

# IMUN Security Council

## Officer Report 2021

### *The question of the conflict between Israel and Palestine*

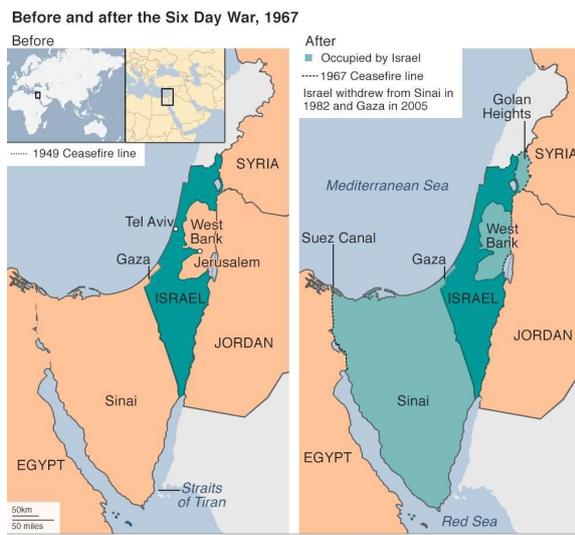
#### Introduction:

The conflict between Israel and Palestine that has been ongoing for more than 100 years has escalated to the point where prospects of war unfortunately seem likely. The international community has this genuine fear that a war might erupt at any moment. By the looks of it, for this damaging and endless conflict to halt, a vast amount of time, resources and diplomacy needs to be attributed.

#### Background information:

The root of this conflict dates to the World War I period when the British had several mandates, one of them being over Palestine, beginning in 1917. This mandate meant that the British had administration over Palestine. During the mandate, two different societies existed in Palestine, the Jewish and the Arab, where the former was the minority at the time and the latter was the majority. Britain was given the task to establish a national home for the Jewish people which worked in accordance with the Balfour Declaration of 1917, written by the British Secretary of State of Foreign Affairs. One key takeaway from the declaration was the excerpt, “nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine.” Conflict between the two parties began in the 1920s and lasted until the 1940s by the fact that each side argued that historical Palestine belonged to them. Conflict also occurred due to the mass immigration of the Jewish population that were escaping persecution and the horrors of the holocaust. In attempt to subside the situation, in 1947 the

UN voted to divide that region into distinct areas designated for the Arabs and the Jews. Under this resolution, Jerusalem was considered as an international city. While the Jews were satisfied with the resolution, the Arabs were not. Hence, the conflict lingered on, and the British gave up as they renounced their mandate over Palestine in 1948. That was when the Jewish declared the establishment of Israel, which was the catalyst of a war. This war even involved external states such as Jordan and Egypt. The ceasefire that ended the war was never met with a peace agreement, which allowed for the conflict to carry on for decades to come. Such an example would be June 5, 1967, known as the Six Day War. Following the war, Israel took further control over critical areas such as the Gaza Strip, Sinai, the West Bank, the Golan Heights and Arab East Jerusalem which displaced hundreds of thousands of Palestinians:



("1967 war") Israelis have prohibited Palestinians to return to their original homes that are now part of Israel and have been designated for around 600,000 Jews.

### The situation:

The current conflict consists of fights between the Palestinian group Hamas and the Israeli forces. Israeli airstrikes target Gaza and the Hamas rockets and mortar shells target Southern Israel. Israel has more advanced technology and resources such as the "Iron Dome"

(which intercepts short-range rockets and artillery) making these attacks affect disproportionately more Arabs, in terms of number of casualties and displaced. The dispute between the two parties is about determining what should happen to the Palestinian refugees, how Jerusalem should be shared, whether Jewish occupation of the West Bank should or not occur and, whether the establishment of the state of Palestine should be created. Even though attempts at diplomacy have occurred, starting in 1979 with the Camp David Accords and continuing in the 90s in Oslo, one party is always unhappy with the resolution.

### Focus of debate:

Solutions may scope beyond diplomatic solutions so long as they are plausible and are likely to be passed by all the P5 members. Key players in this debate will be principally the United States that has exerted external influence in this conflict. Other delegations should recognize their importance in the debate as well, for this conflict is a global threat. The most pertinent areas that should be tackled about the conflict itself are the use and development of armaments from the Palestinians and the Israelis and the land distribution disputes, both of which if not dealt with will have serious ramifications on the civilian population. Furthermore, foreign intervention plays a prominent role in the continuance of the conflict, which is why debate should also consider this aspect.

### Research:

This topic is very accessible and easy to find information on. However, if in need of a starting point, it will be helpful to consult BBC, the online Encyclopedia Britannica and the official UN website all of which have a plethora of util information to understand the topic. It should be reiterated that extra research is required to fully grasp the topic. Moreover, it is imperative to understand not only the issue but also exactly how your delegation would combat

the issue. For this, it would be ideal to research your delegation's website and any policy that relates to this topic. Reading past UN resolutions on this topic would serve well to understand what sort of solutions are plausible and the possible scope of solutions that can be presented in this debate. It is recommended to research UN resolutions created during any key years of conflict between Palestine and Israel as that is most likely when resolutions tackling this topic would be created, such as the years 1948 and 1967. Ensure that if you decide to do this to look at specifically Security Council resolutions, not the ones that were by the General Assembly. In regard to solutions, originality and creativity are also encouraged.

## Works Cited

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