

Forum: Disarmament and International Security

Issue: Measures to provide diplomatic aid to the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict.

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Introduction

Israel is the only Jewish nation in the world. The Jews have always been expelled from their homes and from their territory. They had to leave Palestine and they went to Europe. Still, during the 19th and the 20th century they had to face many catastrophes against them, their religion as well as their beliefs. Those, made them go back to Palestine. After World War II the United Nations decided to make partitions in the Palestine territory. Palestine and Israel would have their own territories. However, a big conflict began when citizens and governments started disputing for the land. The conflict has been ongoing for almost 60 years, it has caused many deaths, the massive destruction of land and infrastructures as well as many refugees and citizens in exile.

If we want to understand the actual conflict we need to have an understanding of the events that occurred in Israel and Palestine territory's past.

Definition of Key Terms

The Gaza Strip: a strip of land which is densely populated by a majority of Israel and a minority of Palestinians. It is currently under Israel's power. The area is in constant conflict since it is one of the most important territories of the land.

West bank strip: a part of land in the east part of Israel. It is the home land to 2.6 million Palestinians. in 1967 Israel took control of the territory. In addition, many Jews have moved in the area, however, Palestinians consider it illegally occupied Palestinian land.

Intifadas: the intifadas were two uprising movements which Palestinians made against Israel. The first one in the late 1980's and the second one in 2000 which was much more violent than the first one.

Hamas: it is a Palestinian Islamist political party. This group has pursued war on Israel since it was founded using suicide bombings. Also, Hamas governs Gaza independently of the Palestinian Authority.

History

The Israel-Palestine conflict began at the end of the nineteenth century as a dispute over territory. Israelites emigrated to Europe where during World War II and the next years they were exterminated in the holocaust. Later, jews were promised, by the UN, land of his own were the old Palestine was. The land was divided into three parts the State of Israel, the West Bank and the Gaza strip, that plan failed. One of the problems they encountered was the large population of Palestinians who

lived in the area, those were evicted and it created one of the most important refugee crisis, Palestinians themselves called it *nabka* which means catastrophe.

After the 1948 Arab-Israeli war other Arabian countries such as Egypt and Syria endorsed helping Palestine. In addition, the 1967 war left Israel in control of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, these two areas were homeland to large Palestinian populations. The Camp David Accords in 1979 founded a peace bound between Egypt and Israel.

Next, the first intifada began in 1987, many Palestinians living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip revolted with violence . They wanted to fight for their land. In 1993 the Oslo Accords wanted to mediate the conflict. They helped the Palestinians to govern themselves and also established formal relations with Israel's government.

In 2000 after many Palestinian grievances the second intifada began. This second one was much more violent than the first one. Palestinian tactics were much more violent and they used suicide bombs, sniper fire among others, Israel fought back much stronger. In 2005 the conflict had killed 1000 Israelis and 3200 Palestinians. Among many conflicts, the Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas announced that Palestinians would no longer follow the Oslo Accords after a wave of violence between both parts in 2015.

Countries such as the United States attempted, in 2013 to bring the peace process back between both sides. The Israeli government and the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank. The peace process was

interrupted by the Fatah, the party which ruled the Palestinian Authority. The party formed a unity government with its rival faction, Hamas. After many disagreements in late 2017 the two parts reached an agreement. Still, it is not clear whether this will lead to an actual united government.

Key Issues

Borders and the fight for the territory

The repartition of the land makes a really big part of this conflict. Many understand that the negotiations should be based on the territory distribution of 1967. The negotiations need to be settled for both parts. Moreover, settlements of both Israelis and Palestinians need to be respected and taken care of.

Security

The security is a topic which needs to be guaranteed for all citizens of the area. Israel is willing to maintain a long term military presence in the West Bank near the Jordan Border. Palestinians do not accept the continued presence of Israeli units and want to control their own borders. This implies a feeling of constant alert on all the population which has to be in constant worry in case they get attacked.

The Jewish state

This is a controversial topic since many Jews believe their religion not only as a belief but also as a nationality. Israel insists that Palestinians

recognise the Jewish state. Palestinians do not want to recognise them in order to protect Israel's Arab population also, no other country has been required to recognise the area as a Jewish state.

Jerusalem as a capital

Both parts of the conflict are willing to take the city of Jerusalem as their capital since it has historical, traditional and cultural meaning for both religions. Israel rejects any kind of division of the city but many have stated that Jerusalem should be a shared capital for both states, having different parts of the are for themselves.

Refugees

Around 5 million Palestinians are registered as refugees. Palestine believes that all of those that had to leave in 1948 and all of their descendants, have the right to come back to their homeland. The Israel part is consequently against this proposal. The Israel-Palestine conflict has emerged with one of the most important refugee conflicts of all time.

Major parties Involved:

Israel: Israel is in a constant conflict with Palestine since they want to keep the land of Palestine. Both parties of the matter are on ongoing occupation of the West Bank and the Gaza Strip with violent acts.

Palestine: Palestine and its citizens are fighting to get their land back, since they believed it was taken from them and given to Israel. Palestine and its important political parties are using violence to get the land that they want.

United States: it is believed that the United States is giving economical, and diplomatic aid to Israel. There are many opinions on the matter, yet, it is understood that the United States of America is giving its support to the Middle East's most stable democracy as well as their common interests on fighting jihadism.

Middle Eastern countries:

Israel has peace treaties with Egypt and Jordan but its relations with Syria and Lebanon are still difficult. Syria is strongly tied with Iran which is Israel's adversary on the region. Lebanon holds the home to Hezbollah which is an anti-Israel Shia Islamist group created by Iran. To finalize, Saudi Arabia is a kingdom that donates hundreds of millions of dollars to the Palestinian Authority it is also the main country behind the Arab League peace plan as an alternative to Israel-Palestine negotiations. Saudi Arabia also has good relations with Israel since they both host a hostility relationship toward Iran.

Possible Solutions

Possible solutions for this problem are the "two-state solution" and the "one-state solution". On one hand, the first one would establish Palestine as an independent state in Gaza and the majority of the West Bank area.

The rest of the land would be given to Israel. On the other hand, the “one-state solution” it would make the territory one big Israel or one big Palestine.

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