Forum: GA-1: Social Committee

Issue: Addressing the global surge in Antisemitism and Islamophobia due to the Israel-Palestine conflict

Student Officer: Alper Emre Kaya

Position: Deputy Chair

Introduction

Throughout modern history, the Middle East has always been a troubled region in terms of stability. Many cultures and ways of life clashing with each other have caused many armed conflicts, influencing the globe. The struggles in the Palestine region have been going on for hundreds of years, getting more and more heated in the 20th century. I hope that you will have a general idea about the history of this regional conflict as it is crucial to understanding how it affects global politics.

Religion being a sensitive topic for most people makes it an excellent tool to manipulate large populations and spread ideas. As the Middle East has an important place in the most widespread religions of the world – particularly Islam and Judaism, which is important in the context of this issue – it is easy to see how a regional shift of balance in power have a huge impact on global opinions and views on such an important and sensitive topic.

During your debating process, you will have to find ways of preventing misinformation related to the war caused by ease of access to media and how it is an increasingly important issue for our society. False beliefs fueled by conspiracy theories and normalized discrimination also affect global views on the war.

Even if it is a local problem, a relatively small confrontation between local powers can have a huge impact on societies worldwide. Therefore, it is crucial to find a long-lasting and universal solution applicable to similar future cases.

Definition of Key Terms

Antisemitism

Antisemitism refers to the general fear and hatred against the religion of Judaism and Jews. Antisemitism is primarily driven by one's racist beliefs against Jews as a population or towards Jews regarding Judaism. Both state-backed and independent antisemitic events ranging from subtle discrimination to widespread genocides have taken place in global history. Most extreme antisemitic events of global history took place in the Christian Europe, but there was a recent rise of antisemitism in the Arab world caused by Arab antisemitic conspiracy theories, the founding of Israel in 1948 and the subsequent armed conflicts between Israel and Middle Eastern nations. Following allegations of war crimes against Israeli forces in recent conflicts with Hamas in Gaza, antisemitism has been on the rise globally as well.

Islamophobia

Islamophobia refers to the general fear and hatred against the religion of Islam and Muslims. Islamophobia saw a dramatic rise in the world before the end of the Cold War. Beginning with the genocide of Bosniak Muslims during the Yugoslav Wars during which the Serbian leader and war criminal Slobodan Milošević promoted Islamophobia, encouraging the genocides. Many events until the turn of the millennium and the 21. century changed how the Western media viewed Islam. The most notable of these events were the coordinated suicide attacks of September 11 closely connected with Islamist beliefs and the subsequent "global war on terrorism" kickstarted by George W. Bush, the US president of the time, whose political motivations were highly questioned during the military actions and their consequences in Africa, the Middle East, and most notably Afghanistan. The rise of the Islamic State (IS, ISIL or ISIS) following the Gulf War and their international presence in terrorism activities also contributed to the rise of Islamophobia. Far-right wing political groups against Muslims have also been on the rise since late 2010s, mostly in the European Union countries.

Land of Israel

The Land of Israel, sometimes also referred as the Holy Land or the Promised Lands, describes an area roughly corresponding to Southern Levant, Palestine, and today's State of Israel. This region is roughly defined in some passages of the Hebrew Bible and holds importance in Jewish culture.

Zionism

Zionism is a movement that aims to establish a Jewish state in the religious and traditional Land of Israel. Zionism today is an ideology (sometimes also described as Israel's national ideology) that supports the continuation of Israel as the Jewish homeland.

Aliyah

Aliyah, one of the most basic tenets of Zionism, is the immigration of Jews to the Land of Israel. Jews have mostly lived in diaspora due to violent historical events and persecution. The large-scale immigration of the Jewish people begun with the rise of a "national awakening" and the Zionist movement in late 19th century. After the declaration of the State of Israel, the Law of Return passed by the Israeli Government in 1950 allows all Jewish people as well as their descendants the right to immigrate to Israel and acquire citizenship.

Identity politics

Identity politics refers to politics based off of the identity of a specific population, such as religion and race in the context of antisemitism and Islamophobia. Essentializing a stereotype of a population, political activism revolving around issues of identity, discriminating, or glorifying a specific race, nationality, religion, social class, sexual orientation, background,2 or other descriptive traits can be classified as identity politics. Identity politics move away from more traditional ways of politics and uses more discriminative methods instead of following a more broad-based approach.

Background Information

Origins of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict

The confrontation between Israelis and Palestinians has its roots going back to the late 19th century. Following the rise of Zionism in Europe, Jewish settlers started making large-scale aliyah to their ancient ancestral homeland, the Land of Israel. Local Arab population opposed this, mainly fearing displacement. After World War I, the Ottoman Empire was forced to give up most of their lands including Palestine. This resulted in the establishment of Mandatory Palestine in 1920 as a mandate of the British Empire, following a Leage of Nations mandate requiring Britain to put a "national home for the Jewish people", as described in the Balfour Declaration, into effect alongside Arabs in Palestine. During British rule in Mandatory Palestine, multiple nationalist movements took place between Jews and Arabs. The conflict started as intercommunal clashes but the situation deteriorated into a failed armed Arab rebellion against the British rulers and a successful Jewish insurgency during the Second World War (also called as the Palestine Emergency) which resulted in British forces pulling out of Mandatory Palestine and led to a rise in antisemitism in the United Kingdom. After WWII the UN Partition Plan for Palestine was passed, the conflict between Jewish insurgents, British forces, and Arab communities continued until the termination of Mandatory Palestine and the subsequent establishment of the State of Israel.

The Arab-Israeli War of 1948

Immediately after the termination of Mandatory Palestine, Arab states surrounding the newly formed State of Israel started attacking Israeli forces and Jewish settlements. This escalated the situation and started an armed conflict. The Arab states, aiming to establish a "United State of Palestine" considering the United Nations plan invalid due to the lack of legal authority after British withdrawal. The conflict ended with armistice agreements between Israel and the Arab nations, giving Israel the control of the lands previously allocated to them by the UN Plan plus just

over half of the Arab state according to the same plan. The Gaza Strip was occupied by Egypt and the West Bank by Jordan.

After the 1948 war, about 711.000 Palestinians were expelled by Israel and were forced to live in refugee camps in neighboring Arab countries. In the aftermath of the war, Arab states demanded Israel to withdraw to the Borders defined by the United Nations Partition Plan and Israel to allow the Palestinian refugees to return. Neither of these demands were accepted. Approximately 900.000 Jews were expelled from neighboring countries. Two thirds of this population

Figure 1: Israeli soldiers raising their flag at Um Rashrash, marking the end of the war.

ended up in Israeli refugee camps, while the rest migrated mostly to France, the United States and other countries. Over time, refugee camps in Israel were evacuated and the refugees were integrated into Israeli society, unlike the Palestinian refugees in Arab countries which were not allowed to leave their camps and mix with the local Arab society, leaving the refugee crisis unsolved today.

The Suez Crisis

Following the nationalization of the Suez Canal by Egyptian president Gamal Abdel Nasser in 1956, Israel started an offensive into Egypt with the objective of stopping the Egyptian naval blockades in the Straits of Tiran, preventing Israeli access for much of the time from 1948 (First Arab-Israeli War) to (Third Arab-Israeli War) 1967. After a joint ceasefire ultimatum, British and French forces joined the so-called "Tripartite Aggression" with the aim of deposing Nasser and regaining control over the Suez Canal. This led to the closure of the canal from October 1956 to March 1957, even though Israel attained freedom of navigation through the Straits of Tiran.

After the invasion, the three countries were under immense political pressure. The United States, Soviet Union and United Nations all pressured the countries to eventually withdraw after Israeli forces had occupied the entire Sinai Peninsula. US president Dwight D. Eisenhower threatened Britain by selling American-owned pound sterling-bonds, inflicting immense damage to the British economy. This is widely regarded as the end of Britain as a superpower in the global scene. After the conflict, the UN Emergency Force was established to control the Egypt-Israel border while Israeli freedom of shipment was guaranteed. Thousands of Jews were stripped of their Egyptian citizenship while nearly all of their property was confiscated. They were only allowed to take a suitcase and a small sum of cash while forcefully signing a declaration "donating" their property to the Egyptian government. Almost half of the Jewish population in Egypt was forced to leave. This and the lack of a peace settlement led to rising tensions between Egypt and Israel also laid the groundwork for the Six-Day War. Additionally, the USSR was able to extend their influence in the region and the US passed the Eisenhower Doctrine as a direct result of the Suez Crisis and to prevent further Soviet influence.

The Six-Day War of 1967

The Six-Day War broke out due to longstanding and immediate issues regarding various disputes and many unsolved issues due to previous conflicts between Israel and the neighboring Arab states. During the time between the Suez Crisis and the start of military confrontation, Arab nationalists kept being hostile towards the existence of Israel and some border clashes, particularly in Jordan and Syria, had already taken place. Amid misinformation from Soviet Union to Nasser stating that Israel was massing troops on their Syrian border, the Egyptian military began preparing for war and expelled the UN Emergency Force that was guarding the Sinai Peninsula. Even though Israel repeated the declarations it made after the end of the Suez Crisis in 1957, stating that any closure of the Straits of Tiran would be considered an act of war, Nasser decided to close the Straits to Israeli shipping on 22 May. In the following days, Egypt and Jordan signed a defense pact which was later

joined by Iraq. On 4th of June, the Israeli cabinet made the decision to go to war and Operation Focus, a large and unexpected airstrike campaign, was launched.

Before the start of Operation Focus, Israeli air force crews including pilots and ground handlers had trained to allow their aircraft to fly up to 4 sorties a day compared to one or two for Arab air forces by refueling and rearming their aircraft in under 8 minutes. This was a major
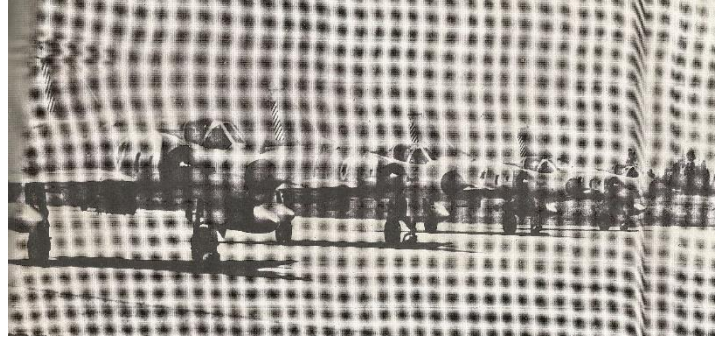
Figure 2: Dassault Mirage III fighters of the Israeli Air Force, before June 1967

contributing factor in Israel's rapid success in the war and also led to the belief that Israel was being supported by foreign air forces. In just a few hours, around 500 aircraft of Egyptian, Jordanian and Syrian air forces were shot down and around 18 Egyptian airfields were rendered inoperative. Most of the Egyptian Air Force was destroyed on the ground. In the opening stages of the operation, the Israeli Air Force only received minor losses and had decisive air superiority above Egypt, the Sinai Desert and the West Bank. The IAF managed to destroy 452 enemy aircraft employing around 250 aircraft of their own against the Arab coalition of more than 600 aircraft.

Following the airstrikes, the Israeli ground forces used the element of surprise to their favor and captured the entire Sinai Peninsula in a mere three days. An innovative battle plan from unexpected locations and a combined-force flanking approach rather than direct tank-on-tank confrontations contributed to Israeli forces' rapid success, despite being outnumbered and slightly outgunned. The Israeli army also responded to attacks by Jordanian forces stationed in the West Bank on 5th of June, capturing the Old City of Jerusalem and nearly eliminating the entire Jordanian Army until they fell back to avoid complete destruction. Syria largely stayed out of the conflict for the first four days, but fake Egyptian news reports indicating that they allegedly attained a decisive victory against the Israelis and were planning to attack

Tel Aviv influenced their state towards the conflict. Syrian artillery pieces started bombarding northern parts of Israel while some minor ground and air forces started attacking Israeli positions. Israeli leadership debated whether to attack Syria as well or not, and finally decided to start attacking on 9th of June. Israeli jets carried out dozens of sorties which disabled Syrian artillery and plummeting enemy morale. Israeli armored brigades broke through Syrian defensive lines until the sign of a ceasefire on 10th of June, ending the war after just six days.

After the war, around 300.000 of the one million Palestinians in Gaza and West Bank were displaced. In the Golan Heights, around 100.000 people fled to other countries. Even though Israel allowed most people living in East Jerusalem and Golan Heights to receive full citizenship, most declined this offer. The aftermath of the war showed that Israel was able to conduct unexpected strategic strikes which could change the situation in the region dramatically. Israel improved itself in nearly all ways after the war, most notably its economy as international interest grew, tourism boomed, and Sinai's oil wells could be exploited. Israelis also captured the City of Jerusalem, holding immense religious importance as the Western Wall in Jerusalem is the holiest site where Jews could pray at. In Arab countries, Jews faced persecution and were attacked by mobs, further accelerating the Jewish exodus from Arab and Muslim countries. Realizing that the Arab armies were no match for Israeli forces in open warfare, the Palestine Liberation Organization established in 1964 started conducting terrorist attacks with international reach. As they believed that only terror could end Israel's existence, a series of international terrorist attacks, most notably the Munich massacre and hostage situation of the 1972 Munich Olympics during which 11 Israeli sportsmen were killed, changed how people viewed Islam.

The Yom Kippur War

After the end of the Six Day War, the Israeli government had decided to return the captured territories of Sinai, Golan Heights, and the West Bank in exchange for permanent peace. Arab countries stated that they would reject any peaceful
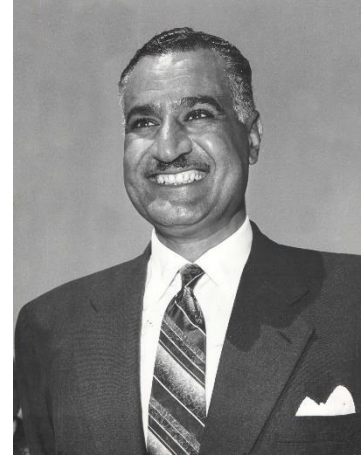
settlement with the State of Israel, and minor armed clashes continued. In the 1967 Arab League summit they stated the "Three Noes", or formally known as the Khartoum Resolution with these three noes being:

"No peace with Israel, no negotiation with Israel, no recognition of Israel."

Between the third (Six Day War) and fourth (Yom Kippur War) wars, a limited amount of fighting called the War of Attrition (1967-1970) took place. This was caused by the lack of any diplomatic effort to permanently resolve Israeli-Arabian issues and Arabian policies against Israel, most notably president Nasser believing that only a large scale military initiative could drive Israel out of Sinai. After the War of Attrition, the Egyptian government now under the leadership of Anwar Sadat indicated that they were willing to sign a peace agreement with Israel under the conditions

Figure 3: Gamal Abdel Nasser, 1962

of UNSC Resolution 242 and a proposal made by Swedish diplomat Gunnar Jarring. The agreement, which included Israel giving up the territories which they captured in the Six Day War, initially saw support by the Israeli government. However, Israeli prime minister Golda Meir rejected such a plan.

United States, a major Israeli ally, was infuriated by the Israeli response to a possible peace agreement. The US had supplied Israel with arms since the 1960s and assisted in maintaining Israeli dominance in the region to prevent further Soviet influence, as Arab nations and most importantly Egypt were Soviet allies. President Sadat, keen on recapturing their lost territories in the Sinai Peninsula, made a final peace offer to Prime Minister Meir, which was rejected even though Meir was aware that only alternative to this peace offer was an armed conflict. This resulted in global views shifting towards people seeing Israel a potential aggressor, resulting in waves of antisemitism especially in Islam-majority countries.

Even though Sadat had concerns on how a war would affect an already crippled Egypt, he was determined to go to war. In the six months leading up to the war, Egypt began receiving Soviet military equipment and started rebuilding a modernized army. Military high command was also replaced with more competent ones and new battle doctrines were put in place, being influenced by the Six Day War and Soviet military tactics. In the months leading up to the war, Egyptian forces conducted extensive exercises along the border, which were dismissed by Israeli intelligence until the day before the war, as they felt that Arabs were "simply not capable of war".

Upon learning that war was imminent, Israel began mobilizing their air force and four armored divisions. They also had initial proposals for a preemptive strike just like in the Six Day War, but this was controversially rejected: Israelis had to avoid any blame in starting the war if they hoped to receive any

Figure 4: Egyptian Sukhoi Su-7 fighters conducting airstrikes

aid from the outside world. Egyptian attacks began on the first day of Yom Kippur, a religious time for Jews in which they fast. Even though the Israelis were relatively unprepared, they managed to turn the tide of the war and gain a military victory, even though they withdrew from the west of the Suez Canal and Egyptian troops east of the canal kept a narrow strip of positions, giving them control of the Suez Canal. Even though Israelis were victorious, their morale was deeply affected and a large amount of civilian casualties had large effect on Israelis.

After the war, a series of secret and open talks began with Israel and their Arabian neighbors, which led to fixed borders and continued peace as well as Israelis guaranteeing their safe passage through the Suez Canal and returning the Sinai Peninsula to Egyptian hands while the Gaza Strip stayed in Israeli control. After the

Yom Kippur war, the Arab-Israeli conflict slowly shifted to a confrontation isolated between Israelis and Palestinians with Iraq maintaining an active role.

Israeli-Palestinian conflict

During the wars and peace agreements between Israel and Egypt, Palestinian insurgency in the Lebanese border of Israel was becoming an increasingly important issue. Palestinian militants launched attacks from southern Lebanon and the situation reached a climax after an assassination on an Israeli diplomat by Palestinians. An armed conflict, the Lebanese War broke out with Israeli forces invading Lebanon in order to defeat the militias of the Palestinian Liberation Organization. The war was a partial success for both parties.

Figure 5: Current state of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip

As a response to increasing tension and endless Israeli occupation, Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip started revolting against the Israeli forces in an uprising called the First Intifada. Protests, civil disobedience, and violence lasting from 1987 to 1993 was met with excessive lethal force from Israeli response forces. Some 1,087 Palestinians were killed during the Intifada, which ended with the Oslo Accords of 1993, a number of agreements between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization. The Oslo Accords gave the PLO a limited amount of self governance in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in a legal entity called the Palestinian National Authority. Furthermore, Israel accepted to recognize PLO as the representative for the Palestinian people and agreed to give over some territories in exchange for peace. West Bank was divided into territories classified as areas A, B, and C with both parties recognizing each other's settlements.

Even though the agreements were initially promising, both sides were left disappointed and no permanent peace agreement was reached during the five year interim process of Palestinian self-rule. Until the turn of the millennium, Palestinian terror attacks and freedom movements progressively violent. After unsuccessful talks between Israel and PLO leader Yasser Arafat, another uprising called the Second Intifada began.

Retaliation in Gaza

A period of intense violence and retaliation by Palestinians lasted around 4 years from September 2000 to February 2005. Palestinians utilized small arms, suicide bombs, makeshift rockets, and other simple weapons which were met with Israel Defense Forces' tank attacks, airstrikes, assassinations, and other crowd control measures. This was much more violent compared to the First Intifada with the second uprising being closely connected to an immense amount of suicide bombings, mainly targeting Israeli civilians. As a result, Israeli forces completely pulled out of the Gaza Strip and evacuated all Israeli inhabitants of the area, leaving the region to be controlled by the previously established Palestinian National Authority and deploying its military along the border. On the West Bank border, a large barrier was constructed, acting as a separation line along the 1949 armistice borders. After the death of Yasser Arafat in November 2004, the self-ruling Palestinian territories were left in a political turmoil.

The two main political parties, Fatah and Hamas, competed in the legislative elections of 2006. The elections resulted in an unexpected success for Hamas and started a conflict between the parties. Hamas consolidated its power in Gaza after a battle with Fatah. This led to a complete Israeli blockade of the Gaza Strip, also supported by Egypt due to the lack of security, which was previously provided by Fatah, only allowing a very limited amount of people and goods to be passed through the borders. As a result, Palestinian retaliation via rockets and mortars fired into

Southern Israel nearly doubled. This led to increased airstrikes and response by the IDF, further deteriorating the situation.

Blockades and subsequent confrontation

To stop attacks from both sides and to allow humanitarian aid to be delivered to Gaza, an Egyptian-brokered ceasefire came into effect. The attacks did stop for six months in which Israelis allowed goods to be transferred, albeit to a lower volume than agreed. On 4 November 2008, Israel started a raid on Gaza, calling it a preemptive strike. This was met with Palestinian rocket barrages and the start of an organized ground and air assault against various targets in Gaza, starting the Gaza War of 2008. The offensive lasted three weeks with Israelis advancing deep into Gazan urban centers while Palestinians started targeting Israeli metro areas. The conflict ended with a ceasefire on 18 January with the withdrawal of Israeli forces three days later. This left infrastructure in Gaza in a crippled state while destroying a large amount of the rocket launching equipment used by Palestinians to strike Israeli settlements. A large humanitarian crisis ensued and life in Gaza rapidly deteriorated.

Even after the ceasefire, violence between both parties continued. Palestinian National Authority applied for United Nations membership. This attempt failed, even though Palestine's mission title was changed to "State of Palestine" as a non-member observer state. Two more wars broke out in Gaza, in 2014 and 2021 with progressively

Figure 6: Israeli Merkava tank in a Gaza street

increased amount and severity of attacks from both sides in long term. These events and the humanitarian crises caused by the wars increased awareness against Palestine while governments showing significant support for Israel.

Ongoing war in Gaza

Over the course of 2023, tensions between Hamas and Israel reached a boiling point. Hamas had been covertly planning an offensive operation for around two years, avoiding Israeli intelligence via hardwired phone lines in tunnels underground. On 7 October 2023, the so-called "Operation Al-Aqsa Flood" began with a rocket barrage and a

Figure 7: Protesters crossing the Brooklyn Bridge in New York City, October 2023

coordinated ground attack. Hamas had some initial success, mostly thanks to the element of surprise. Some 3.000 militants breached the Gaza-Israel border while barrages of several thousand rockets caused the deaths of 1.139 Israelis while another 252 were taken hostage. After taking control of the border breaches, the Israeli Air Force began one of the most intense and destructive airstrike campaigns of modern warfare. According to estimations, 62 percent of all buildings in the Gaza Strip were damaged or destroyed during Israeli bombing campaigns. After this, a large ground offensive started with the aim of completely eliminating Hamas and gaining control of Gaza. Large amounts of Palestinians as well as Israelis were displaced and both sides received significant international support from their respective allies. More than 35,000 Palestinians were killed and over 10,000 others have gone missing. Gazan infrastructure collapsed after constant Israeli bombing causing widespread famine and a lack of basic healthcare.

Increasing hate against Jews and Muslims

The war has caused waves of both antisemitism and Islamophobia across the globe. On one side, Israel and their western allies are condemning Hamas' targeting of civilian infrastructure. On the other side, worldwide human rights organizations and a large majority of countries are protesting against Israel's excessive use of lethal force and ban on humanitarian aids going into Gaza. Protests were also held against

governments supporting Israel, most notably the US as they provide large amount of arms and financial support to the Israeli military. The war has caused a minor refugee crisis in Western Europe as well. With the rising popularity of ultranationalist far-right groups opposing refugees and migrants, Palestinian and Arab refugees migrating to Europe and causing civil disturbances have sparked Islamophobia.

After the brutal Israeli retaliatory airstrikes against Hamas militias, multiple acts of antisemitic vandalism started taking place around the world. Multiple synagogues and Jewish community centers in the United States were under high alert due to bomb threats and vandalism, such as swastikas being painted on walls and trucks. Likewise, in towns and cities around Europe, there has been increased security for Jewish sites, including synagogues, community centers, and schools. However, Jews in Germany, Italy, and France reported feeling cautious as ever. Even food delivery orders to homes in Jewish neighborhoods were declining, according to residents who expressed reluctance to have a stranger knock on their door. Israeli immigration is reportedly expecting large volumes of Jews migrating to Israel after the start of the war due to this antisemitism surge.

Simultaneous with the increase of antisemitism, Islamophobia also saw a sharp rise in the western world. Israeli officials, politicians and public figures are not afraid of conducting open hate speech against Palestinians. Israel's Defense Minister Yoav Gallant called Palestinians as "human animals" and furthermore added that such language "could incite genocidal actions". In the United States, shootings and stabbings against citizens of Palestinian descent caused alarms while the rise of Islamophobia in the US and the rest of the western world is traced back to the terrorist attacks of September 11. Social media and misinformation is also fueling the hate against Muslims and Palestinians, mainly the stereotype that all Arabs are terrorists is being circulated in these channels. Due to this, Muslims around the world in countries with widespread Islamophobia are also afraid of consulting law enforcement, further contributing to the underreporting of these hate crimes.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

Israel

As one of the main parties of the conflict, Israel has received both serious backlash and tremendous support from countries across the globe. Being a nation constantly in conflict since its founding, Israel has relied significantly on a superior military doctrine and foreign aids. After the start of the latest conflict, Israel started a massive ground invasion of the Gaza Strip forcing Palestinian militants to retreat. The situation is an internal security problem for Israel as they receive collateral casualties due to Palestinian attacks. Even though there are many international calls for ceasefires, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu is keen on keeping fighting.

Harakat al-Muqawama al-Islamiya (Hamas)

Hamas is a military movement and a political party active in the Palestinian National Authority. Founded in 1987 after the First Intifada, Hamas gained control of the Gaza Strip from rival Fatah party, promoting a clean government while also calling Palestinians to war against Israel. Hamas started the ongoing war in Gaza with a surprise attack on Israel, mainly focused on attacking or capturing civilians. Hamas is politically supported by other Islam-majority nations as well as nations with common opposition towards United States, like Cuba and Venezuela. Hamas is classified as a terrorist organization in much of the Western world, due to their regular targeting of civilians and use of methods such as suicide bombings and unguided rocket attacks. Human rights groups also accuse Hamas of committing war crimes.

United Nations Security Council (UNSC)

The UNSC has been an active body throughout the Arab-Israeli crisis, affecting the worldwide impacts of the crisis. The UNSC has passed multiple resolutions which were important for ceasefires during wars between Israel and Arab nations, most notably the Six-Day War and the Yom Kippur War. During the Israel-Hamas war, the Security Council has passed multiple resolutions demanding ceasefires and the improvement of humanitarian support to Gaza.

The League of Arab States / The Arab League

The Arab League is a commonwealth of 22 Arabic nations, whose main goal is to "draw closer the relations between member states and co-ordinate collaboration between them, to safeguard their independence and sovereignty, and to consider in a general way the affairs and interests of the Arab countries" as defined in the Pact of the League of Arab States, declared on March 22, 1945. The League recognizes Palestine as a sovereign nation and has admitted Palestine under the representation of the Palestine National Authority into the League in 1976.

One of the reasons why the Arab League was established in the first place was to create cooperation against the Israeli threat in the Middle East. During the Arab-Israeli wars, a military coordination between Egypt, Lebanon and Syria played a crucial role, even though the coalition received defeats. Today, the organization is one of Palestine's biggest political supporters worldwide.

United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA)

The OCHA is a part of the United Nations responsible for coordinated responses to emergencies. The United Nations Crisis Relief and the Central Emergency Response Fund, both managed by the OCHA, provide funding for UN humanitarian missions, including aid sent to Gaza. The OCHA also runs the Occupied Palestinian Territory Humanitarian Fund, allowing donators to quickly and effectively provide their support for the people in Gaza, as a part of the UN Crisis Relief foundation.

Médecins Sans Frontières (MSF) (Doctors Without Borders)

As an internationally renowned organization for their expertise in providing direct medical assistance in crisis areas, the MSF has been active in Gaza and the West Bank for the past two decades, concentrating on areas lacking healthcare services. Additionally, the MSF offers assistance in Israel, helping the treatment of a large volume of patients.

Amnesty International

Amnesty International or Amnesty or AI for short is a British nonprofit organization focusing on human rights problems with more than 10 million members across the globe. Amnesty defines its mission as a campaign for "a world in which every person enjoys all of the human rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights instruments."

Amnesty was founded in London in 1961 by a lawyer raising awareness about people who are jailed because of their opinions. The organization initially focused on people imprisoned due to their differences in race, religion, ideas, or sexual orientation, also known as prisoners of conscience. Later, AI also handled cases of wrongful convictions and torture, pressing for the application of UN's Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners. Amnesty today focuses on raising awareness about human rights violations, calls for compliance of all countries with international treaties, laws or standards, and applies political pressure on governments which do not adhere with these policies.

Amnesty International paid close attention to the Israel-Hamas war. The organization documented multiple violations of international law and basic human rights. AI also found evidence of war crimes committed by both Israel and Hamas. Amnesty condemns both sides of the war: Hamas for starting the conflict with their initial attacks and their bombing campaign, and Israel for intensifying their illegal blockade on the Gaza strip by denying Gazans of basic human needs.

Since the start of the conflict, AI has reminded the world that Hamas' primary objective, taking Israelis as captive hostages, is considered a war crime and that it is against the Geneva Conventions. Israel was also accused of committing humanitarian crimes by causing deaths of Gazans due to the aforementioned blockade. Amnesty finds, investigates, and reports such violations in an objective manner which makes them a key player and a trustable source in prevention of further such cases.

Timeline of Events

Ottoman Rule in Palestine	1516-1918
World War I	1914-1918
Establishment of Mandatory Palestine	1920
Intercommunal conflicts	1920-1948
Jewish Revolt	1944-1948
Civil War in Mandatory Palestine	1947-1948
Termination of Mandatory Palestine	1948
First Arab-Israeli War	1948
Suez Crisis - Second Arab-Israeli War	1956
Six Day War - Third Arab-Israeli War	1967
War of Attrition	1967-1970
Yom Kippur War - Fourth Arab-Israeli War	1973
Lebanon War	1982
First Intifada	1987-1993
Oslo Accords	1993
Second Intifada	2000-2005
Death of Yasser Arafat	2004
Second Lebanon War	2006
Hamas assumes control over Gaza	2006
Gaza War of 2008	2008
Gaza War of 2014	2014
Gaza Crisis of 2021	2021
Israel-Hamas War	2023-ongoing

Relevant UN Resolutions and Other Documents

- [United Nations Security Council Resolution 242](): UNSC resolution calling for an end to the Six-Day War and withdrawal of all Israeli armed forces.

- [Khartoum Resolution:]() An agreement by Arabic nations on rejecting any peace, negotiation, or recognition with Israel. Issued at the 1967 Arab League summit before the Six-Day War.

- United Nations Security Council Resolutions [338](), [339]() and [340](): UNSC resolutions calling for a ceasefire to end the Yom Kippur War. Fighting ensued despite the passing of Resolution 338 and the following Resolution 339. Resolution 340 ended the war.

- [United Nations General Assembly Resolution ES-10/21](): UN resolution passed after the start of the Israel-Hamas war, calling for "an immediate and sustained humanitarian truce and cessation of hostilities", condemning all attacks of any kind against civilians.

- United Nations Security Council [Resolution 2712]() and [Resolution 2720](): UNSC resolutions after the start of the Israel-Hamas war calling for humanitarian pauses, corridors in and out of Gaza (2712) and increased aid for the humanitarian crisis while demanding all border crossings to be opened to such aids (2720).

- Oslo Accords: [Declaration of Principles on Interim Self-Government Arrangements]() (Oslo I) and [Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip]() (Oslo II): International agreement between Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization, creating the Palestinian National Authority. The creation of the PNA gave Palestinians limited amount of self-governance in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Previous Attempts to Solve the Issue

There have been many proposals by different international brokers to sustain long term peace in the region. There are mainly three types of peace proposals: the one-state, two-state, and three-state solutions.

The one-state solution proposes creating a unitary state in which both nationalities live under a single country. Some variations of this solution suggest an autonomous region in the West Bank and a centralized government divided into Jewish and Palestinian federal regions. Alternatively, movement called the "A Land for All" involves a common government with Jews and Palestinians cooperating while having their own states in under a common flag.

The two-state solutions propose separate sovereign nations of Israel and Palestine. The Gaza Strip, previously occupied by Egypt, and the West Bank, previously annexed by Jordan, were occupied by Israel after the Six-Day War. These areas are now known as the Palestinian territories, under partial control of the Palestinian National Authority. Due to the nature of this situation, agreeing on acceptable borders for both parties is the biggest problem in this proposal. As the only solution ensuring sovereignty for both Israelis and Palestinians, this offer has received support from international bodies, the Palestinian Liberation Organization since 1982, and the western world while Israel deems it impossible.

A much different solution, composing returning to the state before the Six-Day War has gained significant popularity in recent times. This solution does not include any Palestinian Arab state, but suggests the annexation of the Gaza Strip by Egypt and the West Bank by Jordan. Egypt and Jordan are becoming increasingly worried that they could have to take back control of Gaza and the West Bank. The Jordanian leadership strongly opposes any solutions which include Palestinians receiving Jordanian citizenship amid fears of an uncontrolled population crisis while some Jordanian officials supporting the idea.

Possible Solutions

As this is an acute crisis putting potentially millions of human lives at risk, the problem of worldwide antisemitism and Islamophobia is often overlooked by many international bodies trying to stop the armed conflict in Palestine. Deviating from conservative solutions focusing on the armed conflict, raising awareness, and fighting against the worldwide effects of the war could make a remarkable difference.

As the main cause of these waves of hate is misinformation and stereotyping, putting an end to this would be an important step into creating a safe environment for Jews and Muslims in minorities. The effects of leadership were also demonstrated before by US president Bush: "When [President] Bush spoke about tolerance for Muslims six days after 9/11, we saw that hate crimes dropped precipitously the next day," said Brian Levin, the founder of the Center for the Study of Hate and Extremism.

Education also plays a key role in combating any kind of discrimination including antisemitism and Islamophobia. Teaching the consenquences of such discrimination and adapting kids to live in a society with diverse people at a young age is vital to sustain the decrease of antisemitism and Islamophobia in the future.

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