

Forum:	Security Council
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Student Officers:	Rachel Chi & Ethan Ma
Position:	Assistant President(s)

Introduction

Deaths number in the hundreds on a daily basis as the combat rages on in the Gaza Strip. In times of armed conflict, the greatest affected will always be the guiltless civilians caught in the crossfire. Men cut to ribbons by bullets, children buried under debris, families displaced and left to starve, foreign volunteers in the United Nations ruthlessly killed by the relentless bombings.

It is crucial members of the Security Council recognize both the alarming rate that the crises are escalating as well as the lackluster nature of past attempted resolutions. The international community must come together to put an end to the senseless violence and find a peaceful resolution for the people of Gaza. Currently, simple letters of condemnation and temporary humanitarian aid are insufficient and incapable of resolving the conflict. Immediate and permanent action is needed to prevent further loss of innocent lives and alleviate the suffering of those affected by this ongoing conflict.

Definition of Key Terms

Two-State Solution

A proposed framework for peace that envisions an independent State of Palestine alongside the State of Israel. This solution aims to address the national aspirations of both parties.

Six-Day War

A brief conflict in June 1967 between Israel and the neighboring Arab states, resulting in Israel's capture of the West Bank, Gaza Strip, Sinai Peninsula, and Golan Heights. The war significantly altered the political landscape of the region.

Hamas

A Palestinian militant and political organization founded in 1987, commonly known for its role in armed resistance against Israel and its governance of the Gaza Strip since 2007. Hamas is regarded by some countries as a terrorist organization.

Humanitarian Aid

Assistance provided to alleviate human suffering during crises when they are unable to fend for themselves, including sustenance, medical supplies, and shelter. In this context, humanitarian aid is crucial for addressing the needs of affected Palestinian populations.

Intifada

A term meaning "uprising," referring to Palestinian resistance against Israeli control, with two major uprisings occurring in the late 1980s and early 2000s. These uprisings involved protests and violence for the goal of Palestinian independence.

Settlements

Israeli communities established in territories occupied during the 1967 Six-Day War, including the West Bank and East Jerusalem. Settlements are often viewed as a major obstacle to peace negotiations.

Gaza Strip

A coastal Palestinian territory bordered by Israel and Egypt, known for its dense population and ongoing conflict with Israel. It has been governed by Hamas since 2007 and faces significant economic and humanitarian challenges due to frequent Israeli trespassing.

Oslo Accords

A series of agreements reached in the 1990s between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) aimed at achieving a peaceful framework and establishing Palestinian self-governance. These accords marked the first formal recognition between both parties.

Right of Return

The principle that Palestinian refugees displaced during the 1948 Arab-Israeli War and their descendants have the right to return to their former homes in Palestine. This issue remains a contentious point in peace negotiations.

Blockade

A military or political measure that restricts movement into and out of a specific area, such as the blockade of Gaza imposed by Israel since 2007. The blockade has significant humanitarian implications for the residents of Gaza as food resources and other necessities become insufficient in supply.

Fatah

A major Palestinian political party and the leading faction within the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). Fatah advocates for a negotiated peace with Israel and has historically been more moderate compared to Hamas.

Ceasefire

An agreement to stop hostilities, often temporarily, to allow for negotiations or humanitarian aid. Ceasefires are frequently negotiated during escalations of violence between Israel and Hamas, yet all were temporary.

UNRWA

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, responsible for providing education, health care, and social services to Palestinian refugees. UNRWA plays a critical role in supporting the refugee population.

Jerusalem

A city of significant religious and political importance to Muslims, Jews, and Christians, which is being claimed as a capital by both Israel and Palestinians. Past resolutions dictated that the city be left as an international buffer-zone in the two-state policy. The status of Jerusalem remains one of the most contentious issues in the conflict.

Background

Historical foundations

Zionism

In 1896, a Jewish journalist called Theodor Herzl published *The State of the Jews*¹, a pamphlet arguing that the best way to avoid anti-Semitism in Europe was to establish a state for Jews². The best place for this proposed state was their historic homeland, Palestine. He called his idea “Zionism”, after the alternative name for Jerusalem, “Zion”. Herzl believed that Jews were “naturally drawn to those places where [they] are not persecuted, and [their] appearance there gives rise to persecution”, making the creation of a new state the ideal solution (Halperin).

Until his death in 1904, Herzl championed Zionism, but it likely would have come to nothing had the British not become involved during and after WW1, especially since the Ottoman Empire had controlled Palestine since 1516. During the war, Britain made three contradictory promises:

1. The McMahon-Hussein Agreement, made in 1915, in which the Arabs promised to help the British defeat the Ottoman Empire in exchange for British support for Arab independence post-war (Bard). By 1918, the Ottoman Empire had indeed collapsed with Arab help and over ten million Arabs believed they had won their independence.
2. The Sykes-Picot Agreement, made in 1916, which arranged alongside France to divvy up the Ottoman Empire between the two powers after the war, largely ignoring the promise of independence made to the Arabs a year earlier (Hanifa). Both powers sought to protect their control of the Suez Canal and access to precious Middle Eastern oil supplies.
3. The Balfour Declaration, explained below.

The Balfour Declaration

¹ In German “*Der Judenstaat*”, subtitled “*Versuch einer modernen Lösung der Judenfrage*” (“Proposal of a modern solution for the Jewish question”)

² Full text can be found here: <https://archive.org/details/ajewishstateana00aviggoog>

In 1917, British Foreign Secretary Arthur James Balfour promised in a letter to Lord Lionel Rothschild, a figurehead of the British Jewish community, “the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people”. This would later become known as the Balfour Declaration. It was an unprecedented show of support for Zionism from a major political power and in fact Lord Balfour’s aims in making it were unclear, but it was obvious that the wishes of Palestinian Arabs – around 90% of the Palestinian population – were disregarded; in fact, Balfour later wrote that Zionism was “rooted in age-long traditions [...] of far profounder import than the desires and prejudices of the 700,000 Arabs who now inhabit the land” (Sand).

The Christian and Muslim Palestinian reaction can be summarised by Palestinian-American philosopher Edward Said’s words in 1979: the declaration was made “(a) by a European power, (b) about a non-European territory, (c) in a flat disregard of both the presence and the wishes of the native majority resident in that territory, and (d) it took the form of a promise about this same territory to another foreign group” (Said). There was backlash from Palestinian Arabs and the wider Arab world, which can be seen through a 1919 Arab independence newspaper which wrote that “Our country is Arab, Palestine is Arab, and Palestine must remain Arab”, or the Nebi Musa riots in 1920 which led to the death of 5 Jews and the injury of several hundred (Tahhan).

Palestine under the British Mandate

In 1920, Britain was granted the Mandate for Palestine, which was approved by the League of Nations in 1922. The Mandate System, administered by the Allied powers, was a League of Nations policy that granted control of former territories of Germany and the Ottoman Empire to members of the League following the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire and WW1; its purported aim was to grant political trusteeship of new states to the war’s victors, but in practice, it was simply a form of colonialism. The Balfour Declaration was included in the terms of the new Palestinian Mandate, which was unique from other Mandates in that it was to prepare the country for independent governance³ (Ginat).

Palestinians were outraged by the Mandate – they had expected to be granted independence immediately as the McMahon-Hussein Agreement had indicated, not to exchange Ottoman rule for British. They also had not been consulted at all by the use of Palestinian land to establish a Jewish homeland. After the Mandate’s establishment, there were waves of *Aliyah*⁴ – the migration of Jewish diaspora - into Palestine as Jewish immigrants settled and expelled Arabs from the lands (Lavalette). As a result, between 1921 and 1948, there were numerous protests from the Arab population demanding an end to Jewish immigration and more political rights.

The Partition Plan & UN Resolution 181

⁴ See here for a look into the history of *Aliyah* into Israel: <https://reformjudaism.org/history-jewish-immigration-israel-aliyah>

WW2 both further opened the floodgates for Jewish immigration as refugees tried to start new lives in the US or Palestine, and also created an outpouring of international sympathy due to the brutality of the Holocaust. The newly elected British government in 1945 decided to limit Jewish immigration to Palestine to just 1,500 people a month, which Zionist organisations in Palestine responded to with sabotage and terrorism. To allow the flood of immigrants to go unchecked would have been to invite civil war between Jews and Arabs, as well as jeopardise Britain's position with Middle Eastern oil states which were against Jewish migration into Palestine, but the status quo of the Mandate was quickly proving to be unsustainable.

To solve this issue, the UK decided to outsource it to the newly formed United Nations to create a solution. In 1947, the UN Special Committee on Palestine (UNSCOP) was formed to investigate the issue, and reported by with a recommendation in September: the partition of Palestine into Jewish and Arab states (UNGA). The new states would have a shared currency and railways but be governed separately; Jerusalem and Bethlehem were to be under international control, due to being sacred to Jews, Muslims, and Christians.

Arabs rejected the partition plan wholly. They believed the UN had no right to take land away against the wishes of its inhabitants – even though Jewish numbers had increased due to immigration, the idea of giving away over half of Palestine to only one third of the population seemed ridiculous. On the other hand, the Jews were also reluctant to accept the plan's terms. They had wanted Jerusalem to be their capital, but the new territorial divisions would make visiting it even more difficult since it was deep in the Arab-allocated area. Additionally, Arabs would own 80% of land in the new Jewish state, and over 400,000 Arabs would be living on it (UN). The plan did recognise the Jewish population's right to their own state though, and only Jewish extremists rejected it outright, demanding that Jerusalem be part of their territory.

In November of 1947, the General Assembly of the UN voted on the Partition Plan in Resolution 181. To be passed, the resolution required a two-thirds supermajority. The vote happened on 29th of November: 33 nations voted for, 13 against, and 10 abstained. Resolution 181⁵ of the General Assembly passed. Soon after, the British announced their impending withdrawal from Palestine.

The creation of Israel

On 14th May of 1948, David Ben-Gurion announced the foundation of the state of Israel. The USA and Soviet Union recognised its legitimacy quickly. Arab states denounced it. On 15th of May, five armies – those of Egypt, Syria, Transjordan⁶, Lebanon, and Iraq – invaded Israel immediately, declaring war as a show of support for Palestinian Arabs. For the young state of Israel, this was almost devastating.

The Nakba

⁵ View full text (Palestine plan of partition with economic union) here: <https://www.un.org/unispal/document/auto-insert-185393/>

⁶ Now known as Jordan, Transjordan's Mandate was also awarded to Britain along with those of Palestine and Iraq

The ensuing Arab-Israeli war took place from May of 1948 to July of 1949, with the UN negotiating two truces of one and three months respectively in the middle. After struggling initially, Zionist supporters in the USA obtained weapons from Czechoslovakia for the Israeli forces during the first truce, allowing them to expel the Arab armies and eventually even gain 50% of the land which had been allocated to Palestine according to the Partition Plan.

That is part of the reason the war became known to the Palestinian Arabs as *al-Nakba* – literally “The Catastrophe”. Around 900,000 Arabs lived in the region that would become Israel; some fled before the war or fled during the war, resulting in over 700,000 Palestinian refugees by the end (MEE). Since 1949, Palestinians have argued for their right to return to the land taken by Israel, but Israel has contended that the problem was created by the Arab invasion of Israeli territory, and therefore not Israel’s responsibility.

The Six-Day War

In 1967, Israel engaged in another conflict with several Arab neighbor countries. In just 6 days from June 5th to June 10th, Israel, after sending its entire air force to Egypt, achieved a decisive victory and managed to gain land around 4 times its original territory, with the Arabs suffering 20,000 casualties (Cohen). They managed to capture East Jerusalem, which encompassed the Wailing Wall and Temple Mount (two important religious sites for Jews), as well as the West Bank, the Gaza Strip, and Sinai. Although keeping annexed land was prohibited by international law and there was much internal disagreement about what to do with the captured land, almost all Israeli factions agreed that they should keep East Jerusalem forever. Significantly, this also marked when the Gaza Strip and West Bank fell under Israeli occupation, as they have been since and still are.

As with the *Nakba*, the Six-Day War was a disaster for Palestinians, gaining the name *al-Naksa* – “The Setback”. When the West Bank was captured by Israeli forces, 300,000 Palestinians fled the area, with most leaving for Jordan where there were six emergency camps set up by the UN (Hasan). Following this, many Palestinians joined guerrilla movements and resistance groups, one of which was Fatah, formally the Palestinian National Liberation Movement.

Failed uprisings

The First Intifada

Movement in the occupied territories was heavily restricted by Israel; living conditions were unhygienic, with the Gaza Strip being one of the most densely populated areas in the world; Israeli police detained civilians frequently for fear of a resistance movement. It was under these conditions that the First Intifada – First Uprising – started.

In December of 1987, an Israeli Defence Force (IDF) truck crashed into two vans containing Palestinian families, killing 4 and wounding 7 (Omer-man). The previous day, an Israeli market trader in Gaza had been stabbed to death. There were rumours that the van crash had been deliberate on the IDF’s part,

inciting riots at the funerals. Within 3 weeks, there were general marches and riots, and the protest had spread to the West Bank from Gaza. Throughout the course of the Intifada, which lasted until 1993, 1,200 Palestinians and 160 Israelis were killed (Brym and Araj). Israel increased security on the Gaza Strip further.

The Oslo Peace Accords

The Intifada was finally ended by the Oslo Peace Accords in 1993. On September 13, 1993, the Israeli Prime Minister and a negotiator for the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), a nonprofit that had been advocating for Palestinian rights, signed the “Oslo Accords”⁷ at the White House (U.S. Office of the Historian). They agreed upon the establishment of a Palestinian Authority (PA) which would govern the Gaza Strip and West Bank for the next 5 years, at the conclusion of which Palestine might be granted statehood. They also agreed that elections and political parties could exist in Gaza, although Israel would ultimately still be occupying the area and controlling the flow of resources.

Despite this internationally brokered breakthrough, Israel and Gaza fractured further as the Israeli Prime Minister called for the construction of a fence around Gaza, literally separating them from the outside world (Keinon). Israel built settlements within the Gaza Strip, functionally reducing territory for the Arabs in an already overpopulated area. Two months after the Oslo Accords were finalised, the Israeli Prime Minister, Rabin, was assassinated (Freedland). Hamas, a militant resistance organisation which was formerly a charity, carried out several suicide bombings which continue today⁸ (JVL).

The Second Intifada

As goodwill on both sides continued to spiral downwards, a short incident triggered another uprising singlehandedly. In 2000, Ariel Sharon, head of the Israeli political party Likud, visited Temple Mount in Jerusalem (Adam). He expressed that the Temple mount is the “holiest site in Judaism and it is the right of every Jew to visit the Temple Mount”, and that it “will remain in [Jewish] hands”; however, from the Palestinian perspective, he was insulting a Muslim holy site (Goldenberg). Combined with the fact that he was hated by Palestinians already, this event became the catalyst for a second, more violent Intifada. Israeli police retaliated with tear gas and rubber bullets as the Palestinian population protested. There were suicide bombings, grenades, rockets, hurling of knives, and exchanges of fire. In response, Israel destroyed both the airport and the partially constructed seaport, restricting work and travel further. The Intifada ended in 2005, with neither side having gained much, with 6,000 Palestinians and 1,000 Israelis dying (B'tselem).

The 2023 Israel-Gaza War

Hamas' Election

⁷ Officially called the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements

⁸ See here for a comprehensive list of Palestinian terror attacks from 1994 to 2005: <https://www.jewishvirtuallibrary.org/major-palestinian-terror-attacks-since-oslo>

Before more strides towards peace could be made, the Palestinian Assembly elections were held in January of 2006 and Hamas became the majority party (Al Jazeera). The party previously in power, Fatah, was favoured by the PA but many viewed them as weak, and recent protests had made the people even more dissatisfied with the status quo. Hamas was staunchly against finding peace with Israel and instead wanted to destroy Israel entirely. It is widely recognised as a militant terrorist organisation, with the US government designating it a Foreign Terrorist Organisation (NCTC). It also took over the entire Gaza Strip in 2006 after a brief struggle against Fatah.

The Start of the War

On October 7th 2023, Hamas launched a coordinated surprise attack on Israel. The operation included a massive rocket barrage and the infiltration of Israeli territory by thousands of militants who breached the Gaza–Israel barrier, targeting civilian communities and military installations. The attack resulted in approximately 1,200 deaths, predominantly civilians, and over 200 individuals were taken hostage, including both Israeli and foreign nationals (Barron, Dibble and Kutzer-Ellenvogen). Hamas claimed the assault was justified and in response to Israel's prolonged blockade of Gaza, the occupation of Palestinian territories, settlement expansion, and perceived threats to the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Israel responded with an extensive military counteroffensive aimed at dismantling Hamas's infrastructure and securing the release of hostages. The Israeli campaign has included one of the most intensive aerial bombardments in recent history, culminating in a ground invasion of Gaza on October 27th. Since then, the war has continued to rage on, with both Hamas and Israel accused of committing humanitarian crimes in the war. It has caused the most casualties in the overall Israel-Palestine conflict thus far, with over 44,000 dead in Gaza alone, including 17,000 children (AJLabs).

Major Parties Involved

Israel

The State of maintains control over Gaza's airspace and land borders while enforcing the Gaza blockade, which obstructs 83% of food aid and allowed only 69 food aid trucks per day as of August 2024, in comparison to 500 the previous year (NRC). Israel views its military actions as defensive measures against threats posed by Hamas and other militant groups, aiming to ensure national security and safeguard its citizens. The Israeli government also maintains a significant presence in the West Bank. Since the 2022 election of Likud, an extreme right-wing government headed by politician Benjamin Netanyahu, Israel's internal politics have only skewed further as nationalist and neo-Revisionist ideology⁹ dominate policy.

⁹ See here for a more comprehensive analysis of neo-Revisionism and Israeli politics since the Second Intifada: <https://newlinesmag.com/argument/why-most-israelis-believe-the-conflict-can-never-be-resolved/>

Hamas

The de facto governing party of the Gaza Strip, an Islamic militant movement that has been involved in politics since its election in 2007. Since assuming total control of the Gaza Strip since then, it has frequently engaged in armed conflicts with Israel. Hamas' 1988 charter is a concise summary of the movement's core goals: to "obliterate" Israel, the "killing of the Jews", and to "[establish] the state of Islam"¹⁰.

Palestinian Authority

The internationally recognized leadership of the Palestinian people, operating with limited governance in the city of Ramallah in the West Bank. It comprises Fatah and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine among other major parties but excludes militant groups such as Hamas, and has been described as highly corrupt. The PA President and head of the PLO Executive Committee, Mahmoud Abbas, has been in power 19 years when he was only elected for a 4-year term, and has dissolved parliament and purged political rivals (**Robinson**). It is also likely that he canceled Palestine's 2021 legislative elections – the first since 2006 - to prevent a likely Hamas win and certain Fatah defeat, an action denounced by Palestinians as a "usurpation of power" (**Amer**). The PA has struggled to maintain relevance in the conflict as it holds minimal authority over Palestinian territories compared with Israel and Hamas. Historically, it has relied on foreign aid and recognition from the Oslo Accords to operate, but some donors have cut aid in recent years as a result of the PA's mismanagement.

United States of America

The USA has historically been one of Israel's major allies, providing substantial military, economic, and political backing, as well as mediating peace negotiations such as the Camp David Accords and Oslo Accords. It has also utilised its Security Council veto power more than 14 times to defend Israel since 2001, such as when it vetoed a proposed December 8 resolution proposing an immediate ceasefire (**O'Dell**). It has sold over 50,000 tonnes of arms and military equipment in 600 shipments to Israel throughout the course of the war (**Zhang**). The USA reportedly also provides 15% of Israel's military budget and has donated upwards of \$310 billion in aid (**Masters and Merrow**).

Russian Federation

The Russian Federation has maintained relations with both sides of the conflict; however, it is theorised that the nation's engagement has been more aimed at solidifying soft power within the Middle East rather than specifically supporting a faction (**Vorobyov**). Due to its heavily anti-West position, and due to the West's broad pro-Israel position, Russia thus takes on a pro-Palestine and anti-Israel position. Unlike the USA and European Union, it has not designated Hamas as a terrorist organization. There also remains a deep cultural mistrust of Soviet Jews in Russian society as Soviet Jews were suspected of having split loyalties between the state and their religion, which may be a factor in Russia's position (**Hill and Huggard**). Abbas has visited Moscow and Russia has hosted a

¹⁰ See the full text of the 1988 Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya Covenant here: https://avalon.law.yale.edu/20th_century/hamas.asp

conference with representatives from Hamas, Fatah, and Islamic Jihad, but the country's lack of serious influence over Palestinian affairs led to it being ineffectual.

Iran

Since Hamas' formation in 1987, it has consistently received support from Iran in the form of financial aid and military training - Israeli intelligence has suggested that Iran "is passing over millions of dollars to Palestinians via Hezbollah contacts". Despite the two groups' disagreement over the Iranian President Assad's decision to target Sunni Muslims¹¹ in the Syrian civil war, Iran has continued to fund Hamas' military activities despite reducing support for its political activities (**Levitt**). Iran's backing of Hamas is partly ideological, as they are both Muslim states with vested religious interests in the city of Jerusalem and partly political, as Israel and the USA have long been perceived as the greatest threat to its national security and supporting Hamas' confrontation of Israel is congruent with this worry (**Skare**).

Previous Attempts to Resolve the Issue

Attempts at resolving the issue in the region of Palestine date back to 1947, just two years after the initial establishment of the United Nations. In the closing days of the Second World War, both the displaced Jewish and Palestinian refugees were in urgent need of a place for settlement, and various problems arose as disputes over Palestinian territories escalated.

The original resolution passed by the General Assembly dictated a strict two-state policy, wherein both ethnicities will cohabit the territory harmoniously, yet as Israel developed at far superior rates than their contemporary, they soon begun trespassing borders and occupying the state of Palestine. In the following decades, both the General Assembly and the Security Council of the United Nations demanded the immediate retreat of Israeli troops as well as a peaceful settlement with the surrounding Arab nations.

After a period of relative stability, the rise of the militant group Hamas in the Gaza Strip sparked more severe humanitarian crises inflicted on the Palestinian civilians, particularly the residents of Gaza, as combat between both parties of the Israel-Hamas conflict led to the complete destruction of all existing infrastructure and public facilities. This calls for a need for a longer-standing solution that can ensure lasting peace and stability.

- UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/181 (1947): The issue of Palestine was first brought up to the United Nations in this resolution, and the General Assembly ultimately decided to introduce a two-state solution that divided the region between Palestine and Israel, both becoming sovereign and independent states, with Jerusalem as an international buffer zone.

¹¹ Hamas is also majority Sunni Muslim, while Iran is a self-styled Shia Muslim republic. The distinction between Islam and Judaism is more significant for discussion of the Israel-Hamas conflict; however, the Shia-Sunni divide has been the catalyst of multiple proxy wars between Iran and Saudi Arabia, including in Syria, Yemen, and Iraq. See here for a breakdown of Muslim denominations and the Shia-Sunni divide: <https://www.cfr.org/article/sunni-shia-divide#:~:text=Shias%2C%20a%20term%20that%20stems,succession%20based%20on%20Mohammed's%20bloodline>.

- UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/194 (1948): The resolution addressed the dire situation of Palestinian refugees displaced globally after the end of the Second World War and affirmed their indisputable right to return to their homeland of Palestine.
- UN Security Council Resolution S/RES/242 (1967): During the aftermath of the Six-Day War, fought primarily between Israel and Egypt, Jordan, and Syria, the resolution called for the withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories occupied in the Six-Day War and emphasized the crucial need of all states in the area to live in peace.
- UN Security Council Resolution S/RES/338 (1973): The resolution called for an immediate ceasefire in the Yom Kippur War and urged negotiations to establish a just and durable peace in the region of the Middle East.
- UN Security Council Resolution S/RES/1397 (2002): The resolution underscored once again the imperative need to establish and maintain the two-state solution and reaffirmed the longstanding vision of a region where the two states, Israel and Palestine, coexist side by side in stability, security, and prosperity.
- UN Security Council Resolution S/RES/1860 (2009): The resolution calls for an immediate, long-lasting, and completely respected ceasefire, emphasizing its urgency, particularly on the issue of lack of humanitarian resources in the Gaza region, and resulting in the complete withdrawal of Israeli forces from Gaza.
- UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/67/19 (2012): A resolution on the topic of the status of Palestine in the United Nations which subsequently upgraded the status of Palestine to a non-member observer state.
- UN Security Council Resolution S/RES/2334 (2016): The resolution reaffirmed that Israeli settlements in occupied Palestinian territory have no legal validity and constitute a flagrant violation of international law. The resolution also demanded Israel to immediately cease such activity and proceed under international law.
- UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/ES-10/19 (2018): Drafted by Yemen and Turkey, the resolution condemned Israel for illicitly declaring Jerusalem as the capital of the state of Israel. It also reiterated previous resolutions that clearly defined the Holy City as an international buffer zone for the two-state solution and condemned nations for attempting to ignore the decision.
- UN General Assembly Resolution A/RES/ES-10/21 (2023): The resolution was created by Jordan and demanded that all parties immediately and completely fulfill their responsibilities under international law, condemn all acts of violence against Israeli and Palestinian civilians, and call for an immediate and sustained humanitarian truce and cessation of hostilities.

Possible Solutions

- The most imperative of all issues would be the frequent trespassing of borders by both parties, with its primary cause being the United Nations' inability to effectively enforce and mandate its initial two-state policy. History has repeated itself and shown that letters of condemnation are nothing but useless under the current circumstances. A constructive remedy to this would be the introduction and establishment of corresponding consequences for offenses against the unilateral resolution, with enough force to discourage anyone from attempting to test their luck against the United Nations. On the other hand, this decision might face challenges such as resistance from countries with vested interests in the conflict, who may try to undermine or block any efforts to enforce consequences for violations of the resolution. However, by working together with key stakeholders and leveraging diplomatic pressure, it is possible to overcome

these obstacles and create a more effective framework for upholding international law and promoting peace in the region.

- Another key aspect limiting Palestine from being able to effectuate its borders is the undeniable technological and economic gap in development between Israel and Palestine. Encouraging economic development through means such as but not limited to providing foreign monetary assistance as a start-up fund for the impoverished regions of Gaza or encouraging the establishment of international firms in the nation as a source of economic growth. This gap in development not only affects the ability of Palestine to defend its borders effectively but also hinders its overall growth and stability as a nation. By addressing these economic disparities, Palestine may have a better chance at establishing and maintaining secure borders in the future.
- One solution would be to establish a single united state that is not controlled individually by either party of the Israel-Hamas conflict. This would ensure a unilateral interest amongst all the residents of the region of Palestine, whether they be Israeli or Palestinian. This united state will be governed by representatives from both sides to ensure the needs of both parties are met through achieving fair representation and decision-making. By working together, both Israelis and Palestinians can create a more stable and peaceful future for themselves and future generations.
- Another more extreme alternative to the preceding solution would be the establishment of a larger federal government across the middle east and uniting the entire region under a single authority whilst still maintaining relative autonomy in the respective regions, binding the interests of all member-states of this new global superpower together and forcing them to coexist peacefully.

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