

BIGMUN ONLINE

Committee: Human Rights Council (HRC)

Issue: Protection of human rights in Palestine

President Chair: Zeynep Ağca

Co-chair: Yaren Özdemir

Hello dear delegates, I am your president chair Zeynep Ağca. I am a 10th grade student from the Pakistan Embassy International Study Group, I know, quite a mouthful and kind of weird for some of you. Before this quarantine began, I was studying for my IGCSE exams, but they got cancelled. So now, I spend my time doing many things from reading, to studying, to painting and many more. It's always good to do a variety of things; it not only keeps you busy but also helps you discover your interests. I additionally decided to attend a few online MUNs to spend some more time, and BIGMUN ONLINE is my first online MUN experience. I joined MUN at the end of grade 8, but did not attend an actual conference until grade 9.

What my vice president and I expect from you is to know your country's perspective thoroughly as this topic in general and the countries involved are relatively controversial. We also expect you guys to come up with creative solutions and to understand the depth and seriousness of this problem. Bear in mind that the debate will flow according to what you, the delegates, will bring to the committee room. Keep calm, do your best and enjoy the conference.

Hopefully this chair report will help you better understand the topic. Do not be intimidated by any section that may be too long; this chair report is not for you to memorize but to utilize when necessary and gain more knowledge on the topic. Also please keep in mind that some of the details mentioned are only reports and alleged, so not everything maybe be proved yet. This does not, however, mean that you cannot use them, so keep your creativity high! Remember; it is not about justifying the actions of your country; it is about defending your country's ideology and beliefs, even if it seems wrong to you.

Hello delegates, I am Yaren Özdemir, the vice chair of the committee. I am a 10th Grade Student studying in Arı Science High School. Since we are experiencing this whole quarantine situation I thought that attending online MUNs would benefit me. This is my second online conference so I can assure you that my president chair and I are capable of tackling with possible problems. Apart from MUNs I am actually pleased that I have plenty of time to spend on things that I enjoy such as doing ballet, singing, and playing the piano. I started my MUN journey at the beginning of 9th Grade and attended multiple conferences, even though many of my future plans for MUN have been cancelled due to COVID-19. Apart from what my president chair explained, I would like to remind few things to the delegates. First of all we are all aware that online conferences may not completely take the place of normal conferences but it is a great environment to benefit your language, knowledge, and experience the flow of a committee. In addition to that, don't forget to believe in yourself and your debating skills. The only way to accomplish something is to put in effort and maintain a high level of self-confidence. Stay home and stay safe!

TOPIC INTRODUCTION AND BRIEF HISTORY OF THE LANDS

So let us begin with a summary of these two lands.

The State of Palestine is a sovereign state in Western Asia claiming the West Bank (bordering Israel and Jordan) and Gaza Strip (bordering Israel and Egypt) with East Jerusalem as the designated capital. In 1947, after World War II, what was called the 'Partition Plan' was adopted by the United Nations, which recommended creating independent Arab and Jewish states and an internationalized Jerusalem. The Jews accepted the plan, whereas the Arabs refused. Neighbouring Arab countries, including Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and Iraq, invaded the former British mandate, the Jewish state in Eretz Israel, known as the State of Israel on 14 May 1948, and fought the Israeli forces. Later, the All-Palestine government was established on 22 September 1948 by the Arab league in order to govern the Egyptian-controlled enclave in Gaza. The Arab league, excluding Transjordan, soon recognized it. Even though the government was declared to cover the whole of the former Mandatory Palestine, its effective and literal jurisdiction was over the Gaza Strip.

Ever since the establishment of Palestine there have been countless human rights violations. During the war of July 1967, Israel occupied the West Bank and Gaza, and annexed Palestinian East Jerusalem. Ever since then, the Israeli government has continued to enforce harsh and discriminatory restrictions on Palestinians the restriction of trade in and out of the Gaza Strip, and the unlawful transfer of Israeli citizens to settle in the West Bank to name a few. Even now, Palestine is facing issues such as unlawful killings, discrimination, torture, and more targeted ways of torture such as the spoil of the water supplies of primarily of Gaza Strip. We will talk of the related problems faced by Palestinians in more detail further in the report.

Israel has a very long and detailed history, but we are going to tackle only what is known as the 'modern history' period, starting from the First Aliyah in 1881.

Aliyah is a series of Jewish migrations to what is now known as the modern nation of Israel, between 1882 and 1948. These migrations preceded the Zionist period.

The First Aliyah was the modern Jewish migration to Ottoman-ruled Palestine, as Jews fled Eastern Europe. An Austro-Hungarian journalist Theodor Herzl is referred to when mentioning the finding of political Zionism, even though it already existed in practice, which was a movement to establish a Jewish state in the Land of Israel. This was believed to offer a solution to the so-called Jewish question of the European states, in correspondence with the goals and achievements of other national projects at the time.

By the end of World War I, in 1917, succeeding the fall of the Ottoman Empire, British forces occupied Palestine. The area west of the River Jordan, now composed of the State of Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip, and on the east bank of what later became Jordan by the Versailles Peace Conference, was granted over to the United Kingdom. When an increase in the levels of violence was observed, the British government wished to withdraw

from Palestine. The proposed plan of partition would have split Palestine into two states, a Jewish state and an Arab state, and the City of Jerusalem, giving slightly more than half the land area to the proposed Jewish state. Immediately after the UN resolution about the partition plan passed, a civil war between Arabs and Jews broke out as the Arab League rejected the plan while Israel accepted it. As aforementioned, a Jewish state was established in Eretz Israel, and a war later broke out. By December 1948, most of the Mandate Palestine west of the Jordan river was controlled by Israel. The remainder of the Mandate later was called West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

On 11 May 1949, Israel was admitted as a member of the UN by majority vote. Both Israel and Jordan were interested in a peace agreement, however the British interrupted the Jordanian effort in order to avoid damaging British interests in Egypt.

KEY TERMS

The Gaza Strip: The Gaza Strip is a self-governing Palestinian territory on the eastern coast of the Mediterranean Sea that borders Egypt on the southwest and Israel on the east and north. It is claimed by the State of Palestine. It is separated from the West Bank by the Israeli territory and has been governed by Hamas which is a Palestinian fundamentalist militant Islamic organization. The isolation of the Gaza has been exacerbated by restrictions imposed by the Egyptian authorities on its single passengers crossing (Rafah), as well as by the internal Palestinian divide.

West Bank: The West Bank is a Palestinian territory near the Mediterranean coast of Western Asia, bordered by Jordan to the east and by the Green Line separating it and Israel on the south, west and north. The West Bank also contains a significant section of the western Dead Sea shore. It was captured by Jordan in the aftermath of the 1948 Arab-Israeli War and in 1967 it was occupied by Israel during the Six-Day War.

Al Mezan Center for Human Rights: Al Mezan is a non-governmental organization based in the Jabalia Palestinian refugee camp in the Gaza Strip. Its main aims are to promote human rights in the OPT (Occupied Palestinian Territory) especially in the Gaza Strip with a focus on social, economic, and cultural rights to encourage democracy and citizen participation in the OPT aimed for a good governance with respect to human rights.

East Jerusalem: East Jerusalem was occupied by Jordan during the Arab-Israeli War (1948), with an opposition to the western sector of the city, West Jerusalem has been occupied by Israel since the Arab-Israeli War. East Jerusalem has been considered to be occupied by Israel by the international community. Palestinian official position is based on the 1949 Armistice Agreements, while the position of Israel is based mainly on the current municipality boundaries of Jerusalem.

West Jerusalem: West Jerusalem is the section of Jerusalem that remained under Israeli control after the Arab-Israeli War (1948), whose ceasefire lines delimited the boundary with

the rest of the city, which was then under Jordanian control. A number of western countries such as the United Kingdom acknowledge the Israeli authority, but refuse the recognition. Israel's claim of sovereignty over West Jerusalem is more widely accepted than its claim over East Jerusalem.

Sectarian Strife: Sectarian strife is a form of communal violence which is inspired by sectarianism- a form of prejudice or hatred arising from attaching relations of superiority to differences between subdivisions within a group. That is done between different sects of one particular mode of an ideology or religion within a nation/community. Religious segregation often plays a role in sectarian violence/ strife.

OVERVIEW

As aforementioned, Israel has been treating Palestinians immorally for some time now. One of the earliest incidents was when in 1948, about 700,000 Palestinians were expelled from or had to flee their homes at the hands of militias during the creation of the state of Israel. This was the tragedy known as the 'Nakba' by Palestinians, and is still lived by refugee families, still displaced 70 years later, of whom live in refugee camps. Hundreds of villages and towns were forcefully emptied in the Nakba.

So, why is Israel doing this? There never really is one discrete reason as to why countries do anything at all actually. However, we do now ones of the most considerable reasons as to why. This dates back to when the land was first divided; thereafter, Israel always wanted Palestine's land. The main conflict is about who gets the land. According to the agreement of 1995, Israel's control over Palestine is divided into three sections- one under total Israeli control, one under strong Palestinian control, and one that is a disputed and shared section. What exactly is Israel doing? We will get into much more detail throughout the report, but to summarize, Israel is committing human rights crimes such as major violence, forced evictions, torture, and more unobtrusive ones such as slowly but surely poisoning major water supplies.

Israel is also making more and more of its citizens move into Palestinian territory, presumably as an attempt to expand the area of land they have under control, regardless if this land is technically under Palestinian control.

Israel has committed some major human rights violations that some people think they should be denied of further aid from other countries. The Government of Israel has also violated the Geneva Conventions by introducing Jewish civilians into the occupied territories.

CAUSES AND EFFECTS

Causes:

There are many 'causes' as to why these human rights violations take place. We can't say that Palestinians had it coming, or that Israel had reasons to do so. However, we can mention a few reasons as to why there was a spontaneous but incessant increase in human rights violations.

To begin with, this increase may have been possible due to a lack of oversight and transparency, resulting from an inconvenience in the legislative branch of the government. And the fact that the Palestinian legislative council is unrepresentative and disabled- due to the divided government- to play this role is an additional factor as to why things might have got out of control.

The inadequacy of politics and political participation has undoubtedly led to the deterioration of basic human rights in both Palestinian territories. The lasting Israel occupation and pressure of the West Bank and East Jerusalem and the continuing blockade of Gaza by sea, land, and air have paved the way for the ever-so growing repression.

Additionally, United States President Donald Trump broke the ongoing policy by announcing that the US would recognize Jerusalem as the capital of Israel, and has moved its Tel Aviv embassy there in May 2018, which may have not only given Israel confidence over their actions, but also do so in the eyes of other leaders.

Israel is principally in control of the West Bank, yet have failed to provide the people living under their control with their rights, including the right to equal treatment without regarding race, religion, or natural identity.

The Israeli army issued Military Order 101 in August 1967, after which participation in a gathering of more than 10 people without the presence of a permit on an issue "that could be construed as political" is now punishable by a sentence up to ten years. It further inhibits publishing material "containing political significance" or displaying " flags or political symbols" without an army approval. Even after 52 years, the Israeli army still continues to prosecute and imprison Palestinians under the Defense (Emergency) Regulations of 1945 and Military Order 101 of 1967.

By 2010, the Israeli army declared Military Order 1651, which replaced 20 prior orders and imposed a 10-year sentence on anyone who "attempts, orally or otherwise, to influence public opinion in the Area [the West Bank] in a manner which may harm public peace or peace order" or "publishes words of praise, sympathy or support for a hostile organization, its actions or objectives," which it defines as "incitement". The vaguely worded "offenses against authorities" with penalties including potential life imprisonment for an "act or omission which entails harm, damage, disturbance to the security of the Area or the security of the IDF" or entering an area in close "proximity" to property belonging to the army or state have been further outlined.

Even though Israeli authorities had plenty of time and opportunity to adapt new and renewed policies, Israel continues to rely on the exact same military orders today, denying fundamental rights to the Palestinians living under their rule.

One thing to note is Israel's exploitation of natural resources in the Occupied Palestinian Territory for its own use is a direct violation of the legal responsibilities. This policy has robbed Palestine and Palestinians of vital assets and their enjoyment of life.

Israel has extracted minerals from the Dead Sea, while the Palestinians were rejected any access. Israel has a poor practice of disposing hazardous waste in so-called "sacrifice zones" in the West Bank. This impact is so severe that it can be felt by Israelis along with Palestinians and others in the region.

Israel has built a separation barrier, which have been allegedly built for security reasons, falls primarily on the West Bank rather than along the Green Line for actual segregation.

Effects:

These causes have had some greatly disturbing effects. First and foremost, many Palestinians have been displaced in large-scales and had their land confiscated. Countless homes have been demolished, and the demolitions have been increased by 44%. Palestinians have faced discrimination in many ways. Countless Palestinians have died or been tortured. And amidst the political split of the opposing parties, human rights have suffered immensely. As a result, the various factions caused the development of a great deal of animosity and distrust. The heads of security authorities are not sufficiently trained. Effects such as unlawful killings and forced evictions will be discussed in more detail further in the report.

"As of 2017," said the Special Rapporteur, "more than 96% of Gaza's coastal aquifer - the main source of water for residents of Gaza- has become unfit for human consumption. The reasons include over-extraction because of Gaza's extremely dense population, contamination with sewage and seawater, Israel's 12-year old blockade, and asymmetrical wars which has left Gaza's infrastructure severely crippled and with a near-constant electricity shortage."

As it became more difficult to obtain permits, Palestinians have been driven to construct their own structures.

KEY INTERNATIONAL ACTORS

THE US:

In March, the US recognized Israel's annexation of the Golan Heights, denying the reality of Israeli occupation and protections due the Syrian population there under international humanitarian law.

The US has maintained and expanded aid cuts to the West Bank and Gaza, including to USAID projects. In November, the State Department announced that it no longer considers Israeli settlements to violate international humanitarian law "per se", putting the United States outside the international consensus on the issue.

In April, the global tourism company Airbnb reversed its November 2018 pledge to remove listings from Israeli settlements in the West Bank from its website, pursuant to a settlement reached to lawsuits in Israel challenging its decision and following actions by several US states to penalize it under anti-boycott laws.

THE EU:

The European Union criticized the demolitions in Sur Baher in Jerusalem in July and Netanyahu's promise in September to annex the Jordan Valley.

THE ICC:

In December, the prosecutor for the International Criminal Court (ICC) concluded her preliminary examination into the Palestine situation with a determination that “all the statutory criteria” to proceed with a formal investigation have been met. However, instead of commencing the probe, she requested a ruling from the court’s judges on whether Palestine is a “state” for the purpose of conferring jurisdiction to the ICC over the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

THE UN:

In July, the UN secretary-general reported that Israeli forces had killed 56 Palestinian children and injured 2,733 in 2018, but as in previous years, did not include Israel in his annual “list of shame” for grave violations against children in armed conflict.

The Office of UN High Commissioner for Human Rights had yet to fulfill its mandate, at time of writing, to transmit to the UN Human Rights Council a database of businesses that have enabled or profited from settlements more than two-and-a-half years after its initial scheduled release.

ISRAEL:

After the 1948-49 war, the Arab countries refused to sign a permanent peace treaty with Israel and so the 1947 UN Commission proposals never received legal international recognition. Instead, Israel’s *temporary borders* were established along the so-called ‘Green Line’ of the 1949 UN armistice agreements. This line excludes Israel from the West Bank and Gaza.

Today, Israel’s legal borders are still defined by Article 80 of the UN Charter and span from the River Jordan to the Mediterranean Sea.

The land of Israel was meant to be home for the non-Jewish peoples as well as home for the nation, Israel. Sadly this has not happened because the Arab leadership refused, and still refuses to accept the State of Israel and so peace cannot be achieved.

PALESTINE:

In 1947 nearly half of Palestine was owned by Arabs, nearly half was “Crown Lands” under the 1922 British Mandate, and about 8% was Jewish. In the same year, UN Resolution 181 recommended that this area be divided equally into an Arab state and a Jewish state, and Jerusalem was to be ‘internationalized’. The Jews accepted the resolution but the Arabs rejected it. When the British left Palestine, the Palestine Mandate was absorbed into Article 80 of the UN Charter, and still stands today.

Since the two-state solution was rejected, immediately after the Declaration of the State in 1948 the Arab nations (notably the Egyptian and Syrian armies) invaded Israel. So Arab nations started the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, which led to the refugee problem. In this so-called ‘War of Independence’, many Palestinians evacuated their homes under direction from Arab armies, hoping to return soon after the inevitable Arab victory, link. Instead, over

700,000 Palestinians became refugees that year in what is known as the Nakba (Arabic for catastrophe)

EGYPT:

On May 28, 1946, Kings, Presidents and representatives of seven Arab countries met in Enshas to discuss the Palestinian cause and to face the emigration of Jews to the Palestinian territories in accordance with the Charter of Arab League, which states that the Arab countries must be defended in case of aggression. The participants in the summit decided to uphold the independence of Palestine, whose cause was the central issue in all conferences.

King Farouk also announced the participation of the Egyptian army in the 1948 war, realizing that the Egyptian and Arab public opinion had a desire to contribute in the rescue of Palestine and to face his opponents of the politicians at the time

During the reign of former President Mohamed Hosni Mubarak, which lasted nearly 30 years, the Palestinian cause witnessed many and sharp developments, as a result of this, Egypt's positions and roles have evolved to stabilize this volatile region of the eastern border of Egypt.

LEBANON

The 1982 Lebanon war began on 6 June 1982, when Israel invaded again for the purpose of attacking the Palestine Liberation Organization. The Israeli army laid siege to Beirut. During the conflict, according to Lebanese sources, between 15,000–20,000 people were killed, mostly civilians.

On July 12, 2006, what had been a localized conflict between Israel and Palestinian militants in the Gaza Strip instantly became a regional conflagration after Hezbollah captured two Israeli soldiers in a surprise attack along the Israeli-Lebanese border. Israel responded by carrying out air strikes against suspected Hezbollah targets in Lebanon, and Hezbollah countered with rocket attacks against cities and towns in northern Israel.

HAMAS:

The conflict originated with the election of the Islamist political party Hamas in 2005 and 2006 in the Gaza Strip and escalated with the split of the Palestinian Authority-Palestinian government into the Fatah government in the West Bank and the Hamas government in Gaza and the following violent ousting of Fatah after Fatah lost the election to Hamas. Palestinian rocket attacks on Israel, Israeli airstrikes on Gaza, and the joint Egyptian-Israeli blockade of Gaza have exacerbated the conflict.

The international community considers indiscriminate attacks on civilians and civilian structures that do not discriminate between civilians and military targets illegal under international law.

SYRIA:

Syria soon announced its complete support to Palestine after the 1948 Arab–Israeli War broke out, and had sent troops to fight against newly-formed Israel Defense Forces, but it failed to change the tie, and later also failed to get a peace talk. Since then, with the influx of Palestinian refugees to Syria, relationship between Syria and Palestine became very complex, while mainly brotherly, also share significant differences.

Syria also joined the Six-Day War hoping to expel the Israeli Army in order to restore Palestinian state, in which ended with a complete failure. This failed war drastically and radically changed Syrian and Palestinian society. For Syrians, the failure damaged their reputation, and subsequently created further mistrusts despite still maintaining good relationship.

JORDAN:

1967–1988. After the Six-Day War, Jordan lost control of the West Bank to Israel. In 1970, a conflict broke out between the Jordanian Armed Forces led by King Hussein and the Palestine Liberation Organization led by Yasser Arafat. This conflict was known as Black September.

The Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty created some divisions between Jordan and the Palestinian Authority over the issue of the Islamic holy places in East Jerusalem, over which the treaty recognized Jordanian guardianship, while the Palestinian Authority claimed to have the same rights. On many other issues, the Jordanian government and the Palestinian Authority are in concert, as the government in Amman supports Palestinian aspirations for a state within 1967 boundaries. The two countries are getting closer.

SAUDI ARABIA:

A charter member of the Arab League, Saudi Arabia has supported Palestinian rights to sovereignty, and called for withdrawal from the West Bank and other territory occupied by Israel since 1967.

IRAN:

The Iran–Israel proxy conflict, or Iran–Israel proxy war and Iran–Israel Cold War, is a proxy war between Iran and Israel in the 21st century. The conflict is bound in the political struggle of Iranian leadership against Israel and its declared aim to dissolve the Jewish state with the counter aim of Israel to prevent nuclear weapons being acquired by the Iranian government and downgrading its allies and proxies such as the Lebanese Hezbollah political-militant organization.

TURKEY:

Turkey is described as an "important player in the Middle East in relation to the United States, Syria and the Palestinians, as well as us." According to a report in the Jerusalem Post, a spokeswoman for the Syrian Foreign Ministry said that Turkey was serving as a "channel of communication" between Syria and Israel

The Turkish government's condemnation of the 2008–2009 Israel–Gaza conflict strained relations between the two countries. In December 1987, Turkey had already declared support for the Palestinians' right to self-determination. In 2004, Turkey had denounced Israeli assassination of Sheikh Ahmed Yassin. It described Israeli policy in the Gaza Strip as

"state-sponsored terrorism". There were demonstrations across Turkey against Israeli actions in Gaza.

THE UK:

Under the 1917 Balfour Declaration Britain supported the creation of a Jewish home in Palestine, with the proviso that the civil and religious rights of the existing non-Jewish communities were preserved. This declaration was based upon the biblical promise to Abraham and was formalized by the 1922 British Mandate for Palestine, where Palestine was defined as the land west of the river Jordan, including Judea and Samaria (now called the West Bank).

PREVIOUS TREATIES AND INITIATIVES

The Oslo I Accord

Officially known as the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements or shortly as Declaration of Principles (DOP). It was set in 1993 to set up a framework as an attempt that would lead to resolve the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. It was the first face-to-face agreement between Israel and Palestine and not only gave the Palestinian Authority responsibility of the territory under its control, but also called for the withdrawal of the Israeli Defense Forces from the Gaza Strip and West Bank. It was predicted to last five years, during which a permanent agreement would be signed.

The Oslo II

More officially known as the Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. It was signed in Taba, so it is also known as the Taba Agreement. Oslo II created the Areas A, B and C in the West Bank. Palestine gained some limited powers over Areas A and B. Finally signed on 28 September 1995.

The Protocol Concerning the Redeployment in Hebron

Also known as the Hebron Protocol or Hebron agreement. Signed on January 17, 1997 by Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization. It mainly focused on the redeployment of Israeli military forces from Hebron in accordance with the Oslo II. It was never ratified by either parties.

Beirut Summit of Arab Government Leaders

Took place in March 2002 under the Arab league. The summit concluded with discussions and a plan presented to end the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

The Wye River Memorandum

An agreement negotiated between Israel and Palestinian Authority. Held between 15-23 October 1998. Its aim was to resume the implementation of the Oslo II. Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment supplements to the 1984 United Nations Convention Against Torture and establishes an international inspection system for places of detention.

The Geneva Convention

It is a series of international diplomatic meetings, having four separate meetings, discussing different problems, over time. It contributed to the Humanitarian Law in many ways.

Security Council Resolution 242: The Situation in the Middle East

It calls for the removal of Israeli troops from occupied territories, and acknowledges the political independence of every state in the area.

Security Council Resolution 338: Cease-fire in Middle East

Mentioned in many other resolution and calls for the arrest of firing and terminating military activity.

SPECIFIC ANALYSIS ON RELATED PROBLEMS:

Unlawful Killings:

There have been many incidents of unlawful killings of many Palestinians, mostly being unarmed. To give a few examples, Israeli security forces shot and wounded 6,016 protesters, killing 189, with live ammunition in 2018 alone. Sources have said that the Commission has found no justification for the said security forces killing and injuring people who pose no imminent threat of death or serious injury to anyone around them. Israeli security forces have also used force against demonstrators in Gaza. To give numbers, in one case the forces in question killed 38 Palestinians, with 11 of them being children in the Gaza Strip and West Bank. After that incident, Israel failed to ensure accountability and compensate for victims of violations of human rights. Israeli air strikes have also killed 28 Palestinian civilians, including 10 children, who posed no threat. The authorities have also harassed and targeted human rights defenders, journalists, and others who criticized their choices regarding West Bank, Gaza Strip, and Syrian Golan Heights. They denied patients who sought and required medical help.

During the "Great March of Return protests", which began in March 2018, it was reported that by December 27, 215 Palestinians had been killed, with 47 of them being children, four paramedics, and two journalists. Keep in mind that deliberately firing at unarmed Palestinian civilians, or in general any unarmed civilian at all, is technically considered a war crime.

Another example took place on October 30th, when an Israeli soldier shot a 15-year-old Palestinian Othman Halas during a protest. The soldier was sentenced community service

and a reduced rank for “endangering a life by deviating from orders”. There are more examples, so these are only some of them.

Freedom of Movement:

Israel maintained restrictions on the movement of Palestinians in the West Bank. 705 permanent obstacles have been documented, including the checkpoints across the West Bank in July. Israel aimed to keep Palestinians far from settlements, restricted their access to their own homeland and spend time on time-consuming rearrangements by imposing restrictions. The Israeli built a barrier which separates Israel from Palestinian territory, which isolates over 10 thousand people and doesn't give the allowance to travel to Israel. In that case it is arduous for the Palestinians to cross the barrier even if they are aiming to access their own property or other services.

Arbitrary Detention on Children and Adults:

According to Prison Services figures Israeli authorities held over 4 thousand Palestinians in custody for “security” offences based on secret evidence without trial charge. Apart from Jerusalem residents, West Bank Palestinians (including the ones charged with protest activity or non-violent speech) were tried in military with a nearly 100% conviction rate.¹⁸⁵ Palestinian children were imprisoned by Israel with the suspicion of criminal offenses under military law. It is claimed that Israeli forces used unnecessary force against children during their arrest and abused them in custody.

Palestinian Authority's Actions in the West Bank:

Between 2018 and 2019 The Palestinian Authority detained over 1500 people for creating “sectarian strife”, insulting higher authorities and criminalizing peaceful dissent. The ICHR (Independent Commission for Human Rights) has also received complaints on the charge pursuant to the orders from regional governors. In August 2019 the PA (Palestinian Authority) police spokesperson announced a ban on LGBTQ+ groups for Sexual & Gender Diversity activities and vowed to prosecute its members. The current law on personal status continues to discriminate against women including the relation to marriage, divorce and etc. In addition to that, there is still not an existent law on preventing abuses and protecting survivors.

Forced Evictions:

Many Palestinians have faced large-scale displacements and forced evictions from their homes. This also paves the way from an increase in Israeli settlement construction on not only Israeli land, but all over Palestine as they are driven out. Additionally, many Palestinians have also been forced out due to the building of the wall, causing thousands of people to suddenly become homeless. As Palestinians lost permits and land, Israelis gained land and are improving in terms of property ownership.

"All the money that I've collected during the past years, I've spent to build this house," said Mohammed al-Barzayan, a Palestinian resident, "and in moments they destroyed it under the pretext that I didn't have a permit." He added, "With this decision, a family of 18 people became homeless."

It is said that overall 621 Palestinian structures have been demolished by Israel in West Bank, including East Jerusalem, displacing 914 people, according to OCHA. Israel has justified these actions saying that many of these structures did not have Israel-issued permits, which are practically impossible for Palestinians to obtain. Israeli authorities have announced on January 28 that 36,000 Palestinian Bedouin citizens living in "unrecognized" villages would be forcibly displaced from the Negev/Naqab in Israel to government-planned towns, which Israel refuses to recognize as legal. Israeli authorities demolished the Palestinian Bedouin village of al-Araqib for the 169th time in December.

Torture on Palestinians and Israel's Tradition of Torture:

Palestinian detainees, including children, have been incessantly tortured or ill-treated with impunity by Israeli soldiers, police and Israel Security Agency (ISA). Methods such as beating, slapping, painful shackling, sleep deprivation, use of stress positions, and threats have been reportedly used, alongside prolonged solitary confinement. The Ministry of Justice launched an investigation on 29 September after Samir Arbeed was hospitalized due to broken ribs and kidney failure as a result of torture by Israeli forces during an interrogation. Allegedly, four Palestinians have died as a result of torture in custody.

Continuing with Israel's tradition of torture. Torture was always a tradition, leading back all the way to the "Haifa Trials" in 1972. This was not reported frequently by Western media outlets. Torture mainly is used in interrogations in some Israel prisons, done by Shin Bet agents (General Security Service). The Legal Center for Arab Minority Rights in Israel, Physicians for Human Rights (PHR-Israel) and Al Mezan Center for Human Rights in Gaza held a two day international expert workshop in Jerusalem in April 2011. The subject of this workshop was "Securing Accountability for Torture and Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CIDT) in Israel: New Trends and Comparative Lessons". If you are interested, you can do further research on this.

Water Supply:

"For nearly five million Palestinians living under occupation, the degradation of their water supply, the exploitation of their natural resources and the defacing of their environment, are symptomatic of the lack of any meaningful control they have over their daily lives," Lynk said presenting a report to the Human Rights Council in Geneva.

Water resources in the region are not abundant. So when the already depleted supply is poisoned or affected poorly. Water sources, particularly in the Gaza Strip, are well above the level of stress. The demand for water is understandably spontaneously increasing due to factors such as population growth, rising standards of living, and economic development.. Adding onto the fact that Israel has abundant control over the water sources makes the

situation worse for Palestinians. Water supplies are also inefficiently delivered in respect of quantity, quality, and reliability, notably compared to other places.

The infrastructure is inefficient so considerable amounts of water are lost during transportation. The unaccounted for water ranges between 30-50% in most communities. Sewage treatment is mostly unavailable, inadequate or not functioning, and around 30% of the population is connected to this water, increasing the risk of catching diseases such as cholera, most commonly.

TIMELINE

Date	Event(s)
September 1948	Palestinian attempt to establish a state in the Gaza Strip in September 1948 under Egyptian protectorate failed,
February- July 1949	Israel concluded the Armistice Agreements with neighbouring countries. The territory of the Mandatory Palestine was divided between the State of Israel, the Transjordan and the All-Palestine Government in Gaza, under prefecture of Egypt.
July 23-24 1954	Start of the Lavon Affair.
October 29- November 1956	Suez Crisis. Israel invaded Egypt's Sinai Peninsula with covert assent from France and Britain.

1963	In a new wave of Arab socialism, the Ba'ath Party took power in Iraq and Syria. Among the key Ba'ath aims was the support of the Palestinian cause
June 1967	The Six-Day War. Israel launched a defensive strike on Egyptian Air Force (June 5), following Egyptian naval blockade of the Straits of Tiran (May 22) and Egyptian military buildup in the Sinai Peninsula (May 16), interpreted as acts of war.
1968-1970	Egypt waged a War of Attrition against Israel.
1974-1980	Palestinian insurgency in South Lebanon
May 15 1982	Israel, allied with Lebanese Christians, launching Operation "Peace for Galilee", an invasion of southern Lebanon against PLO, Syrian and Muslim Lebanese forces
August 13 1983	The Israeli Army withdrew from most of Lebanon in August 1983, maintaining a self-proclaimed "Security Zone" in the south.
1987-1991	The First Intifada began with violence, riots, general strikes, and civil disobedience campaigns by Palestinians spread across the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Israeli forces responded with tear gas, plastic bullets, and live ammunition against the demonstrators.
October 30 1991	Madrid Conference

August 20 1993	Yasser Arafat and Yitzhak Rabin signed the Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government in Oslo. This event is also seen by many people as the definitive end to the First Intifada
February 25- March 4 1996	Operation "Grapes of Wrath" and the shelling of Qana.
2000-2005	Al-Aqsa Intifada (The Second Intifada)
2006	Violence and rivalry erupted between Fatah and Hamas in the Gaza Strip. (Gaza-Israel Conflict)
July 12 2006	2006 Lebanon War: Hezbollah infiltrated Israel in a cross-border raid, captured two soldiers and killed three others. Israel attempted to rescue the captured, and five more soldiers were killed. Israel's military responded
January 2009	Operation "Cast Lead", launched near the end of the previous year by Israel, continued until January 18.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Has there been any actual consequence on Israel's behalf? If not, why hasn't United Nations or any country intervened?

Is Israel violating any treaty they ratified? If so, have there been any consequences to this?

If Palestine fights back (if they are able to), will these lead to a war?

Why is Palestine not doing anything? Or if they are, why did this not have any (or at least lasting) effect?

Should other countries intervene even though it is not directly or indirectly affecting them?

If other countries intervene, would this affect diplomatic relations?

Why does the Arab league refuse to recognize the State of Israel?

POSSIBLE SOLUTIONS

1. Many people recommend the One-state solution where a united Israel-Palestinian state is created, encompassing the entirety of Israel, the West Bank including East Jerusalem, and possibly the Golan Heights and the Gaza Strip.
2. Making Palestine an official state and allowing them to join voting in order to contribute to the decision of their own fate.
3. Israel must remain within its initial borders, which were established when Israel was first declared a country.
4. Applying the model of the Prisoner's dilemma to the situation in Israel and Palestine to simplify the conflict with two options that include the continuation of the violence or follow a peace process approved by both countries.
5. Coming up with another game theoretical model that suits both parties in order to cooperate although it is not their best interest.

BIBLIOGRAPHY AND USEFUL LINKS

<https://www.map.org.uk/the-issues/the-issues>

<https://www.vox.com/2018/11/20/18080002/israel-palestine-conflict-basics>

<http://looklex.com/e.o/palestine.religions.freedom.htm>

<https://www.riob.org/en/file/260336/download?token=qry-U2Dn>

https://fanack.com/palestine/human-rights/freedom-and-human-rights-in-palestine/?gclid=Cj0KCQjw-r71BRDuARIsAB7i_QNxWxubkp-wYb7BWmng8vkfT8iMho_oUnNDC5Ds0tIUkb7Xmc4-HjlaAvm8EALw_wcB

<https://fanack.com/palestine/history-past-to-present/rising-demolitions-in-the-occupied-palestinian-territories/>

<https://www.hrw.org/report/2019/12/17/born-without-civil-rights/israels-use-draconian-military-orders-repress>

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/americas/un-israel-violated-human-rights-in-palestine/1421819>

<https://www.un.org/unispal/document/israels-exploitation-of-palestinian-resources-is-human-rights-violation-says-un-special-rapporteur-for-the-situation-of-human-rights-in-the-opt-press-release/>

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/middle-east-and-north-africa/israel-and-occupied-palestinian-territories/report-israel-and-occupied-palestinian-territories/>

<https://surface.syr.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1250&context=jilc>

<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2019/country-chapters/israel/palestine>

<http://www.palestinechronicle.com/torture-and-human-rights-violations-in-israel-and-palestine/>

<https://www.map.org.uk/the-issues/the-issues>

<https://www.amnesty.org/en/countries/middle-east-and-north-africa/israel-and-occupied-palestinian-territories/report-israel-and-occupied-palestinian-territories/>

<https://www.history.com/topics/world-war-ii/geneva-convention>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Optional_Protocol_to_the_Convention_against_Torture

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wye_River_Memorandum

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israeli%E2%80%93Palestinian_peace_process

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Protocol_Concerning_the_Redeployment_in_Hebron

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Oslo_II_Accord

<https://www.hrw.org/world-report/2020/country-chapters/israel/palestine>

<https://www.ochaopt.org/location/gaza-strip>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/West_Bank

https://www.ecfr.eu/mapping_palestinian_politics/detail/opt

<https://interactive.aljazeera.com/ajb/2018/east-west-jerusalem/index.html>

https://www.berghof-foundation.org/fileadmin/redaktion/Publications/Handbook/Dialogue_Chapters/dialogue9_darweish_comm.pdf

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Timeline_of_the_Israeli%E2%80%93Palestinian_conflict

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/State_of_Palestine

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/History_of_the_Jews_and_Judaism_in_the_Land_of_Israel

<https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel>

<https://www.factsaboutisrael.uk/israeli-palestinian-conflict-summary/>

<https://www.everysreport.com/reports/RL33566.html>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Palestine%E2%80%93Syria_relations

<https://theconversation.com/saudi-arabia-and-the-israel-palestine-conflict-between-a-rock-and-a-hard-place-98129>

<https://www.aa.com.tr/en/turkey/turkey-occupation-of-palestine-will-not-be-justified/1651258>

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Israel%E2%80%93Turkey_relations