

# Security Council

Taking measures to resolve the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.



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# Introducing Your Chairs

Hi everyone,

My name is Wisse Wijers, together with my friend Joppe (left on the bottom picture) I have the pleasure of being one of your chairs in the security council at this year's edition of FAMUN. I have once before been a chair and I have been a delegate twice at an MUN. But most notably, I was Head of Press during last year's edition of FAMUN. Currently, I am studying Earth Sciences at Utrecht University. In my free time I enjoy listening to music, climbing and travelling. I can't wait to see you on the 1<sup>st</sup> of February to make some everlasting memories together.

I hope you find my research report useful, good luck with your preparations. If you have any questions about the research report or other stuff feel free to contact me!

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# An Introduction to the Topic

The Israel-Palestine conflict stands as one of the most enduring and complex geopolitical disputes of the modern era, deeply rooted in historical, religious, and territorial narratives. Spanning over a century, this protracted conflict is centered around competing claims to the land historically known as Palestine, where both Israelis and Palestinians assert deep-seated connections and aspirations. Jerusalem, revered by Jews, Muslims, and Christians alike, further intensifies the dispute, epitomizing the multifaceted layers of religious and national identity intertwined in the region. Characterized by cycles of violence, diplomatic impasses, and international interventions, the conflict has far-reaching implications, shaping the socio-political landscape of the Middle East and influencing global geopolitics. Amidst divergent narratives, unresolved grievances, and geopolitical complexities, the Israel-Palestine conflict remains a critical challenge for international diplomacy, underscoring the intricate interplay of history, identity, and power in shaping contemporary conflicts.

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## Definition of Key Terms

**Zionism:** A nationalist movement advocating for the establishment of a Jewish homeland in Palestine.

**Intifada:** Uprising or rebellion, often referring to Palestinian uprisings against Israeli occupation.

**Two-State Solution:** A proposed solution to the conflict wherein Israel and Palestine would coexist as two separate sovereign states.

**Settlements:** Israeli civilian communities built in territories occupied during the 1967 Six-Day War, deemed illegal by international law.

**Hamas:** An acronym of the Arabic phrase ḥarakah al-Muqāwamah al-'Islāmiyyah, meaning "Islamic Resistance Movement"

**PLO:** Palestine Liberation Organization

# A General Overview of the Issue

The Israel-Palestine conflict, a long-standing and multifaceted dispute, revolves around competing nationalisms and claims to territory. At its core, both Israelis and Palestinians assert historical and religious ties to the land, particularly Jerusalem, making the conflict deeply entrenched and emotionally charged.

The modern phase of the conflict can be traced back to the early 20th century. Following the collapse of the Ottoman Empire after World War I, the League of Nations granted Britain a mandate over Palestine. This mandate, established in 1920, incorporated the Balfour Declaration of 1917, which endorsed the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine. However, the declaration also stipulated that the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine should not be prejudiced.

In 1947, the United Nations proposed a partition plan to create separate Jewish and Arab states. While Jewish leaders accepted the plan, Arab leaders rejected it, leading to the 1948 Arab-Israeli war following Israel's declaration of independence. This war resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, creating a refugee crisis that persists today.

Over the decades, the conflict has witnessed several wars, uprisings, and diplomatic efforts to find a resolution. Key issues include the status of Jerusalem, the borders of a potential Palestinian state, the right of return for Palestinian refugees, and the legality of Israeli settlements in the occupied territories. Jerusalem holds immense religious significance for Jews, Muslims, and Christians, complicating negotiations over its sovereignty.


In recent years, peace initiatives such as the Oslo Accords in the 1990s aimed to establish a framework for resolving the conflict through mutual recognition and territorial compromises. However, these efforts have been marred by ongoing violence, settlement expansion, and political instability on both sides. The rise of non-state actors like Hamas, which controls the Gaza Strip and advocates armed resistance against Israel, further complicates the peace process.



Figure 1: Names of different regions within Israel-Palestine



Figure 2: Different phases of occupation



Recently Hamas has put itself in the spotlight within the conflict by launching attacks on Israeli territory and holding Israelis hostage in exchange for Palestinian prisoners. The situation is most dire in the Gaza strip which has been blocked off by Israel for the past 16 years and recently even more resources like electricity have been cut off from the region. To make things worse, Israel's retaliation or attacks in the Gaza strip are increasing day by day. The death-toll in the Gaza Strip alone has surpassed 20,000 and the situation shows no sign of calming down.

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# Historical Background

The historical background of the occupation in Israel-Palestine is a complex narrative spanning centuries, marked by shifting empires, religious significance, and competing nationalisms. Understanding the occupation requires delving into key historical epochs that have shaped the region's contemporary dynamics.

**Ancient Periods:** The land known today as Israel-Palestine has been a crossroads of civilizations, hosting ancient Israelites, Canaanites, Philistines, and various other groups. Jerusalem, in particular, holds profound religious significance for Jews, Christians, and Muslims, serving as a focal point of historical and spiritual narratives.

**Ottoman Rule (1517-1917):** For over four centuries, the region was part of the Ottoman Empire, governed from Constantinople (modern-day Istanbul). While diverse communities coexisted under Ottoman rule, tensions and disparities between groups were inherent.

**British Mandate (1917-1948):** After World War I, the League of Nations granted Britain a mandate over Palestine. The Balfour Declaration of 1917 expressed British support for a Jewish homeland in Palestine, setting the stage for the Zionist movement's aspirations. However, the mandate also promised to protect the rights of existing non-Jewish communities, foreshadowing future tensions.

**1947 UN Partition Plan:** Amidst escalating violence between Jewish and Arab communities, the United Nations proposed a partition plan in 1947 to create separate Jewish and Arab states, with Jerusalem under international administration. While Jewish leaders accepted the plan, Arab leaders rejected it, leading to the 1948 Arab-Israeli war following Israel's declaration of independence.

**Occupation and Wars (1948-Present):** The 1948 war resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, creating a refugee crisis that persists today. In subsequent conflicts, notably the 1967 Six-Day War, Israel occupied the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Sinai Peninsula, and Golan Heights, significantly altering the territorial landscape. The occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip has been a focal point of international concern, marked by Israeli settlements, military checkpoints, and Palestinian resistance.



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# Major Parties Involved

**State of Israel:** Established in 1948, Israel represents the Jewish national homeland, embodying the Zionist movement's aspirations for self-determination. Israel's primary objectives in the conflict include ensuring security, preserving its identity as a Jewish state, and addressing historical claims to the land.

**Palestinian Authority (PA):** Governed by the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), the PA represents Palestinians in the West Bank under the leadership of Mahmoud Abbas. It seeks statehood based on pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as its capital, and advocates for the rights of Palestinian refugees.

**Hamas:** A Palestinian militant group founded in 1987, Hamas controls the Gaza Strip and rejects Israel's right to exist. Designated as a terrorist organization by several countries, including Israel, the United States, and the European Union, Hamas advocates armed resistance against Israeli occupation and plays a significant role in shaping the conflict's dynamics.

**Arab States:** Various Arab countries, such as Egypt, Jordan, and Saudi Arabia, have been involved in the conflict either diplomatically, militarily, or through support for Palestinian factions. Their roles have evolved over time, reflecting regional geopolitics, alliances, and strategic interests.

**United States and International Community:** The United States has played a pivotal role as a mediator in peace negotiations and a key ally of Israel. The international community, including the United Nations, European Union, and other global actors, has engaged in diplomatic efforts, provided humanitarian aid, and expressed concerns about human rights violations and settlements.

**Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and Civil Society:** Numerous NGOs, both Israeli and Palestinian, play essential roles in promoting dialogue, advocating for human rights, and providing humanitarian assistance. Civil society initiatives aim to bridge divides, foster understanding, and support grassroots peace-building efforts.

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# Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

## **Long Term:**

- Oslo Accords (1993): Initiated a peace process but failed to achieve a final settlement.
- Camp David Summit (2000): Despite high-level talks, no agreement was reached.
- Annapolis Conference (2007): Aimed to revive peace talks but faced challenges due to internal Palestinian divisions and continued settlement expansion.

## **Short Term:**

- Israel– Hamas ceasefire (2023): A temporary in the Gaza Strip took effect from 24 November 2023 to 30 November 2023.

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# Possible Solutions For The Issue

## **Long Term:**

- Two-State Solution: Recognize Israel and Palestine as sovereign states, based on pre-1967 borders with mutually agreed land swaps.
- One-State Solution: Create a bi-national state guaranteeing equal rights to Israelis and Palestinians.
- Regional Diplomacy: Involve neighboring Arab states in the peace process to ensure broader regional stability.

## **Short Term:**

- Ceasefire: An agreement to stop on-going violence

# Timeline Of Key Events

Nov 29, 1947: UN Partition Plan  
May 14, 1948: Israel Declares Independence (first Arab-Israeli War)  
Dec 11, 1948: UN Addresses Palestinian Displacement  
Jun 5, 1967 - Jun 10, 1967: The Six-Day War  
Nov 22, 1967: UN Security Council Resolution Calls for Israeli Withdrawal  
Oct 3, 1973: The Yom Kippur War  
Sep 1, 1978: The Camp David Accords  
Mar 26, 1979: Israel Withdraws from the Sinai Peninsula  
Dec 1, 1987: First Intifada  
Jul 31, 1988: Jordan Surrenders Claims on the West Bank and East Jerusalem  
Oct 30, 1991: The Madrid Peace Conference  
Sep 13, 1993: The Oslo Accords  
May 4, 1994: The Gaza-Jericho Agreement  
Oct 26, 1994: Israel and Jordan Sign a Peace Treaty  
Sep 28, 1995: Oslo II Accord  
Jul 11, 2000 - Jul 25, 2000: Camp David Summit  
Sep 28, 2000: The Second Intifada  
Mar 27, 2002: The Passover Massacre  
Jun 23, 2002: Israeli West Bank Barrier-Building Begins  
Apr 30, 2003: Road Map for Peace  
Aug 15, 2005: Israeli Disengagement with Gaza  
Jan 29, 2006: Hamas Expands Power in Gaza  
Jun 25, 2006: Gilad Shalit Taken Hostage  
Dec 27, 2008: Israel Attacks the Gaza Strip  
Jul 28, 2013: Negotiations Face Continued Hurdles  
Apr 23, 2014: Tensions Between the PLO and Hamas  
Jul 8, 2014 - Aug 26, 2014: Operation Protective Edge  
Dec 6, 2017: The U.S. Formally Recognizes Jerusalem as the Capital of Israel  
Mar 25, 2019: The U.S. Recognizes Israeli Sovereignty Over the Golan Heights  
Jan 28, 2020: Trump Administration Launches Proposed Peace Plan  
Sep 15, 2020: Relations between Some Arab Countries and Israel Normalize  
2021: 2021 Israel-Hamas Crisis  
2022: Deadly Year in Israeli-Palestinian Conflict  
Oct 7, 2023: Hamas Launches Surprise Attack on Israel

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