

EXCELLENCIA MUN 2023

BACKGROUND GUIDE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (UNHRC)

AGENDA: Protection of the rights of civilians, especially refugees, in conflict zones, with special emphasis on the Israel-Palestine region.

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Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings delegates!

We are honored to welcome you to the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC), Excellencia MUN 2023. We are excited to work with you all. Before we kick things off, take a look at the guide we've put together. It's your starting point for research, but we want you to go beyond it and bring your own ideas to the table. We don't encourage you to quote things directly from the guide, but you can use this information in relation to your country.

The agenda, which largely expands on civilian rights in conflict zones with an emphasis on the ongoing Israel-Palestine conflict, gives you all the room to debate and expand your ideas as a diplomat of a particular country. Get well-versed with your country's foreign policies and stance on the agenda!

We strongly believe that with good research, you will be able to steer the committee in the right direction via your speeches and documentation. We hope that you spill huge enthusiasm in the committee and get involved in a fierce debate by presenting your arguments formally and respectfully.

Above all, we can't wait to see you all enjoy and have fun, and take home some of the best memories. For first timers, don't stress out too much, have some good research and a speech ready, and you are good to go! Any queries, please don't hesitate to get in touch prior to the conference.

Happy researching!

Warm Regards,

Shaurya Mahajan (Chairperson)

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Rules of Procedure (RoP)

At any point in the committee, the debate is guided by certain rules. For the Excellencia MUN 2023, UNHRC would be following **UNA-USA rules of procedure**. You are advised to go through this prior to the conference, and we assure you that we will run through the rules on the conference day too.

Link- [UNA-USA MUN: Rules of Procedure Long Form](#)

Evidence or Nature of Proof

The Executive Board would accept the facts placed before the committee only if they were sourced from the below-given sources:

1. News Sources:

a. Reuters: Any Reuters article which that makes mention of the fact or is in contradiction of the fact being stated by a delegate in the committee.

(<https://www.reuters.com/>)

b. State-operated news agencies – These reports can be used in support of or against the State that owns the news agency. These reports, if credible or substantial enough, can be used in support of or against any country as such, but in that situation, they can be denied by any other country in the committee. A few examples are:

- i. RIA Novosti (Russia) <http://en.rian.ru/>
- ii. IRNA (Iran) <https://www.irma.ir/>
- iii. BBC (United Kingdom) <http://www.bbc.co.uk/>

2. Government Reports:

These reports can be used in a similar way as the state-operated news agencies reports and can, in all circumstances, be denied by another country. However, a nuance is that a report that is being denied by a certain country can still be accepted by the Executive Board as credible information. Examples are:

a. Government Websites like the State Department of the United States of America (<https://www.state.gov/>) or the Ministry of Defense of the Russian Federation

(<https://eng.mil.ru/>)

b. Ministry of Foreign Affairs of various nations like India (<http://www.mea.gov.in/>),

People's Republic of China (<http://www.fmprc.gov.cn/eng/>), France

(<http://www.diplomatie.gouv.fr/en/>), Russian Federation (<https://mid.ru/en/>)

c. Multilateral Organizations like the NATO

(<http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/index.htm>), ASEAN (<http://www.aseansec.org/>),

OPEC (http://www.opec.org/opec_web/en/), etc.

3. United Nations (UN) Reports:

All UN Reports are considered credible information or evidence for the Executive Board.

a. UN Bodies: Like the SC (<https://www.un.org/securitycouncil/>), GA (<http://www.un.org/en/ga/>), HRC (https://www.ohchr.org/en/ohchr_homepage) etc.

b. UN Affiliated bodies like the International Atomic Energy Agency (<http://www.iaea.org/>), World Bank (<http://www.worldbank.org/>), International Monetary Fund (<http://www.imf.org/external/index.htm>), International Committee of the Red Cross (<http://www.icrc.org/eng/index.jsp>), etc.

c. Treaty Bodies like the International Criminal Court (<https://www.icc-cpi.int/>).

While you may use sources like Wikipedia (<http://www.wikipedia.org/>), Amnesty International (<http://www.amnesty.org/>), Human Rights Watch (<http://www.hrw.org/>) or newspapers like the Guardian (<http://www.guardian.co.uk/>), Times of India (<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/>), etc, it is advisable to only use them for understanding purposes and seek more reliable information for citing purposes, since the reliability of the content on such platforms can be brought into question.

Committee Overview - United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC):

The Human Rights Council is an inter-governmental body within the United Nations, system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and making recommendations on them. It has the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year. It meets at the UN Office in Geneva.

The Council is made up of 47 United Nations Member States, which are elected by the UN General Assembly. The Human Rights Council replaced the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

MANDATE AND WORKING

Initially, UN Human Rights was created by the General Assembly in 1993 through its resolution 48/141, which also details its mandate. But in 2006, THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (UNHRC) was established by passing a resolution 60/251.

Over the course of 2006 and 2007, its mechanisms and functions were formed, and it was established as an “intergovernmental body within the United Nations system responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe and for addressing situations of human rights violations and making recommendations on them”. These human rights are defined within the Charter of the United Nations. UNHRC plays a critical role in the monitoring and implementation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other human rights instruments. The main objective of the UNHRC is to draw attention to human rights issues, discuss them, and give suggestions about how to properly address them.

FUNCTION AND POWERS

The functions and powers of the HRC were developed to allow it to make an efficient and impartial impact on the status of human rights. The Special Procedures of the Council direct the individual ‘human rights experts and working groups’ to report and advise on human rights’ situations from a thematic or country-specific perspective while remaining impartial, objective, and independent of the UN. Actions of this body include undertaking country visits, gathering information and analysis in order to contribute to the development

of international human rights standards, sending letters of allegations to states for human rights violations, raising public awareness of abuses, and introducing annual reports to the Council and the General Assembly. The Universal Periodic Review process, established in HRC resolution 5/1, is a mechanism aimed at improving civil, political, economic, social, and cultural human rights' situations in all Member States. Each state must submit a national report for review every four years, and forty-two States are reviewed each year by its national leadership, the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights, and working groups composed of the members of the HRC and headed by the Council's President. The outcome report is adopted by the Council and lists the recommendations that the state under review will have to implement before the next review. The Complaint Procedure allows for an examination of confidential complaints, which form a consistent pattern of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights and freedoms. Once the Council receives a consistent pattern of proven human rights violations, it can then decide to examine the conditions of human rights in the country concerned.

AGENDA: Protection of rights of civilians especially refugees in conflict zones with special emphasis on the Israel-Palestine region.

The Humanitarian situation across the world, especially in the conflict zones has turned upside down. The parties involved in the conflicts are less benefitted and more injured. They face huge monetary losses and above all, the human rights of people in these regions are disturbed.

Rule 5¹ of customary International Humanitarian Law (IHL) codified by the ICRC defines civilians this way-

“ Civilians are persons who are not members of the armed forces. The civilian population comprises all persons who are civilians.” In a general sense, the common folk of the conflict-struck regions are the civilians who are not directly involved in the war. These people suffer the most during the war and have to bear the consequences of the war.

Similarly, under international law, **a refugee is a person who has fled the country of his nationality to avoid persecution or the threat of persecution.** The world has seen many refugee crises recently, whether it is the Rohingya Crisis in Myanmar or the refugees created due to crises in conflict regions like Syria, Afghanistan, Ukraine, South Sudan or other places in Africa.

Topic Background

¹ <https://ihl-databases.icrc.org/en/customary-ihl/v1/rule5#:~:text=international%20armed%20conflicts-.Rule%205.,all%20persons%20who%20are%20civilians.>

Introduction:

The Israel-Palestine conflict is a deeply rooted and complex geopolitical dispute that continues to challenge the international community. At its core, this conflict revolves around the competing national aspirations of Israelis and Palestinians, who assert historical and moral claims to the same territory. For decades, it has been a major focus of global diplomacy, prompting the involvement of numerous international organizations, including the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC).

Historical Background:

Late 19th Century: Emergence of National Movements

The late 19th century marked the emergence of two significant national movements in the same geographic area: Zionism and Palestinian Arab nationalism.

Zionism, led by Jewish thinkers like Theodor Herzl, aimed to establish a Jewish homeland, viewing historical Palestine as the ideal location.

Concurrently, the rise of Palestinian Arab national identity and political consciousness was fueled by opposition to Zionist immigration and the potential loss of their homeland.

Balfour Declaration (1917): A Pivotal Document

A pivotal moment occurred during World War I when the British government issued the Balfour Declaration in 1917, expressing support for the establishment of a "national home for the Jewish people" in Palestine.

This declaration had far-reaching consequences, as it set in motion a series of events that would ultimately lead to the creation of the state of Israel.

1948 Arab-Israeli War: Creation of Israel

The 1948 Arab-Israeli War, also known as the War of Independence, marked the establishment of the state of Israel.

The conflict resulted in the displacement of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian Arabs and the emergence of an enduring refugee issue.

1967 Six-Day War: Occupation of Territories

The 1967 Six-Day War had a profound impact on the conflict. Israel captured East Jerusalem, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip, bringing these territories under its control.

This occupation remains a major point of contention, as it raised questions about the rights and status of the Palestinian population.

Ongoing Tensions: A Multifaceted Conflict

The Israel-Palestine conflict is not confined to a single issue but encompasses multiple dimensions, including territorial disputes, the status of Jerusalem, the right of return for Palestinian refugees, security concerns, and the pursuit of self-determination.

Complex Narratives: Competing Historical and Moral Claims

Both Israelis and Palestinians hold competing historical and moral claims to the same land, which underlines the depth of the conflict.

Israelis see themselves as returning to their ancestral homeland after centuries of diaspora, while Palestinians view their displacement and dispossession as a grave injustice.

Human Rights Violations:

The Israel-Palestine conflict has resulted in numerous human rights violations that have been condemned by international organizations and human rights advocates. These violations include:

1. **Arbitrary Detentions:** Both Israeli and Palestinian authorities have been accused of arbitrarily detaining individuals, sometimes without due process.
2. **Excessive Use of Force:** The use of excessive force by Israeli security forces during protests and military operations has led to civilian casualties and significant human suffering.

3. **Settlement Expansion:** Israel's construction and expansion of settlements in the West Bank, which the United Nations and international law consider illegal, have raised questions about the violation of Palestinian property rights and the right to self-determination.
4. **Blockades and Restrictions:** The Gaza Strip, controlled by Hamas, has been under an Israeli and Egyptian blockade since 2007, resulting in severe restrictions on the movement of people and goods, impacting the civilian population's access to basic necessities.
5. **Displacement and Refugees:** The conflict has led to significant displacement, with millions of Palestinians living in refugee camps or as refugees in neighboring countries. This has created a protracted humanitarian crisis.

International Response:

The international community has been actively involved in efforts to address the Israel-Palestine conflict. Multiple United Nations resolutions, including UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, have called for a two-state solution, the end of the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories, and a peaceful resolution to the conflict. The International Court of Justice's advisory opinion in 2004 declared Israel's construction of the separation barrier in the West Bank illegal.

Numerous international organizations, such as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) like Human Rights Watch and Amnesty International, regularly report on the human rights situation in the region and advocate for accountability and justice.

Legal Framework and International Legislation

The Israel-Palestine conflict is deeply intertwined with the framework of international law. The legal aspects of the conflict revolve around several key international treaties, conventions, and resolutions. Understanding these legal instruments is vital for addressing human rights concerns and proposing effective solutions within the UNHRC.

1. The United Nations Charter

The United Nations Charter, adopted in 1945, is the foundational document of the United Nations and provides the framework for international law. It establishes the principle of state sovereignty, the prohibition of the use of force, and the mandate of the UN to maintain international peace and security. Article 2(4) of the Charter states the prohibition on the use of force against the territorial integrity or political independence of any state, which is highly relevant to the Israel-Palestine conflict where military force has been employed.

2. The Fourth Geneva Convention

The Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 is a cornerstone of humanitarian law, governing the protection of civilians in times of armed conflict. It specifically addresses the rights of civilians in occupied territories. In the context of the Israel-Palestine conflict, it is pertinent to discussions

regarding the treatment of Palestinian civilians living in the West Bank, Gaza Strip, and East Jerusalem under Israeli occupation.

3. UN General Assembly Resolutions

Various UN General Assembly resolutions have been adopted regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict. For example, UNGA Resolution 194 (1948) addresses the right of return for Palestinian refugees, which is a significant issue within the conflict. These resolutions provide a legal framework and guidelines for the international community's stance on the situation.

4. Oslo Accords

The Oslo Accords, signed in the 1990s, are a series of agreements between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO). They established a framework for the Palestinian self-governance in parts of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. Understanding these agreements is essential for comprehending the legal and political dynamics in the region.

5. International Court of Justice (ICJ) Advisory Opinion

In 2004, the ICJ issued an advisory opinion on the construction of the Israeli West Bank barrier (wall). This opinion outlined that the wall's construction in the occupied Palestinian territories was contrary to international law, highlighting the role of the ICJ in interpreting the legal framework in the context of the conflict.

6. Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR):

Adopted in 1948, the UDHR lays the foundation for human rights protection, including the right to life, liberty, and security of person, which are particularly pertinent to civilian protection.

7. International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR):

Enshrining fundamental civil and political rights, such as the right to a fair trial and the right to life, the ICCPR is a cornerstone of human rights law.

8. International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR):

This covenant emphasizes economic, social, and cultural rights, including the right to adequate housing and the right to work, both of which are relevant to the rights of refugees in the Israel-Palestine region.

9. Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) and its 1967 Protocol:

These instruments establish the legal framework for the rights and protection of refugees and their status.

REFUGEES AND CIVILIANS: LEGAL AND HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS

Overview:

The "Protection of Rights of Civilians, Especially Refugees, in Conflict Zones with Special Emphasis on the Israel-Palestine Region" is an agenda of paramount significance, bearing the responsibility of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) to address grave human rights concerns. Central to this issue are the rights and welfare of refugees and civilians who find themselves caught in the midst of conflicts. This section delves into the legal and humanitarian

aspects that underpin the protection of these vulnerable populations in the context of the Israel-Palestine region.

Legal Framework:

The legal framework governing the rights and protection of refugees and civilians in conflict zones primarily rests on the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols. These conventions establish the legal obligations of parties to armed conflicts and outline the fundamental principles that must be upheld. Key articles of the Conventions, such as Common Article 3 and Article 75 of Additional Protocol I, provide vital safeguards for civilians, particularly refugees, including the prohibition of violence, torture, and inhumane treatment.

Furthermore, the Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) and its Protocol (1967) define the legal status and rights of refugees. These instruments emphasize the principle of non-refoulement, which prohibits the return of refugees to places where their lives or freedoms would be at risk. Understanding these international legal texts is essential for delegates in crafting comprehensive solutions.

Key questions:

How effectively do international laws protect the rights of refugees and civilians in conflict zones, specifically in the Israel-Palestine region?

What mechanisms exist for the accountability and enforcement of these legal obligations?

Humanitarian Concerns:

The humanitarian dimension of the Israel-Palestine conflict presents an array of pressing concerns for civilians, especially refugees. These individuals often confront profound challenges in accessing basic necessities such as food, clean water, shelter, and healthcare. Children, women, and other vulnerable populations are particularly at risk. To address these concerns, humanitarian organizations and agencies, such as the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine

Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), play a critical role in delivering aid and ensuring the dignity and well-being of affected populations.

Key questions:

1. How can humanitarian organizations and agencies navigate the challenges of providing assistance to civilians and refugees in conflict zones, especially given the complexities and restrictions they encounter?
2. What are the specific humanitarian concerns faced by children, women, and vulnerable populations in conflict zones, and how can tailored strategies be developed to address them?
3. How can a synthesis and harmonisation between the legal and humanitarian aspects be achieved?

CONFLICT ZONES AROUND THE WORLD WITH SPECIAL EMPHASIS ON ISRAEL-PALESTINE

Overview:

The United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) shoulders the profound responsibility of addressing pressing human rights concerns in conflict zones across the globe. In these regions, violence, instability, and severe human rights abuses have become tragically routine, rendering the protection of vulnerable populations a matter of utmost importance. This section aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of conflict zones worldwide, with a particular focus on the complex and deeply entrenched Israel-Palestine conflict.

Conflict zones, by their very nature, are characterized by multifaceted challenges. Armed conflicts often blur the lines between combatants and civilians, raising profound questions about the principles of distinction and proportionality enshrined in international humanitarian law. In these settings, indiscriminate attacks can wreak havoc, causing disproportionate harm to civilians who bear no responsibility for the violence. Understanding the gravity of these challenges is pivotal for the UNHRC, as it embarks on the journey to address the human rights abuses in these areas.

The Israel-Palestine conflict stands as a vivid exemplar of the enduring complexities that define protracted conflicts. It encompasses a multitude of human rights concerns, including the rights of Palestinian and Israeli civilians, the status of refugees, and the applicability of international law to this volatile and long-lasting situation. The region has witnessed decades of conflict, leaving a trail of displaced civilians, economic hardships, and a litany of human rights violations.

In addressing the legal and humanitarian aspects of the Israel-Palestine situation and other conflict zones, the UNHRC must navigate through layers of complexity. It must consider the rights and obligations of all parties involved, evaluate the mechanisms for accountability, and explore the challenges arising from the protraction of these conflicts.

Moreover, in the pursuit of solutions, the UNHRC is challenged to seek a delicate balance between international legal mechanisms and the exigencies of humanitarian relief efforts. It must grapple with the profound ethical and practical dilemmas posed by the protection of civilians and the pursuit of justice in the turbulent landscapes of conflict zones.

Delegates participating in discussions on this topic are encouraged to embrace the intricacies of the legal, ethical, and humanitarian dimensions of conflicts around the world, recognizing that the protection of the rights and dignity of individuals is a mission that transcends borders and nationalities. The UNHRC, as the vanguard of human rights within the United Nations, stands poised to take critical actions and formulate strategies that are not only legally sound but ethically justifiable in addressing the profound challenges of these conflict zones, particularly the Israel-Palestine region.

Legal Framework:

The legal framework governing conflicts is vital to comprehending the complexities of addressing human rights issues in these areas. The cornerstone of international humanitarian law is the Geneva Conventions and their Additional Protocols. These conventions establish the principles of distinction between combatants and civilians, prohibition of indiscriminate attacks, and protection for humanitarian workers. It's essential for delegates to recognize that adherence to these principles is not only a matter of international law but also a moral obligation.

Moreover, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC) is instrumental in prosecuting individuals responsible for grave breaches of international law. The ICC has played a significant role in holding perpetrators of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide accountable. Delegates should consider the application of these legal instruments to conflicts worldwide, with special attention to the Israel-Palestine situation.

Key questions:

1. How can international legal mechanisms, such as the ICC, be effectively utilized to address human rights abuses and promote accountability in conflict zones worldwide, with a particular focus on the Israel-Palestine region?
2. What are the specific legal complexities, challenges, and considerations arising from protracted conflicts, and how can the UNHRC contribute to their resolution through legal means?

Explanation:

Conflict zones worldwide are marked by a complex array of challenges. Armed conflicts often blur the lines between combatants and civilians, making it essential to adhere to the principles of distinction and proportionality enshrined in the Geneva Conventions. Indiscriminate attacks, which disproportionately harm civilians, are strictly prohibited under international law.

The Rome Statute of the ICC empowers the court to prosecute those responsible for the most egregious international crimes. It is an important legal tool for holding individuals accountable for war crimes, crimes against humanity, and genocide, thereby serving the cause of justice in conflict zones.

In the context of the Israel-Palestine conflict, it is essential to consider the rights and obligations of all parties involved, including the rights of Palestinian and Israeli civilians, the status of refugees, and the applicability of international law in this protracted conflict.

The UNHRC must grapple with the nuances and challenges posed by these conflicts to devise effective strategies that protect the rights and dignity of individuals caught in the midst of violence, and to promote accountability for human rights abuses.

Key Questions and Issues

The Israel-Palestine conflict is one of the most protracted and complex conflicts in the world, with significant implications for the protection of civilian rights, particularly for refugees. Delegates should consider the following key questions and issues:

A. Palestinian Refugees and the Right of Return

One of the central issues in the Israel-Palestine conflict is the status and rights of Palestinian refugees. Key questions to consider include:

1. What is the right of return for Palestinian refugees, and how is it defined in international law?

(Reference: United Nations General Assembly Resolution 194 (III), December 11, 1948.)

2. How have the conditions of Palestinian refugees evolved over the decades, and what are the current challenges they face?

(Reference: Reports from the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA).)

B. Human Rights Violations in the Israel-Palestine Conflict

The conflict has been marked by numerous human rights violations, impacting civilians on both sides. Delegates should address:

1. What are the major human rights violations that have occurred in the Israel-Palestine conflict, and how do they affect civilians, particularly refugees?

(Reference: Reports by Amnesty International and Human Rights Watch.)

2. What measures have been taken by international organizations and the United Nations to address these human rights violations?

(Reference: UNHRC resolutions and reports on the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories.)

C. International Law and the Conflict

The application and enforcement of international law in the Israel-Palestine conflict is a critical issue. Delegates should explore:

1. What international legal frameworks and conventions apply to the Israel-Palestine conflict, and how have they been enforced or violated?

(Reference: International law principles, including the Fourth Geneva Convention and relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions.)

2. What role can the International Criminal Court (ICC) play in addressing allegations of war crimes and human rights abuses in the region?

(Reference: ICC investigations and cases related to the conflict.)

D. Role of UNHRC in Addressing the Issue

Delegates should also consider the role of the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) in addressing these issues:

1. What specific actions and resolutions have been initiated by the UNHRC regarding the Israel-Palestine conflict and the protection of civilian rights, and what impact have they had?

(Reference: UNHRC resolutions and reports on the situation in the region.)

2. What recommendations can the UNHRC make to improve the situation of civilians and refugees in the conflict zone?

(Reference: Previous UNHRC recommendations and initiatives.)

IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS AND REFERENCES

1. Geneva Conventions (1949) and Additional Protocols (1977). International Committee of the Red Cross. [Link](#)
2. [United Nations Charter](#)
3. [UNGA Resolution 194 \(1948\)](#)
4. [Oslo Accords](#)
5. Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees (1951) and Protocol (1967). United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. [Link](#)

6. "Protecting Civilians in Armed Conflict: Obligations of the Security Council under the United Nations Charter." International Review of the Red Cross. Volume 91, Issue 874. 2009. [Link](#)
7. "Palestine Refugee Crisis: Challenges and Solutions." United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA). [Link](#)
8. Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (1998). International Criminal Court. [Link](#)
9. "Protection of Civilians in Armed Conflict." United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs. [Link](#)
10. "Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territories." Amnesty International Report 2020/21. [Link](#)
11. United Nations, "Resolution 242 (1967)," [UN Resolution 242](#).
12. International Court of Justice, "Legal Consequences of the Construction of a Wall in the Occupied Palestinian Territory," [ICJ Advisory Opinion](#).
13. Human Rights Watch, "Israel: Discriminatory Land Policies Hem in Palestinians," [HRW Report](#).
14. Al Jazeera, "Israel's Gaza Blockade Under Scrutiny," [Al Jazeera Report](#).
15. BBC, "Israel and the Palestinians: Can Settlement Issue be Resolved?" [BBC Article](#).
16. United Nations. (1948). [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#).
17. United Nations. (1966). [International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights](#).
18. United Nations. (1966). International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.
19. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. (1951). [Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees](#).
20. International Committee of the Red Cross. (2005). [Customary International Humanitarian Law](#).

IMPORTANT NOTE

Dear Delegates,

This background guide is an invaluable tool designed to facilitate your research and preparation, but it is crucial to remember its purpose as a guide rather than a comprehensive source. It should not replace your diligent research efforts.

The complex issues surrounding the Israel-Palestine conflict and the protection of civilians and refugees necessitate a thorough and independent exploration of the topics. While this guide introduces essential concepts and principles, it is imperative to delve deeper, consult additional resources, and engage in critical analysis. Please use the links to important documents provided for further reading and comprehensive understanding.

We have **intentionally left out** recent information regarding the Israel-Hamas hostilities. We encourage you to actively engage with the current situation by gathering information from reliable news sources and applying the various concepts and principles outlined in this guide to the ongoing conflict. Your ability to synthesize this knowledge and propose innovative solutions is a crucial aspect of your role as a delegate.

Furthermore, please pay special attention to understanding the nature and mandate of our committee, the UNHRC (United Nations Human Rights Council). Familiarize yourselves with the committee's objectives, procedures, and specific responsibilities in addressing human rights issues. Lastly, we emphasize the importance of using reliable and credible information, as outlined in the guide itself. It is vital to distinguish between information gathered from these sources and your analysis and interpretation. The credibility of your arguments and proposals depends on the quality of your sources and the rigor of your research.

CLOSING ADDRESS

With this, the Executive Board would like to wish you the best of Luck for the conference. The Executive Board would like all of you to consider this background as a base or a guide for your research and we would like you to expand your research to other topics not mentioned in this document. Your dedication to thorough research, thoughtful debate, and diplomatic problem-solving is at the heart of the Model United Nations experience. We have confidence in your abilities and look forward to productive and constructive discussions.

Best Of Luck

Warm Regards,

Executive Board,

UNHRC, Excellencia MUN 2023