



Forum: Sustainable Development Goals 16

Issue: Addressing the tension between Israel and Palestine

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Introduction

In the Palestinian region, the war has lasted longer than the United Nations itself. The two hostile parties have been engaged in territorial disputes over holy cities, such as Jerusalem, for decades, bearing considerable symbolic significance for both Jewish Israelis and Muslim Arabs. It would be wrong, to characterize this conflict as one arising from religious differences, or other philosophical clashes, since, if put simply, this conflict is about territory.

On November 2nd 1917, the British government issued the Balfour declaration. It pledged the Jews a "Jewish people's national home", that would be in Palestine. This was a formal announcement released by Arthur Balfour, who served as Great Britain's Prime Minister and then as Foreign Secretary through WWI. This support came because of the fears of Great Britain about the course of the First World War and in the expectation that the Jewish people would be their allies. "The letter was sent by Arthur Balfour to Chaim Weizmann, a prominent Zionist and friend, stating:" His Majesty's Government view with favor the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people".

The current Israeli-Palestinian dispute dates back to the twentieth century, when European Jews were abused and harshly persecuted for their ethnicity during an era of violence towards Semitism. This brutal presumption triggered Jewish displacement from their past European homes, fleeing unjustified mistreatment, and searching for a state in which the Ottoman and subsequent British Empire had formerly been an Arab and Muslim-majority region. "The Arabs opposed and resisted their legal privilege of the West Bank and East Jerusalem, thus triggering the Israeli-Arab War of 1948, when the Israelites proclaimed their control in the" Declaration of the Establishment of the State of Israel. The two states could compete on border demarcations with countless member-state attempts to facilitate negotiations and encourage peace; yet, the tensions never cease to remain unsettled.

The negative social effects on Palestinian residents are a key source of controversy. Since the mass exodus of the Jewish masses in 1960, following the territorial gains of the Israelites, a large range of Muslim societies and cultures have been forced to leave their homes. In addition, over a million



Palestinians have been displaced from their homes after the Arab-Israeli War of 1948 and the Six Day War of 1967. This has resulted in high levels of unemployment and homelessness.

The current problem of OTPs is not limited to the resolution of social and economic tensions, but also stems from strongly rooted religious differences. The West Bank contains Jerusalem, a central and significant landmark for all faiths of Ibrahim. Therefore, it has been the driver of the dispute with Islam and Judaism values stating that Jerusalem belongs to them properly.

Definition of Key Terms

Balfour Declaration

The British government released a public statement during World War I declaring its support for the creation of a "national home for the Jewish people" and the unlawful abuse of human rights.

Ibrahmic Religions

The sects of Christianity, Islam and Judaism are protected by Ibrahims. For most Ibrahmic religions, Jerusalem is a significant religious symbol, and features in religious Islamic and Judaic narratives. Since Jerusalem is a state bordering Jewish Israel and the Islamic West Bank, because of the importance both Ibrahmic religions place on the area, it has become a leader in the conflicts arising from OTP. Jerusalem was essentially split into 2 halves to pacify the parties involved: East Jerusalem, relating to the non-Israeli area, and the West, referring to that of Israel's possession after the Israeli-Arab war of 1948.

The Establishment of PLO

In 1964, the Palestine Liberation Organization was formed, and it immediately won support of the Arab League governments. A well-known Palestinian leader, Yasser Arafat became the chairman of PLO.

Hamas

Hamas is an extremely passionate radical Islamic group that calls for Israel's destruction. Hamas would go on to win several seats in the high Palestinian government

Nakba

The Palestinian exodus of 1948, commonly known as the Nakba, is the Arabic term for the repercussions of the Arab-Israeli war of 1948, when over 70% of a million Palestinians were forced to leave their homes. Its literal translation is "catastrophe" and is generally recognised in Palestinian history books as a catastrophic occurrence.



The Agreement of Disengagement

The Golan Heights were acquired by Israel in the aftermath of hostilities between the Arab state of Syria and Israel. This occurred because of the Jewish army's invasion of the land by infantry within the space of two nights-it was conquered by Israel. This was officially recognised in The Disengagement Agreement. In terms of tactics, the Golan Heights are vitally important: the plurality of Southern Syria as well as Damascus can be easily maintained and seen from the mountains. Consequently, Israel was given the ability to monitor Syria 's military at all times. In addition, as they provide for over 33 percent of their water needs, the Heights demonstrate a fundamental source of water for the nation. However, international authorities have not acknowledged the unilateral annexation.

Institutionalized Discrimination

"Unfair and/or discriminatory abuse by society or its institutions of an individual or group of individuals" (Institutionalized Discrimination) is an illegal act continually carried out by Israelis against Palestinians.

Self-Determination

In essence, it is a concept that allows a group of people to choose their own political position along with their own form of economic , cultural and social development.

Background Information

Creation of Palestine

Palestine used to be a part of the 19th century Ottoman Empire and a region with a majority of Arabs. There was a fraction of the territory that would be the British Empire's mandates while still being given to the Arabs, in accordance with the Sykes-Picot agreement, formulated by European nations in an attempt to divide Middle Eastern Land. By the early 20th century, after the rise of anti-Semitic rhetoric and policy, socio-political events created conditions in which the British were convinced that the only way to solve them would be to move Jews (for protection and safety) to these mandates. Great Britain authorized the Balfour Declaration, pacifying the aggressive Zionist Federation, which essentially advocated the creation of a national home for Jews within the borders of established Palestine. A gigantic influx of European Jews reached Palestine following this official decree and claimed that it was the home of their religion and therefore belonged to them. This ended in deeply rooted resentment, as the Palestinian people firmly thought that it was a threat to their sovereignty and, in particular, to the holy land.



After the British were unable to deal adequately with the violence that resulted from this, in 1947 they withdrew from contemporary Israel, leading to its official creation of the Israeli State. However, while the Jews accepted the Palestinians did not the United Nations proposed a territorial split between the two powers as a means of solving the prevailing conflict. Within less than a year, war was declared against Israel by the Arab states of Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan. Miraculously, Israel dragged through various Arab-majority regions to overwhelm the belligerents and gained autonomy, soon possessing 77% of former British Palestine. It was, therefore, apparent that Israel had a state, but the Palestinians did not. The consequent armistice remained till the Six Day battle when the Israeli powers launched a wave of attacks on the Arab state of Egypt in 1967.

Legal aspect

Article 49 contrasts with the events of the OPT within the Fourth Geneva Convention, as it aims to prohibit some kind of 'Occupying Force' from exchanging some portion of its own civilian population into an occupied territory. In addition, if they do not serve as a military necessity or directly benefit all local populations, the 1907 Hague Convention prohibits an occupying power from establishing permanent manipulations in the territories they occupy. Israel has been accused by the international community of violating both of these declarations of legislation, including but not limited to: the European Union, the United Nations, and the Government of the United States.

Israeli settlement

There are about 100 (informal) station settlements arranged in the West Bank. These communities are informal, yet the Israeli offices and services have comprehensive economic assistance. These may not be considered legitimate by the Israeli Government, but it still grants them access to water, power, state-subsidized security, and various comforts and administrations. Overall, stations and settlements control approximately 42 percent of the West Bank zone. After 1967, Israel also established seventeen settlements in Gaza, but they were destroyed in 2005.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu decided to abstain from following the Oslo process, which he disregarded in a general sense, in the midst of the Likud (Political Group of Israel) returning to control in 1996-1999. Israel's Labor and Likud Governments drastically increased settlement construction and land reallocation in the disputed lands in the context of the Oslo Agreements and developed a system of routes to encourage Israeli residents to move from their settlements to the real Israeli State without going through Palestinian-owned areas. Most Palestinians have deciphered the vast majority of the undertakings as Israel's effort to infiltrate its domain, which it would claim or add to its own state. There was no system in the Oslo agreement to dismantle or control these breaches of Palestinian social equality in the Occupied Territories. There were about 110,000 Israeli citizens living in the West Bank until the Oslo competition was created, and 146,000 lived in East Jerusalem. However, there had been



an increase in the total Israeli population in 2013, of around 350,000 Israelis living in the West Bank as well as approximately 300,000 living in East Jerusalem.

Social elements of the tension

Restricting of necessities importing in the region

Israel continues to block Gaza strictly, allowing it to control what flows into and out of the territory. Israeli officials say the blockade aims to prevent weapons from being acquired by Hamas, a militant political group that seized the territory in 2007, but the crackdown on foreign trade also applies to food and medicine. Government files reveal that the Israeli military calculated the amount of calories that people in Gaza needed to prevent malnutrition from 2007 to 2010. These calculations, however, have just been used to restrict Gaza's food supply, that has caused rising prices. The blockade also limits shipments of materials needed to rebuild structures such as schools and hospitals raised in previous wars with Israel, such as wood and steel. This blockade was regarded by a United Nations panel to be a violation of international law in 2011.

Lack of civil liberties

Under the Israeli policy of 'administrative detention,' Palestinians can be imprisoned without charge for up to six months, and after those six months, Israeli officials are permitted to renew their detention indefinitely, a violation of international law (Article 9, Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 9 and 11, International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights)

Unequal access to water

Israel has full autonomy over the West Bank's water resources and determines the quotas it provides for people, including the Palestinians. Approximately 50,000 Palestinians consume less than 20 liters per capita per day, as per staggering numbers provided by the World Health Organization, while the average West Bank settler is accustomed to having access to twelve times that amount.

Lack of citizenship

Palestinians choosing to live under Israeli occupation are effectively stateless people who, in any sovereign nation, lack citizenship rights for the most part.



Travel restriction.

Palestinians who are not residents of Israel are forbidden from living in the settlements or even from visiting them, including the fact that certain roads are only for Israelis, making transportation an uneconomic option for Palestinians. For decades, Israel has introduced strict travel restrictions in and outside the occupied Palestinian territories, making it difficult for Palestinians to leave, return and travel through the territories. In addition, military checkpoints and roadblocks are spread all over the West Bank and East Jerusalem, most of which have lines that can contribute up to five hours to the daily commutes of Palestinians. In addition to this, there are time-bound restrictions on keeping Palestinians out.

Major Countries and Organizations Involved

United states of America

The United States has to some extent sided with the Israeli state over the past few years, particularly since Israel is seen as a secure and stable democracy located in the Middle East. As a consequence, the United States has provided support to Israel to facilitate their operational activities through commodities. However lately, in the light of the unlawful settlement policies followed by Israel, antithetical views have been noticed. In the Security Council, the United States abstained during the vote to stop Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territories-acquiescing to the overall international perspective on the issue of OTPs. This lack of support has created tension between the two countries. However, the two are still considered allies, but it is clearly evident that their actions are antagonistic.

Palestinian liberation organization (PLO)

A national representative for the people of Palestine is the Palestinian Liberation Organization. The PLO governs that the Palestinian National Authority (PA) is the semi-autonomous government responsible for controlling and managing the territories of the Palestinian state. The PLO, however, only continues to operate inside the West Bank with the Palestinian government, while Hamas continues to operate in the Gaza Strip. While the PLO aims to promote talks on Palestine on behalf of the citizens of its state, Hamas' extreme policies, which appear to take a rather violence-oriented approach, often impede it. However, after Palestinian acknowledgement of Israel, the primary objective of the PLO was to annihilate the Israeli State as a whole-their purpose is now to have them recognized as a legitimate and independent nation on the international stage, and to also have Israel accept itself as a sole representative of the Palestinian State.



The Arab league

The coalition of independent Arab states, including Palestine, is the Arab League. They truly believe that "Israel's ongoing attacks and assaults on Palestinian civilians are a serious breach of international humanitarian law, the Geneva Convention and international resolutions on occupied Palestine." The Arab League has fiercely resisted any attempt to create a Jewish state and has worked hard to defeat any separation of Palestine. When the United Nations Partition Plan for Palestine was embraced by the General Assembly on 29 November 1947 in resolution 181(II), the Arab League unanimously rejected it. The Arab League created three no's just after six-day war: no peace with Israel, no recognition of Israel, no negotiations with it.

Timeline of Events

Date	Event
May 15th, 1948	1948 Arab-Israeli War
June 5-10, 1967	Six-Day war
1978-1979	Camp David Accords
September 13th, 1993	Oslo Accords, 1993
September 2000	Palestinian uprising
January 21st-27th 2001	Taba Summit
2007 November	Annapolis conference established two state resolution
2008 December	Israel launches one month long invasion of Gaza
2017 February	parliament passes a law which retroactively legalizes Jewish settlements
2017 June	work begins on the first Jewish settlement.

Relevant UN Treaties and Events

- The Egyptian–Israeli Peace Treaty, 1979



- TheOsloAccords,1993
- TheIsrael-JordanTreatyofPeace,1994
- The“roadmap”forpeaceplan,2000
- TheFaisal-WeizmannAgreement,1919
- TheArmisticeAgreements,194
- TheCampDavidAccords,1978
- S/RES/2334
- S/RES/1860S/
- PRST/2014/13
- S/PRST/2010/9
- 2/2016/717
- TwoStateSolution,
- A/RES/194
- S/RES/242
- S/2014/650
- S/PV.8028
- A/69/301
- A/HRC/RES/29/25
- A/66/225
- BalfourDeclaration,1917

Previous Attempts to solve the Issue

Resolution 181 (II)

The resolution was passed and unanimously approved in November of 1947 after stating the partition plan for Palestine.

Resolution 242

Also known as the Land for Peace resolution, the resolution had two leading constituents: the complete and complete withdrawal of Israeli forces and militias from all OTPs and the complete termination of all belligerent statements and states, recognition of a state's sovereignty, territorial integrity, regional autonomy of every Middle Eastern state, rights to live .

Oslo Accords

The set of contracts and agreements signed by the israeli state together with the PLO in Norway over a period of two years from 1993 to 1995.



Arab League

The Arab League was formulated from the Arab perspective, with regions ranging from Northern and North-Eastern Africa as well as South-Western Asia.

Possible Solutions

There are two potential solutions which might assist to weaken the hostility that is evident as a motive of the invasion of the Palestinian territories-the first being the one-state or binational solution. This includes having supporters endorse for both the State of Israel, the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. In addition, irrespective of any religious or ethnic differences, there are equal rights distributed between the three. Two separate and independent states are called for in the next solution. This would, however, be substantially difficult to implement as Israel denies all Palestinian proposals for boundary demarcations distinctive to those of pre-1967. That being said, since the issue at hand concerns the tensions between Palestine and Israel it will be imperative for delegates to try to stop Israel and Netanyahu from using more Palestinian territory in their future plans.

Consequently, with international pressure, construction activities must be halted. For instance, it would be beneficial to establish economic sanctions, given that Israel 's economy is deeply rooted in worldwide exports. On the otherhand, in regards to any comprehensive trade relations that Israel shares with other countries, this could generate additional tensions among member states. Because the Palestinians demand Israel's total and utter removal from OTPs, it could be considerably mitigated by supplying the general public with basic necessities and commodity markets that are supplied to the Israeli settlers that are not accessible to the citizens of Palestine.

Guiding Questions

1. How is your delegation affected by this?
2. How can your delegation help solving the issue?
3. How does your delegation play a role in all the tensions between palestine and Israel?
4. What other solutions can your delegation suggest with the resources available.
5. which other delegations can potentially help in solving the tension between Palestine and Israel.

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Appendix or Appendices

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

This website is useful because it gives basic knowledge of the Palestinian Conflict

<https://www.vox.com/2018/11/20/18079996/israel-palestine-conflict-guide-explainer>

This website is useful because it has a database of Palestinian descriptions, accounts, and everything you need to know

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