Israel-Hamas-Fatah Joint Crisis Committee

**1. What is your past Model UN experience?**

I am one of three Under Secretaries General on the HM Model UN team, and I have been attending conferences since eighth grade.

Awards:

2011-2012: Verbal Commendation at HoMMUNC and Outstanding in JCC: Cold War at Stuymunc,

2012-2013: Best in DISEC at HoMMUNC, Best in WHO at CMUNCE, Outstanding in DISEC at Dalton,

2013-2014: Oustanding in Security Council at HoMMUNC, Outstanding in Myanmar Cabinet at VAMUN, Best in Supreme Court at NaiMUN, Outstanding in IOC at CMUNC, and Best in Post First Crusades Committee.

**2. What do you believe are the three most important issues related to developing a final framework agreement between Israel and Palestine?**

There must be a tangible plan for the establishment of a two-state system.  Talks scheduled for April 25th must produce a three year deadline for independence, as PA President Abbas suggested, and the opening of borders.  The talks must also achieve cooperation from Israel on the new form of government to exist in Palestine after Israel relinquishes control; it is likely that this will not be the Fatah-Hamas unified government, although Prime Minister Netanyahu must come to terms with that possibility.

The Security Council and third party groups, such as Sweden, must take a helpful role in facilitating a mutual agreement to transition, without undermining any of the major parties in the negotiations.  The United Nations cannot facilitate talks through the security council; the United States has stated in the past that it will veto any decisions made through the security council, without consent of Israel, so this option poses even less hope than peace talks.  Furthermore, individual nations must not begin to recognize Palestine as a nation before talks are concluded. For example, Sweden's ambassador to Israel Carl Magnus Lesser, was aggravating tensions by recognizing Palestine as a nation without any progress.  If there is to be a peaceful and long term resolution, both Israel and Palestinian leaders must be involved.

**3. How does the unification of Fatah and Hamas affect negotiations between Israel and Palestine?**

Hamas and Fatah have made and broken such agreements with each other four times in the past seven years, so it will probably not be any different this time. Therefore, it may have little effect on the proceedings.

However, assuming that the unity agreement remains in tact through to the time of the talks, the international community must pressure Netanyahu and other Israeli officials to accept it. Hopefully, Israel will yield to pressure from the international community, which generally accepts the unity as a sign of progress between the West Bank and Gaza, and accept the unity government if it lasts. In the past, Netanyahu has addressed a fear that a combined Fatah-Hamas government will create a “strengthening of terror,” but he will need to accept this system, which fortunately allows the PA to reenter Palestine, for progress to occur.

**4. Please discuss some of the potential outcomes of negotiations between Israel and Palestine (i.e. joint government in one state, two separate states, etc.), and the costs/benefits of each scenario.)**

It is impossible for a one state solution to provide equal rights to both Palestinians and Israelis, so the next best step is a two state solution that ensures Israel’s security in the Middle East. Israeli citizens will not desire the voting blocks to be flooded by Palestinians, many of whom previously supported Hamas or Fatah leaders, so they will have to provide incomplete citizenship in order to maintain the government as they desire it. See Answer to Question 5 for an elaboration on the incompatibility of democracy and a Jewish national identity in a one state solution.

The only solution is a two state solution. Hamas and Fatah have expressed a willingness to cooperate with each other and with the PA in the past, and although shaky, their recent agreement to open the borders of the West Banka and Gaza shows that a formal Palestinian state can be formed with lots of effort from the international community. Under a two state solution, it will be more difficult to eliminate remnants of the blockade, after it is dissolved of course, but the international community can work to eliminate extremism in Gaza after it establishes a legitimate government.

**5. How can Israel balance its stated desire to be formally recognized by the international community as a “Jewish state” with its constitutional commitment to democracy? How does this impact the negotiations process?**

Under a one state solution, it is impossible for Israel to be a recognized Jewish state that without the compromise of its own democratic values. A projection by MONDOWEISS showed that the population of Jewish Israelis, ever increasing into Palestinian territory, will be only 46% of the general population in the area. So, if Israel absorbs the territory of Palestine into its own democratic system, giving a vote to every Palestinian, Israel will no longer have a definitely Jewish government and will no longer represent a Jewish nation to the public.

However, under a two state solution, the highly concentrated Jewish population of Israel will maintain that region as the Jewish nation. It will be easy for the international community to recognize it as a Jewish state, because the government and its voting constitutiency will be 80% Jewish. Without robbing the non-Jewish, Palestinian citizens living in that area of their full voting rights, the Jewish population will still constitute a majority. Israel can exist as a Jewish state and a democracy only if it is separate from Palestine.