



# Research Report | UNSC

**Forum:** United Nations Security Council

**Issue:** The Situation in Israel-Palestine

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**Position:** Head Chair

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## Welcome Letter

Dear delegates,

As we gather for this year's SISCMUN, we, your Head Chair and Deputy Chair, are particularly excited to welcome you to what is arguably the most challenging and prestigious committee—the United Nations Security Council. Representing the P5 and other member states, you shoulder a significant responsibility in navigating complex global issues that demand not only diplomatic finesse but also a deep commitment to the maintenance of global peace and security. Your role is vital, and your decisions could frame the model for resolving conflicts and upholding international law. Of course, we will be here to guide and support you through these demanding debates and deliberations. Let's make our Security Council session not only successful but also an enriching experience for everyone involved.

## Background

“The establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people.” As stated in Palestine's 1920 mandate as written by their colonizers: the British. This mandate, popularly known as the Balfour Declaration, would be the groundwork of the decades of bloodshed to come.



Violence has been a common theme between Israel and Palestine. Palestine was declared a Jewish-Arab state in late 1947, and with British troops withdrawing from land, Israel claimed independence by 1948. The UN partition plan fanned the flames of the Middle Eastern land wars, and the first instance of the proclaimed “ethnic cleansing” by Israel began. This incident was eventually coined as the Nakba (catastrophe) in which more than 750,000 Palestinians were killed. As such, most displaced Palestinians became refugees along the Gaza Strip and some into the West Bank. This strip of land was put under control of the Egyptians during the Arab-Israeli war and eventually into Israel’s hands during the Six Day war.

Despite this, led by their leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak, the Oslo Accords; a two state resolution via the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) began peaceful talks. As great as it sounded, it did not last long as a fairly new organization, Hamas, which had formed just six years prior to the Oslo Accords, were livid over this conciliation. So much so, a terror campaign was planned to ruin the agreement. This would ultimately doom the agreement amidst the assassination of the Israeli Prime Minister.

Palestinians were supposed to be given eighteen percent of this land, sixty of which would be ‘owned’ by Israel, and the rest of the percentage to be under joint control. Following the homicide of the Prime Minister, the number of illegal Israeli settlements skyrocketed. A separation wall was built and moreover, the daily lives of Palestinians were disrupted once more.

Run-ins with the Palestinian Authority eventually drove Israelis out of their settlements, but not for long. Hamas would be seen as the sole authority of the Gaza Strip, and whether they had posed a threat to the IDF or not did not matter. With all things said and done, soon enough a blockade was underway. This unrest and militaristic fight between the authorities across the West Bank and Gaza Strip would set the tone for the next decade of bloodshed.

Ever so often temporary cease-fires would be imposed to slow down Israel’s violent reign and to supply the refugees of Palestine within the area with humanitarian aid, however these would not last for long either.



This had all built up into the incident of October 7. With war officially and publicly announced, by the end of October, Israeli forces had brute forced their way into the heart of Gaza. This would lead more than half of the population of the Gaza Strip to flee towards Egyptian borders. International support for Israel has been bleak with the casualties involved and negotiations are underway in hopes of a permanent cease-fire.

## Definition of Key Terms

Term	Definition
Zionism	A nationalist movement that advocates for the establishment and support of a Jewish homeland in the territory historically known as Israel.
Palestinian Nationalism	An advocacy for the preservation and statehood of Palestinians in their historical homeland.
Ethnic Cleansing	A mass killing and the forced removal of an “unwanted” social group from a certain area.
Oslo Accords	Interim agreements between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization in hopes of a two-state solution.
Balfour Declaration	A public statement issued by the British Government that highlights the idea of a “national home for the Jewish people in Palestine.”
The UN Partition Plan	A Mandatory Palestine at the end of the British Mandate as proposed by the United Nations.
Blockade	Sealing a specific area to prevent exit and entrance of both goods and people.



## **Major Parties Involved**

### **Israel Defense Forces (IDF):**

The national military of the State of Israel and the main perpetrator of casualties against Palestinians.

### **Hamas:**

Otherwise known as the Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya is a Palestinian military movement. Known for their armed resistance against the IDF.

### **The United States of America (USA):**

Israel's biggest monetary funder and supporter. The administration under Biden's jurisdiction publicly pushes towards a two-state solution.

### **Qatar:**

The neutral ground between the IDF and Palestinians. Negotiated the release of Israeli hostages in exchange for humanitarian aid.

### **Egypt:**

First Arab country to formally recognize Israel after the Camp David Accords. Remains a mediator between the two parties. Most refugees flee towards Egypt's borders.

### **Syria:**

A main supporter of Palestinian Forces due to previous tensions with Israel during the Six Day War and more recently, the Yom Kippur War.



## Lebanon:

Home to the militant group Hezbollah in retaliation for the Israel invasion.

## Timeline

Date	Description of Events
May 14, 1948	Israel claims independence.
May 15, 1948	Beginning of the Arab-Israeli War. Israel gains West Jerusalem. Egypt gains the Gaza Strip, and Jordan gains the West Bank and East Jerusalem during this time.
June 5, 1967	Beginning of the Six Day War. Israel gains control of West Bank the Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem, Golan Heights, and the Sinai Peninsula.
September 1, 1978	Israel and Egypt sign a peace treaty: The Camp David Accords. This treaty eventually leads to the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Sinai Peninsula (under Syria).
December 1, 1987	The First Intifada leads to the creation of Palestinian military movement: Hamas.
September 13, 1993	The Oslo Accords prompts the creation of the Palestinian Authority across the Gaza Strip. It aims for peace by 1999.
May 4, 1994	The Gaza-Jericho Agreement is signed as the first implementation of the Oslo Accords.
September 28, 1995	Oslo II Accord allows Palestinians to take control of a handful of the land they reside in.
November 4, 1995	The assassination of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin. Hamas suicide bombings are ongoing amidst this.
June 23, 2002	The construction of a separation wall as a security barrier in



	prevention of any future terrorist attacks.
August 15, 2005	Israeli forces withdraw from Gaza, eventually allowing Hamas to take control of the area.
December 27, 2008	Israel returns to Gaza through several attacks. The blockade is underway at this point in time.
April 23, 2014	The PLO and Hamas fail to unify their government and authority.
December 6, 2017	The United States publicly recognizes Jerusalem as the capital of Israel.
October 7, 2023	Hamas' surprise attack on Israel.

## Possible Solutions

- **Two-state Solution:** The most common and seemingly the best measure to meet the issues between the two parties in the long term. However, unlikely due to the political extremities and historical tensions. Additionally, Jews residing in the area must be relocated to formally create a Palestinian state before tackling the idea of sovereignty that may be unable to garner international support.
- **Releasing Hostages:** A much more short term solution to meet the humanitarian aid requirements that is needed in the area of casualty. Diplomatic promises may fall through and moreover, possibilities of political talks are not guaranteed as Hamas is not tied to an official governing nation.
- **Relocation of Either Party:** Radical and rational solutions will be unrealistic until a proper state can be established for both parties.



Therefore, overseeing the relocation of citizens until political matters can be settled to avoid any more human casualties may be more probable.

### **Useful Resources:** (from most useful to useful)

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