and international interventions, yet a lasting resolution remains elusive.

In recent months, tensions have escalated once again, leading to a surge in violence. The resurgence of the conflict was triggered by a combination of factors including political instability, contentious land policies and provocative actions by both sides. Key areas of concern remain the status of Jerusalem, particularly the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound, and ongoing settlement expansions in the West Bank.

On the Israeli side, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's government has been marked by hardline policies towards the Palestinians. The coalition, dominated by right wing and nationalist factions, has continued to push for the expansion of the West Bank, a move widely condemned by the International community as a violation of International Law. These policies have exacerbated tensions with the Palestinian Authority (PA), which governs parts of the West Bank.

In Gaza, Hamas remains in control and its relationship with the PA remains fraught. The internal Palestinian divide between Hamas and Fatah, the dominant party in the PA, further complicates efforts for a unified stance in peace negotiations.



The humanitarian situation, particularly in Gaza, is dire. The enclave, home to over two million Palestinians, faces severe shortages of essential goods, medical supplies, and electricity. The Israeli blockade, in place since 2007, along with periodic military operations, has devastated Gaza's infrastructure and economy. In the West Bank, frequent clashes between Israeli settlers, the military, and Palestinian residents continue to result in casualties and arrests. Demolitions of Palestinian homes and structures deemed illegal by Israeli authorities have led to widespread displacement and suffering.

The international community remains deeply divided on the issue. The United States, historically a staunch ally of Israel, has shown a more politically balanced approach, calling for a two-state solution and urging restraint from both sides. However, concrete actions to pressure Israel to halt settlement expansions have been limited. The European Union and the United Nations have repeatedly called for an end to the violence and resumption of peace talks, but their efforts have been hampered by a lack of consensus among member states and the complex realities on the ground.

The prospects for peace appear bleak in the short term. The entrenched positions of both sides coupled with the ongoing cycle of retaliation and retribution, create significant barriers to meaningful negotiations. While there are occasional calls for dialogue and ceasefires, the deep mistrust and differing narratives of conflict pose substantial challenges.

Case Studies

October 7th Attack 2023

On October 7th, 2023, Hamas-led gunmen from the Gaza Strip launched a coordinated assault on southern Israel. This attack involved indiscriminate firing into crowds, invading homes, and taking hostages, including civilians. These actions were widely noted and condemned as war crimes. The violence from this attack set off a severe and sustained military response from Israel, including extensive air strikes and ground operations in Gaza

Israeli Airstrikes on Gaza Hospitals and Residential Areas

Since October 2023, Israeli airstrikes have extensively targeted Gaza, including hospitals, residential buildings, and critical infrastructure. The relentless bombardment has caused a massive number of casualties and widespread destruction

- **Bombing of Al-Amal Hospital (January 2024):** On January 6th, 2024, Israeli shelling was reported near the hospital. Following the incident, on January 10th an Israeli air strike near the hospital killed at least 40 people. Numerous fatalities and injuries were reported including hospital staff and civilians.
- **Attack on Al-Aqsa Hospital (January 2024):** Drones reportedly opened fire near Al-Aqsa Hospital on January 8th 2024. Videos emerged showing Israeli forces using deadly force without provocation, including shooting a 17 year old boy.
- **Residential Buildings (January 2024):** On January 6th, 2024 an airstrike on a house in Khan Yunis resulted in 22 deaths. On January 9th, at least 15 Palestinians were killed and dozens injured in an airstrike on an apartment building in Rafah.



Hamas Attacks on Civilians

Hamas has been responsible for multiple attacks on Israeli civilians, which have been interpreted as acts of hostility and aggression warranting retaliation.

- **Supernova Sukkot Gathering Attack (October 7, 2023):** Hamas-led fighters attacked an outdoor music festival, killing at least 260 people. This event marked one of the deadliest incidents and precipitated the Israeli military response.
- **Hostage Taking:** Hamas took numerous Israeli civilians hostage including children and the elderly. As of reports released in January 2024, 128 people were still being held hostage.

Recent attacks on Rafah, Gaza

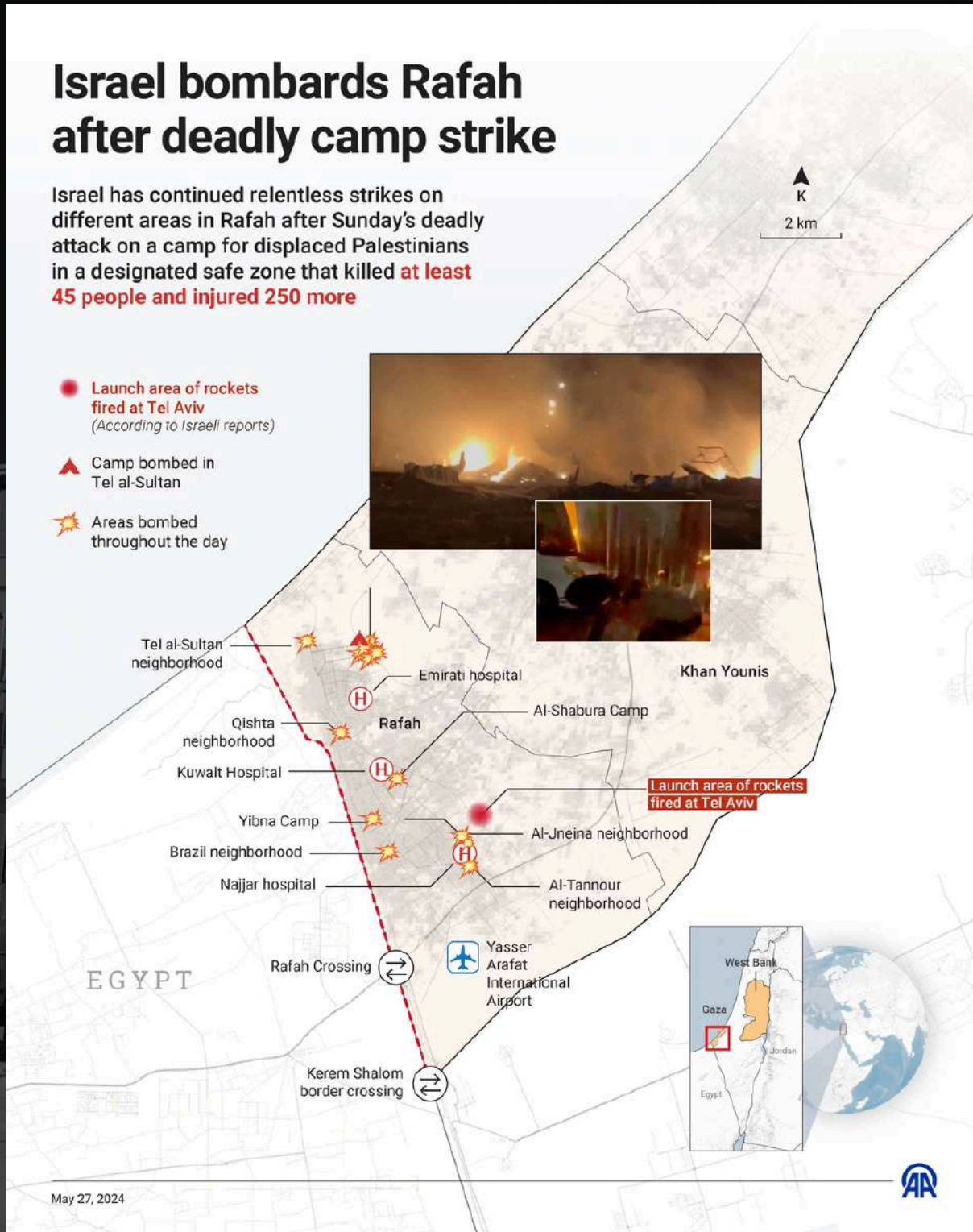
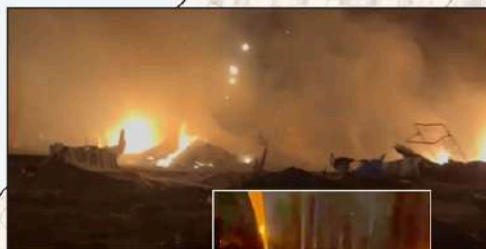
In early January 2024, Rafah, a city in the southern Gaza Strip, was subjected to multiple Israeli airstrikes. These attacks resulted in significant casualties and extensive damage to civilian infrastructure. The attacks are currently ongoing and causing mass uproar as of June 2024.

- **Airstrike on Apartment Building (January 9th 2024):** Just before midnight, an Israeli airstrike targeted an apartment building in Rafah. A casualty count of at-least 15 people was reported and dozens were injured in the attack.
- **Reports of Ongoing Attacks and Civilian Impact:** The Gaza Health Ministry has reported that Israeli drones have been shooting at "anything that moves", aiming to disable critical healthcare facilities and infrastructure. The continued airstrikes and shelling have left thousands missing, presumed buried under the rubble or destroyed buildings. In addition to the fatalities from the airstrikes there are reports of significant numbers of injuries and ongoing displacement of the population.

Israel bombards Rafah after deadly camp strike

Israel has continued relentless strikes on different areas in Rafah after Sunday's deadly attack on a camp for displaced Palestinians in a designated safe zone that killed **at least 45 people and injured 250 more**

- Launch area of rockets fired at Tel Aviv
(According to Israeli reports)
- ▲ Camp bombed in Tel al-Sultan
- ☀ Areas bombed throughout the day



May 27, 2024



Bloc Positions

United States of America

The United States has been a steadfast ally of Israel since its establishment in 1948, providing substantial military, economic, and diplomatic support. American policy traditionally underscores Israel's right to self defence against perceived threats from Palestinian groups and neighbouring states. The US also advocates for a negotiated two-state solution as the most viable path to lasting peace in the region. However, the approach and intensity of support have varied across different administrations. Under current President Biden, the US continues to support Israel but has also reinstated aid to the Palestinian Authority and UNRWA (United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East) which had been cut by the previous administration. The US however is frequently criticised by the global community for using its Veto power in the Security Council (UNSC) to block resolutions perceived as biased against Israel, maintaining its protective stance in the international arena.

State of Israel

Israel's stance in the Israel-Palestine conflict is centred on its existential concerns and the right to self defence. Israel maintains a robust security apparatus to counter what it considers terrorist threats from Palestinian groups like Hamas and Islamic Jihad. The Israeli government supports the concept of a two state solution but has stringent conditions related to security, recognition of Israel as a Jewish state, and the demilitarisation of any future Palestinian state. Israeli settlement policies in the West Bank and the status of Jerusalem remain major sticking points in the peace process. Furthermore, Israeli military operations in Gaza and other Palestinian territories are often justified as necessary measures to protect its citizens, though these actions draw significant international criticism for their humanitarian implications. As of June 2024, the new coalition government led by Prime Minister Benjamin Nethanyahu continues to prioritise security while expressing cautious openness to renewed peace talks under specific conditions.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The UK supports a two state solution and emphasises the need for direct negotiations between the two primary parties. The UK recognizes Israel as a state but does not officially recognize Palestinian statehood. It does however, support Palestine's aspirations for statehood. The UK's historical role as a former mandate power in the region adds a layer of complexity to its stance on the issue.

State of Palestine

The Palestinian stance, represented by the Palestinian Authority (PA) in the West Bank and Hamas in the Gaza Strip, seeks the establishment of an independent Palestinian state within the 1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital. Palestinians demand the end of Israeli occupation, the dismantling of settlements, and the right of return for Palestinian refugees displaced since 1948. The PA engages in diplomatic efforts to achieve statehood and international recognition, while Hamas, which is considered a terrorist organisation by Israel and several Western countries, maintains a more militant approach, often leading to violent confrontations. Internal divisions between the PA and Hamas complicate the Palestinian position and their ability to negotiate a unified front. As of 2024, Palestinian leaders are calling for renewed international pressure on Israel and are seeking greater support from the international community.



Islamic Republic of Iran

Iran's stance on the Israel-Palestine conflict is fundamentally hostile towards Israel, which it does not recognize as a legitimate state. Iran provides significant support to Palestinian militant groups such as Hamas and Islamic Jihad, as well as to Hezbollah in Lebanon, framing this support as part of its broader resistance against Zionism and imperialism. Iranian leaders often call for the liberation of Palestine and the dismantling of the Israeli state. This antagonistic position places Iran in direct opposition to Israel and aligns it with other anti-Israel actors in the region. Iran's involvement in the conflict is part of its broader strategy to extend its influence in the Middle East. As of June 2024, Iran's support for Palestinian militant groups remains a key component of its foreign policy, further complicating regional dynamics.

Syrian Arab Republic

Syria's stance on the Israel-Palestine conflict is characterised by its refusal to recognize Israel and its support for Palestinian resistance. Syria demands the return of the Golan Heights, which Israel captured in the 1967 Six-Day War. The Syrian government supports various Palestinian groups and aligns with Iran and Hezbollah in opposition to Israel. Syria's position is also influenced by its broader geopolitical conflicts, particularly its own civil war and the involvement of international actors. The Syrian government often uses the conflict with Israel to bolster its domestic legitimacy and regional standing. As of 2024, Syria's position remains largely unchanged, continuing to support Palestinian groups while dealing with its own internal challenges.

Republic of India



India has historically supported the Palestinian cause, advocating for Palestinian self-determination and statehood. However, in recent decades, India has developed closer ties with Israel, particularly in defence, technology, and agriculture. India's official stance remains supportive of a two-state solution and calls for peaceful resolution of the conflict through dialogue. The balancing act between its traditional support for Palestine and its burgeoning relationship with Israel reflects India's broader foreign policy strategy of maintaining diverse international partnerships. India's approach is also influenced by its own domestic considerations, including its large Muslim population and the strategic benefits of a strong relationship with Israel. In 2024, India continues to engage with both Israel and Palestine, emphasising its commitment to peace and development in the region.

Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



Saudi Arabia does not officially recognize Israel, but recent years have seen signals of a potential shift towards normalisation, contingent upon progress in the Israeli-Palestinian peace process. Saudi Arabia supports the Arab Peace Initiative, which offers normalisation of relations with Israel in exchange for a full Israeli withdrawal from occupied territories and a fair settlement of the Palestinian refugee issue. The kingdom's stance is influenced by its strategic interests, including countering Iranian influence in the region and maintaining its leadership role in the Arab and Islamic worlds. Saudi Arabia also provides significant financial support to the Palestinian Authority and humanitarian aid to Palestinian refugees. Saudi Arabia continues to balance its diplomatic overtures towards Israel with its longstanding support for Palestinian rights.



Lebanese Republic

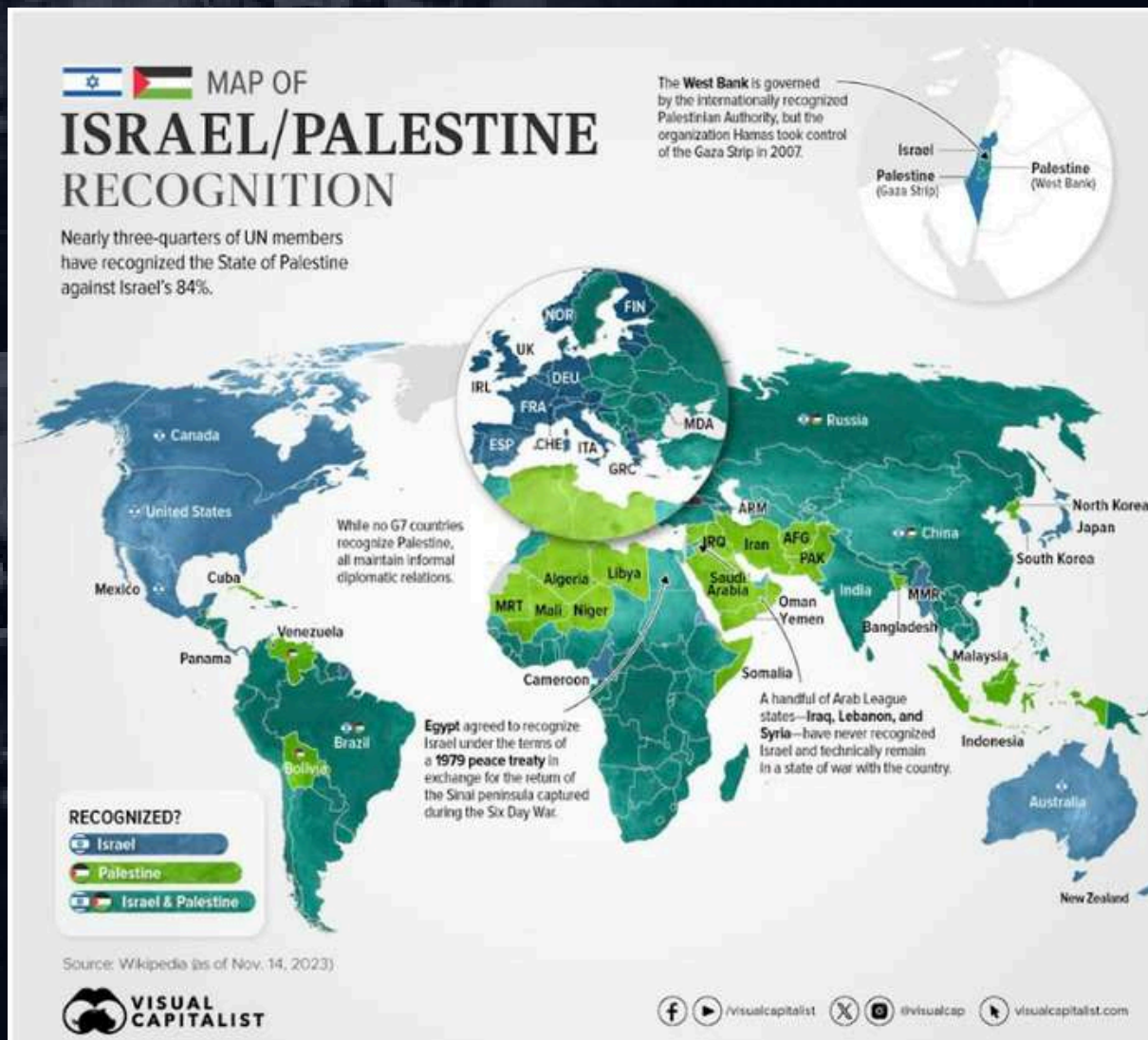
Lebanon does not recognize Israel and has a complex relationship with the Palestinian issue, heavily influenced by the presence of Palestinian refugees and the activities of Hezbollah, a powerful political and militant group within the country. Lebanon supports Palestinian rights and calls for the right of return for refugees. Hezbollah's opposition to Israel includes periodic military engagements, further complicating Lebanon's stance and its internal stability. The Lebanese government's position is constrained by domestic political dynamics and the need to navigate the influence of various factions, including Hezbollah and other sectarian groups. As of June 2024, Lebanon continues to support Palestinian rights while grappling with its own political and economic crises.

Arab Republic of Egypt

Egypt was the first Arab country to sign a peace treaty with Israel in 1979, normalising relations through the Camp David Accords. Despite this, Egypt remains a strong advocate for Palestinian statehood and regularly mediates between Israel and Palestinian factions, particularly in Gaza. Egypt's stance involves supporting a two-state solution and opposing Israeli settlement expansion. The Egyptian government also manages the Rafah border crossing with Gaza, balancing security concerns with humanitarian needs. Egypt's policy is shaped by its strategic interests, including maintaining stability in the Sinai Peninsula and upholding its role as a key regional player. Egypt continues to play a crucial role in mediating ceasefires and facilitating humanitarian aid in the Gaza Strip.

Republic of Iraq

Iraq does not recognize Israel and maintains a strong pro-Palestinian stance, aligning with broader Arab League positions. The Iraqi government supports Palestinian self-determination and opposes normalisation with Israel without significant concessions on the part of Israel. Iraq's position is also influenced by its internal politics and the influence of various factions, including those aligned with Iran. The legacy of past conflicts and ongoing regional dynamics play a significant role in shaping Iraq's stance on the Israel-Palestine conflict. Iraq continues to advocate for Palestinian rights and opposes any normalisation efforts without addressing core Palestinian demands.





Meanwhile legal ramifications include, the United Nations' highest court hearing Israel's response to South Africa's appeal for an urgent halt to its Rafah offensive. South Africa also accuses Israel of genocide in the war in Gaza. In January, the ICJ issued its interim judgement and one key passage of the judgement has attracted the most attention:

"In the Court's view, the facts and circumstances... are sufficient to conclude that at least some of the rights claimed by South Africa and for which it is seeking protection are plausible."

This was interpreted by many, including some legal commentators, to mean that the court concluded that the claim that Israel committed genocide in Gaza was "plausible". The ICJ released a verdict on 26 January, 2024 demanding Israel to take specific measures to prevent the crime of genocide against the Palestinian people in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. Stating that it was convinced that Israel's actions in the Strip posed a substantive and immediate threat to the Palestinian population in Gaza, the ICJ cited the possibility of irreversible effects and harm to Palestinian rights protected under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide.

Apart from legal implications the United Nations Secretary General has repeatedly called for a ceasefire in the region to put an end to the vicious cycle of bloodshed, hatred and polarisation. A request has also been made to release all Israeli hostages. While other UN bodies like the WHO have been heavily involved in getting medical supplies into the besieged Gaza Strip through the Rafah Border, aid is simply not enough to keep up with the high casualties witnessed in the region.



Past Resolutions

General Assembly (2004-2024)

RESOLUTION NO.	CONTENT OF RESOLUTION
Resolution 58/292	Affirmed that the status of the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem, remains one of military occupation, and that Israel has only the duties and obligations of an occupying Power under the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons and the Hague Convention.
Resolution 67/19	Made Palestine a non-member observer state.
Resolution 66/225	Permanent sovereignty of the Palestinian people in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.
Resolution ES- 10/19 Resolution ES-10/20	Declaring the status of Jerusalem as Israel's capital as "null and void". Criticizing the Israeli response to the 2018 Gaza border protests.
Resolution 73/5	Appoints Palestine as presiding chair for the 2019 sessions for the Group of 77.



RESOLUTION NO.	CONTENT OF RESOLUTION
<p>Resolution ES- 10/21</p> <p>Resolution ES- 10/22</p>	<p>It called for an "immediate and substantiated humanitarian truce and cessation of hostile actions, condemned "all acts of violence aimed at Palestinian and Israeli civilians" and "demands that all parties promptly and completely comply with their commitments in accordance with international law".</p> <p>It called for an immediate ceasefire in the Israel-Hamas war, "immediate and unconditional" hostage release, "ensuring humanitarian access" and that "all parties comply with their obligations under international law".</p>
<p>Resolution ES- 10/23</p>	<p>It called for upgrades in Palestine's rights in the United Nations as an Observer State, without offering full membership.</p>



Security Council (1990-2024)

RESOLUTION NO.	CONTENT OF RESOLUTION
Resolution 672	condemns' Israel for "violence against Palestinians" at the Haram al-Sharif/Temple Mount.
Resolution 681	Deplores' Israel's resumption of the deportation of Palestinians.
Resolution 694	Deplores' Israel's deportation of Palestinians and calls on it to ensure their safe and immediate return.
Resolution 726	Strongly condemns' Israel's deportation of Palestinians
Resolution 799	Strongly condemns' Israel's deportation of 413 Palestinians and calls for their immediate return
Resolution 904	expressing its shock at the massacre committed against Palestinian worshippers in the Cave of the Patriarchs in Hebron in the West Bank, the Council called for measures to be taken to guarantee the safety and protection of the Palestinian civilians throughout the occupied territory.



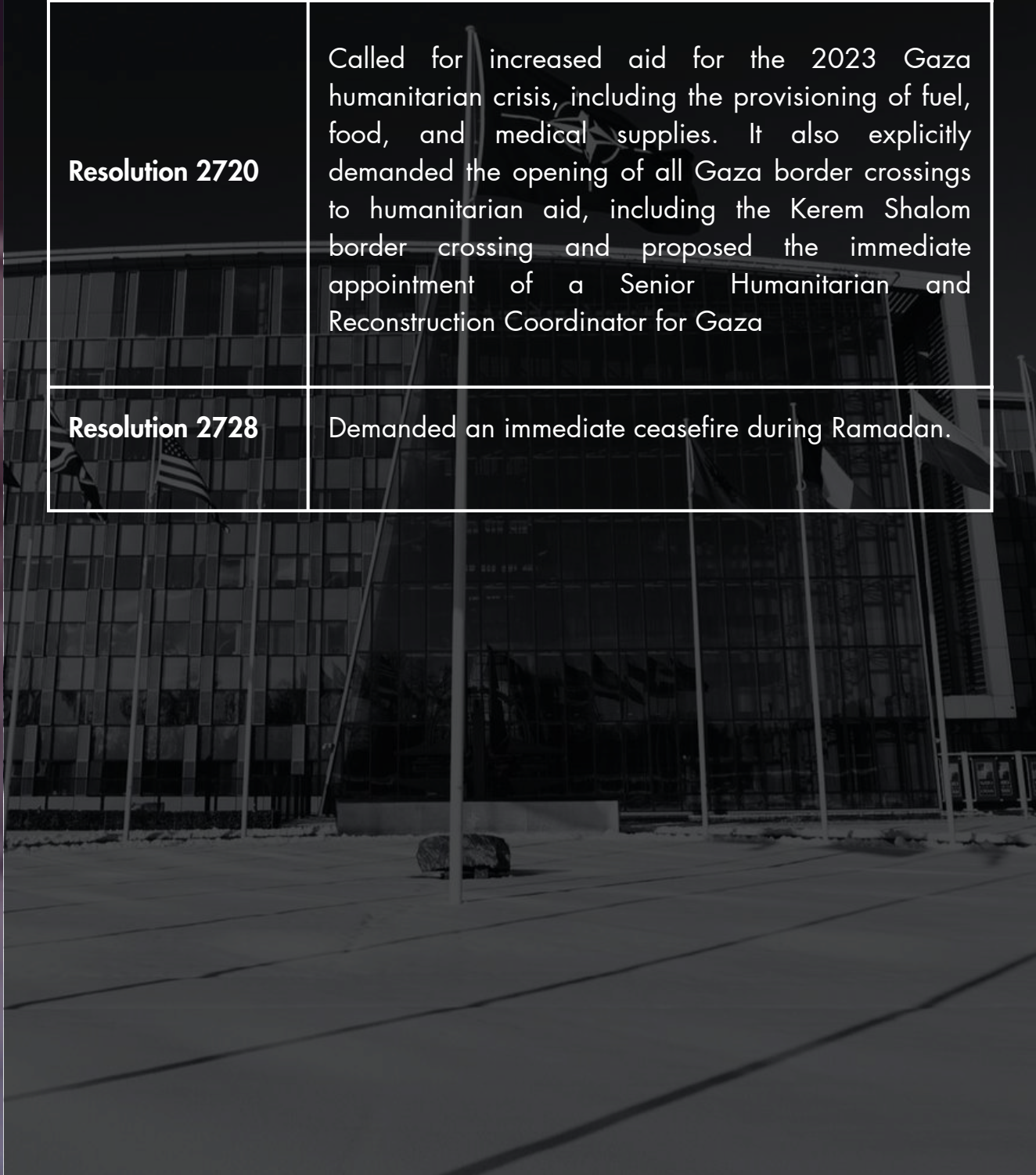
Security Council (1990-2024)

RESOLUTION NO.	CONTENT OF RESOLUTION
Resolution 1073	after recalling all resolutions on Jerusalem and noting a letter from Saudi Arabia on behalf of the Arab League, the Council called on Israel to cease and reverse all acts which had resulted in aggravation in the region.
Resolution 1397	
Resolution 1435	the first resolution to explicitly call for a two-state solution.
Resolution 1860	demanded an end to Israeli measures in and around Ramallah, and an Israeli withdrawal to positions held before September 2000.
	called for the full cessation of war between Israel and Hamas.
Resolution 2334	It concerns the Israeli settlements in "Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, including East Jerusalem".The resolution states that Israel's settlement activity constitutes a "flagrant violation" of international law and has "no legal validity"
Resolution 2712	Called for humanitarian pauses and corridors in Gaza during the 2023 Israel–Hamas war



Security Council (1990-2024)

RESOLUTION NO.	CONTENT OF RESOLUTION
Resolution 2720	Called for increased aid for the 2023 Gaza humanitarian crisis, including the provisioning of fuel, food, and medical supplies. It also explicitly demanded the opening of all Gaza border crossings to humanitarian aid, including the Kerem Shalom border crossing and proposed the immediate appointment of a Senior Humanitarian and Reconstruction Coordinator for Gaza
Resolution 2728	Demanded an immediate ceasefire during Ramadan.





Executive Summary

After familiarising oneself with the technicalities that surround the Israel-Palestine conflict it becomes increasingly important for member nations of the UN to come to a plausible and lasting solution. A large pool of critics blame the inability to arrive at a solution on the abuse of the veto power at the hands of the USA. The global community is split on their views and opinions surrounding the atrocities in the region. While many countries actively voice their distaste for the unjustified continued shelling of Palestine, others chose diplomatic silence.

The conflict between these two enemies continues to persist despite a plethora of UN Security Council and General Assembly Resolutions most of which have not been implemented by both sides depending on which best suits their interests. The support for the Palestinians by the Arabs seemed to have waned over time and the United States have become the forerunner for the Israeli cause as the Former President Donald Trump led administration opened up new frontiers in Israel Arab relations to the perceived detriment of the Palestinian plight.

The world continues to anticipate a peace deal that will finally put the region at peace, foster mutually beneficial relationships, development and ensure freedoms, rights and justice. The world continues to expect the foreign policy angle the new administration of President Joe Biden will take concerning the conflict. If the continual subjugation of the rights of the Palestinians continue to persist, the region would not be able to enjoy peace as the mutual suspicion will continue to fester and the animosity will surely continue to fuel the killings, destructions, hatred and conspiracies to annihilate the enemy. The UN, EU, United States, Arab Nations and other major power brokers in the region like Russia and Turkey all have a major role to play in ensuring that a lasting solution is found. Both parties must come back to the negotiating table for a politically negotiated solution. The change in the leadership of Israel may offer new ideas and approaches which may impact significantly on the whole process.



The road to peace in the region is long and arduous. This means finding a win-win solution that will be mutually acceptable and beneficial to both parties must be treaded carefully to ensure freedoms, rights, fairness, peace and dignity.

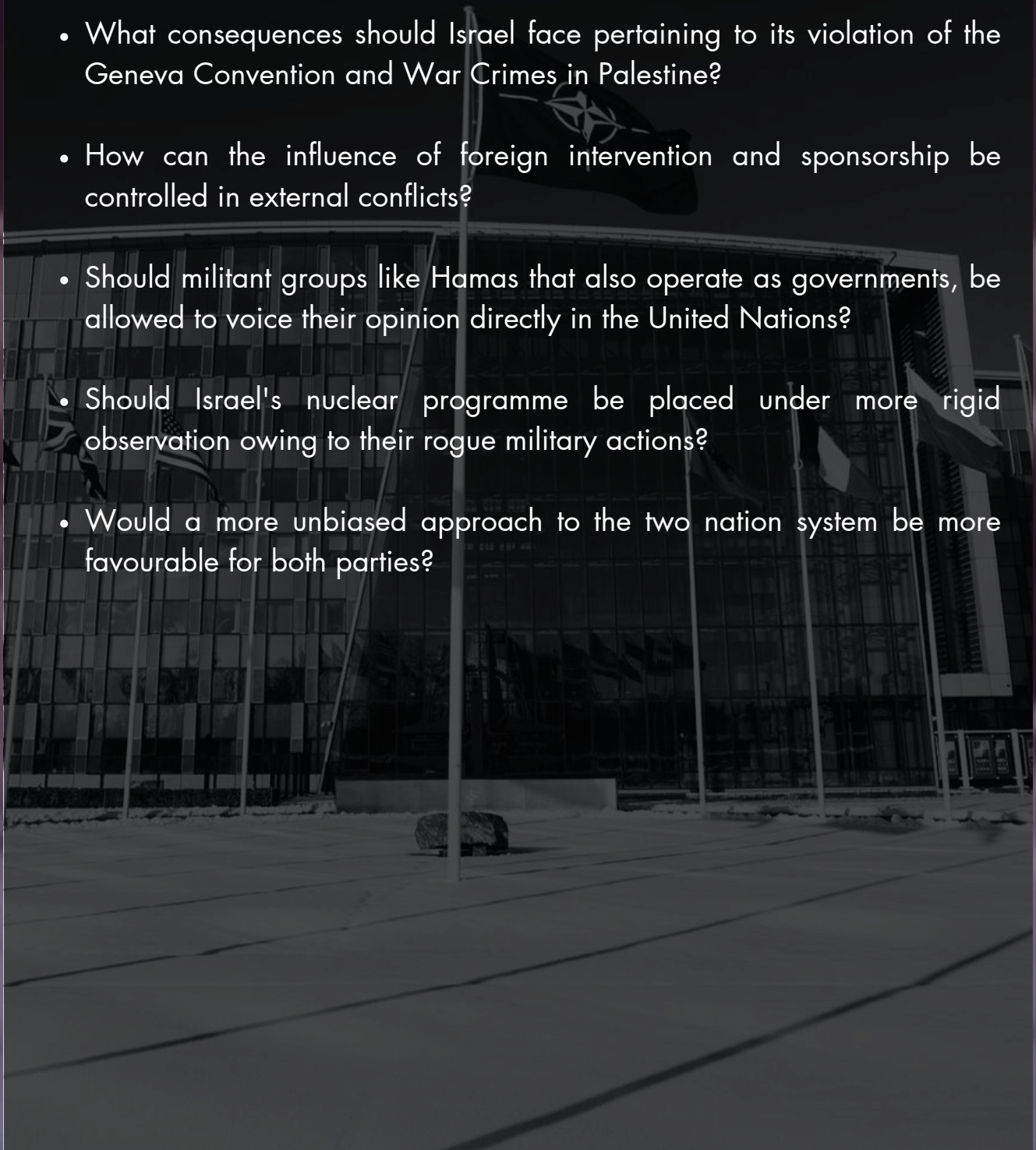




QARMA (Questions A Resolution Must Answer)

For first time MUNNERS, these questions essentially serve as fundamental pointers regarding the points your resolution could address, in order to make it comprehensive and relevant. Delegates may however, come up with other angles and viewpoints to construct solutions with.

- What consequences should Israel face pertaining to its violation of the Geneva Convention and War Crimes in Palestine?
- How can the influence of foreign intervention and sponsorship be controlled in external conflicts?
- Should militant groups like Hamas that also operate as governments, be allowed to voice their opinion directly in the United Nations?
- Should Israel's nuclear programme be placed under more rigid observation owing to their rogue military actions?
- Would a more unbiased approach to the two nation system be more favourable for both parties?





Research Guidance

Important Links

DISEC Mandate

<https://www.un.org/en/ga/first/>

UN charter

<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter>

Live Conflict Updates

<https://www.google.com/urlq=https://www.aljazeera.com/news/liveblog/2024/6/3/israels-war-on-gaza-live-israeli-strike-on-gaza-refugee-camp-kills-four&sa=U&sqj=2&ved=2ahUKEwi815yft8CGAxUUjgGHVteAOYQvOMEKAB6BAgSEAE&usg=AOvVaw3YTxMBANN0hcHLeV4TAgrl>

Reliable Sources of Information:

- Al Jazeera
- UN Articles
- UN Libraries
- Amnesty International
- Britannica
- Times of India
- Official Country Websites and Statements or Speeches made by Heads of State





General Points to Note

- A GSL speech lasts 90 seconds, it may address any aspect of the agenda
- The delegate may even use their GSL as an extended way to respond to comments made prior in committee
- Delegates are to speak in 3rd person by addressing their country as the core voice; The delegate of the United States of America believes xyz.....
- One does not use personal pronouns in committee for the simple reason that you are not a representative of your own views and personal biases, but the views of the government that represents your country
- Foul language is not permitted in committee and will lead to suspension (barring)
- It is important to enjoy the conference.
- The EB will always be at your disposal for any assistance you may require.



Further Assistance

Contact us

If you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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Find more Resources

If you need any more resources like the:

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