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MODEL UNITED NATIONS



UNSC

Resolving the Israel Palestine conflict with deliberation on necessity of UN Peacekeeping operation in the area.



Background of the committee

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations, established to maintain international peace and security. The UNSC plays a crucial role in addressing and resolving conflicts, responding to threats to peace, and promoting global cooperation.

The United Nations Charter outlines the establishment and functions of the United Nations, including the creation of the United Nations Security Council (UNSC). The relevant portion of the UN Charter that deals specifically with the UNSC is found in Chapter V, titled “The Security Council.”

Chapter V of the UN Charter details the composition, powers, and procedures of the Security Council. It outlines the responsibilities of the Council in maintaining international peace and security, as well as the mechanisms for decision-making, including voting procedures and the use of the veto by the permanent members. Additionally, it distinguishes between two types of action: those involving peaceful means (Chapter VI) and those involving the use of force or sanctions (Chapter VII).

1. Functions:

a. Maintenance of International Peace and Security:

- The UNSC identifies potential threats to international peace and security through continuous monitoring of global events.
- It assesses conflicts, disputes, and situations that could escalate into threats, employing early warning mechanisms to stay proactive.

b. Peacekeeping Operations:

- The UNSC deploys peacekeeping forces to conflict zones, composed of military and civilian personnel.
- These operations aim to create a secure environment, facilitate the political process, and help in the reconstruction and development of post-conflict societies.

c. Sanctions:

- The UNSC imposes sanctions as a non-military tool to address threats, targeting specific individuals, entities, or states.
- Sanctions can include arms embargoes, travel restrictions, asset freezes, and trade limitations, with the intent to influence the behavior of the targeted entities.

d. Authorization of Military Action:

- In cases where peaceful means prove insufficient, the UNSC may authorize the use of force.
- This authority is granted under Chapter VII of the UN Charter, allowing military intervention to restore or maintain international peace and security.



e. International Criminal Justice:

- The UNSC refers cases to the International Criminal Court (ICC) to investigate and prosecute individuals responsible for genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity.
- This mechanism serves as a deterrent and promotes accountability for those responsible for grave international crimes.

2. Mandate:

a. Chapter VI - Pacific Settlement of Disputes:

- The UNSC encourages parties to settle disputes through peaceful means, such as negotiation, mediation, arbitration, and judicial settlement.
- This chapter emphasises diplomatic solutions to prevent the escalation of conflicts.

b. Chapter VII - Action with Respect to Threats to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace, and Acts of Aggression:

- This chapter grants the UNSC more extensive powers to take collective action in response to threats to peace, breaches of peace, or acts of aggression.
- The UNSC can enforce sanctions, establish no-fly zones, and authorise the use of force to address serious threats.

3. Structure:

a. Membership:

- The UNSC comprises 15 member states, with five permanent members (P5) holding veto power and ten non-permanent members elected by the General Assembly.
- The P5 play a central role in decision-making, reflecting the post-World War II power dynamics.

b. Veto Power:

- The veto power allows any of the P5 to block substantive resolutions, creating a unique balance of power.
- The intention behind the veto is to prevent actions contrary to the vital interests of the permanent members.

c. Presidency:

- The presidency rotates monthly among the members, allowing each state to preside over the Council and set the agenda for that month.
- The presidency ensures a fair and inclusive representation of all members.



4. Decision-Making Process:

a. Voting:

- Decisions on substantive matters require a minimum of nine affirmative votes.
- A negative vote (veto) by any of the P5 prevents the adoption of a resolution, highlighting the importance of consensus.

b. Procedural Matters:

- Procedural matters, including the adoption of the agenda or rules of procedure, are decided by an affirmative vote of at least nine members.
- These matters do not require unanimity and are essential for the smooth functioning of the UNSC.

5. Dealing with Issues:

a. Agenda Setting:

- The UNSC sets its agenda based on emerging international issues, conflicts, or crises.
- The agenda is dynamic, allowing the Council to respond promptly to evolving situations.

b. Consultations and Deliberations:

- Closed-door consultations provide an informal setting for members to discuss issues freely and reach consensus.
- Public meetings and briefings involve broader UN membership and may include input from experts and stakeholders.

c. Resolutions:

- Resolutions are official decisions of the UNSC, binding on all member states.
- They outline specific actions, directives, or recommendations to address a particular issue, and non-compliance may lead to the imposition of sanctions.

d. Peacekeeping and Special Envoys:

- The UNSC may authorise peacekeeping missions to deploy military and civilian personnel to conflict zones.
- Special envoys, appointed by the UNSC, facilitate diplomatic efforts, engage with relevant parties, and work towards conflict resolution.

Suggested Readings-

1. <https://www.un.org/en/about-us/un-charter/full-text>
2. <https://academic.oup.com/book/41557/chapter-abstract/353026019?redirectedFrom=fulltext>



“Resolving the Israel Palestine Conflict with deliberation on the necessity of UN Peacekeeping operation in the area.”

Overview of the Conflict

On October 7, 2023, Gaza Strip-based militants led by the Palestinian Sunni Islamist group Hamas (a U.S.-designated foreign terrorist organization, or FTO) engaged in a series of surprise attacks by land, sea, and air against Israel (see Figure 1. Israel and Gaza: Conflict Map). Palestine Islamic Jihad (or PIJ, another FTO) claimed that its forces also participated in the attacks, and others outside of Hamas and PIJ may also have joined. The assault targeted Israeli military bases and civilian areas during the final Jewish high holiday, just over 50 years after the Egypt-Syria surprise attack that sparked the 1973 Yom Kippur War, known in the Arab world as the October War. The attacks' scope and lethality against Israel have no precedent in the 16 years Hamas has controlled Gaza. The nature of the violence stunned Israelis and many others. The apparent intelligence and operational failures in preventing the assault or limiting its impact have become a subject of analysis for Israeli and U.S. officials. In response to the attacks, Israel's cabinet formally declared war on Hamas, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu asserting that Israel will win a long and difficult campaign. On October 7, the Permanent Representative of Israel to the United Nations, Gilad Erdan, sent a letter to the Security Council that stated, “this is an initiated attack by terrorist organizations led by Hamas.” That same day, U.S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations Linda Thomas-Greenfield reaffirmed to Israeli officials “our ironclad support for Israel's security and right to self-defense.” During the following week, Israel took steps to halt the supply of electricity, food, water, and fuel to Gaza, mobilized troops, and initiated an aerial bombardment campaign targeting Gaza-based militants. In a letter to the Security Council, Ambassador of the Permanent Observer Mission of the “State of Palestine” to the United Nations Riyad Mansour alleged that Israel's actions through October 10 “constitute war crimes.”





HISTORICAL BACKGROUND:

The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has claimed tens of thousands of lives and displaced many millions of people and has its roots in a colonial act carried out more than a century ago.

But what unfolds in the coming days and weeks has its seed in history.

For decades, Western media outlets, academics, military experts and world leaders have described the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as intractable, complicated and dead-locked.

What was the Balfour Declaration?

- More than 100 years ago, on November 2, 1917, Britain's then-foreign secretary, Arthur Balfour, wrote a letter addressed to Lionel Walter Rothschild, a figurehead of the British Jewish community.
- The letter was short – just 67 words – but its contents had a seismic effect on Palestine that is still felt to this day.
- It committed the British government to “the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people” and to facilitating “the achievement of this object”. The letter is known as the Balfour Declaration.
- In essence, a European power promised the Zionist movement a country where Palestinian Arab natives made up more than 90 percent of the population.
- A British Mandate was created in 1923 and lasted until 1948. During that period, the British facilitated mass Jewish immigration – many of the new residents were fleeing Nazism in Europe – and they also faced protests and strikes. Palestinians were alarmed by their country's changing demographics and British confiscation of their lands to be handed over to Jewish settlers.

What happened during the 1930s?

- Escalating tensions eventually led to the Arab Revolt, which lasted from 1936 to 1939.
- In April 1936, the newly formed Arab National Committee called on Palestinians to launch a general strike, withhold tax payments and boycott Jewish products to protest British colonialism and growing Jewish immigration.
- The six-month strike was brutally repressed by the British, who launched a mass arrest campaign and carried out punitive home demolitions, a practice that Israel continues to implement against Palestinians today.
- The second phase of the revolt began in late 1937 and was led by the Palestinian peasant resistance movement, which targeted British forces and colonialism.



- By the second half of 1939, Britain had massed 30,000 troops in Palestine. Villages were bombed by air, curfews imposed, homes demolished, and administrative detentions and summary killings were widespread.
- In tandem, the British collaborated with the Jewish settler community and formed armed groups and a British-led “counterinsurgency force” of Jewish fighters named the Special Night Squads.
- Within the Yishuv, the pre-state settler community, arms were secretly imported and weapons factories established to expand the Haganah, the Jewish paramilitary that later became the core of the Israeli army.
- In those three years of revolt, 5,000 Palestinians were killed, 15,000 to 20,000 were wounded and 5,600 were imprisoned.

What was the UN partition plan?

- By 1947, the Jewish population had ballooned to 33 percent of Palestine, but they owned only 6 percent of the land.
- The United Nations adopted Resolution 181, which called for the partition of Palestine into Arab and Jewish states.
- The Palestinians rejected the plan because it allotted about 55 percent of Palestine to the Jewish state, including most of the fertile coastal region.
- At the time, the Palestinians owned 94 percent of historic Palestine and comprised 67 percent of its population.

ISRAEL-PALESTINE CONFLICT
UN Partition Plan

Following the end of World War II, the newly formed United Nations proposed a plan that would grant **55 percent of historic Palestine to a Jewish state** and **42 percent to a non-contiguous Arab one**. The plan was never implemented on the ground.

State	Percentage
Arab state	42%
Jewish state	55%
Jerusalem, under international control	3%

Jews in Jerusalem expressing their joy after the UN Partition Plan (1947)
[Getty Images]

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The 1948 Nakba, or the ethnic cleansing of Palestine

- Even before the British Mandate expired on May 14, 1948, Zionist paramilitaries were already embarking on a military operation to destroy Palestinian towns and villages to expand the borders of the Zionist state that was to be born.
- In April 1948, more than 100 Palestinian men, women and children were killed in the village of Deir Yassin on the outskirts of Jerusalem.
- That set the tone for the rest of the operation, and from 1947 to 1949, more than 500 Palestinian villages, towns and cities were destroyed in what Palestinians refer to as the Nakba, or “catastrophe” in Arabic.
- An estimated 15,000 Palestinians were killed, including in dozens of massacres.
- The Zionist movement captured 78 percent of historic Palestine. The remaining 22 percent was divided into what are now the occupied West Bank and the besieged Gaza Strip.
- An estimated 750,000 Palestinians were forced out of their homes.
- Today their descendants live as six million refugees in 58 squalid camps throughout Palestine and in the neighbouring countries of Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Egypt.
- On May 15, 1948, Israel announced its establishment.
- The following day, the first Arab-Israeli war began and fighting ended in January 1949 after an armistice between Israel and Egypt, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria.
- In December 1948, the UN General Assembly passed Resolution 194, which calls for the right of return for Palestinian refugees.

The Nakba

Leading up to Israel’s birth in 1948, more than 750,000 Palestinians were ethnically cleansed from their homes by Zionist militias. This mass exodus came to be known as the Nakba or catastrophe.

A further 300,000 Palestinians were displaced by the Six-Day War in 1967.





Israel declared the annexation of East Jerusalem in 1980, but the international community still considers it an occupied territory. Palestinians want East Jerusalem as the capital of their future state.

The Oslo Accords

In 1993, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin signed the Oslo Accords, which aimed to achieve peace within five years. It was the first time the two sides recognised each other.

A second agreement in 1995 divided the occupied West Bank into three parts – Area A, B and C. The Palestinian Authority, which was created in the wake of the Oslo Accords, was offered only limited rule on 18 percent of the land as Israel effectively continued to control the West Bank.

Israeli settlements and checkpoints

However, the Oslo Accords slowly broke down as Israeli settlements, Jewish communities built on Palestinian land in the West Bank, grew at a rapid pace.

The settlement population in the West Bank and East Jerusalem grew from approximately 250,000 in 1993 to up to 700,000 in September this year. About three million Palestinians live in the occupied West Bank and East Jerusalem.

The building of Israeli settlements and a separation wall on occupied territories has fragmented the the Palestinian communities and restricted their mobility. About 700 road obstacles, including 140 checkpoints, dot the West Bank. About 70,000 Palestinians with Israeli work permits cross these checkpoints in their daily commute.

Settlements are considered illegal under international law. The UN has condemned settlements, calling it a big hurdle in the realisation of a viable Palestinian state as part of the so-called “two-state solution”.

Blockade of Gaza

Israel imposed a blockade on Gaza in 2007 after the Hamas group came to power. The siege continues till date. Israel also occupies the West Bank and East Jerusalem – the territories Palestinians want to be part of their future state.

Israel imposed a total blockade on the Gaza Strip on October 9, cutting its supplies of electricity, food, water, and fuel in the wake of a surprise Hamas attack inside Israel. At least 1,200 people were killed in that attack.



Israel and Palestine now

This is what Israel and Palestine look like now.

Today, about 5 million Palestinians live in Gaza, the West Bank and East Jerusalem and 1.6 million Palestinians are citizens of Israel. This makes up about half of their total population. The other half lives in other countries, including Arab countries. There are about 14.7 million Jews around the world today, of which 84 percent live in Israel and the United States. The rest live in other countries including France, Canada, Argentina and Russia.

CURRENT SITUATION:

Casualties

- As of 7 January 2024 (figures reported by the Gaza Ministry of Health), at least 22,835 Palestinians in Gaza have been killed, around 70% of whom were women and children, while around 58,416 others have been injured. Thousands more are feared trapped underneath the rubble, and “entire families” have been wiped out – it is estimated that as of 5 January, 1,876 families have lost multiple family members.
- On 6 November, UN Secretary-General António Guterres warned that “Gaza is becoming a graveyard for children”. The New York Times has reported that even according to “a conservative assessment of the reported Gaza casualty figures ... the rate of death during Israel’s assault has few precedents in this century”.
- As of 7 January (figures reported by the Israeli authorities, according to Israeli media), more than 1,200 Israeli and foreign nationals in Israel have been killed, amongst them 36 children; 1,162 of them have been identified by name. Around 5,400 others have been injured.
- 174 Israeli soldiers have been killed and 1,023 injured since the beginning of ground operations in Gaza, according to Israeli sources.

Release of hostages and prisoners

- On 22 November, Israel and Hamas agreed to a temporary, four-day-long cease-fire and the release of 50 hostages held in Gaza – women and children – in exchange for 150 Palestinians detained in Israeli prisons – also women and children.
- The humanitarian pause entered into effect on 24 November at 7 am local time; it was extended by two more days on 27 November.
- The humanitarian pause ended on 1 December at around 7 am local time. Overall, 105 hostages held in Gaza – Israeli and foreign nationals – and 240 Palestin-



ians detained in Israeli prisons were released.

- Of the 240 Palestinians who were released, 107 are children aged 14 to 17, and 66 are 18 years old; 68 are women. The New York Times reported that 37 had been detained after the 7 October attacks, and a majority – around three quarters – were never convicted of a crime, which reinforces longstanding concerns about a deeply flawed and discriminatory military justice system in the West Bank, excluding East Jerusalem. An 18-year-old teenager from Qabatiya told Al Jazeera that he was beaten while in detention, which left him “in pain on the floor for a week” without medical assistance; upon his release, he held up his bandaged hands and fingers, covering up multiple fractures.
- Of the 105 hostages who were released, more than 30 are children under the age of 18, five are 18 years old, and over 40 are women. One 84-year-old hostage was hospitalized in critical condition upon her release. First testimonies by the abducted, their families, and medical professionals are beginning to emerge regarding the conditions the hostages were kept in and ill-treatment meted out, including some accounts of sexual violence; a 12-year-old boy was forced to watch videos of the 7 October attacks, according to his aunt. An Israeli doctor reportedly said that some of the hostages were drugged while in captivity.
- According to Israeli sources, 136 hostages are reportedly still being held in Gaza, including two siblings, a 10-month-old baby and a 4-year-old child; on 12 December, 19 hostages were declared dead.

Humanitarian catastrophe

- During the humanitarian pause, humanitarian aid agencies were reportedly able to scale up the delivery of aid to Gaza, including to the north of Wadi Gaza, which had been largely cut off from aid deliveries.
- The humanitarian situation in Gaza remains catastrophic, especially with the resumption of the hostilities, and humanitarian operations inside Gaza face significant challenges.
- Since 11 October at 2 pm local time, Gaza has been under electricity blackout; fuel-run backup generators are used to keep critical infrastructure functional.
- The Erez crossing between Gaza and Israel has been closed since the start of hostilities on 7 October.
- As of 29 December, the total number of aid convoys that have entered Gaza since 21 October is 5,902; around 500 trucks reportedly reached Gaza every working day before the hostilities. For more than five weeks, the Israeli authorities did not allow the entry of fuel; the Commissioner-General of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), Philippe Lazzarini, said previously that fuel imports must be allowed, otherwise “there will be no humanitarian response, no aid reaching people in need, no power for hospitals, no water, no bread”. On 13 November, UNRWA reported that its



fuel reserves had been depleted and warned of an immediate shutdown of its humanitarian operations in Gaza. On 18 November, 123,000 litres of fuel were reportedly brought into Gaza from Egypt; the first fuel imports had been allowed to enter Gaza on 15 November.

- On 17 December, aid entered through the Kerem Shalom crossing between Israel and Gaza for the first time. Delivery through Kerem Shalom was halted between 25 and 28 December, reportedly due to security concerns, and resumed on 29 December.
- On 7 December, the Prosecutor of the International Criminal Court (ICC), Karim Khan, “reiterate[d] in the clearest terms possible that wilfully impeding relief supplies to civilians may constitute a war crime” under the Rome Statute of the ICC.
- In early December, the World Food Programme (WFP) released a food security assessment for Gaza, which documents inadequate food consumption in 97% of households in northern Gaza and 83% of households in southern Gaza, respectively. Furthermore, 48% of residents in the north and 38% in the south suffer from severe levels of hunger; they have around 1.8 and 1.5 litres of clean water per day at their disposal, respectively. 90% of Gazans in the north and two thirds in the south reportedly had to go one full day and night without food; 18% and 13%, respectively indicated that they endured this for over 10 days in the last month. The deputy director of the WFP said that half of Gaza’s population is starving.
- In a statement dated 11 November, UNRWA Commissioner-General Lazzarini said: “Every little girl and boy I met in an UNRWA shelter asked me for bread and water”.
- The UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, warned of “a heightened risk of atrocity crimes” in light of an “apocalyptic” humanitarian situation in Gaza.
- On 21 December, the World Health Organization (WHO) said that “93% of the population in Gaza is facing crisis levels of hunger, with insufficient food and high levels of malnutrition”, while communicable diseases, including diarrhoeal and respiratory infections – the former a leading cause of infant mortality worldwide – as well as meningitis and chickenpox are spreading rapidly.
- At least one out of four households are “experiencing an extreme lack of food and starvation[,] ... having resorted to selling off their possessions and other extreme measures to afford a simple meal”.
- As of 21 December, 2.2 million Gazans were “at imminent risk of famine”, according to the Integrated Food Security Phase Classification (IPC).
- UN Secretary-General António Guterres wrote on LinkedIn that “[f]our out of five of the hungriest people anywhere in the world are in Gaza”.
- In a statement dated 5 January 2024, UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator Martin Griffiths said that “Gaza has become a place of death and despair”, which “has simply become uninhab-



itable”, with its population “witnessing daily threats to their very existence – while the world watches on”. He called for “an immediate end to the war, not just for the people of Gaza and its threatened neighbors, but for the generations to come who will never forget these 90 days of hell and of assaults on the most basic precepts of humanity”.

Displacement and destruction of civilian infrastructure

- An estimated 1.9 million Palestinians in Gaza – almost 85% of the population – have been displaced, according to UNRWA, a majority of whom are reportedly sheltering in UNRWA facilities. On 16 November, UNRWA Commissioner-General Lazzarini said in a statement that the world “just witnessed the largest displacement of Palestinians since 1948”. Many Gazans have been displaced multiple times.
- UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Reliefm Coordinator Martin Griffiths said on 7 December that “the pace of the military assault in southern Gaza is a repeat of the assault in northern Gaza”, and that “it has made no place safe for civilians in southern Gaza”.
- On 9 December, Save the Children warned that “[t]wo months of relentless bombardment, an Israeli-imposed siege, and dangerous relocation orders have stripped families’ options for survival in Gaza”.
- In an op-ed for the New York Times dated 11 December, the heads of six humanitarian aid organizations wrote that “[i]n no other war we can think of in this century have civilians been so trapped, without any avenue or option to escape to save themselves and their children”.
- As of 4 January, more than 65,000 housing units in Gaza have been destroyed and over 290,000 others partially damaged, according to the Government Media Office in Gaza. More than 69% of school buildings have been damaged, and 625,000 children cannot go to school. Damage has also been inflicted on universities, and academics and scholars have been killed.
- The Israeli air force announced on 12 October that between 7 and 12 October alone, it has dropped around 6,000 bombs on Gaza; during the intervention in Libya, which lasted from March until October 2011, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) reportedly dropped an estimated 7,700 bombs.
- The Financial Times has reported that according to military analysts, “the destruction of northern Gaza in less than seven weeks has approached that caused by the years-long carpet-bombing of German cities during the second world war”.
- It has been suggested that Israel’s obliteration of wide swathes of residential houses and public infrastructure in Gaza may constitute “domicide”, i.e., “the massive and deliberate destruction of homes in order to cause human suffering”.
- The total number of rockets fired into Israel between 7 October and the end of December 2023 was estimated to be around 12,000, according to Israeli sources.



Accounts of sexual and gender-based violence

- On 29 November, UN Secretary-General António Guterres wrote on X (formerly Twitter) that “[t]here are numerous accounts of sexual violence during the abhorrent acts of terror by Hamas on 7 October that must be vigorously investigated and prosecuted”.
- On 1 December, UN Women “called for all accounts of gender-based violence to be duly investigated and prosecuted, with the rights of the victim at the core”. UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Türk also called for a full investigation.

he core issues of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict:

The talks ahead of the Annapolis conference have once again exposed how loaded the core issues underlying the Israeli-Palestinian conflict are.

The last serious attempt to resolve these issues took place at the Camp David summit of July 2000, which ended in dismal failure and spurred the outbreak of the second Palestinian uprising two months later.

The inability of the sides to address these issues ahead of Annapolis is a further indication of their sensitivity. However, Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert has nevertheless pledged to deal with them after Annapolis.

Below are the biggest potential deal breakers.

● REFUGEES:

The Palestinian demand that refugees from the 1948-49 war and their descendants return to the homes they abandoned in what is now Israel, is perhaps the most explosive issue of all.

For Israelis, this is a red line. They regard the absorption of these refugees, whose number has in the past 60 years grown from some 800,000 to more than 4.6 million, into their own territory as the effective creation of another Palestinian state next to the future one in the West Bank and Gaza.

For Palestinians, however, what they regard as the “right of return” is also highly sensitive, and according to the most recent opinion polls, an approximately two-thirds majority of Palestinians demand the return of refugees to all of historic Palestine.

In Israel, however, there is almost wall-to-wall consensus against this, with some 87 per cent, according to the most recent opinion polls, saying they are against the



return of even one Palestinian refugee to Israel itself, and another 6 per cent saying Israel can absorb just a small number of up to 100,000.

Olmert therefore, given the near wall-to-wall Israeli consensus on this issue, also has no room for manoeuvrability.

But President Mahmoud Abbas, recovering from a humiliating military defeat of his Fatah party in Gaza in June at the hands of Hamas and an equally humiliating defeat in January 2006 legislative elections of Fatah under his rule, cannot afford any controversial compromise on the issue right now.

- **JERUSALEM:**

This is another highly-charged subject, one involving religion and nationalism. Palestinians, for whom Jerusalem is the third-holiest city in Islam, demand Israel withdraw from those areas of the city occupied in the 1967 war and insist East Jerusalem serve as the capital of their future state.

But Jerusalem is also the holiest city in Judaism, mentioned over 700 times in the Old Testament.

Israel annexed East Jerusalem shortly after capturing it from the Jordanian Arab Legion in June 1967 and redefined the city boundaries to include the Arab neighbourhoods. The annexation was never recognised internationally.

While there has been a slight but fragile majority in Israel over giving Palestinians sovereignty over Palestinian-populated neighbourhoods in the city, East Jerusalem also contains neighbourhoods inhabited by Israelis - not to mention the historic Jewish Quarter in the Old City - which no Israeli prime minister could transfer to Palestinian sovereignty without paying the political price.

But the Temple Mount/Haram al-Sharif compound, which houses the Dome of the Rock and al-Aqsa mosques and abuts the Western Wall, is the flashpoint.

Muslims believe it marks the spot from where the prophet Mohammed ascended to heaven. Jews venerate the site as being built on the ruins of the biblical temple.

Neither side, therefore, would want it transferred to the other's sole sovereignty and proposals to share sovereignty have also met with vociferous objections.



- **BORDERS:**

The armistice line from the end of the 1948-49 war has become the de facto border separating sovereign Israel from the West Bank.

Palestinians demand a full Israeli withdrawal to these lines; Olmert has spoken about an Israeli pullout from most of the West Bank, without specifying.

President George W Bush, in a statement from April 2003, seemingly endorsed Israel's refusal to pull out from the entire West Bank, saying that "facts on the ground" had changed since the armistice lines were drawn up.

Palestinians remain unconvinced, rejecting anything less than a complete West Bank pullout, pointing out that as things now stand, a Palestinian state in the West Bank and Gaza Strip would only occupy a small part of pre-1948 Palestine.

But Israelis point out that total withdrawal has security ramifications, with the West Bank border at one point being only about 14 kilometres from the sea.

The experience of the 2005 pullout from the Gaza Strip, which saw the salient then used by militant groups as a base from which to launch makeshift rockets at nearby Israeli towns and villages on an almost-daily basis, has also soured many Israelis on a total withdrawal, and is in fact repeatedly cited by those who oppose such a move.

In addition, a West Bank withdrawal is linked to another issue, namely that of Israeli settlements. Palestinians, who see them as Jewish enclaves on their land, preventing the formation of a contiguous state, insist they be dismantled entirely.

But Israel wants to keep so-called "settlement blocks" - those near major population centres, such as Ma'aleh Adumim, located several kilometres east of Jerusalem, or those situated near the border.

One idea which has been raised to solve the withdrawal and settlement logjam is a territorial exchange, with Palestinians receiving an equal amount of Israel territory to that annexed.

- **ISRAELI SECURITY:**

This is the least-mentioned core issue, and while it may be the easiest to solve, it could also be the hardest to enforce.

While Security Council Resolution 242 of November 22, 1967 - the basis for all intended Israeli-Palestinian negotiations - calls for "withdrawal of Israeli armed forces from territories of recent conflict," it also speaks of "the territorial integrity and



political independence of every state in the area and their right to live within secure and recognised boundaries free from threats or acts of force.”

Given the absence of a conventional military threat from the Palestinians, the Israelis interpret this as meaning that attacks by militants have to cease, be they in the West Bank or in sovereign Israel.

A repeated Israeli demand is that the Palestinian Authority crack down on militant groups such as Hamas, the Islamic Jihad or even the increasingly independent armed wing of Abbas’ own Fatah movement.

Abbas can pledge to do so, but implementation is something else -the armed militias do not see themselves as under the orders of the PA, and do not request its permission to carry out an attack.

In addition, by using his own security forces to crack down, Abbas runs the risk of alienating his own people, most of whom see attacks against Israeli soldiers, and even civilians, as acts of resistance and heroism.

But a massive attack by militants, involving significant Israeli casualties, and failure by Abbas to crack down, could lead to an Israeli military response, and the region could be plunged back into the old, familiar, vicious cycle of violence.



MANDATES AND THE LEGAL BASIS FOR PEACEKEEPING

The UN Charter gives the Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. In fulfilling this responsibility, the Council can establish a UN peace operation.

UN peace operations are deployed on the basis of mandates from the United Nations Security Council. Their tasks differ from situation to situation, depending on the nature of the conflict and the specific challenges it presents.

UN Charter

The Charter of the United Nations is the foundation document for all the UN work. The UN was established to “save succeeding generations from the scourge of war” and one of its main purposes is to maintain international peace and security.

Peacekeeping, although not explicitly provided for in the Charter, has evolved into one of the main tools used by the United Nations to achieve this purpose.

The Charter gives the UN Security Council primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security. In fulfilling this responsibility, the Council may adopt a range of measures, including the establishment of a UN peace operation.

- **Chapter VI** deals with the “Pacific Settlement of Disputes”. UN peace operations have traditionally been associated with Chapter VI. However, the Security Council need not refer to a specific Chapter of the Charter when passing a resolution authorizing the deployment of a UN peacekeeping operation and has never invoked Chapter VI.
- **Chapter VII** contains provisions related to “Action with Respect to the Peace, Breaches of the Peace and Acts of Aggression”. In recent years, the Council has adopted the practice of invoking Chapter VII of the Charter when authorizing the deployment of UN peace operations into volatile post-conflict settings where the State is unable to maintain security and public order. The Security Council’s invocation of Chapter VII in these situations, in addition to denoting the legal basis for its action, can also be seen as a statement of firm political resolve and a means of reminding the parties to a conflict and the wider UN membership of their obligation to give effect to Security Council decisions.
- **Chapter VIII** of the Charter provides for the involvement of regional arrangements and agencies in the maintenance of international peace and security provided such activities are consistent with the purposes and principles outlined in Chapter I of the Charter.



Peacekeeping mandates

UN peace operations are deployed on the basis of mandates from the United Nations Security Council. Over the years, the range of tasks assigned to UN peace operations has expanded significantly in response to shifting patterns of conflict and to best address threats to international peace and security.

Although each UN peace operation is different, there is a considerable degree of consistency in the types of mandated tasks assigned by the Security Council. Depending on their mandate, peace operations may be required to:

- Deploy to prevent the outbreak of conflict or the spill-over of conflict across borders;
- Stabilize conflict situations after a ceasefire, to create an environment for the parties to reach a lasting peace agreement;
- Assist in implementing comprehensive peace agreements;
- Lead states or territories through a transition to stable government, based on democratic principles, good governance and economic development.

Depending on the specific set of challenges, UN peacekeepers are often mandated to play a catalytic role in the following essentially peacebuilding activities:

- Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants;
- Mine action;
- Security sector reform and other rule of law-related activities;
- Protection and promotion of human rights;
- Electoral assistance;
- Support for the restoration and extension of State authority;
- Promotion of social and economic recovery and development.

Security Council mandates also reflect a number of cross-cutting, thematic tasks that are regularly assigned to UN peace operations on the basis of the following landmark Security Council resolutions:

- [Security Council resolution 1325 \(2000\)](#) on women, peace and security;
- [Security Council resolution 1612 \(2005\)](#) on children and armed conflict;
- [Security Council resolution 1674 \(2006\)](#) on the protection of civilians in armed conflict.

For more specific information on the types of mandated tasks and the characteristics of the “traditional” and “multidimensional” operations please refer to the UN Peacekeeping Operations: Principles and Guidelines - “Capstone Doctrine”, Part I, Chapter 2 (2.3 and 2.4).



UN on the ground amid Israel-Palestine

The United Nations has been working in the Middle East region around the clock to de-escalate the Israeli-Palestinian crisis by engaging key actors and providing emergency assistance to civilians on the ground.

As the conflict intensified amid escalating violence, a complete blockade of food, water, and vital services was put in place by Israel as reports emerged of Israeli ground operations in Gaza, which is home to more than two million people.

While UN offices in Gaza sustained “significant damage” from nearby airstrikes on Monday night, agencies were striving to help the affected population there and elsewhere, including the West Bank, home to 871,000 registered refugees.

The UN relief agency for Palestine refugees, UNWRA, currently has 13,000 national and international staff, most of them refugees themselves, in Gaza and nearly 4,000 in the West Bank.

In addition, hundreds of employees continued working for other UN agencies. Along the restive Israel-Lebanon border, the UN peacekeeping mission there, UNIFIL, is operating with 9,400 ground troops, 900 civilian staff, and 850 naval personnel on its Maritime Task Force.

Here is a snapshot of how the UN is helping on the ground:

1. Protection

Heavy airstrikes since 7 October had displaced nearly 190,000 people in Gaza, so the UN relief agency for Palestine refugees, UNRWA, is sheltering 137,500 men, women, and children in 83 of its 288 schools, according to the agency’s latest situation report. As of Tuesday, 18 UNRWA facilities sustained collateral and direct damage from airstrikes, with injuries and deaths reported.

UNIFIL/Pasqual Gorriz UN peacekeepers patrol the Blue Line in El Odeisse, south Lebanon.

2. De-escalation

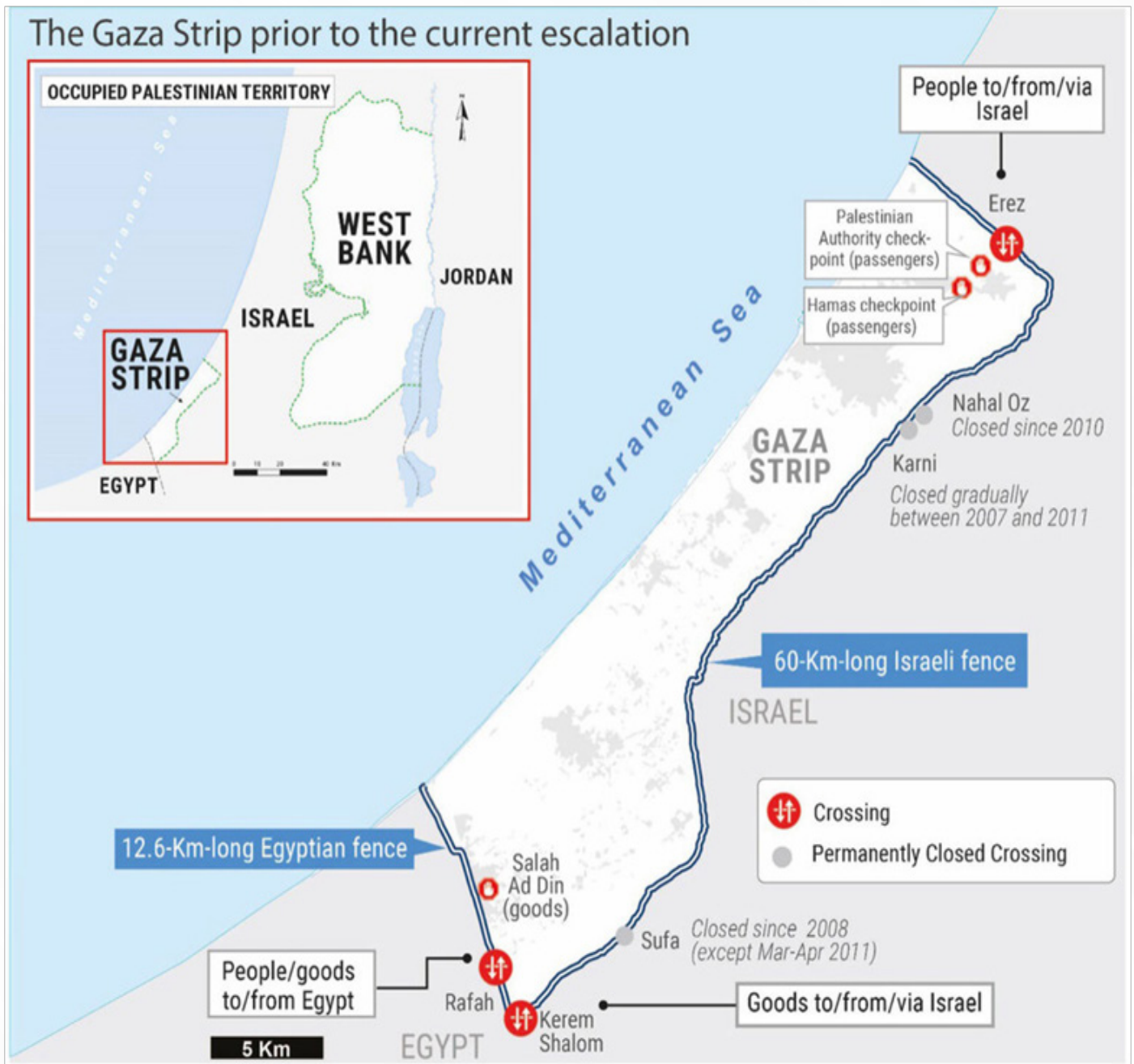
Top UN officials, including the Office of the UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO), Tor Wennesland, were engaging with parties to the conflict and key stakeholders, including the United States, Qatar, and the European Union, to de-escalate the conflict.



© UNOCHA The Gaza Strip prior to the current escalation.

The UN peacekeeping mission in Lebanon, UNIFIL, continued to monitor the unfolding “volatile” security situation along the Israel-Lebanon border, issuing guidance for civilians and updates via social media.

“We have fully engaged our liaison and coordination mechanisms at all levels, to help avoid misunderstandings between Lebanon and Israel that could lead to an escalation of the conflict,” UNIFIL said. “This is our main focus at the moment, and we are working 24/7 to accomplish it.”





3. Emergency services

Israel's announced blockade of food, water, fuel, and electricity in Gaza on Monday came as UN agencies warned of food scarcity and a looming crisis. Mobile toilets and showers were being deployed to UNRWA shelters, as needed.

As of 10 October, Palestinians in Gaza only had electricity for three to four hours per day, hindering the ability of health facilities to function and treat those injured, the UN humanitarian coordination agency, OCHA, said.

4. Food

The World Food Programme (WFP) and UNRWA were coordinating the distribution of bread to displaced people in the shelters in Gaza.

"Nearly half a million people, or 112,000 families, have not been able to get their food rations this week since UNRWA food distribution centres are closed," UNRWA said.

As of Tuesday, WFP started distributing fresh bread, canned food, and ready-to-eat foods to around 100,000 people at UNRWA shelters, with plans to reach more than 800,000 affected people in Gaza and the West Bank.

© WFP/Ali Jadallah WFP food distribution at an UNRWA school in Gaza that is a designated shelter in times of emergency.

5. Health

Emergency healthcare services were being offered through the toll-free hotline continued across Gaza. The UN's country-based pooled funds (CBPF) and its partners released life-saving trauma and emergency drugs and medical supplies to enable the health system in Gaza to respond to rising needs.

© UNOCHA Palestinian casualties and internally displaced people in Gaza. A total of 125 health staff are working in rotating shifts at UNRWA health centres, with 15 out of 22 clinics providing primary healthcare services from 9 am to 12 pm to patients with urgent referred appointments received through a free-toll hotline.

Relief and social services helplines were operational as of Tuesday, and psychosocial support and psychological first aid were being provided remotely.

The UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) had psychosocial support experts ready to pro-



vide assistance to those who needed it in Gaza and in the West Bank.

“The community is appealing to UNRWA to open the closed health centres due to the high demand for services,” the agency said.

PALESTINIAN CASUALTIES

Gaza*

830 Fatalities

4,250 Injuries

*According to the MoH in Gaza

West Bank

19 Fatalities

332 Injuries

ISRAELI CASUALTIES**

1,000 Fatalities

2,806 Injuries

**According to Israeli official sources

INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE BY GOVERNORATE LOCATED IN UNRWA SCHOOLS / SHELTERS

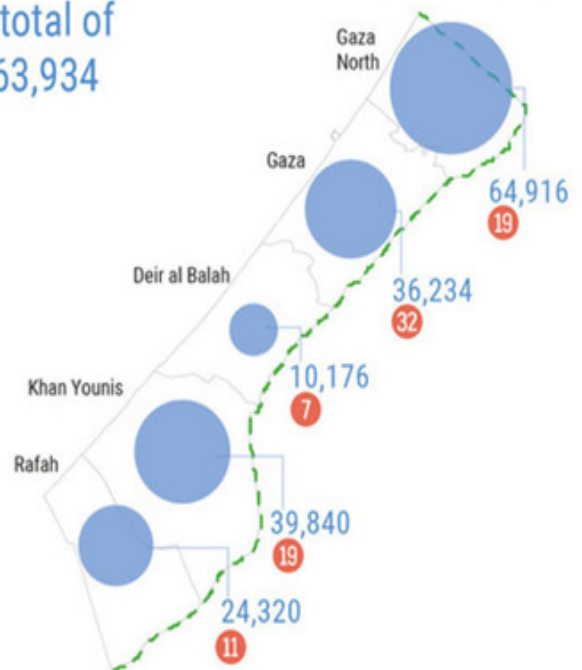
as of 12:00, 10 October 2023

175,486

IDPs out of a total of 263,934

88

Total Schools



INTERNALLY DISPLACED PEOPLE

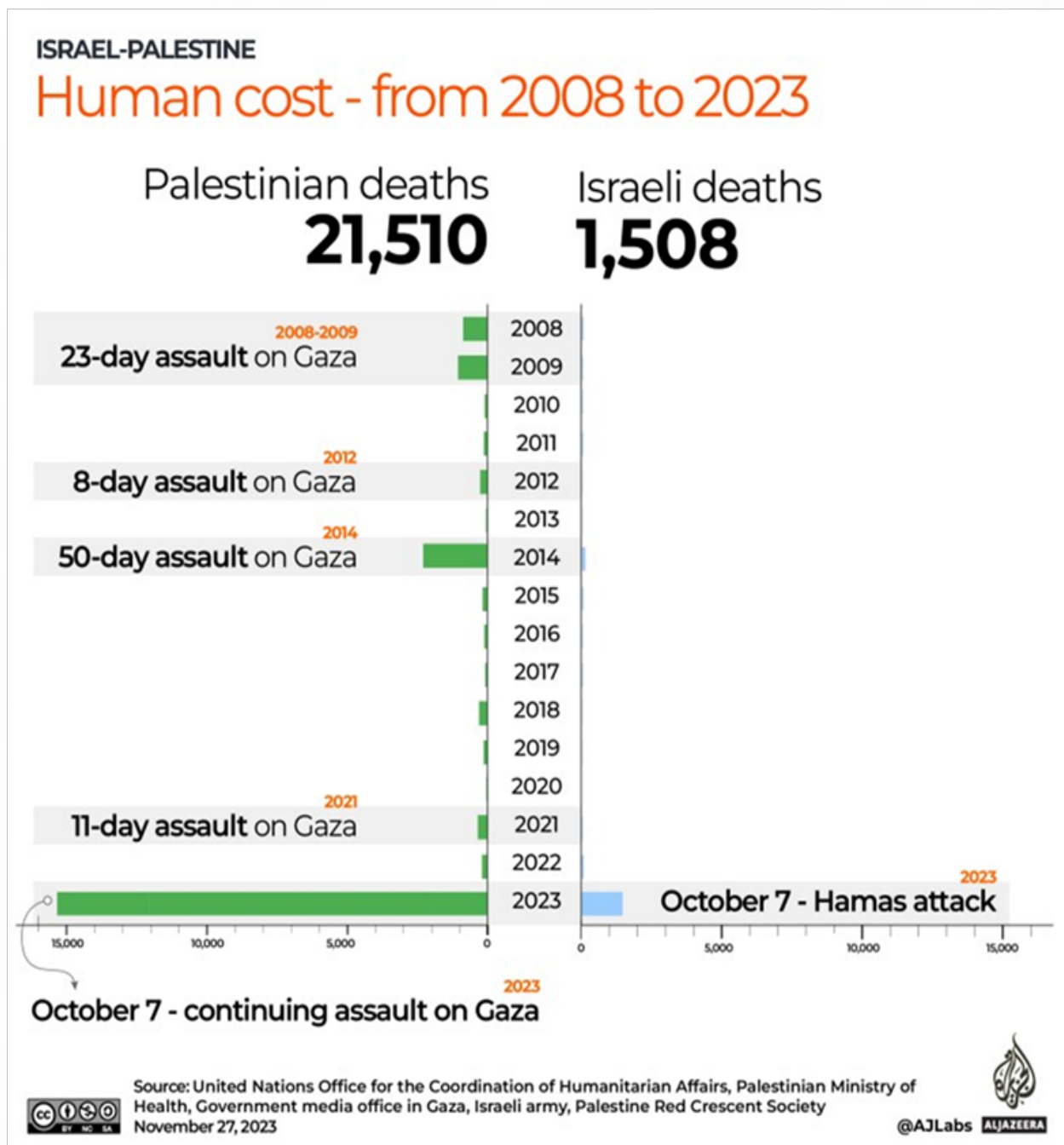




6. Humanitarian corridors

Access for humanitarian staff and supplies into Gaza was cut this week and the intensity of the hostilities was limiting the ability of staff to deliver aid, according to Lynn Hastings, the UN Humanitarian Coordinator for the occupied Palestinian territory

Meanwhile, the World Health Organization (WHO), other UN agencies, and partners continued to work towards establishing a corridor to reach people with critical supplies in Gaza crisis





An Urgent Call for Justice and Peace

The United Nations cooperates with regional and international partners in efforts to defuse tensions, encourage improvements on the ground, and advance political negotiations toward a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as well as a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East based on all relevant Security Council resolutions, as well as the Madrid principles and Quartet Road Map.

Support to the Secretary-General's Peacemaking Efforts

The Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs (DPPA) supports UN peacemaking efforts in various ways, including by advising and assisting the Secretary-General in his Middle East diplomacy and by overseeing UN political activities based in the region aimed at furthering peace efforts, preventing an escalation of the conflict, coordinating humanitarian aid and development assistance, and supporting Palestinian state-building efforts.

In addition to making his own diplomatic “good offices” available to the parties, the Secretary-General is a principal member of the Middle East Quartet (composed of the United States, the Russian Federation, the European Union, and the United Nations), a key mechanism established in 2003 to coordinate the international community's support to the peace process. The Secretary-General also works to ensure close cooperation in international peacemaking efforts with the League of Arab States and the broader international community.

DPPA also assists the Secretary-General's crisis management activities, which include his direct involvement in efforts to prevent the recurrence of violence. Senior officials of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, particularly the Special Coordinator for the Middle East Process, provide regular briefings to the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East and the state of the peace process.

Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process

The Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process and the Secretary-General's Personal Representative to the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Authority is the focal point on the ground for UN support in all political and diplomatic efforts related to the peace process – including as UN Envoy to the Middle East Quartet. The Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO), was established in June 1994 following the signing of the Oslo Accords. UNSCO is also responsible for coordinating the activities of more than twenty UN agencies, funds and programmes on humanitarian and



development assistance to the Palestinian Authority and the Palestinian people. It is a field mission of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs and has offices in Jerusalem, Ramallah and Gaza.

Roll Call

A committee meeting begins with a roll call, without which quorum cannot be established. A debate cannot begin without a quorum being established. A delegate may change his/her roll call in the next session. For example, if Delegate answers the Present in the First session, he can answer the Present and vote in the next session when the roll call occurs.

During the roll call, the country names are recalled out of alphabetical order, and delegates can answer either by saying Present or Present and voting. Following are the ways a roll call can be responded in -

Present - Delegates can vote Yes, no, or abstain for a Draft Resolution when they answer the Roll Call with Present;

Present and voting - An delegate is required to vote decisively, i.e., Yes/No only if they have answered the Roll Call with a Present and voting. A Delegate cannot abstain in this case.

Abstention - The Delegate may abstain from voting if they are in doubt, or if their country supports some points but opposes others. Abstention can also be used if a delegate believes that the passage of the resolution will harm the world, even though it is unlikely to be highly specific. A delegate who responded with present and voting is not allowed to abstain during a substantive vote. An abstention counts as neither “yes” nor “no vote”, and his or her vote is not included in the total vote tally.

Quorum

In order for the proceedings of a committee to proceed, quorum (also known as a minimum number of members) must be set which is one-third of the members of the committee must be present. Quorum will be assumed to be established unless a delegate's presence is specifically challenged and shown to be absent during the roll call. The Executive Board may suspend committee sessions if a quorum is not reached.

General Speakers List

After the agenda for the session has been established, a motion is raised to open the General Speaker's List or GSL. The GSL is where all types of debates take place



throughout the conference, and the list remains open throughout the duration of the agenda's discussion. If a delegate wishes to speak in the GSL, he or she must notify the Executive Board by raising his or her placard when the Executive asks for Delegates desiring to speak in the GSL. Each country's name will be listed in the order in which it will deliver its speech. A GSL can have an individual speaker time of anywhere from 60-120 seconds. Following their GSL speech, a Delegate has the option of yielding his/her time to a specific Delegate, Information Points (questions) or to the Executive Board.

Speakers List will be followed for all debate on the Topic Area, except when superseded by procedural motions, amendments, or the introduction of a draft resolution. Speakers may speak generally on the Topic Area being considered and may address any draft resolution currently on the floor. Debate automatically closes when the Speakers List is exhausted.

Yield

A delegate granted the right to speak on a substantive issue may yield in one of three ways at the conclusion of his/her speech: to another delegate, to questions, or to the Director. Please note that only one yield is allowed. A delegate must declare any yield at the conclusion of his or her speech.

- Yield to another delegate. When a delegate has some time left to speak, and he/ she doesn't wish to utilize it, that delegate may elect to yield the remaining speaking time to another delegate. This can only be done with the prior consent of another delegate (taken either verbally or through chits). The delegate who has been granted the other's time may use it to make a substantive speech, but cannot further yield it.
- Yield to questions. Follow-up questions will be allowed only at the discretion of the Director. The Director will have the right to call to order any delegate whose question is, in the opinion of the Director, rhetorical and leading and not designed to elicit information. Only the speaker's answers to questions will be deducted from the speaker's remaining time.
- Yield to the EB. Such a yield should be made if the delegate does not wish his/her speech

to be subject to questions. The moderator will then move to the next speaker.

Motions



Motions are the formal term used for when one initiates an action. Motions cover a wide variety of things.

Once the floor is open, the Chairs will ask for any points or motions. If you wish to bring one to the Floor, this is what you should do:

- Raise your placard in a way that the chair can read it
- Wait until the Chair recognizes you
- Stand up and after properly addressing the Chair (“Thank you, honourable Chair” or something along these lines), state what motion you wish to propose
- Chairs will generally repeat the motions and may also ask for clarification. Chairs may do this if they do not understand and may also ask for or suggest modifications to the motion that they feel might benefit the debate.

Every motion is subject to seconds, if not otherwise stated. To pass a motion at least one other nation has to second the motion brought forward. A nation cannot second its own motion. If there are no seconds, the motion automatically fails.

If a motion has a second, the Chair will ask for objections. If no objections are raised, the motion will pass without discussion or a procedural vote. In case of objections, a procedural vote will be held. The vote on a motion requires a simple majority, if not otherwise stated.

While voting upon motions, there are no abstentions. If a vote is required, everyone must vote either “Yes” or “No”. If there is a draw on any vote, the vote will be retaken once. In case there are multiple motions on the Floor, the vote will be casted by their Order of Precedence. If one motion passes, the others will not be voted upon anymore. However, they may be reintroduced once the Floor is open again.

During a moderated caucus, there will be no speakers’ list. The moderator will call upon speakers in the order in which the signal their desire to speak. If you want to bring in a motion for a moderated caucus, you will have to specify the duration, a speakers’ time, a moderator, and the purpose of the caucus. This motion is subject to seconds and objections but is not debatable.

In an unmoderated caucus, proceedings are not bound by the Rules of Procedure. Delegates may move around the room freely and converse with other delegates. This is also the time to create blocks, develop ideas, and formulate working papers, draft resolutions, and amendments. Remember that you are required to stay in your room unless given permission to leave by a Chair.

During the course of debate, the following points are in order:



- **Point of Personal Privilege:** Whenever a delegate experiences personal discomfort which impairs his or her ability to participate in the proceedings, he or she may rise to a Point of Personal Privilege to request that the discomfort be corrected. While a Point of Personal Privilege in extreme case may interrupt a speaker, delegates should use this power with the utmost discretion.
- **Point of Order:** During the discussion of any matter, a delegate may rise to a Point of Order to indicate an instance of improper parliamentary procedure. The Director may rule out of order those points that are improper. A representative rising to a Point of Order may not speak on the substance of the matter under discussion. A Point of Order may only interrupt a speaker if the speech is not following proper parliamentary procedure.
- **Point of Enquiry:** When the floor is open, a delegate may rise to a Point of Parliamentary Inquiry to ask the EB a question regarding the rules of procedure. A Point of Parliamentary Inquiry may never interrupt a speaker. Delegates with substantive questions should not rise to this Point, but should rather approach the committee staff during caucus or send a note to the dais.
- **Point of information:** After a delegate gives a speech, and if the delegate yields their time to Points of Information, one Point of Information (a question) can be raised by delegates from the floor. The speaker will be allotted the remainder of his or her speaking time to address Points of Information. Points of Information are directed to the speaker and allow other delegations to ask questions in relation to speeches and resolutions.
- **Right to Reply:** A delegate whose personal or national integrity has been impugned by another delegate may submit a Right of Reply only in writing to the committee staff. The Director will grant the Right of Reply and his or her discretion and a delegate granted a Right of Reply will not address the committee except at the request of the Director.

Draft Resolution

Once a draft resolution has been approved as stipulated above and has been copied and distributed, a delegate(s) may motion to introduce the draft resolution. The Director, time permitting, shall read the operative clauses of the draft resolution. A procedural vote is then taken to determine whether the resolution shall be introduced. Should the motion receive the simple majority required to pass, the draft resolution will be considered introduced and on the floor. The Director, at his or her discretion, may answer any clarificatory points on the draft resolution. Any substantive points will be ruled out of order during this period, and the Director may



end this clarificatory question-answer period' for any reason, including time constraints. More than one draft resolution may be on the floor at any one time, but at most one draft resolution may be passed per Topic Area. A draft resolution will remain on the floor until debate on that specific draft resolution is postponed or closed or a draft resolution on that Topic Area has been passed. Debate on draft resolutions proceeds according to the general Speakers List for that topic area and delegates may then refer to the draft resolution by its designated number. No delegate may refer to a draft resolution until it is formally introduced.

Amendments

All amendments need to be written and submitted to the executive board. The format for this is authors, signatories and the clause with mentioning the add, delete and replace. There are two forms of amendment, which can be raised by raising a motion for amendment and approval of the chair

Friendly Amendments: Amendment, which is agreed upon by all the author's does not require any kind of voting

Unfriendly Amendments: Amendments that are introduced by any other need not be voted upon by the council and are directly incorporated in the resolution. You need a simple majority in order to introduce a normal amendment.

BODY of Draft Resolution

The draft resolution is written in the format of a long sentence, with the following rules:

- Draft resolution consists of clauses with the first word of each clause underlined.
- The next section, consisting of Preambulatory Clauses, describes the problem being addressed, recalls past actions taken, explains the purpose of the draft resolution, and offers support for the operative clauses that follow. Each clause in the preamble begins with an underlined word and ends with a comma.
- Operative Clauses are numbered and state the action to be taken by the body. These clauses are all with the present tense active verbs and are generally stronger words than those used in the Preamble. Each operative clause is followed by a semi-colon except the last, which ends with a period.