



Background Paper

Committee: Security Council

Topic: The Situation in the Middle East, Including the Palestinian Question

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Since the last century, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict has been an ongoing issue burdened with political tension. The conflict is founded on the claim over Jerusalem, territory, and control and dates back to 1947. Despite past tensions, negotiations, plans, and resolutions, the conflict remains to the present day. In the past year, the security situation has worsened, aggravating tensions and instability between the actors. Civilians from both parties are the most affected by this conflict as they are subjected to and suffer from attacks and violence on behalf of each other. The remaining tensions caused by the series of incidents that took place the past year of 2021, concerns in the Middle East and around the globe have persisted as they continue evolving and compromising civilian's security.

The conflict once again began to aggravate in the year 2020, when an Israeli court ruled an eviction by May 2021 of several Palestinian families living in East Jerusalem in addition to their land being yielded to Jewish families. As a result, an appeal was filed in February 2021 followed by a series of protests against the evictions. Tensions continued rising in May as the court ruled in favor of the evictions which intensified protests; thus, violence and the use of force took place by the Israeli police. Furthermore, through the use of stun grenades, rubber bullets, and water cannons, the Israeli police wounded hundreds of Palestinians. Subsequently, after days of violence with the use of lethal and nonlethal force in Jerusalem, Hamas, along with other Palestinian militant groups, got involved and launched hundreds of rockets into Israeli territory.

In retaliation, Israel launched airstrikes and artillery bombardments in Gaza, ending with the lives of more than twenty Palestinians. The conflict continued to escalate when residential buildings, media headquarters, and refugee and healthcare facilities were struck by the aerial bombardments. On May 21, a cease-fire took place between the Israeli government and Hamas mediated by Egypt. The United



Nations estimates that 72,000 Palestinians were displaced, 250 Palestinians were killed, 2,000 were injured, and 13 Israelis were killed. In addition, an estimation demonstrated that the damages made were worth tens of millions of dollars.

Since the cease-fire, incidents persist up to the present day, strengthening the deterioration of the economic, security, and political situation. On January 19, 2022, a briefing took place regarding the situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question, in which Wennesland highlighted a great number of casualties between Israeli and Palestinians, the concerns of a further escalation, and the necessity for a peace arrangement between both parties. The urge to stop unilateral measures, the implementation of economic and political reforms, and a political framework to stabilize the situation. Moreover, Wennesland called attention to illegal Israeli actions under international law that interfere with establishing peace.

Several actions have taken place to improve conditions, as stated in the briefing:

“On 28 December, Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas met with Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz for the second time in four months. Following the meeting, Israel announced several measures, including updating the registration of some 9,500 Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, an advance of 100 million Israeli Shekels against clearance revenues Israel collects on the PA’s behalf, and additional entry permits for Palestinian officials and businesspeople.

I welcome the ongoing high-level engagement between Israeli and Palestinian officials and the recent steps announced. I urge both sides to continue and expand this engagement to encompass underlying political issues.

Following the designation by Israel of six Palestinian NGOs as terrorist organizations, the United Nations continues to engage with all relevant parties to receive more information about the allegations and their implications.”



The Security Council urges the members present in the forum to create propositions to address the political and economical obstacles. In the same way, the creation of reforms to approach these obstacles and the continuous engagement between Israeli and Palestinian parties, alongside the UN and regional and international partners. Furthermore, the Security Council encourages the Palestinian government to bring Gaza and the occupied West Bank into *one legitimate, democratic Palestinian authority*. All these factors must be taken into further notice to keep the peace, prosperity, and security that the United Nations strongly believes in. The United Nations Security Council is deeply convinced and further invites all nations to participate in the discussion and come to an agreement with the endorsement of a vigorous resolution and endorsing a two-state solution.



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