



UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL

Study Guide

Agenda: Addressing the historical causes and progression of the Israel-Palestine conflict with special emphasis on the Balfour Declaration

ANNUAL WORLD SUMMIT 2024

INDEX



- 1. Letter from the Executive Board**
- 2. Introduction**
- 3. Key Definitions**
- 4. Background Information**
- 5. Major Countries and Organisations Involved**
- 6. Timeline of Events**
- 7. Relevant UN Treaties and Events**
- 8. Questions a Resolution Must Answer**
- 9. Moderated Caucus Topics**
- 10. Bibliography**



Letter from the Executive Board

Dear Delegates,

The Executive Board of UNSC welcomes you to the Annual World Summit, 2024. The Annual World Summit is a platform where young leaders get to express their ideas, make new friends and solve nerve racking situations which have global implications. While this can be quite the daunting experience for first timers, we here at Jannabai Narsee School ensure that there is maximum participation and that everyone comes out of the conference having learnt something. This is the perfect platform for amateurs as well as experienced debaters.

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is a vital organ of the United Nations, responsible for maintaining international peace and security. Composed of 15 member states, including five permanent members with veto power, the UNSC plays a crucial role in global affairs. The UNSC serves as a platform for diplomatic negotiations, conflict resolution, and the promotion of international cooperation, making it an essential body for addressing various global challenges.

The agenda for UNSC is one of great importance in addressing the historical causes and progression of the Israel-Palestine conflict with special emphasis on the Balfour Declaration. We hope that the delegates emphasise on the past of the countries along with the current conflict and are able to come to a peaceful solution. While this agenda gives the delegates a certain framework as to what research needs to be done, it also allows smaller nations to pose their issues and find a global consensus when it comes to finding a solution. This issue is extremely volatile and requires the best of minds when it comes to resolving it. Hence we aim to give equal opportunity to every delegate present and hope for two days of heated debate.

Yours faithfully,

The UNSC Executive Board.

Chairperson: Dhruv Parekh

Vice-Chairperson: Samarth Ahuja

Moderator: Venisha Mehta

Rapporteur: Bhuvashwa Mohanty



Introduction

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict is a long-standing dispute over territory, statehood, and self-determination for the Palestinian people. Its origins date back to the 1947 UN Partition Plan which aimed to divide British Mandate Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states. The establishment of Israel in 1948 led to the first Arab-Israeli war and displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians. Subsequent wars in 1967 and 1973 resulted in Israel occupying the West Bank, Gaza Strip, East Jerusalem and Golan Heights. While the 1979 Camp David Accords brought peace between Israel and Egypt, Palestinian demands for statehood remained unresolved. This fueled two intifadas (uprisings) by Palestinians in the occupied territories in 1987 and 2000-2005. The Oslo Accords in the 1990s outlined a framework for Palestinian self-governance but failed to resolve final status issues. Internal Palestinian divisions, with Hamas seizing Gaza from the Palestinian Authority, further complicated peace efforts.

Recurring violence erupted, including major Israeli military operations in Gaza against Hamas in 2008-09, 2012 and 2014, resulting in heavy Palestinian casualties and infrastructure damage. Peace talks repeatedly stalled over issues like Israeli settlements, borders, Jerusalem's status and Palestinian refugees. The Trump administration took controversial pro-Israel moves like relocating the U.S. embassy to Jerusalem. An 11-day conflict erupted in 2021 after threatened Palestinian evictions in East Jerusalem, leaving over 250 Palestinians and 13 Israelis dead.

The far-right Israeli government formed in 2022 prioritised settlement expansion in the occupied West Bank, inflaming tensions. With both sides entrenched in incompatible demands, resolving core issues like borders, Israeli occupation and Palestinian refugees remains elusive after over seven decades of conflict.



Introduction

The Balfour Declaration, issued in 1917 by British Foreign Secretary Arthur Balfour, holds immense significance in the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The Balfour Declaration expressed the British government's support for the establishment of a national home for the Jewish people in Palestine. This was seen as a pivotal moment in the Zionist movement, as it marked an official recognition of Jewish aspirations for statehood in their ancestral homeland. However, the declaration did not consider the rights or aspirations of the Palestinian Arab population living in Palestine at the time. This disregard for the indigenous population's interests laid the groundwork for future tensions and conflicts in the region.

Following World War I, the League of Nations granted Britain a mandate over Palestine, which included implementing the principles of the Balfour Declaration. However, the British found themselves entangled in conflicting promises to both Jewish and Arab groups in the region, exacerbating tensions and complicating their administration of Palestine. The Balfour Declaration is often cited as a key factor in the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It symbolises the competing national aspirations and historical grievances of both Israelis and Palestinians, contributing to the complexities of the region's political landscape.

Overall, the Balfour Declaration's significance lies in its role in shaping the trajectory of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and its enduring impact on the Middle East.



Key Definitions

Historical Event - A historical cause refers to an event or factor from the past that triggers significant changes in societies or civilizations over time.

Progression - A series of events whose magnitude increases as it continues or escalation of a situation.

Conflict - Conflict arises when two or more groups believe their interests are incompatible. Conflict is not in itself a negative phenomenon. Non-violent conflict can be an essential component of social change and development, and is a necessary component of human interaction.

Israel Palestine Conflict - The Israel-Palestine conflict is a long-standing territorial and ideological dispute between Israelis and Palestinians, centred around competing claims to land, issues of statehood, control over holy sites, and the status of Palestinian refugees.

Balfour Declaration - The Balfour Declaration was a public statement issued by the British government in 1917 that endorsed the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine, which was then part of the Ottoman Empire.

Terrorism - Criminal acts, including against civilians, committed with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury, or taking of hostages, with the purpose to provoke a state of terror in the general public or in a group of persons or particular persons, intimidate a population or compel a government or an international organisation to do or to abstain from doing any act, which constitute offences within the scope of and as defined in the international conventions and protocols relating to terrorism, are under no circumstances justifiable by considerations of a political, philosophical, ideological, racial, ethnic, religious or other similar nature, and calls upon all States to prevent such acts and, if not prevented, to ensure that such acts are punished by penalties consistent with their grave nature.

Background Information

Commencement of the Partition Plan:

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict dates back to the end of the nineteenth century. In 1947, the United Nations adopted Resolution 181, known as the Partition Plan, which sought to divide the British Mandate of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states. On May 14, 1948, the State of Israel was created, sparking the first Arab-Israeli War. The war ended in 1949 with Israel's victory, but 750,000 Palestinians were displaced, and the territory was divided into 3 parts: the State of Israel, the West Bank (of the Jordan River), and the Gaza Strip.

Over the following years, tensions rose in the region, particularly between Israel and Egypt, Jordan, and Syria. Following the 1956 Suez Crisis and Israel's invasion of the Sinai Peninsula, Egypt, Jordan, and Syria signed mutual defence pacts in anticipation of a possible mobilisation of Israeli troops. In June 1967, following a series of manoeuvres by Egyptian President Abdel Gamal Nasser, Israel preemptively attacked Egyptian and Syrian air forces, starting the Six-Day War. After the war, Israel gained territorial control over the Sinai Peninsula and Gaza Strip from Egypt; the West Bank and East Jerusalem from Jordan; and the Golan Heights from Syria.

Peace Negotiations between Israel - Egypt:

Six years later, in what is referred to as the Yom Kippur War or the October War, Egypt and Syria launched a surprise two-front attack on Israel to regain their lost territory; the conflict did not result in significant gains for Egypt, Israel, or Syria, but Egyptian President Anwar al-Sadat declared the war a victory for Egypt as it allowed Egypt and Syria to negotiate over previously ceded territory. Finally, in 1979, following a series of cease-fires and peace negotiations, representatives from Egypt and Israel signed the Camp David Accords, a peace treaty that ended the thirty-year conflict between Egypt and Israel.



Background Information

Even though the Camp David Accords improved relations between Israel and its neighbours, the question of Palestinian self-determination and self-governance remained unresolved. In 1987, hundreds of thousands of Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip rose up against the Israeli government in what is known as the first intifada. The 1993 Oslo I Accords mediated the conflict, setting up a framework for the Palestinians to govern themselves in the West Bank and Gaza, and enabled mutual recognition between the newly established Palestinian Authority and Israel's government. In 1995, the Oslo II Accords expanded on the first agreement, adding provisions that mandated the complete withdrawal of Israel from 6 cities and 450 towns in the West Bank.

Conflict of interest between Palestine and Israel:

In 2000, sparked in part by Palestinian grievances over Israel's control over the West Bank, a stagnating peace process, and former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's visit to the al-Aqsa mosque—the third holiest site in Islam—in September 2000, Palestinians launched the second intifada, which would last until 2005. In response, the Israeli government approved the construction of a barrier wall around the West Bank in 2002, despite opposition from the International Court of Justice and the International Criminal Court.

Factionalism among the Palestinians flared up when Hamas won the Palestinian Authority's parliamentary elections in 2006, deposing longtime majority party Fatah. This gave Hamas, a political and militant movement inspired by the Palestinian Muslim Brotherhood, control of the Gaza Strip. Gaza is a small piece of land on the Mediterranean Sea that borders Egypt to the south and has been under the rule of the semi-autonomous Palestinian Authority since 1993.



Background Information

The United States and European Union, among others, did not acknowledge Hamas' electoral victory, as the group has been considered a terrorist organisation by western governments since the late 1990s. Following Hamas' seizure of control, violence broke out between Hamas and Fatah. Between 2006 and 2011, a series of failed peace talks and deadly confrontations culminated in an agreement to reconcile. Fatah entered into a unity government with Hamas in 2014.

In the summer of 2014, clashes in the Palestinian territories precipitated a military confrontation between the Israeli military and Hamas in which Hamas fired nearly three thousand rockets at Israel, and Israel retaliated with a major offensive in Gaza. The skirmish ended in late August 2014 with a cease-fire deal brokered by Egypt, but only after 73 Israelis and 2,251 Palestinians were killed. After a wave of violence between Israelis and Palestinians in 2015, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah announced that Palestinians would no longer be bound by the territorial divisions created by the Oslo Accords.

Interference By the USA:

The Donald J. Trump administration reversed longstanding U.S. policy by cancelling funding for the UN Relief and Works Agency, which provides aid to Palestinian refugees, and relocating the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. The Trump administration also helped broker the Abraham Accords, under which Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates normalised relations with Israel, becoming only the third and fourth countries in the region—following Egypt in 1979 and Jordan in 1994—to do so. Similar deals followed with Morocco and Sudan. Palestinian leader Mahmoud Abbas of Fatah rejected the accords, as did Hamas.

Background Information

Civilian casualties and displacement of people:

In March of 2018, Israeli troops killed 183 Palestinians and wounded 6,000 others after some Palestinians stormed the perimeter fence between the Gaza Strip and Israel and threw rocks during an otherwise peaceful demonstration. Just months later, Hamas militants fired over one hundred rockets into Israel, and Israel responded with strikes on more than fifty targets in Gaza during a twenty-four-hour flare-up. The tense political atmosphere resulted in a return to disunity between Fatah and Hamas, with Mahmoud Abbas' Fatah party controlling the Palestinian Authority from the West Bank and Hamas de facto ruling the Gaza Strip.

In early May 2021, after a court ruled in favour of the eviction of several Palestinian families from East Jerusalem properties, protests erupted, with Israeli police employing force against demonstrators. After several consecutive days of violence, Hamas, the militant group which governs Gaza, and other Palestinian militant groups launched hundreds of rockets into Israel territory. Israel responded with artillery bombardments and airstrikes, killing more than twenty Palestinians and hitting both military and non-military infrastructure, including residential buildings, media headquarters, and refugee and healthcare facilities. After eleven days, Israel and Hamas agreed to a cease-fire, with both sides claiming victory. The fighting killed more than 250 Palestinians and at least 13 Israelis, wounded nearly 2,000 others, and displaced 72,000 Palestinians.

The most far-right and religious government in Israel's history, led by Benjamin 'Bibi' Netanyahu and his Likud party and comprising two ultra-Orthodox parties and three far-right parties, was inaugurated in late December 2022. The coalition government prioritised the expansion and development of Israeli settlements in the occupied West Bank, endorsed discrimination against LGBTQ+ people on religious grounds, and voted to limit judicial oversight of the government in May 2023 after a delay due to nationwide protests in March.



Background Information

Recent Developments:

In early October 2023, Hamas fighters fired rockets into Israel and stormed southern Israeli cities and towns across the border of the Gaza Strip, killing more than 1,300 Israelis, injuring 3,300, and taking hundreds of hostages. The attack took Israel by surprise, though the state quickly mounted a deadly retaliatory operation. One day after the October 7 attack, the Israeli cabinet formally declared war against Hamas, followed by a directive from the defence minister to the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) to carry out a “complete siege” of Gaza. It is the most significant escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in several decades.

Israel ordered more than one million Palestinian civilians in northern Gaza to evacuate ahead of a ground invasion that began on October 27th. The ground invasion began in the north in conjunction with Israel’s continued aerial assault. The first stage of the ground invasion ended on November 24 with the hostage-for-prisoner swap that also allowed more aid into Gaza. After seven days, the war resumed—particularly in Khan Younis, the largest city in southern Gaza that Israel claims is a Hamas stronghold.

On April 1, Israel launched an airstrike on an Iranian consular building in Damascus, Syria, killing multiple senior Iranian military officers. In response, Iran engaged directly in the war by launching over 300 drones and missiles at Israel on April 13. Though Israel was able to ward off the attack and only sustained minor damage to an air base, the escalation marked Iran’s first-ever direct attack on Israel. As Israel weighed an extensive counter strike on multiple military targets in Iran, the United States and other allies advised against actions that they feared would further widen the war. Israel ultimately launched a more limited aerial strike on military bases in Isfahan and Tabriz on April 19. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi later downplayed the response, suggesting Iran aimed to avoid further escalation.



Background Information

Gaza is desperately low on water, fuel, and supplies as Hamas has rejected the most recent cease-fire proposals mediated by the United States and Egypt, while Israel has limited the amount of aid that can enter. Many humanitarian agencies suspended their operations after Israel killed seven World Center Kitchen employees in an airstrike. The World Food Programme warns famine is now imminent in Gaza. Only eleven out of thirty-five hospitals in the strip remain partially functional due to attacks on medical infrastructure and a lack of basic supplies. The World Health Organization has warned of disease spread in addition to mounting civilian casualties.

The displacement of millions more Palestinians presents a challenge for Egypt and Jordan, which have absorbed hundreds of thousands of Palestinians in the past but have resisted accepting anyone during the current war. They fear that Gazans, many of whom were already displaced from elsewhere in Israel, will not be allowed to return once they leave. Egypt also fears that Hamas fighters could enter Egypt and trigger a new war in the Sinai by launching attacks on Israel or destabilising the authoritarian regime of Abdel Fattah el-Sisi by supporting the Muslim Brotherhood. So far, negotiations have resulted in only 1,100 people exiting Gaza through the Rafah border crossing to Egypt. The other 1.5 million displaced Gazans—70 percent of the territory's population—remained confined to southern Gaza and face increasingly dire living conditions and security risks.



Major Countries and Organisations Involved

LEBANON - Israel and Lebanon have fought two wars together. In 1982, following the evacuation of Palestinian leaders, and in 2006, following the abduction of two Israeli troops by Hezbollah fighters. Iran-sponsored Hezbollah is an Islamist terrorist organisation with headquarters in Lebanon that frequently engages in combat with Israeli defence forces.

SYRIA - Terrorist groups from Palestine have been hosted and given permission to operate in Syria against Israel. The Golan Heights, which Israel seized from Syria during the 1967 Six-Day War, is still a topic of discussion and deliberation.. The region's already high levels of tension are heightened by Syria's support for Hezbollah and Iran. Following Israel's declaration of independence in 1948, it was one of the five Arab nations that launched an invasion against the Jewish state. During the Yom Kippur War in 1973, Syria and Egypt attempted a surprise attack on Israel, but they were routed.

EGYPT - was in two wars with Israel, along with a few other West Asian nations, but with the 1979 Camp David Accords, Egypt was the first Arab nation to fully recognize Israel. Egypt has regularly served as a go-between for Israel and Hamas and other Palestinian groups.

OMAN - has helped the Palestinian territories, especially the Gaza Strip, which is under the terrorist organisation Hamas's authority, with humanitarian aid. It has taken diplomatic steps to aid in the peace process, frequently acting as a facilitator or mediator in negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians. Notwithstanding recent efforts to normalise relations with the Jewish nation, the Omani parliament decided in January 2023 to make any contact with Israel illegal.



Major Countries and Organisations Involved

QATAR - A major benefactor to the Palestinian territories, Qatar frequently acts as a go-between for Fatah, the West Bank's governing party, and Hamas, which administers Gaza. Humanitarian initiatives in the Gaza Strip are supported by Qatar. Following the Hamas strikes on October 7, Qatar declared that Israel was the only party to the conflict because of its "violations of the rights of the Palestinian people".

USA - Although the United States supported the Balfour Declaration of 1917, which favoured the establishment of a Jewish national home in Palestine, President Franklin D. Roosevelt had assured the Arabs in 1945 that the United States would not intervene without consulting both the Jews and the Arabs in that region. The United States has backed Israel with significant aid while seeking to broker a two-state solution, though its perceived pro-Israel bias has undermined efforts to resolve the decades-old conflict over issues like borders and Palestinian refugees. Despite being a key mediator, the U.S. is often accused of failing to be an impartial arbiter by Arab nations and Palestinian groups. Resolving the conflict remains an intractable foreign policy challenge for successive U.S. administrations.

Following the outbreak of war between Israel and Hamas on October 7, 2023, President Joe Biden made a strong statement of support for Israel. On the same day that Israel declared war against Hamas, the United States announced that it would send renewed shipments of arms and move its Mediterranean Sea warships closer to Israel. While the UN Security Council called an emergency meeting to discuss the renewed violence, the members failed to come to a consensus statement. Given the history of brutality when Israel and Palestinian extremist groups have fought in the past, international groups quickly expressed concern for the safety of civilians in Israel and the Palestinian territories as well as those being held hostage by militants in Gaza. In the first month of fighting, approximately 1,300 Israelis and 10,000 Palestinians were killed. Increasing loss of life is of primary concern in the conflict.



Major Countries and Organisations Involved

While the United States said there was “no direct evidence” that Iranian intelligence and security forces directly helped Hamas plan its October 7 attack, Iran has a well-established patronage relationship with Hamas and other extremist groups across the Middle East. Israel has exchanged artillery fire with Iran-backed Hezbollah almost daily and struck Syrian military targets and airports, prompting concern that the war could expand north. To the south, Yemen’s Houthi rebels have launched multiple rounds of missiles at Israel as well. Meanwhile, the Islamic Resistance of Iraq, a coalition of Iranian-backed militias, has claimed responsibility for dozens of attacks on U.S. military targets in Iraq and Syria since the war began.

A 2023 effort by the United States to help broker a normalisation accord between Israel and Saudi Arabia was thrown into chaos by the October conflict. Saudi Arabia has long advocated for the rights and safety of Palestinian Arab populations in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza. Especially in Gaza, those populations are now in the path of IDF operations, jeopardising the progress the Israelis and Saudis made toward a common understanding. However, the United States says the Saudis have indicated they are still interested in the deal.

INDIA - India's policy towards the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has remained consistent, advocating for a negotiated two-state solution leading to an independent and viable Palestinian state coexisting peacefully with Israel. India has condemned terrorist attacks, civilian casualties, and called for restraint, dialogue, and the release of hostages. The Indian leadership has engaged in diplomatic outreach with Israeli and Palestinian counterparts, reiterating support for a two-state solution. The External Affairs Minister's meeting with the Palestinian Foreign Minister in Kampala underscored India's commitment. Additionally, India has consistently articulated its stance through multilateral platforms like the UN, G20, BRICS, and the Voice of Global South Summit. These efforts reflect India's pursuit of a just and sustainable resolution to the long-standing conflict through principled diplomacy and



Major Countries and Organisations Involved

CHINA - President Xi Jinping has articulated China's principled stance on the prevailing Palestinian-Israeli predicament on numerous occasions. He has underscored the exigency of an immediate cessation of hostilities and the termination of armed confrontation, ensuring the unhindered and secure operation of humanitarian corridors, and averting the escalation of the conflict. Furthermore, he has elucidated that the profound resolution lies in the implementation of the two-state solution, fostering international consensus for peace, and expediting a comprehensive, equitable, and enduring settlement of the Palestinian question at the earliest juncture.

UK - As the power controlling Palestine, the UK issued this pivotal declaration endorsing a Jewish national homeland there, setting the stage for the future establishment of the state of Israel, despite the presence of an Arab population already living in Palestine. This shaped the contours of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict for decades to come.

The UK says the Rafah crossing is “open for controlled and time-limited periods”. The Egyptian authorities will contact the UK embassy when British nationals can cross. The UK embassy will then notify individuals. Prime Minister Rishi Sunak condemned the 7 October assault by Hamas as a “pogrom” and said Hamas must release all hostages unconditionally. He said Hamas can no longer be allowed to rule Gaza. The Government supports a “sustainable ceasefire” as a pathway to a “sustainable peace”. Such a ceasefire includes the release of hostages, aid delivery, and for Hamas to no longer pose a threat to Israel. It argues a ceasefire otherwise is “implausible” as it requires both sides to agree.



Major Countries and Organisations Involved

JORDAN - Jordan has been a key player in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict due to its historical ties to the Palestinian territories and its strategic location bordering Israel and the occupied West Bank. It has hosted a large Palestinian refugee population and controlled the West Bank until 1967, giving it a stake in the fate of the territories. Jordan signed a peace treaty with Israel in 1994 and retains custodianship over Muslim and Christian holy sites in Jerusalem. While supporting Palestinian statehood, Jordan has also had concerns about potential demographic shifts. It has facilitated peace talks, maintained security cooperation with both sides, and sought to balance Palestinian aspirations with its need for peaceful relations with Israel and regional stability.

TURKEY - Türkiye supports a negotiated settlement to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict on the basis of the UN Security Council Resolutions 242, 338, 1397 and 1515, the principle of land for peace, the Arab Peace Initiative and the Road Map that would ensure two states living side by side within secure and recognized borders.

Turkey, among other countries, has offered to mediate and serve as a “guarantor” to end the conflict and to ensure the implementation of a political solution. However, the guarantor proposal—first outlined by Turkish Foreign Minister Hakan Fidan on October 17—has not gained traction despite Fidan’s flurry of international diplomacy, including at the Cairo Peace Conference on October 21 as well as talks in London and Paris. Instead, Qatar (in coordination with Egypt and the United States) led negotiations to obtain the week-long “humanitarian pause” that began on November 24 and included hostage and prisoner releases plus aid deliveries into Gaza from Egypt.



Major Countries and Organisations Involved

SAUDI ARABIA - Saudi Arabia navigates a complex role in the Israel-Palestine conflict, historically supporting the Palestinian cause while also showing signs of warming ties with Israel due to shared concerns about Iran and mutual economic interests. This nuanced approach involves behind-the-scenes diplomacy, encouraging peace talks while publicly standing with the Palestinian people, reflecting Saudi Arabia's efforts to balance its geopolitical interests and regional stability.

Saudi Arabian Ambassador Abdulaziz Alwasil recalled General Assembly resolutions adopted over the years that reaffirmed the rights of the Palestinian people, including their right to self-determination. The Ambassador expressed Saudi Arabia's commitment to supporting the right of Palestinian people to self-determination and to build their own independent State within the 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital, in line with relevant resolutions.

YEMEN - The representative of Yemen, speaking on behalf of the Arab Group, called on all countries to resist Israel's genocidal agenda and attempts to terminate UNRWA. All donor countries who suspended their funding must reconsider and take swift measures to secure sustainable funding for the Agency. More than 2 million people are completely reliant on its services. Further, he stressed that current events in Gaza are a testament to the importance of granting the State of Palestine full membership at the UN. Drawing attention to the Israeli Knesset's vote in favour of rejecting any unilateral international recognition of an independent Palestinian State, he questioned whether that country should preserve its seat in the General Assembly



Major Countries and Organisations Involved

HOUSHI GROUP AND OTHER NATIONS - Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Saree said in a televised statement the group had launched a "large number" of ballistic missiles and drones towards Israel on Oct. 31, and there would be more such attacks to come "to help the Palestinians to victory". Saree said there had been three Houthi attacks on Israel since the start of the conflict, appearing to confirm they were behind a drone attack on Oct. 28 that resulted in blasts in Egypt and was blamed by Israel on the Houthis, and an Oct. 19 incident in which the U.S. navy intercepted three cruise missiles. Part of an "Axis of Resistance" backed by Iran, the Houthis have rallied behind the Palestinians since Hamas attacked Israel. Saree blamed Israel for instability in the Middle East, saying the "circle of conflict" in the region was being expanded by its "continued crimes". The Houthis would continue to mount attacks "until the Israeli aggression stops". The Houthis' slogan is "Death to America, Death to Israel, curse the Jews and victory to Islam". The Houthis have demonstrated their missile and drone capabilities during the Yemen war in attacks on Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, targeting oil installations and vital infrastructure. The Saudi-led coalition accuses Iran of arming, training and funding the Houthis. The group denies being an Iranian proxy and says it develops its own weapons.



Timeline of Events

1917: The Balfour Declaration issued by the British government expresses support for the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine, marking a significant endorsement of Zionist aspirations in the region.

1920-1948: The British Mandate period in Palestine witnesses escalating tensions between the Jewish and Arab communities as both groups vie for control over the land. Conflicts arise over issues such as land ownership, immigration, and political representation.

1947: The United Nations proposes the partition of Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states, which is accepted by Jewish leaders but rejected by Arab leaders who see it as unjust and disregarding their rights to the land.

1948: The State of Israel is established after the British mandate ends, leading to the first Arab-Israeli war. This war results in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians, leading to the creation of the Palestinian refugee crisis.

1967: The Six-Day War between Israel and neighbouring Arab states (Egypt, Jordan, and Syria) results in Israel's occupation of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Golan Heights, and East Jerusalem, significantly altering the geopolitical landscape of the region.

1978-1979: Camp David Accords

Sep 1, 1978: Egypt and Israel sign the Camp David Accords, brokered by the U.S. President Jimmy Carter. The agreement leads to the normalisation of diplomatic relations between the two countries, and Israel's withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula.



Timeline of Events

Mar 26, 1979: The Egypt-Israel peace treaty is signed, becoming the first peace treaty between Israel and an Arab state.

1973: The Yom Kippur War, also known as the October War or Ramadan War, erupts when Egypt and Syria launch a surprise attack on Israel to regain territories lost in the Six-Day War. The conflict ends with a ceasefire and highlights the ongoing tensions in the region.

1987-1993: The First Intifada, or Palestinian uprising, erupts as a popular uprising against Israeli occupation in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. It involves widespread protests, civil disobedience, and acts of violence, drawing international attention to the Palestinian cause.

1993: The Oslo Accords are signed between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO), providing a framework for the peaceful resolution of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and establishing the Palestinian Authority to govern parts of the occupied territories.

2000-2005: The Second Intifada, also known as the Al-Aqsa Intifada, erupts amid escalating tensions between Israelis and Palestinians, resulting in a period of intense violence, suicide bombings, and military operations, causing significant casualties on both sides. Israeli opposition leader Ariel Sharon's visit to the Temple Mount in Jerusalem sparks violent protests, triggering the Second Intifada, characterized by suicide bombings, shootings, and Israeli military operations. The "Passover Massacre," a suicide bombing targeting Israeli civilians during the Jewish holiday of Passover, leads to Israel's reoccupation of Palestinian cities in the West Bank.

2005: Israel unilaterally withdraws from the Gaza Strip, dismantling Jewish settlements and military installations, but maintains control over its borders, airspace, and territorial waters, leading to ongoing tensions and conflict with Hamas, which controls Gaza.



Timeline of Events

2007: The Palestinian territories become politically divided between the Fatah-controlled West Bank and the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip, leading to a deepening internal rift within Palestinian politics.

2008-2009, 2012, 2014: Major conflicts between Israel and Hamas erupted in the Gaza Strip, including the Gaza War in 2008-2009 (Operation Cast Lead), 2012 (Operation Pillar of Defense), and 2014 (Operation Protective Edge), resulting in significant loss of life and infrastructure damage.

2014: Operation Protective Edge

Jul 8-Aug 26, 2014: Israel launches Operation Protective Edge in response to rocket attacks from Hamas-controlled Gaza. The conflict results in significant casualties and widespread destruction in Gaza.

Dec 6, 2017: U.S. President Donald Trump officially recognizes Jerusalem as the capital of Israel and announces plans to relocate the U.S. embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Mar 25, 2019: The Trump administration recognizes Israeli sovereignty over the Golan Heights, which Israel had formally annexed from Syria in 1981. The United States is the first country other than Israel to recognize Israel's sovereignty over the territory.

Jan 28, 2020: The Trump administration unveils its proposed Middle East peace plan, which is met with rejection by the Palestinian leadership.

2020-2021: Abraham Accords and Tensions



Timeline of Events

Sep 15, 2020: The United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Bahrain normalize diplomatic relations with Israel, known as the Abraham Accords, facilitated by the Trump administration.

2021: The year sees increased tensions, including clashes between Israeli security forces and Palestinian protesters in Jerusalem, culminating in intense conflicts between Israel and Hamas in Gaza.

Oct 7, 2023: Hamas launches a surprise attack on Israel, triggering the deadliest conflict between Israel and Hamas in decades. The conflict results in significant loss of life and destruction in Gaza and Israel. The next day, Israel declares war.

Oct 9, 2023: Israel orders 'complete siege' of Gaza. The enclave, home to more than 2 million Palestinians, has already been under a blockade for 16 years. Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant says "no electricity, no food, no fuel" will be allowed to enter.

2023-2024:

It is the most significant escalation of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in several decades. Israel ordered more than one million Palestinian civilians in northern Gaza to evacuate ahead of a ground invasion that began on October 27th. The ground invasion began in the north in conjunction with Israel's continued aerial assault. The first stage of the ground invasion ended on November 24 with the hostage-for-prisoner swap that also allowed more aid into Gaza.



Timeline of Events

After seven days, the war resumed—particularly in Khan Younis, the largest city in southern Gaza that Israel claims is a Hamas stronghold. Under pressure from its principal ally, the United States, Israel announced it would begin to withdraw soldiers from the Gaza Strip in January 2024. Since then, military analysts speculate that the IDF has pulled out at least 90 percent of the troops that were in the territory a few months ago, leaving one remaining brigade. Israel’s Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, however, is unwavering in his position that an Israeli offensive in Rafah, the southernmost city in the Gaza Strip where over one million Palestinians have taken refuge, is essential to eradicating Hamas.

In mid-March, Israel conducted a two-week raid on al-Shifa Hospital, the largest medical center in Gaza. Israel claimed Hamas was operating out of al-Shifa, and it reportedly killed 200 fighters and captured an additional 500. The U.S. intelligence community later determined that Hamas had used al-Shifa as a command center and held some hostages there, but the Islamist group evacuated the complex days prior to the Israeli operation. In late April, two mass graves were discovered at al-Shifa and Nasser Hospital in Khan Younis, another target of an Israeli operation.

More than 300 bodies were found among the two sites; the United Nations has called for an independent investigation. On April 1, Israel launched an airstrike on an Iranian consular building in Damascus, Syria, killing multiple senior Iranian military officers. In response, Iran engaged directly in the war by launching over 300 drones and missiles at Israel on April 13. Though Israel was able to ward off the attack and only sustained minor damage to an air base, the escalation marked Iran’s first-ever direct attack on Israel. As Israel weighed an extensive counter strike on multiple military targets in Iran, the United States and other allies advised against actions that they feared would further widen the war. Israel ultimately launched a more limited aerial strike on military bases in Isfahan and Tabriz on April 19. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi later downplayed the response, suggesting Iran aimed to avoid further escalation.



Relevant UN Treaties and Events

1. Resolution 1322 (7 Oct 2000)
2. Resolution 1397 (12 Mar 2002)
3. Resolution 1435 (24 Sep 2002)
4. Resolution 1559 (2 September 2004)
5. Resolution 1860 (9 January 2009)
6. Resolution 2334 (23 December 2016)
7. Resolution 2712 (15 November 2023)
8. Resolution 2720 (22 December 2023)
9. Resolution 2728 (25 March 2024)
10. United Nations Partition Plan (1947)
11. Israel and All-Palestine Protectorate (1948)
12. Camp David Accords (1978)
13. Israeli–Lebanese peace treaty (1983)
14. Oslo Accords (1993)
15. Israel–Jordan peace treaty (1994)
16. Road map for peace (2003)
17. Gaza Disengagement (2005)
18. UNSC 1701 (Israel–Lebanon ceasefire treaty) (2006)
19. Annapolis Conference (2007)



QARMA

(Questions a Resolution Must Answer)

- **Should the UNSC recommend the membership of Palestine and other nations in the UN?**
- **Should Israel and Palestine resort to a two-state solution?**
- **What specific measures can be taken by the United Nations Security Council and its member states to mitigate the risk of a third world war sparked by escalating global tensions and conflicts?**
- **In a time when nationalism and unilateralism are on the rise, how can the United Nations Security Council promote multilateralism and collective action as the preferred approach to addressing global challenges and conflicts?**
- **What steps can be taken to promote dialogue, mutual recognition, coexistence, and reconciliation between Israel and Palestine?**
- **How can the competing historical narratives and claims over land, nationhood, and self-determination by Israelis and Palestinians be reconciled or addressed?**
- **What should be the status of Jerusalem, which holds immense religious and cultural significance for multiple faiths and is claimed as the capital by both sides?**
- **How can the issue of Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian territories, which are considered illegal under international law by most nations, be resolved?**



QARMA

(Questions a Resolution Must Answer)

- **What is the path forward for resolving the Israeli-Palestinian border disputes and achieving a negotiated agreement on territorial control and boundaries?**
- **How can the rights and demands of Palestinian refugees, including the right of return, be addressed in a comprehensive and durable solution?**
- **What role can and should the United Nations, as well as relevant UN resolutions and bodies, play in mediating the conflict and implementing a potential peace agreement?**
- **How can the involvement and influence of regional powers and external actors like the United States be constructively engaged or limited in the peace process?**
- **What mechanisms and frameworks should be established to protect human rights, ensure security, and prevent further violence between Israelis and Palestinians?**
- **What interim or long-term solutions, such as a two-state, one-state, or other models, should be pursued to resolve the core issues and establish a lasting peace?**



Moderated Caucus Topics

- **The relevance and applicability of the Geneva Conventions in addressing contemporary challenges such as refugee crises in Palestine and internal conflicts.**
- **The role of regional organisations and non-governmental actors in promoting compliance with the Geneva Conventions and Additional Protocols.**
- **Supporting the right of return for Palestinian refugees: Discussing ways to address the legacy of displacement and provide opportunities for refugees to return or receive compensation.**
- **Addressing the humanitarian impact of the Israeli blockade on Gaza: Discussing measures to alleviate the suffering of the civilian population in Gaza, improve access to essential services, and promote economic recovery and development.**
- **Discussing the impact of the barrier constructed by the Israeli government between their border with Palestine.**
- **What specific measures can be taken by the United Nations Security Council and its member states to mitigate the risk of a third world war sparked by escalating global tensions and conflicts?**



Bibliography

<https://press.un.org/en/2023/sc15462.doc.htm>

<https://www.un.org/unispal/history2/origins-and-evolution-of-the-palestine-problem/part-i-1917-1947/>

<https://www.un.org/unispal/history/>

<https://press.un.org/en/2024/sc15558.doc.htm>

<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-185557/>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/05/1149596>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/05/1149596#:~:text=Concluding%20his%20statement%2C%20the%20Ambassador,in%20line%20with%20relevant%20resolutions.>

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/saudi-arabia-puts-israel-deal-ice-amid-war-engages-with-iran-sources-say-2023-10-13/>

<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/amid-catastrophic-unconscionable-shameful-sitgeneral-assembly-meeting-coverage-4mar24/>

<https://www.reuters.com/world/middle-east/who-are-yemens-houthis-why-did-they-attack-israel-2023-11-01/>

<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-185557/>

<https://news.un.org/en/story/2024/05/1149596>