

# Exploring Means to Rehabilitate Palestinian Refugees

## I. Statement of the Problem

1. The outstanding feature of the conflict in Palestine today is found in the clash between Israelis and Palestinians, and the tension prevailing between them. Their constant disputes over land hamper the rehabilitation of Palestinian refugees.<sup>[1]</sup>

2. Because of Palestinian eviction from their homeland, the UN has made attempts to unite Israel and Palestine through a peace settlement. An independent Arab state - Palestine - is yet to be established.<sup>[2]</sup>

3. Over 10,000 Palestinian men, women, and children are held in Israeli prisons. Israel's dominating military is the reason for their minimal control over their own lives. Palestinians under their control lack unalienable rights.<sup>[9]</sup>

4. More than 1.4 million registered Palestinian refugees live in 58 recognized refugee camps in Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Gaza Strip, and the West Bank, including East Jerusalem. The situation of the refugees in Lebanon is especially dire; many Lebanese blame Palestinians for the troubles that greatly impacted and wracked that country from 1975-1991. They demand that the refugees be resettled elsewhere in order for the Lebanese to maintain peace in their country.<sup>[10]</sup>

5. The United Nations Relief and Works Agency and The United Nations Special Committee On Palestine are both committees formed by the UN. Their mandate is to provide assistance and protection for Palestinian refugees.<sup>[2][6]</sup>

## II. History of the Problem

6. The Peel Commission of 1937 was accepted by the British government regarding the partition of Palestine (Jews and Arabs), and the announcement was endorsed by Parliament in London. Bitter disagreements erupted between supporters and opponents among the Jews, while the Arabs rejected the proposal and refused to regard it as a solution. The plan was ultimately shelved.<sup>[5][6]</sup>

7. In the summer of 1947, the United Nation Special Committee On Palestine (UNSCOP) traveled to Palestine and held hearings in Jerusalem. The minority report recommended the creation of a federal unitary state, with Jerusalem as its capital. The majority report recommended the partition of Palestine into Arab and Jewish States, including an international regime for Jerusalem. This would make all three nations linked in an Economic Union.<sup>[6][7]</sup>

8. The United Nations General Assembly Resolution 181 was approved on November 19, 1947.

This resolution is a plan for the future government of Palestine, and included means to address the two competing movements of Arab nationalism and Jewish nationalism. This plan was not implemented due to the Civil War immediately following its adoption.

9. The United Nations General Assembly Resolution 194 was passed on December 11, 1948. The resolution includes principles for final settlements in the region. The article does not guarantee an unconditional Palestinian right of return, or, a right to their property of which they were forced to leave.

10. On September 13, 1993, an agreement between the Palestinian Liberation Organization and the Israeli government was signed in Oslo, Norway. The agreement included principles of Palestinian self rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.<sup>[11]</sup>

11. The Israeli-Palestinian Interim Agreement on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip was signed on September 28th, 1995 in Washington, D.C. The main purpose of this agreement is to broaden Palestinian self government. This document also includes the Palestinian agreement to take all measures necessary in order to prevent acts of terrorism, crime and hostilities directed against the Israeli side, against individuals failing under the Israeli side's authority, and against their property.<sup>[12]</sup>

12. On the 27th and 28th of February 2013, government representatives, international institutes, and civil society organizations held a two day UN seminar on Assistance to the Palestinian People. Programmes were outlined to rebuild the Palestinian agriculture sector, ensure high government standards, and reconstruct the protection of the Gaza.<sup>[8]</sup>

### **III. Potential Solutions**

The restoration of those who have lost their homes is extremely crucial. It is imperative that said persons are rehabilitated with their unalienable rights as human beings. Please be aware of the fact that Special Political and Decolonization are only recommending actions, and that the committee's decisions do not enforce future solutions. When drafting resolutions, delegates should address the following:

- Your country's experience and past relations with Palestinian refugees.
- Your country's past adoptions and declines of other resolutions.
- Your country's responses to accords.
- Past actions done by your country to either aid or prevent settlements in the West Bank or the Gaza Strip.

### **IV. Position and Research Tips**

It is essential that delegates remain authentic and adhere to their country's position. When conducting research, keep the following in mind:

- Your country's interactions with the United Nations and other international agencies.
- Present perspectives and opinions your country may have concerning this topic.

- Any alliances or political conflicts your country is involved in.
- What action should be taken to address this issue?

#### Useful Web Sources:

- <<http://www.unrwa.org/>>
- <<http://www.merip.org/>>
- <<http://mfa.gov.il/>>
- <<http://prn.mcgill.ca/background/index.htm>>
- <<http://www.mideastweb.org/194.htm>>

#### V. Note to Delegates

Hello future delegates, my co-chairs and I look forward to meeting you. I am excited to read each one of your position papers, and hear your intense debates. I wish the best of luck to researching. I hope you gain an educated view on the Palestine conflict and create some helpful resolutions.

Best wishes on MUNSA XVIII!

Co-Chair Kannon Hall

Greetings, delegates! I encourage each of you to behave with authenticity, diplomacy, and cooperation in order to have dynamic debates. I, along with my fellow co-chairs, would like to thank you for your participation in MUNSA XVIII. We look forward to seeing your delegation skills and meeting you all.

Co-Chair Lorena Macias

Hello delegates, my co- chairs and I are really looking forward to meeting each and every one of you, and hope that you are also looking forward to meeting us! Good luck!

Co- Chair Janessa Cespedes

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<http://unispal.un.org/databases/dprtest/ngoweb.nsf/f12fded4d0597000852573fc005b9471/01de73e4047772dd85257afc005798c2?OpenDocument>

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## **Analyzing Actions to Remove Landmines in East Africa**

### **Statement of the Problem**

1. By their nature, Landmines are especially harmful to civilian populations because they are indiscriminate and inhumane.<sup>[4]</sup> Over 70 countries are affected by landmines.<sup>[1]</sup>
2. The presence of landmines affects a country's ability to develop. Agricultural farms, grazing areas, irrigation canals, residential areas, roads and footpaths, both in urban and rural areas, can be contaminated and made dangerous by landmines. Landmines have a devastating effect upon the environment by restricting the movement of people, deterring farming, disrupting economies, and killing and mutilating many innocent men, women, and children. Thus they are a major obstacle to repatriation, relief, rehabilitation and development activities.<sup>[2]</sup>
3. The lack of readily available healthcare services in developing countries where mines are present causes just as many deaths as the mines themselves. Generally, landmine incidents end in injury without killing the victim. This causes countries with high concentrations of landmines to typically have high amputee or handicap rates.

### **II. History of the Problem**

4. During WWII antipersonnel and antitank landmines started to be widely used for defensive and tactical purposes. They then began being used in colonial liberations and civil wars.<sup>[10]</sup>
5. In 1993 a UN General Resolution moratorium on the sale and export of antipersonnel landmines was passed. However, international consensus has yet to be achieved.<sup>[8]</sup>
6. In 1997 the Landmine ban Convention was signed in Ottawa in September 1997. In 1999 the universal disgust of these weapons led to the Mine Ban Treaty. Eighty percent of the world's states are party to the treaty. When states join the Mine Ban Treaty, states commit to never use antipersonnel mines, nor to "develop, produce, otherwise acquire, stockpile, retain or transfer" them; destroy mines in their stockpiles within four years; clear mined areas in their territory within 10 years; in mine-affected countries, conduct mine risk education and ensure that mine survivors, their families and communities receive comprehensive assistance; offer assistance to other States Parties, for example in providing for survivors or contributing to clearance programs; adopt national legislation in order to ensure that the terms of the treaty are upheld in their territory.<sup>[3]</sup>
7. Now that the treaty is in place over 46 million antipersonnel mines have been removed from arsenals and destroyed and are now out of circulation forever, yet each day over 70 people are killed or injured by anti-personnel mines.<sup>[6]</sup>
8. The United States, Russia, and China have not signed the Mine Ban Treaty.

8. Somalia cannot accede to the Mine Ban Treaty because it has been without a central government since 1991. The mine problem in Somalia is a result of various internal and regional conflicts over an almost 40-year period, with the first reported occurrence of mine-laying in 1964. There are over 1 million landmines in Somalia.<sup>[7]</sup>

9. After almost thirty years of war, Mozambique is one of the poorest countries in Africa. In addition, much of its farmable land is unusable because of landmines. According to Handicap International, an estimated 20 people step on landmines every month in Mozambique.<sup>[8]</sup> Mozambique currently has over 3 million land mines.

10. In addition to Mozambique and Somalia, over 70 other countries are affected by landmines.<sup>[5]</sup> Kuwait is contaminated with over 5 million antipersonnel landmines, it is estimated that Cambodia has somewhere between 8-10 million, and Iraq and Afghanistan have approximately 10 million. The UN estimates that Angola has somewhere between 10-20 million landmines, Iran has about 16 million landmines, and Egypt has the highest concentration of landmines with over 23 million landmines within the country.

### **III. Potential Solutions**

Please be aware of the fact that Special Political and Decolonization are only recommending actions, and that the committee's decisions do not enforce future solutions. When drafting resolutions, delegates should address the following:

- Your country's experiences and past relations with
- Your country's past adoptions and declines of other resolutions.
- Your country's responses to accords.

### **IV. Position and Research Tips**

It is essential that delegates remain authentic and adhere to their country's position. When conducting research, keep the following in mind:

- Your country's interactions with the United Nations and other international agencies.
- Present perspectives and opinions your country may have concerning this topic.
- Any alliances or political conflicts your country is involved in.
- Has your country signed the Mine Ban Treaty?
- What action should be taken to aid or disdain this issue?
- How many landmine deaths have occurred in your country?
- Has your country ever placed or invested in landmines?

### **Useful Web Sources**

- <http://www.icbl.org/index.php/icbl/content/view/full/23567>
- <http://listverse.com/2008/08/11/10-countries-with-the-most-landmines/>

## V. Note to Delegates

Hello future delegates! My co-chairs and I look forward to meeting you. I am excited to read each one of your position papers, and hear your intense debates. I wish the best of luck to researching. I hope you gain a global awareness of landmines in our international community and enjoy this topic.

Best wishes on MUNSA XVIII!

Co-Chair Kannon Hall

Greetings, delegates! I encourage each of you to behave with authenticity, diplomacy, and cooperation in order to have dynamic debates. I, along with my fellow co-chairs, would like to thank you for your participation in MUNSA XVIII. We look forward to seeing your delegation skills and meeting you all.

Co-Chair Lorena Macias

Hello delegates, my co- chairs and I are excited to meet all of you! We hope you all are looking forward to meeting us too! What I'm most excited to see is how you all embody your countries and stay authentic in your actions. I think that you'll all learn something. Again, we're looking towards the conference!

Co- Chair Janessa Cespedes

## References

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