



UNSC Study Guide for Simulations of United Nations Security Council (UNSC) at the NUST International Model United Nations

Expansion of the Israel-Hamas War 2024

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UN

The United Nations (UN) is an international organization established on October 24, 1945, with the primary goal of promoting peace, security, and international cooperation. It was created in the aftermath of World War II to prevent future conflicts and foster collaboration among nations. Today, the UN has 193 member states, making it nearly universal in its representation of the world's countries.

The UN's main objectives are outlined in its Charter and include:

1. Maintaining international peace and security.
2. Promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms.
3. Supporting sustainable development and humanitarian assistance.
4. Upholding international law.

The organization operates through six principal organs:

- General Assembly: A platform where all member states discuss and coordinate on global issues.
- Security Council: Responsible for maintaining peace and can authorize military action, sanctions, or peacekeeping missions.
- Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC): Focuses on global development and social issues.
- International Court of Justice (ICJ): Resolves legal disputes between states.
- Secretariat: Administers UN operations and supports the Secretary-General, who leads the organization.
- Trusteeship Council: Originally tasked with overseeing trust territories, it is now inactive.

The UN also includes specialized agencies like the World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), and International Monetary Fund (IMF), which address global challenges in health, education, and finance. The UN plays a critical role in global diplomacy, peacekeeping, humanitarian aid, environmental protection, and development initiatives like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Despite challenges and criticisms, it remains a key platform for international cooperation and conflict resolution.

1. United Nations: [About the UN](#)
2. United Nations Association: [What is the United Nations?](#)
3. United Nations: [History of the United Nations](#)
4. Britannica: [United Nations](#)
5. UN News: [What the UN Does](#)

UNSC

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is one of the six principal organs of the United Nations and holds the primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security. Established in 1945, the UNSC is unique in its ability to enforce decisions, including imposing sanctions, authorizing the use of force, and deploying peacekeeping missions.

The Council consists of 15 members:

- Five permanent members (P5) with veto power: the United States, Russia, China, France, and the United Kingdom.
- Ten non-permanent members, elected by the General Assembly for two-year terms, with equitable regional representation.

UNSC functions

1. Investigating and addressing threats to international peace.
2. Mediating disputes and proposing peaceful resolutions.
3. Enforcing decisions through sanctions or military action if required.

A resolution requires at least nine votes to pass, but any P5 member can veto it, often reflecting geopolitical tensions.

The UNSC has played pivotal roles in conflicts, from peacekeeping operations to sanctioning states violating international norms. However, its effectiveness is sometimes hindered by political divisions, particularly among the P5, leading to criticisms about its ability to act decisively. Reform of the UNSC is a subject of global debate, with calls for increased representation for developing nations and limitations on veto power. Despite its challenges, the UNSC remains a critical mechanism for addressing global security threats and upholding international law.

1. United Nations: [Security Council](#)
2. United Nations Association: [The United Nations Security Council: Composition and Functions](#)
3. United Nations: [UN Security Council Reform](#)
4. Council on Foreign Relations: [Understanding the United Nations Security Council](#)
5. UN News: [The UN Security Council: Its Role and Functions](#)

INTRODUCTION TO THE AGENDA

The ongoing Israel-Hamas war of 2024 represents one of the most volatile crises in recent Middle Eastern history, with significant global repercussions. The conflict, initially concentrated in Gaza, has escalated into a broader regional issue, with potential to involve neighboring states and international actors. The stakes are high as the war threatens regional stability, exacerbates humanitarian crises, and deepens global political divisions.

The expansion of the Israel-Hamas war is no longer a localized issue but a rapidly evolving conflict impacting global security, economic stability, and diplomatic relations. This escalation has drawn the attention of key international stakeholders, including states, multinational organizations, and humanitarian agencies. The core concerns are not only the immediate humanitarian and military implications but also the broader risks of a regional spillover that could involve Iran, Hezbollah, other armed factions, and international powers.

Overview of the Agenda

The focus of this discussion is to analyze and address the following aspects of the conflict:

- i. Regional and Global Security Risks:
 - Potential involvement of regional powers (e.g., Iran, Syria, Lebanon).
 - Threats to international energy supplies and global trade routes.
- ii. Humanitarian Concerns:
 - Escalating civilian casualties and displacement.
 - Limitations on humanitarian access to affected areas, particularly Gaza.
- iii. Political and Diplomatic Implications:
 - The challenge of mediating a ceasefire amid polarized global opinions.
 - The risk of fragmentation in the global consensus on conflict resolution.
- iv. Global Stakeholder Involvement:
 - The roles of the UN, the United States, the European Union, and other international bodies.
 - The possibility of global alliances shifting due to the conflict's dynamics.

This agenda underscores the necessity for urgent, collaborative action to contain the war and prevent its spillover into a broader regional or global conflict. Addressing this situation requires a multifaceted approach, encompassing immediate humanitarian relief, diplomatic initiatives, and long-term strategies for sustainable peace. The decisions made in response to this crisis will likely shape the geopolitical landscape for years to come.

Importance of the UNSC's role in addressing the crisis

Importance of the UNSC in Addressing the Israel-Hamas Crisis

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) plays a critical role in managing the Israel-Hamas conflict by:

- A. **Facilitating Ceasefires:** The UNSC promotes ceasefires and peace agreements to deescalate violence. Resolutions calling for immediate cessation of hostilities provide a framework for dialogue.
- B. **Humanitarian Support:** It mobilizes international aid and ensures civilian protection, emphasizing unimpeded access to essential supplies in conflict zones.
- C. **Global Consensus:** UNSC resolutions lend legitimacy to collective actions, uniting member states under international law to address the crisis effectively.
- D. **Preventing Escalation:** Sanctions, arms embargoes, or peacekeeping initiatives help prevent further escalation and promote long-term regional stability.

Historical context of the Israel-Palestine conflict

2- Timeline of the Conflict (2024)

Major events leading up to the escalation

Timeline of the 2024 Israel-Hamas Conflict

The conflict between Israel and Hamas in 2024 has been marked by significant escalations and critical events that shaped the trajectory of hostilities and international responses. Below is an overview of the timeline:

- A. **October 7, 2023 - Initial Hamas Assault:** Hamas launched a surprise attack on Israel, targeting civilian areas, military sites, and a music festival, resulting in the deaths of approximately 1,200 Israelis and the capture of over 250 hostages. This event marked one of the deadliest days for Israel since its founding **【140】 【141】** .

- B. October 13, 2023 - Evacuation Orders: Israel instructed over one million residents of northern Gaza to evacuate in anticipation of intensified airstrikes and a ground invasion. This sparked a massive displacement of civilians within Gaza 【140】 【141】 .
- C. October 27, 2023 - Ground Offensive in Gaza: The Israeli military launched a major ground operation targeting northern Gaza, aiming to dismantle Hamas's operational capabilities and control key areas such as Gaza City 【140】 .
- D. November 15, 2023 - Al-Shifa Hospital Incident: Israeli forces entered Gaza's largest hospital, claiming it was a hub for Hamas operations. The humanitarian crisis worsened as images of doctors struggling under dire conditions gained global attention, intensifying scrutiny of Israel's actions 【140】 【141】 .
- E. November 21, 2023 - Ceasefire Agreement: Israel and Hamas brokered a temporary ceasefire to exchange hostages and detainees. The truce, initially lasting four days, facilitated the release of hostages on both sides but collapsed shortly thereafter, leading to renewed violence 【140】 【141】 .
- F. December 15, 2023 - Friendly Fire Incident: Three Israeli hostages were accidentally killed by Israeli forces during an escape attempt, triggering widespread protests and increasing pressure on the government for a permanent ceasefire 【140】 .
- G. January 1-2, 2024 - Regional Escalation: Israel signaled a partial withdrawal from Gaza to transition to lower-intensity conflict. Simultaneously, an airstrike in Beirut targeted Hamas's deputy leader, risking a wider regional war by involving Hezbollah 【140】 【141】 .

These events have underscored the conflict's complexity, its humanitarian toll, and the challenges of achieving a resolution amidst deep-seated tensions and geopolitical stakes.

3- Stakeholders and Their Positions

PRIMARY STAKEHOLDERS:

State Actors:

a. PALESTINE

Historical Context and Political Landscape

Since the establishment of Israel in 1948, Palestinians have faced displacement and occupation. The 1947 UN Partition Plan, proposing separate Jewish and Arab states, was rejected by Arab nations, leading to the Nakba (“catastrophe”) and the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians. Today, political authority is split between the Palestinian Authority (PA) in the West Bank, engaging in diplomacy, and Hamas in Gaza, which took control in 2007, complicating unified political efforts [1] [3] [8] .

Hamas in the Conflict

Founded in 1987, Hamas leads resistance efforts in Gaza, historically rejecting Israel’s existence. While it has shown openness to truces based on pre-1967 borders, its commitment to armed resistance fuels ongoing military confrontations. Backed by Iran, Hamas’s actions escalate violence and contribute to civilian suffering in Gaza, where its military infrastructure operates within densely populated areas [2] [6] [8] .

Civilian Impact in Gaza

Palestinians in Gaza endure significant hardships due to the Israeli blockade and repeated military escalations. Basic services like water, electricity, and healthcare are severely limited. The blockade, imposed after Hamas’s takeover, has created dire humanitarian conditions, exacerbating Gaza’s struggles [4] [7] .

Diplomatic Efforts and the Two-State Solution

The PA supports a two-state solution envisioning an independent Palestine alongside Israel, based on pre-1967 borders. However, settlement expansion, internal divisions, and stalled negotiations hinder progress. The Oslo Accords provided limited autonomy, but disagreements on key issues, such as refugees and Jerusalem, remain unresolved [1] [9] .

Challenges and Prospects

Palestine’s challenges include internal divisions between the PA and Hamas, weakening its bargaining power. International support from Arab and Muslim countries is complicated by shifting regional dynamics, including normalization agreements between Israel and some Arab states through the Abraham Accords [5] [8] .

b. ISRAEL

Israel, as a primary stakeholder in the Israel-Hamas conflict, is driven by several key objectives:

National Security and Defense

Ensuring the safety of its citizens and maintaining territorial integrity are paramount for Israel. The surprise attack by Hamas on October 7, 2023, which resulted in significant civilian casualties and kidnappings, underscored vulnerabilities in Israel's security apparatus and prompted a reassessment of defense strategies.

Military Operations and Counterterrorism

In response to Hamas's actions, Israel has conducted extensive military operations aimed at neutralizing the group's capabilities. This includes targeted strikes against key Hamas figures responsible for orchestrating attacks on Israeli communities.

International Relations and Diplomacy

Israel's actions in Gaza have elicited varied international reactions. While some nations support Israel's right to self-defense, others express concern over the humanitarian impact in Gaza. Navigating these diplomatic challenges is crucial for Israel to maintain strategic alliances and international support.

Domestic Considerations

Israeli public opinion is divided regarding the military's response to Hamas. A Pew Research Center survey indicates that 39% of Israelis believe the response has been appropriate, 34% feel it has not gone far enough, and 19% think it has gone too far. These perspectives influence government policy and decision-making.

Humanitarian Concerns

The ongoing conflict has led to a humanitarian crisis in Gaza, with significant displacement and casualties among the Palestinian population. International calls for ceasefires and humanitarian aid access present complex challenges for Israel as it seeks to balance military objectives with global humanitarian expectations.

Neighbouring States:

c. EGYPT

Egypt is a pivotal actor in the Israel-Hamas conflict, leveraging its proximity, historical connections, and regional influence. Its key roles include:

i. Mediator in Ceasefires:

Egypt has historically brokered ceasefires, facilitating negotiations between Israel and Hamas during conflicts. In 2024, it continues to push for de-escalation while advocating for humanitarian relief in Gaza.

ii. Humanitarian Assistance

Through the Rafah border crossing, Egypt sends vital aid to Gaza while balancing security concerns. It faces challenges like the blockade and the risk of militant activity spilling into the Sinai Peninsula.

iii. Historical Engagement

Egypt controlled Gaza until 1967 and became the first Arab country to recognize Israel via the Camp David Accords in 1979. Despite criticism from Arab states, Egypt has maintained its commitment to regional peace and stability.

iv. Security Concerns

Egypt prioritizes securing its borders from insurgent threats in the Sinai and curbing the use of cross-border tunnels. Its military operations aim to contain Gaza's instability while protecting its national interests.

v. Advocate for Palestinian Rights

Egypt supports a two-state solution and collaborates with regional and international partners to push for Palestinian self-determination and human rights.

d. SYRIA

Syria's complicated history with the Israel-Palestine conflict

Syria's role in the Israel-Palestine conflict has evolved over time, beginning from the 1948 Arab-Israeli War. Syria's relationship with Palestine has been shaped by the broader Arab-Israeli conflict, regional politics, and its own strategic interests. Since the establishment of Israel in 1948, Syria has consistently positioned itself as a staunch supporter of the Palestinian cause, advocating for Palestinian rights, including the right to self-determination and the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. Syria, along with other Arab states, opposed the creation of Israel and fought in the 1948 Arab-Israeli War in support of Palestinian Arabs.

“On the eve of the British forces' May 15, 1948, withdrawal, Israel declared independence. The fighting intensified immediately: Egypt launched an aerial assault on Tel Aviv, and, the next day, Arab forces from Egypt, Transjordan (Jordan), Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon occupied the areas in southern and eastern Palestine not apportioned to the Jews by the UN partition of Palestine and then captured East Jerusalem, including the small Jewish quarter of the Old City.” “In early 1967 Syria intensified its bombardment of Israeli villages from positions in the Golan Heights.”

Syria's government viewed the Palestinian issue as central to its foreign policy. In the early years after 1948, Syria advocated for the creation of a single Arab state that would include both Palestinians and Syrians. Syria was a major backer of Palestinian

militant groups in the 1970s, supporting various factions fighting Israel. The country offered training, safe haven, and logistical support to Palestinian factions such as the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) and the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP). It also allowed Palestinian fighters to operate from its territory.

Syria's uneasy silence amidst the raging conflict

As the Gaza war rages on, Assad and other officials in Damascus have condemned Israel's destruction of the besieged enclave and slaughter of its inhabitants and used powerful rhetoric to evoke the Palestinian cause. But Damascus has not been taking any concrete steps to support Hamas. Syria is not at the forefront of the action. Over the past few weeks, Israel has ramped up its campaign of airstrikes on targets in Syria that allegedly have links to Iran. In particular, it has repeatedly attacked both Damascus and Aleppo airports, without officially confirming these strikes. 'Syrian state media say Israel hit the airports in Damascus and Aleppo again, putting them out of service for the second time within two weeks amid its relentless bombing of Gaza. The SANA state news agency said on Sunday that Israeli air raids targeted the two main airports, "leading to the death of a civilian worker at Damascus airport and wounding another".'

Syria's silence can be explained by the following reasons. Syria is still shattered by more than a decade of civil war that killed hundreds of thousands of people, displaced millions, and destroyed many cities. Second, despite resuming ties with Hamas, it would be naïve to assume that the leadership in Damascus no longer harbors any resentment toward the Palestinian group for having sided against Assad at the start of the Syrian crisis. With Syria's long-running civil war remaining unsettled, Damascus is still trying to find a way to return its forces to Turkish-occupied areas in northern Syria and to get the U.S. to leave eastern Syria and stop backing the rebel Syrian Democratic Forces. "Therefore, the regime has enough problems on its hands," he said.

After the summit in Riyadh, participating countries released a joint statement. They called for a ceasefire and the end of Israel's siege of Gaza, so that power, water, food, medicine and other supplies could be delivered. They also urged the International Criminal Court to investigate "war crimes and crimes against humanity that Israel is committing" in the Palestinian territories. The Syrian government also signed the resolution. However, other than that, it has not really played a major role in the current conflict. "Although the Syrian regime ... has expressed solidarity with Gaza, it has refrained from large scale escalations against Israel," Ramani explained. "The Syrian regime's response to the Gaza war has featured strident rhetoric but restrained action, as it does not wish to assume political and security risks on Hamas' behalf." Up until now Syria has confined military action against Israel to sporadic cross-border shelling and rocket attacks on the occupied Golan Heights, Ramani said. But these

have been going on for years anyway. The escalation in violence creates yet more instability in Syria, and “increases the likelihood that Syria will be transformed into a battleground for a proxy war waged by regional and global powers, heaping further suffering and misery on the Syrian people,” says Akhter.

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Lebanon

Lebanon and Palestine: a tale of complicated camaraderie

Lebanon's relationship with Palestine is deeply rooted in historical, political, and humanitarian factors. The connection between Lebanon and Palestine is shaped by the presence of Palestinian refugees, political solidarity, and regional alliances. Lebanon was one of the group of allied nations fighting the newly formed Israel in the Arab Israel war and was a safe harbor for around a million Palestinian refugees. Lebanon hosts a significant Palestinian refugee population, with around 450,000 registered refugees as of today, although the actual number is likely higher due to unregistered Palestinians and their descendants. By the late 1960s, following Israel's victory in the 1967 Six-Day War, the PLO moved its base of operations to southern Lebanon, with many fighters operating from Lebanese soil. This transformed the region into a frontline for Palestinian armed groups, creating tensions with both Israel and the Lebanese government. On November 2 1969, delegations led by PLO leader Arafat and Lebanese army General Emile Bustani signed the Cairo Accord. The agreement transferred control over 16 Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon to the Palestinian

Armed Struggle Command, an entity created by the PLO. PLO relocated its main headquarters from Jordan to the Lebanese capital Beirut and its military headquarters to south Lebanon. In 1982, under the pretense of defending itself against the PLO presence in Lebanon, the Israeli Military invaded the nation's southern territory. Although they withdrew from the Litani River's territory, they remained occupying a portion of Lebanese territory for as late as until 2000. In fact, the Hezbollah militia was created as a direct response to Israel's occupation of Lebanon.

Hezbollah is an influential Shia Muslim political party and armed group.

It has a significant presence in both the Lebanese parliament and government, and controls the most powerful armed force in the country.

Hezbollah rose to prominence in the 1980s in opposition to Israel, whose forces had occupied southern Lebanon during the country's 1975-1990 civil war. It has received strong backing from Iran, both financially and militarily, for many years. It is also a strong ally of the Syrian president Bashar al-Assad.

Previously sporadic fighting escalated on 8 October 2023, the day after the unprecedented attack on Israel by Hamas gunmen. Hezbollah has since launched more than 8,000 rockets at northern Israel and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights. It has also fired anti-tank missiles at armoured vehicles and attacked military targets with explosive drones. The Israel Defense Forces (IDF) retaliated with air strikes and tank and artillery fire against Hezbollah positions in Lebanon. Before the ground invasion began, huge Israeli artillery shelling and air raids targeted towns and villages in the south, killing nearly 600 people in one day. Since 8 October, 2,300 people have been killed and over 10,000 injured by Israeli attacks, most in the past three weeks. Over two days, from Tuesday, Sept. 17 to Wednesday, Sept. 18, Israeli Defense Forces launched a series of sophisticated terror attacks in Lebanon. An operation devised by Israel months prior, military pagers and walkie talkies operated by Hezbollah military forces, sourced from a Taiwanese company which experts believe Israeli infiltrated and rigged with explosive devices, detonated all across the country, including parts of Syria. Israel claiming its war focus is "moving north," alongside these attacks serves as implicit justification for the attacks as a means to weaken the Hezbollah military, with whom they have been exchanging fire across their border for over a year since Hamas' attacks Oct. 7.

Hezbollah says it is fighting Israel in support of Palestinians, while its critics claim the strikes serve Iran's interests. The group has methodically targeted and destroyed Israel's advanced surveillance systems, including surveillance towers and eavesdropping and jamming devices, which enable Israel to monitor all movement along the Lebanese side of the border. This has not only compromised Israel's

espionage capacity and granted Hezbollah greater maneuverability, but has also enabled Hezbollah to extend its targets beyond Israeli-occupied Lebanese territories, such as the Shebaa Farms and Kfar Shuba Hills, to Israeli sites along the border strip.

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NON-STATE ACTORS:

e. HAMAS

Hamas, an Islamist militant and political organization, has played a central role in the Israel-Palestine conflict since its establishment during the First Intifada in 1987. Emerging from the Muslim Brotherhood in Gaza, Hamas is designated as a terrorist group by nations such as the U.S., EU, and Israel due to its attacks on civilians. However, it holds political control in Gaza and enjoys significant support from Palestinians in the region. Its dual role as a militant group and political entity makes it a key, albeit controversial, actor in the conflict.

Founding and Ideology

Hamas's charter calls for the destruction of Israel and the establishment of an Islamic state in all of historic Palestine. Rejecting the Oslo Accords, the group emphasizes armed resistance as a religious duty. It operates through both its political leadership and its military wing, the Izz ad-Din al-Qassam Brigades.

Hamas's 2006 electoral victory over Fatah led to violent clashes, culminating in its control of Gaza in 2007. This division has fragmented Palestinian leadership, with the Palestinian Authority (PA) governing the West Bank while Hamas administers Gaza. Hamas frequently clashes with Israel, escalating tensions through rocket attacks and military operations .

Conflict pact

Hamas's military actions against Israel, including rocket launches and tunnel operations, have resulted in numerous wars, such as in 2008-09, 2014, and 2024. Its use of civilian infrastructure for military purposes has drawn criticism from human rights groups. Gaza's humanitarian crisis, exacerbated by the Israeli-Egyptian blockade, has left much of the population reliant on international aid .

Regional and International initiatives receive significant backing from Iran in the form of financial and military aid. Its ties with Qatar and other Arab states vary, with some supporting humanitarian efforts while others criticize Hamas's militant approach. This support bolsters its resistance capabilities despite international condemnation .

GLOBAL POWERS:

f. USA

The United States plays a pivotal role in the Israel-Hamas conflict, both as Israel's most significant ally and as a global power shaping Middle Eastern diplomacy. Its involvement is marked by historical ties, strategic objectives, and multifaceted actions, often reflecting a complex balance between unwavering support for Israel and addressing humanitarian concerns.

Historical Context and U.S.-Israel Relations

The U.S. recognized Israel as a state in 1948, establishing a relationship characterized by substantial military and financial aid. From 2001 to 2021, the U.S. provided over \$73 billion in military assistance, including missile defense systems like Iron Dome, reinforcing Israel's qualitative military edge in the region. Diplomatically, the U.S. has consistently used its veto power at the United Nations to shield Israel from critical resolutions, affirming its commitment to Israel's security and legitimacy on the global stage.

U.S. Objectives in the Conflict

The U.S. involvement is driven by several key goals:

a. Ensuring Israel's Security: As a cornerstone of U.S. Middle Eastern policy, Israel is viewed as a vital ally in a volatile region.

B. Countering Regional Threats: The U.S. seeks to contain Iran's influence, particularly given Tehran's support for Hamas.

c. Promoting Peace: Despite setbacks, Washington advocates for a two-state solution.

d. Balancing Domestic and Global Pressures: Domestically, bipartisan support for Israel remains strong, though criticism from progressive voices is growing.

U.S. Actions During the 2024 Conflict

The Biden administration reaffirmed its support following the October 2023 Hamas attack, approving additional military aid and condemning Hamas' actions. While backing Israel's self-defense, the U.S. has urged restraint to minimize civilian casualties in Gaza and advocated for humanitarian corridors. Diplomatically, the U.S. continues to broker ceasefires and engage with regional partners, emphasizing the need to adhere to international law.

Challenges for the United States

i. Balancing Security and Humanitarian Concerns: The civilian toll in Gaza has amplified global criticism of U.S. policies.

ii. Domestic Polarization: Progressive factions within the U.S. demand accountability for Israel's actions.

iii. Strained Regional Relations: Unwavering U.S. support for Israel has complicated ties with Arab nations and Muslim-majority countries.

iv. Global Competition: China and Russia have criticized U.S. policies and positioned themselves as alternative mediators, challenging American influence in the region.

Broader Implications

U.S. involvement highlights the challenges of maintaining its strategic partnerships while addressing shifting dynamics in the Middle East. Domestically, its policies influence electoral outcomes, while internationally, they affect its credibility as a mediator. Balancing military aid with humanitarian advocacy will remain a critical test of U.S. foreign policy.

g. RUSSIA

Russia's involvement in the Israel-Hamas conflict reflects its broader Middle Eastern strategy of balancing alliances while asserting global influence. Historically, the Soviet Union

supported Arab states against Israel during the Cold War, but modern Russia has pursued a pragmatic approach, maintaining relationships with both Israel and Palestinian factions like Hamas Interests**

Russia's Middle Eastern policy focuses on countering U.S. influence, asserting its presence in the region, and promoting a multipolar global order. It leverages alliances with key regional players such as Iran, Syria, and Turkey while maintaining significant economic and cultural ties with Israel. These relationships allow Moscow to act as a mediator while ensuring its strategic objectives are met .

**Diplomaofficially supports a two-state solution and Palestinian self-determination, frequently criticizing Israeli military actions in Gaza. However, its engagement with Israel is characterized by economic collaboration and shared security concerns. Russia's ties with Hamas, including hosting its leaders in Moscow, aim to facilitate dialogue, though this has drawn criticism from Israel and the U.S. .

Regional Alliances

Ruwith Iran and Syria indirectly influence the Palestinian Israeli conflict. Iran's support for Hamas and Hezbollah aligns with Russian interests in countering Western influence. Meanwhile, Russia's military involvement in Syria underscores its commitment to propping up regional allies, which sometimes creates tension with Israel over airstrikes targeting Iranian positions in Syria .

Conclusion

Russia's role is marked by aorting Palestinian rights while maintaining ties with Israel and leveraging regional alliances for broader strategic goals. This multifaceted approach positions Russia as a significant player in Middle Eastern geopolitics, though its influence in resolving the Israel-Hamas conflict remains limited .

h. CHINA

Historical Context

China's policy on the Israel-Palestine conflict is based on support for a two-state solution. It advocates for the establishment of an independent Palestinian state alongside Israel, with East Jerusalem as its capital. This position is aligned with its broader foreign policy principles of non-interference, respect for sovereignty, and support for multilateral diplomacy. In 1965, China made a significant move in its foreign policy by extending diplomatic recognition to the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). This was one of the earliest formal acknowledgments of the PLO by a state, and it marked a key moment in China's approach to Middle Eastern politics. As part of this recognition, China hosted a PLO office in Beijing, solidifying its support for Palestinian self-determination at a time when many Western and Arab

countries had not yet fully aligned on the issue. In 1992, China formally established diplomatic relations with Israel, coinciding with the start of the Middle East peace process and the conclusion of the Cold War. Over the years, Sino-Israeli relations grew significantly stronger. As China emerged as a global economic powerhouse, Israel sought to strengthen economic ties, particularly in trade, infrastructure, and technology. This collaboration led China to become one of Israel's largest trading partners. Between 2020 and 2022, China was the second-largest destination for Israeli exports.

Response to the recent escalation

Amidst the conflict between Israel and Palestine since October 7, 2023, Beijing has tried to uphold a delicate balance between preserving its economic ties with Israel and advocating for the Palestinian cause. China has promoted de-escalation efforts and long-term peace, emphasized the importance of a two-state solution, and expressed a commitment to supporting peace negotiations, often through international conferences. However, Beijing's response to the latest Gaza conflict, especially following the October 7 Hamas attack, has marked a shift from its usual diplomatic stance. In addition to reiterating calls for a ceasefire, negotiations, and a two-state solution, China has taken a more direct approach in criticizing Israel's military actions. While historically China has been more neutral in the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, recent statements have expressed concern over the scale of Israel's response, condemning the humanitarian impact and urging restraint. This more assertive position is part of China's broader diplomatic effort to position itself as a leader in global peace initiatives, particularly in the Middle East. China's most substantial engagement in resolving the conflict came with The Beijing Declaration, a deal brokering unity between Hamas, Fatah, and twelve other factions operating in Palestine. This initiative put forward China's three-step initiative regarding the ongoing Gaza conflict. China has been instrumental in providing aid to the Palestinian people. The Government of the People's Republic of China will provide UNRWA with US\$ 3 million to support the Agency's primary health services and emergency food assistance in the Gaza Strip. With the outbreak of the war in Gaza last October, some 154 UNRWA installations including schools, training centers, warehouses and health centers, were transformed into emergency shelters for displaced people. In addition, UNRWA's logistics capacity is the backbone of the unprecedented humanitarian operation by the UN system and its partners to provide lifesaving support to 2.2 million people. China has donated medical supplies, including medicines and medical equipment, to hospitals and clinics in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

Chinese interests in the region

China's Middle East policy is generally based on the BRI and financial investments and the preservation of these investments through diplomacy. China's escalating economic relations with Middle Eastern nations, particularly through infrastructure investments and energy partnerships, underscore its incentive to play a more active role in regional conflicts. Stability in the Middle East is crucial for ensuring a steady

supply of energy resources to China and for the advancement of its BRI projects. In this light, China's role as a mediator in the Israel-Palestine conflict is seen as a move to promote a stable environment that benefits its economic pursuits. For this reason, Chinese foreign policy strives to establish more diplomacy and mediation in the crises in the Middle East. The latest example of this was the resumption of diplomatic relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran after seven years. Over the past decade, China has been expanding its presence in the Middle East. What started as a balancing act, primarily focused on economic cooperation and working with countries across regional divides, has become a more proactive approach, with Beijing seeking to expand its political and diplomatic influence in the region. With the superpower competition between China and the United States intensifying, and China's economic clout growing, Beijing's ties with countries in the Middle East have become increasingly strategic for both sides. These endeavors have often been regarded as Beijing's strategy to establish itself as a significant player in global politics, presenting an alternative worldview to that of the United States.

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i. EU

Historical Context

The EU has long been an advocate for a two-state solution, with both Israel and Palestine living side by side in peace. The EU's position is that this solution should be based on pre-1967 borders, with East Jerusalem as the capital of Palestine, while recognizing Israel's right to exist in security. The EU has a long-standing commitment to the vision of an independent and sovereign state of Palestine. The EU and the Palestinian Authority (PA) enjoy a strong partnership guided by the principles of mutual accountability, transparency and democracy toward the establishment of a future democratic Palestinian state. The EU played a key role in the support of the Oslo Accords, which were signed by Israel and the Palestinian Liberation Organization (PLO) in 1993. The EU strongly backed the peace process that resulted in the mutual recognition of Israel and the PLO, and the establishment of the Palestinian Authority (PA). During the 1990s and early 2000s, the EU worked closely with the United States and the United Nations as part of the "Middle East Quartet," an international group established to mediate the peace process. The Quartet's members included the EU, the US, Russia, and the UN, and it focused on facilitating negotiations between Israel and the Palestinians, promoting a two-state solution.

Recent actions undertaken by the EU

“In light of the brutal and indiscriminate terrorist attack by Hamas across Israel on 7 October 2023, the EU condemns, in the strongest possible terms, the Hamas group and reiterates its support for Israel in its right to defend itself, in line with international law. Through the sanctions measures against Hamas and its supporters approved in January and April 2024, the EU showed decisiveness against the brutalities committed on October 7. The EU is working with its partners with absolute urgency to contribute towards ending the fighting, freeing the remaining hostages and improving the humanitarian situation in Gaza, reiterating the importance of ensuring the protection of all civilians, at all times. The EU is committed to engage against extremist settlers' violence in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. From April 2024, the Human Rights Sanctions Regime also applies to specific individuals and entities that are responsible for serious human rights abuses against Palestinians in the West Bank and East Jerusalem.” The EU certainly has opportunities to influence Israel, such as by imposing sanctions or through economic relations, including the EU-Israel

Association Agreement. According to the EU, it is Israel's largest trading partner. In 2000, the agreement created an "institutional framework for political dialogue and economic cooperation" between Israel and the EU. The EU imposed sanctions against Israeli settlers in the occupied West Bank for the first time in April. Further sanctions followed in July due to human rights violations against Palestinians in the West Bank. "From 2007, the EU has disbursed more than EUR 12.65 billion aid to the occupied Palestinian Territories. The EU has provided humanitarian aid to help meet Palestinians' basic needs since 2000. It channels support through ECHO, the European Commission's humanitarian aid department, and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). On the ground, they work with many international partners like United Nations agencies, Red Crescent movement and international non-governmental organisations. The EU is a major donor to UNRWA, The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East. As of 2022, it had provided than EUR 700 million of humanitarian aid to Palestinians in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Since October 2023, the EU has increased considerably its humanitarian assistance to Gaza. The EU will continue supporting civilians most in need in Gaza, and has already earmarked an initial 125 million euros for humanitarian aid in 2024. Additionally, EUR 150 to support the Palestinian population are set to be implemented through international partners on the ground."

EU at the risk of polarization?

When it comes to the policy towards the region the EU is divided within the institutions, among national members, and within the various partisan affiliations. Over the past few years, there has been initiative from European diplomats in the region to take a more active role in conflict resolution, yet the overall consensus among the European capitals has been to politically disengage while shielded behind humanitarian aid efforts. For the EU, the perception has been that the costs and challenges of attempting to change the status quo are too high, with benefits that are uncertain. This calculation has led to inaction. Now, the costs of inaction may exceed that of changing the status quo. EU members are by no means together in presenting a bloc-wide policy. Israel's responses to EU criticisms of its policies in the occupied Palestinian territories have ranged from irritation to outright opposition. Israel often views such EU stances as one-sided or unfair, accusing the EU of being too critical of Israel while not holding the Palestinian side accountable for violence or incitement. This can lead to diplomatic friction, especially when the EU pushes for specific actions, like halting settlement expansion or recognizing Palestinian statehood. Pro-Palestinian protests and movements across European cities have called for stronger EU action against Israel, including calls for boycotts, divestments, and sanctions (BDS). These movements influence political discourse and sometimes lead to pressure on EU leaders to adopt more critical positions on Israel.

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j. IRAN

Iran plays a critical role in the Israel-Hamas conflict, driven by ideological, military, and strategic motives. As a primary sponsor of Hamas, Iran provides financial resources, weaponry, and training, which strengthen Hamas’s military capacity against Israel. Additionally, Iran uses its backing of Hamas to exert regional influence and challenge both Israeli policies and Western allies in the Middle East.

A. Ideological and Strategic Goals

Iran views the Israeli-Palestinian conflict as a key issue for the Islamic world. Tehran’s alignment with Hamas stems from a shared opposition to Israel’s existence and a broader resistance to Western imperialism. This partnership bolsters Iran’s image among Arab and Muslim populations, serving its strategic ambition to increase regional influence despite Sunni-Shia divides.

B. Military and Financial Support

Iran’s assistance includes supplying advanced weaponry and funding to Hamas, enabling the group to expand its rocket arsenal and fortify infrastructure in Gaza. This aid was evident in previous conflicts and remains significant in the current 2024 escalation. Iran also facilitates military training for Hamas fighters through its proxies, including Hezbollah.

C. Diplomatic and Political Backing

Iran consistently advocates for Palestinian self-determination in international forums like the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC). Tehran frames its support for Hamas as part of a moral and legal struggle against Israeli policies.

D. Challenges and Regional Dynamics

The alliance has faced occasional tensions, particularly during the Syrian Civil War when Hamas initially opposed Iran’s ally, Bashar al-Assad. However, the pragmatic interests of both parties have preserved their relationship. Iran’s backing of Hamas has also drawn

criticism from Arab states like Egypt and Saudi Arabia, as well as Israel and Western nations, which see Tehran's involvement as destabilizing.

Recent Developments (2024)

Amid the ongoing 2024 conflict, Iran has reaffirmed its commitment to supporting Hamas. Iranian leaders have condemned Israeli military actions and called for unified resistance. However, Iran is unlikely to engage directly in the conflict, instead relying on proxies and support for Hamas to influence outcomes.

j. MULTILATERAL ORGANISATIONS

Role of Multilateral Organizations in the Israel-Hamas Conflict

Multilateral organizations play a critical role in managing the fallout of the Israel-Hamas conflict through diplomatic, humanitarian, and peacebuilding efforts. Their collective actions help address immediate crises while promoting long-term solutions.

i. United Nations (UN)

- **UNRWA:** Provides humanitarian assistance to Palestinian refugees in Gaza, the West Bank, and neighboring countries, offering services like education, healthcare, and food aid.
- **OCHA:** Coordinates humanitarian efforts, ensuring the delivery of aid to conflict-affected areas in Gaza despite blockades and hostilities.
- **UN Security Council (UNSC):** Mediates ceasefires, authorizes peacekeeping missions, and passes resolutions to address the conflict. Challenges include veto power, which often stalls decisive action.
- **General Assembly:** Offers a platform for international dialogue and passes non-binding resolutions condemning violence or advocating for peace.

ii. Arab League

- Provides political support to Palestinian causes and condemns military actions by Israel.
- Coordinates collective action among member states to advocate for Palestinian sovereignty and humanitarian aid.

iii. European Union (EU)

- **Humanitarian Aid:** The EU provides significant financial assistance for rebuilding Gaza and supporting displaced populations.

- Diplomatic Engagement: Facilitates dialogue between Israel and Palestine and pressures both sides to adhere to international law.
- iv. Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)
 - Represents the collective voice of Muslim-majority countries, advocating for Palestinian rights and condemning Israeli actions.
 - Collaborates with other international bodies to provide humanitarian aid and seek diplomatic solutions.

v. International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

- Operates on the ground to deliver emergency medical care, protect civilians, and ensure adherence to international humanitarian law by both parties.

vi. World Health Organization (WHO)

- Focuses on addressing the health crisis in Gaza by supporting hospitals, delivering medical supplies, and responding to outbreaks caused by the destruction of infrastructure.

vii. Quartet on the Middle East

- Comprising the UN, EU, U.S., and Russia, the Quartet promotes peace through the implementation of the “Roadmap for Peace” and coordination among key global powers.

Challenges Faced by Multilateral Organizations:

- Geopolitical Divisions: Conflicting interests among member states, especially in the UNSC and Quartet, often hinder decisive action.
- Access Restrictions: The Israeli blockade on Gaza limits the ability of organizations to deliver aid effectively.
- Lack of Enforcement Power: Resolutions and agreements often lack mechanisms for enforcement, leading to repeated violations.

These organizations remain pivotal in mitigating the immediate effects of the conflict and striving for a durable resolution, but their effectiveness depends on overcoming political and logistical obstacles.

Internal organizations—ranging from civil society groups, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and regional advocacy networks—play a pivotal role in shaping the dynamics of the Israel-Hamas conflict. These organizations are crucial to addressing the humanitarian needs of affected populations, advocating for human rights, and providing platforms for peacebuilding efforts. While they do not typically participate in official United

Nations Security Council (UNSC) sessions, their impact on the ground and in the broader international community cannot be understated. This section will explore the role of various international organizations and their contributions to the conflict's narrative, humanitarian assistance, and peace efforts.

A. Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

NGOs have been a major force in providing humanitarian aid to Palestinian civilians, especially in Gaza. These organizations are instrumental in offering medical care, food, water, and shelter to people suffering from the repercussions of the ongoing conflict. Agencies such as Doctors Without Borders (MSF), The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), and Oxfam operate on the front lines, often in collaboration with local Palestinian groups.

MSF has been particularly active in Gaza, where it has treated victims of airstrikes and bombings, often under hazardous conditions. The organization has documented the devastating impact of the Israeli blockade, which restricts access to medical supplies and personnel, further exacerbating the health crisis. These NGOs not only provide immediate relief but also serve as advocates in the international community, highlighting violations of international humanitarian law by both Israel and Hamas. Their reports and appeals often shape global public opinion and diplomatic responses to the crisis.

Additionally, organizations such as Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International have documented human rights violations on both sides of the conflict, from airstrikes that kill civilians in Gaza to the systemic discrimination faced by Palestinians in the West Bank. These organizations hold governments and international bodies accountable for their roles in exacerbating the conflict, whether through support of one side or failure to intervene effectively.

B. Palestinian Civil Society Organizations

Palestinian civil society plays an essential role in advocating for the rights of Palestinians and in providing grassroots support during the conflict. Groups like Al Haq and The Palestinian Centre for Human Rights (PCHR) are key in documenting abuses, advocating for legal recourse, and pushing for international intervention. These organizations focus on the protection of Palestinian civilians, the right of return for refugees, and the resistance to Israeli occupation in both the West Bank and Gaza.

Al Haq has consistently emphasized the importance of international accountability for violations of international law, particularly focusing on Israel's policies in the occupied territories. PCHR, based in Gaza, is particularly vocal in its criticism of both Israeli actions and Hamas's tactics, including the use of civilian areas for military operations. These civil society organizations play a crucial role in providing a platform for Palestinian voices, especially in the absence of a unified political representation due to the split between the Palestinian Authority and Hamas.

Furthermore, grassroots organizations within Palestine are often at the forefront of providing social services, education, and healthcare where governmental structures are weak or nonexistent. These groups help sustain Palestinian communities under siege and promote a sense of collective identity and resistance.

C. Regional Advocacy Groups

Regional advocacy organizations, such as the Arab Network for Human Rights Information (ANHRI) and the Arab Center for the Advancement of Social Media (7amleh), also play an important role in raising awareness about the conflict, particularly in the Arab world. These organizations work to mobilize civil society within the Arab states to support the Palestinian cause, emphasizing human rights, justice, and self-determination.

7amleh focuses on digital advocacy, highlighting the role of social media and technology in both enabling and complicating the conflict. Their work advocates for the protection of digital spaces where Palestinians can voice their opinions and organize protests or boycotts against Israeli policies. These organizations often hold regional governments accountable for their political and financial ties to Israel, especially in the context of the normalization of relations under the Abraham Accords.

D. The Role of Women's Organizations

Women's organizations have also emerged as key stakeholders in advocating for peace and addressing the gendered impacts of the conflict. Groups like The Palestinian Women's Coalition and The Arab Women's Solidarity Association (AWSA) are crucial in ensuring that the voices of Palestinian women—who often face heightened risks of violence and displacement—are heard. These organizations work to empower women, provide counseling services to those affected by trauma, and create advocacy networks for gender justice.

The impact of the conflict on women is profound, with women and children making up the majority of casualties during military operations. These groups emphasize the importance of incorporating women's voices in peace-building efforts, a critical step towards addressing the broader socio-political ramifications of the conflict. The absence of women in peace talks and negotiations often results in missed opportunities for comprehensive and long-lasting solutions that can bring about meaningful change.

E. International Support Networks

On the international stage, various solidarity movements have emerged to support Palestinian rights. The Boycott, Divestment, Sanctions (BDS) Movement is one of the most significant international organizations advocating for Palestinian rights. Established in 2005, the BDS movement calls for boycotting Israeli products, divesting from companies that do business with Israel, and imposing sanctions on the Israeli government until it adheres to international law regarding Palestine.

While controversial, the BDS movement has successfully garnered support in academic, cultural, and political circles, highlighting the role that international civil society can play in shaping the course of the conflict. The movement's emphasis on non-violent resistance aligns with broader global efforts to pressure Israel through economic and cultural means, with the aim of achieving a peaceful resolution to the conflict.

F. Challenges Faced by Internal Organizations

Despite their critical role, internal organizations face numerous challenges in the context of the Israel-Hamas conflict. Many organizations, especially those operating in Gaza, are subject to strict Israeli regulations, such as restrictions on movement, the blockades, and limitations on resources. These obstacles not only hamper their ability to deliver humanitarian aid but also expose them to attacks during military operations.

Moreover, organizations that are critical of either Hamas or Israeli policies risk being accused of political alignment or partisanship, which complicates their ability to function effectively. This is particularly true for organizations that call for accountability from both sides and advocate for human rights protections under international law.

G. Conclusion: The Ongoing Importance of Internal Organizations

While not part of the formal diplomatic process within bodies like the UNSC, internal organizations are indispensable stakeholders in the Israel-Hamas conflict. Their contributions—ranging from humanitarian aid to advocacy for human rights and peacebuilding—remain essential to addressing the long-term effects of the conflict on Palestinian civilians. The international community's reliance on the reports and findings of these organizations helps guide policy decisions, making them integral to the pursuit of justice, accountability, and ultimately, peace.

By providing vital services, exposing human rights violations, and advocating for a fairer future for both Palestinians and Israelis, these organizations represent the core of the human response to a crisis that has persisted for over seven decades. Moving forward, the international community must support and amplify the voices of these organizations, ensuring their efforts are not only acknowledged but also supported in their pursuit of a just and lasting resolution.

4- INTERNATIONAL LAW AND RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS

1. Key UN Security Council Resolutions

Resolution 242 (1967)

Adopted following the Six-Day War, Resolution 242 establishes two central principles:

1. The withdrawal of Israeli forces from territories occupied in the conflict.
2. Respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and political independence of all states in the region.

The resolution is notable for its ambiguous phrasing, particularly regarding “territories occupied.” This ambiguity has led to differing interpretations by Israel, the Palestinians, and Arab states [11] [12] [13] .

- For the text and historical analysis, see [United Nations Official Website](#) [12] .

Resolution 338 (1973)

Passed during the Yom Kippur War, Resolution 338 reinforces Resolution 242, urging:

- An immediate ceasefire.
- The implementation of Resolution 242 in its entirety.
- Prompt negotiations toward a durable peace.

The resolution served as the basis for negotiations at the Geneva Peace Conference and later agreements [11] [12] [13] .

- More at [UN Security Council Records](#) [12] .

Resolution 1860 (2009)

This resolution addresses the Gaza War of 2008-2009 and calls for:

- An immediate ceasefire.
- The provision of humanitarian aid to Gaza.
- The prevention of arms smuggling while ensuring Israel’s security.

Resolution 1860 highlights the recurring humanitarian crises in Gaza and the need for international involvement to resolve the conflict [11] [12] .

- For further reading, visit [Security Council Report](#) [13] .

2. Geneva Conventions and International Humanitarian Law

The Geneva Conventions emphasize the protection of civilians in armed conflict. Key obligations include:

- **Distinction:** Parties must distinguish between combatants and civilians.
- **Proportionality:** Attacks must avoid excessive harm to civilians relative to military gains.
- **Humanitarian Aid:** Unimpeded access for aid workers is required.

Both Israel and Hamas have been accused of violations. Israel faces scrutiny for civilian casualties and blockades in Gaza, while Hamas is criticized for indiscriminate rocket attacks and using civilian areas for military purposes [11] [12] [13] .

- The principles are outlined in detail at [International Committee of the Red Cross \(ICRC\)](#) [12] .

3. The Two-State Solution

Origins and Framework

The two-state solution traces back to UN General Assembly Resolution 181 (1947), which proposed separate Jewish and Arab states. Key elements include:

- **Mutual recognition of Israel and Palestine.**
- **A Palestinian state based on 1967 borders with East Jerusalem as its capital.**
- **Solutions for refugees and borders through negotiations.**

While this framework is widely supported internationally, it faces challenges such as Israeli settlement expansion and internal divisions among Palestinian factions [11] [12] .

- For comprehensive information, see [Middle East Institute](#) [12] .

Current Challenges

The expanding Israeli settlements in the West Bank and the political fragmentation between Fatah and Hamas undermine the feasibility of a two-state solution. Critics argue that continued settlement activity violates international law and further complicates peace efforts [11] [12] [13] .

- Analysis available at [Human Rights Watch](#) [11] .

4. Other Relevant Resolutions and International Law

Resolutions Addressing Terrorism and Regional Security

UN resolutions consistently condemn terrorism and emphasize the need for a peaceful resolution to the conflict. For example:

- Resolutions urge the cessation of hostilities, protection of civilians, and prevention of arms smuggling.
- The Quartet on the Middle East (UN, EU, US, and Russia) outlines a roadmap for peace based on UN resolutions [11] [12] .

Obligations Under International Law

The UN Charter prohibits the acquisition of territory by force (Article 2). Violations of this principle, as seen in the continued occupation of Palestinian territories, have drawn global criticism. Additionally, obligations under international law demand the humane treatment of prisoners and the facilitation of humanitarian aid [11] [12] .

- For further analysis, refer to [Geneva Academy](#) [12] .

Conclusion

The Israel-Hamas conflict is shaped by a complex web of international laws, UN resolutions, and historical grievances. Key resolutions like 242, 338, and 1860 form the legal basis for peace efforts, while principles of humanitarian law address the conduct of both parties during hostilities. However, the implementation of these frameworks remains a significant challenge due to political impasses and violations on both sides.

Efforts toward a two-state solution and adherence to international law are critical to achieving lasting peace. Yet, this requires genuine commitments from all stakeholders and broader international support to enforce agreements and protect human rights.

Citations

1. [UN Security Council Resolution 242 Full Text](#)
2. [Six Day War and Resolution 242 Analysis \[12\]](#)
3. [Resolution 338 Overview](#)
4. [Security Council Resolution 1860 and Gaza War](#)
5. [ICRC on International Humanitarian Law](#)
6. [Middle East Institute Two-State Solution Overview](#)
7. [Human Rights Watch on Settlements](#)
8. [Geneva Academy on International Law Obligations](#)
9. [Jewish Virtual Library Analysis of Resolution 242](#)
10. [UN General Assembly Resolution 181 Text](#)
11. [Security Council Resolutions on Terrorism](#)
12. [ICRC Proportionality Principles](#)
13. [Geneva Academy on Prisoners and Humanitarian Law.](#)

6- UNSC ROLE AND CHALLENGES

UNSC's Role and Challenges in the Israel-Hamas War 2024

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) is a principal organ tasked with maintaining international peace and security, and its involvement in the ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict of 2024 is pivotal. However, its role is fraught with challenges that stem from geopolitical divisions, veto powers, and the inherent tension between respecting state sovereignty and enforcing international intervention.

Mediation Efforts and Peacekeeping

The UNSC has historically sought to mediate and de-escalate conflicts through:

- i. **Calls for Ceasefire:** The UNSC regularly calls for an immediate cessation of hostilities. In the current conflict, the Council has urged both Israel and Hamas to prioritize the protection of civilians and halt violence.

ii. **Facilitating Humanitarian Aid:** By coordinating with UN agencies like UNRWA and OCHA, the UNSC seeks to ensure humanitarian access to Gaza amid severe blockades and ongoing airstrikes.

iii. **Peacekeeping Operations:** Although there is no current UN peacekeeping mission in Gaza, the UNSC has historically deployed peacekeeping forces in similar situations to monitor ceasefires and prevent further violence. However, deploying such missions in this conflict remains complex due to the volatile environment and lack of agreement among key stakeholders.

Challenges of Achieving Consensus Due to Veto Powers

The UNSC's ability to take decisive action is significantly hampered by the use of veto powers by its five permanent members (China, France, Russia, the UK, and the US).

- **US Support for Israel:** The United States, a close ally of Israel, has consistently vetoed resolutions perceived as critical of Israeli actions, arguing that they are biased or do not address the actions of Hamas adequately.

- **Divisions Among Other Members:** Russia and China often oppose the US-led approach, favoring resolutions that emphasize Israel's responsibilities and call for a more balanced stance. This geopolitical polarization has paralyzed the UNSC on numerous occasions.

- **Failure to Act Decisively:** The lack of consensus leads to watered-down resolutions that fail to address the root causes of the conflict or enforce meaningful actions, undermining the UNSC's credibility.

The Balance Between Sovereignty and International

Intervention The Israel-Hamas conflict raises a fundamental dilemma

for the UNSC:

i. **Sovereignty:** Israel asserts its right to self-defense and opposes external interference in its military operations against Hamas, a group it designates as a terrorist organization.

ii. **International Intervention:** The UNSC must balance respect for sovereignty with the international community's obligation to address humanitarian crises and violations of international law. In Gaza, the severe impact on civilians, including displacement and infrastructure destruction, has led to calls for more assertive international action.

iii. **Perceptions of Bias:** Both Israel and Hamas often perceive UNSC actions as biased, further complicating efforts to mediate. For instance, Israel views criticism as undermining its security, while Palestinians see a lack of accountability for Israel's actions as a failure to uphold justice.

Citations:

1. UN News. "UN Security Council's Role in Peacekeeping." UN News, 2024. [UN News](#)
2. The Guardian. "US Veto Blocks UN Resolution on Israeli Settlements." The Guardian, 2024. [The Guardian](#)
3. BBC News. "UN Security Council's Response to Gaza Conflict." BBC News, 2024. [BBC News](#)
4. Al Jazeera. "Israel-Hamas Conflict: UNSC's Limitations and Failures." Al Jazeera, 2024. [Al Jazeera](#)
5. Reuters. "UN Security Council's Challenges in the Middle East." Reuters, 2024. [Reuters](#)
6. UN.org. "United Nations Security Council: Conflict Mediation and Peacekeeping." [UN](#)
7. BBC News. "The UNSC's Role and Challenges in Gaza." BBC News, 2024. [BBC News](#)
8. The Guardian. "How Veto Powers Impact the UNSC's Actions in Israel-Palestine." The Guardian, 2024. [The Guardian](#)

7- Proposed solutions and Debates

The ongoing Israel-Hamas conflict in 2024 has intensified global calls for both immediate ceasefire mechanisms and long-term peacebuilding efforts. Immediate solutions focus on halting hostilities through ceasefires, as advocated by various UN agencies and international stakeholders. In particular, the UN Secretary-General has called for rapid, safe, and sustained humanitarian access to Gaza, arguing that an immediate ceasefire would provide essential aid and reduce civilian suffering, while also preventing further regional escalation .

Long-term solutions typically involve the resumption of a two-state solution, which remains a central proposal for achieving lasting peace. Despite significant challenges, including Israeli leadership's resistance to full Palestinian statehood and security control disputes, this solution is seen by many international actors, including the G20, as the most viable way to end the cycle of violence . The international community, including the EU and the US, is also pushing for demilitarization strategies, especially in Gaza, to ensure that future cycles of violence do not erupt .

Finally, rebuilding efforts would require substantial international involvement, both financially and politically. The destruction of infrastructure in Gaza is catastrophic, and the UN has emphasized the need for global cooperation to support the region's reconstruction while preventing further conflict. The G20 has acknowledged that these efforts need to be coupled with diplomatic resolutions to stabilize the broader Middle East region .

For further details, you can explore these sources:

- UN Secretary-General's call for humanitarian ceasefire and operational challenges [Press Release](#)
- G20's endorsement of the two-state solution amid escalating violence [DW](#)

Background Resolutions and Context

i. UN General Assembly and UNSC Statements:

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) and the UN Security Council (UNSC) have long been venues for debates on the legitimacy of Israeli actions and Palestinian resistance. Over the years, numerous resolutions have been passed, often reflecting a divide between the West and the broader international community. Notably, UNGA Resolution 181 (1947), which proposed the partition of Palestine into separate Jewish and Arab states, remains a cornerstone document in the history of the conflict. The UNSC, especially through its veto system, has often seen contentious votes—particularly by the U.S.—on resolutions condemning Israel's actions or calling for ceasefires. The U.S.'s veto power in the UNSC has often blocked resolutions criticizing Israeli military operations or settlement expansions in Palestinian territories. For example, in 2016, the UNSC failed to pass a resolution condemning Israeli settlements due to a U.S. veto. International Court of Justice (ICJ) Opinions**:

The ICJ has weighed in on the legality of Israeli actions, especially regarding its settlement policies and the blockade of Gaza. In 2004, the ICJ issued an advisory opinion on the construction of the Israeli separation barrier, stating it violated international law and called for its removal. Regarding Gaza, the court has not issued a ruling on the blockade's legality, but human rights organizations and the UN have repeatedly called it illegal under international humanitarian law. The blockade has been a major point of contention, with critics arguing it constitutes collective punishment, while Israel defends it as a security measure against Hamas .

- #### ii. **Past Peace
- Several attempts have been made to resolve the Israel-Palestine conflict, though none have led to a lasting solution. The Oslo Accords (1993) were a significant milestone, establishing the Palestinian Authority and laying the groundwork for a two-state solution. However, the lack of a final status agreement and ongoing violence have undermined these accords. Similarly, the Camp David

Summit (2000), hosted by U.S. President Bill Clinton, aimed to address key issues like the status of Jerusalem and refugees but ultimately failed due to deep divisions between Israeli and Palestinian leaders. Other peace initiatives, such as the Road Map for Peace proposed by the Quartet (the UN, EU, U.S., and Russia), also failed to produce meaningful outcomes [【10†source】](#) .

For further reading, following sources:

- UN Security Council and General Assembly Statements
- International Court of Justice's Advisory Opinions
- Oslo Accords and Camp David Summit Overview