



# **SC Chair Report**

The conflict in Israel and Palestine

**Chair:** Christophe Cannon

**Deputy Chair:** Eric Warburg

# Personal Statements



## Chair – Christophe Cannon

Hello,

I'm Christophe and I'm going to be serving as the chair for SC at MUNISS 2024. I'm currently 15 years old and I'm currently in grade 10. So far I have attended 9 MUN conferences and have chaired 5 of them, including THIMUN. I am personally really passionate about human rights and environmental issues. I am also passionate about increasing the number of Bow-ties for MUN conferences as there is a distinct lack of them in

the MUN world. For those of you who have not attended MUNISS before, MUNISS is a yearly conference hosted by the International school of Stuttgart with a variety of different committees for different levels of MUN experience. About This year in the security council the 3 topics being discussed are, **The Conflict in Israel and Palestine, Addressing the Ongoing Conflict in Myanmar, and Ensuring Maritime Security in the Red Sea.** Three challenges that will require diligence and careful solutions. However, with the powers possessed by the Security Council we have no doubt that an agreeable solution will be found. Remember to use those veto powers responsibly.

## Deputy Chair – Eric Warburg



Good day,

I'm Eric Warburg and I will be your Deputy Chair for the Security Council. I am 16 years old and am in 11th grade at the International School of Hamburg in Germany. To date, I have attended only one MUN conference, being THIMUN but am leading MUN at our school. MUNISS is a yearly conference hosted by the International School of Stuttgart. It hosts a wide range of committees for both beginners, intermediates and experts at MUN debating. In the SC this year we will be discussing **The Conflict in Israel and**

**Palestine, Addressing the Ongoing Conflict in Myanmar, and Ensuring Maritime Security in the Red Sea.** These are very moving and challenging to understand topics since they are not only ongoing but also involve a good historical understanding. However I believe with the correct research we will be able to have a very constructed, fruitful and tense debate.

# Introduction

The Conflict between Palestine and Israel is not a new conflict and has plagued the middle east for over 79 years. However the current events and growing war has already killed over 30000 individuals (At the time of writing) and will continue to kill more if a peaceful resolution that pleases both sides is not found. Even though many ceasefires have been proposed and numerous treaties to divide the land suggested none have been accepted by both sides.

This conflict stems from a long history of dispute of the territory after the dissolution of the Ottoman empire in the first world war. The Zionist movement and search for a Jewish homeland, and the numerous wars that followed over Israeli/Palestinian land. Since 2006 alone Israel and Hamas have fought 5 wars which have displaced hundreds of thousands and destroyed countless lives. Currently over 60% of inhabitants on the Gaza strip eat less than 1 meal a day, and many others have a lack of basic human needs.(Children's Lives Threatened by Rising Malnutrition in the Gaza Strip) It is correct to say that many inhabitants in Gaza currently do not get their basic human rights. Many countries have directly accused Israel of restricting the flow of basic human needs to this area and of starving the Gaza strip of resources. A ceasefire at least to allow vital resources to the Strip is necessary.

However the effects of the Israel Palestine war were seen further out than just Israel and Palestine with a steep rise in Islamophobia and anti-Semitism seen across the globe because of the conflict (Yang). This rise has caused a rise in discrimination for both Islamic groups and Jewish groups that have no part in the conflict in Gaza. An unfair discrimination that is breaking down lives Jewish and Islamic groups in other parts of the world. Throughout the conference delegates should aim to find solutions to these problems that address the problems created by the conflict and to find solutions to the conflict itself that all parties find acceptable. An agreeable solution is vital for this region of the world to bring peace to all its inhabitants.

# Glossary

## **anti-Semitism & Islamophobia:**

Both phrases refer to discrimination against a specific group of people based on their religion. Hostile force prejudice and discrimination of peoples of that religion. Anti Semitism refers to discrimination and prejudice against Jewish persons and communities while Islamophobia refers to the same with Muslims. (“IHRA Working Definition of anti-Semitism”)

## **Gaza:**

Gaza is the area of Israel where the majority of the fighting has taken place between Hamas and Israeli forces. So far over 90 percent of the casualties of the war have taken place in Gaza and the current siege has been compared to the holocaust by some delegations in the United Nations. However the conditions in Gaza are definitely dire and very little humanitarian aid has been able to get into the area (“IHRA Working Definition of Antisemitism”) (“Aljazeera.com”)

## **Two-State Solution:**

The two state solution is a plan to split Israel into 2 separate countries of Israel and Palestine. This solution sometimes split’s the city of Jerusalem down the middle with half being in Palestine and half in Israel with in other 2 State solution the city of Jerusalem is internationally governed due to its importance to many major religions. This is often agreed to be the most viable solution to the conflict. However Israel has never agreed to any of the two state solution deals.(“What is the Two-State Solution for Israel and Palestinians”)

## **UNRWA:**

“UNRWA is unique in terms of its long-standing commitment to one group of refugees. It has contributed to the welfare and human development of four generations of Palestine refugees, defined as “persons whose normal place of residence was Palestine during the period 1 June 1946 to 15 May 1948, and who lost both home and means of livelihood as a result of the 1948 War.” The descendants of Palestine refugee males, including legally adopted children, are also eligible for registration.” The United Nations relief and works agency for Palestine refugees in the near east is a agency created in 1948 following the Arab - Israeli War in 1948 to help displaced Palestinian peoples. Today roughly 5.9 Million people are eligible for their services (“Who We Are UNRWA”).

**Hamas:**

Hamas is a political group considered to be a terrorist group by some nations, namely the United States and the European Union. The council of foreign relations summarises Hamas well. "A spin-off of the Palestinian branch of the Muslim Brotherhood in the late 1980s, the Islamist militant group Hamas took over the Gaza Strip after defeating its rival political party, Fatah, in elections in 2006.", "Iran provides it with material and financial support, and Turkey reportedly harbours some of its top leaders. Its rival party, Fatah, which dominates the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) and rules in the West Bank, has formally renounced violence, though it has not always upheld that vow in times of high Israeli-Palestinian tensions. The split in Palestinian leadership and Hamas's unwavering hostility toward Israel have diminished prospects for stability in Gaza." ("What is Hamas")

**Oslo Accords:**

The Oslo accords were secret meetings held in as the name implies, Oslo to create a stable solution between the Palestinian Liberation Organization and Israel. There were 2 distinct accords that both decreed separate things. The first accord most importantly decreed Israel should militarily withdraw from the areas taken over during the 6 days war, and allow Palestinian self-governance to take over in those areas. Despite attempts by nationalists to stop this, both sides largely held to the agreements. (1993) The second accord in 1995 allowed The Palestinian National Authority to hold free elections, guaranteeing safe travel between the Gaza Strip and the West Bank. However, after the PLA leader was assassinated by a Jewish extremist, tensions rose. Eventually leading to the "Al-Aqṣā intifada". A provocative visit to one of Islam's holiest temples that lead to Palestinian uprisings across Israel and the Oslo accords could never resume the same way.

## Issue Explanation

The war in Israel/Palestine has killed over 30,000 (at time of writing) and it is certain far more will die at the end of the war or a ceasefire is secured. But the problems created by the war extend far further than just the casualties in Gaza, but also to the effects across the globe and the staunch rise of Antisemitism and Islamophobia experienced by Jews and Muslims across the globe. With even further problems stemming from the fear of regular Israeli people who do not have a stated position on Israel Palestine and the displacement of Palestinian and Israeli peoples. This topic also has a deep history and any solution has the Potential to create Chaos in Israel/Palestine and potentially even start a similar war to the 6 days war with likely a longer time-span and more damaging effects.

Overall, the Israel Palestine conflict has been caused by the history of the region overall. While there is already a history section in this report probably a more general overview is needed and how this affected the issue. In the early 20th century a rising movement for a Jewish homeland was mounting eventually leading to Britain taking Palestine overall after WW1 and giving Jewish communities a home in the country. In 1948 after constant revolts Britain left the region and referred the issue to the UN which created the 2-state solution. After Israel under threat from the Arabic Alliance forming around it eventually declared war on the alliance leading to a lengthy war that Israel eventually won to take over the rest of Palestine and with regions left annexed by Egypt and trans Jordan at the time the modern day Gaza Strip and West Bank. Eventually about 20 years later the Six days war provoked by an Islamic Alliance Israel performed a pre-emptive strike against most of the countries surrounding it and took areas up to and a little past the Suez Canal and the Gaza Strip & the West Bank. This established Israel's the dominant military power in the Middle East at the time. Several Wars followed including the Yom Kippur War and the two Lebanese Wars however they remained largely ineffective to change any of the geopolitical situation in the Middle East. During these Wars Hamas itself was formed in 1987 Being relatively peaceful initially having a quickly moving to a more aggressive stance it was quickly labelled a terrorist organisation by several UN members. After numerous skirmishes between Hamas and the Israeli military On October 7th last year a strike was launched by Hamas from the Gaza Strip leading to the state of War found today in Israel/Palestine (Haddad).

The state of the current day Gaza Strip is horrific with very little food and frequent bombings with alleged misconducts from both sides. Violating human rights laws and very little aid provided inside the strip with none likely to be allowed in any time soon with Israel's leader vowing to destroy Hamas before allowing any aid into the Gaza Strip. Over 30,000 have died in the war mostly civilians and doubtless many more will die if some kind of peaceful solution is not identified. ("Casualties of the Israel-Hamas War")

## History of the Topic

The current Israel-Palestine land conflict has developed through the growing movement for a Jewish homeland during the First World War. A haven for Jewish citizens was promised in Palestine by England as an effort to convince more people to fight on their side during WW1 and overthrow the Ottoman empire and take over much of their Empire. Many Jewish citizens in Europe were suffering prejudice and the time and as such the idea was latched onto by many and became referred to as Zionism. The creation of a Jewish homeland in Palestine. A Zionist conference after this provided even more popularity to the idea and many ideas were promoted including the increased Jewish funding into Palestine, increased Jewish immigration to Palestine and for richer Jewish citizens to buy land in Palestine. Further supported by Western nations after the Zionist movement promised Western nations they would be a firm ally in the Middle East. This eventually led to the Balfour Declaration and the promise of a Jewish home in Palestine by Britain. It should be noted Palestine was not consulted in this promise and had not agreed to anything beforehand. (Al-Jazeera)

After the First World War the League of Nations agreement that split up land owned by the losing nations of WW1 gave Britain Palestine and after several more discussions with Zionist movements, Britain completely agreed to make Palestine into a Haven for Jewish communities. With this promise the newly formed Arab National Committee called for Palestinians to strike, refuse to pay taxes and boycott Jewish-made products in an attempt to drive the Jewish communities out of Palestine. Six months after the strike in 1936 Britain repressed the strike and launched mass arrests and destroyed homes in attempts to secure a Jewish foot in Palestine. The resulting period until World War II can only really be described as chaos, with large-scale bombings, arrests, and violence in attempts by both sides to secure the country. This conflict was only made worse after the British statement of Policy on Palestine reduced Zionist rights in an effort to appease Islamic communities in the country and caused a 3-way battle between the groups in Palestine (Jewish Citizens, Islamic Citizens, and the British Army). After the Second World War with Britain's military almost destroyed and the overwhelming number of Jewish refugees in Palestine, they eventually gave in, officially quitting Palestine in 1947 and referring the issue to the UN. By this time The Jewish population was roughly 30% of the total country with Jewish citizens owning about 6% of the land. The United Nations partitioned, agreed on a 2-state solution and split the land between the different groups ("UN General Assembly Resolution 181 (Partition plan)). However, the Zionist government sighted Britain's promise for a Complete Jewish homeland and so attacked surrounding Palestinian villages and towns in a fear campaign to get Palestinians to flee to create their new nation. The nation now known as Israel. These tactics proved effective and over 250,000 fled the country. After

this, content with the land, the leader of the Zionist state David Ben-Gurion announced the founding of Israel with him as the first head of state. The Zionist militias reformed into the Israeli army, and with their advanced weaponry compared to the rest of the Middle East, and backed by many Western nations they repressed the attacks on Israel and turned outwards to conquer more land for their country. After Israel took most of Palestine the UN secured an armistice, the neighbouring countries of Jordan and Egypt annexed the remaining parts of Palestine. The UN passed a resolution later that year to allow Palestinian refugees to return home. However, they have never officially been allowed to return. ("Arab-Israeli Wars") The next major incident in Israel/Palestine's history is the Suez crisis. A pro nationalist Gamal Abdel recently elected into power in Egypt (1956). Blockaded the Suez Canal, a vital shipping port for many European nations particularly the very strong countries at the time Britain and France were unpleasant to put it lightly and quickly struck a deal with Israel wherein the Israeli military would quickly invade Suez Canal and England and France step in as peace brokers so they still had access through the canal. "In five days the Israeli army captured Gaza, Rafah, and Al-'Arish—taking thousands of prisoners—and occupied most of the peninsula east of the Suez Canal." ("Arab-Israeli Wars") The issue was later referred to the UN and UN buffer force placed in the area to try and limit any further issues.

These conditions would stay and lead to a period of relative peace until 1967, The 6 Days War, Which led to the boundaries currently recognised as "Israel"

The 6 Days war was a war that took place between the Israeli military and an Arabic coalition over, area's now argued over. (Gaza and the West bank). Israel had been dealing with Guerilla style attacks for multiple years, suspected to be funded by neighbouring Arabic countries. Soviet Intelligence also falsely reported an attack on Syria was imminent, not making tensions any better.<sup>10</sup> (1966) Shortly after the shamed Abdel accused of hiding behind the UN emergency force signed a mutual defence pact with Jordan placing Jordan's military under Egyptian control. Shortly after, he once again blockaded the Suez Canal from Israeli Use and blocked one of Israel most important trading ports in the south. Iraq shortly thereafter also joined the alliance, mounting further pressure on Israel to act. In the early morning of June 5th a massive military attack was staged against the air force of both Egyptian and Syrian air forces, crippling them, with Egypt losing over 90% of its air force. Because of the lack of protection from the sky Israel quickly invaded the entirety of the Gaza Strip and parts of Syria. Again, taking land further than the Suez Canal. Israel had warned Jordan to stay out of the conflict however on the afternoon of June 5th They began shelling areas of west Jerusalem. An act of military aggression. And again very quickly driving Jordan from East Jerusalem and much of the West bank. Jordan received a similar attack and all of Jerusalem was taken as well as most of the West bank. The UN security council issued a ceasefire which was accepted by both Israel and Jordan immediately followed



by Egypt on the 8th. Syria held out an additional 2 days however after its allies had retreated Israeli forces mounted another devastating assault on the Golan height taking them and eventually forcing Syria to accept on the 10th. Five Days that established Israel as the dominant power in this region and reinforcing their borders. The war ended in what some would consider the most crushing military victory in the last 60 years. "The Arab countries' losses in the conflict were disastrous. Egypt's casualties numbered more than 11,000, with 6,000 for Jordan and 1,000 for Syria, compared with only 700 for Israel. The Arab armies also suffered crippling losses of weaponry and equipment. The lopsidedness of the defeat demoralised both the Arab public and the political elite."<sup>10</sup> A crushing defeat that still remains at the for-front of many countries minds.

The other major events affected the Middle East less. The Yom Kippur war which was sparked by mounting skirmishes and broke out into full scale war on Yom Kippur, a Jewish Holiday. The battles were mainly inconclusive, however the Initial Egyptian attack destroyed the highly fortified Suez Canal however was eventually surrounded by Israeli forces and starved of resources. A ceasefire was agreed shortly after the Islamic holy month of Ramadan a year later. And 4 years later in 1979 Egypt officially signed an end to the ongoing 30-year war. After a rare grace between the 2 countries, returning originally Egyptian land to Egypt, while in return Egypt recognised Israel's sovereignty. Egypt largely withdrew from any conflicts from this point onward. Next in 1985 original Lebanon war in 1982 where Israel attacked areas of southern Lebanon claimed to be harbouring the PLO. Eventually, agreement was reached and the PLO withdrew from the city as did the Israeli military. Eventually, by 1985 the Israeli military had completely withdrawn from Lebanon under international Pressure. Moving swiftly on to the second Lebanon war Hezbollah launched an operation against northern Israel to try and force them to release Lebanese prisoners. It is worth noting they captured 2 Israeli officers however after another crushing Israel counterattack that left over 1000 Lebanese dead with a further 1000000 displaced. However, this war is not generally considered to have been won by Israel as the conflict came to a standstill ("Aljazeera.com", MyComment.com.au)

Hamas' history is similar, but largely stays away from Israel wars fought before 2000. Hamas was founded by Sheikh Ahmed Yassin in 1987 and published its charter a year later, calling for the destruction of Israel as a state. It was designated by the United States as a terrorist organisation in 1997 following the beginning of suicide bombing in 1993. Eventually in 2004 following a raid by Israeli military killing 15 civilians the founder and then leader was assassinated. Shortly after, they took over the Gaza Strip in 2000 and have shelled parts of Israel since. It should be noted that about a 1/3 of Palestinians consider Hamas to be the worst outcome since 1948 while 1/2 believes Hamas to be one of the best outcomes. ("What is Hamas") Since then mostly small skirmishes have been fought against Hamas by the Israeli military mainly aiming to weaken Hamas military strength which eventually result in Ceasefires that allow extra aid into the Gaza strip

and loosen the blockade Israeli has put around the strip while removing some of Hamas's control in the region. Recently (2022) a much further right cabinet has been put in place in Israel and attempts to make changes to basic laws giving the government and military more control promoted mass protests including Jewish citizens ("Israel-Hamas Wars"). On October 7th 2023 on a Jewish holiday in the early morning a surprisingly coordinated attack on the strip and neighbouring land was launched by Hamas. Almost Immediately, the state of Israel went on to high alert and called up 350,000 reservists, almost a 1/6 of the population of the Gaza Strip. The next day Israel declared itself in a state of war and Israel's president stated to the public "get out now. We will be everywhere and with all our might." Declaring the Strip under siege and cutting off Everything to the strip. Bringing the situation to the present day with a starving population, broken hospitals, alleged human rights violations by both sides and a history of violence and war. A permanent solution is in desperate necessity.

Past this point however information has yet to be verified and the situation is evolving so quickly that any information becomes outdated.

# Any Previous Attempts

## General Assembly Resolution 181

This is the original partition plan for Palestine in order to turn Palestine into 2 countries, Israel and Palestine. This resolution was adopted by the general assembly and was accepted by Israel. However, this action could be blamed for the initial Arab-Israeli war that led to the initial annexation of the west bank and the Gaza Strip. This is also the basis for most modern 2 state solutions.

## A/RES/194

It discusses the situation in Palestine after the Arab-Israeli conflict in 1948. In order to aid the disputing parties reach a peaceful and fair agreement, the resolution highlights the right of Palestinian refugees to return to their homes and ask for the creation of a Conciliation Commission. The creation of a demilitarised Jerusalem under international supervision. In the continuing talks and debates over the Israeli-Palestinian issue, A/RES/194(III) is still important, especially when it comes to the status of Jerusalem and the Palestinian refugees' right of return.

## A/RES/3236(XXIX)

A resolution passed by the UN General Assembly on November 22, 1974, is a key document in discussions regarding the rights and status of the Palestinian people because it emphasises the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, including sovereignty and self-determination, recognises the right of Palestinians to return to their homes, recognises the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) as their legitimate representative, denounces acts of Israeli aggression, and calls for a peaceful resolution in the Middle East based on relevant UN resolutions.

## Media Contribution

The media has had a profound impact on the Israel/Palestine conflict as there has been widespread reporting on the conflict throughout the west of the world. The reporting on the Israel Palestine conflict across the world has contributed to Antisemitic and Islamophobic attacks across many other countries around the world. The amount of anti semitic posts and comments on websites such as Twitter (X) has risen by over 900% (“Adl.org”). But more importantly hiring of both Islamic and Jewish persons has decreased; they have had lower chances to receive promotions, get fired or be targeted by any other form of discrimination. The highest amount of anti Islamic bias seen since 2001. However anti-Semitic attacks have also very much increased. According to the Anti Defamation League. “the Anti-Defamation League [reported](#) a nearly 400% increase in antisemitic incidents reported year over year.” (“Yang”) This kind of misinformation spread by some newspapers who spread biased and often untrue stories can sway readers to one particular viewpoint or to dislike and bias against both Islamic and Jewish citizens which can negatively affect communities and hurt both individuals and peoples overall.(Indlieb) As well as possibly damaging employers and vendors who have been fed misinformation discriminate against Islamic and Jewish communities and lose profit because of it. Overall the media has had a horrible effect on the conflict damaging everyone and a solution to ensure fair unbiased media is also necessary allowing a more civilised manner towards both Jewish and Muslim citizens around the rest of the world.

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